

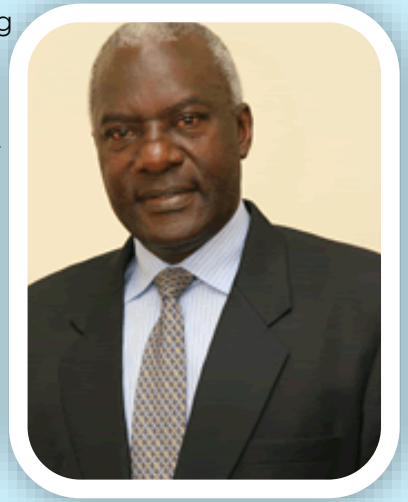


March 2014

Director's Message

The month of March was marked to sizzling temperatures in several parts of the country. Similar to this weather was a buzz of activities at the UVRI campus--- some events challenging while others were rewarding.

Some notable events during the month was a visit from the World Health Organisation (WHO) Country Representative, Dr. Wondimagegnehu Alemu. Dr. Alemu who toured the WHO supported divisions such as the Expanded Programme on Immunisation and the Arbovirology laboratories. A delegation from the Ministry of Health led by the Permanent Secretary, Dr. Asuman Lukwago also visited UVRI. The intention of the delegation was to acquaint Dr. Lukwago with the ongoing infrastructural developments on the UVRI campus. The team was especially delighted with the progress made on the extension to the influenza laboratory.



In the past month, we witnessed the commemoration of the World TB Day whose theme was: "Reach the three million A TB test, treatment and cure for all". These three million TB cases are missed worldwide by health systems. Much as UVRI did not actively participate in the national celebrations that were held in Iganga, the Institute is actively involved in TB research. We are confident that our research efforts are contributing to effective treatment of TB patients worldwide and will one day, perhaps, contribute to a TB cure.

The administration team compiled a UVRI general equipment inventory that will enable the Institute update any item that could be added.

An internet connectivity problem that UVRI and its on-campus partners experienced due to a fibre problem on the premises was soon solved and operations were resumed as usual.

The IT team were also able to compile a summary of the Cisco phone extensions that have since, enabled every office to be connected on the network and eased communication between the different UVRI divisions. We are hopeful that our main entrance gate will receive an extension soon. The Institute acquired a new and heavy duty washing machine capable of performing multiple tasks. The washing machine will simplify cleaning laboratory coats and other Institute fabrics. It has been placed in the the UVRI laundry, with an overhead water tank installed near the laundry to ensure uninterrupted supply of water to this machine. I invite UVRI staff to use this piece of equipment.

Another notable incident was the closure of the entry gate to enable construction work on a well- drained tarmac road, branching from Nakiwogo Road through the UVRI entry gate up to the EPI lab and IAVI. This work, undertaken by MRC continued through March. The construction work however, made access to some UVRI facilities a challenge, leading to a congestion in the parking area. Whereas this was an inconvenience to many UVRI staff, we are confident that the project will give UVRI yet a better look.

Dr. Edward Katongole -Mbidde
Director- Uganda Virus Research Institute

