

*The Guest of Honor Vice Chancellor of Makerere University, Key Note Speakers for the IFIP Workshop, Authors, Organizers, all protocol observed, Ladies and Gentlemen*

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to Makerere University, Uganda and to the first IFIP ICT and Development Research Voices from Africa Workshop taking place from the 22-23 March 2010. This workshop has been organized by Makerere University Faculty of Computing and Informatics Technology (CIT), in collaboration with International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP) and International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC).

This is an important event that has brought together stakeholders from far and wide, with a view to exploring possibilities of using ICT for development in Africa. This workshop is timely for Uganda in her struggle to achieve the Millennium Development Goals through embracing ICT as a tool for enhancing development in service provision.

This workshop is therefore very important and will give us an opportunity to reflect on issues that will enable us succeed and those that are likely to become an impediment to our progress in achieving the United Nations stipulated Millennium Goals. Our shared experiences of 18 research papers, case studies will enable us to learn from each other and adopt what works best.

As we are all aware, rapid growth and development of ICT transforms the way we live, work and holds a promise to improve the standard of living in the key areas of health care delivery, education and agriculture for developing countries. The effective use of ICTs offers new ways in which the quality, effectiveness and in particular, the flexibility of service provision can be improved. Information and Communication Technologies when integrated into service provision have the capacity to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our day to day work.

Ladies and Gentlemen, with the workshop agenda in mind, we can all agree that the theme, "ICT and Development Research Voices from Africa," is the right direction for Africa towards achieving these goals. It is in this spirit that of Faculty of Computing and IT together with Government is committed towards ensuring that ICT is integrated in all services and that enough

capacity is built to help in its implementation. For this to be actualized there is need to take note of the importance of theoretical and practical understanding of the ICT research. Proper management and promotion of ICT will determine the extent to which any country can reap maximum returns from investment. As a matter of fact, the challenge of eradicating poverty in Africa can be addressed through the utilization of ICT in all service provision.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we are all aware that Africa still faces many challenges in implementing ICT for service provision. This is witnessed in the high costs of hardware, software, access to electricity, communication, internet bandwidth and ICT illiteracy. Therefore a need to look for strategies towards addressing these multiplicities of divides should be one of the goals of this workshop.

The papers to be presented highlight discontinuities between the African context and ICT4D mainstream paradigm. The authors reframe the potential role of information technologies within Africa, and between Africa and the rest of the world. Most of them do not take formal organizations for granted, but look at actual organizing processes. We propose these works to readers as a basis for reframing strategies of ICT implementation and use in Africa, and beyond.

On behalf of the Organizing committee of this workshop I once again welcome you to Uganda and Makerere University and wish you successful deliberations. We are confident that this workshop will leave a land mark and a road map for us to follow in using ICT to develop Africa and attain the Millennium Goals. Let us all strive for Africa's development and posterity. Thank you. Allow me to invite the Guest of Honor, the Acting Vice Chancellor of Makerere University who is also the Dean of Faculty of Computing and Informatics Technology, Prof. Baryamureeba to address the workshop.

Jude T Lubega

Workshop Chair