

ANNUAL REPORT

1995-1996

The Executive Committee of FOMAC thanks everyone for the continued interest and support during the past year. It has been an interesting year in many respects, not the least of which is the fact that FOMAC got better known in Canada and around the world, partly through the magic of internet. Besides, FOMAC has served as a channel for the expressed opinions of individuals pertaining to trends in education at Makerere and in Uganda generally.

During the year the members of the Executive continued to explore and analyse issues important to Makerere and higher education in Africa and to discuss some of the challenges FOMAC is currently facing. As this report will indicate FOMAC has remained dynamic under difficult financial conditions.

MAKERERE'S RENEWED MANDATE:

As a public funded institution, Makerere has been considering what directions its educational and developmental policies should take into the twenty first century, taking account of the current financial constraints. What principles, values and goals should guide its national and international action so that it can continue to generate knowledge, create opportunities and bring about change. The result is a new Mission Statement.

According to the Statement, Makerere's vision is that of an institution of higher learning, which is conscious of the problems and development objectives of the nation and an institution that is fully integrated in society. The Mission Statement mandates Makerere to respond to the following:

- * The creating, acquisition and management of knowledge;
- * Research and appropriate knowledge transfer; and
- * Service to community for accelerated human development.

Makerere believes that carefully focused educational action gets results.

Accordingly it has identified the following among its institutional objectives:

- a) Consolidation of existing academic programmes;
- b) Uplifting of standards of professional competence in teaching, research and knowledge transfer;
- c) Initiating the development of an indigenous scientific and technological capacity needed to tackle problems of development relating to industry and society;
- d) Developing and instituting periodic curriculum review;
- e) Rehabilitating, expanding and maintaining a functional physical plant and pursuing increased budgetary provisions for equipment, chemicals and library supplies;

- f) Offering opportunity for study to students from abroad and establishing collaborative linkages with similar institutions outside Uganda;
- g) Establishing self-reliance schemes within the University;

Makerere's new vision goes beyond crisis management and damage control and Friends of Makerere everywhere welcome it and commit themselves to work with the University so that it can meet its objectives. It is no accident that FOMAC's first objective is "to promote the advancement of education primarily at Makerere...."

An interesting and welcome development during the year has been the establishment by Makerere of an Alumni Office. It is headed by Ms. Euphemia Kalema, Special Assistant to the Vice Chancellor, with the assistance of Mrs. Bukenya of the Convocation office. The impact of this new office has already been felt through rapid communication to and from Kampala.

MAKERERE UNIVERSITY PRESS:

The project to establish a University press at Makerere, which was reported on in ' the last FOMAC Annual report, is gaining steam. It will be recalled that FOMAC consultant Mr. Ian Montagnes had submitted a preliminary report on the subject which was subsequently referred to Makerere for review and comment.

Makerere in turn established a local committee to study and respond to the issues raised by the consultant. The Makerere committee, called "Editorial Board", has now concluded its analysis and forwarded its comments. In brief, the Board supports the concept of a University press at Makerere which it says is "overdue" and looks forward to a detailed discussion with the consultant.

FOMAC expects this project to move further and fast following the anticipated visit to Uganda by the consultant which should result in the preparation of a marketable project proposal.

NETWORKING:

During the past year FOMAC has witnessed an avalanche of inquiries and communication contacts, thanks to the access provided by the internet. FOMAC is on the WEB and its WEB SITE with the counter title "FRIENDS OF MAKERERE IN CANADA INC." is accessible as follows:

<URL:<http://imul.com/uganda/fomac.html>>, hosted by the courtesy of Informal! (Uganda) Limited <URL:<http://imul.com>>.

The Website was set up and is maintained by Mr. Mark Olweny. It was originally housed by the School of Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Urban design at the University of Adelaide, South Australia and we are very grateful to both Mark and the School. The Uganda site is more permanent.

Through this channel inquiries have been received from former students, teachers and friends of Makerere from around the world, including Australia, Japan, New Zealand, USA, Europe, S. Africa and Canada. As much information as is available has been provided to those who request it. The Quarterly Newsletter has been the main link, supplemented by the FOMAC brochure and direct communication by letter or e-mail.

These communications are likely to lead to the establishment of at least two Friends of Makerere chapters: in Australia and the U.K.

In Australia, Mr. Patrick Mwesigye and Mr. Samuel Otim both doctoral students at the University of Sydney and more recently Mr. Agasha Mugasha of Australia National University, are actively working on establishing FOMADU (Friends of Makerere Down Under). Efforts in the United Kingdom are spearheaded by Prof.

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Margaret McPherson and Dr. Clem Kiire, newly arrived from Zimbabwe. Given the large number of Makerere alumni and friends in the UK it should be possible to report on success soon. Already we understand a committee drafting the constitution has been set up.

At this juncture FOMAC is happy to report that the Executive Committee has established a working relationship with the University of Science and Technology in Mbarara, Uganda.

The new university is headed by Makerere alumni and far from presenting competition, it actually complements Makerere. Judging from the accounts of the academics who visited recently, they were energized and stimulated by the different experiences at both universities, given their diversity in terms of students, faculty, geography and history. FOMAC supports the building of links among students and faculty who are pooling expertise and finding common answers to shared problems.

ACADEMIC EXCHANGE:

One of the key objectives of FOMAC is to fund or sponsor academic exchanges between Makerere and institutions elsewhere. Funding continues to be a challenge. However, FOMAC's contacts have resulted in visits to Makerere by various academics. These visits have been rewarding to Makerere and, by all accounts, to the scholars concerned. Some of the highlights include the following:

In February 1996, Dr. Jane Banfield and her spouse Dr. Robert Hayes, both of York University in Ontario, Canada, visited Makerere. They were warmly welcomed by the Vice Chancellor Prof. John Sebuwufu and the alumni coordinator Ms. Kalema. As an "OM"-old Makererian - Dr. Banfield toured her old haunts including Mary Stuart Hall. She gave a lecture to a political science class on "Changing Canadian Federalism". Dr. Robert Hayes similarly lectured at Mulago Hospital.

Dr. Peter Kagoma of Brantford, Ontario, Canada, spent two weeks in March 1996, teaching hematology to undergraduate and post graduate classes at both Makerere and Mbarara Medical schools. In addition, Dr. Kagoma delivered several items from Canadian donors to the two institutions. They consisted of medical text books and laboratory equipment including microscopes. At both Makerere and Mbarara, Dr. Kagoma conferred with the Vice Chancellors - Dr. John Sebuwufu and Dr. Frederick Kayanja - and Makerere Medical School Dean - Dr. Gilbert Bukenya.

Dr. Okot-Nyormoi of the MD Anderson Cancer Centre in Houston, Texas, USA visited Makerere in December 1995. His observations on his return are interesting and underline the value of such visits in the sense of drawing attention to existing shortcomings in the system and suggesting solutions.

Mr. Agasha Mugisha of Australia National University visited Makerere recently and reported on the acute shortage of books and the attempts being made to repair the physical plant.

These visits are indeed welcome and FOMAC encourages those who can afford them to do so. Clearly Makerere deserves more, and funds permitting, we hope to launch a proper academic exchange programme during the Jubilee Year of 1997. Already a positive step has been taken by both Makerere and Mbarara in the area of accommodation.

They have agreed to provide short-term accommodation (2-4 weeks) while they continue to search for longer term (6-12 months) accommodation. Those interested and are academically inclined should send their C.V.'s for onward transmission to Makerere and Mbarara.

MAKERERE'S PLATINUM JUBILEE (1922 - 1997):

1997 will mark Makerere's 75 years of existence (1922-1997). FOMAC plans to commemorate the year with a series of activities and encourages alumni and friends elsewhere to do likewise.

The high point of FOMAC's celebration will be a benefit dinner in Winnipeg attended by former Canadian Prime Minister the Rt. Hon. Joe Clark on Saturday November 16, 1996. Mr. Clark will address key issues of education in Africa and Canada. It is hoped that the Vice Chancellor of Makerere will attend and FOMAC encourages alumni and friends who are able to make it to Winnipeg to join us.

Among the Jubilee activities planned are the production of a suitably designed T-Shirt, a plaque with names of special donors to hang in the Main Hall at Makerere, a raffle and of course the launching of an academic exchange programme.

FOMAC PRIZES:

In keeping with one of its objectives, FOMAC has established prizes to be awarded to the best student in each of the professional faculties at Makerere to stimulate academic excellence. When more funds become available more faculties and departments will benefit from the prizes. In recognition of the generosity of the first donor, the first set of prizes will be known as FOMAC/SPEAR MOTORS prizes. They are worth a total of \$1,000.00 annually.

BOOKS AND JOURNALS:

One of the most cherished projects of FOMAC is procurement of educational materials for Makerere. There is an acute shortage of books and journals at all the academic institutions in Uganda and FOMAC believes that donations from individuals and institutions can help meet the need. An example of the "shortage" is the Uganda Journal. A publication of the Uganda Society, it was published twice annually since 1922 and covered diverse academic and scientific subjects and helped preserve and promote Uganda's literary, scientific and cultural heritage. Unfortunately, for financial reasons, it ceased publication in 1984. At the recent revival of the Journal it was found that some back issues were missing. An appeal has therefore gone out for donations. Please alumni and friends, check your shelves.

Meanwhile, the first consignment of books and journals sent by FOMAC has arrived in Uganda and will soon be delivered to Makerere. The transportation was facilitated by Dr. George Otto of Toronto, to whom FOMAC is grateful.

We continue to encourage individuals and institutions to donate books, journals and other scholastic material, and to contact local libraries and publishing houses for "surplus" copies. Makerere has sent a list of "needed journals" and it will be made available to those who request for it.

FINANCES:

Audited accounts for 1994/1995 are appended to this Report. Accounts for 1995/96 will be submitted at the next Annual General Meeting. FQMAC appeals to alumni and friends to show support by sending in their donations, gifts and materials. As indicated previously support can be demonstrated in different ways, example:

1. Sending in Annual membership fee of \$20.00
2. Making an annual pledge for any amount
3. Joining the special donation category groups of
 - a) SPONSOR - \$500 - \$999 OR
 - b) FOUNDER- \$1,000- \$4,999 OR
 - c) BUILDER - \$5,000.00 +

At this juncture, FOMAC is pleased to announce a new FOUNDER MEMBER, Dr. Seggane Musisi of Toronto has sent a donation of \$1,000.00 that qualifies him for the category. We commend Dr. Musisi and call on others to follow his example.

FOMAC informs everyone that discussions with the Royal Bank of Canada have been concluded and now payments to FOMAC can be made by VISA. Feel free to use your VISA account.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Since the last AGM two members of the Executive Committee moved on: Mr. Yunus Lubega and Mrs. Phoebe Olweny. In their place, the following were coopted: Mr. Swaib Mbabaali and Mr. Edmond Mupondwa. The Committee has continued to function well and to work towards the fulfilment of its mandate.

