

## KIU PARTNERS WITH WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY ON GLOBAL HEALTH



*By Kezia Koburungi*

Kampala International University (KIU) has signed a Memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Western Sydney University (WSU), Australia, to promote academic collaborations between both universities. The MoU signed on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019, was in recognition of the mutual benefits gained through a co-operative programme of promoting global health and humanitarian studies.

According to KIU Vice-Chancellor; Dr. Mouhamad Mpezamihigo, Kampala International University being an international university, seeks to visit and share collaborative experiences with universities across the globe, so as to learn to think and operate outside the box, “the reason we collaborate with different partners is to gain the benefits of connecting with different experiences for our students and staff and also for operating outside the box,” said KIU Vice-Chancellor.

Dr. Mpezamihigo further revealed that “if you do something and you do it alone, without visiting and sharing experiences, then, you may expire before you know.” Thus, the reason for encouraging international collaborations, so that KIU as an innovative institution of higher learning, will continue to explore the heights, bring it home, and also extend these benefits to her students and staff alongside. The Vice-chancellor added that KIU has over 40 collaborations across the globe, but that of Western Sydney University was the first significant partnership from Australia.

### **Why Sign an MoU with KIU**



Professor Barney Glover AO; Vice-Chancellor and President of the Western Sydney University who made this known while speaking at the NBS TV Breakfast Breeze of 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019, acknowledged that KIU was chosen among other universities across the country and in Africa, because of the similarities they share.

“We are looking for major partnerships in Africa, particularly in Uganda, and that is how we feel it is great to partner with KIU. Western Sydney University is a young university as well as KIU, we are proud of the fact that we are a young university, KIU is barely 20 years of age, and we are just coming up to 30 years of age; they are quite young universities. So, one of the reasons I think we can have a good relationship is that we are both dynamic, young universities, which makes it a little bit easier to forge partnership and make decisions very quickly. So, we are looking at bringing our expertise and their expertise together.” The President remarked.

More so, Prof. Glover noted that these collaborations, which cut across other sectors, are meant to solve global problems.

“We are doing this on Global Health but also in areas of Agriculture to see how it could solve problems relative to that, in Africa. We see that both universities KIU and WSU are both comprehensive, and with the new Engineering programmes being developed at their Western campus, that gives us other areas in I.T. Particularly, we are interested in Applications of mobile technology, artificial intelligence, new systems, and how we can transform areas like agriculture; addressing hidden hunger in Africa, and we are working in partnership to achieve it,” he added.

He further applauded Professor for Andre Renzaho, of the School of Social Sciences and Psychology at Western Sydney University, for promoting great work in global health and humanitarian studies in Africa, through collaboration with Western Universities around the world, and most especially to the Western Sydney University in Australia.

### **KIU Provides an Opportunity to Reach out to Communities Through its Social Programmes**

On his own, Prof. Andre Renzaho being an authority in global health, stated that KIU was chosen among other universities for this partnership, owing to the fact that WSU seeks to expand their reach and build mutually beneficial research collaborations, while intensifying core community impact, and KIU provides such a platform for them to do so.

“One of our goal at WSU is to expand our reach and reputation through forging mutually beneficial research collaborations, but also trying to leverage Western Sydney University staff, and also intensify our other core community impact ... So, any partnership that provides an opportunity to reach out to the community to translate our research into tangible social impact, within the community, is always welcomed, and KIU - Kampala International University, gives us that access to a community through its social programmes. They are in Western Uganda, they are in Kampala, and they are one of the strongest community-driven interventions. So, having partnerships with them, I think, gives us that leverage to be able to make a difference.” Prof. Renzaho noted.

The Memorandum which will last for five years, was signed by the Vice-Chancellor of KIU; Dr. Mouhamad Mpezamihigo, KIU Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic and Affairs; Prof. George Nyasinyma, Vice-Chancellor and President Western Sydney University; Prof. Barney Glover, Associate Professor Linda Taylor; WSU Pro Vice-Chancellor International, and witnessed by Distinguished Prof. Andre Renzaho; School of Social Sciences and Psychology WSU.

In the MoU, each party is required to appoint a coordinator who will be responsible for managing the development and conduct of any activities upon which the two Universities agreed.

For more information about Kampala International University, go to [www.kiu.ac.ug](http://www.kiu.ac.ug)

You can also reach our representatives in the following states;

Garowe +252907791464

Bosaso +252907750501

Somaliland +252659114311 +252634195585

And - Mogadishu +252612500663

Apply online today! [www.kiu.ac.ug](http://www.kiu.ac.ug)

Email [admin@kiu.ac.ug](mailto:admin@kiu.ac.ug)

**KIU, exploring the heights!**