

**REMARKS BY PROF. LUCY IRUNGU AT THE PAN AFRICA CHEMISTRY NETWORK LAUNCH ON 27TH MAY 2008, MILLENNIUM HALL, CHIROMO CAMPUS**

HE Mr. Adam Wood, British High Commissioner  
Dr. Simon Campbell CBE, Past President RSC  
Dr. David Lawrence, Head of Research, Syngenta  
Dr. Richard Pike, CEO RSC  
Professor Peter Mbithi, Ag Vice Chancellor, University of Nairobi  
Professor Mohammed Hassan, President of NASAC and CEO of TWAS  
Professor Shem Wandiga

I am most delighted to receive this high caliber of chemistry scientists at the College of Biological and Physical Sciences. We feel highly honoured that the Royal Society of Chemistry together with Syngenta International selected the University of Nairobi, Chemistry Department as the Hub for PACN. The choice testifies to the high regard the International and African chemistry scientists have for our colleagues in the Department and also the confidence the United Kingdom Government has on Kenya.

I am informed that the Network will have activities ranging from science competition involving secondary schools to university education. Further evidence of the Network is the launch this year of Science competition for secondary schools in which 32 schools have been selected by the Ministry of Education to participate. The involvement of African chemistry scientists in finding solutions to Africa's society pressing problems is a desirable element of the Network. A second immediate benefit to Kenya is the donation of over 100 book titles for university and secondary education to Kenya. The book donation will go along way in strengthening our library as the titles are current. The Network has outlined other activities that include support for conference attendance, short time training of scientists at the Syngenta UK laboratory and support for the existing chemistry networks in the continent to name but a few.

The university and the college welcome these activities as essential for the betterment of our strategic goals of being one of the best university education providers in the continent, the world. We promise our full support to the Network and I pledge open door reception to the project managers.

It is now my pleasure to introduce the Ag Vice Chancellor of the University of Nairobi, Professor Peter Mbithi.

Thank You.