

Panel 2 Outputs/Abstract:

### **Best Practices in technology transfer for social transformations**

Speaker: Mr. Tony Mitchell, Senior Knowledge Transfer Partnership Adviser, UK  
Panellists: Revd. Dr. Florence Muranga, Makerere University Uganda  
Dr. Charles Kwesiga, Director, Uganda Industrial Research Institute  
Mr. Joseph Kawombe, Uganda Clays Ltd (and AKTP Associate)

The speaker and first two panellists looked at various models for technology transfer and innovation. The final panellist gave a personal view of his motivations and interests as a young African scientist embarking on a science based career in Uganda.

The panel found that for technology transfer to work best:

- Knowledge must be pulled not pushed (led by demand from the private sector/community, not by the knowledge base (university))
- The quality of human resources involved in technology transfer is crucial; high quality human inputs lead to high quality technology transfer. This therefore requires investment in science education at all levels.
- Technology transfer involves several partners and all need to work together as a team
- The best technology transfer programmes focus on a clearly defined solution or opportunity for the company or community involved; they are not research projects in themselves. For example the UK's Knowledge Transfer Partnerships programme quantifies solutions/opportunities reached in terms of increased employment, profitability and investment following technology transfer.

The final panellist related his experiences in joining the British Council's Africa Knowledge Transfer Partnerships programme recently as an Associate based at Uganda Clays Ltd where he is working at identifying alternative fuel sources for drying and baking of clay products such as bricks and tiles, and developing improved heat exchange techniques to reduce heat loss and reduce environmental pollution. Joseph described how having an empowering role early on in his career was perhaps more motivating than a high salary and that given that he is able to make a difference through this technology transfer project in his native country he is less tempted to look outside for job opportunities. He cited that fact that there are many unemployed science graduates across Africa; the problem therefore is not a shortage of scientists but the way they are employed which is of crucial importance. In short young African scientists will embark on careers in innovation, and stay in Africa, if they are given the support and empowerment to innovate.