

Opening ceremony of the infectious diseases research laboratory at KEMRI-Alupe and workshop (June 7, 2013)

Relevant managers of the project came together at KEMRI-Alupe Centre in Busia (Western Kenya) two days after the Project Steering Committee (PSC) held in Nairobi. This Centre for Infectious and Parasitic Diseases Control Research (CIPDCR) in Alupe is one of the 10 KEMRI Centres in Kenya and one of the field sites for the project.

The infectious diseases research laboratory was renovated through the project in late May, and an opening ceremony and workshop was held to commemorate the milestone and to introduce the facility to the community and other relevant stakeholders.

The place was packed with approximately 25 guests, including the KEMRI board of management members, Kakamega District Medical Officer, staff from Busia District Hospital, Alupe sub-district hospital, and other health care workers, and also over 50 staff members from KEMRI-Alupe.

Dr. Mwau, the manager of the project and the Director of KEMRI-Alupe Centre chaired the Ceremony of the day. Dr. Mpoke (Director of KEMRI) and Dr. Morita (Chief Advisor of the project) gave the opening remarks and then Dr. Mwau, Dr. Inoue (JICA Expert), and Ms. Toda (JICA Expert) gave presentations to highlight the progress made so far on each activity. After the workshop, participants took tour of the facilities of KEMRI-Alupe. For some of the guest, it was their first time to visit the KEMRI-Alupe Centre which is located at border town near Uganda. It was impressive for them to observe the facility was functioning well.

Tape cut was conducted in front of the newly renovated infectious diseases research laboratory, which is now upgraded with laboratory equipment purchased through this project. We look forward to further contribution from the renovated KEMRI-Alupe Centre to develop point of care test kits for diagnosis of arbovirus diseases.



Photo 1: KEMRI-Alupe Centre

Photo 2: KEMRI-Alupe Centre facilities



Photo 3: (from the left side) Tape cutting by Dr. Mpoke (Director of KEMRI), Dr. Omboga (KEMRI board member), Mr. Kinyangi (JICA Kenya office), Dr. Morita (Chief Advisor of the project)

Photo 4: Participants of the opening ceremony and workshop



Photo 5 and 6: Before and after pictures of renovated facilities