

Statement from the Royal Norwegian Embassy

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Director General - TMA, Director - CCIAM programme, Coordinator - CCIAM programme, Professors, members from the media, distinguished guests ladies and gentlemen.

It gives us great pleasure and honor to be given this opportunity to share with you a few words in the opening of this important workshop. The objective of the workshop is of high relevance at this particular time, not only to the research community but also to the broad stakeholders from local to national and international levels.

The background to the CCIAM programme is known to most of us in this workshop. It is important however to mention that this programme is a result of the Letter of Intent signed in April 2008 between Tanzania and Norway on climate change partnership. The process through which the CCIAM programme was developed; partners involved; and expected outputs necessitate a need for us to make reflection not only on where we are coming from but also where we are and where we are going.

We are very happy and would like to congratulate SUA and partners you for the great work done since the beginning of the programme. It is very encouraging to see that we now have 25 masters students embarked upon filed work after having completed their coursework; 25 additional being recruited for Masters; and 17 already enrolled for the PhD studies.

We are also happy to see that after a thorough selection process there are now 15 researches taking place on the ground and preliminary results can now be shared. It is really impressive to see the wide range of topics being covered in a diversified geographical area. It is our expectation that the research work will provide answers to the questions on how to manage better our natural resources in view of addressing the many challenges resulting from climate change.

It is therefore important that researchers don't forget at any time that these researches are aimed at looking for solutions to the challenges facing the Tanzania people and the nation in relation to climate change. That Tanzanians will get answers supported with scientific findings on how to address the threats from climate change. That climate change is seen in its real meaning and at the same time, take advantage of the opportunities resulting from it.

When we had our second formal meeting towards end of 2011 in November 2011, communication of our work became an important point of discussion. It is impressive to see that this event is already addressing this concern. By bringing together different people working in the field we are assured of creating the environment for sharing lessons and experiences from what is already taking place. This is an important step. It is our expectation that such effort will not end but continue and in different approaches. The approaches which will enable informing those not directly working in the initiative but their decisions and actions are needed to make CCIAM a success. We would once again like to encourage you to create mechanisms that will ensure that new knowledge acquired reaches and helps decision makers at different levels.

Under the partnership between Norway and Tanzania various activities such as development of a national REDD strategy, REDD pilot projects, investments in forest monitoring and a national REDD Trust Fund arrangement are receiving financial assistance. CCIAM stands to be strategic in providing needed scientific information and guidance to other projects and therefore make Tanzania REDD programme a success.

Norway has been and will continue to be a strong partner in supporting Tanzania development initiatives. Training and research is one area that continues to receive priority and consideration from Norway. Results from previous partnership laid a foundation for the current assistance. Good research results which will improve Tanzanian policies livelihoods are therefore necessary for the possibility of future partnership.

As climate change and REDD+ issues are getting more attention nationally and internationally, it is important that the CCIAM programme equally move at the same speed to ensure that identified information and knowledge gaps are filled. There are many REDD related issues which Tanzania as a country needs to know before a complete and effective REDD framework is practically happening in Tanzania. Some of such issues and answers will be known through CCIAM.

We wish you Director General, Sokoine University of Agriculture and Partners the best of luck in the workshop.

You can count on Norway as a committed partner