

THE AFRICA SOCIETY
PROFILE OF

DR. JOY CONSTANCE KWESIGA

Dean of Social Sciences
Makerere University, Uganda

Since 1998, Dr. Joy Kwesiga has been the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Makerere University. The Faculty of Social Sciences is the largest in the university, with over 5,000 students and 300 academic staff. She received her B.A. in Geography (Upper Second Class) from the University of East Africa in 1967; a Postgraduate Diploma in Public Administration (First Class), from the Institute of Public Administration in Kampala in 1979; a Master of Arts in Higher and Further Education from the University of London in 1987; and a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of London in March 1993. Her thesis was entitled, "Access of Women to Higher Education in Uganda: An Analysis of Inequalities, Barriers and Determinants." Since then, Dr. Kwesiga has taken many short courses in gender training, management, women's empowerment and civic education.

The award-winning Dr. Kwesiga has been recognized world-wide. Most recently, in the academic year 1998-1999, she was a Fullbright Scholar at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. In December 1998 she received a Certificate of Recognition (Rukiga County) for distinguished service to women. Between 1991-1992 she received a Ford Foundation Individual Award for Ph.D research. In 1983 she held a Nuffield Foundation award for a Study Tour of British Universities. Between 1964 and 1967 she held a Ugandan Special State Scholarship for undergraduate study, offered to the country's best A-Level students.

Dr. Kwesiga has led a distinguished career in the university. Prior to becoming Dean of Social Sciences, she was Head of Women and Gender Studies Department at Makerere University between 1995 and 1998. Her university-wide gender management system is cited as a "best practice" by the Commonwealth Secretariat. In addition to a B.A., since 1991 the program has a M.A. and since 1999 a Ph.D. program. She has been a Senior Lecturer in Women and Gender Studies since 1994. She has held a number of management positions in Makerere University, including Deputy Registrar in charge of postgraduate studies until 1994.

In addition to her academic work, Dr. Kwesiga is a founding member and Chairperson (1993-1997) of a national Ugandan women's NGO, Action for Development (ACFODE). ACFODE is a multi-issue women's rights organization which tackles inequalities in legal, economic, political and educational sectors. Between 1994-1995 it was active in civic education around the Constitution. In 1994, Dr. Kwesiga led ACFODE to the African Women's Conference in Dakar, Senegal, followed in 1995 by the 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing, China.

The main areas of Dr. Kwesiga's research is managing a university in a changing environment; women's education in Uganda; the status of rural women in Uganda (led a social sciences group commissioned by the United Nations Development Program in 1994); gender and public policy (commissioned by the UN Research Institute in Geneva); "How Families Make Decisions to Educate their Children" (research grant from the National Union of Researchers and Research Users in Uganda (NURRU), 1998); rural women and sustainable agriculture (supported by Africa 2000 Project); and women's access to and control over land and agricultural technologies (commissioned by the African Women's Centre in Addis Abba, 1998).

Dr. Kwesiga has presented over 50 scholarly papers and presentations: In November 1995 she presented a paper, "Good Governance and Civil Society" at the NGO/Civil Society Conference in Maastricht, the Netherlands. In May 1998, she was the Distinguished African Scientist lecturer at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture in Ibadan, Nigeria. Her lecture was entitled, "Central Yet Peripheral: The Rural Woman Farmer and Issues of African Development." In August 1998 she was the African Regional Representative at the UN Expert Group meeting on National Mechanisms for Gender Equality in Santiago, Chile. Her paper focused on Uganda as a case study. A month later, she delivered the keynote address on "The Role of Women's Studies in the New Millennium" at the University of Dundee, Scotland. In October, she presented a paper on a panel on women in higher education at the UNESCO World Conference on Higher Education in Paris, France.

Dr. Kwesiga's published works include: "The Women's Movement in Uganda: An Analysis of Present and Future Prospects," *The Ugandan Journal*, vol. 42, (December 1995), 54-74; "Central Yet Peripheral: The Rural Woman Farmer and Issues of African Development," Published as the 7th Lecture in the Distinguished African Scientist Lecture Series; "Theory and Practice for Gender Equity in Africa: The Critical Role of the Academic Arm of the Women's Movement" (edited by Gerda Siann of the University of Dundee); and a manuscript, *An African Woman's Trek to Higher Education* (forthcoming Fountain Publishers, Ltd., Kampala); as well as numerous articles in *Arise* Magazine (published by ACFODE) and in local newspapers.

For more information, please contact:

Dr. Malinda S. Smith
Coordinator, The Africa Society
Edmonton, Alberta
E-mail: malindas@athabascau.ca
Tele.: (780) 438-5708
or 1-888-282-4005

Ms. Nancy Hannemann
Global Education Coordinator
University of Alberta International Centre
E-mail: Nancy.Hannemann@ualberta.ca
Tele.: (780) 492-5962
Fax: (780) 492-1134