

**SPEECH FROM PROF. PAUL WAAKO, VICE CHANCELLOR  
BUSITEMA UNIVERSITY ON THE OCCASION OF CLOSING  
AND AWARDING CERTIFICATES FOR THE DATACITE  
WORKSHOP ON 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2024**

- Members of Top Management
- Dr. Fredrick Kiwuwa Lugya – Convener and Facilitator
- University Librarians present
- Participants
- Ladies and Gentlemen

As we conclude this "**Training of Trainers**" workshop on **Datacite & Open Scholarship Cadres for Uganda**, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the incredible journey you have embarked upon over the past five days. Together, you have delved into the realm of Open Scholarship and Open Science, equipping yourselves with the knowledge and skills to become torchbearers of change within our academic community.

I have been truly inspired by the dedication and active participation displayed by each of you throughout this workshop as I was informed by Dr. Fredrick Kiwuwa Lugya. Your commitment to embracing open access, open infrastructure, and the principles of Open Scholarship is a testament to your vision for a more open and accessible research landscape in Uganda.

I am confident that the expertise gained here will empower you to advocate for open access, integrate DataCite infrastructure services, and train others to embrace the ethos of Open Scholarship. The impact of our collective efforts will undoubtedly contribute to the increased discoverability and accessibility of scholarly outputs, setting the stage for a transformative shift in the research landscape of Uganda.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to DataCite and the Global Access Fund for their unwavering support in form of a grant to Busitema University, which has been instrumental in making this initiative a reality.

As you travel back to your respective institutions, I urge you to carry forward the spirit of collaboration, knowledge sharing, and advocacy for Open Scholarship. Strive to remain champions of open access and open science, driving positive change within your institutions and beyond.

I am immensely proud for Busitema University to have been a part of this journey with each one of you, and I am excited to witness the impact of your collective efforts in advancing Open Scholarship and Open Science in Uganda.

Thank you all for your unwavering commitment and enthusiasm. I wish you continued success in your endeavors to promote open scholarship and open science.

Safe travels, and until we meet again.