

**Friends of Makerere in Canada, Inc
(FOMAC)**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2007 / 2008**

INTRODUCTION

This is the Annual Report of the Friends of Makerere in Canada, Inc (FOMAC) for the period 2007 /2008. It covers some of the activities carried out during this period.

FOMAC has continued to carry out policies and projects that promote the advancement of higher education primarily at Makerere but also elsewhere in Uganda and Africa. It has provided information and leadership to the alumni and friends of Makerere in Canada and around the world. It has strengthened its advocacy role for higher education in Africa.

FOMAC believes that universities such as Makerere are places where, inter alia, students are educated to become engaged citizens and are equipped with knowledge and skills to become active contributors to societal development as well as to national and global economies. Often such knowledge and skills may lead to better job opportunities. As well, students are assisted to develop research capabilities and to form ideas that could hopefully lead to new discoveries in various fields. As Francis Bacon once said, "knowledge is Power."

Therefore universities, especially in Africa, deserve the support of governments. Governments must realize that investment in people is fundamental to human and economic development. Without healthy and educated people the struggle against poverty, disease and ignorance will not be won.

FOMAC is pleased with the continuing cooperation of various Canadian universities as well as national institutions such as the Canadian Agency for International Development (CIDA) and the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada. Through their support, under the Programme of University Partnerships in Cooperation and Development, both Makerere and the nation of Uganda have benefited from the Canadian taxpayers. Examples of the collaboration are described in this report.

The Executive Committee of FOMAC has met regularly and carried out its constitutional mandate to lead the organization. The finances have been well managed, as the attached Auditor's Report testifies. The guiding principles of TARA (transparency, accountability, responsibility and activity) have been adhered to.

FOMAC appreciates the cooperation it has received from its partners in Ontario, Canada, the United Kingdom and in Kampala, Uganda.

The President of FOMAC is grateful to the members of the Executive Committee for their support and dedication. These individuals, Dr. Francis Amara, Dr. Martin Nyachoti, Mr. Peter Luzige, Ms Harimah Kaddu, Mr. Andre' Doumbe and Ms Fatumah Mbabaali, have worked tirelessly and diligently on behalf of FOMAC. They have brought to the table new experiences and skills which have combined with their dedication and commitment to make FOMAC a more effective and viable organization.

Finally, FOMAC has been in existence for almost 16 years. It has initiated and implemented various programmes and projects, many of which have been assessed to be useful and relevant. It has established useful contacts and relationships around the world. It will continue to function that way. Nevertheless, it is now proposed that in the near future FOMAC will take a critical look At its current policies and programmes and review them with a view to determining their continued relevance as well as future directions.

Wilson Okwenje
President
17 November 2008

"There is only one good - knowledge; and only one evil - ignorance."
- Socrates

PROJECTS

FRIENDSHIP HOUSE

Progress has been made in realizing FOMAC's dream of building a house at Makerere University that could be used as a temporary home for visiting academics on approved programmes. After years of discussions and negotiations a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed in April 2008, between Makerere University on one hand and FOMAC and its partners on the other. FOMAC's partners are: the Friends of Makerere University in the United Kingdom (FOMUK) and the Friends of Makerere in Kampala (FOMAK). The Vice Chancellor of Makerere, Professor Livingstone Luboobi, signed for Makerere, while Professor Charles Olweny, Dr. Michael Twaddle and Dr. Seggane Musisi, signed for FOMAC, FOMUK and FOMAK, respectively.

The MOU establishes the governing principles for the construction of the House and assigns roles and responsibilities for the parties.

This project is one example of what the alumni and their friends can do to assist Makerere achieve its current and future goals. These goals include the ability to attract and retain international partners as well as qualified resources, and increasing the university's competitive advantage.

In the period ahead FOMAC will strengthen its links with the private sector as well as with individual prospective donors and will undertake fundraising activities. In conjunction with the Coordinating Committee efforts will be made to develop specific goals and timeframes for action.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Several years ago FOMAC established a Staff Development Award, the purpose of which was to strengthen Makerere's staffing capabilities. Individuals who aspire to complete their training for higher degrees, with the expectation of taking up staff appointment at the University, are recruited and awarded a scholarship by FOMAC. On completion of training they undertake to remain and teach at Makerere. Two of the first recipients completed their training sometime ago and took up faculty positions. In the coming year, FOMAC intends to enhance this project and to refine the recruitment mechanism and process.

ADVOCACY

One of FOMAC's important roles is to provide a strong and effective representation of the alumni and friends of Makerere in Canada and elsewhere. Therefore FOMAC plans to renew relationships with other alumni organizations so that together they can develop new ideas and proposals they deem beneficial to Makerere, especially in the area of international funding during these difficult times of international financial crisis. The stakes for higher education in Africa are high and must not be left to national governments alone

In order to facilitate access to and flow of information FOMAC has developed a new and improved website. It provides a quick update of Annual and Quarterly Reports and various activities. It provides links to other online resources.

You are encouraged to visit: www.friendsofmakerere.ca

We welcome feedback and comments.

FUNDRAISING AND BUILDING RELATIONS

Regrettably FOMAC continues to be financially challenged. The resources at hand have declined. The usual sources, namely, personal donations, membership fees and annual fees have been slow in coming. The benefit dinner that is traditionally held in conjunction with the Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Memorial Lecture has not been held for sometime, owing to the fact that on several occasions a number of high ranking individuals invited to be guests of honour and to deliver the lecture have declined the invitation at a critical moment.

Lack of funds naturally puts at risk FOMAC's planned activities as well as goals. Hence efforts will be enhanced in the future, especially in building personal relationships.

FOMAC wishes to thank deeply individuals who have made selfless donations in the course of the year. A number of donors have extended their contributions through the United Way of Canada. We wish to bring to the attention of other potential donors in Canada that they too can target their yearly United Way donations to FOMAC

In this connection, we wish to acknowledge and thank the family of Norm Coghlan for their continuing support. Through their generous donations a scholarship fund has been established at the Uganda Martyrs University (UMU), to assist needy students. Through FOMAC the Norm and Pearl Coghlan Scholarship Fund has now received a total of US \$15,000.00. The disbursement is managed by a committee set up at the UMU for that purpose.

As part of building links and responding to felt needs, FOMAC has contributed financially to a project of Visiting Lecturers at the Uganda Martyrs University. The Lecturers were recruited from abroad to undertake teaching and research in the Faculty of the Built Environment at the UMU. They were involved in teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

FOMAC continues to manage the Kenya Bomb Victims Scholarship Fund on behalf of the Kenya Association of Manitoba. In September 2008 a further instalment of funds was transmitted by FOMAC to a student beneficiary at a school in Kakamega, Kenya.

We wish to remind our members and friends that FOMAC has an established practice of recognizing special donors. Individuals who have contributed a substantial amount of money do receive a special commendation and a plaque. They include:

SPONSOR \$500 - \$999
FOUNDER \$1000 - \$4999
BUILDER \$5000 and above

Please give consideration to FOMAC

MAKERERE 2008 REUNION, VANCOUVER, BC

This Reunion was held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. It was organized by a dedicated group of former students and professors of Makerere who in 1972 were made to flee the country and the university they loved when Idi Amin infamously dreamed and then forced Ugandan Asians out of the country. Many have become distinguished professionals in various fields including business, law, medicine, engineering, management, etc. The majority reside in British Columbia but many also came from various Provinces of Canada as well as

the USA, the UK, France and Germany. The memory of Makerere is still fresh and is cherished.

A number of interesting activities were organized over a period of two days 15 -17 August 2008. The Gala evening was the climax. It was attended by well over 200. It featured, as the main speaker, the renown UK journalist, author and former Ugandan, Yasmin Allibhai-Brown. She gave a wonderfully titillating speech. Makerere of the 1960s and 1970s was the focus as well as experiences thereafter especially in the UK.

FOMAC was represented by its President, Wilson Okwenje. He made a presentation and urged them to support FOMAC and Makerere as a way of giving back to the institution that gave them academic foundation and which some described as their "spiritual mother".

The Vice Chancellor of Makerere, Professor Livingstone Luboobi, was unable to attend but his message was ably delivered by Mr. Kalwant Ajimal, who is the Special Envoy for Makerere in the United Kingdom.

The Reunion provided networking opportunities. Useful contacts were established. Hopefully a Friends of Makerere chapter in Vancouver will be established in the near future.

SPOTLIGHT ON MAKERERE

Recent media reports on Makerere University have largely dwelt on the negatives, such as alleged financial mismanagement, falling academic standards, inadequate teaching materials, congestion in classrooms and halls of residence, as well as threatened or actual strikes by students and lecturers.

These challenges reflect the reality of a university that is struggling with a huge budgetary deficit. For several years Makerere's overall revenues to support teaching and research have fallen significantly. Public funding has failed to keep pace with rapid growth in student enrolment. Consequently there are severe financial constraints.

Nevertheless, Makerere has once again demonstrated its resilience. It continues to strive towards academic excellence. It seems to be saying to the world, "the best approach to adversity is to welcome it as an opportunity"

To this end, Makerere has introduced a number of new academic programmes, some of which are supported by external partners, among them, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). Examples:

1. MSc in Sustainable Tourism:

The University of Manitoba (U of M) has collaborated with Makerere to introduce a programme the purpose of which is "to improve institutional, technological and human resource capacity to develop sustainable tourism and biodiversity conservations strategies". Four faculty members of U of M have helped develop a curriculum in sustainable tourism and park management. The first student intake has taken place in the fall of 2008.

2. Health Management Training

The University of Alberta is collaborating with Makerere to improve the quality of health care delivery through better management and orientation of health care workers, especially in Northern Uganda. Health managers from this region are given knowledge and skills in health management by both Makerere Medical School and its Institute of Public Health as well as faculty members from the University of Alberta

3. Makerere and the University of British Columbia are cooperating in developing an effective and safe method of treating Congenital Clubfoot Deformity in Uganda. Ugandan surgeons, medical students, orthopaedic officers and technicians have been trained to detect and manage congenital clubfoot. The goal is to make available the treatment of clubfoot in a sustainable fashion.

4. The University of Calgary and the Mbarara University of Science and Technology are collaborating in a project to strengthen child health in rural Uganda. The focus is on childhood illnesses for children under five. The object is to ultimately lower rates of infant and child mortality, improve immunization and better nutrition through health education.

FOMAC appreciates the fact that CIDA has made it possible for a number of Canadian universities to participate in the academic activities of Makerere and Mbarara Universities.

Other new programmes at Makerere include:

- (a) *MSc Programme in Renewable Energy*: This is a two-year programme in renewable energy that will cover such areas as Hydropower, Solar Energy and Bio-energy. It is funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)
- (b) *Bachelor of Science in Nutrition, Master of Science in Plant Breeding and Seed Systems, Master of Science in Bio-chemistry, Master of Arts in Rural Development and Master of Science in Applied Mathematics.*

As always, FOMAC is prepared to refer to Makerere University applications from any individuals from Canada who wish to take up graduate or postgraduate training or teaching at Makerere.

MISCELLANEOUS

- (a) A member of FOMAC Executive Committee, Dr. Francis Amara, was recently honoured by the University of Manitoba for his outreach educational work in the communities in Manitoba. He received the university's Outreach Award of Excellence. Dr. Amara is Associate Professor and Educational Specialist at the U of M. FOMAC Executive and members extend their congratulations to Dr. Amara.
- (b) FOMAC has encouraged and supported Francis Amara for a special project he is directing. It is a project for Science Exploration and Discovery for Inner City Students. The purpose is to introduce and motivate inner city students to take up science by exposing them to modern science laboratories and to cultivate and develop their passion for science and technology.
- (c) FOMAC has supported the Ugandan-Canadian Association of Manitoba (UCAM) and the Mennonite Central Committee in their joint efforts to raise awareness and aid victims of conflict and violence in Northern Uganda. FOMAC was happy to participate in the fundraising project

called "Face the Faces" that featured Mr. Stephen Lewis as guest speaker.

FOMAC FINANCIAL REPORTS ARE ATTACHED

"The direction in which education starts a man will determine his future in life."

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