

PIASS SCIENTIFIC WEEK 2016

Scientific Week is an annual event organized by PIASS to bring together all academic community,

the three faculties (Education, Development Studies, and Theology and Religious Studies) to discuss a common theme that is deemed critical to society. The 2016 Scientific took place from Friday, 12th to Sunday, 14th August, 2016 at PIASS Huye Campus. The General topic of the three days event was: ***“Home Grown Initiatives: Reconciliation and Reconstruction of Rwanda”***. Papers were presented by members of the faculties, external scholars and researchers animated by discussions in groups, plenary sessions and panels.

The event was opened on Friday 12th August at 17h and closed on Sunday 14th at 13h by the Vice-Chancellor of PIASS Rev Professor Dr Elisée Musemakweli. In the opening speech he emphasized the need for PIASS to conduct research in social sciences, area of its specialization and to bring academic investigation onto the ways the Home Grown Solutions are helping in the reconciliation and reconstruction of Rwanda. He commended the link between these values and biblical reflections that are essential component of the conference.

The following subjects were undertaken during the 2016 Scientific Week:

- *Governing the Practice of Umuganda for Sustainable Community Reconstruction and Development in Rwanda.*
- *“Reinventing the Practice” Ubudehe” (Social Solidarity) in Rwanda: The Biblical Perspectives and Experiences from Protestant Churches.*
- *Retrospective Analysis of Community Grown Initiative and Constructions for Basic Education Provision*
- *Impact of Agakiriro on employment and wellbeing of local youth*
- *Civic Education and Reconciliation: Analysis of Methodological approaches of the Itorero*
- *The Performance Contract (Imihigo) in the Development and Economic Transformation of Rwanda*

During this three days event, each session was preceded by a spiritual reflection linking concerned subject to the Biblical viewpoint. Three major biblical reflections were presented linking the topics to biblical perspectives: day 1, Rev Gabriel Akimana presented the biblical perspectives on *Ubudehe* and *Umuganda*, the two topics of that afternoon; the next day Rev Juvenal Rwamunyana reflected on *“our heritage to next generations linking the thinking of the topics of the day, Youth employment*

through Agakiririo; Community Home grown initiatives in the construction of schools. The third and last day, Rev Gabriel Akimana conducted a meditation on the topic: *Practical reconciliation as foundation for lasting peace and development.* All discussions aimed at contextualizing the theme within PIASS's Social Sciences specialization as well as a convenient reconciliation as foundation of lasting Peace and Development in Rwanda and the Sub-region.

The 2016 Scientific week gathered a big number of different participants from PIASS as well as outside. Students, academic and administrative staff participated. The audience involved fully through interventions and contributions.

Special appreciation to PIASS researchers and presenters as well as the discussant Prof Déo Mbonyinkebe for his great contribution. The PIASS Vice Chancellor expresses his gratitude to each and everyone who participated, who contributed to the Scientific Week 2016 to be successful.