

**VICE CHANCELLOR'S REMARKS, SIGNING MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN MAKERERE UNIVERSITY AND EAST CHINA NORMAL UNIVERSITY, MON 22 FEBRUARY 2010**

I warmly welcome you to Makerere University and in particular to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between Makerere University and the East China Normal University.

I thank you for honouring our invitation dated December 21, 2009, when Makerere University invited you for a study tour with the following objectives:

- To explore ways of increasing scholarships for selected African students/scholars to China especially to East China Normal University as a leading institution in teacher education
- To undertake a comparative study on major policy issues in teacher education in the selected African countries as an integral part of the IICBA-IRULED joint programme in 2009/2010
- To study the feasibility of developing a distance teacher education project in Africa.

Your physical presence is therefore a manifestation of your readiness to contribute to the realization of the above objectives.

I wish to inform you that Makerere University is that reliable partner who has stood the test of time since 1922. Through the 88 years of existence, she is blessed with experience of moving with the trends and demands in higher education. She has grown over the years to become one of the internationally recognized institutions in the world. She has produced alumni spread all over the

globe. She boasts of a reservoir of highly qualified professors whose publications are referenced in internationally recognized journals. Makerere University has therefore played a leading role in building a critical mass and human resources for Uganda, the region and beyond. It is the University of first choice for the majority of higher education aspirants in Uganda. We have trained most of the Vice Chancellor's managing the Universities in Uganda.

We have continued to win the goodwill of development partners namely Sida, JICA, Carnegie Corporation of New York, Rockefeller Foundation, European Union, the World Bank, and Norwegian Government among others.

We have a 15 year institutional collaboration Agreement (1999-2014) with the University of Bergen, Norway. Makerere University is working with North Dakota University, USA to develop online course in Veterinary Medicine. We are conducting joint PhDs in the sciences with the Karolinska Institute, Sweden. The Carnegie Corporation of New York has decided to partner with Makerere University to build the next generation of academics in Africa.

The body of researchers at Makerere University has greatly participated in research in HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. The first awareness of a strange disease that was later identified as HIV AIDS was first described in the country by Makerere University personnel in 1982. There is significant research work on Malaria; and a number of collaborative studies on Tuberculosis at the College of Health Sciences. Makerere University College of Health Sciences partnered with Johns Hopkins University to conduct research that led to the Nevirapine drug that helps to prevent mother to child transmission of HIV/AIDS. Makerere University students from Faculty the Technology are working with the team from Harvard University to develop the World's cheapest Car-Vision 200.

We have the good will of the Government of Uganda as evidenced by the numerous strategic partnerships. Makerere University is also working with Government to exploit the potential of oil and petroleum in the national development of Uganda.

I am therefore gratified to note that as we leverage the tremendous achievements and opportunities gained over the years, the Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation that we are about to sign seeks to strengthen the research capabilities and open opportunities for both institutions to maximize their mandate and potential in higher education. This Memorandum declares us partners in higher education through:

- Development of joint programs;
- Creation, development and provision of the opportunity for the admission of students from each institution to the Postgraduate Programmes after successfully obtaining the requisite Qualifications;
- Development of laboratory infrastructure and equipment;
- Exchange of students and Faculty staff;
- Training of Faculty staff;
- Co- supervision of graduate students;
- Teaching and developing research projects to address practical problems in Uganda in particular, and Africa in general;
- Applying jointly for grants;
- Collaborating in research and teaching facilities;

Guided by the Makerere University Strategic Plan, I am happy that the areas of concern spelt out in the Memorandum are aligned to the Makerere strategic goals namely: conducting a student centered problem based learning approach; turning Makerere into a research driven University; and knowledge transfer partnerships and networking.

Through this, Makerere University seeks to increase the internationalization of her graduates; producing a graduate equipped with knowledge to adapt to the ever changing global needs.

The University Management and staff are focused on producing a quality and relevant graduate. The University Management is committed to transforming Makerere University into a centre of academic excellence. We have integrated ICT into the operations of the University; we have started to integrate e-learning into the University curricular. Knowing the power of knowledge, we are devising strategic approaches to ensure access to all while conscious of the quality of our products. The trend in higher education necessitates integrating distance education into university operations. Your study visit, which focuses on the feasibility of developing a distance teacher education project in Africa, is therefore timely.

The Deans and staff here present, are ready to maximally optimize their expertise during the break away sessions for the benefit of both Universities. Each Unit is prepared to identify the strategic approaches for the successful implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding.

I am therefore confident that the implementation of the above strategies coupled with the strategic partnerships we have with the Government of Uganda, the Private Sector; and other Universities in Uganda and beyond will contribute to the realization of our vision "*To be the leading academic institution for academic excellence and innovations in Africa.*"      **We build for the future.**

**Sincerely: Professor Venansius Baryamureeba, Ag. Vice Chancellor,  
MAK**