FAWEU LAUNCHES THE STEM PROJECT IN UGANDA


The STEM project aims at improving and increasing participation and performance of girls in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects at secondary school level and also seeks to strengthen the capacity of participating schools to promote STEM amongst girls, ultimately increasing their ability to transform their communities and regions at large.

Speaking during the opening of the two day orientation and launch, the FAWEU Executive Director Ms. Christine Semambo Sempebwa, said the number of girls who perform well in Science is still low therefore the STEM project will reduce the gender gap in Science and help girls to perform better. She added that, the project will benefit 6,000 teenage girls aged 14-18, with 150 girls per school drawn from the 40 selected secondary schools.

Ms. Martha Muhwezi, the Head of Programmes and representative of FAWE Regional Secretariat said, “FAWEU will continue to work with partners to ensure that Science is for all.” She added that, the project will contribute to national development, both continental and global agenda which is to; “Ensure equitable and inclusive quality education and lifelong learning for all by 2030”.

Ms. Mada Aluswaid, the representative from Dubai Cares and Funding Partner of the STEM project said, “We work to improve children’s access to quality education in developing countries, we are committed and will continue to value education as the key to overcoming poverty.” She further reaffirmed their commitment to working with FAWEU over the next three years in promoting girls’ education through the STEM project.

Mr. David Obong, the Chief Guest and Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation made the speech on behalf of the Minister Hon. Elioda Tumwesigye. In his Speech he said “The project will help bridge the gender gap between the female and male learners in Science related subjects. As a Ministry we are available and committed to continuously engage all stakeholders in promoting Science, Technology and Innovation in Uganda.” He added that, “Nobody should be left behind in as far as promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics is concerned”.

The launch event culminated into the signing of commitment agreements between FAWEU and the project schools towards the implementation of the STEM project.
PICTURE 1, Caption: The Permanent Secretary Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Mr. David Obong (centre) launching STEM project at the Imperial Royale Hotel Kampala and looking on is the FAWEU Executive Director Ms. Christine Semambo Sempebwa (in red).
CELEBRATING THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY BANQUET 2017

On 29th March 2017, FAWEU joined partner Organizations including; Business Day Communications, National Agricultural Advisory Services and Path in celebrating the 5th International Women’s Day Banquet 2017. The event that took place at Serena Hotel Kampala under the theme “Gender Equality is Progress for All” aimed at educating, celebrating and inspiring Uganda’s Leadership about the projects, products and programmes that make Gender Equality Goal a success.

Ms. Jane Nandawula, the Chief Executive Officer of Business Day Communications in her opening remarks noted that, “Society needs gender equality. We need to focus on women and girls because they are still lagging behind in many sectors. Women make up to only 4% of Chief Executive Officers (CEO’s) worldwide.

Speaking on behalf of FAWE Secretariat, Ms. Martha Muhwezi, the Head of Programmes noted that, “FAWE designs its interventions focusing on the concept of equity and equality in addressing gender disparities.” She emphasized the great need to address issues of gender as they could impede or accelerate development. She also highlighted that while FAWEU’s niche was Education and that is where they were making a difference, there was something everyone could do to make the much needed change. She crowned her speech by calling upon all like-minded organizations to join hands in addressing girls’ education and issues around gender.

At the end of the event, FAWEU was awarded a plaque of appreciation for its interventions that have benefited women and girls as well as its participation in the 5th International Women’s Day Banquet and was also commended for her good work.
PICTURE 3, CAPTION: FAWEU Executive Director Ms. Christine Semambo Sempebwa and other Staff, receiving a plaque of appreciation for its interventions focused at benefiting women and girls in Uganda and Africa as a whole.

PICTURE 4, CAPTION: FAWEU ED Ms. Christine Semambo Sempebwa, the Board Vice Chairperson Ms. Christine Kyeyune Kawooya, FAWE Regional Secretariat Head of Programmes, Ms. Martha Muhwezi and other Staff posing for a group photo after receiving a plaque of appreciation at the 5th International Women’s Day Banquet 2017, Serena Hotel Kampala.
FAWEU PARTICIPATES IN THE GLOBAL MENTORING WALK 2017

Forum for African Women Educationalists Uganda (FAWEU) on Saturday 11th March, 2017 participated in a Vital Voices Global mentoring walk to commemorate the International Women’s Day. The walk that took place in Uganda was part of the 134 different walks happening in over 60 nations worldwide.

The Mentoring Walk was flagged off at 8:00am, from Centenary Park in Kampala, by the Prime Minister - Katikiro of Buganda Kingdom, Owek. Charles Peter Mayiga and it was attended by numerous stakeholders including; students from various girls’ schools (Kitante Primary School), female managers from Corporate Companies (Centenary Bank), renowned women from both public and Private Institutions such as Members of Parliament, Non-Government Organizations, Women based Organizations and Women entrepreneurs.

The Chief Guest the Prime Minister – Katikiro of Buganda Kingdom Owek. Charles Peter Mayiga, in his speech emphasized that, “The community should stop being silent, they should focus and talk about cultural norms that undermine women.” He further called upon men to support struggles or initiatives run by women.

The walk that started at Centenary Park ended at Kitante Primary School where other activities to commemorate the day were held including speeches from notable women such as; Hajjat Rehema Kasule, the President and Founder of CEDA International and Hon. Judith Babirye the Woman Member of Parliament for Buikwe District; music dance and drama activities, Poems, free voluntary counseling and testing for HIV/AIDS and successful women entrepreneurs also shared their success stories to motivate other women and students present. The event also created an opportunity for other organizations to show case their products and services to participants.

PICTURE 5, CAPTION: FAWEU’s Staff Ms. Patricia Mwalwanda (right) explaining the Organizations work to the Chief Guest, the Prime Minister of Buganda Kingdom, Owek. Charles Peter Mayiga during the Vital Voices event at Kitante Primary school. Looking on (Red T-shirt) is the US Ambassador to Uganda, Ambassador Deborah R Malac.
LAUNCH OF THE “LETS CHANGE THE STORY” CAMPAIGN IN UGANDA

On Friday 24th March 2017, the FAWEU Executive Director, Ms. Christine Semambo Sempebwa represented FAWEU at the launch of “Let’s Change the Story” campaign organized by Plan International Uganda at Serena Hotel Kampala. The campaign aims at ending teenage pregnancy in Uganda.

In her address to the participants, the Vice Chairperson of the Uganda Women’s Parliamentary Association (UWOPA) Hon. Norah Bugirwa Nyendwoha decried the appalling statistics in regard to teenage pregnancy. She noted that, “Uganda has one of the highest teenage pregnancy rates in the Sub Saharan Africa with 1 in 4 girls aged 15 to 19 years either pregnant or having had their first child in a day.”

Mr. Rashid Javed, the Country Director for Plan International Uganda, said that, “The campaign we are launching today, challenges stakeholders to take the necessary actions to change the story of girls getting pregnant at an early age in Uganda.” He added that “We all need to support girls to learn, lead, decide and thrive as this will end the trend of teenage pregnancies in Uganda, Africa and world over.”

At the launch, a group of girls led by Sophie Nabukenya; the Campaign Ambassador handed over a petition to the Chief Guest, Hon Dr. Chris Baryomunsi, the Minister of State for Housing; calling upon the Government to prioritize budget increase for adolescent health in the upcoming national budget, establish adolescent-friendly service delivery points and support girls to access sexual and reproductive health information and to train health workers and equip them with professional skills necessary to work with young people.

Hon. Dr. Chris Baryomunsi said, “The biggest population in Uganda are young people and as we allocate resources for the different sectors in the budget, we need to ensure that young people are catered for appropriately by providing them with adequate health services.”

Members of the Civil Society Organizations present urged Government, to have the School Health Policy passed expeditiously, to enable girls access Sexual and Reproductive Health Education, review guidelines and support the girls that have gotten pregnant by the age of 14 holistically through enabling them return to school, pursuing perpetrators to bring them to book and provide general health care for the survivors of teenage pregnancy.

At the launch, the FAWEU Executive Director represented Civil Society Organizations in signing the petition.
PICTURE 7, CAPTION: Sophie Nabukunya; the Campaign Ambassador handing over a petition to the Minister of State for Housing Hon Dr. Chris Baryomunsi, who represented the Government of Uganda at the Launch and looking on is the FAWEU Executive Director Ms. Christine Semambo Sempebwa.

FAWEU HOLDS THE CORPORATE GOVERNANCE WORKSHOP FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT


The workshop aimed at building the capacity of stakeholders in strategic leadership and corporate governance in the areas related to the growth cycle of the organization.

In her opening remarks, the FAWEU Executive Director Ms. Christine Semambo Sempebwa said that, “As an Organization we are interested in organizational development and growth and so are our partners. To achieve this, we need to continue reflecting, learning and focusing on the change affects the organization is creating and positioning it strategically.”

Ms. Christine Kyeyune Kawooya, the Vice Chairperson of the FAWEU Board of Directors noted that, “Strategic leadership is what makes or breaks an organization and this training is aimed at strengthening FAWEU’s governance and align it to the changing and dynamic environment we currently operate in.”

Facilitators from the Institute of Corporate Governance of Uganda (ICGU) made key presentations at the event including; key governance areas such as; sustainability of the organization, role of the Board, Board effectiveness, policy formulation, communication and
stakeholder management, role of the board in resource mobilization, legal issues and membership growth.

Mr. Leo Kibirango from ICGU commented that, “Board effectiveness is about accomplishing tasks regardless of certain constraints such as budget, inflation, and interest rate changes. For the Board to be effective, members should be aware of their roles, provisions of dynamic governance, performance management and adequate oversight in conformity to laws, policies, best practice and industry standards.”

The members appreciated the two day workshop, as being highly successful with the Board of Directors and Management taking on key action points focused at strengthening the organization.