

**OFFICIAL OPENING SPEECH
AFRICAN SPECTRAL IMAGING NETWORK (ASFIN)
WORKSHOP ON SPECTRAL IMAGING IN REMOTE
SENSING.
ICIPE GUEST HOUSE, KASARANI, NAIROBI
17 SEPTEMBER 2012**

Representative of the ASFIN Coordinator

The Local Organising Committee

Dr. K. Kaduki, Chairman Department of Physics, University of
Nairobi

Distinguished guests

Workshop participants

Ladies and gentlemen

It is my pleasure, on my own behalf and that of the University of Nairobi to warmly welcome you here for the ASFIN International Workshop on Spectral Imaging in Remote Sensing. I wish to specially welcome the guests and workshop participants from Burkina Faso, China, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Mali, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Sweden and Tanzania.

You are all most welcome to Kenya and to Duduville – the home of insect science.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me begin by thanking the AFSIN Coordinator, Local Organizing Committee, the team from Lund University and the International Science Program (ISP) for organizing this workshop.

This workshop is one of as it addresses the application of optical spectroscopy in monitoring of insects.

I have also been informed that the team from Lund University has been collaborating with African scientists to build research capacity in applied optical spectroscopy related to agriculture, environment and medicine which has resulted in workshops organized in Cape Coast, Ghana and Bamako, Mali.

Ladies and Gentlemen

A significant number of participants in this workshop are graduate students. This aspect of training future scientists is very important since it encourages the younger generation to embrace science as a career. This is the key to the development of our institutions in the continent. I believe that the knowledge and experience

gained from this workshop will remain useful to these young scientists in their present or future careers.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The theme of this workshop fits perfectly with the University's mission: To provide quality university education and training and to embody the aspirations of Kenyan people and the global community through creation, preservation, integration, transmission and utilization of knowledge.

The workshop is also in sync with the National agenda as captured in the Kenya Vision 2030 national development plan which emphasizes science, technology and innovation as the drivers towards that vision.

In this workshop, you will be building remote sensing equipment for monitoring of insects, primarily agricultural pests. Kenya is primarily an agricultural country and so, as a country we will benefit immensely from the collaborative research that will be enabled by this equipment. The multidisciplinary nature of this workshop is a good example of how physics can be applied directly to real life problem situations.

Ladies and Gentlemen

In order to support development oriented policy and practice and the improvement of livelihoods, it has become increasingly important to ensure that research findings and new knowledge is disseminated strategically to ensure that these are utilized by the stakeholders and the community. I therefore encourage you to disseminate any research findings or knowledge generated from this workshop widely. Where there is a need to advise policy makers or other stakeholders on new knowledge, let us ensure that appropriate policy briefs are provided.

In closing, let me take this opportunity to recognize and thank the International Science Programme (ISP) of Uppsala University for the generous grant that has made this workshop possible.

I would also like to thank the participants drawn from various institutions for making time to attend this workshop.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

With these remarks, I wish you a fruitful workshop and hope that ideas that will be generated here will be disseminated widely with the aim of improving science but also improving livelihoods, policies and practice within our region and beyond.

It is now my humble task to declare the AFSIN International Workshop on Spectral Imaging in Remote Sensing, 2012 officially opened.

Thank you.

Prof. Lucy W. Irungu
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Production and Extension),
University of Nairobi