

**Speech By Prof. Kondoro (DIT Principal) at the Opening of the EuroAfrica-ICT Awareness Workshop in Dar es Salaam, 16th April 2008**

The guest of honour,

The Chairman, Mr. David Sawe

The Representative of the European Union Delegation in Tanzania, Mr. Tim Clarke

Representative of the Meraka Institute of CSIR, Ms Kagiso Chikane

Presenters and Facilitators

Experts and Consultants invited to this meeting,

Distinguished Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to acknowledge the challenges raised by Mr. Clarke, on how to reduce poverty with ICT and pledge to work on them. However, My main function is to welcome the guest of honour to grace this conference but before I do so, let me say a few introductory remarks.

We invited the Minister of Ministry of Communication, Science & Technology who agreed to grace the occasion but due to on-going parliamentary session in Dodoma he can't join us. He requested the PS of the same Ministry who agreed and is with us here, welcome Hon. Dr. Naomi Katunzi.

On behalf of the organisers Meraka Institute and DIT, I would like to thank the guest of honour for accepting to grace this occasion despite of her busy schedule, we say thank you very much.

The motivation for the engagement of DIT in this workshop comes from the fact that DIT has a Vision of becoming the best Centre of excellence in ICT in the region. Besides, DIT is committed to developing partnership with other institutions in the world in promoting the growth of ICT, Science and

Technology in the country. We are proud to work with Meraka Institute, a well known Centre of excellence in ICT, Science and Technology as shown in the distributed leaflets.

The Guest of Honour,

DIT has a close collaboration with various ministries and institutions in China, Europe, India, Japan and Korea in the field of ICT. The European connection in ICT comes about from our friendship with the embassy of France, Leeds Metropolitan University of UK and the Royal Swedish Institute of Technology (KTH) of Sweden. DIT is also a founder member of TERNET(Tanzania Education and Research Network) and a participant of the UbuntuNet Alliance.

Last year we held a big International ICT Conference (ICT Open Access) in Bagamoyo and an International Wireless road show workshop in Dar es Salaam in cooperation with our European colleagues of the Royal Swedish Institute of Technology. Next week, in cooperation with Leeds Metropolitan University we will convene an International Workshop in Facilities Management.

DIT in collaboration with the Royal Swedish Institute of Technology, COSTECH, TANESCO, DAWASA is working on the promotion of ICT to the rural areas of Bunda – Mugumu and Chalinze through the use of redundant infrastructure.

These few examples illustrate how DIT values partnership as well as promotion of ICT, Science and Technology in the country.

Guest of Honour,

DIT has also the experience of participating in the Africa – European partnership funding competition in the Edulink programme called the ACP –

EU Partnership in Higher Education. The decision of funding programs of first call was recently announced, 11 projects were approved worth 5 Million Euros.

DIT participated in the first call of Edulink in collaboration with Politecnico de Milano and counterparts in Kenya but were eliminated in the final stages; we hope to make another attempt in 3<sup>rd</sup> call. We believe to learn how to do better in this forum.

Last but not least, we are also proud to be maintenance experts of the website of the European Union in Tanzania.

Guest of Honour,

We hope that you will find time to participate in the arranged laboratory visit which is part of this conference schedule to view some of the ICT activities of DIT.

Since ICT is one of the tasks of your Ministry of Communication, Science and Technology, I believe you will have sufficient advice for this gathering

After these introductory remarks, Ladies and gentlemen, it is now my pleasure and privilege to request the guest of honour to address this gathering and declare the conference open.

Thank you for your attention.