

# OSSREA and Unity University p.l.c. Sign a MoU



The Organisation for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA) and Unity University p.l.c., one of the 24 companies of MIDROC Technology Group, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to collaborate on academic and research programmes of mutual interests and benefits.

The event took place on the 21<sup>st</sup> April 2017 at the OSSREA Meeting

Hall, where Dr. Truphena Mukuna, Executive Director of OSSREA and Dr. Arega Yirdaw, the President of Unity University p.l.c. and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of MIDROC Technology Group, appended their signatures vowing for collaboration.

Both Dr. Mukluna and Dr. Arega disclosed that the desire to collaborate at the levels of the two institutions grew logically starting the first dialogue created between them at an academic seminar that was organised by the Addis Ababa University. Dr. Mukuna indicated that OSSREA has rich experiences in social science research, knowledge production, and knowledge sharing—experiences accumulated through 36 years of its engagements— which she felt will be exceptionally useful resources for the research and graduate programmes of Unity. She also



emphasised that because of its presence in 23 countries in Eastern and Southern Africa and its strong network with large numbers of universities, individual academics and researchers in the sub-region, OSSREA is best situated to link Unity to those resources and thereby help it to expand its academic programmes to wider areas, to enhance the quality and reach of its graduate education and research programmes, as well as to vitalise graduate student project supervision, teaching,

and examination. Furthermore, she signalled optimism that the signing of the MOU will pave way for welding think-tank – private higher education institution partnerships for fruitful joint research, knowledge sharing, and policy dialogue programmes to improve quality of higher education in the sub-region at large.

Dr. Arega on his part expressed that Unity University p.l.c. has for long been eyeing for collaborative programmes with organisations like OSSREA. He indicated that the experiences knowledge products and networks would be instrumental for Unity’s effort to improve quality of education and to expand its graduate teaching and research programmes. He also indicated that



their side is keen to embark on concrete actions in four priority areas out of the ten that were discussed on during previous contacts between the heads and management team members of OSSREA and Unity.

Dr. Arega was accompanied by senior management team members of the Unity University, whom he advised to fast-track processes leading to concrete actions in those areas. OSSREA offered a few copies of its recent books and the referred journal to the Unity University

Library. The event ended with a visit of OSSREA’s Documentation Centre and the Book Store. The occasion was covered by the MIDROCK Media.