**SPEECH BY DR. EVELYN GITAU, DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH CAPACITY STRENTHENING APHRC, DURING THE REGIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOP ON QUALITY OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES; KIGALI, RWANDA 23 APRIL 2018.**

**Rwanda’s Minister for Education, Hon. Dr. Eugene Mutimura**

**Chief Administrative Secretary, Ministry of East African Community, and Northern Corridor Development, Hon Ken Obura**

**Deputy Executive Secretary, IUCEA Prof. Mike Kuria,**

**Director of DAAD’s Regional Office in Nairobi, Dr. Helmut Blumbach**

**Vice Chancellor University of Rwanda Prof Phil Cotton,**

**Invited Guests Ladies and Gentlemen,**

APHRC is privileged to be part of this first-of-its-kind Regional Workshop that has brought all of you together to discuss ways to harmonise the standards of postgraduate studies in our region.

On the onset, I would like to thank DAAD and IUCEA for collaborating with APHRC through CARTA on this assignment and the promise for further collaboration in research capacity strengthening.

We are here to discuss how to improve the quality of postgraduate studies in the region. As deans and directors of graduate schools in private and public universities in East Africa, you are alive to the fact that our region has witnessed unprecedented growth in graduate student enrolment, number of programs, and mushrooming of universities. But, there is shortage of manpower for teaching and supervision and poor infrastructure to match these demands.

This consequently, has had a negative impact on the universities’ capacity to sustainably educate the next generation of university lecturers and researchers.

In addition, we are aware of the poor quality of postgraduate programs and poor preparation of graduates for the job market in academia and beyond. Therefore, there is need to address this through harmonization of standards and guidelines for postgraduate training. This I believe should be the minimum standards for Post Graduate training in the region.

Therefore, this is a critical workshop as your deliberations and recommendations will be presented to your vice chancellors, deputy vice chancellors, and commissions of university education. Ultimately, the harmonised principles and guidelines for postgraduate studies and systems will be institutionalised in the participating institutions and countries.

I am proud to say that the Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa (CARTA) model for doctoral training has been tested and proven in 9 universities and 7 African countries... the model presents a template from which Post Graduate schools can borrow ideas for strengthening PG training in the region. Facilitators from the consortium will share these ideas and their experiences during this 3-day workshop.

CARTA has been pursuing the goal of re-launching African universities as central actors in the production of rigorous high-quality research for Africa’s development.

This workshop therefore resonates with the vision of CARTA to be the catalyst for the emergence of a vibrant African academy able to lead world-class multidisciplinary research that makes a positive impact on population and public health.

In closing, I am confident that a lot will be achieved in this workshop which will have long long-term impact on research and doctoral training. I wish you all the best in your deliberations this week.

**Thank you and may God Almighty bless you all**

**I would now like to invite our friend and host Carta VC University Prof Cotton to give us his remarks**