

**Concerns.** Conflicts with host communities and lack of funding continue to clog the country's open refugee policy.

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As France celebrates the Bastille Day today, the country's long term commitment to supporting the growth and development of Uganda's sector is also worth noting.

For example, there has been linguistic, scientific and academic cooperation between the two countries where the French embassy gives scholarships to Ugandan students in three universities in Uganda.

According to Mr Alfred Onek, the press and communication officer at the embassy in Kampala, Makerere, Kyambogo, and Kabale universities have over the years received support from the embassy where a Bachelor in Education with French is supported in the three institutions.

Mr Onek says for the 2016/2017 academic year, 15 students were granted scholarships by the embassy as French teachers but also for young professionals who pursue a French language course in their professional field.

"Apart from those, 11 young professionals have received a scholarship to do a French course at the Alliance Française Kampala (AFK).

# France supporting growth of Uganda's education sector



Former French Ambassador to Uganda Sophie Makame addresses a workshop on communication in diplomatic contexts at Victoria University Kampala last year. COURTESY PHOTO

This opportunity enlarges their employability. Three other professionals have been sent to France for short duration trainings in the field of public health and administration at the National School of Adminis-

tration (ENA)," he adds.

In promoting research cooperation, two French institutes of research - Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développe-

ment (International Co-operation Center of Agricultural Research for Development (CIRAD) and Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (Research Institute for Development (IRD) are facilitating and

research in Uganda.

They often work in collaboration with Phd and researchers from Makerere University where a research project on swine flu is being implemented.

Mr Onek adds that several projects through academic cooperation have taken place in Uganda such as a workshop about diplomacy organised by Victoria University and l'ENA.

In March, an academic public debate on the role of the youth and the media in politics was organised at Makerere University.

The first distance learning master's degree has been implemented in Uganda by the French embassy and the Alliance Française in Kampala in order to offer a well-recognised master's degree in French as a foreign language delivered by the Université d'Artois.

"This master gives the opportunity to French teachers and lecturers to access a high quality level of professionalism and it will consequently have a strong impact on the teaching quality of French in Uganda," he says.