



ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Issue May 2008

Australia Re-Engaging with Africa

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At a speech in Canberra on Africa Day, 26 May 2008, the Hon Stephen Smith MP, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs stated that 'The new Australian Government wants to bring a wider perspective to Australia's relations with Africa. We want to broaden and deepen our engagement with your continent and your nations.'

The Minister went on to highlight that as one step in this re-engagement with Africa, Australian aid to Africa is estimated to increase to A\$116.4 million for 2008-09, an increase of A\$22 million or 23 per cent over the 2007-08 Budget figure.

This additional funding will be delivered within the framework of a new Africa strategy currently under development and will focus on supporting Africa's progress towards selected Millennium Development Goals.

In addition, Australia's contributions to multi-lateral organisations whose work has a strong focus on Africa, such as the World Bank (A\$87.5 million to be provided by Australia in 2008-09 to the Bank's concessional lending arm, IDA); the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (A\$22.7 million in 2008-09); and the Global Environment Facility (A\$19.6 million in 2008-09) constitute a significant investment in development in Africa. A further \$26.57 million has been set aside for arrears clearance and \$40.82 million for the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative. Of the 41 countries benefiting from debt relief through these initiatives, 33 are African.

A full copy of the Minister's speech is found on page 7 of this newsletter.

Global Scholarships and Alumni Review

AusAID has embarked on a global review of its scholarships program. As part of this review, a team from AusAID in Australia recently visited South Africa and Mozambique to speak to alumni and government representatives about key issues related to selection

processes, re-integration support for awardees upon completion of their scholarship and return home; and the establishment of a global alumni network linking the various country level networks currently in existence.

Thank you to those alumni who were able to attend focus group discussions. The AusAID team was very appreciative of your support, advice, clarity of opinions and frankness, and went away with a number of innovative ideas. The team will also be visiting Fiji, Nepal, Indonesia and Vietnam as part of their review exercise.

This global review will be complemented by a more in-depth re-design of our scholarships program to Africa. This will likely take place around September this year and we will again be seeking your views on how we can improve the scholarships program in Africa and strengthen our links with you.

Finally I would again like to urge all alumni to encourage colleagues who have studied under an Australian Government scholarship but are not registered as an alumni to do so via the 'Alumni' page of the ADS Africa website www.adsafrica.com.au or by contacting GRM International on phone +27 12 362 4360 or fax +27 12 362 4361.

Andrew Edge
First Secretary, Development
AusAID, Pretoria

Successful completion of a Masters Degree in Education: MEd (e-Learning) UTS 2006: Osman Sadeck

In 2006 I was awarded an AusAID scholarship as part of the ADS program. I completed a Masters in Education MEd (e-Learning) at the University of Technology (UTS) in Sydney Australia. The experience was inspiring, fulfilling and empowering.

I specifically studied a coursework program which included a mini-thesis project. UTS encouraged students to locate their studies in their own context.

This prompted me to explore two major aspects, namely a means to realise the South African White Paper on e-Education and to explore the use of a Learning Management System (LMS) – Having researched many systems, I settled on MOODLE, which incidentally was conceived and born in Western Australia. I looked very specifically at how e-Learning may become a reality in South African schools. Although confined to the Western Cape at present the possibilities are far reaching.

Emanating from the scholarship is a range of opportunities for me to contribute to e-Learning at various levels. Although still in the same post since my return I have made significant inroads and have gained a measure of respect for my deep understanding of e-Learning.

I was chosen to accompany the Superintendent General of Education in the Western Cape as part of a HEADCOM delegation on a study tour to Egypt, Jordan & Turkey – the experiences and depth of knowledge from my UTS and ADS scholarship stood me in good stead to understand the roll-out and implementation of e-Learning in those countries – it also enabled me to engage with representatives and teachers at an appropriate level. The study tour served to affirm my thinking and strategies which I propose as a possible solution to enable e-Learning in South Africa.

I have been instrumental in some way to advocating e-Learning and the use of a LMS as an operational means in districts within the Western Cape where I have presented the concept of e-Learning to various principals.

I was also fortunate to be interviewed on a national radio station (RSG) sharing & promoting e-Learning using a LMS.

Conferences at which I have presented are:-

- ◆ SAARMSTE January 2008 – Maputo
- ◆ E-merge online conference

Pending conference at which I will be presenting is:-

- ◆ ICEL2008 International conference on e-Learning at UCT in June 2008
- ◆ IOSTE in Turkey
- ◆ SchoolNET conference
- ◆ South Metropole GET conference
- ◆ Principal Forums

Presentation of AusAID Research Thesis in Turkey

Ms Moshiane Maseko, who studied at Queensland University in Australia, presented her Masters Thesis at the 4th World Conference for Graduate Research in Tourism, Hospitality and Leisure in Turkey.

The presentation was mainly based on the "The effects of dimensions of quality service delivery at the airport on customers satisfaction in tourism destination". The Harvey Bay Airport was used as a case study.

It was discovered that there is a strong relationship between quality services delivery, satisfaction and behavioural intentions. This implies an increased visitation in a tourism destination whereby a comparison was made between the first and repeat time visitors.

The results also show that there is a significant amount of tourist dissatisfaction which is caused by unavailability of toilets, shops and restaurants at many airports. As a result, a quantitative or statistical approach was recommended at this conference as a solution.

Ms Maseko has been invited to present her Thesis at other Tourism related conferences later during 2008. The ADS office and AusAID wishes to congratulate her on these opportunities that have come her way.

PROPOSED ALUMNI FUNCTION DATES FOR 2008

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|----------------|---------------------|
| ◆ South Africa | 3-4 November 2008 |
| ◆ Mozambique | 6-7 November 2008 |
| ◆ Malawi | 10-11 November 2008 |
| ◆ Uganda | 17-18 November 2008 |
| ◆ Kenya | 24-25 November 2008 |



Bernadette Esterhuizen started at the ADS office on 6 November 2007 just as the rush of offers and PDB sessions were being arranged at the ADS office. Despite starting at such a rushed time, Bernie has adapted well to the work load and responsibilities of an ADS Program Assistant. We take this opportunity to welcome her to the AusAID Scholarship family and wish her a long and fruitful stay.

From the ADS Management and staff

2007 PDB Session and Alumni Workshop

AusAID offered 98 Masters Scholarships and 11 Fellowships across 12 countries in Southern and East Africa in 2008.

Prior to students leaving for their respective universities, pre-departure briefings were organised in parallel with workshops for Alumni.

The Pre Departure Briefing for South Africa, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland awardees was held on 5 November 2007 at the Sheraton Hotel in Pretoria, South Africa. That evening the awardees and invited guests had an opportunity to attend a cocktail functions with the Deputy President of South Africa, Hon. Mrs. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka at the residence of H.E Mr. Philip Green, the Australian High Commissioner.

On the 6 and 7 November Dr Geoff Gallop, former Premier of Western Australia and current Director of the Graduate school of Government, University of Sydney, presented a Strategic Management and Leadership workshop for Alumni. This was part of efforts by AusAID to strengthen the relationship with and support to Alumni.

Pre-Departure Briefings continued at the Hotel Avenida on the 7 November for 16 Mozambican awardees. Dr Geoff Gallop held a second strategic management workshop for 30 Alumni on the 8 November.

On 15 November at the Gaborone Sun, the Botswana Government hosted its first Pre-Departure Briefing for awardees of the Australian Development Scholarship program. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Mompoti Merafhe and the Australian High Commissioner H.E Mr. Philip Green attended and addressed the group about the importance of the scholarships to the relationship between Australia and Botswana.

Taj Pamodzi Hotel in Zambia brought together both Zambian and Malawi students for a Pre-Departure meeting on 26 November. A number of Alumni also attended to share their experiences while studying in Australia.

It was now time for the East African countries to be prepared for their studies in Australia. The Pre-Departure Briefing journey began in Kampala, Uganda, and was attended by the Ugandan awardees and identified Alumni.

The PDB continued in Dar-es-Saalam on 4 December 2007, running concurrently with a Project Management workshop presented by the South African Management Development Institute (SAMDI). That evening brought smiles and joy as the awardees, Alumni and invited guests were hosted by H.E Mrs. Lisa Filipetto, Australian High Commissioner, during a cocktail function at the Mövenpick Royal Palm Hotel.

The journey preparing students for their studies in Australia ended in Kenya on 7 December 2007, while a Project Management workshop was hosted for Alumni on 6 and 7 December.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to everybody who participated and contributed to the success of Pre Departure briefings and Alumni functions.

Regards,

Elsa-Marie van Schalkwyk

ADS Program Manager



Deputy President of South Africa: Honourable Mrs. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka giving a speech during the Cocktail Party at the Australian High Commissioner, H.E Mr. Philip Green's residence.

South Africa Alumni Cocktail Function



Awardees with the Deputy President of SA, Hon. Mrs. Phumlile Mlambo-Ngcuka and the Australian High Commissioner, H.E Mr. Philip Green



The Deputy President of SA in conversation with H.E Mr. Philip Green and Dr Geoff Gallop



Dr Likeleli Makhothi & Ms Mashea-Mabittle Amelia , Lesotho awardees



GRM / ADS team



Mrs Rochelle Kock, South African Awardee with her husband



Alumni members busy networking and enjoying the evening

Pre Departure Briefing Pictures



Zambian Awardees



Malawian Awardees



Tanzanian Awardees with Mrs. Lisa Filipetto, Australian High Commissioner to Tanzania



Zambian and Malawian Alumni



Lucy Kiriimi (AusAID), Ugandan Alumni & Elsa-Marie (ADS)



Zambian and Malawi Awardees

Experience in Australia by Ex-Student

Studying in Australia has been a wonderful personal and educational experience. Australian universities allow students to play an active role in the learning process through seminars. Universities place great importance on developing students' ability to think creatively, independently, critically, participate in debate and function in teams. The skills learnt give one an edge in a competitive and diverse world.

Universities reward students academically, personally and professionally, by offering a stimulating environment for students from around the world to gain valuable skills, experiences and qualifications. Apart from the world-class education system offered by the Universities, there are other challenging activities that one can get involved in.

These include Australia's natural beauty of rainforest trails, mountains, sun-baked horizons to chilly Southern beaches together with the vibrant multicultural cities, museums, sports, art and food captured my curiosity and enthusiasm. I had great fun during my stay in Australia, and my advice for those who are looking for the best education coupled with a fantastic life, Australia is a place to be. It is however important not to lose sight of the real reason why you're there.

I encourage all International students to make the most of this opportunity, but to know that success takes a great deal of discipline, commitment and assertiveness, and this should drive people wishing to build their career.

On behalf of myself and the Department of Trade & Industry, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to ADS for giving me an opportunity to study in Australia. I am positive that the qualifications I have acquired in Australia will indeed, in many ways, be a stepping-stone in my future success and I also hope others will be empowered through the sharing of my knowledge.

Thank you

Terence Mvana
Curtin University of Technology
Master of Commerce (Accounting)
South Africa



Terence and friends: From left to right: Edi and his daughter from Indonesia, Terence and his son, Adrian from Australia and Bob from China



Mr Terence Mvana (right) with a friend Ezi (left) from Indonesia at the graduation ceremony

The Hon Stephen Smith MP

AUSTRALIAN MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Africa Day

26 May 2008, Canberra

Ambassador John Lanyasunya, High Commissioner for Kenya, Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps;
Heads of African Diplomatic Missions in Australia;
Other Members of the Diplomatic Corps;
Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:
45 years ago, the then Organization of African Unity (OAU) dedicated itself to promoting the unity and solidarity of the African States, to securing Africa's rightful place on the world stage, and to achieving a better life for all the peoples of Africa.

The Africa now represented by the OAU's successor, the African Union (AU), is a remarkably different place. Probably the most significant global event in the last century was decolonization: nowhere was this more evident than in Africa.

A great deal has been accomplished by the peoples of Africa, in the face of the continuing developmental and security challenges faced by a number of the AU's member states. Today, I offer my congratulations on the achievements of the African Union, and of Africa itself, to the 13 representatives of African nations here, and through you to the current African Union Chairperson, President Kikwete of the Republic of Tanzania.

I am particularly pleased that our High Commissioner in Kenya will soon present her credentials as an Observer to the African Union.

Australia and Africa: a wider view

Ladies and gentlemen, this is the first Africa Day celebration I have had the privilege of attending. The new Australian Government wants to bring a wider perspective to Australia's relations with Africa. We want to broaden and deepen our engagement with your continent and your nations.

It's impossible for someone like me, from Western Australia, the heart of Australia's minerals and petroleum resources industry, to ignore Australia's growing engagement with African countries in the resources sector. For example, more than 300 Australian resource companies, led by BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto, are active throughout Africa, with existing and prospective investments estimated at up to US\$15 billion.

That figure is impressive. So too is the steady increase in bilateral trade over the past decade. The Australian Government will do all it can to ensure this trend continues to our mutual benefit.

Our trade, commercial and investment relationship is steadily being backed up by enhanced people-to-people engagement. We are encouraged by the increasing number of Africans studying in Australia. These, together with Australians who visit and work in African countries, and African families who have found a welcoming home in Australia, help to deepen the ties between our continents, our nations and our peoples.

We welcome the confident voice of African States in the councils of international affairs, and want to work positively and constructively with you.

In recent years we have witnessed serious and continuing efforts on the part of the African Union to join with the United Nations to help address conflicts in Africa. This includes mobilizing member states to contribute to peacekeeping operations, and by using its good offices to mediate.

The challenges of peacekeeping and nation building are undeniably complex. We can only encourage African states to continue this difficult but essential work.

Australia shares many African views on the role and importance of the UN. Australia was a founding member of the United Nations, and has traditionally been a very strong supporter of its work in promoting peace, security and development, and in assisting the emergence of newly-independent states, including in

Africa.

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The Australian Government has made a clear commitment that Australia will play a more active and constructive role in multilateral diplomacy, and especially in the United Nations. In keeping with this spirit of renewed engagement, the Government has decided that – after an absence of more than 20 years – Australia will seek election to the UN Security Council for the 2013-14 period.

We look forward to the support of your Governments, and to working closely with you in tackling the most urgent challenges to international peace and security. We remain fully committed to this task.

We have contributed to over 50 United Nations and multinational peacekeeping operations, including those in Zimbabwe, Namibia, Somalia, Rwanda, Mozambique and Ethiopia/Eritrea. In recent years we have sent military and police personnel to work with the UN Mission in Sudan. And in March, the Prime Minister offered further personnel to the United Nations – African Union Mission in Darfur. More broadly, we want to continue to assist the United Nations' and international efforts to deliver credible development assistance.

In 2008-09, we will provide over A\$115 million in development assistance to Africa, an increase of more than 20 per cent over the current year. This contribution will support progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.

We also remain aware of the humanitarian challenges facing specific regions of Africa, including Darfur. The Prime Minister's pledge of \$5 million on 30 March brings Australia's assistance to Darfur to more than \$60 million since 2004. In the same period, we have also provided \$15 million for South Sudan and over \$10 million to address the spill-over effects in neighbouring countries.

Over the last year, Australia has provided humanitarian assistance in response to emergencies in Africa. These include flooding in Ghana, Uganda and Ethiopia; food insecurity in Zambia and Somalia; and people displaced by conflict in Chad and the Central African Republic.

And we continue to assist the victims of unrest and instability. About one-third of Australia's humanitarian and refugee immigration program is allocated to African refugees. Australia is a proud member of the Commonwealth, a body whose African membership has expanded in recent years. We support the Commonwealth's mandate of promoting the fundamental principles of democracy.

Zimbabwe

One of the notable achievements of the past decades has been the spread in Africa of democracy.

Sadly, this is not the case in Zimbabwe.

I have discussed Zimbabwe with my counterparts in South Africa, Dr Dlamini-Zuma; in Zambia, Mr Pande; and Tanzania, Mr Membe; and with the Vice President of Botswana, Lt Gen Merafhe. I registered Australia's interest in and concerns on Zimbabwe, and benefited from our discussions of the situation in Zimbabwe.

Australia remains deeply concerned at developments in Zimbabwe and strongly urge Zimbabwe's neighbours to encourage President Mugabe to respect the will of the Zimbabwe people, including through providing a strong contingent of election observers to undertake comprehensive monitoring before, during and after the second round of presidential elections.

We welcome the Southern African Development Community's decision to increase substantially the number of observers in the second round run-off election. Australia stands ready, if asked, to provide election observer assistance.

Meanwhile we will continue to provide humanitarian assistance to the citizens of Zimbabwe through the UN and NGOs. We expect to provide aid to Zimbabwe totaling approximately \$12 million in 2007-08.

Conclusion

Ladies and gentlemen:

We welcome the greater role that Africa is playing on the world stage. We take pleasure in celebrating with you today Africa's achievements.

Our commitment is to work with African states and organizations to address both African and wider international issues.

Our commitment is for the long term.