

**REMARKS BY MAKERERE UNIVERSITY VICE CHANCELLOR PROFESSOR
VENANSIUS BARYAMUREEBA AT THE OPENING OF THE SECOND
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ADVANCES IN ENGINEERING AND
TECHNOLOGY (AET2011), MONDAY 31ST JANUARY 2011, AT 8.50 AM AT
IMPERIAL RESORT BEACH HOTEL, ENTEBBE**

Your Excellencies the Ambassadors and High Commissioners Present

The Honourable Members of Parliament present

Your Lordships present

The Heads of Governments Institutions present

The keynote speakers,

The Visiting Researchers and collaborators

Members of the private sector

My Colleagues at Makerere University and sister institutions in Uganda

All Participants in your various capacities

Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all, especially our international participants, to The Second International Conference on Advances in Engineering and Technology (AET2011).

This Conference has been organized by Makerere University, College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology under the theme Contribution of Scientific Research in Development. There couldn't be a better time than the present to bring together scientists, researchers, professionals and industry leaders from all over the world, to share experiences in advances in technology to transform lives of the population of the world with ever increasing challenges.

Makerere University is proud of her academic units like the Faculty of Technology (now under the College of Engineering, Design, Art, and Technology) that has kept research and dissemination of research high on the agenda. As you might all know, carrying out

research and disseminating it through such Fora is one of the major roles of Universities in the quest for creating new knowledge.

The Faculty of Technology in addition has been carrying out applied research in various areas including renewable energy, vehicle design, data management systems, e-labs, low cost housing, and many others. Participants are encouraged to pay a visit to these innovations and research centres in the university for appreciation and knowledge sharing.

The seriousness with which the Faculty of Technology has undertaken research projects has led to the attraction of more funds and spinoffs. For instance, the Government of Uganda starting the year 2010 will be providing funding to the tune of UShs. 25 billion (approximately USD 10.4 million) over a five year period to procure equipment and carry out more research at the Faculty.

Whereas projects such as these and so many more are a source of great pride to Makerere University, we believe that our efforts can be further boosted through research and innovation dissemination conferences like this, where exchange of information, forging linkages, benchmarking best practices and enhancing collaboration among participants are the core objectives.

I would therefore like to thank the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) for supporting this Conference and for continuously funding research at Makerere University. I would also like to thank other partners who have funded research whose results are going to be presented at this Conference. Additionally, I would like to thank the Government of Uganda for creating an enabling environment to carry out research and for being able to host international conferences.

May I also request the Government to increase funding for research and innovation. It is through research and innovation that many countries have made progress.

I would like to thank the Dean of the Faculty of Technology (now Principal of the College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology) and his team for conceiving such a great idea of bringing academic researchers, the private sector and government together through this conference. I also thank the members of the AET2011 organising committee as well as many other people who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make the conference a success.

Makerere University is looking forward to hosting many of such international conferences. The University takes pride in such a great organisation, and with events such as this, the global standing of Makerere University will continue to improve as We Build for the Future.

May you have fruitful deliberations as we seek to improve the conditions of the world with her ever increasing challenges. It is through advances in engineering and technology that we can make the world a better place to live in.

I now take this opportunity to declare The Second International Conference on Advances in Engineering and Technology (AET2011) open.

I thank you for listening to me.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY