



GLOSAS/USA

The GLObal Systems Analysis and Simulation Association in the U.S.A., Inc.
(A New York non-profit educational service organization since 1988) Tax I.D. 11-2999676
43-23 Colden Street, Suite 9-L, Flushing, NY 11355-3998
Tel: 718-939-0928; utsumi@columbia.edu; <http://www.friends-partners.org/GLOSAS>

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To Whom It May Concern,

As the founder of the Global University System (GUS) and as someone who has worked with Linda Hawkin Israel and her Mobile Assessment and Maternal Aid Solutions (MAMAS) project for several years, I would like to express my confidence in her ability and dedication to bringing the benefits of internet communications technology and telemedicine to the reduction of maternal and newborn mortality in Sierra Leone and other developing countries and regions. She has been a hardworking, tireless and effective analyst of how to advance this idea for many years, and, in that connection, has selflessly supported our mission to connect and enable universities all over the world to provide high quality distance learning and to share resources and research through worldwide broadband connections.

I know Linda well and trust her completely. She and I have been in regular working contact for years, we have traveled overseas on a long planning mission together, and we have also shared information, connected with relevant research projects, prepared proposals for cooperation with such projects, and promoted useful relationships with governments, institutions, and grassroots community leaders. Linda knows how to identify, listen to and speak with all kinds of audiences, high and low ranking officials, professionals, and common people, and is obviously at ease with both women and men of different cultural, economic, and racial backgrounds. She makes quick and accurate appraisals of people and situations, yet is genuinely warm and caring, quick to laugh, and at the same time always deepening and defining her vision in imaginative and sound ways.

We would be delighted to assist this project when it is included by the GUS/Sierra Leone, a consortium of higher educational and healthcare institutions, which will be established under the auspices of GUS/UNESCO/UNITWIN Program at the University of Tampere, Finland. Linda's focus on broadband as a tool to fight maternal and newborn mortality, and her institutional connections and ability to work with local women leaders, have strengthened our planned approach to the Japans' Official Development Assistance Fund for funding broadband extension to poor rural communities in Africa, and other countries.

GUS is well positioned to assist in establishing and strengthening university-based relationships with MAMASnet in Africa. Such relationships can be helpful in many ways including useful international exchanges and local capacity building. In Sierra Leone, the leaders of local universities, several government agencies, and important locally based organizations have expressed enthusiastic interest in working with GUS and MAMAS to support the use of innovative telemedicine for use in narrowband environments. GUS stands ready to work with MAMAS International, governments, donors, and United Nations agencies to help leverage the resources needed for the success of these efforts.*

Sincerely yours,

Takeshi Utsumi, Ph.D., P.E.**

Chairman, GLOSAS/USA

Founder and V.P. for Technology and Coordination of GUS

Secretariat, Emerging **GLOBAL UNIVERSITY SYSTEM (GUS) CONSORTIUM**

Chairman: Takeshi Utsumi, Ph.D.; Vice Chairman: Louis Padulo, Ph.D.;

Board Members: David Johnson, Ph.D., Peter Knight, Ph.D., Joseph Pelton, Ph.D., Tapio Varis, Ph.D.;

Secretary: Ben Haraguchi, J.D.; Treasurer: Hisae Utsumi

***GUS' Financing Prospects**

During the Okinawa Summit in July 2000, the Japanese government pledged US\$15 billion to close the digital divide in developing countries and for the eradication of poverty and isolation. During the G8 Summit in Canada in June of 2002, and at the Environment Summit in South Africa in September of 2002, Japan also pledged US\$2 billion to aid education and healthcare in developing countries.

GUS projects will combine (1) the Japanese government's Official Development Assistance (ODA) funds and Japanese electronic equipment with (a) the Internet technology and (b) content development of North America, Europe and Africa. GUS' immediate focus is on community e-health, telemedicine and participatory governance because those programs are foundational and best developed for rapid start-up.

****Global University System and Dr. Takeshi Utsumi**

GUS is headquartered at the Global E-learning Center at the University of Tampere in Finland, under the direction of the UNESCO/UNITWIN Networking Chair, held by Dr. Tapio Varis. Currently, institutions with faculty members who are participating in GUS development projects are numerous around the world. GUS serves as an educational broker for universities, thus helping them gain international influence and access to students that they would otherwise not reach. Those institutions affiliated with GUS become members of the GUS/UNESCO/UNITWIN Networking Chair Program.



Dr Takeshi Utsumi is the Founder and Vice President for Technology & Coordination of Global University System (GUS) and the Chairman of the GLObal Systems Analysis and Simulation Association in the U.S.A. (GLOSAS/USA). He is the 1994 Laureate of the Lord Perry Award for Excellence in Distance Education. His public services have included political work for deregulation of global telecommunications and the use of e-mail and voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) through ARPANET, Telenet and Internet; helping extend American university courses to developing countries, the conduct of innovative distance teaching trials with "Global Lecture Hall (GLH)TM" multipoint-to-multipoint multimedia interactive videoconferences using hybrid technologies; as well as lectures, consultation, and research in process control, management science, systems science and engineering at the

University of Michigan, the University of Pennsylvania, M.I.T. and many other universities, governmental agencies, international conferences, and large firms in Japan and other countries.

Takeshi Utsumi, PhD.,P.E.
43-23 Colden Street
Flushing, NY 11355-5913, U.S.A.
utsumi@columbia.edu