

**MAKERERE**



**UNIVERSITY**

**SPEECH BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR,  
PROFESSOR JOHN DDUMBA-SSENTAMU**

**DURING THE 11<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE OF THE AFRICAN ASSOCIATION  
OF REMOTE SENSING OF THE ENVIRONMENT  
(AARSE 2016)**

**HELD ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2016 AT  
HOTEL AFRICANA**

- **The Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda, Rt. Hon. Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda**
- **The UNDP Resident Coordinator**
- **Honorable Members of Parliament from Uganda and Kenya**
- **Your Excellencies the Ambassadors Present**
- **African Union Commissioners**
- **The Keynote Speakers**
- **Conference Sponsors**
- **Distinguished Conference Delegates**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen:**

It is a great pleasure for me and indeed great pride for Makerere University to welcome you all to the 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE). You are most welcome to Makerere University, welcome to Kampala and welcome to Uganda. It is my sincere hope that you will have a fruitful conference.

I welcome the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda. You are most welcome and thank you for officiating at this event. Similarly, I recognise all dignitaries present. You are most welcome.

The theme of the conference, *“Our Earth, Our Heritage: Harnessing Geo-spatial Technology for Sustainable Development in Africa”*, is in line with the global development agenda agreed on by world leaders to build resilient societies. The global development agenda as implied in the Sustainable Development Goals is geared at transforming society. The conference theme focuses on a number of aspects that influence the environment. One of the six most important drivers of a transformed society is a “knowledge economy”.

It is gratifying that the Sustainable Development Goals have included education broadly as a proven vehicle for sustainability. We as academic institutions are committed to adapt our training to address these issues related to sustainability.

I am sure that we all appreciate that the earth is our home and our heritage. It is therefore a pleasure to have all of you delegates from all over Africa and beyond, here in Kampala, to share research and advances in Geospatial technology towards managing and monitoring our Environment. I am confident that this conference is a good platform to network, share findings, learn from one another and hopefully enable us forge valuable collaborative links.

The vision of Makerere University is “*To be the leading institution for academic excellence and innovations in Africa*” and our core functions are *Teaching and learning, Research and Innovations* as well as *Knowledge Transfer Partnerships and Networking*. This conference is therefore inline with our strategy as outlined in the vision and core functions and we are honoured to be part of it.

Through you, Rt. Honourable Prime Minister, I would like to thank the government of Uganda for your support towards the conference. I thank all authors who submitted papers to the conference and in a special way take this opportunity to appreciate the keynote speakers who have made time to come and be here.

This conference would not have been possible without the support of the exhibitors and sponsors. I appeal to all of you to visit the exhibition stalls with a view of interacting with the exhibitors and appreciating what they have to offer. To our sponsors, thank you very much. Without you, this conference would not have taken place.

Last but not least, I would like to thank the Local Organising Committee for the great work you have put in to ensure that the conference is successful. I am sure you have faced a number of challenges but I thank God that you managed to overcome most of them.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, I once again welcome you to the 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE) and I am quite positive that the discussions will be informative for the continuous building of a sustainable environment.

It is now my honour and privilege to invite the Right Honourable Prime Minister to make his remarks.

*We Build for the Future.*

I thank you!