

## Meraka Institute signs memorandum of cooperation with Uganda's largest university

The signing of a memorandum of cooperation between the Meraka Institute of the CSIR and [Makerere University](#) in Kampala, Uganda, holds the potential for productive collaboration between these two institutions. This is the view of Kagiso Chikane, centre manager of the Meraka Institute who signed the document on behalf of the CSIR on 20 October 2008.

Professor Venansius Baryamureeba, Dean, Faculty of Computing and IT, signed on behalf of Makerere University.



Front: Johan Eksteen, Kagiso Chikane, Professor Venansius Barya Baryamureeba (Dean, Faculty of Computing and IT, Makerere University) and Karin Vallin (EuroAfrica-ICT coordinator, Orionis) Back: Mmboneni Muofhe (General Manager: International Resources, Department of Science and Technology, SA)

The event coincided with the EuroAfriCa ICT awareness workshop held in Kampala from 20 to 21 October 2008 at the Protea Hotel, Kampala, Uganda. The workshop was the 10th of its kind and the second to be organised in the framework of the EuroAfriCa-ICT initiative by the Makerere University. The objective of the workshop was to promote and support the development of strategic cooperation on ICT research between Europe, central-eastern, sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean. The EuroAfriCa-ICT project is a support action funded by the European Commission Directorate [General Information Society and Media](#) through its [7th Framework Programme](#) for Research and Technological Development.

This memorandum, with one of the most prestigious eastern African higher education institutions, covers all research activities of mutual relevance. Johan Eksteen, the manager of the Meraka Institute's technology research programme, commented, "This development allows us to strengthen our African cooperation and work together with the best." Makerere University has strong links with the Netherlands, which in turn has the potential for future joint cooperation by these two African institutions with European counterparts.

Makerere University is Uganda's largest university and has 22 faculties, institutes and schools offering programmes for about 30 000 undergraduates and 3 000 postgraduates. First established in 1922, it became an independent national university in 1970. Its facilities include well-utilised computer laboratories, ranging in size from 300 to 700 computers.

This new relationship builds on existing links between the Meraka Institute and Makerere University. In July 2008, Dr Dorothy Okello's Community Wireless Resource Centre was named as one of three reference sites for the Wireless Africa project, a unique pan-African initiative led by the Meraka Institute. This project, funded by the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC) for a period of two years, is a collaborative research and development project to study, validate and enhance business models that achieve economic sustainability of wireless infrastructure in rural and remote areas.