

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME REMARKS from Mr Simon Anguma, Dean, Faculty of Science, Mbarara University of Science and Technology.

Address

The Science & Technology Officer at the World Bank I/C MSI Project
The Director of Commonwealth Foundation
The Director of British Council in Uganda
The Science and Technology Adviser for the Africa Unit at the Association of Commonwealth Universities
Dr. Stanley Langer
The Vice Chancellor MUST
Distinguished participants
Ladies and Gentlemen

Welcome Note

It is my great pleasure to welcome all of you to Uganda and Mbarara in particular when MUST is hosting the Pre-CHOGM symposium on Science and Technology.

The initial concept of the symposium was born in the realization of the fact that the provision of scientific knowledge by our education sector has not adequately responded to the society's needs.

This is evidenced by the severe shortage of skilled scientific and technological labour force; brain drain; inadequate facilities for research in Africa is mostly driven by the northern research agenda; to mention but a few. A lot of debate went into how this impasse can be handled.

In order to:

- Identify and discuss the opportunities where universities and other tertiary institutions can enhance the role of science and technology towards society transformation.
- Share experiences of best practices success stories, and working technological models.
- Set a stage for models innovation of appropriate avenues of possible linkages connecting scientific research and technological advancement to support commerce and industry.

The idea of organizing a symposium that has not brought all of us was borne. You have been selected on the basis of your contribution, work and experience in science and technology or in relation to science and technology agenda.

It is the sincere expectation of the organizers of this symposium that the deliberations on the six sub-themes will generate outcomes which will substantially contribute towards the development of science and technology in Uganda and the wider commonwealth.

On behalf of the organizing committee and on my own behalf, I therefore want to thank the partners who all contributed towards the preparation of this symposium.

In particular, I want to thank:

1. The British Council through Mr. Richard Weyers for the generous support through the interaction leadership training, which prepared a sizable number of participants for the symposium; besides supporting the 2nd panel.
2. ACU through Dr. Andy Cherry for a sustained and proactive debate on all the organizational matters of the symposium.
3. Commonwealth Foundation through Dr. Mark Collins for the provision of focused guidance during the organizational processes. Your support for LDC perfectly complemented that of MUST; we are grateful.
4. Royal Society of Chemistry through Dr. Stanley Langer for their generous support which enabled the LDC to realize a handful representation from the region.
5. Department of Innovation Universities and Skills through Dr. Andy Cherry for their support and please convey our sincere thanks to DIUS.
6. Uganda National Council for Science and Technology through Dr. Peter Ndemere for the provision of support to various aspects of the symposium. Uganda National Science week starts today and the pre-CHOGM symposium constitutes the 1st activity of the National Science week. We thank Uganda National Council for Science and Technology for their dedication to the cause of science and technology.
7. Thank MUST the host through Prof. Frederick I. B. Kayanja for availing support (in cash and kind) where we had no support. You were always there for us when things would get a sway.

Dear participants, some of you traveled long distance and may have sustained stressful experiences and fatigue. Others may not have had the same experience but were stressed by organizational shortfalls.

I sincerely apologise for all the undoing and shortfalls that you may have experienced.

I thank you for accepting my apology and once again I welcome all of you to Mbarara and the pre-CHOGM symposium on science and technology.

I wish all of you thrilling and fruitful deliberations.

Thank you for your audience.