

Makerere University to collaborate with *Techzine*



By [Walter Wafula](#)

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To deepen the utilisation of information, and communication technologies (ICTs) in Uganda, Makerere University has pledged to collaborate with *Techzine*, a new magazine in the country.

The move is a result of the "acute underutilisation" of ICTs in the country despite a substantial increase in their penetration among users. Ugandans have rapidly embraced the use of mobile phones and computers.

However, Makerere University Associate Professor Idris A. Rai says, there is still a large degree of ignorance on functionality and use of ICTs amongst users in Uganda. "What exists on the market is being used for much less than 20% of its potential; right from the internet services to gadgets and systems," Rai told guests at the official launch of the magazine in Kampala on 18 June.

"Makerere University and specifically the Faculty of Computing and Informatics technology is ready to partner with *Techzine* for the maximisation of ICT benefits and its multiplier effects," Rai who doubles as the deputy dean academic affairs MUK, said.

Techzine magazine was established in August 2009, to provide readers with information regarding new innovations in the global ICT industry according to the Collins Mugume, the editor in chief. "It is a solution to the gap between technology and the users," Mugume said at its official launch.

Rai challenged the publishers of the magazine to come up with an ICT research bulletin through which the university will publish its technology content to be shared with the public. The magazine is published by Coldev Uganda.

Makerere publishes thousands of research journals, some of which never get to see the light of the day and yet the information in them is useful to people. "It is important to transfer that information through to *Techzine*," Rai said.

Uganda's minister for ICT Aggrey Awori, said the launch of *Techzine* and its website, was a milestone in the ICT sector. "This magazine will help in informing the public about new initiatives in the ICT industry in the country. We welcome the idea and *Techzine* in extending information for development of the country," the minister said in a speech read for him in Kampala.

ABOUT WALTER WAFULA

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