

DURING THE DELP 2015 ANNUAL RESEARCH WORKSHOP AND OFFICIAL EQUIPMENT HANDOVER CEREMONY HOSTED BY COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND EXTERNAL STUDIES – CEES, HELD AT COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING, DESIGN, ART AND TECHNOLOGY, (CEDAT CONFERENCE HALL) MONDAY 15TH JUNE, 2015

- Representative from NIDIC, Makerere
- Project Principal Investigators of other NORHED Projects
- Partners from the University of Agder
- Makerere University Management
- The Principal, College of Education and External Studies,
- DELP Coordinator, University of Agder
- DELP Coordinator, Makerere University
- Researchers, Students and all Invited Guests
- Ladies and Gentleman

I am pleased to join you this afternoon to preside over this very important event, where College of Education and External Studies is showcasing gains from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) funded project for “Leapfrogging 1st Generation Distance Education into the 4th and 5th Generation Distance Education: A Strategy for Enhancing ICT Pedagogical Integration and Increasing Access to Education in Africa.” I am also delighted to preside over the same function where outputs and results so far attained from the project are to be officially handed-over to Makerere University.

As Vice - Chancellor, I am very proud of a platform like this because Makerere University as the oldest and leading public institution in the region is a centre of excellence in the practice and research in Open, Distance and e-Learning (ODEL).

Ladies and gentlemen, research in ODeL is important at this point in time when the education system is moving towards student centered pedagogies.

Permit me to thank the Norwegian Government for supporting Makerere University under its Norwegian Programme for Capacity Building in Higher Education and Research for Development (NORHED) Programme.

In the two years of running, the DELP Project has produced commendable research outputs. You have all been witness to the number of research papers presented at this research workshop this morning, more are to be presented this afternoon. I am happy to note that a number of these papers were co-authored between Makerere University and University of Agder and with multiple authors.

Research is not complete if research findings are not published or disseminated. I commend the DELP Project for having embedded annual research workshops in their project activities. I look forward to attending the subsequent research workshops under DELP.

Reading from the progress report of the project, a number of staff will be attaining PhDs in Open, Distance and e-Learning pedagogy and over 40 staff will be benefitting from training in e-teaching and e-courseware development.

Further, the project will launch and facilitate the first ever test bed online/blended learning programme. Also, several infrastructural improvements are being accomplished, among others. This is no mean achievement, with this capacity; the College Education and External Studies will be able to provide leadership in Open, Distance and e-Learning pedagogy. I appeal to you colleagues to continue being transparent in advancing the cause of the Norwegian Programme for

Capacity Building in Higher Education and Research for Development (NORHED) – Makerere Collaborative Research Programme.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank the NORHED Institutional Development and Implementation Committee (NIDIC), Planning and Development Department, College of Education and External Studies Staff and Management for diligently executing Project activities. Special thanks go to the University of Agder for the technical support being provided to Makerere University in the DELP Project. I thank the Project Coordinators, Dr. Paul Birevu Muyinda, for Makerere University and Associate Professor Maurice Isabwe, for the University of Agder, for their tireless effort in ensuring the smooth running of the DELP Project. Of course, we cannot forget to thank the Government of Uganda for providing an enabling environment for research at Makerere University.

**WE BUILD FOR THE FUTURE.**