

JICA IRRIGATION EXPERT TO TRAIN MASTERS STUDENTS IN IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE ENGINEERING AT BUSITEMA UNIVERSITY

A JICA Irrigation Expert, Dr. Katsumasa SATO, is to train students of the recently accredited MSc. Programme in Irrigation and Drainage Engineering due to start in January 2015. This was disclosed by Dr SATO while meeting the Busitema University Vice Chancellor, Professor Mary J.N. Okwakol, at her office on 5th Nov 2014. He was accompanied to the University by a Representative of the JICA Uganda Office, Mr. Murakami Shunichi, and Eng. Paul Ayella, a Senior Engineer at the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF).

Dr. SATO is an Irrigation Advisor to MAAIF and has a world-wide comprehensive experience in irrigation schemes. He brings to Busitema University expertise in planning, design, operation management and management of irrigation schemes, and will render technical support in identification of appropriate equipment, machinery and instrumentation in the establishment of a state-of-the-art modern Irrigation and Water Resources Laboratory at the University. He will, in addition, provide training in field work relevant to the programme of study. He will also participate in regular meetings with Busitema University and other stakeholders in the area of irrigation, including donors, with a view to improving and strengthening University education related to irrigation.



The Vice Chancellor Professor Mary J.N Okwakol (centre) meeting Dr. SATO



Dr. SATO (right) and Mr. Murakami (JICA) listening attentively to Professor Okwakol during the meeting



Left to right: Eng. Odogola (Dean Faculty of Engineering), Professor Ochwoh (Director School of Post Graduate Studies), Eng. Paul Ayella (MAAIF) at the meeting

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Mary J.N Okwakol, on behalf of Busitema University, welcomed the collaboration between the University, JICA and MAAIF and was optimistic that the University would benefit immensely from the partnerships. She observed that the collaboration between JICA and Busitema is likely to pave way for more collaboration with Universities in Japan, and was happy to note that the University staff will benefit from training opportunities in modern systems irrigation design, and Geographical Information Systems and Irrigation Systems, organised by JICA for NARO and MAAIF staff. Professor Okwakol requested that JICA considers supporting the University in funding some of the required laboratory equipment, machinery and instrumentation.

The meeting was also attended by the Academic Registrar, Mr Elisha Obella, the Dean Faculty of Engineering, Eng. Wilfred Odogola, and the Director of Post Graduate Studies and Research, Dr Victor Ochwoh.