

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF ASTRONOMY



ASTRONOMY WORKSHOP FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM SCHOOLS IN SOUTHWESTERN UGANDA

December 2009

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1.0 Introduction

The workshop was organized by the Physics department of Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) at the Pharmacology Lecture Theatre on July 11, 2009.

The main theme of the workshop was: “*Empowering the youth in Astronomy*”. This was based on the wider theme of the International Year of astronomy: “*The Universe Yours to Discover*”.

The workshop targeted mainly secondary school students and their teachers and thus drew participants from a total of 25 schools (see list of schools in Appendix D) from three districts located in southwestern Uganda. The workshop drew a total of 55 participants composed of students, teachers, lecturers and general public.

1.1 Objectives of the workshop

The workshop was organized to achieve the following objectives:

1. Equip secondary school students and their teachers with some basic knowledge of astronomy.
2. Increase scientific awareness about the importance of astronomy to society.
3. Motivate and encourage students into science and mathematics.

1.2 Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony was presided over by the Academic Registrar of MUST, who was assisted by the Dean of Faculty of Science in MUST.



In his welcome remarks, the Dean, Faculty of Science, welcomed all the participants to the workshop and expressed his gratefulness to all those present to have created some time for astronomy. He underscored the importance of astronomy to society and emphatically stressed its inclusion in the national curricula right from primary to tertiary institutions. He then welcomed the Academic Registrar of Mbarara University of Science and Technology to officially open the workshop.

The Dean, Faculty of Science, Mbarara University of Science and Technology addressing the participants at the astronomy works during the opening ceremony.



Academic Registrar Mbarara University of Science and Technology presides over the opening ceremony. Seated on his right is the Dean of Faculty of Science.

In his opening remarks, the Academic Registrar welcomed the participants to the workshop and informed the meeting that astronomy existed as long as mankind on the planet earth.

He underscored the importance of involving young men and women in this important workshop, which was the first of its kind in Uganda.

He stressed that Mbarara University being a university of science & Technology is glad to be associated with the efforts to introduce astronomy in Uganda.

He acknowledged the significant number of female representatives in the workshop and said it was a testimony and commitment towards achieving the goals of the International Year of astronomy. Finally, he wished the participants fruitful deliberations during the workshop and declared the workshop open (Full Speech is included in Appendix E).

1.3 Workshop Presentations

1.4.1 Presentation by the SPoC

The first paper was presented by the SPoC (Single Point of Contact) for Uganda, Mr. Simon Anguma, who gave a brief background of the International Year of Astronomy. He articulated at length about the Vision, Goals, Organizational associates, the cornerstone projects and the IYA2009 Special Projects. However, in his presentation, more emphasis was put on the Plans for National Activities to mark the International Year of Astronomy in Uganda.

1.4.2 Presentation by Dr. Joyce Ayikoru

Dr. Ayikoru made a presentation on the benefits of astronomy to society and targeted Mbarara University as a case in point. She elaborated on how astronomy has helped mankind in communication technology, health, research, and education in general.

She particularly pin-pointed how astronomy has helped the development of human resource in science in MUST and concluded by emphasizing the role astronomy plays in interesting any person towards sciences and encouraged the young students to take the subject seriously.



Dr. Joyce Ayikoru (Head of Education Department, MUST) making a presentation on the importance of astronomy to society.

1.4.3 Presentation by Mr. Emaru Josph

The following presentations were basically prepared by students of physics and mathematics at MUST and covered mostly the basic information about the solar system and telescopes.

Mr. Joseph Emaru made a very excellent presentation about the Solar system and concluded with the current definition of a planet in the solar system. The new definition of a planet in the solar system attracted a lot of questions from the secondary school students.



This appeared to have touched the imagination of every participant (both young and mature) who had no prior idea of the change in definition of a planet in our solar system.

1.4.4 Presentation by Mr. Kimera Joseph

Mr. Joseph Kimera focused his presentation on the most important member of the solar system, the Sun. He articulated the facts about the interior structure of the Sun, its motion, energy generation at the core, and the eventual fate of the Sun as a star.



The participants were amazed to know that the Sun is just like any other star! That the Sun has a definite lifespan was another area which attracted numerous questions. His presentation was very enriching to the participants and brought out a lot of unknown facts about the sun.

1.4.5 Presentation by Ms. Ayebazibwe Angela



Ms. Angela Ayebazibwe was the first female student to make a presentation during the workshop. She presented factual information about the moon. Notably, the theories of formation of the moon drew a lot of discussion from the participants.

She brought out facts about the motion of the moon, its phases, the lunar eclipse, and concluded the presentation by discussing the ocean tides caused by the moon. She also hinted on the likely event of the moon slowly moving away from the earth as a consequence of the in balance of the tidal forces. This phenomenon may affect the length of a month in future.

1.4.6 Presentation by Ms. Nabasa Diana



Ms. Nabasa Diana, made a presentation on telescopes. This was an important presentation due to the fact that it described the device through which most of the astronomical discoveries have been made. She described the types and the various categories of telescopes.

She concluded her presentation by outlining the importance of telescopes and the technological spin-offs which have benefited mankind from the telescope science.

1.4.7 Presentation by Ms. Naluminsa Elizabeth



Ms. Elizabeth Naluminsa brought to rest a contentious topic which was run for several times on the print media in Uganda. According to media reports, in 2012, a planet called Nibiru will strike the earth and terminate life on our planet, the earth. She made an articulate and succinct presentation on the “Nibiru question” and using systematic and scientifically sound reasons; her paper dispelled the Newspaper reports and concluded that the existence of Nibiru is sustained through legendary and mythical concepts based on the Sumerians history. It has no known scientific basis of existence and has not been reported in any scientific literature known to the astronomical community.

1.4.8 Paper presented by Mr. Nimbashabira Natharius

His paper on the calendar reforms and time measurement was a very interesting one. He brought out clearly how astronomy has facilitated time measurement and maintained the various calendars followed by the diverse cultures on earth. He concluded his paper by making simple calculation of the Easter day and

elaborated on the effect of the obliquity of the ecliptic on time measurement. His paper raised a lot of excitement among the participants and attracted many questions.

The last presentation was made by Mr. Katambira Fred from Bweranyangi Girls' Secondary school and Mr. Atibuni Dennis from Kitabi Seminary, both located in Bushenyi District. They narrated some Banyakole concepts of astronomy.

1.4.9 Presentation by Mr. Katambira Fred and Mr. Atibuni Denis

The Banyakole form the dominant ethnic tribal grouping in the southwestern part of Uganda and have many concepts associated with "heavenly bodies", which affected the lives of their ancestor in many ways. Therefore, their presentation was very novel to many participants and brought a new dimension to the workshop as it spelt-out the contribution of the development of astronomy by the indigenous people from Ankole.



Mr. Katambira Fred making a presentation on the astronomical concepts among the Banyakole

1.5 Certificate of participation

Before the workshop was closed, certificates of participation were awarded to all participants. This event was presided over by the Dean, Faculty of Science and Dr. Jurua Edward facilitated the process.



1.6 Closing ceremony

The workshop was closed by the Dean, Faculty of Science in MUST. He emphasized the importance of embracing science and technology by the youth and urged them to positively appreciate the role astronomy plays in the development of mankind. He encouraged the students to start astronomy clubs in their schools and expressed readiness to visit schools with established astronomy clubs in order to give talks about astronomy. He thanked the participants for devoting their time for astronomy and wished them a safe journey back to their respective schools.

1.7 Challenges encountered

The funds for organizing the workshop were not sufficient as the anticipated local support did not materialize. Hence, the activities were limited to a one-day workshop.

Secondly, the response rate was higher than anticipated, with many schools showing interest in participating in the workshop. However, the number of participants was restricted to the size of the available resource envelope could support at the time.

The year 2009 had a critical challenge of the credit crunch, which affected the initial budget grossly. Therefore, the budget had to be re-adjusted to suit the prevailing circumstances at the time.

1.8 Practical outcomes

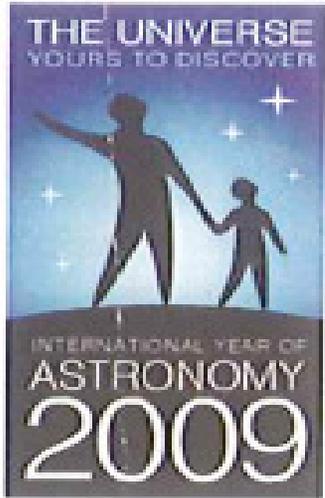
Students and the teachers were very happy that some astronomical everyday-life experiences were thoroughly explained and they confessed to have learnt a lot from the workshop and requested for more to be organized in future.

Students promised to form astronomy clubs in their schools so as to learn more about the universe and the objects existing in it.

The workshop raised the profile of astronomy in Uganda, especially in the southwestern region where it was held. It definitely increased the scientific awareness about the importance of astronomy to society.

The students were generally very much excited about the new knowledge they gained from the workshop. They were motivated by the female presenters who actually showed practically that girls can do science as opposed to the popular cultural belief that science subjects were for males.

Appendix A: Workshop Programme



PROGRAM FOR A ONE-DAY CONFERENCE ON ASTRONOMY



Workshop on Astronomy held at Pharmacology Lecture Theatre, Mbarara University of Science and Technology on July 11, 2009

Theme:

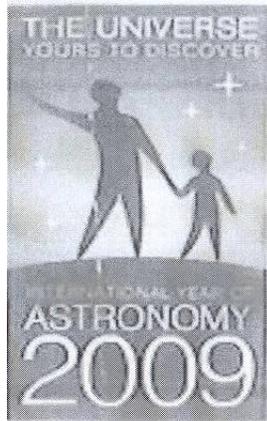
Empowering the Youth in Astronomy – The universe yours to discover

IYA2009

SESSION	TIME	ACTIVITY	RESOURCE PERSONS	MODERATOR
I	8:00 – 9.30 a.m.	Arrival and Registration	Secretariat	Mr. Natharius Nimbashabira
	9:30 -9:45 a.m	Opening Remarks	Dean, Faculty of Science	
	9:45 -10:00 a.m	Official Opening	Academic Registrar, Mbarara University	
	10:30 -10:15 a.m	International Year of Astronomy (IYA2009)	SPoC	
	10:15 -10:30 a.m	Benefits of Astronomy to society: a case of MUST	Dr. Ayikoru Joyce	
10:30 – 11:00 a.m. H E A L T H B R E A K				
II	11:00 – 11:30 a.m.	The Solar system	Mr. Joseph Emaru	Mr. Simon Anguma
	11:30 – 12:00 noon	The Sun	Mr. Joseph Kimera	
	12:00 – 12:30 p.m.	The Moon	Ms. Angela Ayebazibwe	
	12:30 – 1:00 p.m.	The Nibiru question	Ms. Elizabeth Naluminsa	
1:00 – 2:00 p.m. L U N C H				
III	2:00 – 2:30 p.m.	Telescopes in astronomy	Ms. Diana Nabaasa	Dr. Edward Jurua
	2:30 – 3:00 p.m.	Time measurements	Mr. Natharius Nimbashabira	
	3:00 – 3:30 p.m.	Banyakole concepts of astronomy	Mr. Katambira Fred & Mr. Dennis Atibuni	
	3:30 – 4:00 p.m.	Closing Remarks	Dean, Faculty of Science	

Appendix B:

Registration list of workshop participants.



REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS



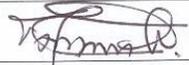
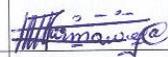
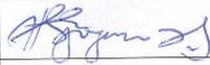
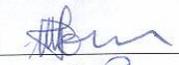
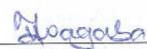
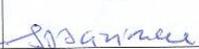
Workshop on Astronomy held at Pharmacology Lecture Theatre, Mbarara University of Science and Technology on July 11, 2009

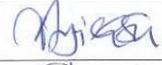
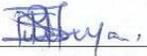
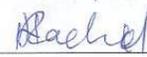
Theme:

Empowering the Youth in Astronomy – The universe yours to discover

S.No	NAME	DISTRICT	SCHOOL	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
1	ATIBUMI DEONYS ZAMI	BUSHENYI	KITABI SEMINARY	TEACHER	
2	Akampa. Demick	Mbarara	Ntare School	Student	
3	Nasasira Benson.	Mbarara.	Ntare School	Student	
4	MUGUME DEUS	Mbarara	Ntare School	student	
5	BAMUSI WEGA ANGELO	BUSHENYI	KITABI SEMINARY	TEACHER	
6	MAISUKO BRIAN	BUSHENYI	KITABI SEMINARY	STUDENT	
7	BYAMUKHANA HESTER	BUSHENYI	KITABI SEMINARY	STUDENT	
8	NSHEMERIRWE PATRICK	BUSHENYI	SI CECILIA	TEACHER	
9	KOMU GABE CLARE	BUSHENYI	SI CECILIA	STUDENT	
10	TUKAHIRWA SIMPLOS	BUSHENYI	SI CECILIA	STUDENT	
11	ANEBAZIBIKIE ANGELA	MBARARA	MUST	STUDENT/PRESENTER	
12	KIMERA JOSEPH	MBARARA	MUST	STUDENT/PRESENTER	
13	EMARU JOSEPH	MBARARA	MUST	STUDENT/PRESENTER	
14	NABAASA DIANA	MBARARA	MUST	STUDENT/PRESENTER	

	NAME	DISTRICT	SCHOOL	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
15	JJUVIKO ROBERT	BUSHENYI	NGANWA H.S	TEACHER	Rhu
16	NALUMIMSA ELIZABETH	MBARARA	MUST	STUDENT/PRESENTER	th
17	TAREMWA IAN	BUSHENYI	NGANWA H.S	STUDENT	th
18	NDIBARANA BARON	BUSHENYI	NGANWA H.S	STUDENT	Sm.
19	ARINATWE BENON	MBARARA	SENIAH COLL	TEACHER	JRe.
20	KAMBERE COSMAS	MBARARA	SENIAH COLL	STUDENT	Juy
21	NASSOZI HADIJAH	MBARARA	SENIAH COLL	STUDENT	HM.
22	AKIMBISI BWE K. GIDEN	BUSHENYI	BWERANYANGI	TEACHER	th
23	NTESIGYE INGRID	BUSHENYI	BWERANYANGI	STUDENT	th
24	KOMUGISHA BRENDA	BUSHENYI	BWERANYANGI	STUDENT	Thy
25	KATAMBIRA FRED	BUSHENYI	BWERANYANGI	LAB. TECH.	R
26	ARYASINGURA NABOJA	BUSHENYI	BWERANYANGI	TEACHER	th
27	Dr. Joyce A. Asimwe	MBARARA	MUST	LECTURER	th/bw
28	Anguma Simon	MBARARA	MUST	Dean	th-b-p
29	Dr. Juvio Edward	Mbarara	MUST	LECTURER	Edw
30	M. Alimbababwa	Mbarara	MUST	TIA	th

	NAME	DISTRICT	SCHOOL	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
31	TUNUHARWE -R. DAVID	MBARARA	KINONI GIRLS	TEACHER	
32	ASHIMWE JULIET CLAIRE	MBARARA	KINONI GIRLS	STUDENT	
33	NABAGESELA CHRISTINE	MBARARA	KINONI GIRLS	STUDENT	
34	AHIMBISIBWE CRISTON	BUSHENYI	SACRED HEART - MUSHANJA	TEACHER	
35	NANTEZA IMMACULATE	BUSHENYI	SACRED HEART S.S	STUDENT	
36	TURINAWA VIANNEY	BUSHENYI	SACRED HEART S.S	STUDENT	
37	OKOT DAVID KILAMA	MBARARA	MUST	T/ASSISTANT	
38	EJOGA SAMMY	MBARARA	MUST	LAB ASSISTANT	
39	MBONUMPA THOMAS	MBARARA	MUST	LAB TECHNICIAN	
40	MUTUNGI FRANK	MBARARA	MUST	CHEMICAL OFFICER	
41	KATE IMANIRAMPA	MBARARA	MUST	Administrator	Kate Imbirampa
42	NUWAGABA JUDITH	BUSHENYI	MUST	STUDENT	
43	Stephen Bazirak	MUST	MUST	ADMINISTRATOR	
44	TUKAHIRWA WILSON	IBANDA	KAGONGO S.S.	TEACHER	
45	RUKUNDO JOSEPH	IBANDA	KAGONGO S.S	STUDENT	
46	NNAMALA KINFRED	IBANDA	KAGONGO S.S	STUDENT	
47					

S NO	NAMES	DISTRICT	SCHOOL	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
48	Zakayo Ajieko	MUST		MUST	
49	Ahim M. ROBSON	MBIRA	EDEN	Lecturer MUST	
50	NUWAMANYA PAMELA	MBIRA	EDEN	Student MUST	
51	NUWAMANYA RACHEAL	MBIRA	EDEN	Student MUST	
52	ATIBARE PEARL	MBIRA	EDEN	Student MUST	
53	RING BANGGOL	Mbira	Eden	Student MUST	
54	NDAGIGYE GERALD	Mbira	MUST	Student	
55	ATUKUNDA GRACE	BUSHENYI	MUST	Student	
56	Napokoli Eddie	Mbira	Eden Int. Sch.	Student	
57					
58					
59					
60					
61					
62					
63					

Appendix C:

Financial Accountability for the expenses

MEGA ELECTRONICS
 Mbaguta Street former Kacuma's Building
 Plot 7/9 Shop No.2, Tel:- 0772 - 445191/ 0772 - 959861
 P.O. BOX 1789, Mbarara (U) 0485 - 443951
 Dealers in:- TVs, Radios, Video Decks, Fans, Flat Irons,
 Kettles & Many Electric requirements.

No. **CASH SALE** Date: 22/6/09
 M/s 9203

Qty.	Particulars	Amount
5	Flash disc 1GB	10,000
	adato	
E.&O.E	Thank You	TOTAL 10,000

Goods once sold are not returnable

Tel: **CASH SALE** P.O.Box
 No. 2941
 M/s LAST YEAR STRA
 P.O. Box 1789

Qty	Particulars	Rate	Amount
60	Short hand tower		10,000
1	Pict Bic pens	9800	
10	Bic pens	2000	
60	Clear bags	30000	
1	2m Hardpps	13000	
E&O.E	Linear	10280	

Goods once sold are not returnable or exchanged

MEGA SECRETARIAL SERVICES
 Dealers in Stationery, Printing, Photocopying, Binding & Laminating Services
 Super Arcade- Ground Floor High Street P.O. Box 433 MBARARA - Uganda
 Tel: 0772 417792

RECEIPT
 No. _____ Date 07-07-2009
 Received with thanks from MUST (Astronomy w/shop)

the sum of Four hundred forty thousand
Shillings only
 being payment for Photocopying, type-setting and
Printing Services

SHS. 440,000 =
 Thanks for your payment



Hub Establishments (U) Ltd.

Plot 8 Johnstone Street Jaffer Building 1st Floor P. O. Box 27602 Kampala Uganda
Tel: 041- 253940 / 077-591293 / 075-621120. Email: hubestlimited@yahoo.com

Receipt

Date:

No.

068

Received with thanks from

Mbarara University of Science
and Technology

Being payment of	AMOUNT(UShs)
of cloth banners each	520,000
at 130,000	
	2
Balance	
By Cash / Cheque No.	Shs. 520,000

Amount in words

Five hundred twenty thousands shillings
only

Thank You

Signature:

Hub Establishments (U) Ltd.

**WORKSHOP ON ASTRONOMY HELD AT THE PHARMACOLOGY LECTURE THEATER,
MBARARA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ON JULY 11, 2009**

PROFESSIONAL COSTS, TRAVEL, AND SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE FOR INVITED SPEAKERS

S.No	Name	Designation	Professional Cost(UGX)	Travel Allowance(UGX)	Subsistence (UGX)	Total (UGX)	Sign
1	Dr. Joyce Ayikoru	Senior Lecturer	150,000/=	30,000/=	70,000/=	250,000/=	J Ayikoru
2	Mr. Katambira Fred	Senior Teacher	150,000/=	30,000/=	70,000/=	250,000/=	K
3	Mr. Nimbashabira Natharius	Lecturer	150,000/=	30,000/=	70,000/=	250,000/=	N
4	Mr. Atibuni Dennis	Senior Teacher	150,000/=	30,000/=	70,000/=	250,000/=	A
5	Mr. Emaru Joseph	Student	80,400/=	30,000/=	30,000/=	140,400/=	J Emaru
6	Mr. Kimera Joseph	Student	80,400/=	30,000/=	30,000/=	140,400/=	K
7	Ms. Nabasa Diana	Student	80,400/=	30,000/=	30,000/=	140,400/=	N Nabasa
8	Ms. Ayebazibwe Angela	Student	80,400/=	30,000/=	30,000/=	140,400/=	A Ayebazibwe
9	Ms. Naluminsa Elizabeth	Student	80,400/=	30,000/=	30,000/=	140,400/=	E Naluminsa
	TOTAL					1,702,000/=	

MBARARA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
FACULTY OF SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

Below are persons given flash disks to be used in the preparations for the workshop to mark the International Year of Astronomy in Uganda on July 11, 2009.

S/N	Name	Quantity	Signature	Date
1	EMARU JOSEPH	1	Hygh	22/06/2009
2	KIMERA JOSEPH	1	Joseph	22/06/2009
3	NABAASA SIANA	1	Nabaasa	22/06/2009
4	AYEBAZIBWE ANGELA.	1	Angela	22/06/09.
5	NALUMINSA ELIZABETH	1	Elizabeth	22/06/09.

Appendix D: List of participating school

DISTRICT	S.No	SCHOOL
Mbarara District	1	Ntare School
	2	Mbarara High School
	3	Mary Hill High School
	4	St. Joseph's Vocational School
	5	Nyamitanga Senior Secondary School
	6	St. Peters Katukuru Secondary School
	7	Kinoni Girls Senior Secondary School
	8	Eden International School
	9	Manji Memorial School
	10	Sentah College
	11	Mbarara Senior Secondary School
Bushenyi District	1	St. Cecilia Girls Secondary School
	2	Kitabi Seminary
	3	St. Kagwa Secondary School
	4	Nganwa Secondary School
	5	Kashaka Girls Secondar School
	6	Sacred Heart Mushanga Secondary School
	7	Bishop Mc Alister Secondary School
	8	Plus Two Secondary School
	9	Ruyonza Senior Secondary School
	10	Bweranyangi Girls School
	11	Kyeizooba Girls Secondary School
Ibanda District	1	St. Andrews Rubindi Secondary School
	2	Kibubura Girls Secondary School
	3	Kagongo Secondary School

**Appendix E: Opening Speech by the Academic Registrar
Mbarara University of Science and Technology**



MBARARA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
The Academic Registrar's Office P. O. Box 1410, Mbarara, Tel: 256-4854-20785, Fax: 256-4854-20782 , E-mail:
ar@must.ac.ug

**OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP ON ASTRONOMY FOR
PHYSICS TEACHERS AND STUDENTS HELD IN THE
PHARMACOLOGY LECTURE THEATRE ON JULY 11, 2009**

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, I have the honour to welcome all of you to participate at this workshop during which presentations will be made about the various aspects of our home in the universe.

Astronomy as a discipline is as old as mankind has existed on the planet earth. However, there is still a lot unknown to mankind in the neighbourhood of his home – the planet Earth! It is therefore very important for us to constantly engage in the search for more knowledge about the objects and the nature of the universe.

The involvement of the youth in this search is paramount – for they are the future of our beautiful natural heritage, the Earth. I want to thank the organizers of this workshop, the first of its kind in the history of this country, for bringing astronomy closer to the young students and their teachers. I strongly believe that this exposure will touch some hearts and minds; and eventually generate a multiplier effect in popularizing astronomy in particular and science disciplines in general, in Uganda.

The year 2009 was proclaimed as the International Year of Astronomy by the United Nations in 2007. This will mark the 400th Anniversary of the first use of a telescope for astronomical observation by Galileo Galilei.

Mbarara University of science and Technology, as a flagship institution spearheading the development of Science and Technology in Uganda is happy to be associated with this event and fully embraces the planned activities in this dispensation.

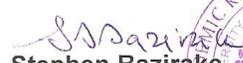
We are glad to be associated with the Global organizers and our partners who have supported us in developing human resources in Astrophysics and Space Science; without the commitment of their own resources, the level of development of space-related sciences would not have changed much in this country.

It is my sincere belief that this workshop is yet another event which will manifest the efforts of MUST in addressing the popularization of science and technology in the country. Furthermore, the significant involvement of women in this event is a testimony and commitment to achieving the goals of the International Year of Astronomy and the Millennium Development Goals.

I therefore take this opportunity once again to welcome you to MUST and more so to participate during this pioneering workshop on astronomy and wish everyone exciting deliberations.

Thank you

I now declare the workshop open


Stephen Bazirake
ACADEMIC REGISTRAR

