

Message from President Takayuki Nose

Dear professor John Ddumba-Ssentamu, Vice Chancellor of Makerere University,
Your Excellency Junji Yamazaki, Deputy ^{head of mission} Ambassador of Japan in Kampala,
Dear respected guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon. I am Dagnachew Aklog from the Center for International Affairs of Tottori University. First of all, I would like to apologize for the fact that none of our university officials could make it here today because of other overseas trips; some are in Taiwan and some are in Mexico this time.

It is an honor, and a great pleasure indeed, to me to be here with you to witness the signing of the MOU for academic exchange and collaboration as well as Memorandum on Student Exchange (MOSE) between Makerere and Tottori Universities.

The first leg of this signing ceremony, in which President of Tottori University, Takayuki Nose, fixed his signature, was held at Tottori on October 17, 2012 in the presence of Professor Moses Tenywa from Makerere University and HRH Princess Irene Ndagire from the Uganda Embassy in Tokyo. During this ceremony, we have learned that Makerere is one of the leading universities in Africa and Uganda as a nation is one of the most politically stable and economically well-performing countries in the African continent. We have also learned that Makerere University is celebrating its 90th anniversary this year. Tottori University is proud to have established academic exchange and collaborative research agreement with such a historical and well recognized university.

Having been founded in 1949 and with a capacity of about 6500 students at present, Tottori University is newer and smaller than Makerere University. However, the university is proud of its over 63 years of research and educational achievements. In education, in line with its slogan of "Fusion of Knowledge and Practice", TU emphasizes on practical education in which students deepen their understanding in the class with hands-on experience in the field. In research, TU is particularly known for its research achievements in the area of arid land sciences. TU hosts the Arid Land Research Center, which is the only national joint use research center of its type in Japan. As a result, most of international exchange programs of TU are based in arid and semi-arid countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

TU has very recently embarked on a 5 year "Global Human Resources Development Project", which is financially supported by MEXT. Under this project, TU plans to significantly increase international awareness and exposure of its students, faculty and staff by accepting more international students and by sending its students and staff to overseas sister institutions for short and long term training. Three strategic regions are selected for this purpose and one of them is the Eastern Africa Region. In this region, TU has academic exchange agreement with NWRC (Egypt), U of K (Sudan), Bahirdar University (Ethiopia), Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (Kenya), and now with Makerere.

Considering the political stability of Uganda and the high status of Makerere, I personally feel that Makerere will be the leading partner for TU in this region. I hope the signing of this MOU will open the way for a meaningful exchange and collaboration between MU and TU and, in addition to collaborative researches, we will be able to see more Ugandan students in Tottori and Japanese students in Mekerere.

Finally I would like to express my personal commitment to the collaboration with Makerere both as a citizen of the Eastern African region and as a faculty member of Tottori University.
Thank you for your attention.