

MILTON MARGAI COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Dr. Dennis B. Kargbo

Principal



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10th June, 2005

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Takeshi Utsumi, Ph.D, P.E.
Founder and Vice President
Technology and Coordination
Global University System (GUS)
43-23 Colden Street
Flushing NYC, 11355-3998 USA

Dear Dr. Utsumi,

**RE: INVITATION TO GLOBAL UNIVERSITY SYSTEMS (GUS) FOR PARTNERSHIP
IN SIERRA LEONE**

It has been our pleasure to learn of your long-standing leadership and efforts for the uses of advanced technologies for distance learning in Africa. Our Principal, Dr. Dennis Kargbo, is a strong proponent of collaboration with MAMAs Project and with Global University Systems which we reviewed as integrated with MAMAs information packets. MAMAs, along with its University of Washington-led consortium, is providing us an entry point for our creative uses of distance learning, given the challenges of this post-war environment.

With her encouragement, we now formally invite you, Dr. Utsumi, and GUS to assist us in our planning and to consider our university as a model which can be developed with local partners, MAMAs and under the GUS framework for cooperative distance learning.

MAMAs university-to-community based pilots are now to be key components of new programs implemented under the Mano River Union Secretariat, a structure which we anticipate will strengthen peacebuilding and development efforts between Sierra Leone, Guinea, Liberia and the Ivory Coast.

Following wars and many other contributing problems, our needs are great, as you know. However, our talents, national history of having the first university in Sub-Saharan Africa, and our intellectual potential are equally powerful. We believe that as our educational infrastructure is strengthened, expanded to rural communities and connected to international partners for university-based education, cooperative research and peer-support, our progress from crisis to development can be accelerated.

Milton Margai College of Education and Technology is a premier training institution, with multiple campuses, for preparation of educators, engineers, technicians and entrepreneurs, within the University of Sierra Leone system. These campuses, while challenged by communication and power source needs, are strategically situated to both train professionals in uses of distance learning and to then support rural networks with internships and ongoing e-learning appropriate to needs.

We are cooperating with our counterpart leaders at the University of Sierra Leone, College of Medicine and Allied Sciences, National College of Nursing and Njala University which specializes in Agriculture. Together we anticipate the synergy and empowerment which will come with new technologies and access to world-wide collaborative opportunities and information.

I congratulate you on your well-deserved reputation as a visionary for distance learning when others thought such challenges insurmountable. I have reviewed your Japan ODA linkage which provides wonderful potential to universities such as ours. We continue to work with MAMAs, local stakeholders and with University of Washington advanced technology labs, and now are prepared to cooperate with Global University System as a key partner in the developmental strides of Sierra Leone.

Please let me know the process of our university network affiliating formally as a GUS demonstration program for Africa. We look forward to your advise on the requirements necessary for GUS linkages and Japan ODA funding.

My best wishes to you and again, I congratulate you on your vision and your endurance as you support our African universities to meet the needs of their various communities.

Yours truly,

Sam.E. Johnson
A.G. PRINCIPAL

