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Office of the Minister of
Health & Sanitation
Youyi Building, Brookfields
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17th June, 2005

Ref: MIN /0023/ MHS

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

Re: Invitation to Global University System (GUS) and MAMaS for Sierra Leone

Dear Dr. Utsumi,

As Minister of Health, I whole-heartedly support the invitation to Global University System to assist, advise and help leverage resources for our health education institutions, our clinics and hospitals and the general public in Sierra Leone. We are committed to cooperation with other Mano River Union countries in addressing these critical needs and see the Global University System programme, with MAMaS as a local implementor, as a promising and exciting partnerships.

The Ministry is painfully aware of the needs for both community health sensitization and for the rapid education of health professionals in our country. Of course, the potential for distance learning which can address these needs is of great interest to me and to my colleagues across health sectors.

I have been advised of your pioneering work on behalf of developing countries as a visionary for uses of advanced communications to bring both education and medical cooperation where infrastructure is minimal or non-existent. Your Global University System (GUS) is well represented by the MAMaS Project in Sierra Leone, still in planning phases for integrated approaches to public health and community medicine education and coordination.

Now we seek to directly invite the Global University System (GUS), in cooperation with MAMaS and our local health stakeholders, to partner with Sierra Leone at each

appropriate level for the use of advanced technologies and as formally affiliated with the GUS network with its structure for Japan ODA resources to support such efforts.

We are currently focused on HIV/AIDS as a major threat to our populations, but other grave health realities exist which also must be addressed. Our maternal and infant mortality rate is one of the highest in the world, although prior to the war we had the distinction of leadership in research on prevention of maternal mortality in Africa and were on our way to addressing this horrific problem for our families and communities.

Now we will work with MAMaS and other local experts in medicine and technology to accelerate the education and re-education of midwives, traditional birth attendants, healthworkers and counselors for HIV/AIDS testing and treatment, plus the education and support necessary to strengthen our hospital and clinic infrastructure with their logistical and resource challenges.

Again, we are all grateful for your commitment to the uses of advanced communications for health and sustainable development in Africa.



Abator Thomas (Ms)
Minister of Health and Sanitation

