



# JEPAK BULLETIN

December 2006



## JEPAK ANNUAL CONFERENCE OFFERS A WAY FORWARD FOR KENYA'S



**Prof. H. W. O. Okoth-Ogendo**

In the development of a modern, comprehensive and equitable land policy, Kenya must strive to eliminate the fundamental distortions in access to land while laying emphasis on the use rather than the ownership of the land resource. A country's development is determined by the degree to which its people appropriately and effectively use the land within their borders, not on who owns what portion.

This was said by Professor H. W. O. Okoth-Ogendo in his keynote address at the JEPAK Annual Conference on *Managing Land for Faster National Development*.

Professor Okoth-Ogendo, who is based at the University of Nairobi and who has participated and written broadly on land reform in Africa said it was critical that African governments, Kenya included, put in place programmes directed towards increasing the land productivity through enhanced and broader access instead of the current scenario where the issues of ownership and control are paramount.

In his address Prof. Okoth-Ogendo informed the conference that there had been a number of important milestones in the development of a comprehensive policy framework for the land sector in Kenya and noted: "In undertaking the development of a national land policy, Kenya was joining a large number of African counties which had either finished or were in the process of land policy development."

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He observed that land in Africa was not simply a factor of production: it is the most important cultural and social asset for the majority of Africa's populations. In concluding his address Prof Okoth-Ogendo emphasized that land must be regarded as a development asset, sustainably managed and preserved for future generations and warned that the full contribution of the land sector to development will remain a mirage as long as the resource is regarded merely as a pawn in the endless political struggle for power among the elite.

In her welcoming remarks **the JEPAK Chairman, Mrs Jane Kibwage**, noted the presence of participants from rural areas and observed that this was an indication that they had taken seriously the land policy issues that were to be discussed at the conference. She pointed out that land matters were important not only to the participants as individuals but also to the nation as a whole. In this regard she hoped that that conference would contribute to the development of the national land policy document by making informed suggestions on any aspects which merited improvement.



**Mrs. Jane Kibwage**



**Prof. Michieka**

**The JEPAK Patron, Prof. Ratemo Michieka**, praised the Management Committee for selecting very important subjects for discussion at the Alumni's Annual Conferences. He said, this year's theme was not only relevant but in support of a major government initiative of putting in place a national Land Policy which was poised to fundamentally impact on the country's development.

The Patron observed that it was the third time the Land Policy document was being reviewed in a public forum and the first time it was being discussed by participants from diverse regional and professional backgrounds.

In his Official Opening Speech, the **Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Lands and Settlement**, Mr, Kombo Mwero, who was represented at the conference by Mr Joseph K .

Mathenge, Director of Surveys in the Ministry, expressed his profound gratitude to JICA for continued support to this country and in working with JEPAK to make the Land Conference possible. He took the opportunity to acknowledge that JICA had provided training opportunities in the fields of Agriculture, Education, Health and Engineering to Kenyans. He further noted that the Agency had sponsored courses and programmes in land related disciplines such as Remote Sensing, Management of Survey and Mapping, Hydrographic Surveys, Global Positioning System (GPS) and Geographical Information System (GIS), among others.



**Mr Joseph Mathenge**

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The **JICA Resident Representative, Mr. Yoshiaki Kano** on behalf of the Agency, appreciated JEPAK's invitation to the conference. He observed that the theme of the conference, "Managing Land for Faster National Development" was not only a topical feature in the global arena but also one that hinged on an integral part of any society's well being.



**Mr. Yoshiaki Kano**  
JICA Resident Rep

The Representative noted that the National Land Policy had addressed land issues in a holistic manner and had, in this context, covered critical areas such as land administration, land tenure and land delivery systems. He hoped that the land policy, once approved, would be implemented so as to promote optimal, equitable and efficient use of land.

The Representative informed the conference that JICA had continued with its mission of advancing international cooperation through the sharing of knowledge, experience and technology transfer particularly in the fields of Agriculture, Environment, Economic Infrastructure, Human Resource Development and Health. In this regard the Agency had engaged in adaptability trials of the New Rice Variety for Africa (NERICA), an upland rice variety that does not require massive investments in irrigation facilities.

In concluding his speech the Representative noted that it would be through concerted efforts by all Kenyans and commitment to reforms that idle land in the country would be transformed into productive land and thus contribute to sustainable development and poverty reduction.



**Mr. Ibrahim N. Mwachane**

Presenting a paper on **Land Policy and the East African Integration**, **Mr Ibrahim N. Mwachane**, observed that land is the foundation of all human activities, both social and economic. He outlined the status of the development of Land policies in Kenya, Uganda Tanzania and Rwanda, and noted that in Uganda, Tanzania

and Rwanda the respective National Land policies were already in place. They were under implementation in Uganda and Tanzania while, in Rwanda a roadmap for implementation was under development. Mr Mwachane informed the conference that each of the land policy initiatives was directed towards strengthening community land governance systems; re-vesting the radical title in citizens or local organs; getting the state to concentrate on policy formulation, drawing up standards, as well as monitoring and auditing of the land sector operations. He noted that there were a number of factors that required a regional approach to addressing land issues.

These factors include the fact that Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania share the waters of Lake Victoria and thus inconsistent land use policies arising out of divergent land policies is bound to generate conflicts and thus adversely affect the common lake waters and hence the three states. For example destruction of forests in any of the states implies a

Fishing and transport industries around the region He observed that any cross border investments have to be anchored on land and therefore the type of rights with properties in each of the states must be clearly stated to enable business people to make long-term investment decisions. He proposed the creation of an East African land desk at the EAC Secretariat at Arusha as a starting point.

In her presentation on **The Role of GIS and Remote Sensing in Enhancing Agricultural Productivity**, **Serah Kabui Kahuri**, pointed out that increased demand for food by ever increasing populations, elimination of hunger and malnutrition as well as attaining food security would only be met by Enhancing agricultural production. She informed The conference that, for enhanced agriculture, use of reliable data was of critical importance, particularly for precision



**Serah Kibui Kahuri**

agriculture. In this regard data was collected for Hydrography, Elevation, Infrastructure, Land use/Land cover, Insect/pest infestations, and Soil characteristics using Geo-Information System (GIS) and Remote Sensing (RS) techniques. The GIS and RS complement and supplement each other in spatial data capture, quantification and analysis. She concluded that Remote Sensing and GIS should be integrated to investigate the dynamic interactions of all factors that affect agricultural production and thereby assist in informed decision making which would result in the enhancement of agricultural production

Presenting on the **Role of Biotechnology In Enhancing Agricultural Productivity**. **Dr. S. T. Gichuki** of KARI noted that biotechnology has been used since 10000 BC. It has been used to improve and enhance plants, animals and micro-organisms for the benefit of society.



In Kenya it has been used for improving maize, bananas, cassava, sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes, among other crops. The technologies that have been used are tissue culture and genetic engineering. The objectives of research in these area have been to develop crops that grow faster; have higher yields; that are pest and disease resistant; have larger seeds; and sweeter fruits, among others. Dr Gichuki observed that Biotechnology Research and Development in Kenya faces the following challenges:

- Lack of clear regulatory framework
- High regulatory costs
- Inadequate financial framework
- Low research capacity
- Inadequate expertise in IP management
- Lack of awareness among key stakeholders, particularly producers and consumers

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The PS observed that the conference was taking place when the proposed National Land Policy document was being reviewed by all sections of the Kenyan populace and informed the conference that the National Land Policy Secretariat which is a Unit in his Ministry welcomed all manner of inputs to improve and enrich the policy document. He said, some of the pertinent issues that needed to be looked into were:

- ◆ Whether to introduce the National Land Policy before or after the enactment of the forthcoming new constitution
- ◆ How do we go about implementing issues on past injustices.
- ◆ How we go about in dispossessing people holding large tracks of land.
- ◆ What should be the minimum land holdings.
- ◆ How we determine and tax idle land.
- ◆ Whether the idea of “owning” land should be scrapped.

## CHILDREN'S WORLD

### How I spent the trip to Hell's Gate

On Saturday 26/8/2006 I went in the morning by bus. I saw beautiful gardens and trees. Then we stayed on the road until we arrived. We stayed outside the gate until the bus arrived. Then we went inside the gate. Then we saw animals like Giraffe, Zebra, Gazelles, Baboons and Monkeys. Then we saw a man rock and a lady rock. Then we climbed the lady rock. Then we went to the hot springs. Then I washed my hands with the hot water. I felt like showering on that water. Then we went and went and went until we were about to reach Lake Magadi. Then someone come to show us the way. Then we went to climb rocks we climbed and climbed until the end. Then we walked around. Then we went crossing small streams. Then I started writing on the rocks with a small stone. After walking around we went somewhere to eat our lunch and it was raining so much. Then we started eating with the others. We also ate *Nyama Choma*.

When we walked it was very dusty so we had to fold our trousers. Then it started raining so we heard to shelter ourselves. After finishing our lunch the rain stopped. Then we ate some snacks I enjoyed myself very much, and that is the day I will never forget. Then we walked until we saw a round stone in front of us.

My name is: Zipporah Amuanyi

Age: Nine years

### How I enjoyed my trip to Hell's Gate

I enjoyed myself and I loved the trip, it was my first trip. I will never forget. It was a great trip. The first place we went was to the Great Rift Valley. The second place we went was Limuru. The third place we went was to Hell's Gate and the fourth one was to Lake Naivasha, the trip was very very nice. In Hell's Gate we saw a man rock and lady rock. We climbed the lady lock. And we saw some animals. The animals were buffalo, zebra, monkeys and many more. People had carried food in the bus. We also carried food and snacks. We went with three buses. They were city hoppas. The buses were good. In Great Rift Valley we saw people buying and selling. That was good, they were beautiful things. That was good because they were getting money, most of them were Masais. They were bracelets, necklaces and much more. In Hells Gate we went to the hot springs. We saw water can boil an egg and after two minutes. The other people were lost they went and went and they were about to reach to Lake Magadi. I washed my hands in the hot water, I liked the water, it was very hot. The other trip was to Lake Naivasha: in Lake Naivasha we saw hippopotamus, birds. The hippopotamus were in the water. The birds were flying around us. The birds were with beautiful colours they were different and some were... I liked the place. We saw two containers and one sweets, sodas shop. We saw many trees, the water was deep. Many people were watching the hippos. The hippos were many. We were told that hippopotamus were not swimming they were crawling on water then coming out. We were told that we were going to climb a mountain but it was too late. So we went to town and we found our cars parked we went into the cars and went back home.



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Age: Eight years old

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Father's Name: Jimmy Oluomo

Thank you for the trip.

## JOCVs MARK 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY IN STYLE



**Mr. Satoru Miyamura**

Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) celebrated 40 years in East Africa at a colourful ceremony presided over by the Japanese Ambassador, Mr Satoru Miyamura and the JICA Kenya Resident Representative Mr Yoshiaki Kano, at the Japanese embassy auditorium on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2006.

The JOCV has to-date despatched a total of 1,237 volunteers to Kenya, including short-term and senior volunteers since April 1966 when the first batch of 3 JOCVs arrived in Nairobi. The JOCV programme is one of JICA's principal activities in its international cooperation.

In order to respond to requests from developing countries, including Kenya, JICA began to send senior volunteers (aged between 40 and 69 years) and highly experienced in a wide range of fields as from 1990. The first Senior Volunteers were despatched to Kenya in the year 2003 in the fields of Computer Technology and Industrial Electronics

Speaking on behalf of the Minister for Finance, Mr Shakaba, who is the Head of Administration on the Ministry, thanked the people of Japan through JICA and the JOCV programme for the tremendous and varied technical skills that have been transferred to the country since 1966. He said the total value of the support ran to billions of dollars if properly estimated, not to mention the invaluable cultural exchanges between the two peoples.

The JOCV activities in Kenya are focussed in the following seven fields: Education, Health, Environment, Vocational Training, National Heritage, Sports and Rural development. In addition, volunteers for youth activities have been sent to children's rehabilitation schools.

Two elaborate and inspiring presentations were made by a present and a past JOCV respectively, highlighting their personal and professional experiences on their tour of duty to Kenya.

JEPAK was represented at the occasion by the Vice Chairman, Mr Anderea Morara, the Secretary Mr J. G. Mwangi, Eng C. F. Kiranga and Mr Paul Wachira.

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## Professional Cells Activities Start in Earnest

As Kenya makes inroads into the global village, and technological advances take root, JEPAK with a reservoir of technical and professional skills will be looked upon to provide leadership and strategic directions in achieving sustainable development in the country.

JEPAK has undergone a transition period from a social to a profession organization with professionals that are capable of organizing Seminars or workshops. The diversification of activities to include income-generating activities for self-sustainability has been given a priority. The actualization of professional cells to generate community projects and offer consultancy services is a step in the right direction.

The formation of 9 professional cells; Industry & Manufacturing, Agriculture & Food, Infrastructure, Health, Child Protection, Information Communication Technology, Human Resource Development & Education, Environment, and Business & Development Management on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2006 was successful.

All the professional cells have held their first meetings while four, namely Environment, Health, Agriculture and Business & Development Management have already held preliminary discussions with respective JICA programme heads as a first step towards charting out their cell activities for the coming year.

The cells will write their own proposals and team leaders are expected to make follow-ups on proposed/planned activities. The Secretaries will keep record of discussions/minutes, copies of which should be availed to the secretariat for reference.

### Forthcoming Events

Activity	Period
Professional cells	Dec 2006 - Feb 2007
Annual Get-together	December 2006
Medical Comp	February 2007
Jua-Kali Seminar	February 2007
Newsletter	March 2007
Annual General meeting	March 2007

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