



REMARKS BY

PROFESSOR J. DDUMBA-SSENTAMU, VICE CHANCELLOR
MAKERERE UNIVERSITY, ON THE OCCASION OF
SIGNING THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN TOTTORI UNIVERSITY JAPAN AND MAKERERE
UNIVERSITY, MAIN BUILDING, COUNCIL ROOM

ON

THURSDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2012

STARTING 12.00 NOON

- Your Excellency Junji Yamazaki, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Japan in Uganda,
 - Representative Director, Centre for International Affairs, Tottori University Dr. Dagnachew Aklog,
 - Representative Principal, School of Agricultural Sciences Dr. Eiji Nishihara
 - University Secretary Mr. David Kahundha Muhwezi,
 - Principal, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Prof. Samuel Kyamanywa
 - Principals, Deans and Chairs
 - Ladies and Gentlemen,
-

I welcome you all to this significant ceremony where our two institutions, Makerere University and Tottori University are making our joint collaboration official.

In a special way, I take this opportunity to welcome the Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Japan in Uganda, His Excellency Junji Yamazaki to Makerere. Your presence here today is testimony of the goodwill of the Government and People of Japan and the value you attach to Academic partnership. You are most welcome Your Excellency!

Established in January 1922 as a humble technical school with 14 students, Makerere University has continued to grow over the years to become one of the leading universities in Africa. Makerere University comprises nine colleges and boasts of a student population of over 30,000 spread across different academic disciplines.

One of the factors favouring Makerere University's continued growth is the ability of the institution and faculty to engage in strategic partnerships and collaborations aimed at improving the quality of teaching and learning, research, and knowledge and skills transfer among members of staff.

The Makerere University Strategic Plan (2007/08-2017/18) provides a direction to reposition Makerere into a research-led university with each college coming up with mechanisms to turn into a centre of excellence.

Uganda is an agricultural country with most of the citizenry deriving their livelihood from this sector. The College of Agricultural and Environmental

Sciences has a cardinal duty in the development of the agricultural sector as well as contributing to the efforts of .guaranteeing food security for our nation.

The College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences has over 80 ongoing research projects. The College has produced the **Mak Soy** crop varieties which are highly resistant, fast maturing and high yielding Soya bean varieties. Research has also resulted into new Cow pea and tomatoes varieties. The banana tissue culture technology has also led to production of clean disease-free banana seedlings that are high-yielding and mature earlier. This technology has greatly boosted food security and farmers' incomes.

The College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences is also training the South Sudan Public Crop Improvement researchers at Masters Level in Plant Breeding and Seed Systems. This is in partnership with the project support grant from the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) aimed at improving food security and livelihoods for South Sudanese smallholder farmers through building capacity of South Sudan crop scientists in Plant Breeding at Master of Science Level and to equip them with appropriate skills for crop improvement.

The College has also embarked on training soil scientists for Uganda and Rwanda to help steer the Africa Green Revolution and other emerging issues related to land degradation.

As we take stock of the aforementioned achievements, I am therefore happy to note that we are gathered here today to witness the signing of both the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Memorandum on Student Exchange Based on Academic Exchange (MOSE) between Makerere University and Tottori University. On 17th October, 2012 the signing by Tottori University was done and was witnessed by Princess Irene Ndagire who represented the Ambassador of Uganda to Japan. Today, the 15th of November 2012, we are joined by His Excellency Junji Yamazaki to witness the signing ceremony at Makerere University. This collaboration provides a broader platform to strengthen the good relationship between the people of Uganda and Japan.

We, at Makerere, therefore take this opportunity to thank The President of Tottori University-Professor Takayuki Nose and the entire administration of Tottori University for identifying Makerere University as a strategic partner for research and collaborative training in Sub-Saharan Africa.

This collaboration also presents an opportunity to Makerere University students to acquire knowledge and skills from Japan. It is my greatest desire that our students privileged to be trained by staff from Japan will also acquire the hard-working nature of Japanese. Everywhere in the world, the Japanese are famous for their hard-work and commitment to duty, a virtue that I pray will be emulated by Makerere University exchange students.

We welcome Tottori University's commitment to tap into the expertise at the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. We look forward to the successful implementation of this programme for the benefit of the peoples of Uganda and Japan as we build for the future. Thank you.

Professor John Ddumba Ssentamu, Vice Chancellor