



Acknowledgement

Esteemed Readers,

Once again, I take this opportunity to welcome you to the seventh edition of the *Tanzania and UNESCO Magazine* which highlights key issues on Education, Science, Culture, Communication and Information in Tanzania and presents an annual overview of selected activities of the UNESCO National Commission of the United Republic of Tanzania. I would like to thank the contributors for highlighting pertinent issues and challenges that need the attention of all us as key UNESCO stakeholders.

The UNESCO National Commission coordinated the participation of the Tanzania delegation to the 35th UNESCO General Conference in October 2009. During the General Conference, Tanzania was elected to the Council of the International Bureau of Education (IBE) and to the Committee of the International Programme for Development Communication (IPDC). We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the President of Zanzibar and all the other delegates and Experts who attended the Conference.

During the year under review, the UNESCO National Commission planned to revitalize some National Committees of UNESCO Intergovernmental Programmes; these include the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP), the Information for All Programme (IFAP) and International Programme for Development Communication (IPDC). Members of these committees were appointed by the Minister of Education and Vocational Training who is also in charge of UNESCO affairs in the country. We would like to acknowledge all those who agreed to serve in these National Committee and we promise to work closely with them in discharging their functions.

In coordinating the implementation of the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE) programme, the Commission developed and printed a three year programme document for the IYPE. This was launched in Dar es Salaam by the Hon. Minister for Education and Vocational Training, Hon. Jumanne Maghembe in September 2009. The Commission also launched a Youth Desk at the Commission under the Chairmanship of Mr. F. Makaranga. The Desk will be instrumental in mobilizing Youth to participate in UNESCO programmes. We would like to acknowledge the contributions of all those who worked tirelessly to make the launching of IYPE programme and the Youth Desk success.

In 2009, the UNESCO National Commission organized its first UNESCO National Commission Stakeholders Consultative Meeting. It was a one day meeting with the major objective of seeking to sensitize and involve UNESCO stakeholders in the implementation of UNESCO programmes and activities. The meeting discussed and deliberated upon issues pertinent to UNESCO and the Commission. Close cooperation between UNESCO Commission and its stakeholders is crucial, particularly at a time when the UNESCO National Commission is evolving into an autonomous Government entity. We would like to acknowledge the contributions made by our stakeholders especially those directed to the proposed UNESCO National Commission Strategic Plan for 2010-2013.

I would also like to acknowledge with thanks all those who contributed towards the implementation of UNESCO activities in Tanzania and who represented Tanzania in the various UNESCO programme meetings both within the country and abroad. It is not possible to mention all of you, please take note that we appreciate your contributions and we hope that you will continue supporting the UNESCO Commission by participating effectively in UNESCO Programmes and activities in the next biennium (2010-2011).

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the support the Commission received from the UNESCO Cluster Office especially from the newly appointed Director, Ms. Vibeke Jensen. We welcome her to Tanzania and we promise to work very closely with her in promoting UNESCO principles and ideals; that of promoting the culture of peace and international understanding.

Prof. Elizabeth Kiondo

Secretary-General, UNESCO National Commission of the United Republic of Tanzania