Official Opening Speech by Dr. Florens M. Turuka, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Communication, Science and Technology, during the Launching Workshop for the Project on Institutional Technology Transfer Policies and Strategies in East Africa: A Survey of Practices from Universities and Research and Development Institutions.

Tuesday 9 April 2013, Regency Park Hotel, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Prof. Samwel Wangwe, The Chairperson,
Dr Bitrina Diyamett, Executive Director, STIPRO,
Dr. Adelgot Komba, Chairman, STIPRO Board of Directors,
Honourable Members of the East Africa Parliament present
Workshop Participants,
Invited Guests,
Members of the Press,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. First and foremost, let me take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Research Organisation (STIPRO) for organizing this workshop to launch the project on institutional technology transfer policies and strategies and their impact on technology transfer in East Africa. Let me also register my gratitudes to the organizing Committee for inviting me to officiate on this important workshop.

2. Ladies and gentlemen,
This workshop is on institutional technology transfer policies and strategies in East Africa. I am very pleased to learn that researchers are now increasingly moving away from the established practice of conceiving and carrying out research projects on their own hoping that outputs will somehow find use out there.

However, available evidence suggests that any effective research work in our context must be guided by the voice and interests of users, whether in the policy arena or direct end users. Thus, if researchers want their work to be relevant, it is important right from the beginning in planning the research work to spend time with potential users of the intended research outputs as well as policy makers to share challenges they face that will be addressed by the research work.

3. Ladies and gentlemen,
It is precisely for this reason, that I commend the organizers of this Workshop which aims to discuss a proposal for a research project on institutional technology transfer policies and practices, together, with their partners from Kenya and Uganda.

I strongly believe that all workshop participants present here, will use this opportunity to share their concerns regarding technology transfer so that the outcome of the project will have desired impact on

social and economic development of the three participating countries.

4. Ladies and gentlemen,
It goes without saying that science, technology and innovation (STI) are indispensable for social and economic development. In modern economies, innovation is a source of ever increasing productivity and therefore rising wages and incomes. It is thus a source for higher standard of living and an indispensable tool for poverty reduction. Science, technology and innovation enhance competition. During the past six decades, the world has witnessed unprecedented scientific and technological progress that has changed the way nations/countries relate to, and compete with one another. At the extreme end, global competition has pushed the poor developing countries further to the periphery, aggravating their state of poverty. We must work together to redress this situation. It is for this reason the Government of Tanzania has put science, technology and innovation as priority areas of focus in the First Five Year Development Plan as Tanzania looks forward to attain the goals of the National Development Vision 2025.

5. Ladies and gentlemen,
One of the very important process in the development of science, technology and innovation is technology transfer, which is defined as transfer of technical knowledge and hardware either from one geographical location to another, or from knowledge generating institutions to the end users.

There are generally, two types of technology transfer; horizontal and vertical. As most of you would know, horizontal technology transfer is the transfer of knowledge and hardware from one geographical location to another. In most cases, it has been used in the context of transferring technologies already in use in more developed countries to less developed countries. On the other hand, vertical technology transfer is the transfer of technical knowledge and hardware from R&D to commercialization. It is a process of developing practical application from the results of scientific research. I am told that, this research project involves only the latter type, which is vertical technology transfer. However, I believe that the other type is equally important, and I am not very sure whether we have a complete understanding of its processes and status in the three project countries. I therefore argue, workshop participants that in future STI policy researchers to look into the challenges surrounding the horizontal technology transfer.

6. Ladies and gentlemen,
When it comes to development, perhaps we are used more to the concept of innovation rather than technology transfer. However, I believe that innovation and technology transfer are two sides of the same coin. It is through technology transfer processes, whether horizontal or vertical, that a nation and their constituents become innovative.

The Government of Tanzania recognized the role of innovation in development, and as such the role of knowledge generating institutions, and knowledge transfer quite early in its development plans. A number of public research institutes in the sectors of industry, agriculture, livestock, health and natural resources were put in place since independence. In addition, a Centre for Development and Transfer of

Technology was established at the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH), so as to coordinate the development and promotion of technology transfer issues in the country.

7. Ladies and gentlemen,
Over the years, R&D institutions in Tanzania have produced a number of research results, some of which have been applied to solve major societal problems, which include new crops and animal breeds, development of new drugs and formulations from indigenous plants for treating diseases and creation of nutritional supplements and immune-boosters. Others include development and dissemination of equipment and machinery for agro-processing, mining, construction, animal traction and transportation. These are only the few in the list. Notwithstanding these achievements, the amount of investments so far made in research, does not match the social economic benefits that have obtained from these investments - far too few research outputs have been put into use. A number of shortcomings responsible for this situation have been identified, the most important being inadequate mechanisms for knowledge transfer and commercialization of research results. The other challenge is that much of the research works have not been focused towards addressing societal problems, largely because of inadequate interaction between the researchers and potential users of research outputs. Let me, at this juncture; once again commend the Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Research Organisation (STIPRO) and its partners, Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE) of Uganda and the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA) of Kenya for realising this very important knowledge gap in our national systems of innovation and for embarking on a research project to bridge it.

8. Ladies and Gentlemen,
I also want to express the fact that for Tanzania the workshop is being held at an opportune time when the country is in the process of reviewing its national innovation system. It is my sincere hope that the outcome of the research project proposal that will later be discussed in the course of this workshop will provide valuable inputs in the review process. The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania through the Ministry of Communication, Science and Technology will be grateful to receive your comments so as to inform policy making.

With this few remarks, may I wish you all the best for a most successful workshop.

Thank you for your attention