

Editorial

Dear Sir or Madam, Dear alumnus, dear scholar,

We are pleased to present to you the first OeAD Alumni Newsletter of 2009. We do hope you will enjoy reading it!

This edition focuses on Uganda as one of the priority countries of the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC). First you can read an overview about the country's people and economy, then North-South-Dialogue alumni and current scholars from Uganda describe their experiences in Austria and afterwards. Nadja Horesovsky describes the ADC in Uganda. Finally you can find an example of a KEF-funded program involving scientific cooperation between two Ugandan Universities and an Austrian University.

Additionally, Mushahid Anwar describes a successful partnership between Austria and Pakistan for developing strong education and research linkages through the support of the Higher Education Commission Islamabad-Pakistan.

On January 1st, 2009 the Austrian Exchange Service was converted into the "Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research (OeAD-GmbH)". This change does not affect the administration of the programmes but has a big impact on our internal organisation which is described in the newsletter.

Also in this edition you will find reports about the numerous activities of the OeAD, such as the visit of the Austrian delegation in

Austrian

Development Cooperation

Ethiopia from 19-22 February 2009 and the conference „Internationalisation and Development Policy Dimensions at Universities and Universities of Applied Sciences“ from April 16 - 17, 2009 in Vienna, which is co-organised by the OeAD.

Your OeAD ALUMNI editorial team

P.S.: If you want to share your experiences as a student or researcher in Austria with us and fellow alumni or let us know about your academic or professional career, please send your contribution to: alumni@oead.at

The next deadline is July 31, 2009.



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Alumni Experiences

Uganda: A silent paradise in Africa

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Introduction: People and Geography

Uganda has a population of about 30 million, with about 51 percent women and 49 percent men. Like many developing countries, the country is faced with the challenges of a rapidly growing population including a big youthful population and high dependency rates. Between 1991 and 2002 Uganda's population was estimated to grow at approximately 3.2 percent per annum. But because of the built-in momentum by 2007 the population growth was projected at about 3.5 percent per annum. At about 110 dependants (people younger than 15 years or older than 64 years) for every 100 people in the working age group (15-64 years) Uganda has the highest dependency ratio in Africa. Close to 50 percent of the population is younger than 15 years.

In general, the people of Uganda live together in harmony and the population is

highly sociable and receptive towards visitors, irrespective of colour or tribe. At the time of demarcating the borders several tribes were brought together to form the nation of Uganda. The Baganda from the central region form the biggest proportion of Uganda's total population. In fact the name Uganda is derived from the central region name, Buganda. Despite the turbulent times the country has gone through especially between the 1960s and 1980s much of the country is now peaceful. However, in parts of the North the situation is not stable because of the rebels of the Lords Resistance Army (LRA), who have for a long time stubbornly killed and maimed people. Since the peace process to end the rebellion was started some 3 years ago the LRA rebels relocated to the Garamba forests in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). But the peace process seems to be crumbling with renewed fighting between the LRA and the combined force of the Uganda Peoples' Defense Forces, South Sudan and the DRC since December 2008. Since then the LRA has resumed its unfortunate tactics of maiming and killing innocent civilians inside the DRC.

Located along the equator, Uganda has a pleasant climate and green environment all the year around. The country is source to the world's second-longest river – River Nile, which starts from Lake Victoria in the south-eastern corner. Uganda is habitat to several species of flora and fauna, including the rare mountain gorillas found in the Bwindi impenetrable forest

in the south-west. There are several national parks and tourist attractions across the country.

In November 2007 Uganda successfully hosted the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) that brought to the country over 50 heads of governments and over 5,000 visitors at the same time. The meeting was an important occasion for the country to showcase its potentials and to attract investors. It also helped to initiate, expand and/or rehabilitate several infrastructural projects and hotels and conference facilities.

Economy

Uganda's economy depends mainly on agriculture but since the 1990s there has been a significant structural transformation with the services and industry sectors accounting for a large proportion of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). While in 2008 agriculture accounted for about 22 percent of the GDP the sector accounted for over 50 percent in 1991 (ref. Figure 1). On the other hand, the services sector accounted for over 50 percent of the GDP in 2008, up from around 35 percent in 1991. On the other hand, the industrial sector accounts for about 26 percent of the total GDP. Within the industrial sector construction is the biggest sub-sector, accounting for about 12 percent of the GDP. The share of manufacturing has stagnated at around 7 percent of the GDP since the 1990s. The drive to industrialize the economy still remains a big challenge due to bottlenecks ranging from infrastructure shortages to institutional weaknesses.

Economic growth and poverty reduction

In terms of economic growth Uganda has registered robust and impressive growth rates since the 1990s, thanks to the social and economic reforms undertaken by the government since then. Between 1990



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Uganda: A Silent Paradise in Africa

and 2007 Uganda's GDP grew at a respectable rate of about 7.5 percent per annum, well above the 5.4 percent for the rest of Africa and only 3 percent for sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). However, because of high population growth the level of the GDP per capita remains low at only about US\$ 320 in 2007, growing at about 3.25 percent per annum. Related to the structural transformation much of the growth in the GDP has been driven by the services sector, which grew at an average of 9 percent per annum.

Since 1992 Uganda has made significant gains in reducing poverty, consistent with the high economic growth and structural transformation. The proportion of people living below the national poverty line has been reduced from a high of 56 percent in 1992/3 to 31 percent in 2005/6, ref. Figure 1. However, rural poverty remains high, at about 34 percent compared to poverty in the urban areas at about 14 percent. In addition, income distribution is also skewed towards the rich, with the Gini Coefficient of income distribution estimated at 0.36 in 2005/6, up from 0.31 in 1997.

Partly because of the unequal distribution of income Uganda performs rather poorly on the Human Development Index (HDI), which is a broader definition of wellbeing, developed by the United Nations Development Programme. In 2006 Uganda's score on the HDI was 0.493, (compared to 0.505 in 2005) and was ranked 156th out of 176 countries included (compared to the 154th position out of 177 countries in 2005).

The HDI provides a composite measure of three dimensions of human development: living a long and healthy life (measured by life expectancy), being educated (measured by adult literacy and enrolment at the primary, secondary and tertiary level) and having a decent standard of living (measured by purchasing power parity, PPP, income).

This impressive economic performance has been largely due to prudent macro-economic management and the wide range of structural reforms undertaken since the late 1980s. For example, tight monetary and fiscal policies reduced inflation from over 200 percent in the 1980s and early 1990s to single digits since around 1995. Currently the government target rate of inflation is set at 5 percent per annum, although there are occasional fluctuations in the actual rate due to seasonality and external factors. For example, owing to the high international and domestic food prices, annualized headline inflation was reported at about 14 percent during December 2008. Liberalization of the economy, including the foreign exchange market and dismantling of state monopolies eliminated the black market premium have contributed to improving the investment climate in the country.

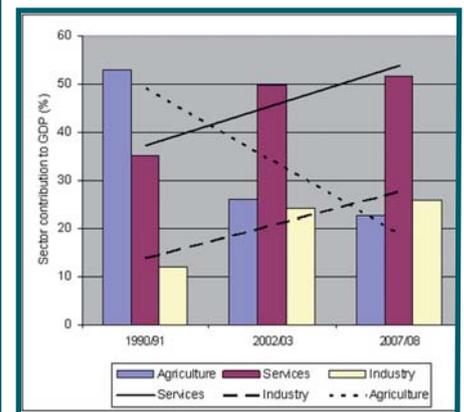
Foreign aid remains an important component of the country's source of public spending, accounting for about 40 percent of the government budget in the financial year 2007/8. Project aid also plays an important role in providing essential services in health, education, water and sanitation and road infrastructure.

Impact of current global economic crisis

Although the magnitude of the current global economic and financial crisis on the Ugandan economy is not yet clear it is projected to have adverse impacts on economic growth, investment and remittance into the country. Already economic growth for the financial year 2008/9 is projected to decline from about 9 percent to about 7 percent on account of the decline in manufacturing and exports. For the first in about 15 years, inflation has been recorded in double digits.

Figure 1: Trends in the sectoral composition of Uganda's GDP

Structural transformation is occurring in Uganda:



Agriculture's share of the GDP is declining while services and industry are increasing.

Source: Data obtained from the Uganda Bureau of Statistics.

Conclusion

Uganda is a beautiful and attractive country, with a very hospitable population – a silent paradise in Africa. The former British Prime Minister referred to Uganda as the 'Pearl of Africa'. Uganda has a liberal trade and exchange rate regime, offering a very conducive investment climate to both national and foreign investors. Several international airlines including Air France, British Airways, KLM, SN-Brussels, Emirates, Kenya Airways, etc. have direct and regular flights to the major international airport located at Entebbe.

In addition, there are a number of charter flights available for domestic travel and travel by land or sea to the major tourist sites is generally safe and easy. It is therefore a place to consider visiting for business or vacation.

Alumni Experiences

My life's journey: How the scholarship made a turning point in my life

Paul MPUGA, PhD, Uganda
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Growing up

I am a Ugandan aged 40 years, married with one child. Born to Mr. and Mrs. Kagoro in Kabarole district in Western Uganda, I had a humble background. We were a family of 13 children and we grew up doing various household chores including fetching firewood and water, cleaning utensils and working in the gardens (including planting, weeding, harvesting crops, etc.). Working in the gardens would sometimes be very exciting when, in-between, we could roast maize, cassava or sweet potatoes which sometimes would substitute for lunch. While off to fetch firewood or water we would often stray out to look for fruits (guavas, mangoes, etc.) or sugar-cane, which we would feast on as we gathered the firewood or filled our containers (normally plastic cans of about 20 liters) with water.

One of the most involving and tiring exercises we did as we grew up was brewing and distilling alcohol. The work would involve harvesting and gathering mature bananas, putting them in a pit or stand covering them with dry and fresh banana leaves and earth and then blowing in smoke so that they could ripen. On the morning of the 6th day we would get the now ripe bananas, put them in a specially prepared shallow crater covered with banana leaves. Well-cut spear grass would be added and then one adult man or two lads would step on them repeatedly to squeeze out juice concentrate, and water would be added to dilute the concentrate. Women were never allowed to undertake this task. Then sorghum (yeast) would be added to the juice and the cocktail which would be kept in a boat-like provision for 2 days and on the third day the fermented juice would now taste like sweet wine and would be for consumption and sale through the local dealers. The process of distilling waragi,

a local gin, is even longer. The 'wine' is allowed to grow even bitter for another 2 or 3 days and then poured into used cylindrical oil containers onto which pipes would have been welded to create an exit route for the steam. The distilling process would take place close to a natural stream so that the pipes would go through flowing water for cooling to take place. While the pay-off was much higher, the process of distilling was much more elaborate.

School and University time

I started my primary school, the Agkan Primary School (no secondary school) in Mbarara, where my father worked at the time. I later came back to Kamengo Primary School in Kabarole to join primary two. Because of the change in language and being shy in class I had to repeat primary one after only one term in primary two! I did both my secondary and high school levels at St. Leo's College, Kyegobe, a boys-only school founded by the Catholic Missionaries in Fort-Portal. I then proceeded to university at Makerere University in Kampala where I did Economics at both undergraduate and master's levels.

My first year at university was the hardest. Studying mathematics at university (in addition to Economics and Psychology) in the first year proved to be the biggest challenge in my academic life. Whereas I was always comfortable in mathematics right from primary through secondary I found the university level mathematics (the Math X 'species') rather abstract, for example having to prove



Johannes Kepler University

that 1 plus 1 is equal to 2. But with increased effort and group discussions I managed to go through the first year without repeating any paper.

Working Life

After about one year of completing University I started working with the Bank of Baroda in 1993, an Indian commercial bank incorporated in Uganda, Kampala, for about 10 months before joining the Department of Economics at Makerere University as a teaching assistant. In 1994 I was offered a scholarship to do a Master's in Economic Policy and Planning in the same department, following which I was hired as Lecturer.

Moving to Linz, Austria

Sponsored under the North-South-Dialogue Scholarship programme I did my PhD in Social and Economic Sciences at Johannes Kepler University in Linz between 2001 and 2003, under the supervision of Professors Michael Landesmann and Rudolf Winder-Ebmer. My research focused on demand for rural financial services in Uganda, using household survey data gathered by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics. It was an exciting and rewarding period of my life. Both professors were very resourceful

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My life's journey

and provided excellent guidance to my work. They treated me with respect and groomed me into a patient researcher. Residing in the RAAB Heim International Students' Hostel life in Linz was nice, no hassles, no chaos. In the whole period I lived in Linz I never heard a gun shot nor did I see people fight. Everybody went about their business without bothering the others.

In-between my studies in Linz I did an internship at the World Bank in Washington D.C. under the guidance of Dr. Klaus Deininger, a Lead Economist in the Bank. Klaus became another excellent and resourceful professor to me, exposing me to a whole new world of analytical, writing and presentation skills. Indeed, immediately following my graduation from Linz I was recruited by the World Bank Uganda Country Office as Economist, a position I occupied until February 2008. I then moved on to the African Development Bank in Tunis, Tunisia where I worked as Principal Macroeconomist in the Results and Quality Assurance Department. In February 2009 I joined the United Nations Children's Fund as Social Policy Manager in Kigali, Rwanda. My work is very exciting and inspiring, knowing that my efforts are a contribution to improving the quality of life of children through research and providing support to policy development for the protection of their rights.



PhD Journey in Austria & Post-PhD activities

Florence NANGENDO, PhD

You are looking at the photograph of Dr. Florence Nangendo, in a traditional Kiganda attire of the Baganda tribe, locally known as Gomasi or Busuuti. I was awarded a North-South-Dialogue Scholarship in September 1999, financed by the Austrian Development Cooperation. One day, which I do not remember very well, but in December towards the break of the festive season, I received a call from the secretary in the department of Social Work and Social Administration (I was teaching in that department at the time I applied for the scholarship), she told me that I had a confidential parcel at the main building (the administration block), which required only me to collect with my identification. I could not imagine where a parcel of such importance would be coming from!! After the Christmas break, when the offices had opened, I picked up my ID and headed for the main building. When I got the parcel the first thing I saw was that the language on the envelope was not English. I could not make sense out of it because it was some time since submission of the application.

You should have seen me opening the envelope, I was shaking, then I read the first sentence "with reference to your application--- I am glad---" that was enough. My

heart jumped, I had already read the word Austria, that was enough to ring a bell. A miracle had happened; I was to study for a PhD at Johannes Kepler University Linz. My dream had finally come true, the dream I had right after completing my Master's Degree in Canada in 1992, followed by numerous applications to different universities, different countries had finally happened.

Although the date of commencement was open I had to do it at the earliest possible, I did not want to waste any time, I had to register as a PhD student immediately, then I would know I am it. I had to put hold on numerous highly paying consultancies. I knew I had to get a PhD first, and then other better things would follow.



Florence Nangendo

In March 1999 I left for Austria; I had a good reception thanks to the head of the local branch office in Linz, Andreas Szelegowitz, who received me at the airport. I was later to be teased by my Ugandan colleagues that this was a gender issue; because for them they were not picked up (they were all men). I was settled in Julius Raab Heim, which I liked, although I did not like the

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PhD Journey in Austria & Post-PhD activities

sharing of the kitchen (fortunately after the first semester I got a self contained room). I was always the only one cooking and people would wonder why I cook every day. I would explain to them that there were basically two reasons; in Africa we have to eat lunch and supper and we eat food. Food means you cook something solid and sauce as a separate dish. Secondly, I could not afford to eat out every day.

I did not have much of a cultural shock having been to other developed countries before, mainly Canada, where I spent a year doing a Master's Degree, and short courses in the UK and Sweden. I had a warm welcome from the Ugandans I found; Dr. Bernard Bamuhiiga and Dr. Peter Atekyereza, including others from Tanzania. I enjoyed their company, we used to have dinners together and talk about Uganda and the rest of Africa. We would meet at Bernard's place (he was the oldest), we used to call him our LC (stands for Local Council chairman, the leader of the village in Uganda). That would make days move, and cure some homesickness.

My academic life was excellent, thanks to my professors; o.-Univ.-Prof. Dr. Klaus Zapotoczky and his assistant Dr. Holly Heinz (RIP). My professor died immediately after I left Linz (May his soul rest in eternal peace). He was a good professor, always available, he understood that I had two young children I had to return to as fast as possible and that I had to do the PhD in the shortest time allowed, he availed himself to assist me whenever I needed him. He would say "Florence I know you want to go back home to your family, I will do everything possible to facilitate that" and he would say this with a smile. Prof. Zapotoczky was always ready with answers when consulted, I am also most grateful.

On a more personal and social level, I will be honest, I did not socialize with Austrians. This was a missed opportunity. This could be partly because we did not have structured

classes where we would meet on a regular basis and bond. Ours were seminars, which happened, people present and go away. There wasn't much interest in other people's business. The other problem could have been the language barrier. Anyways I was comparing with my experience in Canada, where we were a class of 14, with two foreigners, me and another man from Poland. In this class everyone was interested in my wellbeing and everybody would wish to make me comfortable. We would meet occasionally for a drink after class; sometimes go for lunch as a whole class. I was invited to their homes and socialized with their families, too. This one I missed in Austria!!

Nevertheless, I had a smooth run through my course and I am happy I finished my PhD in record time. When I came back to Uganda I joined Uganda Martyrs University, a Catholic University situated 70 km south of Kampala. I taught in the department of Development Studies both undergraduate and Master's students. In 2007 I wanted to change from academic to development practice. I joined a company constructing one of the biggest dams in Africa, 250 MW on River Nile near Lake Victoria. I worked as a Team Leader Social Unit. I was responsible for the resettlement activities of the people displaced by the dam in eight villages; to restore their livelihoods. The project is sponsored by a number of banks, led by the World Bank. Below are some of the pictures.

It was a good experience, but not challenging enough, so I quit at the end of last year and headed for private practice. I have a consultancy firm known as Development Support Consult. I work closely



Facilitating a group of women to identify their development needs, using Participatory Rural Appraisal methods.

with another consultancy firm belonging to my former student, called Windsor Consult. Here we do projects ranging from research to training. Immediately after I left Bujagali I participated in the evaluation of the National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS) program. This is a government program intended to modernize agriculture in Uganda. People work in groups to learn new technologies under lead farmers. Currently we have two projects we are doing, one a study tracking down Donor support, which does not go through the Ministry of Finances and an Integrity study in the water sector supported by the World Bank. I have other projects lined up and I feel busy. Meanwhile I have a dream going into the direction of eco living; a mix of ecovillage + eco-tourism + education. I am attending an interesting course, Ecovillage training in Scotland at Findhorn Ecovillage, where I expect to acquire skills and knowledge in that direction. I am dreaming of setting up something where people can meet, live, relax, learn and connect with nature.

Finally I would like to thank the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) and all the OeAD staff. The PhD has opened many opportunities I can put on this page and I look forward to a brighter future.

Alumni Experiences

A visit to the Preacher's Chair – Der Predigtstuhl

Martin MARANI, PhD, Kenya

Lecturer, Department of Geography and Environmental studies at the University of Nairobi

Bad Goisern is a part of the Salzkammergut – a beautiful area in the province of Upper Austria. Towns such as Bad Ischl, Hallstatt and St. Wolfgang provide a blend of human civilization into the natural beauty. Predigtstuhl (1278 m) is one of the peaks in an area that boasts many awesome mountain ranges, lakes, forests, valleys and above all a welcoming people. It is a popular destination for tourists, hikers, and bikers. With my colleagues, Ann and Ursula, from the University of Salzburg where I pursued my PhD under the North-South-Dialogue Scholarship Programme, we also decided to make it our choice of a hiking tour that would later provide an enduring but amazing experience.

Fast rewind: The day is Sunday, September 4, 2005. We agree to start at Bad Goisern, climb to Ewige Wand (700 m) and eventually ascend to the Predigtstuhl (1278 m), and then descend by a different route to Bad Ischl where we would catch the train back to our homes. We all look forward to this since for Ann and me, it is our maiden trip to the Predigtstuhl.

At about 9:30 a.m. we embark on the first part of the hike that takes us to Ewige Wand which means "forever". We keep ascending while stopping several times to have a close look at trees, grasses, flowers, rocks and the breathtaking forest ecosystem and its canopy which seem to have evoked our fields of study. I am a geographer with a strong background in environmental studies while my two colleagues are biologists. Their interest in plants and animals soon confirms their

love for the subject. They get as close a view as possible for anything that interests them. Ursula then suddenly shouts their biological names which sound a little hard for me but I am obviously impressed by her fingertip grasp of the seemingly complex names. I am more interested in landscape, settlements, rivers, rocks, lakes and other geographical features than how specific – and many times tiny – plants and animals look like. Key route features such as magnificent wooden statues of a woodpecker and an owl give us more expectations and imaginations of what we may see ahead in the now seemingly expansive forest. The forest atmosphere seems to declare "ceteris paribus" (all things are equal) here.

After about three hours since our start at Bad Goisern we arrive at Ewige Wand. It is a breath-taking rock system, perfectly designed and shaped by nature, and vertically rising to about 100m from the arbitrary base point (where we were standing). The presence of embedded metal pins confirms that Ewige Wand is a destination of rock climbers. At the base there is a cave in which a wood statue of a dangerous and fire-spitting animal is placed. At the cave



... the way to the Predigtstuhl soaks loud and clear

entrance there are two wooden statues of a King and a Queen indicating royalty.

After a short rest we start the steep ascent to Blaschek Warte on top of the Ewige Wand but intermittently ask ourselves the question, "pole pole oder poleo?" ("Pole pole" is Swahili for "slowly"; "oder" is German for "or"; "poleo" is Thai for "stop". "Pole pole oder poleo?" which translates to: Do we move on slowly or stop?). Upon arrival at the Blaschek Warte a bigger view of the landscape below us unfolds. We now can see as far as the Hallstättersee and much of the Dachstein (2998 m) – the highest mountain in Upper Austria. The Traun River is also visible as it leaves the Hallstättersee and passes through the city of Bad Goisern through the Traun Valley.

We sign the visitors' book at Blaschek Warte and proceed straight in the direction of the Predigtstuhl. Route marks in Austrian flag colors remind us that we are on the way. None of us seems to have gotten enough admiration for nature as witnessed by the zeal with which we all continue to make our observations.

It is about 5.00 p.m. and yes, we have reached the peak of the Predigtstuhl – the

... see the Ewige Wand from Bad Goisern



Alumni Experiences

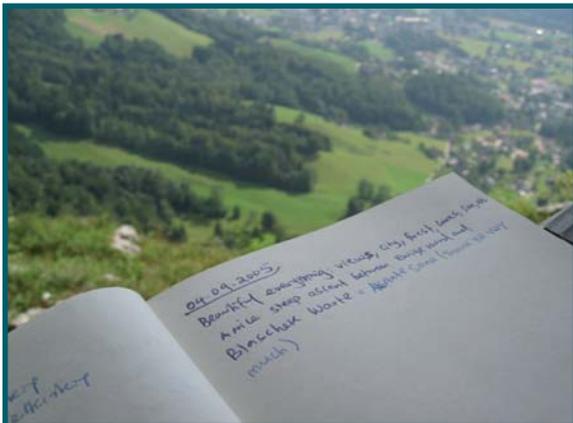
A visit to the Preacher's Chair – Der Predigtstuhl



... see the Ewige Wand from the arbitrary basepoint

seat of the preacher. It is a small mountain but outstanding. From the top every view one makes in whichever direction can only be described in several tens of pages. It is a bird's eye view from the ground. Once on top, the pain of climbing disappears and is replaced by the feeling of a discoverer, maybe a conqueror.

Time is short for us and we have to make use of the extra evening summer sunlight to get back to base. At 5.30 p.m. we begin the descent in the direction of Bad Ischl.



... that is how I saw it when I arrived at Ewige Wand

Unlike climbing, it is less energy-taking but with endless steepes that keeps one alert. It is while walking along this road extension that Ursula starts to sing a song (the three versions are dialectal German, Standard German and English, respectively):

**In die Berg bin i gern
Und do gfreit si mei Gmiat
Wo die Oimresal wo-ho-chsn
Und da Enzian blueht (repeat
last two lines)**

**In den Bergen bin ich gerne,
und da freut sich mein Ge-
müt**

**wo die Almröserl wachsen
und der Enzian blüht.**

**In the mountains I like to be
And there my mind is
happy**

**Where the Alpine roses
are growing
And the Gentian blooms.**

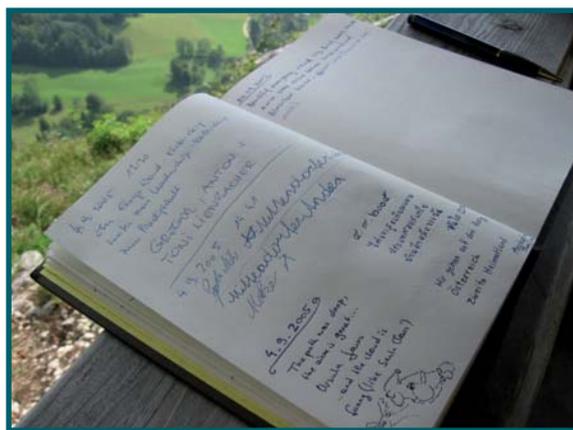
This song is a timely motivation because we all seem to have become tired. The words are an exact reflection of what we have done during the way up to the Predigtstuhl – enjoying the beauty and serenity of nature. I ask Ursula to sing it over and over again and we occasionally join her albeit with voices not as good as hers. We also agree that each one of us sings the



... sunset as viewed from Bad Ischl

first stencil of his/her country's national anthem.

It is already 8:30 p.m. when we start walking through Bad Ischl. The hike through Bad Goisern-Ewige Wand-Blaschek Warte-Predigtstuhl-Bad Ischl circuit is complete and has taken us about 10 hours! It is challenging but the temptation of reaching the 'preacher's chair' is unquenchable once one starts. At the railway station I begin to reflect about the hike and a number of explorers from my history lessons – Ludwig



... dont forget to sign the visitors book at Ewige Wand in your own language

Krapf, Vasco Da Gama, Rebmann, Vikings, and Christopher Columbus – quickly come to my mind. But can I be one? Isn't our hike making the same geography that they made? I ask myself.

Alumni Experiences

My life in Austria and thereafter: Challenges and opportunities

Oscar Ouma KAMBONA, PhD

Department of Ecotourism, Hotel and Institution Management

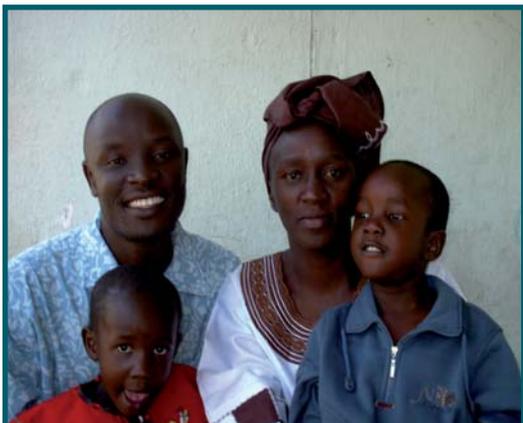
Maseno University, Kenya

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The first few months in Austria

Long before coming to Austria I had only occasionally thought of the country in terms of the former UN Secretary General, Kurt Waldheim. As time went by I developed a friendship with a colleague at work who had acquaintances with some Austrians in Nairobi. I slowly and steadily started developing interest in Austrian issues and it is from this friend that I got to know about the Austrian Academic Exchange Service through which I applied and got a North-South-Dialogue scholarship, financed by the Austrian Development Cooperation to study in Salzburg, Austria.

My second day in Austria was surprising because it was a Sunday. I could not get into any supermarket on that day. Thanks



Social integration was a challenge. The author and his family six months after returning from Austria, December 2005

be to the youths walking along Alpenstraße that morning who directed me to a gas station where I bought snacks that formed my meals for that day. Generally, the first three months in Austria were rather very lonely. Whether at the university or the student hall, it was very difficult communicating with the people due to my low German

literacy then. Additionally, most of the people I met were not willing to engage me in a talk beyond a word of greeting. This left me in a very lonely condition. This gap was partly filled by a student from Kyrgyzstan who had a good command of English. We could eat together with him as we discussed general issues. Due to the loneliness I found myself calling home frequently to talk to my wife and children.

As I began to interact with colleagues at the university I started making new acquaintances considering that I had also enrolled in a German language class. My interaction with the people and listening to their talks greatly improved my German language skills. Through my academic supervisor and the acquaintances I managed to know about the student social groups like the Afro-Asian Institute, church groups, among others. These social gatherings together with student outings at Limnology school in Mondsee quickly opened me up to many friends and my life soon changed. The loneliness was no more and instead I found it hard to cope with weekend appointments for church activities and visitation to meet friends.

Academic life

Back at the university where I had enrolled for a Doctoral degree in Natural Science (Geography) I had to undergo a paradigm shift in my computer skills and knowledge. I must admit that the students in the Fachbereich Geography, Geology and Mineralogy were of immense help in upgrading my computer skills. They were ever willing to provide me with any clarification or help with the computer. The nature, quality and scope of the doctoral programme were distinctively of high academic integrity. The multi-disciplinarity of the programme,



The author socializing with local community members in his village, December 2005

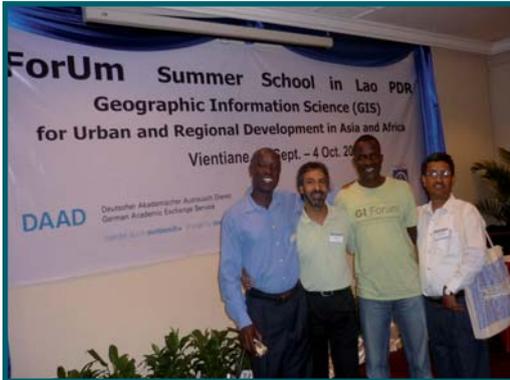
faculty and students greatly enhanced my cultural and academic horizon. Subsequently, several linkages and networks were established some of which are active to date. Some of the linkages are: non-governmental organizations (e.g. Respect - Vienna, Biota - Germany), research organizations (e.g. IUCN-Gland, Switzerland), and universities (Karlsruhe - Germany). It is worth pointing out that even though most doctoral courses and seminars were conducted in English I had the rare challenge of applying the basic German language I had learnt to a few courses that were in German language. This was indeed a great challenge but with time I overcame it.

Life back in Kenya

That the research and academic training inculcated into me while studying in Austria adequately prepared me for the challenges in my country, Kenya is no dispute. Nevertheless, the most imminent challenge was the re-integration into the society after a long period of about 38 months away. Having been used to a relatively efficient system of service delivery that characterizes most developed countries one finds it difficult getting along in the developing world where services generally tend to be inefficient. Having a doctoral degree had many implications in my place of work (Kenya Institute of Administration). The employer had high expectations from

Alumni Experiences

My life in Austria and thereafter: Challenges and opportunities



The author (in blue shirt) and colleagues at an International Conference, September 2008.

me while in my heart I was seriously feeling that my expertise was seriously being underutilized. In spite of the promotions that were given to me at the Institute I had a strong scholarly urge that compelled me to join higher academic and research institutions in Kenya. In this way I got an appointment as a lecturer at the Department of Ecotourism, Hotel and Institution Management, Maseno University, in 2006. At the moment I am the acting head of the Department. The new job at the university not only meets my academic and research expectations but also constantly keeps me in touch with communities who are in dire need of university extension services.

Concerning community linkages and extension services I have so far established linkages and worked with several community-based organizations in an attempt to provide them with practical skills on how to optimize the use of their resources, especially those that are touristic in nature. Got Ramogi Forest Trust, Rural Institute of Development and Abasuba Community Peace Museum are some of the community-based organizations just to mention a few that I am currently engaged with. For the Got Ramogi Forest Trust I have helped the community to develop an ecotourism business plan. Using the plan, the European Union through the Tourist Trust Fund has funded the construction of low cost accommodation facilities (eco-cottages) to promote ecotourism in the greater Got Ramogi region. Besides this I also patron the Abasuba

Community Peace Museum based in Mfangano Island in Lake Victoria. The museum is a gateway to the heritage of the Abasuba people. Its main aim is to promote and protect the cultural and natural heritage of the Abasuba people. The museum is being supported by the Trust for African Rock Art (TARA), National Museums of Kenya (NMK), and the European Union, among others.

Linkages and networks with Austrian universities are still ongoing. These networks have been strengthened through joint student supervision. Already, Nicole, a student from Fachbereich Geography, Geology and Mineralogy, University of Salzburg, recently (December 2008) completed a three-month fieldwork study in Got Ramogi Forest. Nicole researched on Traditional Ecological Knowledge aspects of the Got Ramogi Region. She is being jointly supervised by em. Prof. Christoph Stadel and myself. Through the networks created while studying at Salzburg some of the experts at the Centre for Geo-information (ZGIS), University of Salzburg, have continued to show interest in expanding GIScience to developing countries such as Kenya. Just recently the University of Colon, DAAD and with the support of ZGIS managed to hold a south-south GIS summer school in LAOS where I participated (Refer to Figure 6). In this conference a great concern clearly emerged on enhancing GIScience learning and applications in developing countries.



Abasuba Community Peace Museum, Mfangano Island which the author patrons

Lessons learned and the way forward

Having stayed and studied in Austria, there are many lessons that I have personally learned. Some of these are highlighted below.

Cultural dimensions

Appreciation and acceptance of one's culture – during my 38 months of stay in Austria I interacted with over 20 different cultures from around the world. In most of the cases I learnt something new out of their culture. This has given me a greater flexibility to appreciate and accept cultures different from mine.

Confidence and hard work

I greatly admired the confidence and hard work that was demonstrated by my professors and fellow students. They constantly encouraged and supported me during my doctoral studies at the university. This has enabled me to fit so well in the university academic life where I currently work.

Friendship, linkages and networks

The habit of making new friends, establishing linkages and networks that started in Austria about 3 years ago is still with me. Whenever I visit other foreign countries I have always made new friends that most of the times have resulted in working partnerships.

Way forward

Considering the varied expertise that already exists within the OeAD Alumni it is possible that the expertise can be pooled together to help enhance and influence Austrian development co-operation agenda within the framework of South-South development co-operation.

Alumni Experiences

Salzburg opened the door to my scientific career

*Yamirka ROJAS-AGRAMONTE, PhD, Cuba
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I came to Salzburg University, Austria, for the first time as a visiting scientist in 1999-2000 and then again in the years 2001 to 2003, when I completed my doctoral dissertation. It all began in January 1999 when I contacted my future supervisor, Prof. Franz Neubauer, of the Department of Geology, Salzburg University, with a proposal for research in Cuba. He did not know any Cuban scientists at that time and had little knowledge of the detailed geology of Cuba but the project sounded interesting and therefore he invited me, with OeAD financial support, to come initially for one year as a visiting scientist. He later told me that this was to ensure that I was capable of doing research and to test my abilities as a scientist before embarking on a full doctoral programme. What began after his first e-mail reply was an intense and fruitful scientific relationship and cooperation that continues until today. My doctoral project was funded by a 3-year North-South-Dialogue scholarship and was concerned with the geological evolution of the Sierra Maestra mountain range located in Eastern Cuba. This region has been affected by historical earthquakes because of its proximity to the Oriente transform fault which separates the Caribbean and North American plates.

I will never forget my first weekend in Salzburg. I arrived by train on a cold and rainy Friday evening with no luggage (it was delayed!) but full of hopes. Fortunately, Prof. Neubauer was waiting for me at the train station; he took me out for dinner, brought me to the student residence, and even lent me some money. Nevertheless, that first weekend was the worst I have ever experienced! I was all by myself, I did not know anyone, and in the city centre no-one wanted to speak English. I



suddenly felt so sad that I wanted to cry but I said to myself: if you start crying you will never stop. Then I realized that nobody was forcing me to be there, I was in Salzburg because I wanted to be there and because I wanted to learn; it was my responsibility to do something about it, somehow this realisation made me feel a little better.

I am a naturally talkative and curious person and so I decided that I had to learn German if I wanted people to talk to me (I wasn't making much progress with English!). Amazingly, my efforts with the language paid off; I made many friends from outside the university circle which also helped me to view Austrian life and culture from a different angle and perspective.



Alumni Experiences

Salzburg - Cuba

Scientifically it was also a fairly steep learning curve. There were so many new things to learn and, most importantly, I had to learn all the particular techniques and methods which I would have to use in my project. This meant working for more than 18 hours a day occasionally. I participated, for the first time, in an international conference during my first visit to Austria. It was the "Geology 2000" International meeting, held in Vienna from April 14-17. I would not have done this were it not for the insistence of my supervisor who told me that if I wanted the people to know what I was doing it was not enough to publish but to orally present (no posters!) the work at international meetings. Again he proved to be right! After that conference my scientific career developed dramatically. I met other people working in similar topics but, more importantly, people working in the Caribbean who later sent me bibliographies and even invitations to participate in future meetings.

For people coming from a tropical and humid climate it is always a challenge to come to terms with the European climate, in particular with the extreme winter conditions. The tropical thermometer of Caribbeans always registers "freezing" with anything below 18 degrees Celsius!. The best medicine I found against cold winters and dark days was music (and not exactly Mozart!). As I was always dancing in the corridors of the Geology Department, my friends and colleagues thought I could teach them how to dance and so we established a routine. For two years, every Friday or Saturday evening, I taught my colleagues from the Department and other friends how to dance Salsa, Merengue, Bachata, Lambada, etc., and what had begun as a joke became a must for all of us. It was one evening in the week when I could just forget everything and relax, laugh and dance; it was the same for the rest of the dancing group that sometimes numbered more than 15.

Cooperations between Cuban and German institutions

I consider Salzburg as one of the most beautiful places in Austria and I was lucky to have had the chance to live and work there. I am also proud to have the University of Salzburg as my Alma Mater, as it was there that I learned to be a scientist and geologist. After three years of my doctoral studies I completed my dissertation with four scientific papers published in international journals. This curriculum helped me to get a prestigious Alexander von Humboldt fellowship at the Institute for Geosciences of the University of Mainz in Germany where I am now established.

Additionally I am an associated professor of two Cuban Universities, the Instituto Superior Minero Metalúrgico de Moa, Holguin and the Instituto Superior Politécnico José Antonio Echevarría, Havana, with which I still collaborate. I also have a Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Foundation) project in Cuba and therefore I come to the field every year to my country. The universities here in Cuba are ok but the main problem is the lack of infrastructure to do the analysis for the rocks and minerals, in any case my colleagues are very helpful and thanks to them I can come and work in the field.

In March I attended a conference in Havana and I held a pre-conference course for Cuban geologists about geochronology. Even though I am now in Germany I still continue working in my country and I have built cooperations between Cuban and German institutions.

Bulgaria

*Yordanka GLUHCHEVA, PhD
Assistant Professor
Institute of Experimental Morphology
and Anthropology with Museum (IEMAM)
at the Bulgarian Academy of Science in
Sofia, Bulgaria*



My name is Yordanka Gluhcheva and I am an Assistant Professor in the Department of Cell Differentiation at the Institute of Experimental Morphology and Anthropology with Museum (IEMAM) at the Bulgarian Academy of Science in Sofia, Bulgaria. My research interests are in the field of hematology – stem and progenitor cells, bone marrow, etc. I study the effects of different substances on cell proliferation, differentiation and apoptosis both in vivo and in vitro. In my home institution I am a Research Group leader. My colleagues and I study the regulatory mechanisms of hematopoiesis in mammals and humans.

I have been a holder of an Ernst Mach Scholarship for young scientists twice. My last scholarship was for two months (01.10 – 30.11.2008) in the Division of Biological Chemistry, Biocenter, Medical University Innsbruck, working in the group of Prof. Dietmar Fuchs.

Alumni Experiences

OeAD Scholarship – knowledge, new ideas and experiences



There I carried out biochemical assays on samples which I brought from my home institution. The samples were blood sera from mice treated with cobalt chloride. The aim of the study was to find out the effect of cobalt on some biochemical parameters such as tryptophan degradation and nitrite/nitrate concentrations in the serum of mice treated with cobalt. The experimental animals were in different stages of development which will allow us to determine the stages in which animals are more susceptible to heavy metal exposure. Cobalt is not only a heavy metal but it is also a nutritional supplement as well as an environmental pollutant, therefore its effect on animals and humans is an important issue. During my work in the lab I learned new methods that will be used in my future research work.

Besides the research lab work I also attended core courses for PhD students and university seminars with guest lecturers which helped me to broaden my theoretical knowledge. I had meetings with people from other labs who were willing to share their experience with me.

During my stay I made new friends from different countries, learned a lot about other places and cultures, tried different cuisines. I also visited a lot of the famous places in Austria (in Vienna, Salzburg and Innsbruck) which are emblematic for this country. I learned a lot about the history of Austria while visiting museums, cathedrals, etc.

I returned to my home institution with a lot of ideas for future work. My home institution (IEMAM) is a leading national institute in experimental morphology, cell biology, neuromorphology and anthropology.

In the field of experimental morphology the control mechanisms of cell proliferation and differentiation in reproductive and blood tissues are studied by application of experimental animal models and clinical investigation - regulatory role of hormones, local and growth factors and their receptors are evaluated. The role of growth factors on digestive system development in experimental animals is investigated; optimal regimens for tissue cryoprotection are explored; methods for fluorescent cyto- and histochemical enzyme localization are developed.

In the field of Neuromorphology studies are carried out on the pathogenesis of multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer's disease, of some prion central nervous system diseases, on cerebral ischemia and on the functional morphology of blood-brain barrier.

In the realm of anthropology investigations include: studying of the changes and regularities in the anthropological characterization of the Bulgarian population; studying development, acceleration and deceleration; medical-anthropological characterization of patients suffering from different diseases; studying of the bone remains from necropolis in the country.

Our scientists participate in a wide range of educational and research activities. They work on research projects funded by the Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Sci-

ence, FP7. Also, they are involved in international collaborative grants and undertake fellowships abroad funded by the Royal Society and The Wellcome Trust in the UK, DAAD, Alexander von Humboldt in Germany, INSERM in France, Rockefeller Foundation in the USA, etc.

The established collaborative work with the Austrian partners will continue as part of a joint research project which has been recently accepted for financing (for 36 months) by the Bulgarian National Science Fund. The Austrian partners will carry out the biochemical assays – neopterin production and tryptophan degradation in blood sera and cell culture supernatants.

The obtained results will be published as joint publications in peer-reviewed journals and will be presented at different scientific meetings – conferences and workshops.



The established collaboration can be used for future joint research projects proposals in different national and EU funded research programmes such as COST, FP7, etc. in the thematic priorities Health and Environment.

Alumni Experiences

Hundreds of great memories to cherish

Romina BRASCA

G.A. Fester Laboratory, Department of Chemistry, FIO-UNL, CONICET Santa Fe, Argentina



Every time I remember the marvellous moments that I spent in Graz, it makes me take a break and smile. My stay in Europe is one of the most unforgettable memories of my life.

My background

My name is Romina Brasca. I was born in 1981 in Santa Fe, a city which is located in the mid-east of Argentina. I completed my bachelor studies in 2006 and I started to teach Organic Chemistry to undergraduate students. In 2007 I was awarded a doctoral fellowship by the National Council of Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET), a government agency whose main function is the promotion of science and technology in Argentinean universities and institutes. Thus I am carrying out a research project in the area of Organic Chemistry at the Chemical Engineering School of the Universidad Nacional del Litoral.

My study project refers to the synthesis of carbonated and heterocarbonated struc-

tures through the Thermal Diels-Alder (D-A) Reaction. The main objective is the development of natural products, industrially important substances and biologically active compounds by chemical basic modifications of the reaction products.

An important part of my programme is the theoretical characterization of the D-A reaction mechanism but the problem is that in my home institution Computational Chemistry is not a usual field of study or research. So, I decided to contact Dr. Walter Fabian and to apply for an "Ernst Mach Stipendium". Fortunately I was granted a 3-month scholarship for the academic year 2008.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research (BMWF) and the OeAD for giving me the possibility to stay in Graz in the framework of a research programme. I also would like to thank Dr. Fabian very much for providing me the opportunity to carry out the research project in his group and for his constant help.

Personal and professional experiences during my stay in Austria

My stay in Graz was a very exciting experience for me, it was my first time in Europe. During the first few weeks it was no easy for me to settle because of the language barrier but finally I got used to my new way of life.

The culture and lifestyle are very interesting and surprising. The organisation is splendid, in the city everything is placed in the correct form. The buses and trams are always punctual and it is allowed to go with pets. In all the open spaces there are rubbish bins with some plastic bags for putting your pet's dirt. This way of life is fantastic, I really look up to the Austrian people and love this beautiful and peaceful city.

I met a few colleagues at the university but I did not have the opportunity to make friends because of the absence of chances to integrate the scholars into the university system. I wish the OeAD had organized cultural trips around the city in order to allow the scholars to share experiences. Fortunately I made close contacts with some students from the student house. Thanks to Tina, Christina, Jan, Lisa, Katharina and Jinyoung for the good times and for being so friendly and kind.

During the scholarship I was trained at the Institut für Chemie, Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz under the guidance of Dr. Fabian.



The host institution in Austria: Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz

Alumni Experiences

Memories...

I performed theoretical calculations concerning the D-A reaction mechanism in order to combine these results with the experimental ones (obtained in Argentina). This will lead us to a better understanding of the cycloaddition reactions. I was also allowed to attend and participate in some seminars.

Undoubtedly, the valuable experiences that I acquired have contributed to my personal and professional development. The research experience has contributed a lot to increase my interest in the field of Computational Chemistry and now I want to learn more about that promising subject. I am completely satisfied with the academic supervisor guidance and with the OeAD support.

The publication of an article with the results obtained under the programme is still in process. I am looking forward to the publication.

Professional experiences in Argentina

When I returned to my home University I completed the PhD obligatory courses and began with the development of my thesis' experiments.

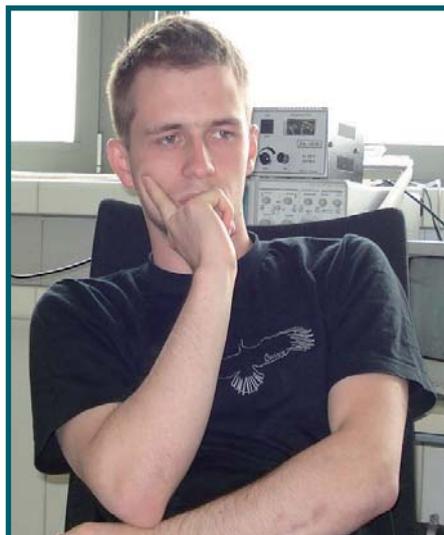
I have shared the knowledge gained during the scholarship with my colleagues and students. Based on my research results my group is very interested in investigating more D-A reactions from a theoretical point of view.

I hope that I will obtain my PhD degree in Chemistry in 2011.

Thanks OeAD for providing the former scholarship holders a platform for exchanging experiences and opinions.

Climbing up the hill

*Cezary PIECZETOWSKI
Brussels Innovation Centre,
Procter & Gamble Belgium
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First of all I would like to express how happy I am to have the opportunity to share with you my experiences gained in the past 3 years. This is also one of the best possibilities to say thank you to all the people who helped me a lot during my stay in Vienna.

Why Vienna?

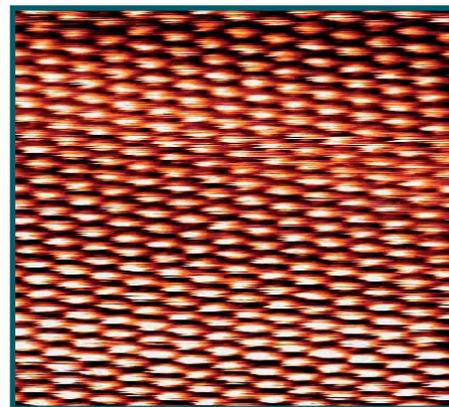
As a student at the International Faculty of Engineering at the Technical University of Lodz (Poland) I was given the opportunity to go for the Erasmus students' exchange to one of the European universities after my second year of studies (Mechanical Engineering).

As my studies in Poland were carried out fully in English I wanted to attend courses conducted in another language. That is why with basic knowledge of German I decided to go to Vienna.

New home for a long time

I spent three years (2006-2008) in the amazing capital of Austria.

The first semester at Vienna University of Technology (TU Wien) was not easy – new place, new people, new language. As an Erasmus student I searched for the subjects that would broaden my knowledge in different areas. It was a perfect time for experimenting, looking for the lectures that would be really interesting to me. This curiosity and desire to learn led me to the Institute of General Physics and Prof. Friedrich Aumayr, who, together with Dr. Ille Gebeshuber, offered me a priceless opportunity to work on front end innovation using the finest scanning technology available. It is a unique feeling when you see the single atoms on the screen for the first time.



HOPG single atoms

In my first project I was investigating surfaces covered with nanostructures created by atomic collisions. In the other assignment I was discovering the influence of different chemicals on the friction force between the sample and scanning tip.

At that point I decided to continue my adventure with Physics, so I started to search for a scholarship that could help me carry on my responsibilities.

The Austrian Student Scholarship was just initiated by the Mondi Private Foundation and luckily I was one of the first candidates to be accepted for this program. For an additional two years I was given the possibility to continue my passion for ex-

Alumni Experiences

Climbing up the hill



Climbing in the centre of Vienna

periments and start concurrent studies at TU Wien – Industrial Management.

Although it was not easy to attend lectures, perform experiments and in parallel coach interns at the institute I found it really encouraging and exciting to successfully deal with all these sorts of tasks.

Apart from the university responsibilities I attended meetings organized by members of Mondi Foundation, with whom I could easily share my problems, thoughts and ideas.

I also had some time to take part in the social & night life of Vienna: Erasmus evenings, summer concerts and museum exhibitions.

One of the biggest benefits of the city and its location was the variety of sports I could enjoy: climbing, ice-skating, skiing, etc.

Beyond Vienna

Although my calendar was packed with a variety of different activities the desire for new challenges was much stronger. After a series of interviews I was offered an internship (summer 2008) in one of the Procter & Gamble (P&G) Research & Development Centers in England.

What amazed me was the fact that literally from the first day I received full responsi-

bility for the project and a lot of freedom in fulfilling the objectives.

I was given a very limited time to research the state-of-the-art technology, perform validation tests and make recommendations to higher management.

These 11 weeks at P&G gave me truly diverse experience: negotiation with suppliers, discussion with various internal specialists, managing time and project resources.

Where am I now?

The article has been written in a small town close to Brussels. After finishing my studies at TU Wien I decided to continue my adventure with P&G in Belgium.

The variety of tasks and unexpected complications I am facing during the day is the reason why I decided to work in this company.

Cooperation with various people all around the world, managing development projects in fast changing environment create situations where I have to come up with new ideas, strategies, approaches almost instantly.

Additional experiences like settling down in a new country, learning a new language and visiting new places are the things that make me wake up every morning with exactly the same question in my mind: 'What will happen today?'

I would like to thank again Mondi Private Foundation, the Institute of General Physics, the OeAD and all the people who helped me fulfill my educational and personal goals in Vienna.
All the best and good luck.

Research Partnership

A success story of Partnership between Austria and Pakistan for Developing Strong Education and Research linkages through the support of Higher Education Commission Islamabad-Pakistan

*Muhammad Mushahid ANWAR (PhD)
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Introduction

I am Muhammad Mushahid Anwar, currently working as an Assistant Professor and International link coordinator in the Department of Geography at The Islamia University of Bahawalpur, Pakistan. I am proud to introduce myself here as an OeAD alumnus. I got a North-South-Dialogue Scholarship, financed by the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) for my Doctoral Studies in Urban Ecology from 2003-2006. I completed my PhD at the Department of Geography and Geology at Salzburg University of Austria under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Jürgen H. Breuste. Soon after the completion of my studies the Higher Education Commission (HEC) offered me a working place here in Pakistan. I joined the Environmental Sciences Department at COMSATS Institute of Information Technology

Research Partnership

Research partnership between Austria and Pakistan



Prof. Dr. Belal A. Khan (Vice-Chancellor)

Abbottabad-Pakistan. After serving there for about a year I joined the Islamia University of Bahawalpur-Pakistan in the Geography Department as Assistant Professor and Head of the Department. I contacted my parent Department here in Austria because being the head of the Department I had given priorities to strengthening the Department not only academically but also uplifting it through advanced technologies such as GIS Lab, etc. It was very kind of my PhD supervisor Prof. Dr. Jürgen H. Breuste that he made a collaboration agreement with me and according to this agreement we will help each other by exchanging research students, joint research projects and also supported by literature. I concluded another agreement with Prof. Dr. Josef Strobel for the UNIGIS online program, through this program we provide MSc and Diploma certificates there in Pakistan.

A success collaboration story

Meanwhile the Higher Education Commission Islamabad asked to submit proposals for an International Linkages program between Pakistani and foreign universities. I submitted one proposal from the Department of Geography, The Islamia University of Bahawalpur Pakistan and the Department of Geography and Geology, Salzburg University of Austria of about 11.96 Million Pak Rs. After evaluation my proposal was awarded, it has three folds; the first part is Joint/Split PhD Studies (3 Years local +

1 Year abroad) – Joint Supervisor.

In this part the Department of Geography The Islamia University of Bahawalpur can send at least three PhD students for doing their research and course work at Salzburg University. In this connection we are sending two students Mr. Khalil-ur-Rahman and Mr.

Sher Muhammad Malik this year in spring semester 2009 for a year. Next year, in March 2010, the third student, Mr. Sajid Noor, will go for one year.

Joint research project

In the second part of this program we have a Joint Research project “Urban Water management in Arid Zone” (UrWaMAZ), this project lasts for two years (2009-2010). For details on this project please see article on page X.

Faculty visits

The third part of the program is faculty visits (2+2) faculty members can visit under this program and will stay for one week for getting new visit and experiences in their relevant field of interest. First year visits already have been completed from both sides.

The cooperation between the Department of Geography, The Islamia University of Bahawalpur, and the Department of Geography and Geology, Salzburg University Austria, brings a lot of research activities and fruitful collaboration. CeLaRe (Center of Landscape Research) is one of the examples. This center is situated at Salzburg University but now it reaches to The Islamia University of Bahawalpur-Pakistan.



PhD students (Left: Mr. Sher Muhammad Malik, Center: Mr. Sajid Noor and Right: Mr. Khalil-ur-Rahman)

Second success story

With the help of the vice-chancellor of The Islamia University of Bahawalpur, Prof. Dr. Belal A. Khan, the Geography Department become a member of HERODOT Geography Organization of Liverpool Hope University, UK. This organization organized an event “The Big Hope Global Youth Congress” held at Liverpool at Hope University, UK between June 4th and 11th, 2008, in which they asked for papers. We submitted four papers including myself and one of my students and three other faculty members of the Geography Department in this competition and we got five fully paid scholarships. Here the important thing which is noticeable that The Big Hope Global Youth Congress gave 16 scholarships on selective papers around the world and 5 of these the Department of Geography, The Islamia University had got.



Dr. Mushahid Anwar & Mr. Sajid Noon

Research Partnership

Publications

Book Publications

Urban Environmental Management

Edited by Abha Lakshmi Singh and Shahab Fazal, New Delhi, B. R. Pub., 2008

ISBN 81-7646-626-3

Chapter No. 9: Urban green in Karachi, Pakistan. Mohd. Mushahid Anwar and Juergen H. Breuste.

An Investigation of Public Parks and Life Quality in Karachi, Pakistan

Urban Ecology, 2008, Dr. Mushahid Anwar

Published by VDM, Germany

ISBN 978-3-8364-8705-4

Water - Precious resource in Pakistan

Water - Precious resource in a Pakistani desert city

Daniela GRAF and Mushahid ANWAR

The project title is UrWaMAZ – Urban Water management in Arid Zones –and the research team consists of scientists and students from Pakistan and Austria. The research area Bahawalpur is situated close to the Cholistan desert in the Punjab region of Pakistan. It is a city with 600 000 inhabitants and an annual growth rate of 4.9%. A hot and dry climate, high population pressure and the climate change –

the increase of the pressure on the valuable and vital resource water is huge.

Members of the Department of Geography of the Islamia University Bahawalpur along with the AG Stadt- und Landschaftsökologie (Salzburg University, Austria) investigate the present situation of water supply in Bahawalpur and develop scenarios on the



future development. Univ.Prof. Dr. Juergen Breuste (Salzburg) and Ass.-Prof. Dr. Mushahid Anwar (Bahawalpur) lead the project work. The goal is to prepare the water management authorities of Bahawalpur for the coming challenges of water supply (growing consumption, decrease of groundwater resources, climate change) and to develop a model which can be used for other cities in arid zones with similar conditions and problems. The project ends in March 2010.

If you're interested in further information about this project, please contact:

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Juergen Breuste, Head of the project UrWaMAZ
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Ass.-Prof. Dr. Mushahid Anwar, Head of the project UrWaMAZ
e-mail: mushahid.anwar@gmail.com



Members of the project UrWaMAZ

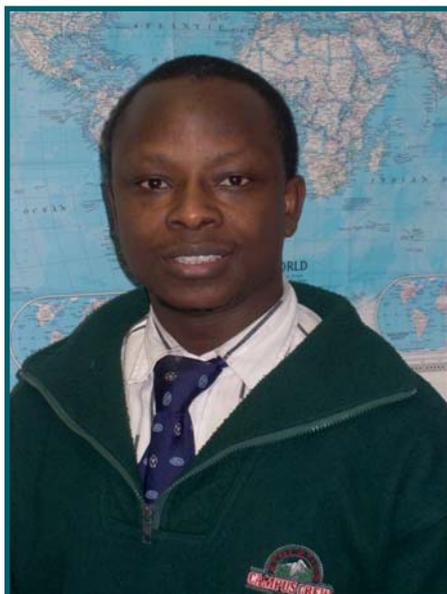


Islamia University Bahawalpur

Student Experiences

Can socio-economic aspects fill the gaps in water research?

David BAGUMA, Uganda
PhD student
Institute of Hydraulics and Rural Water Management, BOKU



I'm an economist and development expert from civil society in Uganda, working with an NGO-Integrated family development Initiative (IFDI) as water-project coordinator. After completing my first degree and master program at Makerere University in Kampala I have gained wide experience in development work through implementing programmes from institutions such as World Vision Uganda, EU-micro projects and DENIVA.

Currently I'm undertaking my doctorate, financed by the North-South-Dialogue Scholarship programme at the Institute of Hydraulics and Rural Water Management, BOKU-University in Vienna, supervised by Prof. W. Loiskandl and advisers; I. Darnhofer, M. Hauser and H. Jung.

My doctorate research is on rural household rainwater management in Uganda. Households all over the world harvest rainwater, i.e. in Asia, America, Europe and Africa, and people have always harvested rainwater from time immemo-



household rainwater management in Uganda

rial. Indeed, rain drops just fall from the sky onto a wide surface, usually roof iron sheet or wide area and the water is harvested into the container (Tank) through gutters.

My study includes, among others, the premise that water is fundamental to life; on which everybody in the past, present and future depends. Unfortunately, water is at the same time a threat to livelihood. For instance, according to WHO reports between one and two million children still die each year from diseases directly related to water and sanitation. These diseases, especially combined with malnutrition, weaken the body's defences and contribute to other causes of deaths. Yet water remains a human necessity for all ages. Consider for example some of the unhealthy dirt observed and found in one of the tanks in rural Luwero.

My study in addition to analysing water impacts on health and livelihoods includes distribution and shortage challenges. This is mainly because where the infrastructure is poor and areas inaccessible water harvesting has been adopted as an appropriate technology.

Besides the growing need for cash incomes and water for the countless communities, which causes great hardship to families in particular women and girls who must spend many hours each day collecting water from di-

stant sources is evident; these and others are included in the research.



Water harvested into the container (Tank) through gutters

By using economic and statistical models I to attempt to fill the gaps left previously by other disciplines (architects, microbiologists, engineers, etc.) in rural water research: Extend it to socio-economic aspects. I am analysing and establishing more insights. Part of my work has been submitted for peer-review and later publication. Coupled with a passion for issues related to development work, resource management and zealous to work towards social transformation. My interest in future among others includes domestic water research, networks, and capacity building for NGOs, monitoring and evaluation of donor projects.



Collecting water from distant sources is evident

Student Experiences

Development partnership/cooperation between Uganda and Austria

*Steven Labongo Constantine LOUM
PhD student at the Faculty of Cultural and
Social Anthropology, University of Vienna*



Background

My background is in the field of nutrition with work experience as a Nutritionist in a government referral hospital; while executing my tour of duty in northern Uganda where a vicious civil war had been on for almost 20 years the state of health care in my district and the region at large was pretty grim. The problem of malnutrition was at its peak by the year 1995-2000; I worked to develop a nutrition unit within the hospital to stem the death of children from preventable malnutrition. While we work on the children to control high death rates the phenomenon of failure to thrive in the children kept on recurring; I and the team of nurses gave the best we could for the affected children but in a few cases, and more were occurring with time, they did not respond to the treatment given, i.e. antibiotics for respiratory tract infections, pneumonia, measles, etc.

It became clear that there were some other underlying factors preventing the

children to respond to our nutrition and treatment therapy.

We embarked on discussing the problem of these children, and with the Doctor in the house, TB was diagnosed as one key suspect but with time HIV/AIDS was the major factor afflicting the children.

The above experience led me to get interested in researching on matters relating to HIV/AIDS in children. That is when I got in touch with my research promoter, I was selected and I am now fulfilling my desire to contribute to knowledge creation and deepening in the field of paediatric HIV/AIDS.

HORIZONT3000, an Austrian NGO working in the area of development cooperation was very instrumental in facilitating my successful application to obtain the scholarship; I pay special tribute to Mr. Ibrahim Kizito, the veteran staff in the Horizont office in Kampala and Irene Mayanja at the Austrian Consulate in Kampala for a job well done.

Development Cooperation

The Development Cooperation between Uganda and Austria began way back in 1985, when some Austrians picked interest in the political situation in Uganda, and by 1988 some Austrians privately came to carry development work in Uganda in the town of Fort Portal; and thus began the actual work of the Austrian development cooperation, which led to the opening of the current consulate. The Austrian office for Development Cooperation was subsequently opened, which to date manages the development programmes in Kenya and Tanzania.

The HORIZONT3000 program focuses its work around those people that count as poorest and most disadvantaged groups in their respective countries and who usually live in rural areas, and these are areas that often lack basic infrastructure in health and education and are characterised by a weak civil society.

The programs are grounded on four main areas i.e. rural development – stabilisation of living conditions; health – improvement of basic health services as well as health education; education – improvement of education opportunities; civil society, human rights, democracy – strengthening of civil society structures and empowerment of minority groups through assertion of their rights.

HORIZONT3000 indeed operates in all these four sectors in Uganda, for example: In the Luwero district near the capital city there is the integrated rural development programme, instrumental in supporting farmers' organisation for sustainable agriculture; in far north in Gulu there is support for education and civil society development, while in the north again in Kitgum there is a strong support to Kitgum hospital in major upgrade to improve services to the rural poor affected by the civil insurgency.

So by combining the development initiatives and research opportunities to unlock the problem of the rural poor the link of the Austrian Development Cooperation, Horizont 3000, and us, the North-South-Dialogue Scholars from Uganda and other countries, there is clearly a direct benefit to human development. My research in the field of HIV/AIDS at the Faculty of Cultural and Social Anthropology, University of Vienna is testimony to the good relation and unity of purpose to promote development in the south.

In conclusion, as a North-South-Dialogue scholar I do appreciate the development cooperation and hope more opportunities will be created for those in real need to empower them at community level to live a better and humane life. Long live Uganda-Austria Development Cooperation.

www.horizont3000.at/index.php?m=154&l=en

Student Experiences

From Africa to Europe in search of the career needs

Emanuel MARTIN

MSc student, Management of Protected Areas (MPA), University of Klagenfurt



Born 31 years ago along the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, I never thought that one day I could be in Europe, especially in Austria. Currently I am pursuing the MSc programme Management of Protected Areas (MPA) at the University of Klagenfurt under the One-World Scholarship Programme.

It was during my O-level studies when we went on a study tour in Lake Manyara National Park and Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA) in the northern part of Tanzania; I started to develop some interest and passion regarding wildlife and environment. The trip was like an eye opener of my future career, I was so impressed by the ranger of NCA who could professionally explain to us the behaviors of wildlife and their habitats.

In 1999, after successfully finishing my A-level studies, I was among a group of at least 60 students who formed a class of the just newly introduced three-year wildlife management degree course at

Sokoine University of Agriculture in Morogoro – Tanzania. To me this was another milestone towards achieving my future career as a wildlife expert or conservati-

onist. The course was so perfect for me as it involved one of my best hobbies – travelling amongst other things. We used to travel extensively for excursions and field practical trainings in various national parks in Tanzania and the neighboring country – Kenya.

In November 2002 I was conferred my first degree in Wildlife Manage-

ment alongside my colleagues. It was indeed a ceremonial event, everyone was dancing and enjoying and so did I.

However, in my mind a lot of thoughts were going on, about the new life in the street, no more government stipends, where to get jobs and any “evils” associated with this. In May 2003 I got a volunteer job to go and work in Botswana in a small park called Mokolodi Nature Reserve. Getting international exposure in the field of my career was another exciting moment for me, after successfully finishing the volunteer program I then got hired by the same organization on a permanent basis as a Conservation Officer. The post I served for four years.

During the fourth year of my service in the organization I began to think about further studies and widening my experience. I sent several applications to various universities in the United Kingdom, South Africa and Botswana. Meanwhile my friend from the UK also sent me a link for a Master’s

Degree Program in Management of Protected Areas offered at the University of Klagenfurt in Austria, for which I also filed my application. Of all the institutions to which I made applications, three offered me admission but only the University of Klagenfurt seemed to have a better deal for me and therefore I opted for it. In July 2007 I had to make a difficult decision to drop my job and come to Austria for studying. The decision, which honestly speaking I do not regret as it offered me an opportunity to be exposed to a different world compared to Africa, with a different culture, different ways of life and different climatic conditions.

Since my arrival in September 2007 I now have almost one and a half years in Austria. I am looking forward to finishing my studies in July 2009. From October 2008 to January 2009 I went to Tanzania to do a field research for my thesis. The research was all about understanding the factors responsible for the absence of African lions in Arusha National Park. I believe that the findings from my research will not only help to conserve these magnificent creatures but also help the management of Arusha National Park in Tanzania to take appropriate actions in managing wildlife in the area. In line with my stay in Europe I would like to thank the University of Klagenfurt and the Austrian Development Cooperation (financing the One World Scholarship) for making it all possible for me.



Supervisor Experiences

Experiences of a supervisor: North-South-Dialogue Scholarship Programme

On March 19th the OeAD organised for the first time an exchange of experiences and discussion between scholars and supervisors of the North-South-Dialogue Scholarship Programme. This event was jointly organised with the North-South-Dialogue Council of Scholars (NSD-CS). Please find below the speech of Georg Gratzler, Institute of Forest Ecology, BOKU, who presented his experiences as a supervisor.

Georg GRATZER

There are two diametric entry points into the role of a supervisor of North-South-Dialogue scholars: one is that research projects are carried out in countries of the South already and potential students are selected in the course of carrying out research; the other one is that we are contacted by prospective students. These contacts may meet research interests which were not manifested in projects so far. Particularly for the second entry point, one of the major challenges for supervisors is the extremely slim financial support of supervisors through the North-South-Dialogue scheme (only one journey and for this journey only the cheapest flights available and, even more surprisingly, there is no support for overnight stays at all).

The support in terms of research costs is so small that it is nearly inevitable to get additional project money for a study from a different source. This needs additional work input from the supervisor's side and, even if successful, leaves us with difficulties of aligning the schedules of the thesis with those of the project. All in all, there is strong cross-funding of North-South-Dialogue grants and a lot of in-kind support from our side necessary in order to maintain quality of the education and to reach relevance of the research conducted. Particularly in a situation of increasing commercialisation of universities this lack of financial support leads to an increasing unwillingness of supervisors to accept students. Even if there is willingness to accept these conditions, we are confronted with an increasing pressure to justify

our activity. Supervising students from developing countries and doing research there may also feed back on our publication record and on the nature of our research. In order to reach relevance we may have to compromise the high-end basic research approaches for a more application-oriented and thus maybe less publishable approach. Using high end research equipments may be impossible and this then also feeds back on our records.

That leaves the question why we do supervise North-South-Dialogue scholars: this has of course a personal but also a structural component. We may be motivated by social responsibility but the question is how long we can maintain this in environments where we have to show our "brown points" in terms of third party funds and "well ranked" scientific papers. The question if research for development (R4D) is on the agenda of a university matters in this context and may somewhat buffer these pressures. In the case of universities such as BOKU R4D fits the overall vision of the University which is also reflected by the fact that the BOKU now has a Centre of Development Research at the level of a department. Such institutions may be of great help in coordinating and supporting supervision of North- South Dialogue students.

If all the challenges of working in developing countries are accepted, we enter a communication and education process with the grant holder. Supervision of North-South Dialogue grant holders has certain specificities and deviates from supervision of doctoral students from our home country: one of the major differences to most doctoral students from Austria may be that the students may have been holders of prestigious jobs in their Governments or research institutions. Prospective students may also expect to be treated exclusively and, at least, to get due recognition in terms of availability of time for them. The supervisor's life at the home university, however, differs largely from what students may expect and from what they may have experienced

during supervisor visits in their countries. We are stressed, we only have limited time for them and we expect them to be able to work autonomously. It is important to prepare the prospective students to this shock. Here it is highly advantageous to always have a group of students from one country at different stages of their studies. This may also decrease problems of homesickness. Hierarchy is, in my opinion, generally one of the major challenges in dealing with North-South Dialogue grant holders, also in terms of treatment of administrative staff at our institutes by the grant holders.

Another aspect, also connected with hierarchy, is that many students define the role of the supervisor more close to what we called "doctoral father". This means that the role of supervision is seen more holistic and the responsibility we hold is even greater, also in terms of giving examples. If we are successful in supervision, which means that the student successfully finishes his or her studies, the question of "what's next" arises for the new doctor. Clearly we like to see our new alumni doing the work they were trained for and doing it in their home countries.

This leads us to the question of how much remains in the respective countries and the question if we only build individual careers or also institutions. From my personal experience with our long-term research partnership with a research institution in Bhutan where we integrate the students into a larger partnership framework I do see a great potential in such integrations and combinations. This was discussed at the ADA and the OeAD and in the future funding for such partnerships will be available. This will be a milestone for enhancing the value of individual North-South Dialogue grants to a more visible impact in the respective countries.

With this I would like to close but not without acknowledging the immense personal dedication of the OeAD staff and their helpfulness in many issues connected with everyday life of our students.

ADC

Water and justice for Uganda

The Austrian Development Co-operation (ADC) in Uganda

Nadja HORESOVSKY
Austrian Development Agency (ADA)



Constance gets safe water at the nearby public water tap in her home town in South-Western Uganda
copyright by: Stefan Pleger

Uganda has taken many steps forward in recent years: Poverty has been reduced. Overall health of the population has improved. Justice has been enhanced.

These successes would not have been possible without the strong commitment of the Government of Uganda to lift the country out of decades of plight and political instability, nor without tireless efforts by numerous donor countries – including Austria – to support the country on this path.

Uganda is one of 15 priority countries of the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) worldwide and one of five ADC-priority countries in Africa (alongside Burkina Faso, Cap Verde, Ethiopia and Mozambique). Since 1991, the ADC is represented by a field office in the Ugandan capital, Kampala, the staff of which monitors the implementation of the supported programmes and projects, is in constant dialogue with local partners including the Government of Uganda and civil society

organisations and coordinates with other development partners.

The overall goal of the ADC in Uganda is to support the country in its efforts to sustainably eradicate poverty and contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. In accordance with international commitments on Aid Effectiveness (i.e. 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, 2005 European Consensus on Development, 2007 EU Code of Conduct on Division of Labour), the ADC aligns its activities with the priorities of the Government of Uganda as defined in Uganda's national Poverty Eradication Action Plan and coordinates its policies with other development partners. In the spirit of the division of labour, Austria focuses its support in Uganda on two priority sectors: "Water and Sanitation" and "Justice, Law and Order". Special attention is given to the conflict-affected areas of Northern Uganda.

In the Water and Sanitation sector, the ADC can draw on long-standing experience and expertise and is one of Uganda's major partners thanks to numerous measures in this sector. In all its measures, the ADC closely cooperates with relevant Ugandan ministries as well as local institutions in the sector. Activities range from the construction of water supply and sanitation infrastructure to training of local staff and awareness-raising among the population. Thanks to these interventions, overall health in communities has been improved. Also, many children can go to school instead of spending hours every day walking long distances to fetch water for their families. Ten-year-old Constance from a small town in South-Western Uganda (see picture below) is just one of thousands of children benefiting from water and sanitation activities. As young people are better educated, their opportunities on the job market rise. And as their opportunities rise, entire generations are lifted out of poverty.

In its second priority area, the Justice, Law and Order sector, the ADC primarily supports programmes in the area of justice reform, access to justice at local level especially for the poor and marginalised, legal aid as well as peace building. Strengthening the capacities of Local Council Courts is one important measure in this regard. Local Council Courts (see pictures below) are the first access points for millions of Ugandans living in rural areas. They can address themselves to these courts for settling different kinds of conflicts – family disputes or conflicts over land ownership, to name just a few. In most cases, people would not have the means to get their cases heard in formal courts – institutions which are often far away from their homes.

In a recent visit to a Local Council Court in the Pader District in Northern Uganda, I was able to see for myself the importance of these courts for the people. Thanks to continuous efforts to promote justice at local level, in the Local Council Court I visited almost 80 percent of the cases brought forward during the last six months could be settled there, without having to be referred to the higher level in the Judiciary. This marks a turning point in the lives of the local population – people get justice without having to interrupt their daily working lives.



copyright by: UNCDF
Local Council Court, Northern Uganda

Uganda



copyright by: UNCDF

Local Council Court, Northern Uganda

Complementary to the ADC's commitment to the two priority sectors, the ADC also supports projects in the area of gender, women empowerment, higher education and science, and delivers ad-hoc humanitarian assistance to Uganda in case of emergency situations. Last but not least, private sector development in Uganda is promoted via the ADC's special programme for business partnerships.

Links and Contacts:

Information about the Austrian Development Cooperation and the Austrian Development Agency:

www.entwicklung.at

Contact Austrian Development Agency: office@ada.gv.at

Contact Field Office Kampala: kampala@ada.gv.at

Ugandan Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development: www.finance.go.ug

Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness: www.oecd.org/document/18/0,2340,en_2649_323639_8_35401554_1_1_1_1,00.html

EU Code of Conduct on Division of Labour: <http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/lvb/r13003.htm>

European Consensus on Development: <http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/lvb/r12544.htm>

Tele dermatology

Tele dermatology Web Consultation and E-Learning Project Kampala-Mbarara, Uganda and Graz, Austria

*Dr. Steven KADDU
Medical University Graz
Matthias WEISSGRAM
Commission for Development studies*

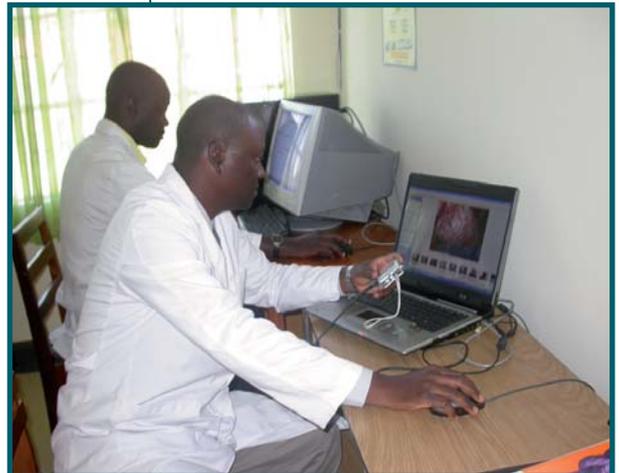
The Commission for Development Studies at the OeAD-GmbH (KEF) aims at bridging the gap between science and development by supporting development-research oriented initiatives in developing countries of the South. The project described here is an example of a KEF-funded program involving scientific cooperation between two Ugandan Universities and an Austrian University.

Limited Resources

Uganda is an East African country with a population of more than 28 million people, the majority (80%) of whom live in rural areas. Similar to other developing countries Uganda faces a number of challenges in healthcare delivery, including problems due to centralization of health services, and lack of adequate qualified medical personnel, infrastructure and resources. The majority of trained health care workers (nearly 50% of the doctors and 40% of the nurses) are mainly concentrated in the Ugandan capital city Kampala, which has a population of only 1.35 million (4.6% of the total population).

Although skin diseases are rampant in Uganda, comprising up to 10-20% of all medical ailments, there are only two general dermatology health care clinics in the whole country with less than 5 trained dermatologists. Dermatological services are available only in large towns in Kampala (Mulago

Teaching Hospital, Makerere University) and in Mbarara (Mbarara Hospital, Mbarara University of Science and Technology). Because of the high burden of patients in these 2 skin clinics there is also a relative shortage of other health workers, such as dermatology medical assistants and nurses. Moreover, especially at Mbarara University Hospital, there is limited access to scientific literature and quality medical education materials. Medical personnel often lack opportunities and financial means to attend conferences, workshops or seminars as part of their continuing medical education (CME).



Telemedicine in Uganda

A number of telemedicine projects have been established in Uganda as early as 1997, involving a range of medical disciplines including radiology and internal medicine, among others. Benefits of this technology to patients, health care workers and the health care system are therefore fairly well known.

The KEF-funded Tele dermatology Web Consultation and E-Learning Project Kampala-Mbarara, Uganda and Graz, Austria was initiated in January 2007 and represents the first tele dermatology programme in the country. The main aim was to connect the Departments of Dermatology of the two major Ugandan teaching universities

Teledermatology - Kampala-Mbarara and Graz



(Makerere and Mbarara) with the Medical University Graz for teleconsultation and tele-teaching.

The project uses a newly developed website (<http://africa.telederm.org/>), acting as a hub between the three universities. Once logged on, local medical staff in Uganda can either upload images and clinical data for consultation, use the e-learning-platform, or discuss new ideas in the forum. Austrian doctors analyse the submitted patient's data and send their expertise back over the website.

Facts

From January 2007 to December 2008 140 consecutive problematic dermatological cases with over 320 clinical images have been processed over the project website. Among these 44% of cases represent pediatric dermatologic conditions and 33% Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)-associated cutaneous disorders. A number of tele-teaching features are also available on the website.

These include a comprehensive list of dermatology literature sources, a dermatology curriculum, a list of exemplary cases with discussion in form of the "case of the month", and a "discussion forum" for problematic cases.

Nevertheless the project faces several challenges

A number of limitations and challenges have been encountered during implementation of the program. Local health workers sometimes have reported upload and transmission of patients' data (images and text) to be rather slow and time-consuming due to the slow internet speeds. Some hesitancy by local

medical workers to adopt teledermatology services probably due to discomfort in the routine use of computers has also occasionally been perceived. There have been a few reports of patients who refuse to be photographed or included in the project, mainly due to certain cultural/religious attitudes or lack of trust in data security or capability of this technology to improve their health.

Despite these limitations, referring medical personnel in Uganda have mainly indicated a high level of mutual satisfaction for both local medical staff using the system and for their patients.

Looking forward – outlook for the project

According to the project coordinators the main goal in the near future is to extend the network to remote areas in the whole country without dermatological services. To reach more patients in different parts of Uganda the smaller, regional hospitals have to be connected to the teledermatology network.

Recent advances in telecommunication technology should shortly enable replacement of computers and digital cameras by

mobile phones with built-in cameras. The main advantage of mobile phones is the low cost and ease of handling for transmission of patients' data. Moreover, in contrast to digital cameras and computers, mobile phones are easier to operate, require less time to send patients' data and images, are more easily transportable, and may offer direct and instantaneous access and communication between local submitting health workers and remote consultants.

Project manager: Univ. Doz. Dr. Steven Kaddu, Department of Dermatology, Medical University Graz, Graz, Austria

Project partners in Uganda: Department of Dermatology, Makerere University, Kampala and Department of Dermatology, Medical Faculty, Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Mbarara
Website: <http://africa.telederm.org/>

Other KEF-funded projects in Uganda:

Planning and Operationalization of an Open Nucleus Dairy Cattle Breeding Scheme in the Lake Victoria crescent region of Uganda 2004 – 2006

Use of solar water heaters in industrial processes to reduce furnace oil consumption and to improve economic competitiveness of industries 2004 – 2005

Evidence-based malaria interventions in a conflict zone in Northern Uganda 2006 – 2008

www.kef-online.at/en/projekte/uganda-projekt-146-2006-2007.html

For further information on other KEF-projects, news and reports please visit our website:

www.kef-online.at

Alumni activities

Alumni conference / New alumni measure

Alumni conference North-South-Dialogue – From knowledge to practice, Bahir Dar; April 22-23, 2009

The North-South-Dialogue Scholarship Programme has proved to be a useful instrument in supporting science and research for development.

The programme contributes to poverty reduction by strengthening personal and institutional capacities of the developing countries through higher education and research by taking into account the regional and thematic priorities of the Austrian Development Co-operation (ADC).

In the last 25 years more than 150 students and researchers from Ethiopia have successfully completed their MSc, PhD and research in various Austrian institutions with the support of this programme. Therefore the first Alumni conference will be held in Ethiopia.

Objectives

Enhancing networking and exchange of experiences amongst Ethiopian North-South-Dialogue alumni and the Austrian Coordination Office. Discussing experiences of scientific cooperation with Austrian institutions and at European level. Discussing capacity building in the Amhara region against the background of the bilateral program SRMP-NG and the new strategy on higher education.

Organisation

The conference is jointly organised by the Bahir Dar University, the Coordination Office for Development Cooperation in Addis Ababa and the Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research OeAD-GmbH.

Target group

Alumni of the North-South-Dialogue Scholarship Programme

For more information please contact:

Elke Stinnig, OeAD - Academic Cooperation and Mobility Unit
T +43 1 4277-28171 | F +43 1 4277 28194
elke.stinnig@oead.at

Funding for Scientific Cooperation – New alumni measure

Within the North-South-Dialogue Scholarship Programme a new alumni measure has been established. The objectives are to promote scientific cooperation and to strengthen partnerships between higher education institutions and research institutions in priority countries and regions of the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) and in Austria. North-South-Dialogue Alumni of ADC priority countries and regions working at a university or research institution in their home countries can apply.

Two types of projects can be funded:

A) Projects which guarantee dissemination, implementation and advancement of the PhD results achieved in the home country

For example presentation of the results to stakeholders, publishing of results

Start of the project max. 1 year after completion of the studies

Benefit: Max. 3000 € for the project

Costs for dissemination of research results and further research activities (payment as lump sum)

B) Projects which promote continuous scientific cooperation and strengthen partnerships between higher education institutions and research institutions in the priority countries and regions of the ADC and in Austria

For example

Guest lectures / academic exchange
Funding for the initiation of projects / research cooperation
Support of cooperation in existing projects

Joint project between an alumnus of the North-South-Dialogue Scholarship Programme and former host institution

Start of project max. 3 year after completion of studies

Benefit: Max. 5000 € for the project

Costs for lectures, the initiation of projects and research activities (payment as lump sum)
Travel costs (upon submission of original invoices)

For more information about requirements and deadlines please contact:

Elke Stinnig, OeAD - Academic Cooperation and Mobility Unit
T +43 1 4277-28171 | F +43 1 4277 28194, elke.stinnig@oead.at

General information

OeAD News

Neues zur OeAD-GmbH (Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research)

Hubert DÜRRSTEIN
CEO of the OeAD



Die OeAD-GmbH zeigt sich im neuen Design – ein erstes sichtbares Zeichen, dass sich in der OeAD-GmbH einiges tut. Und in der Tat hat der bereits im letzten Jahr begonnene Entwicklungsprozess jetzt volle Fahrt aufgenommen. Im letzten IAM habe ich verschiedene Eckpunkte zum Stand der Entwicklung genannt und es ist uns bisher gelungen, den Fahrplan konsequent einzuhalten:

1. Der Übergang vom Verein ÖAD zur OeAD-GmbH ist mit 1. Januar 2009 problemlos erfolgt. Technisch-administrativ konnte so vorgesorgt werden, dass der „Normalbetrieb“ mit der erforderlichen Kontinuität und Routine weiter gelaufen

ist und parallel dazu im Hintergrund damit begonnen werden konnte, Strukturen und Prozesse den veränderten Anforderungen systematisch anzupassen. Konkret wurden die internen Serviceabteilungen eingerichtet, die Aufgabenbereiche definiert und ich habe im Interesse der Kontinuität die Aufgaben wie folgt verteilt. Dr. Gaunerstorfer leitet die Abteilung Personal, Recht und Infrastruktur, Mag. Hörmann ist zuständig für die Finanzen und Dr. Wilcek ist der Ansprechpartner für Öffentlichkeitsarbeit und Beratung.

2. Bis zum September dieses Jahres sind gemäß OeAD-Gesetz das erste Unternehmenskonzept und die dazugehörigen Arbeitsprogramme vorzulegen. Die strategische Planung und die Überlegungen zu deren Umsetzung fordern uns daher derzeit in einem weit über Normalmass liegenden Umfang, wobei uns seit Mitte Januar auch der neu konstituierte Strategiebeirat (siehe dazu auch OeAD-Website, www.oead.at) unterstützt. Namhafte Expertinnen und Experten mit unterschiedlichen Zugängen zur Internationalität und Internationalisierung in Bildung und Forschung stehen uns somit zum

permanenten fachlichen Austausch zur Seite. Ein weiteres Anliegen ist es jetzt auch, unsere bisherigen Überlegungen zur zukünftigen Entwicklung der OeAD-GmbH mit möglichst vielen Partner/innen („Stakeholdern“) aus dem gesamten Bildungs- und Forschungsbereich rückzukoppeln. So sind demnächst Workshops und Diskussionen mit den Universitäten, den Fachhochschulen, anderen Agenturen, aber auch Vertreter/innen aus dem schulischen Bereich und der Erwachsenenbildung sowie natürlich auch mit zuständigen Stellen bei den verschiedenen Ministerien geplant. Im Mittelpunkt steht der Dialog als Basis für kundenorientierte Serviceleistungen und koordinierte Aktionen zur Stärkung internationaler Agenden.

3. Eine unabdingbare begleitende Maßnahme für eine erfolgreiche Entwicklung und Positionierung der OeAD-GmbH ist das gemeinsame Haus der internationalen Bildungskooperation. Die laufenden Planungen und Verhandlungen werden leider wie auch manches andere von der unerfreulichen wirtschaftlichen Situation überschattet. Selbstverständlich haben wir entsprechend reagiert und versuchen, machbare Wege aufzuzeigen und hoffen damit, in diesem wichtigen Vorhaben möglichst bald die Ziellinie zu erreichen.

4. Ein drängendes Thema ist bei jedem Veränderungsprozess die Auswirkung auf den Außenauftritt. Ich habe eingangs das neue Gesicht des IAM erwähnt und Sie finden in diesem Heft noch eine ganze Reihe zusätzlicher Informationen zu diesem Thema. Unsere Abteilung für Öffentlichkeitsarbeit wird sich in den nächsten Wochen den weiteren Umsetzungsarbeiten – wie z.B. der Gestaltung der neuen Homepage oder der Anpassung der Informationsmaterialien – intensiv zuwenden.

Auch wenn uns die bisherige Entwicklung und die verschiedenen neu an uns herangetragenen Aktivitäten – wie z.B. die Einrichtung einer Bologna-Servicestelle – durchaus zuversichtlich stimmen, blicken wir mit großer Sorge auf die wirtschaftlichen Rahmenbedingungen. Bei allem Verständnis für Angemessenheit wäre es ein falsches Signal, wenn die erfolgversprechenden Bemühungen, sich international zu positionieren, sich national besser abzustimmen und intern die Expertise in geeigneter Weise zu bündeln, aufgrund einer unzureichenden finanziellen Ausstattung scheitern würden. Ein wichtiger Beitrag, einerseits die Integration und die Toleranz für andere Kulturen zu fördern und sich andererseits dem zunehmend internationalen Wettbewerb stellen zu können, ginge damit verloren.

General information

OeAD News - New Corporate Design of the OeAD

Management of Change oder Wandel ist machbar

Eva MÜLLNER & Felix WILCEK
OeAD Public Relations

„Wenn etwas besser werden soll, muss es anders werden.“

Georg Christoph Lichtenberg

Organisationen und somit auch deren Management und die Mitarbeiter/innen sind ständig mit Veränderungen konfrontiert. Eine Fusion, bei der verschiedene Abteilungen und Kulturen zusammenwachsen müssen oder Veränderungen der Strukturen und Abläufe sind besondere Herausforderungen.

Der Verein ÖAD wurde per 1.1.2009 zur OeAD-GmbH. Mit der Umwandlung der Organisationsform gingen auch zahlreiche andere Veränderungen einher, was nicht zuletzt durch ein neues Erscheinungsbild, also ein neues Corporate Design (CD) und eine neue Corporate Identity (CI) ausgedrückt werden soll.

Versteht man unter Corporate Identity (CI) die Art und Weise, wie sich eine Organisation in Bezug auf Selbstdarstellung und Verhaltensweisen nach innen und außen präsentiert, so trägt das Corporate Design mit dem Einsatz visueller Gestaltungsmittel zu einem unverwechselbaren Unternehmensbild bei, das die Identität, die Kultur und Vision eines Unternehmens widerspiegelt.

oeAD

Die Abteilung PR & Öffentlichkeitsarbeit der OeAD-GmbH wurde beauftragt, diesen Prozess einzuleiten, diese Veränderungen im Bereich des Corporate Designs zu managen und den laufenden Betrieb so wenig wie möglich zu belasten.

Das neue Corporate Design der OeAD-GmbH sollte folgende Kriterien erfüllen: Aufmerksamkeitswert, Prägnanz, Eigenständigkeit, Wiedererkennungswert, Langlebigkeit, Variationen und Ausbaufähigkeit, Ästhetik und Modernität (zeitgemäßes Empfinden).

Nach einer Ausschreibungsphase wurde die Firma FINELINE mit der Neugestaltung des Corporate Design der OeAD-GmbH betraut. Seitens einer für diesen Prozess installierten „Arbeitsgruppe CD“ wurde nach langen und sehr intensiven Diskussionsphasen

ein neues Logo für die GmbH ausgewählt.

Neben einer einheitlichen Hausschrift und einem einheitlichen Gestaltungsraaster ist das Logo wohl eines der wichtigsten Bestandteile des Corporate Design.

Ein Logo zu gestalten bedeutet sich Zeit zu nehmen, es fordert eine genaue Analyse der Organisation, Logos müssen den höchsten Anforderungen gerecht werden, welche teilweise nur durch Kompromisse möglich sind.

Verständlichkeit, Unverwechselbarkeit, Einprägsamkeit und Reproduzierbarkeit waren dann auch Kriterien für die Auswahl unseres neuen Logos; um die Vielfalt der OeAD-GmbH und das breitgefächerte Spektrum der diversen Services im Rahmen der Bildungsmobilität aufzuzeigen, wurde neben dem sehr klaren und zurückhaltenden Schriftzug oead ein Farbschema in Form von Sprechblasen gewählt.

Parallel zur Einführung der neuen Logos in allen Abteilungen der OeAD-GmbH arbeiten wir an der einheitlichen Gestaltung in Bezug auf die Verwendung des Firmennamens, der Geschäftspapiere, -briefe, der diversen Prospekte und Informationsbroschüren, Formulare und Visitenkarten.

Des Weiteren zählen hierzu auch die Gestaltung von Messeständen, diverser Giveaways usw.. Das Corporate Design muss

General information

OeAD News



sich wie ein roter Faden unverwechselbar und konstant durch das Erscheinungsbild und Auftreten des Unternehmens ziehen.

Hausschrift

Kriterium für die Auswahl einer Hausschrift war, dass sie möglichst zeitlos ist und keinem bestimmten Modetrend folgt.

Für die Printmedien wurde die Schrift SHAKER ausgewählt, für den Online-Bereich – aufgrund der Kompatibilität mit den verschiedenen Usern – TAHOMA.

In den meisten Abteilungen der OeAD-GmbH werden das neue Logo und die Schrift bereits verwendet, die Nationalagentur Lebenslanges Lernen wird nach der nächsten Ausschreibungsrunde auf das neue Erscheinungsbild umstellen.

Alle Printprodukte sowie die Website der OeAD-GmbH werden im Laufe des Jahres auf das neue Design umgestellt. Das bisherige Feedback zu unserem neuen Erscheinungsbild war durchaus positiv und wir hoffen, dass es auch in Ihren Augen Gefallen findet.

Falls Sie Fragen oder Anregungen zum neuen Corporate Design der OeAD-GmbH haben, wenden Sie sich an die Abteilung Öffentlichkeitsarbeit (pr@oead.at).



New organisational units at the OeAD

AUNO

Michael DENG

Das ASEA UNINET – „ASEAN-European University Network“ – wurde im Jahr 1994 auf Initiative von Univ.-Prof. Dr. DDDDr.

h.c. Bernd Michael Rode, Leiter des Instituts für Allgemeine, Anorganische und Theoretische Chemie der Universität Innsbruck, gegründet. Inzwischen befinden sich 66 Universitäten aus 16 Ländern im Netzwerk, dessen regionale Ausrichtung sich derzeit über Europa, die ASEAN-Staaten und Pakistan erstreckt.

In diesem Jahr werden von ASEA UNINET ca. 80 Projekte österreichischer Universitäten in Thailand, Indonesien, Vietnam, Pakistan und den Philippinen gefördert und Stipendienprogramme für die erwähnten Länder verwaltet.

Neben dem Austausch von Studierenden werden auch zahlreiche Delegationsbesuche stattfinden und zwei Asian Study Programmes („Summer Schools“) durchgeführt.

Das AUNO – „Austrian University Network Office“ – ist das zentrale Büro, das mit der Durchführung dieser Agenden betraut ist und diese verwaltet. Unterstützt wird es in der Abwicklung durch andere Abteilungen des OeAD.

Aufgabe des AUNO ist es, die Administration des Universitätsnetzwerks ASEA UNINET zu unterstützen und somit zur Intensivierung des wissenschaftlichen und wirtschaftlichen Austauschs zwischen den Zielregionen beizutragen.

Die Zielsetzungen des AUNO liegen u.a. in der Vorbereitung und Abwicklung von Delegationsbesuchen im Bildungs-, Wissenschafts- und Wirtschaftsbereich, der Anbahnung und Pflege von Universitätskooperationen, der Unterstützung internationaler Forschungsk Kooperationen, der Organisation von Sitzungen des österreichischen ASEA UNINET-Kuratoriums und der Vorbereitung von und der Teilnahme an den internationalen Konferenzen des Netzwerkes (National Coordinators Meetings, Plenary Meetings), der Planung von Austauschprogrammen für akademisches Personal und Studierende, der EDV-mäßigen Katalogisierung aller ASEA UNINET-Vorgänge und -Akten und der Anfertigung von Studien zu Projekten mit ASEA UNINET-Bezug.

Weitere Informationen können der Homepage des Netzwerkes

<http://asea-uninet.uibk.ac.at/>

entnommen werden.



General information

New organisational units at the OeAD

Commission for Development Studies

Since January 1st, 2009 the Commission for Development Studies (KEF) is located at the Austrian Exchange Service (OeAD-GmbH).

„Researchers on the Move“

Intercultural communication in scientific research partnerships

Maiada Gassan HADAIA

In the European Year of the Intercultural Dialogue (EYID) 2008 the Commission for Development Studies (KEF) started the project “Researchers on the move. Intercultural Dimensions in Sciences and Humanities” together with its partners.



It has become more the norm that researchers work in international teams, it is crucial to understand how people with different backgrounds can harmoniously interface with each other. One way of doing this is to draw from experiences and observations of people who worked in these teams and this is what the Commission for Development Studies (KEF) has done in a workshop in Vienna in March 2009. An activity of the one-year-long project “Researchers on the Move. Intercultural Dimensions in Sciences and Humanities.”

Interculturality as a predominant trend of

our contemporary world offers us a new opportunity but at the same time raises questions that make us aware of a number of challenges that we have to consider, for example racism, unequal power relations between partners from the so called North and South when it comes to knowledge or scientific methods and much more.

It was the aim of this workshop to enable the participants to discuss and elaborate on better methods for understanding scientific cooperation in an intercultural context.

To provide the background for these discussions the two invited keynote speakers talked about their very personal experiences and observations. Helen Nakimbugwe, an agriculturalist from Uganda, a former PhD student and North-South-Dialogue scholar at Vienna University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences (BOKU) in 2005. She is now a livestock geneticist at the National Animal Genetic Resources Centre and Databank (NAGRC & DB) in Entebbe and lecturer at Makerere University. Helen is also a member of a number of international research teams.

Alicia Cabezedo from Argentina is a social scientist with focus on education for peace and global learning. She did her PhD at the University of Buenos Aires in 1991 and is now visiting professor at the University in Barcelona, Spain.

Austria has not proven to be the best example in Europe in terms of its treatment of and policies towards people from different backgrounds and nationalities. Though positively concluded, Helen said in her speech that “the challenges of a black person interfacing with the Austrian culture were many (...) and racism came in different forms.”

Alicia suggested that “for the purpose of analyzing interculturality in scientific research and on-field team work it is

necessary to reflect on the concepts of “learning” and “culture” and how these concepts were understood under the light of institutions and even team partners engaged in a starting research phase.”

Can Austria be considered an attractive place for scientific research? What are the living and working conditions for researchers in Austria? The past years have shown that there is only a very limited level of dialogue possible about some of its most pressing issues. The project Researchers on the Move facilitates critical discourse about interculturality in sciences and humanities and at the same time creates an opportunity for researchers from different backgrounds and nationalities to meet and exchange their views.

The heterogeneous group at the interactive workshop in Vienna, their motivation to participate and their interest in the issue led us to have a collective reflection on interculturality in North-South



co-operations, the underlying factors and ambiguities, through a process of sharing individual experiences.

A summary of the results of the discussions and the keynotes from Alicia and Helen will be published on our weblog. Also the radio broadcast and all other information about the project you can find here:

www.researchers-on-the-move.net

Furthermore do not hesitate to comment the articles, written by researchers on the issue. The next workshop will be in June

General information

New organisational units at the OeAD

Sparkling Science

Petra SIEGELE

Mit 1. März 2009 übernimmt die OeAD-GmbH das Programm Sparkling Science des Bundesministeriums für Wissenschaft und Forschung. Sparkling Science fördert Projekte aus allen Wissenschaftsfeldern, in welchen Schülerinnen und Schüler aktiv in den Forschungsprozess einbezogen werden, besondere Aufmerksamkeit gilt dabei jedoch der Zuerkennung von Mitteln zur Förderung von Frauen in der Wissenschaft und der Förderung von Mädchen im natur- und technikkwissenschaftlichen Unterricht. Voraussetzung für die Förderung von Projekten ist die Erreichbarkeit eines doppelten Mehrwertes durch die Zusammenarbeit von Forschung und Bildung:

Auf Seiten der Forschung ein Mehrwert für die Erreichung von projektspezifischen Erkenntniszielen, auf Seiten der Bildung ein Mehrwert für die Erreichung von Unterrichtsziele und für die Entwicklung zeitgemäßer Lernkompetenzen.

Sparkling Science wurde im Dezember 2007 vom BMWF in enger Zusammenarbeit mit dem BMUKK aus der Taufe gehoben, der strategische Planungshorizont ist auf 10 Jahre ausgelegt. Derzeit laufen 32 Projekte (plus 9 Pionierprojekte) aus dem Bereich Wissenschaft. Im Rahmen der zweiten Linie des Programms unterstützt das BMWF darüber hinaus 26 forschungsorientierte Schulpro-

jekte, die in Zusammenarbeit mit WissenschaftlerInnen durchgeführt werden.

Mit der kommenden Ausschreibung, die noch im März 2009 starten soll, werden 15 bis 20 weitere Forschungsvorhaben dotiert und weitere 30 forschungsorientierte Schulprojekte ausgezeichnet werden. Je nach wissenschaftlicher Komplexität haben die Projekte des Programms sehr unterschiedliche Größenordnungen. Der Projektumfang reicht von großen Forschungsvorhaben mit einem Volumen von bis zu 187.000,- Euro bis hin zu sehr viel kleineren und weniger komplexen Schulprojekten. Auch diese kleinen Schulprojekte sind jedoch in Zusammenarbeit mit ‚echten‘ laufenden Forschungsvorhaben durchzuführen.

Mit 1. März hat die OeAD-GmbH die Abwicklung des Programms von Kulturkontakt Austria übernommen. Für die Abwicklung sind Frau Mag. Petra Siegele (Leitung) und Frau Mag. Barbara Luger (Assistenz) zuständig.



The Austrian database for scholarships and research grants

www.grants.at

General information

New organisational units at the OeAD

Bologna

David BALDINGER

Seit Anfang 2009 gibt es die Österreichische Bologna-Serviceestelle der Oead-GmbH. Als Teil der Abteilung Öffentlichkeitsarbeit dient die sie der weiterführenden Verankerung der Bologna-Ziele in der österreichischen Hochschullandschaft. Sie versteht sich als übergreifende und unabhängige Beratungsstelle für den gesamten österreichischen Hochschulbereich. Ein Hauptziel besteht darin, das vorhandene Wissen und Potential der über 60 österreichischen Bologna-KoordinatorInnen zusammenzuführen und stärker zu nutzen. Dieses an den Institutionen vorhandene Netzwerk soll in Zukunft besonders aktiviert und für die Umsetzung der Ziele des Bologna-Prozesses genutzt werden.

Für die Hochschuleinrichtungen möchte die Österreichische Bologna-Serviceestelle eine praxisnahe und direkte Anlaufstelle sein, die Anliegen, Fragen und Vorschläge möglichst rasch und ohne bürokratische Hürden bearbeitet. Es wird angestrebt, maßgeschneiderte Service- und Unterstützungspakete für die individuellen Herausforderungen einer Institution, eines Sektors oder auch einer Region zu entwerfen und anzubieten.

In den vergangenen Jahren wurde der Verweis auf eine Vielfalt an Bologna-Prozessen zum geflügelten Wort. Die Bologna-Serviceestelle macht es sich zur Aufga-

be, die vielfältigen Bologna-Erfahrungen zu bündeln und als Vorteil zu nutzen. Das Lernen von einander soll erleichtert und die Überwindung von sektoral geprägten Herangehensweisen gefördert werden.

Zudem versteht sich die Österreichische Bologna-Serviceestelle der Oead-GmbH als Relais zwischen der Praxis der Bologna-Umsetzung an einzelnen Hochschulein-



richtungen einerseits und nationalen wie europäischen Entwicklungen andererseits.

Für Rückfragen steht Ihnen Mag. David Baldinger jederzeit gerne zur Verfügung.
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 Öffentlichkeitsarbeit | Public Relations
 Österreichische Bologna-Serviceestelle |
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Austria - Ethiopia

Visit of the Austrian Delegation in Ethiopia (19-22 February 2009)

Hubert DÜRRSTEIN & Irene MÜLLER
OeAD

An Austrian delegation composed of representatives of the Federal Ministry of Science and Research, the Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education & Research (OeAD) and of two Austrian universities (University of Vienna, University of Natural Resources & Applied Life Sciences) visited Ethiopia in February 2009.

The visit took place in the framework of the "Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Education of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia and the Federal Minister of Science and Research of the Republic of Austria on Cooperation in the Areas of Higher Education, Science and Research", which had been signed by the two Ministers in Addis Ababa in January 2008, its main goal being the encouragement of direct cooperation in science, research and technology between the respective institutions of higher education and research organizations.

During the first day an Information Session on "Ethiopian-Austrian Cooperation in Higher Education and Research" took place on the premises of the Goethe-Institut and attracted more than 50 interested participants. The event, which was jointly organized by the Austrian Embassy, the ADC Coordination Office, the Federal Ministry of Education & Research and the OeAD was highlighted by the presence of the two Ethiopian Ministers of Education and of Science & Technology. The Austrian representatives presented an overview of the already existing cooperation schemes in the fields of education and research between the two countries and outlined possibilities for still closer links in the future.

General information

Visit of the Austrian Delegation in Ethiopia



At the end of the session the representative of the Federal Ministry of Science & Research extended to both Ministers official invitations by Minister Hahn to visit Austria which they accepted with pleasure.

On the second day of the visit a "Partnering Day" was held at Aksum University in the Northern part of Ethiopia. Aksum University is situated outside the historical town of Aksum in Northern Tigray close to the Eritrean border. It is one of 13 newly founded Ethiopian universities with an approximate student population of 4000, the final target of student intake being 8000.

Austria has made a special commitment to supporting the development of Aksum University by providing expertise for the creation of an overall university quality strategy. Prof. Sigurd Hoellinger, former Director General for Higher Education at the Federal Ministry of Science & Research, has been involved as senior adviser over the last two years and his report on the present situation and on future perspectives (containing 18 recommendations) has met with high approval of the university representatives. Both President Dr. Mebrahtom Mehfin and Vice-President Dr. Aklilu Hailemichael pointed out the difficult situation of their young university right now but they also showed great enthusiasm and commitment for a positive future development. At present the university still struggles with fundamental problems such as lack of experienced academic staff,

shortage of facilities and infrastructure, in particular the weak ICT infrastructure and gender inequality. As all study programmes are taught in English the university is strongly interested in developing international linkages.

Aksum University comprises five academic departments (faculties): social sciences & languages, technology, natural sciences & mathematics, business & commerce, agriculture & rural development. There are 41 departments with 323 teaching staff, 6% of those being women. Some of the staff members are on leave for their PhD or master's degree. The main goals of the university management are massive capacity building and the procurement of equipment.

The Austrian delegation, led by Mag. Barbara Weitgruber, Senior Adviser for Strategy and Coordination in the field of international relations, Federal Ministry of Science & Research, gave presentations about the two Austrian universities which could become potential "partners" for Aksum University and provided an overview about existing funding mechanisms for cooperation in education and research. The possibilities offered by the new EU funding schemes within FP7 and the EU-ACP cooperation programme were met with high interest.

Both sides expressed their interest and intention to continue the cooperation and some concrete next steps were formulated by the participants:

- continuation of monitoring and guidance of the strategic development process (Prof. Hoellinger)
- 3-month assignment of an expert for gender issues from the University of Vienna to coach employees in the University Women's Affairs Office (University of Vienna representative: Prof. Dr. Horst Seidler)
- support with curriculum development for the Faculty of Agriculture & Rural Development offered by the University of Na-



tural Resources and Applied Life Sciences (BOKU Vienna), represented by Prof. Dr. Jean Schneider, Prof. Dr. Willibald Loiskandl and Prof. Dr. Herwig Waidbacher

- possible organization of multi-disciplinary workshops on problems of sustainable



Publications

Austria - Ethiopia

land-use supported by the Commission for Development Studies within the OeAD, represented by Prof. Dr. Gerhard Glatzel, professor emeritus of BOKU Vienna.

- support and guidance in the organization of research training courses to be offered by the Austrian research funding agency FFG (Austrian Agency for the Promotion of Research, represented by Dr. Sabine Herlitschka).

- support in all matters of information provision concerning bi- or multilateral funding schemes to be offered by the OeAD (Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research, represented by CEO Prof. Dr. Hubert Duerrstein and Dr. Irene Mueller)

Both the president and the vice-president of Aksum University were invited to Austria and gladly accepted the invitation.

On the last day of the visit the delegation had the opportunity to visit the EARO Research Station as well as experimental fields in the hills near Holeta. Guided by Dr. Kindu Mekonnen, a former North-South-Dialogue scholar and PhD student of Prof. Dr. Gerhard Glatzel, the group was confronted with some of the critical land use issues in the Ethiopian highlands and learned about sustainable ways to improve the situation.

In a final wrap-up session in the ADC Coordination Office all Austrian representatives agreed that a further strengthening of the Ethiopian-Austrian relations in higher education and research would be highly beneficial for the country and that all efforts should be made to intensify the existing links. Very concrete steps will have to be formulated especially in the further collaboration with Aksum University in order to guarantee a maximum benefit. The members of the delegation confirmed their willingness to continue their involvement in this important project.

KKS Poster

KKS Poster:

Scholarships and Research Grants in Austria 2008-2009

The KKS poster provides important information (deadlines, requirements, submission, etc.) about possible scholarships and grants in Austria for students, postgraduates & post-docs from developing countries in Africa, Asia & Latin America.

The KKS – Kontaktkomitee Studienförderung 3.Welt – is a joint discussion, opinion-making and action platform of all institutions dealing with study support and educational collaboration issues in Austria. In this context the KKS acts as a link between supporting organisations of the study support programmes, the decision-makers in politics, the universities and the Austrian Development Co-operation.

To be ordered from: eza@oead.at



OeAD Publications

Kooperationen Auslandspraktikum Deutsch als Fremdsprache (in German)

Preface of the Austrian Federal Minister of Science and Research:

Im Jahr 1994 wurde das Stipendienprogramm für Auslandspraktika im Fach „Deutsch als Fremdsprache“ entwickelt. Es unterstützt Studierende im zweiten Studienabschnitt des Faches „Deutsch als Fremdsprache“, die die besonderen Herausforderungen des Lehrens von Deutsch als Fremdsprache im Ausland kennen lernen möchten. Was als Pilotprojekt mit 17 Stipendien begann, hat sich im Laufe der Jahre zu einem fixen Studienangebot entwickelt.

Im Studienjahr 2008/2009 werden rund 50 österreichische Studierende ihr Praktikum in 45 verschiedenen Ländern absolvieren. Damit hat sich die Anzahl der Plätze fast verdreifacht. Und das Interesse an muttersprachlichen Praktikantinnen und Praktikanten ist an den Germanistikinstituten im Ausland ungebrochen. Grenzüberschreitende wissenschaftliche Zusammenarbeit wird in einer globalen Welt immer wichtiger, und dazu gehört auch das Erlernen verschiedener Sprachen. Österreich zeigt mit diesem Programm, dass ihm die Förderung des Erwerbs der deutschen Sprache mit österreichischer Varietät wichtig ist. Insgesamt kann eine äußerst positive Bilanz gezogen werden.

Die Studierenden und Graduierten profitieren von ihren Praxisaufenthalten nicht nur für ihr Studium und ihre künftige Lehrtätigkeit, sondern auch persönlich durch die speziellen interkulturellen Erfahrungen und neuen Freundschaften, die dabei entstehen. Die engagierten und erfrischenden Berichte der Studierenden geben ein beredtes Zeichen von diesem persönlichen Gewinn. Ich freue mich, auch diese Gelegenheit dazu nutzen zu können,

Publications

OeAD Publications: Kooperationen

um meinen aufrichtigen Dank Univ.-Prof. Dr. Hans-Jürgen Krumm und Dr. Renate Faistauer auszusprechen. Ohne sie wäre diese Erfolgsgeschichte nicht möglich gewesen. Ich wünsche dem Programm weiterhin viel Erfolg und den Leserinnen und Lesern dieser Broschüre viele neue Eindrücke.

Dr. Johannes Hahn
Bundesminister für
Wissenschaft und Forschung

Kooperationen Vienna University of Technology | National University Lviv Polytechnic

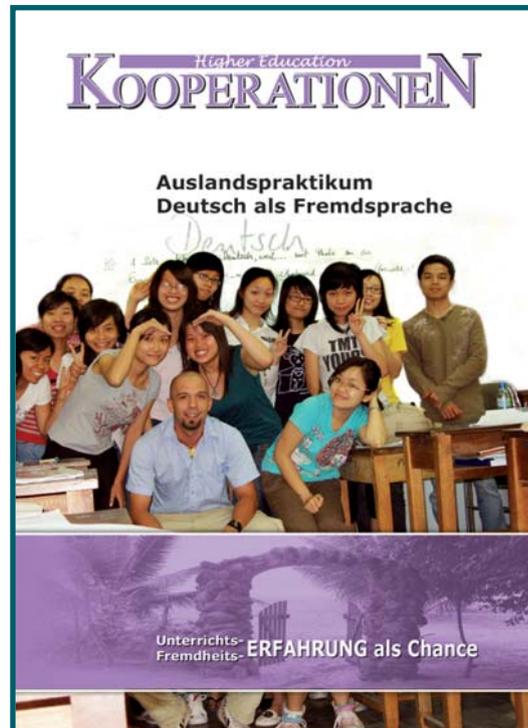
Preface of the Austrian Federal Minister of Science and Research:

The development from the first few and sometimes hesitant contacts to a real partnership takes time, a lot of time. This applies both to academic, business and personal partnerships. This edition of "Kooperationen" shows the long and exciting way leading from the first few contacts

at the beginning of the 1990s to the partnership of today of Vienna University of Technology, Faculty of Architecture and Planning, and the National University Lviv Polytechnic, Faculty of Architecture. The two universities of Vienna and Lviv carry out numerous joint activities, amongst which joint courses, which are part of the course offerings of both universities, or also joint research projects that become manifest in the busy publication activities. Besides, there are mutual visiting professorships in those areas in which the partner possesses a higher competence.

A partnership is never a one-way street! The contributions in this publication provide valuable insights into the diversity of the joint activities. Whether it is the architectural survey of old structures or suggestions for a revitalisation of estates of precast concrete slab buildings, industrial or harbour areas – in each case ideas are developed together with and by students and steps towards putting them into practice are carried out together with the responsible persons in politics. This is an important aspect since the students are to learn how political discussions and decision-making influence the projects. This can also, such as in the case of the projects for the reintegration of the Crimean Tartars who were deported by Stalin, or the implications of the European football championship 2012 for the urban development of Lviv, be of utmost political relevance and topicality.

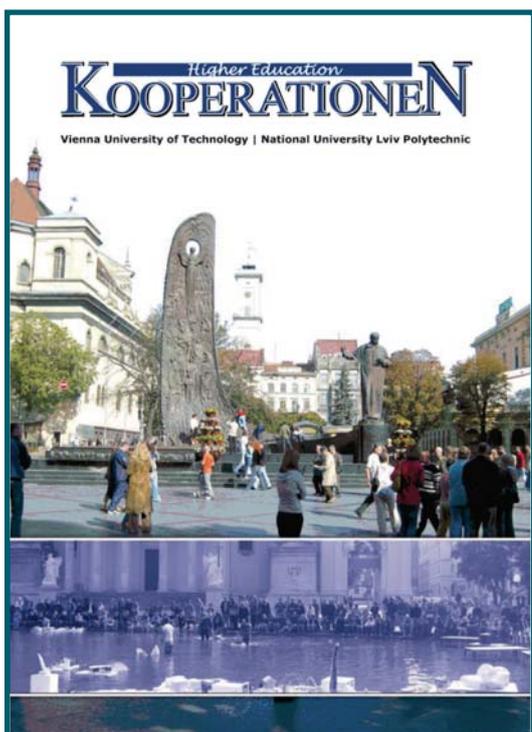
Together developments that up to then had not yet been analysed scientifically and that literally represent border zones are ex-



amined. The existence of the so-called "new markets" is a challenge for science not only from the point of view of urban development; in this topic many different scientific disciplines are involved.

The strong political aspect in the various articles shows very well that behind all this there are people who take up different occupational paths as a consequence of their subjective experiences and developments. What all texts have in common is the distinct happiness with the experiences their authors have made. In this context I would like to thank all those who for many years already have contributed by their commitment to enable young people to make such valuable experiences. On this note I wish this partnership all the best for the future!

Dr. Johannes Hahn
Federal Minister for Science
and Research



Conference

Conference: Internationalisation and development policy dimensions

Internationalisation and development policy dimensions at universities and universities of applied sciences

April 16 - 17, 2009

University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna

In a globalised world, in which global problems can only be resolved globally, tertiary education, science and research are of specific importance. At the same time internationalisation processes have also gained more and more importance at universities and universities of applied sciences. To what extent development policy dimensions also play or should play a role in terms of global responsibility will be discussed at the Conference.

Aims:

- Expansion of the internationalisation debate by development policy dimensions: Development policy concerns in teaching and research – co-operation – mobility
- Strengthening of the dialogue between the “scientific community” and the actors in Development Co-operation, including the perspective of the partner countries (“outside view”)

Priority topics:

- Interface between teaching/research and the development policy claim in the international and European discourse,

respectively, as well as in the Austrian context

- Good practice models: internationalisation, scientific co-operations, networks, mobility programmes, international study programmes as well as development policy contents and appropriate methods in teaching and research

The conference is the initiative of the signatories of the position paper “Educational cooperation in higher education in the context of development cooperation”. The Round Table Educational Cooperation involves 15 Austrian public and private institutions dealing with students from developing countries at Austrian universities.

For further information please see the publication “Educational cooperation in higher education in the context of development cooperation” www.kks-bza.at > Publikationen: “Educational cooperation in higher education in the context of development cooperation” - Executive Summary (in English)

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