

VC's Closing remarks

SEANAC Inaugural Symposium, July 7-10, 2003

Time 15.30, July 10

Ladies and gentleman, I hope you have had a pleasant stay and fruitful symposium. I note that the theme of the symposium was Networking for regional prosperity. It is indeed my expectation that the interactions you have had over the last few days will go a long way in the realisation of the theme.

Let me assure you that you have my support as indeed my University has participated in many regional and international partnerships. As many of you may have noted the University has modern facilities for especially scientific research and students training. These will be at your disposal in your endeavours to realise the theme of your conference.

Through the faculty of science, my institute has been involved in the regional Ushepia programme. This has enabled a number of scientists some from your institutions to spend time at the University of Botswana undertaking several collaborative research programmes. Under this programme, a number of visiting students from regional institutions have had fruitful stays at respective departments at the University of Botswana.

Internationally UB has been involved several UNESCO programmes. These programmes have impacted in the areas of staff exchange, student training and acquisition of several scientific instrumentation. I am sure you will

agree with me that this is in line with the main objectives of your SEANAC. My institution will and has the ability to promote Analytical Chemistry through collaborative research, research training, teaching and information sharing. Analytical Chemists are already involved in collaborative research projects such as the NUFU and Sida programmes that involve the governments of Norway and Sweden respectively. In teaching and information sharing, we have had and still have a number of students from the Eastern and Southern Africa region undertaking postgraduate studies with us.

As the University of Botswana has already demonstrated by working through NABSA (Network for analytical and bioassay services in Africa), it has the capacity through SEANAC to facilitate inventory, access, operation, maintenance and repairs of analytical instrumentation.

You are all most welcome to exploit this capacity.

In conclusion, I want to take this opportunity to thank the international organisations for their support and participation in this gathering. We shall continue to collaborate with organisations with similar aims. It has been our pleasure to host you in Gaborone.

A special thank you also goes to all the international scientists that have participated in this gathering. We now wish you a safe trip back home. For those of you that will take time to go to Kasane, enjoy the spirit of Botswana.