

## FRIENDS OF MAKERERE IN CANADA, INC (FOMAC)

### ANNUAL REPORT 2009 / 2010

#### GENERAL

The Annual General Meeting that was convened on 7 November 2009 did not proceed for lack of a quorum. The Constitution of FOMAC provides that "the quorum for the AGM shall be not less than half of the members in good standing." Unfortunately the attendance on that occasion fell short of the required number. Nevertheless, the work of FOMAC has proceeded normally, pending the convening of this year's AGM. FOMAC recognizes the challenges of volunteering, especially at a time of economic hardship and appreciates the sacrifices of those who have been willing to give their time, energy and talent to the organization. As well we recognise that a volunteer is someone who has the freedom to choose.

FOMAC has maintained a close relationship with the Alumni Office of the Vice Chancellor of Makerere University, especially as relates to the Friendship House project. The Coordinating Committee, on which FOMAC is represented by the Kampala Chapter, is continuing to review the financial and construction details. Clearly much more needs to be done to secure the funding necessary. FOMAC has also kept in contact with the sister organizations in Ontario ((FOMOC) and the United Kingdom (FOMUK). These branches face many challenges but luckily they have continued to represent their members well in their respective jurisdictions.

Makerere is likely to benefit from a new project financially supported by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and executed by the Association of the Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC). FOMAC has been informed by AUCC that it has formed a partnership with the Association of African Universities, which includes Makerere, to strengthen the universities' relationships with local and regional industries. Makerere will be linked more closely with the private sector, positioning it to better develop knowledge and a highly skilled workforce to meet national economic needs and contribute to economic growth and poverty reduction. Makerere, like many other African

universities, continues to suffer from under-resourcing, due largely to the decline in public funding. Therefore this CIDA funded project will hopefully reinforce Makerere's pivotal role as an important instrument of national development.

In addition to this university-industry linkage, AUCC will help strengthen the university's outreach programme. It is expected that Makerere, in partnership with Canadian universities, will strengthen its strategic plans for improved outreach and extra mural studies.

## **SOME DEVELOPMENTS AT MAKERERE UNIVERSITY**

### **Makerere University is to decentralise**

Makerere University's Vice Chancellor, Professor Venansius Baryamureeba, has announced a plan to decentralise the university by opening two new campuses away from Kampala. There is to be a campus in Jinja, which will provide undergraduate training leading to a BSc in Computer Science, BA in Information Technology and BA in Tourism. The second campus will be located in Fort Portal. It will train students for a Bachelor in Commerce, Bachelor of Science in Surveying and Land Economics as well as a Bachelor of Science in Land and Conceptual Economics. Full details are yet to be worked out. However, the Vice Chancellor has indicated that the primary objective is to de-congest Makerere and also to make university education more accessible to students from upcountry districts.

Makerere has signed an agreement with the Uganda Telecommunication Company (UTL) which will provide the communication infrastructure and computers to the new centres. Some of the lectures will be accessed through a video conferencing system to be installed by UTL. It is estimated that the company will inject US \$23 million into the five year project.

### **Gender Parity**

Earlier this year Makerere conducted its 60<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony. According to the University Chancellor, Professor Mondo Kagonyera, 13,766 students graduated, as compared to 11,400 the year before. For the first time ever females have surpassed males in graduation numbers. Out of 13,766 students who graduated this year, 6,936 or 50.4 % were female, while 6,830 or 49.6% were

male. Female graduates out-numbered males at other levels except at the doctoral level.

The Chancellor observed that this development was a major step towards promoting gender balance in the country. This year Makerere awarded 39 doctorates, 1249 Master's degrees, 74 post graduate diplomas and 12, 131 undergraduate degrees. Among the undergraduates, 220 earned first class certificates. It is expected that many of them will proceed for further studies and choose academic careers as researchers or lecturers.

#### **Animal Disease Control**

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has offered the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at Makerere \$4.5 million to establish a National Animal Disease Diagnostic Centre. The centre will assist in the fight against animal diseases and in the promotion of livestock development as part of poverty reduction and socio-economic development in the country. As well it will contribute to skills development in the field of veterinary sciences.

#### **Makerere's Ranking**

According to Webometrics, an organization that monitors university performance worldwide, Makerere has improved in ranking in Africa from 28<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>. Globally, Makerere is placed at # 2,685. When the ranking was first published in 2004, Makerere was in 18<sup>th</sup> position. It slipped to 23<sup>rd</sup> in 2006 and slipped further to 54<sup>th</sup> in 2007. However things have now changed. According to the Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of academic affairs, Professor Tibatemwa Ekirikubinza, Makerere has made a conscious effort to publish research online, which they did not do before. ICT has become a major component in research and Makerere has started to embrace it and to promote increased volume and quality of electronic publications. Hence the improvement in ranking



## **Restructuring**

In March 2010 Makerere announced a staff restructuring which may ultimately lead to the sacking of up to 500 lecturers. The Vice Chancellor, Professor Baryamureeba, announced a process that involves a comprehensive review of the curricula and workload per lecturer. A review committee is examining all academic programmes, with a view to revising, merging, removing duplication of courses or eliminating some altogether while, if necessary, introducing new critical ones. Currently Makerere has a student population of 36, 000 and employs 1,700 permanent academic staff, as well as 490 part-time lecturers. It prohibits academic staff from carrying out private consultancies.

## **Professor Mahmood Mamdani returns to Makerere**

Prof Mamdani has been appointed to head Makerere University's Institute of Social Research (MISR). After an absence of nearly 17 years the renowned scholar will replace Dr. Nakanyike Musisi who has retired after ten years of service.

Mamdani first joined Makerere in 1972 but left in 1973 and joined the University of Dar-es-Salaam where he taught as Lecturer and later Senior Lecturer. He returned to Makerere and rose to the position of Associate Professor in 1984. He left Makerere in 1993 to join Columbia University.

Dr. Mamdani, a Ugandan of Asian origin, received his Ph. D from Harvard University in 1974 and specialises in African history and politics. He has been a professor at Columbia University, New York, and has published widely. He has been critical of the way Makerere has been managed in recent years. His 2007 book, *Scholars in the Market Place*, criticised the commercialization of university education in Uganda and the lack of academic research and publications by Makerere professors. The book accused the University of duplicating courses for the sake of generating revenue from the private sector. It caused unease but evidently it is all forgiven.

**AUDITOR'S REPORT SUBMITTED SEPARATELY**