

# MAKERERE



# UNIVERSITY

## **BRIEF REPORT ON THE VISIT OF THE MAKERERE UNIVERSITY DELEGATION TO TOTTORI UNIVERSITY, JAPAN (29<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER-3<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER 2014)**

### **a) Scholarships for Ugandan students**

We met with the Assistant Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture who informed us about the Special program for foreign students in Arid Land Agricultural Sciences which our students can apply for and Tottori University recommends them for sponsorship by the Japanese government under (Monbukagakusho: MEXT) scholarships. This is a five year master and Phd programme. The programme ought to be advertised early enough in November so that students prepare themselves with the requirements and be able to compete with students from other developing countries. The Dean emphasized the need for our students to submit TOEFL or TOEC test results (Test of English Communication) proficiency even though Uganda is an English speaking country, due to the stiff competition for this scholarship. It is important that students tailor or march their proposals with the interests of the selected supervisors from Tottori University. Under this scholarship, only three students are admitted per year and are selected from universities who have working or functional relationships with universities in Japan. Tottori University was one of the few universities selected for the MEXT Scholarship.

### **b) Touring the Veterinary Medical Centre**

At the Veterinary Medical Centre, we were taken round by Dr Takashi, a veterinary doctor. This is an animal clinic mostly for dogs, cats, and few horses and donkeys. We were taken through all the processes of receiving the sick animals and the different stages of treatment. In this Clinic, they use the State-of-the Art equipment to ensure proper diagnosis and treatment for the animals.

### **c) Potential Research in Fungus/Mushroom**

We visited the Fungus/Mushroom Research Centre which is affiliated to the Faculty of Agriculture and was founded nine years ago. It is the biggest gene bank for mushrooms in the world with over 8,131 strains of 1,277 species registered as of March 2014. In this Centre, they do both applied and basic research on mushrooms. Research in mushrooms was identified as a potential area for collaboration.

### **d) The Arid Land Research Centre**

The Arid Land Research Centre established in 1990 is a joint research facility of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, science and Technology. The Centre is used by researchers of Tottori University, other national institutions and international institutions to carry out dry land studies and tackle issues such as desertification and drought. A

network of researchers from all the above mentioned institutions is already in place and researchers from Makerere University can take advantage of this+. Strong winds blow from China and bring a lot of dust to Japan. Research on this yellow dust is being carried out on the impact it has on people's lives.

**e) The Innovations Centre in Engineering Education**

The Innovations Centre in Engineering Education is affiliated to the Faculty of Engineering. This is used mostly by Mechanical Engineering students and other people interested in technology and innovations. Students learn to use machines for different innovations and thus build capacity for human resources and research. Here you learn by doing innovational engineering.

**f) Cultural and educational aspects of the tour**

Our visit was basically a cultural and educational tour. We had a chance of visiting different historical sites in the former capital city of Kyoto and in Tokyo. Significant sights like the Kyoto Tower, the Kyoto Museum, Tokyo Tower not forgetting the Tottori Sand Museum and Sand Dunes which are big tourist attractions.

**g) Meeting the Uganda's Ambassador to Japan**

Our last visit was at the Embassy of Republic of Uganda in Japan at Shibuya. We met with Her Excellency Betty Grace Akech Okullo and briefed her about our visit to Tottori University and identified areas of further cooperation. Her Excellency had earlier discussions concerning setting up an Agro-Technology Park at Kabanyolo University Farm by scientists from Tottori University, an idea which she fully supported to strengthen ties between the two institutions and closer ties with the governments.

**Compiled by: Mrs. Martha Loy Muwanguzi Ngobi, Head-International Office, Makerere University**