

The Rwanda Association of University Women

Past President of UAUW visits RAUW members

Dr Alice Kagoda, Immediate Past President and Executive member of the Uganda Association of University Women (UAUW) and member of the Status of Women Committee of the International Federation of University Women, addressed members of the Rwanda Association of University Women (RAUW) at a recent social meeting. "The International Federation of University Women is a voluntary association, and graduates who join RAUW must expect to contribute a lot in terms of money, energy and time", Dr Kagoda said.



Dr Kagoda described projects of UAUW members, where girls are sponsored to continue to study at secondary school through the association's Bursary Fund. This Fund, which was established by a University Professor Dr. Posnansky from California in honour of his Ugandan wife after she died, pays for tuition at schools where his wife studied: Nalinya Lwantale Primary School and Gayaza High School. Ten girls are supported every year. There was also an Australian-funded bursary for two secondary school students, however this has unfortunately stopped. UAUW in collaboration with the

School of Education, Makerere University, and the Ministry of Education and Sports, has conducted research on "Promotion and popularisation of science and mathematics for the girl child in primary and secondary schools". UAUW, started a tailoring project for school dropouts funded by the Beeverton Rotary Club of Oregon. UAUW's most recent project is to build awareness of HIV/AIDS in first year university students, funded by the Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund.

Dr Kagoda, who is also Deputy Dean of the School of Education at Makerere University, was in Rwanda for an educational visit, having brought eight of her students studying for a Master of Education Degree in Geography to undertake field work. The group visited some secondary schools in Kigali and in Ruhengeri region, a rural area, as well as the Kigali Institute of Education (KIE). In all of these institutions the group looked at the geography education curriculum and materials, teachers' methodology and the library collections. They talked to lecturers and discussed their courses with the lecturers of the Geography Department of KIE. In considering KIE outreach programs, they discussed ways of collaboration between KIE and Makerere University, especially in areas of research, exchange of lecturers and students.

The group visited geographical features of interest, the volcanic mountains of northern Rwanda, the hot springs near Lake Kivu, a lava-dammed lake, and collected specimens of rocks. They studied the economic activities of the lake and markets in Kigali, migration and settlement patterns as well as resettlement of people in the *imugudugu*.

Comparative research on education issues faced by Rwanda and Uganda is being conducted by some Masters of Education students, which might be an important contribution to the process of harmonisation of courses so that students can move easily from one country to the other in the East African Community, which Rwanda has just joined. There is also the possibility of attracting more Rwandan students to study in Uganda, both at secondary school level and at university.

Dr Kagoda hopes to organise a visit to KIE of the Heads of all the departments in the School of Education of Makerere University.