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# UNIVERSITY

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## OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE

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### PRESS RELEASE

#### **Makerere University to partner with Bar Ilan University: An opportunity for researchers to access modern research facilities**

In pursuit of Makerere University's strategic direction of transforming into a research led university, the University Management has finalized engagements to sign a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at undertaking strategic research projects with Bar Ilan university, one of the leading universities in Israel.

Following the benchmark visit by the Makerere University Task Force chaired by Professor Francis Omaswa to universities in different regions, the Task Force informed the University Management that Bar Ilan University-one of the leading universities in Israel had state-of-the-art research facilities, which if accessed by Makerere University would uplift the University's research profile as well as strengthen her capacity to undertake applied research in science and technology. In his report, Professor Francis Omaswa said that the team in Bar Ilan University had expressed readiness to allow researchers from Makerere University to access modern research facilities and to undertake joint research projects.

Professor Benjamin Ehrenberg, the Vice President for Research in the Institute of Nanotechnology and Advanced Materials, Bar Ilan University, Israel will be visiting Makerere University from 4<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> April 2013 to tour the research facilities at Makerere, and also hold discussions with the University Management and the members of staff in different colleges on the operationalisation of the Memorandum of Understanding between both Universities.

This collaboration which seeks to promote science and technology is aligned to the Uganda National development Goals and the Government of Uganda's mission to promote science and technology, which will spur Uganda from a developing to a developed country.

The Makerere University consortium will comprise three colleges namely: Health Sciences; Engineering, Design, Art and Technology; and Natural Sciences while the Bar Ilan University will include four faculties namely: Exact Sciences; Life Sciences; Medicine; and Engineering.

Commenting on this visit expected to climax with the signing of the MOU, the Vice Chancellor of Makerere University, Professor John Ddumba-Ssentamu said, “ I am glad that in addition to the collaborations we have with universities in USA, Norway, Germany, Sweden, we are opening up to Bar Ilan university, Israel. This presents Makerere University staff with a golden opportunity to adopt best research practices from Israel. I have also held discussions with Professor Benjamin Ehrenberg who has informed us that this collaboration with Bar Ilan is premised on a win-win situation where both institutions will learn from each other, but above all, Bar Ilan will allow Makerere University staff to access modern research facilities and also provide support to upgrade the Makerere University's research laboratories and infrastructure.”

Professor Benjamin Ehrenberg will hold discussions with staff in the Makerere University College of Health Sciences and College of Natural Sciences on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2013. On 5<sup>th</sup> April 2013, he will hold discussions with the staff in the College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology, and climax his tour with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding in the Main Building, Council Room.

**For more information, please contact:**

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