



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

REMARKS BY DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR (A&F) DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT AT UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI ON MONDAY 7TH APRIL 2008 AT 8.00 A.M.

Sometime in early 2007, the Department of Geography and Environmental Sciences offered to conduct an environmental audit at the University of Nairobi.

Environmental Auditing refers to the systematic, documented, periodic and objective process for assessing an organization's activities and services in relation to:

- Compliance with relevant internal and statutory requirements
- Management control of environmental practices
- Promotion of good environmental management
- Maintaining credibility with the public and other stakeholders
- Raising staff awareness and enforcing commitment to Departmental Environmental Policy
- Exploring improvement opportunities and
- Establishing the performance baseline for developing an Environmental Management System (EMS)

A related tool for good environmental management and cost savings is

Cleaner Production (CP) which means the application of an integrated preventive approach to production processes, products, and services for the purpose of improving efficiency as well as limiting risks to humans and the environment. At the service level, application of Cleaner Production means reducing the negative impacts throughout the supply chain. Thus this tool will offer the University an opportunity to:

- Reduce expenditure on inputs (materials, energy, water)
- Reduce disposal/treatment costs of wastes and
- Improve our environmental performance

The Team from the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies will work with teams from the audited facilities. I am made to understand that each team will appoint its own Team Leader or “Champion of Good Cause” who will act as the bridge between the audit team and management. Being the first or “Initial Environmental Audit” of the University, we should ensure that very good baseline data is generated. May I remind all of you that the audit exercise is not meant to “find faults” and apportion blame. The exercise is meant to honestly document our current (and past) practices to ensure that the University is put on a sustainable path of continuous improvement.

Teamwork is very important in the successful implementation of this programme. The teams from the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies and the audited facility will work together in gathering the required data/information, in analyzing the data, brainstorming and finding workable solutions to any identified problems, writing of the audit report and developing the University environmental policy. The University will provide adequate resources

to facilitate this exercise.

The expected products from this exercise will be (a) the Environmental Audit Report for the year 2007 and (b) University Environment Audit Policy. Additionally, awareness will have been created among senior managers in the University who will be expected to train or create awareness among the staff under them. As this programme is one of the performance targets for the 2007/08 year, we expect the deliverables by 30th June 2007.

Chairman Sir, I would like to request the Chairman of Geography & Environmental Studies department to briefly explain how the Audit will be conducted.