

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON RESEARCH IN ADULT EDUCATION
CLOSING CEREMONY
SPEECH BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR PROF. VENASIUS BARYAMUREEBA

**The Outgoing and Incoming Directors DVV East and Horn of Africa Regional office,
Dr. Benrd Sandhaas and Mr. Gerard Quincke**

Ms Millie Nakabugo DVV Kampala office

Keynote speakers

Director Institute of Adult and Continuing Education

Distinguished Participants, Ladies and gentlemen.

It gives me great honour and pleasure to welcome you all to this meeting and allow me to especially welcome all the International participants. Welcome to Uganda and I hope you have had a taste of the great hospitality of this country.

Also since this conference has been organized by Makerere University in partnership with the DVV, I wish to extend a very special welcome to you all on behalf of Makerere University and on my own behalf.

Makerere University recently launched a ten year strategic plan that has research as a very key pillar. As a University, our desire is, in the next ten years, grow our research capability and output to a degree that will see us transform into a University focusing on research in general and graduate research in particular. To come here therefore and be part of a conference that is focusing on Research in Adult Education gives me great pleasure and I hope that my colleagues in the Institute will take full advantage of this to grow the Institute's own research base and capacity.

Makerere also recognizes the place and importance of networks and partnerships and we encourage Faculties, Schools, Institutes and Colleges to build strong networks and partnerships. Meetings such as these can be the beginning of growing and/or strengthening such networks. We should also remember that the world has shrunk and no institution or organization can today hope to be counted among giants if it remains isolated. We must therefore as a matter of urgency look to identifying and cultivating the right friendships. I hope that this meeting has come up with clear strategies of how you will maintain the linkages forged here after this meeting. Allow me to recommend to you

electronic methodologies – and there is a whole range of possibilities from which you can choose. All you need is to be strategic in your choices.

On a wider scale, we all know that countries in Sub Saharan Africa share a number of challenges. All of us have high illiteracy rates, majority of our people live below a dollar a day, many of our children who ought to be in school are not and those that are in school are not necessarily receiving high quality education... The list is long. If we attempt to address these challenges as individual nations ignoring the strength that our neighbours may have, it will be difficult for Africa to rise above these gloomy scenarios. Yet, it will be long before we can meaningfully work together as a continent. The right strategy is therefore what you have chosen here - working together as a regional block. Besides, it is today much easier to access research grants as teams than as individuals. Your being here together and thinking through these issues together is an opportunity that should not be missed; opportunity for easier access to research funds and for more meaningful research and publications.

As I come to a close, I wish to also remind us especially those of you working in universities that the typical University student is no longer the 18 – 20 year old. Today's universities are recruiting more and more adult learners and we need to be prepared to meet the needs of such learners in all our university programmes and activities. Sadly however, there is little research available that can guide universities. Some of the intriguing questions for me are:

1. What capabilities does a University professor need to effectively and efficiently meet the needs of adult learners and what are the best strategies of equipping these professors?
2. How do adults learn and does this differ from discipline to discipline?
3. What kinds of support must adult learners be given to fully exploit the potentials they have?

As professionals in this field, I am sure you have come up with a lot of areas needing research and what is left is for you to concretize your decisions. I certainly look forward to reading your proceedings and for my colleagues at the Institute, you have my support in all this.

Finally, I wish to most sincerely thank the DVV for all the support you have given Makerere University and the region as a whole especially in this field of Adult Education. We

appreciate your support and hope we will continue our collaboration. Thank you Dr. Sandhaas for your input and we look forward to working with you Mr. Quincke.

Now, to each and everyone of you, thank you for honouring Makerere and the DVV by coming to participate in this meeting; and to my colleagues from the Institute, thank you for representing Makerere in this event and well done.

For those of you traveling abroad, *Safari jema* - safe journey on your return and please do come again.

Ladies and gentlemen, allow me to declare this workshop now closed as WE BUILD FOR THE FUTURE.

25th November 2009