

UNITS' ACHIEVEMENTS – 61ST GRADUATION 17TH – 21ST JANUARY, 2011

Mr. Chancellor Sir, allow me to highlight some key achievements by some of the academic units that are graduating their students throughout the duration of this 61st Graduation Ceremony.

Monday 17th January 2011

College of Health Sciences

- The College of Health Sciences has received significant financial resources for research from both the public and private sectors as well as national and international funders like Wellcome Trust, Centre for Diseases Control and Prevention (CDC), USAID, National Institutes of Health (NIH), Gates Foundation, DFID, and EDCTP. The College has continued to be a center for innovations in health professional education consolidating achievements in student centered learning, community based education and service, distance education with the purpose of addressing human resource shortages and inequalities.
- The Infectious Diseases Institute (IDI) at Makerere University College of Health Sciences continues to significantly contribute to the University's mandate of service provision to society. In addition to IDI's prolific research programmes as well as the substantial training outputs, the care programme at the IDI has fully supported the ministry of health in responding to the HIV care and treatment needs of Uganda. Specifically, the IDI provides advanced HIV treatment including antiretroviral therapy, and receives referrals of complicated cases from all over the country and region. Access to the more recent licensed HIV medications is available through a number of research studies at the institute. Additionally, the AIDS Treatment Information Centre (ATIC), a toll-free call-in service at the institute continues to support numerous front-line health care workers managing HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis. This year, the IDI will have

the opportunity to lend its expertise in the advanced management of HIV/AIDS and TB to all the regions of Uganda through the regional referral hospitals. This 18-month project is expected to commence in the first quarter of this calendar year.

IDI was established in 2004 by Makerere University as a private company limited by guarantee and by 2010 its budget had grown to US\$ 20 million.

IDI is mainly funded by development partners and foundations.

Faculty of Agriculture

- The Food Technology and Business Incubation Centre in the Faculty of Agriculture received a grant of 4.5 billion shillings from the Government of Uganda which is being used to construct working area for incubatees, procure processing equipment as well as support technology development research and commercialization.
- The Faculty of Agriculture has also successfully implemented the Integrated Agricultural Research for Development (IAR4D) model. Makerere University led one of the Task Forces in the Lake Kivu Pilot Learning site, one of the three pilot learning sites of the Sub-Saharan Africa Challenge Programme under the umbrella of Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA).
- Biotechnology research under the BIOEARN Programme and the Department of Crop Science in the Faculty of Agriculture led the development of tissue culture protocols for cassava and sweet potato multiplication, and virus elimination. The BIOEARN and MSI Banana Tissue Culture Projects lab now boasts of the capacity to produce 1 million quality banana plantlets per year.
- As part of Internationalization, the Faculty of Agriculture launched two regional graduate programs; a Master of Science in Plant Breeding and Seed Systems, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Plant Breeding and Biotechnology. To-date these programs have attracted over 40 students from Burundi, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sudan, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Uganda. Makerere receives tremendous support through these programs from; the Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (**AGRA**) – **USD 1,043,300**,

the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building (**RUFORUM**) – **USD 1.6m**, In January, **AGRA board** approved an additional **USD 640,000**.

Faculty of Technology

- In December 2009, H.E Dr. Gen Yoweri Kaguta Museveni pledged to support the Faculty of Technology to the tune of UGX 25 Billion for the period 2010-2015. In the Financial Year 2010/2011 UGX 10 Billion was approved for Makerere University under the Presidential Support toward Science and Technology Innovations with the Faculty of Technology receiving UGX 4.5 Billion. As part of this funding, an energy efficient electric vehicle, the Kiira EV was produced by Makerere University in partnership with the private sector. The Kiira EV vehicle is expected to hit Ugandan roads in 2012.

Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

- The Government of Uganda has established a Joint Government-University Institute for strategic services primarily in the animal resources world. The Africa Institute for Strategic Animal Resource Services and Development [AFRISA), has a skills centre at Nakyesasa, a Livestock Technology Centre at Kiboga and Kyankwanzi at Ranch 16, and a biosecurity centre. Government has started funding the skills development infrastructure starting in the 2010/11 FY with **UGX 1bn**.
- The Government of Uganda and the Government of Japan have established, at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, a National Animal Diseases Diagnostic Referral Centre (NADDIC) to synergise the main centre at Entebbe while leveraging University resources. The project is funded by the Government of Japan through JICA Agency and the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries of the Republic of Uganda.

Faculty of Science

- The Department of Physics won a competitive grant worth **USD 1.2million**, from the Uganda National Council for Science & Technology (**UNCST**) which

was co-financed by the World Bank under the Millennium Science Initiative **(MSI)** in 2007. This covered building renovations, purchase of laboratory equipment for undergraduate laboratories and upgrading of the B.Sc. in Physics programme curriculum.

- The Faculty of Science partnered with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to develop methods for controlling African sleeping sickness in a 5-year (Nov 2008 – Dec 2013) project worth **USD 8,691,707**.

Faculty of Forestry and Nature Conservation

- The Faculty of Forestry and Nature Conservation participated in the breakthrough study that revealed that Chimpanzees that live in forests can be used in developing medical solutions to Malaria.
- The Faculty of Forestry and Nature Conservation is involved in multi-million dollar donor funded research in monitoring the impacts of institutional arrangements and incentives on forestry resources in East Africa; Forest Restoration; Shea Butter and wetland management.

Tuesday 18th January 2011

Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics (ISAE)

- ISAE was appointed to be a member of the Steering Committee for the African Group of Statistical Training and Human Resources (AGROST) which is to coordinate statistical training activities at all levels in Africa.
- The ISAE has partnered with the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda and UNDP to sensitise communities on the need to localize Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in their development goals.

Margaret Trowell School of Industrial and Fine Art (MITSFA)

- As we are all aware, Bank of Uganda now has a new family of Bank notes which depict natural sceneries and artifacts that remind us of our heritage.

The designing of these beautiful Bank notes was done by some of the academic staff at the Margaret Trowell School of Industrial and Fine Art.

The East African School of Library and Information Science (EASLIS)

- EASLIS is now educating the South Sudan population, especially the female, on different methods of librarianship, while strengthening the capacity of libraries in Southern Sudan and reviewing Library and Information Science curriculum in the institutions of higher education under the project Capacity Building for Southern Sudan-Educating Librarians for the Future (EDLIB).
- Development of EASLIS Teaching Library: The project is being supported by Spear Motors through our **Research Fellow, Gordon Wavamuno**, who has supported the Interior design of the Library. In addition, UNESCO, through the National Commission for UNESCO (UNATCOM), has offered **USD 15,000** to cater for equipment and its promotion.

The School of Education

- Following the year armed conflict in Northern Uganda left the population traumatized, The School of Education, with funding from the British Council/DFID and in partnership with Kyambogo University, Kigali National Institute of Education, Fourah Bay College of University of Sierra Leone and Stranmillis University College of Queen's University Belfast came in to build capacity, through formal training in peace building and psychosocial skills required to manage both the traumatized teachers, children and their parents.
- **E-learning and Teacher Education (ELATE) Job Mark Initiative** started as a joint venture between the School of Education, Makerere University, and The Open University, UK in 2007 with funding from The England-Africa Partnerships in Higher Education (EAP) scheme came up to give teachers pedagogically sound support and expertise thereby improving

the learning and teaching experience hence transforming the Education sector in Uganda.

Wednesday 19th January 2011

Faculty of Arts

- The Department of Religious Studies concluded an Intercultural Exchange Course with the School of Mission and Theology, Stavanger, Norway. This is a testimony of our society's integration with the Norwegian community as we create a wider understanding of different cultures as well as appreciation of each other which is a basis for development, feeding into the 8th Millennium Development Goal of Global Partnership.
- Makerere University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Norwegian College of Dance, Oslo, Norway to help put in place the first-ever state of the art Music, Dance and Drama theatre at Makerere University. This is being coordinated by the Faculty of Arts and once completed the University expects to operate it as both a training and commercial facility.

Faculty of Economics and Management

- **Improving teaching and learning:** FEMA has set up a modern and state of the art Video Conferencing facility at a cost of **USD 224,849** sponsored by African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), for joint lectures and meetings especially for the Economic Policy Management (EPM) degree programme.
- With the support of UNDP, The Faculty of Economics and Management in collaboration with the Department of Women and Gender Studies are conducting the **first ever** Master of Arts in Gender-Aware Economics on the African continent. This Pan-African programme comprises 25 students from Uganda, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Lesotho, Tanzania, Nigeria, Kenya, Malawi, Zambia and Rwanda.

Thursday 20th January 2011

Institute of Adult and Continuing Education (IACE)

- **Employability and Entrepreneurship Training for out of school Youths and fresh graduate:** was a **GB £43,000** project funded by Education Partnership Africa focused on developing a course and teaching/learning materials on employability and entrepreneurship for out of school unemployed youth and for fresh graduates. So, far eight modules have been developed, 27 trainers trained and 40 youths from Arua, Fortportal, Entebbe and Mbale have been trained.
- **Strengthening Parental/Community Participation in Enhancing Quality Education in Primary Schools in Uganda:** The **GB £60,000** three year project (Sept 2008 – Aug 2011) is a Development Partnerships in Higher Education (DELPHI) project to identify and train parents to more actively participate in children's learning. The project is working in six schools in Mayuge and Nakaseke Districts.
- **Teacher Education in Sub Saharan Africa (TESSA):** Spearheaded by the Open University UK, the project brings together teacher training institutions in 12 countries in Sub Saharan Africa, and has as one of its major outputs as Open Educational Resources (OERs) that focus on the teaching of Numeracy, Literacy, Science, Social Studies and Life Skills in primary schools.

Institute of Psychology

- **HIV/AIDS Community Volunteer Training:** Through World Vision, Makerere University has linked up with Columbia University in a collaborative venture, where organisations which work directly with the communities will benefit from expertise in psychology from both institutions, to improve on their service delivery.
- **Knowledge transfer through partnerships:** The Department has also been collaborating with the Center for Children in Vulnerable Situations

(CCVS) based in Brussels. Recently, CCVS opened up a counseling center in Lira, where students from the Institute will be admitted for their internship and where future graduates have a great chance of employment.

- **Indigo Project:** The Partners in Indigo Project (International Doctoral School in Global Health) is a ten year project which will train 30 PhD students and cost 6,820,000 Euros. The Indigo School which is currently administratively supported from Dublin, Ireland by the Indigo Board will soon shift its administration to Makerere University

Friday 21st January 2011

Faculty of Computing and Information Technology

- Six CIT Bachelor of Information Technology students scooped the Annual Communication Innovation Award for best undergraduate student project of the year 2010, as organized by Uganda Communications Commission, UCC, to encourage innovativeness in ICTs. The students looked at 'Cloud Enabled Mobile Financial Management System' a project that looks at how to manage finances using a mobile phone. Paul Muyinda Birevu, a Post graduate student also scooped the best Postgraduate Student Research Project 2010 Award for his PhD Dissertation titled "Deploying and Utilising Learning Objects on Mobile Phones."
- CIT students represented East Africa in the Poland Imagine cup, an annual technology competition organized by Microsoft, last July. Their project titled 'Saving Tomorrow,' is an SMS based system that focuses on improving prenatal and postnatal care of expectant mothers in developing countries.
- CIT translated the Google interface into local languages of Luo and Runyakitara as part of its public/private sector contribution. This is hoped to improve computer literacy by providing local communities the opportunity to conduct businesses and research using the web-browser in

their local languages. This will in the end stimulate faster economic growth.

Faculty of Social Sciences

- The Faculty is in the final phases of forging collaboration with the Military Training Institution, Kimaka, so that it is affiliated to Makerere University through the Faculty.

Faculty of Law

- As part of the transitional justice framework following the war in Northern Uganda, the Refugee Law Project (RLP) will soon open a War Memorial Museum. The Kitgum-based museum will house an archive documenting the war, live exhibitions and an ICT Centre. Construction of the **USD 250,000** facility kicked off in October 2010.
- The Refugee Law Project (RLP) runs the only free legal aid clinic devoted to the problems affecting refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the country.
- Makerere University has partnered with Ms. JD to award the Ms. JD International Scholarships to female students. Two first year Law students; from Mukono and Soroti were selected and have been awarded the scholarship this year to cater for tuition, functional fees, accommodation, as well as a modest fee for the beneficiary's upkeep.

All the above achievements, partnerships and more are testimony to Makerere's commitment to re-align herself to meet emerging development challenges.