

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2002/ 2003

### INTRODUCTION

In presenting the 2002 /2003 Report, FOMAC wishes to thank all members, alumni, friends and others from near and far who have continued to support the work of this organization. Their optimism and pride in Makerere and their hopes for its future are most appreciated.

Although FOMAC\*s focus is largely Makerere, it strongly supports measures everywhere and in every African nation that boost education, especially higher education, and make it accessible and affordable. Education is a crucial factor in every nation's development. On this we are one with the Canadian Minister of Finance who stated recently in his Budget Speech:

*"To be successful, a 21st century economy must be powered by ideas, imagination and innovation. Knowledge is the road both to economic progress and individual opportunity, and education is the bridge to take us there. Education can enable people to overcome differences in birth or background."*

This is partly why FOMAC has urged African nations year after year to invest more in education and to ensure that those who need it are not left behind. Public funding of post-secondary education must be accelerated so as to make up for the decline in the last decade and in order to provide for the citizens a reasonable rate of social and economic development. There is no question that the primary responsibility for Africa's future lies with Africa itself.

That said, we are quick to admit that one of the biggest challenges facing Africa is to build and retain within the continent critical human capacities

needed for Africa's development. If knowledge has become the primary determinant of the wealth of nations, then Africa must reverse the trend of "brain drain". The International Organization for Migration reports that up to 20,000 skilled Africans leave every year for jobs in the West. A recent study by the University of Natal in South Africa estimates that in 2002/2003, up to 10,000 skilled South Africans left the country for Europe, Canada and the United States. The problem is the same across the continent. For example, a United Nations Report from 1993 estimated that there were more than 21,000 Nigerian doctors working in the US alone. Among other leaders, Nelson Mandela has decried this situation. He is reported to have said recently:

*" To this day, we continue to lose the best among ourselves because the lights in the developed world shine brighter."*

Tragically, in an attempt to fill the gaps created by the departure of the professionals, African countries spend a staggering US\$4 billion per year to hire expatriate staff I

There is no question, the issue of "brain drain" is a factor in Africa's development. According to some observers, it is an obstacle. It has strangled the continent and jeopardized economic recovery.

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)'s response to the challenge is a recommendation to African governments to:

*'Create the necessary political, social and economic conditions that would serve as incentives to curb the brain drain and attract much needed investment" and to*

*"Develop scientific and technical networks to channel the repatriation of scientific knowledge to home country, and establish cooperation between those abroad and at home."*

It is not clear whether any African countries have implemented these measures. If they have, they have been unsuccessful because the bleeding continues.

While FOMAC appreciates the fact that African expatriates do contribute to their national GDP through their remittances, we believe that suitable conditions must be created at home to enable these professionals to return and contribute their skills to the development of their nations. For example, governments have the ultimate responsibility to create stability and equal opportunity for all and to take effective measures to eliminate corruption and cronyism.

## ACTIVITIES BY FRIENDS OF MAKERERE CHAPTERS

### A. The Ontario Chapter:

The Friends of Makerere Chapter in Ontario, Canada (FOMOC) became of age in October 2003 when it organized an inaugural fund-raising function that turned out to be most successful. Attendance was good, as was the ambiance. The dinner was elegant and the speeches enlightening. They combined to provide a joyous and humorous evening but also to symbolize a dynamic organization truly on the move. Professor AH Mazrui was the guest of honour. He gave the keynote address on the subject: *"African Universities in the shadow of Globalization and Counter Terrorism- Between Hope and Peril"* It was well received and a huge standing ovation followed. The success of the occasion is partly reflected in the fact that the Chapter was able to raise and contribute C\$10,000 to the building fund for the proposed Friendship House at Makerere University.

The other major speakers of the evening included Mr. Edgar Mutungi, the Chairperson of the Chapter. He spoke fondly about his alma mater and emphasized that participation in FOMOC activities was a way of giving back something to the institution that had nurtured him. He unveiled big plans for the Chapter and asked for more volunteers. Professor Charles Olweny, President of FOMAC spoke, as did Dr. Peter Kagoma, who discussed the projects in Uganda co-sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph Healthcare System based in Hamilton, Ontario. Dr. Muniini Mulera moved a vote of thanks.

The common realization among the former students, teachers, administrators and friends of Makerere who gathered to celebrate the occasion was that the institution, built several generations ago, continued to serve Africa well and was *needed* today more than ever. It was recognized by all that if African nations do not invest more in the people and the future, especially in universities, Africa would not graduate to the next level of academic and scientific excellence and competitiveness.™

The Ontario Chapter has recently elected a new Executive Committee. The leadership now consists of the following:

President	Mr. John Okumu
Coordinator	Mr. Edgar Mutungi
Secretary	Dr. Ann Wajja
Treasurer	Mr. Jones Mugulusi
Committee Member	Dr. Peter Bikangaga
Committee Member	Mr. Sam Muwanga

B. Friends of Makerere in the United Kingdom (FOMUK) The United Kingdom Chapter held its Annual General Meeting recently at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London, and elected a new Executive. The following are the office holders:

Dr. Clem Kiire	President
Mr. Mike Twaddle	Vice President
Ms Sylvia T Sterling	Secretary
Ms Dorothy Edward-Nsubuga	Treasurer

The AGM elected Committee Members from diverse interests and regions of the United Kingdom. The Committee Members are; Geoffrey Luyombya, Dorcas Bushara (Youth Representative), Sheik Matsiko, Eluzai Hakim, John Ayeni, Kofi Nyero, Debra Anger, and Christine Ayeni. The Auditor is Mr. Jonathan Cope.

It is encouraging to report that the UK Chapter has decided to award up to 10 prizes annually to the best students in selected faculties at Makerere. The modalities are to be worked out with the University administration. We

take this opportunity to express deep appreciation to the UK Chapter for: this initiative.

C. The Friends of Makerere in Kampala Chapter The Chapter's President Dr. Seggane Musisi has taken steps to establish the Chapter on a sound footing. Not only is an Executive in place but also office accommodation has been promised by the university administration. There are, however, teething problems, some of which are associated with the impending changes in the top hierarchy of the University administration. A more positive outlook is envisaged for the next report period.

## DEVELOPMENTS AT MAKERERE

### (a) A New Chancellor:

One of the outcomes of the implementation of the 2002 Universities and Tertiary Institutions Act, which gave Makerere University a *degree* of autonomy, is the recent election of the new Chancellor who is not a Head of State. Hitherto the Head of State was an automatic Chancellor of all publicly funded universities in Uganda. The new Chancellor is Dr. Apollo Nsibambi. He was sworn in on 16 November 2003. As a former student and a don at the University, Professor Nsibambi is well acquainted with the culture and dynamics of Makerere, not to mention the pressing and challenging issues of funding. FOMAC therefore wishes him well and expects great things for Makerere under his leadership.

### (b) Graduation

The new Chancellor presided over his first graduation ceremony on November 21, 2003. A record number of students were awarded degrees. There were 4309 graduates of whom 1743 or 40% were female. Ten doctorates were awarded.

### (c) Humanity Studies are Restructured

Makerere plans to integrate several faculties and institutes that handle the teaching of humanities into a "College of Humanities". The purpose is to eliminate duplication and enhance high quality teaching. The merger involves

the faculties of Social Sciences and Arts, and the Institutes of Economics, Psychology and Social Research. A Principal will head the College while Deans or Directors will head faculties and departments. The US-based Ford Foundation is providing funding for the restructuring process.

(d) Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellor The Makerere University Council and Senate are engaged in the process of identifying a new Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellor. Both Professor JB Sebuwufu and Professor J Epelu Opio have served their ten-year terms and are scheduled to retire as soon as their replacements are appointed.

(e) Staff Packages

The University Council is addressing the concerns of academic and administrative staff about pay packages. To this end, as a short-term measure, the Council has decided to increase the emolument packages of staff to bring them in line with the salary structure of the Ministry of Public Service in Uganda. As well, Makerere and three other public Universities - Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Kyambogo University and Gulu University - have submitted joint proposals on emoluments to government for consideration. As a long term measure, the University Council has set up a special Committee to examine and explore effective ways and means of improving university pay packages and making them more competitive and sustainable.

(f) University Entry Points Raised

Due to increased demand for university education, Makerere in conjunction with the other public universities - Mbarara, Kyambogo and Gulu - has raised entry points or admission requirements for all students seeking government sponsorship at the university during the 2003/2004 academic year. For example, entry point for Mass Communication has been raised from 44.8 to 50.9; Human Resources from 44.0 to 50.0; Development Studies from 47.9 to 49.2; Computer Science from 31.9 to 40.1; Pharmacy 48.5 to 50.8; Electrical Engineering 47.6 to 49. According to the latest estimates, government sponsored students were distributed as follows: Makerere 2795, Kyambogo 1000, Nakawa-based Business School 270, Gulu

140, and Mbarara 65. Senior officials maintain that merit is the sole criterion for admission.

## FOMAC PROJECTS

During the period under review, FOMAC considered and laid groundwork for the Annual Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Lecture, as well as the annual fund-raising dinner. Both activities are scheduled to take place in the later part of 2004. Meanwhile, significant activities that were carried out include the following:

(a) Participation in the proposed Kampala/Winnipeg partnership project

FOMAC, as a community organization, has been involved in the preliminary consultations around this project, which will hopefully result in the twinning of the two cities of Kampala and Winnipeg. The project is part of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Municipal Partnership Program and is strongly supported by the Mayor of Winnipeg, Glen Murray. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) is interested too and is providing financial support. Already an inception mission has been to Kampala to assess the needs and gain some understanding of the services provided by the City of Kampala as well as the governing structures and their challenges. A reciprocal mission from Kampala will visit Winnipeg in April 2004.

Potential partnership projects include such areas as municipal finances, governance, social and health programs (including a strong two-year HIV/AIDS related project), infrastructure, water treatment, land drainage, city planning, garbage disposal and other municipal services. The educational component will be strong and FOMAC anticipates that an appropriate working partnership can be worked out between Makerere University and the University of Manitoba.

(b) Assistance to sister organizations FOMAC continues to provide advice and assistance to other social organizations in the area of education. For example, the Kenya Association of Manitoba has benefited from the services of FOMAC in their project of

awarding bursaries to selected students in Kenya who are the victims or . relatives of the victims of the 1998 US Embassy bombing in Nairobi. Approaches from other community organizations have been received and are under consideration by the FOMAC Executive.

(c) Staff Development Awards

FOMAC is committed to continuing the award program at Makerere. Two- scholarships are worth US\$2500 each for one to three years, depending on the course of study. During the period under review, scholarships were not handed out due to purely administrative difficulties at Makerere - the selection process was not put in place. However, a remedy will be found and awards will be given out in 2004.

(d) Friendship House Building Project

FOMAC is pleased to announce that the Chapters in the United Kingdom, Ontario and Headquarters, have each contributed C\$10,000 towards the building fund. This is very encouraging and the chapters are commended. However, a lot more money is *needed*, as the project target is US\$ 150,000. Therefore, FOMAC appeals to all the members, alumni, and friends to dig deeper into their pockets for this worthy cause.

(e) Life Membership Awarded

Professor Ali Mazrui is not only an Honorary Builder of FOMAC, having been the chief guest and speaker at the inaugural dinner in 1993 in Winnipeg; he is a frequent participant and supporter of FOMAC activities. Therefore, when he attained the young age of 70 in 2003, and to mark the occasion the Institute of Global Cultural Studies at Binghamton University, New York, organized a symposium based on Mazrui's scholarship and life work, FOMAC found it imperative to be represented. Hence Dr Charles Olweny, the President of FOMAC, Mr. Edgar Mutungi, Chair of FOMOC and Ms. Allyce Mutungi, founder member, represented the organization. Accordingly, at a gala dinner, Dr Mazrui was presented with a plaque recognizing him as the first Life Member of FOMAC.



(f) FOMAC Executive

In February 2003, the FOMAC General Assembly elected a new Executive to a 2-year term. Officials are:

President Dr. Charles Olweny

Treasurer Mr. Peter Luzige

Secretary Mr. Yunus Lubega

Coordinator Mr. Wilson Okwenje

Committee Members: Mr. Jim Kasule  
Ms Fatuma Mbabaali  
Dr. Praful Patel

Auditor Mr. Jack Trueman

#### PARTNERSHIP IN HEALTH AND EDUCATION

The project known as the Partnership in Health and Education, which links FOMAC with the Sisters of St. Joseph Healthcare System in Hamilton and universities of Makerere and Mbarara, continued to be active. Of particular interest have been the health needs of the people in Uganda and the education of the health providers. In this context, a high powered delegation from the Sisters of St. Joseph Healthcare System visited Uganda in 2003 to conduct discussions with government as well as university authorities. The delegation consisted of four physicians and two nurses and was headed by the Haematologist Dr Peter Kagoma. Discussions were conducted with the Ugandan Minister of Health, Mr. J Muhwezi and others. As a result of this visit, new initiatives were proposed in the fields of nuclear medicine, paediatrics and obstetrics. Details are to be worked out.

Meanwhile, the staff exchange program is continuing. In 2003 two medical residents from Makerere University came to MacMaster University to continue with their studies and to gain practical experience in Western style health services delivery.

## MISCELLANEOUS

- (a) Reports from Uganda indicate that there has been a phenomenal increase in the number of students seeking post secondary education. According to the Ugandan Minister in charge of Primary Education, Geraldine Bitamizire, this expansion is supposedly a result of the effective implementation of the Universal Primary Education (UPE). Government has been forced to "liberalize" the education sector and to lay groundwork for increased funding of post-secondary education so as to cope with the demand. The number of private universities in the country has increased to 9.

Access to post-secondary education is a huge issue that must be addressed systemically. FOMAC wishes to urge the government to take immediate steps to boost the training and recruitment of teachers, expand campuses, rehabilitate infrastructures and make post-secondary education a lot more accessible.

- (b) Kampala University is one of the new private universities. In 2003 150 students were awarded *degrees*, diplomas and Certificates. Professor Edward Rugumayo, Minister of Commerce, has been appointed Chancellor of the University v
- (c) According to Jack Mirembe, Senior Rehabilitation Officer in the Department of *Gender*, 280 persons with disabilities (PWD) are currently enrolled in various professional courses at Makerere University. Other universities and post secondary institutions have been encouraged to follow Makerere's example.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statements of Account for the financial year 2002/2003 are attached.

