

# MAKERERE



# UNIVERSITY

**REMARKS BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR AT THE CLOSING OF THE THREE DAY  
INTERNATIONAL NILE BASIN RESEARCH COLLABORATION CONFERENCE  
AT THE SPEKE RESORT HOTEL, MUNYONYO – WEDNESDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER  
2010, 6:00PM, SPEKE RESORT MUNYONYO**

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- **Your Excellencies, The Ambassadors**
  - **The Executive Director, Nile Basin Initiative and your delegation**
  - **Government Departments and Authorities**
  - **Vice Chancellors from other Universities**
  - **My colleagues in the University Management, Deans and Directors**
  - **Our Development Partners**
  - **Members of Civil Society Organisations and the Private sector**
  - **Researchers and Scholars, the Nile Basin Research Programme (NBRP) team**
  - **Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen**
- .....

Guided by her ten year Strategic Plan, Makerere University is focused on repositioning herself to meet emerging development challenges and therefore highlights the need for Makerere to turn into a research driven university.

I am happy to note that the Nile Basin Research Programme (NBRP) at the University of Bergen in partnership with Makerere University and the Nile Basin Initiative have teamed up to conduct research on critical issues in the Nile Basin. In addition, we have continued to disseminate the results of this research through international conferences, book launches, publications to mention, but a few.

On 9<sup>th</sup> April 2010, we organised the Nile Basin Research Programme Books' Launch and also utilized this opportunity to celebrate the World Water Day. Hon Jessica Eriyo, The Minister of State for Environment represented the Honourable Minister of Water and Environment.

We were filled with joy when the issues that were discussed during this one day event fed into the Nile Commission meetings in Cairo, April 2010 and Ethiopia, June 2010.

I am equally thrilled that in October of this year, Makerere University together with Nile Basin Research Programme (NBRP) at the University of Bergen, and the Nile Basin Initiative have moved a step further to organise the second International Nile Basin Research Conference guided by the theme "*Collaboration in the Nile Basin. The Way forward.*"

I am optimistic that the knowledge shared and also acquired through this conference will guide the continuous dialogue in the Nile Basin and inform policy at the national and international levels.

To understand the significance of this conference, you need to pose, and ask yourself, "*What would happen to the countries and people in the Nile Basin happen if the Nile dried up?*"

I am sure; you all have visions of a looming danger. The task is therefore upon us the beneficiaries of this key resource to guard it jealously.

I therefore implore the academicians and scholars to continuously conduct research on collaboration in the Nile Basin as well as on the conservation and sustainability of River Nile and Lake Victoria in the face of climate change.

I commend the presenters for the informative and well researched presentations. I would like to join the presenters to re-echo these messages. We have been informed that the population is increasing yet (due to climate change); there is a serious stretch in water supply. That between 5-10 per cent of the continent's GDP may be needed to deal with the impacts of climate change.

I appeal to the researchers in the Nile Basin to conduct research in the area of evaporation and climate change, and the universities in the Nile Basin to come up with academic comparative analysis of the aid system in the Nile Basin.

I thank the Norwegian Government for continuously supporting research in the Nile Basin as well as the institutional support rendered to Makerere University development programmes.

Allow me to say that we have accrued several institutional achievements through the Makerere University-University of Bergen Collaboration in the form of joint researches and publications, capacity building and staff development, and the signing of the Agreement to conduct joint PhD programmes. I would like to inform the team from the University of Bergen that through your support to capacity building, you have greatly contributed to enhancing the competencies of our human resources. You are indeed a strategic pillar in Makerere's continuity to build for the future.

I thank the session chairs for ably guiding the presenters. This has resulted into *a way forward* as presented by Professor Edward Kirumira, the Conference Convener.

I thank the Organising committee, the Office of the Vice Chancellor-Makerere University and the Public Relations Office for their efforts to make this conference a success.

I wish all the participants a safe journey.

-----*We Build For The Future*.....

**Sincerely: Professor Venansius Baryamureeba, Acting Vice Chancellor**