

Press Release

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BADEA Delegation Visits RUFORUM Secretariat



Picture 1: HE Dr. Sidi Ould Tah, Director General, BADEA (7th from the left) with BADEA team, RUFORUM Secretariat Staff and Universities Representatives

The RUFORUM Secretariat hosted a delegation from the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) at their offices located at Makerere University Main Campus on 11th August 2022. The Delegation was led by the Director General His Excellence Dr. Sidi Ould Tah and included Dr. Diab Karrar, Director for Operations and Dr. Mohamed Elhafedh Beddy, Director for Legal Affairs, among others. The team discussed areas of mutual cooperation with the RUFORUM Network team led by the Executive Secretary Prof. Adipala Ekwamu (Fifth from left).

Areas of discussion included alignment to the BADEA 2030 Strategy that is focused on four pillars: Investment in infrastructure for inclusiveness, industrialization and innovation; development of agricultural value chains for empowerment and food security; stimulating trade and private sector development to support growth and job creation; and development of small and medium

enterprises (SMEs) & entrepreneurship with capacity development as an enabler and cross cutting theme for the pillars. RUFORUM team confirmed that the RUFORUM flagships and focus under the African Higher Agriculture Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (AHESTI) were well aligned and in sync with the BADEA Strategy. The Network has been piloting several ideas that target food and nutrition security, women empowerment, youth engagement and entrepreneurship. The time was ripe to learn from these pilots and take the initiatives to scale. Both parties agreed that partnerships and collaboration will be a key feature in realization of these efforts. BADEA continues to support RUFORUM in several projects including: the establishment of the regional e-learning platform that was initiated to promote cross learning across the RUFORUM Network and to strengthen e-learning capacities in Africa universities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; BADEA has also provided a grant to the Government of Uganda for the Youth Entrepreneurship and Employment Development in the Agricultural Sector in Uganda Feasibility Study and Proposal Development pilot.

The event included an exhibition to showcase RUFORUM journey and evolution from an institution of 10 universities in five countries in East and Southern Africa, to a continental body with 150 member universities in 38 countries covering all regions of Africa. The exhibition showcased the deepening of the university-community and youth engagement and entrepreneurship skill development across value chains for the benefit of local populations. Participating in the exhibition were teams from Uganda Martyrs University, Nkozi, and Makerere University.



Picture 2: The Director General of BADEA and his team visiting an exhibition by a student from Uganda Martyrs University, Nkozi

BADEA and RUFORUM committed to work together to promote Afro-Arab partnership for increased Agricultural Productivity and Value Addition, Food and Nutrition Security and Women Empowerment.

Note to Editors

About RUFORUM:

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) is a consortium of 150 African universities operating in 38 countries on the continent with a mission to ‘strengthen the capacities of Universities to foster innovations responsive to demands of smallholder farmers through the training of high quality researchers, the output of impact oriented research and the maintenance of collaborative working relations among researchers, farmers, national agricultural research institutions’. RUFORUM was established by Vice Chancellors in 2004 with a Secretariat hosted at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. In 2014 RUFORUM signed a MoU with the African Union Commission to support implementation of the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA 2024) Priority One on reducing poverty and ensuring food and nutrition security. RUFORUM has supported the training of 2053 MSc, 627 PhD graduates and 229 BSc, of whom 98% work in their countries or region, the generation of over 300 agricultural technologies and mobilized over US\$236.3 million for strengthening postgraduate education in Africa. Please visit www.ruforum.org for more information

About BADEA:

The Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) was established pursuant to the resolution of the 6th Arab Summit Conference at Algiers (28th November 1973). The Bank began operations in March 1975. BADEA is a financial institution owned by 18 Arab countries members of the League of Arab States (LAS) which signed its Establishing Agreement on 18th February 1974. The Bank is an independent International Institution enjoying full international legal status and complete autonomy in administrative and financial matters. It is governed by the provisions of its Establishing Agreement and the principles of international law. The Bank’s Headquarters is located in Khartoum, the capital of the Republic of the Sudan. The Bank was created for the purpose of strengthening economic, financial and technical cooperation between the Arab and African regions and for the embodiment of Arab-African solidarity on foundations of equality and friendship. Please visit <https://www.badea.org/index.htm> for more information

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