

**Cover letter of Prof. Gbakima
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THE UNIVERSITY OF SIERRA LEONE

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OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR



Freetown
Sierra Leone

Our Ref:.....

Date...4th July, 06.....

Your Ref:.....

To Whom It May Concern:

Subject: Funding Inquiry for Fact Finding Mission and Planning Workshop for the Establishment of GUS/Sierra Leone with MAMAS Project as Community Outreach Network

We write to ask for financial assistance of any amount up to US\$137,000 for the fact-finding mission and the planning workshop under leadership of Dr. Takeshi Utsumi, founder of Global University System, with subsequent collaboration for proposal to Japan Official Development Assistance (ODA) Fund.

The Global University System/Sierra Leone (GUS/Sierra Leone) will incorporate technologies and access to customized e-health/telemedicine and e-learning infrastructure as these systems promote capacity for health and development both at the university level and as the institutions link to and from remote communities.

GUS/Sierra Leone, linked to MAMAS (Mobile Assessment and Media Systems), is prepared to cooperate with education and health sectors to develop a well-funded, geographically strategic model of e-learning and e-health/telemedicine, a "working lab" in Sierra Leone for later adaptation in Mano River Union countries.

Planning Requirements for Japan ODA Funding

Planning processes will include proposals for further project funding (both Japan ODA and other donor programs for sector-specific applications of communication technologies), prepared from the field survey, participatory discussions and consultants for maximum effectiveness and sustainability of the project.

The output of the above activities will be the full proposal for GUS/Sierra Leone, with project Secretariat at University of Sierra Leone and in proposed collaboration with United Nations (UNDP and UNFPA) for both focus on HIV/AIDS and the reduction of poverty as community stabilization contributes to community health.

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GUS/Sierra Leone will be coordinated from University of Sierra Leone, in cooperation with its College of Medicine and Allied Sciences, and with peer collaboration at Njala University and Milton Margai College of Education and Technology.

As GUS model outlines, a Local Community Development Network (LCDN) will be provided by Mobile Assessment and Media Systems (MAMAS)/Sierra Leone. MAMAS, under leadership of Linda Hawkin Israel, has history in Sierra Leone of coordination across organizational and sector lines and will provide both technology planning and infrastructure components at community level, with focus to include women's empowerment.

In the period of six months after this workshop is over, the teams will produce a well-developed proposal to Japan ODA under GUS leadership, with the precise action plan and budget for the next phase of the project, which would conduct market survey, feasibility study, system design of infrastructure, design of support system and administration structure, and also construct business model for sustainability and replication in other locations with the use of wireless broadband Internet.

This exciting and important GUS/Sierra Leone project is a joint initiative with University of Sierra Leone, University of Tampere, Global University System (GUS) and University of Washington, with offices in Sierra Leone, Finland, and the US respectively.

The main objective of the project is to establish a broadband network for academic and economic development in Sierra Leone, linked to university network for medicine and public policy in Sierra Leone and international participating universities. The project will contribute to the social, economic, health and technical benefits of the country by providing interactive e-learning services to the local people.

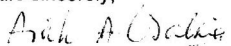
The health and economic benefits will be realized through strengthening of health infrastructure and job creation, with a broadband network infrastructure for the social welfare of the people in Sierra Leone.

Find the attached support documents for our request: Funding Inquiry and Fact-Finding Mission and Workshop Proposal.

Your contribution to this project will be highly appreciated as we continue in the fight against poverty in our rural areas and attaining global peace to the benefit of mankind.

Office of the Vice Chancellor & Principal
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Yours sincerely,



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PS: If you have a constraint to fund only to the US tax-exempt organization, please contact:

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cc:
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