

**Deputy Vice Chancellor's (Finance and Administration) Speech at the Launch of the MSSEESA, Uganda Chapter, Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup>. Sept. 2010, 3.00 – 4.30 pm.**

- .....
- My colleagues in the University
  - Representatives of MSSEESA
  - Researchers and professionals in Materials Science and solar Energy
  - Ladies and Gentlemen.
- .....

I take this honour to thank you all for coming to witness the launch of *MSSEESA, Uganda Chapter*.

This occasion shows the seriousness and commitment our colleagues in science have put to the study of materials and harnessing the applications that are so much needed in our region.

This launch is in line with Makerere University vision of *pursuing teaching, research and services relevant to sustainable development needs of society*. It also strengthens our vision by networking and partnering with sister institutions in the region.

Makerere University is currently implementing the Research and Innovations Policy in order to promote research and innovations as a culture in the University. One of the challenges has been to disseminate the research findings. This has limited the spread of valuable knowledge and the application of such knowledge. I am therefore glad that MSSEESA will provide a solution to this challenge especially in Materials Science and Solar Energy.

The objective of MSSEESA is to enhance human and infrastructure capacity in advanced research in Materials and Solar Energy. This is a welcome opportunity to assist our region in capacity building in that area and help to attain international standards of

processing materials and compete on the international market. Most of our resources in Africa are taken out, processed and brought back to us to buy at higher cost.

I commend the Materials and Solar Energy Research Groups in the region for coming together and establish such networking. I would also like to commend the Faculty of Science for this kind of networking.

I would like to thank the partners, in particular the International Programs in Physical Sciences (IPPS), Uppsala University for supporting MSSEESA since its inception. I believe scientists in Materials Science, Solar Energy and related areas will join in this networking for the progress of our society. I hereby declare the MSSEESA, Uganda Chapter, launched.

Prof. Ikoja-Odongo

*Acting DVC (F & A).*