



## The Africa Academy for Environmental Health holds another successful workshop to develop research capacity in female academics teaching environmental health in Africa

Portfolio: Gender Parity

The Africa Academy for Environmental Health continued in its objective to advance the science and practice of environmental health in Africa last week when it hosted 13 women from 7 countries at a workshop in Blantyre, Malawi.

Funded by the Association of African Universities Mobilising Regional Capacity Initiative, the Gender Parity Portfolio of the Academy is seeking to increase research capacity in environmental health. This most recent five day workshop which ran from 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> November 2011 targeted the issues specifically affecting female academics in the initiation and development of their research careers.



**Participants from the Malawi workshop:** (bottom row left to right) Elizabeth Oloruntoba (Nigeria), Hajra Mukasa (Uganda), Joan Njagi (Kenya), Providence Kiptoo (Kenya), Bernadette Mumba (Zambia). (top row left to right) Edwinah Atusingwize (Uganda), Eva Nakwanga (Uganda), Rahely Byabato (Tanzania), Tizita Teshome (Ethiopia), Hannah Addo (Ghana), Seblework Mekonen (Ethiopia), Jane Mlimbila (Tanzania), Judy Mugo (Kenya), Tracy Morse (Malawi).

The workshop hosted thirteen academics from Kenya (Kenyatta University and Moi University), Uganda (Makerere University), Tanzania (Muhimbili University), Zambia (Lusaka Apex Medical University), Ethiopia (Jimma University), Ghana (University of Ghana) and Nigeria (University of Ibadan).

An exciting week of training, networking and collaboration between academics and facilitators from the University of Malawi – Polytechnic allowed for little rest on either side.

research careers, but also developed collaborative research ideas for multilateral south-south partnerships, discussed good academic practice across the various participating institutions to share experience, and expanded and consolidated the African Women Environmental Health Network (AWEHN).

One participant indicated that “I feel inspired to have met young academics undertaking their PhDs and now feel like pushing myself in my research career”

The AWEHN has now established an electronic network for all female academics and practitioners to collaborate and share experiences. It is accessible on <http://aaeh-network.ning.com/group/african-women-environmental-health-network-awe hn>.

All materials and documents developed as part of and supporting the MRCI grant are available on [www.aaeh.net](http://www.aaeh.net).

*Advancement of the science and practice of environmental health in Africa*

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**Judy Mugo from Kenyatta University shares the outcomes of her group on the principles of a good research proposal**