

End-of-the-Year Speech 2009

Prof SDDV Rughooputh, Ag Vice Chancellor

24 Dec 2009

Thank you ALL for your presence today. It is the largest gathering of UoM Staff that I have ever seen in POWA. This gathering has been inspired by Mr I Sookhroo – who deserves an applaud.

A special thought to those who has left us forever – Mr Mukesh Sucheeta and Mr Anil Pemchand and to those who have retired, Prof Indur Fagoonee and Mr Azad Parahoo.

During my tenure as Acting VC, I have gone through a very enriching experience and there is one main lesson that I have learned.

>> You have absolutely nothing to fear when you tread on the path of truth.

The challenges that I have met have enabled me to realise that those who stay on the path of light can never be shadowed by anyone.

I have been meeting many of you as Acting VC and we have always been working together in the best interest of the University.

And we have shown to ALL that we have managed to run UoM smoothly, although there have been times when our views were not aligned. To this, I would like to quote [Walt Emerson](#)

“What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.”

We have to keep the interest of the University ahead of all other considerations.

As [William Arthur Ward](#) rightly said.

“Do more than belong: participate.

Do more than care: help.

Do more than believe: practice.

Do more than be fair: be kind.

Do more than forgive: forget.

Do more than dream: work.”

Add _ Do more with Less: be innovative

I have a profound trust in you, academics and non academics...

You all belong to the UoM family.

2009 was marked by the financial crisis - macroeconomic stagnation

› This does not alter long-term prospects for development

› We have set our course and our goals - and we will continue forward

Let me take you now to a brief overview of the highlights of 2009.

UoM continues to develop and experience growth in central areas

- Highest level of student admissions in 2009
- Highest level of graduating students in 2009
- 2009 – milestone for the number of PhDs produces: 100th mark
- 2009: 15 PhDs
- Number of academics benefiting from the Conference Attendance Scheme: 60
- Number of Events Organised: At least 100 (RSS 71, FA 4, Conferences/Workshops 10+)
 - Workshop on « Holistic Approach to Transport"
 - Conférence sur “Recherches sur la paix: Analyse comparative des guerres en cours (Israël-Palestine; Iraq; Afghanistan; Ceylan), guerres suspendues (Inde-Pakistan; Liban; Georgie)”
 - Colloque International : Sécurité alimentaire et qualité des aliments

- Workshop on AH1N1
 - UNEP Regional Workshop on Integrated Solid Waste Management
 - Energy Saving Week
 - “Maurice Ile Durable” Seminar
 - Public Lecture on Spiritual Dimension of SSR’ Political Governance
 - Lecture by Dr. The Hon. Shashi THAROOR on India-Africa: Partners in Development
 - International Conference on Forensic Science
 - Workshop on “Biomaterials: Perspectives and Possibilities”
- Number of Publication in UOM Research Journal: 42
 - Securing Larger and Larger research grants, consultancy and contract res
 - Have gained significant international/national recognition through
 - signing of at least **8** MOUs/MOAs/MOAFs.
 - More awards locally and internationally – students and staff
 - Perhaps the biggest achievement of all is that UoM has been able to secure some 12000 m² of space – 7000 m² at ebene cybercity and 5000 m² for an administrative block.

FYI, we have only 5000 m² of space for classrooms now and we’re suffocating. By 2013, we will have much more space – and with such a footprint we’ll be able to house some 20000 students by 2020 – meaning that almost every eligible student finishing their A levels will secure a place at UoM.

In this spirit, the UoM is carrying out a major optimisation of space.

I have seen academics occupying 3 m² of office!!

I want to spare the UoM from going out to Cybercity or elsewhere to rent space (which is very expensive) next year when we’ll accommodate some 11000 students on campus. On the other hand, we cannot reduce our admissions. Either our admissions go up in line with Govt policy or it stagnates.

The work on optimisation has started more than a year ago with the blessing of the then VC - with the focus on the Library.

- Hall of Residence

- New mode of operation – UCL Concept (CAF, HPC Clusters, Bioinformatics Lab, etc)

- An SRIF w Op plan has been developed. Next we want to see a TnL Plan and an ICT Plan to be developed.

The challenge we now face is to maintain our high standards - and to achieve even more.

To do that we need

- › Greater autonomy
- › Relevant government authorities and ministries should adopt a “high-trust strategy” towards UoM
- › Greater degree of codetermination

We're expecting that researchers will participate actively in the 3rd Edition of our Research Week in February.

I am fully confident that, together, you and I (top management) can all contribute to the progress on the University on all fronts and I know that I can rely on you to work as a team.

We are fortunate to spend Xmas and New Year in good weather conditions. People in Poland and other European countries are dying with cold weather.

Friends, I would like to seize this opportunity to wish to you and your family, a

MERRY CHRISTMAS

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2010

&

THANK YOU FOR 2009!

May the God's grace be with all of you.