



**SPEECH BY ACTING DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR
(ACADEMIC AFFAIRS) DURING UNCTAD VIRTUAL
INSTITUTE TRAINING ON QUANTITATIVE
METHODS ON TRADE ANALYSIS WORKSHOP ON
6TH TO 9TH AUGUST 2013 AT 9.00 A.M. AT THE
CHIROMO CONFERENCE CENTRE**

The Director, School of Economics

Academics

The Trainer – Mr. Christian Ugarte

Trainees

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

I want to take this opportunity to welcome you to this training being hosted and sponsored by UNCTAD.

The University of Nairobi has been collaborating with various international organizations and

universities since its inception. The latest international organization to join the list of its collaborators is the UNCTAD Virtual Institute in 2008 when the School of Economics applied to be a member. The membership of the UNCTAD Virtual Institute Network is open to qualified academic and research institutions that deliver courses and conduct research on trade, investment and development-related issues.

The core principle of the UNCTAD Virtual Institute Network is cooperation and exchange among its members. The purpose of the UNCTAD Virtual Institute Network is to assist academic and training institutions in the development of their training and research activities.

The UNCTAD Virtual Institute Network aims to complement other networks and international

cooperation in which the School of Economics is already engaged such as WTO, AERC, and many others. A lot has happened since the School of Economics became a member of UNCTAD Virtual Institute.

Since 2008, the School of Economics has been receiving UNCTAD publications for the Post graduate library. The latest consignment arrived on the 1st of August 2013. As of now, the School of Economics has received over 200 books for the Postgraduate Library. UNCTAD has also been sending some of these materials as soft copies.

Again, the School has experienced a steady growth in the number of postgraduate students writing theses on trade related issues partly because of the availability of learning materials.

The UNCTAD Virtual Institute also facilitated and sponsored one of our best students in 2007 Caroline Jebitok to undertake a Masters Degree in International Economic Law and Policy at the University of Barcelona, Spain. The UNCTAD Virtual Institute also offered a scholarship to a member of staff to earn a Diploma in International Law and Economic Policy from the University of Barcelona through its on line Course.

Further, the institute also offers an on line course in Trade and we hope that soon staff members and students will apply for the course. The University of Nairobi and the School of Economics appreciate highly being a member of UNCTAD Virtual Institute. We assure you that the University of Nairobi and more so the School of Economics has run this program according to

its Vision and Mission of being one of the centres of excellence in trade academic affairs.

Capacity building for members of staff and students is one of the School of Economics goals in its Strategic Plan. This training workshop on Quantitative methods in Trade will help the School achieve this objective. We hope that that the collaboration between UNCTAD Virtual Institute and the University of Nairobi will continue to grow especially in capacity building.

It is now my honour and pleasure to declare the UNTAD Virtual Institute training on Quantitative Methods on Trade Analysis Workshop officially open.

THANK YOU.