

WELCOMING REMARKS BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER FOR WORKS OF TANZANIA, MR. JOHN P. MAGUFULI, AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE FIRST ROAD TRANSPORTATION TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER CONFERENCE IN AFRICA (AFRICA T² 2001)

HELD AT ARUSHA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE (AICC) – ARUSHA, 23rd – 25th MAY, 2001.

- *Your Excellency the Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Dr. Omar Ali Juma,*
- *Honourable the Regional Commissioner for Arusha Region, Mr. Daniel Ole Njoolay,*
- *The Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Works, Mr. Solomon Odunga,*
- *The Chairperson of the Tanzania T² Centre Management Committee, Mr. John Kijazi,*
- *Distinguished Conference Participants,*
- *Ladies and Gentlemen.*

Before welcoming *His Excellency the Vice President* to open this conference, I take this opportunity on behalf of the Ministry of Works, Tanzania T² Centre and the Conference Delegates to express our delightment for the honour accorded to this conference by the presence of *Your Excellency the Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania*. We know you have a very busy schedule of other National engagements, but we are grateful that you accepted our invitation and accommodated us in your schedule. This is a reflection of the importance you attach to the Road Sector activities. *Thank you very much Honourable Vice President.*

I also wish to thank all the Delegates who have attended this Conference, especially those who have traveled long distances from outside Tanzania. We highly value the presence of every delegate in this Conference because Technology Transfer is about learning new technologies from each other. It is therefore my expectation that Conference Delegates will make the best use of their time during this three days gathering in order to attain maximum technology transfer.

On behalf of the Ministry of Works, I say **KARIBUNI SANA**, and I hope that you will find your stay here in Arusha and in Tanzania both interesting and rewarding.

Your Excellency the Vice President and Conference Delegates.

The organization of this first Africa T² conference has been possible due to the commitment and dedication of our Tanzania T² Centre Staff, the Management Committee of the Centre and the strong support availed by the Ministry of Works. I am glad that after more than one year of preparations, today the conference has become a reality. At this juncture, I wish to thank all the organizations, which contributed funds generously for organizing this conference. Apart from the ***Ministry of Works***, other organizations which have contributed are the ***Federal Highway Administration of the USA, PIARC, RMI Unit of the World Bank, TANROADS, SUPER DOLL, COWI CONSULT, SPENCON, KONOIKE, M-CONSULT, Contractors Registration Board, M.A. Kharafi & Sons and CHINA CICO.***

The Ministry of Works sincerely thanks all these organizations for their support.

Your Excellency the Vice President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me now to say a few words about our Tanzania T² Centre. Our cooperation between the Ministry of Works, Tanzania and the USA Federal Highway Administration started way back in 1997. Since then, several programmes have been implemented with the objective to help road providers and users in Tanzania to improve delivery of their road transport activities. On behalf of the Ministry of Works, I take this opportunity to thank the US FHWA for their continued and indeed very valuable support to the Tanzania T² Centre.

Some of the most notable programmes accomplished by the Centre to-date are as follows:

- i) The first accomplishment is the establishment of the Tanzania T² Centre. The Centre has a library and serves as a node of the World Inter-change Network (WIN). It therefore can access and obtain information available at World Inter-change Network through Internet and other means. The Centre is also in the process of establishing its Web Site.

- ii) The Centre is in the process of introducing a TRAC (Transport and Civil Engineering) programme in three pilot Secondary Schools of Mzizima, Jangwani and Azania in Dar es Salaam. TRAC programme is a Computer based hands-on science and mathematics educational programme. The programme gives Secondary School Students an opportunity to use Computers to simulate and solve real-world problems in Transportation and Civil Engineering and hence it inspires them to consider careers in the field of Transportation and Civil Engineering.
- iii) In an effort to improve the capacity of personnel involved in contracts Management, the Centre has Conducted a Road Works Contract Management Course which attracted 38 participants from both Public and Private organizations in May, 2000.
- iv) The Centre in collaboration with Tanzania Association of Civil Engineers (TACECA) has initiated preparation of a Local Contractor Development Programme with the support of the US Federal Highway Administration and the US National Association of Minority Contractors (NAMC). A CONTRACTORS DEVELOPMENT MISSION from the USA has already visited Tanzania for the purpose of studying the capability and capacity of indigenous Tanzania Contractors and based on the findings, the Mission will recommend strategies to develop them and the required resource support.
- v) Through the Centre, the US FHWA has introduced Loaned Staff Programme under which Tanzania Staff participate in practical training in the USA so as to improve their capacity and learn the best practices in specific fields. On return home, the gained knowledge and experience will be utilized and disseminated to others. Already under this programme, one Tanzanian is already loaned to the US National Highway Institute for 18 months. While there, she is responsible for developing training programmes specifically for Developing Countries.
- vi) Between 14th – 22nd May, 2001 the T² Centre in collaboration with the USA National Highway Institute and support from the Ministry of Works, us Federal Highway Administration and RMI have conducted courses on ***“Training of the Trainers”*** and ***“Design and Operations of Work Zone Traffic Control”*** here in Arusha. The course attracted participants from Tanzania, Malawi and Zimbabwe.

- vii) Finally, the organization of this Conference is yet another notable milestone of the Tanzania T² Centre.

Your Excellency the Vice President and Conference delegates,

These are some of the programmes so far accomplished by our T² Centre. I take this opportunity to request all Road Sector Stakeholders to use the Centre effectively by appraising the Centre of their needs so that it searches for the required information or technology, or it organizes tailored seminars or workshops to address the identified needs.

Your Excellency the Vice President Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion, let me thank all those who prepared papers for presentation to this Conference. We realize that without their professional contributions this Conference wouldn't become a reality. Thank you very much all for sharing with others your knowledge and experience.

Finally, I very sincerely thank the Management Committee and Staff of the T² Centre and the Organizing Committee of this Conference for their dedication to the task of organizing this conference successfully. Thank you very much and share the experience you have gained in under-taking this challenging task with other countries, which intend to prepare similar conferences in future.

After these remarks, your ***Excellency the Vice President***, it is now my pleasure to invite you to formally open this Conference.

Welcome please.