WELCOMING REMARKS by Prof Anastase Shyaka

2nd International Conference on Democratic Governance in Africa, Asia, and Middle East:
Accountability and Youth Engagement for Sustainable Development

Kigali, Rwanda
June 30 - July 03, 2014

Serena Hotel, June 30, 2014

➢ Honourable Ministers,
➢ Members of Parliament present,
➢ Mayor of Kigali City,
➢ The Deputy to the President of Cheney University, USA
➢ One-UN/UNDP Resident Coordinator, ICGLR, and Partners
➢ Diplomatic Corps, High Commissioners and Ambassadors
➢ Distinguished scholars and policy makers from around the globe,
➢ Youth representatives,
➢ All protocol observed,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am greatly honored, on behalf of Rwanda Governance Board to cordially welcome you here in Kigali to the 2nd International Conference on democratic governance

Key Partners:
LRMC/ICGLR
in Africa, Asia and Middle East; Accountability and Youth Engagement for Sustainable Development”

Your presence and participation is a testimony of a strong will to contribute to changing our world for a better place, I really congratulate all of you for honoring our invitation. Thank you very much.

Another round of applause to our esteemed partners and guests from Cheyney University, One-UN, ICGLR Regional Center for Good Governance and Democracy., Researchers and scholars from 28 countries from different corners of the globe; including Africa, America-Latin America, Asia including the middle east, Europe,

  o We recognize the presence of Members of our Government, senior representatives of Development Partners and Multilateral Organizations, including the UN; AU and regional organizations;
  o Representatives of Higher Learning Institutions;
  o Selected Scholars and Practitioners from all continents;
  o Media Specialists and practitioners;

A delegation from S. Sudan, who are here with us.

This conference is a result of a commitment of the government of Rwanda to champion sustainable development, democracy, and explore our HGIs

It is a privilege for Rwanda Governance Board to execute with other partners a mandate which seeks to provide new perspectives of governance, because this conference provides an ideal opportunity for scholars, practitioners, policy/decision makers and key development stakeholders to explore in-depth the challenges of fostering accountability, to learn about specific “home-grown” initiatives implemented in various parts of the world, and particularly, to

Key Partners:

- LRMC/ICGLR
- United Nations
- UNDP
We appreciate the remarkable progress of a nation that has emerged as a champion for good governance.

We are pleased to inform you that this conference has drawn together prominent speakers who will offer a combination of plenary and concurrent sessions with strong representation from local and international community. We hope that our panel discussions and plenary sessions will inspire you with new ideas and enthusiasm, and together we can continue the great work of involving the youth in building sustainable healthy communities.

It is also generally acknowledged that development is impossible in the absence of true democracy, respect for human rights, peace and good governance. It could be argued that development may not be materializing in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East because of ineffective democratic institutions coupled with poor governance that fails to make government more productive, more transparent, and more accountable.

The first International Conference on Democratic Governance in Africa, Asia and the Middle East recommended holding similar conferences under different themes every after two years. Conference participants further recommended that the second conference will be held in Rwanda, a progressive nation that has emerged as a champion for good governance after the 1994 genocide that destroyed both social and economic infrastructures.

It is against such a background that, you are all gathered here in Rwanda to attend the 2nd International Conference on Democratic Governance in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East under the Theme: “Accountability and Youth Engagement for Sustainable Development”.

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**Key Partners:**

LRMC/ICGLR

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With those few remarks, I wish to take this opportunity to invite the Guest of Honour, Hon. James MUSONI Minister of Local Government Republic of Rwanda to give us his key note address.

Thank you for your kind attention!