



Australian Government
AusAID

AUSTRALIAN SCHOLARSHIPS
FOR AFRICA PROGRAM

ALUMNI NEWS

An initiative of the Australian Government

Volume 7

JUNE 2009

AFRICA DAY MAJOR INCREASE IN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FOR AFRICA

Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation Minister Bernard Membe from Tanzania was recently on an official visit to Australia where he held talks with the Honourable Stephen Smith, Australia's Foreign Minister. At a reception hosted by the African Heads of Mission marking Africa Day, Mr Smith reaffirmed his country's commitment to working together with Africa on trade reforms, climate change and peacekeeping missions.



**Tanzanian Minister Bernard Membe
with Mr. Stephen Smith**

"Australia is willing to help Africa become a prosperous continent, especially in supporting capacity building initiatives in social, political and economic fronts. Hence we are increasing our scholarships program in Africa. It is my firm belief that students, including the 9 000 or so Africans studying in Australia, can make the personal linkages and embody the mutual understanding that will be the foundation of a shared future", he said.

Fourteen Tanzanians will receive post-graduate scholarships next year, as part of AusAID's growing scholarships program in Africa. Furthermore, an additional 75 community workers dealing with Tanzanian children and families adversely affected by HIV/AIDS, will be trained in an ongoing program in partnership with UNICEF.

"Overall, we have increased our development assistance funding for Africa by over 40 per cent for the 2009-10 financial year. Africa will continue to benefit from the Australian Government's commitment to scale up our aid program to 0.5 per cent of GNI by 2015-16. Australia will also help build Africa's human resource capacity through targeted technical assistance in areas of Australian expertise such as natural resource management, agriculture, trade policy and governance" Mr. Smith said. He concluded by reiterating Australia's commitment to strengthen links with Africa and added, "in celebrating Africa's achievements today, we also look to the future and the greater role that Africa is destined to play on the world stage. We are confident that our joint efforts to deepen our engagement will be to the benefit of both our continents".

For the full story, go to: www.adsafrica.com.au

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OECD praises Australia's Overseas Aid Program

“We're very pleased to have had the OECD do this review. I want to congratulate AusAID and its officers over a significant period of time for the good work that it has done and for the very positive review that we've received”. Stephen Smith, Australian Foreign Minister.

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) review welcomes the Government's renewed commitment to reducing poverty, its promotion of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and its support for international agencies like the United Nations. The OECD review was presented to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Stephen Smith by the Chair of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC), Eckhard Deutscher.

The OECD commends the Government for:

- Strategic focus on Asia Pacific, including assistance to East Timor and the Solomon Islands;
- Pacific Partnerships for Development as a key feature of the aid program;
- Commitment to a targeted engagement with Africa; and
- Integration of gender equity into the aid program.

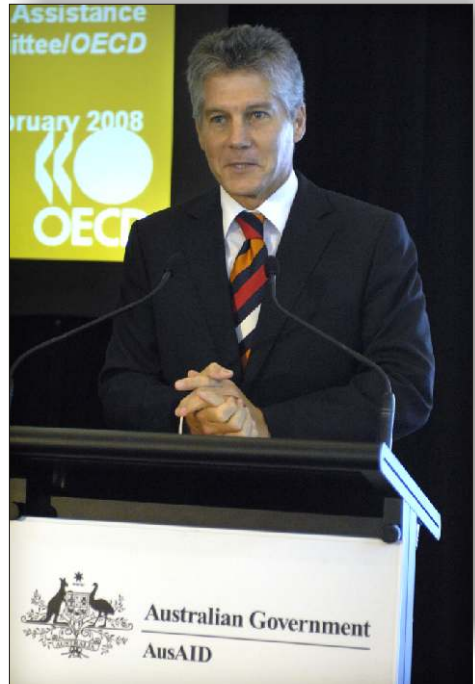
Australia's Agency for International Development, AusAID, was also commended for its efforts to promote aid effectiveness including by opening up contracting arrangements to global competition.

The establishment of the independent Office of Development Effectiveness, to report on the effectiveness of Australian aid and identify areas of improvement, was also highlighted as an important step in improving the aid program's efficiency. The review welcomed Australia's commitment to increase its support for developing countries to 0.5 per cent of Gross National Income by 2015.

Development assistance provided by Australia has meant that:

- Polio has been virtually eradicated in the Pacific;
- 380 new Indonesian schools have been built;
- More than 1.5 million children in PNG have received measles vaccinations;
- Almost 9,000 teachers were trained in the Philippines; and
- More than 980 schools have reopened in East Timor.

A complete copy of the OECD review is available at www.oecd.org/dac/peerreviews/australia.



AUSTRALIAN-AFRICA FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The opportunity of a lifetime

The Australia-Africa Fellowship Program aims to build leaders and empower people to drive reform, development and governance in Africa. By providing people with the knowledge and the skills to promote development in their home country, the ADS scheme aims to see a reduction in poverty, promote good governance, and contribute to the human resource base of targeted countries. To find out more about ADS in Africa, go to our website and please join our forum:

www.adsafrica.com.au

Mega Tertiary Hospital Project for Cape Town

During 2008, Lorraine Rademeyer had the privilege to participate as one of five South African fellows in the first AusAID South Africa/Australia Fellowship Program. She obtained a Graduate Certificate in Project Management from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT).

Lorraine shares her experience with us:
“The formal learning was complemented by visits to the industry to gain insight into the practical aspects of project management, particularly with respect to infrastructure development. Combining theory with practice has been hugely beneficial as it was possible to experience theory in action”.

“During the last month of my stay in Melbourne, I was very excited to learn that I would become involved with a mega tertiary hospital project in Cape Town upon my return to South Africa.”



Lorraine Rademeyer (second from right) with SA Fellows and invited guests

The project forms part of the National Department of Health's strategy for health care reform, termed the Hospital Revitalisation Program. The magnitude and strategic importance of the project require the Department to motivate for additional funding from National Treasury in order to acquire the tertiary service package. The capital cost of the project is estimated to exceed R3 billion, with the development of a new hospital replacing the existing facility which will be upgraded for re-use and potential income generation. It is foreseen, once funding has been secured, that Lorraine will remain part of the core project team to take this initiative forward. The project promises to be an important achievement for the Department and the Province as a whole.

“The exposure to the Australian way of working and the academic program at RMIT, courtesy of AusAID, has empowered me to apply these project management principles and methodology. The new insights gained have contributed notably to the success achieved thus far on this strategically important and very challenging project. The learning has furthermore impacted positively on my effectiveness in my role as Monitoring and Evaluation Manager for the Hospital Revitalisation Program in the Western Cape”.

She expressed her sincere gratitude to AusAID and their partner for providing her with this enriching experience and the opportunities it has created.

AUSTRALIAN-AFRICA FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Kenyan Alumni explores Africa's capacity for the exploration and mining of minerals and oil

"The AusAID funded Extractive Industry Governance Fellowship Program which I attended at the University of Sydney towards the end of 2008 has been extremely beneficial to me and my organization," says Moses Masibo.

He is in charge of the Mineral Exploration and Evaluation Section in the Mines and Geological Department in Kenya where he feels he can now address and articulate mining issues more effectively when attending important policy meetings on behalf of his organisation.

Moses was afforded the opportunity to represent the Department at the 6th Africa Resource Bank meeting organised by the Inter Region Economic Network in Mombasa. The Theme of the meeting was "Commercialising Africa's Resources to Promote Prosperity", where he presented a paper entitled "Africa's Capacity to exploit its mineral and oil Resources". The paper, together with others, formed the basis of discussions by participants who included Members of Parliament and senior officials from the public and private sectors from the African continent. The main issues discussed included the promotion of public/private sector partnerships; development of sound policies to regulate and facilitate exploration/exploitation of mineral resources; high value/strategic minerals such as oil and petroleum; mineral resource benefit sharing, corporate social responsibility; as well as royalties and taxation.



Kenya Alumni participants busy with the workshop exercise "Towers of Power"

Moses is currently the Treasurer of the Geological Society of Kenya and is involved in finalising a new mining law.

"The training I received in the area of Policy and Taxation has been extremely useful to me in rationalising issues such as mining royalties, and the significance of corporate social responsibility. All I can say with certainty is that the AusAID funded fellowship left an indelible mark on my professional career which I fondly cherish." Moses Masibo



Malawi Alumni participants with course facilitators Troy Hendrickson (left) and Malcolm Lowther (right) from Curtin University of Technology



Malawi Alumni workshop participants busy with the 'Nuclear Reactor' exercise

AUSTRALIAN-AFRICA SCHOLARSHIPS

Life has never been the same since the ADS

Jemima Hipondoka says being awarded the AusAID Scholarship was one of the most rewarding things that has ever happened to her.

Jemima completed a M.Ed (TESOL-International) at Monash University, Melbourne in 2004. She commends the education faculty for their support both towards her academic and personal life, where she discovered her capabilities and full potential.

“Being in a predominately white community was a challenge for me as a black woman from Africa because I constantly had to prove my potential and work hard, which made me discover many of my inner-most abilities that I never thought I had. It has turned me into a stronger and ambitious young African woman”.

“ADS was a great opportunity for me and since my return to Namibia, I have grown in the



academic field from being an English secondary school teacher to an English lecturer in one of the best institutions in my country. I was appointed the acting co-ordinator for the Centre. The institution is currently establishing a Writing Centre which will offer tutoring sessions for students and faculty who have writing problems.”

She expressed her heartfelt gratitude to AusAID and feels it has contributed greatly to the person she has become, broadening her horizons in so many ways.

“The experience has empowered me to know that I can achieve through any society and circumstances in which I find myself.” **Jemima Hipondoka**



Uganda Alumni doing the “Lilly Pads” workshop exercise

AUSTRALIAN-AFRICA SCHOLARSHIPS

Bwyo Denis discovers new opportunities through AusAID

Bwyo Denis from Uganda was awarded an Australian government (AusAID) scholarship to study at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia in 2006 where he studied a master's degree in public health. He describes the experience as life-changing and empowering.

"The orientation programs were extremely helpful. It's great that the scholarship program allows you to arrive at least one month before formal classes start. The academic side of things was very different from what I had experienced before. My lecturers emphasised a lot on each of what was termed "graduate attributes" including in-depth knowledge of field of study, effective communication, independence and creativity, critical judgment and ethical and social understanding. These attributes, I have discovered, are extremely important in any work environment today".

On his return to Uganda, he continued working as a medical officer in a local government health office, where he found that his training in UQ equipped him very well for his job.

The qualifications created many new opportunities, and he enrolled into an internal medicine residency program. He says the skills obtained from health research and evidence-based health care have been invaluable, giving him the edge in this very competitive field. "I am most grateful to the Australian people for the scholarship, hopefully more Africans continue getting similar opportunities, as well as the opportunity to make life-long friends. "

News from Present Scholarship Students

Mark Corneilse sees the world through new eyes

"The Intensive Academic Program (IAP) provides excellent exposure to academic writing; critical thinking and writing; academic literature research and referencing. The international group participating in the IAP included students from Indonesia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Vietnam, Papua New Guinea, Mauritius, Botswana, Swaziland, Tanzania, Sri Lanka and Mozambique. As the only South African in the group I was conscious of the privilege and responsibility to do well, and extend my sincere heartfelt thanks to AusAID for this life-altering experience.



Botswana 2009 intake awardees

Being in Australia has really taught me to appreciate the privilege to be studying here but also to appreciate the basic things in my home country. It was also very uplifting to have the South Africa cricket team here in January and very stimulating that we won both series!"

Witnessing the devastation caused by the bush-fires, Mark commented: "The fires have destroyed so many lives, homes and possessions, and it moved so fast it was impossible for some to escape. With scenes of utter destruction it is a reminder to appreciate the sanctity and brevity of life, tomorrow is not guaranteed". It has been described as Australia's worst natural disaster in history.

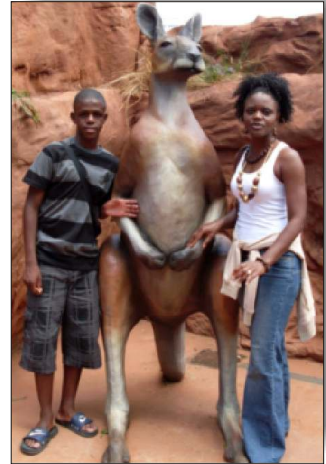
AUSTRALIAN-AFRICA SCHOLARSHIPS

Sustainable development in the Veterinary field

“My resolution to take what-ever comes my way certainly paid off”.

After the initial shock of jet lag, culture and currency differences, hunting for accommodation and university orientation, Dr. Yolandi (Baby) Kaurivi from Namibia finally settled into life in Sydney.

She found that her lifestyle has changed considerably, and that she now enjoys eating fat-free and organic food. But above all she realised that there is nothing else she would have rather done than this field of study.



Dr. Yolandi and her son Puna in Australia



A Namibian cowgirl in Australia

“I’m certain that with the knowledge and experience gained here, I will be able to contribute to the sustainable development of the veterinary sector in Namibia.. and it is all because of the opportunity afforded me by AusAID!”



2009 Awardees with Nominating Authority Namibia



2009 Awardees with Nominating Authority Lesotho

AUSTRALIAN-AFRICA SCHOLARSHIPS

Accolades to Rhona Mijumbi for tackling Climate Change

Rhona Mijumbi from Uganda was invited to attend the Global Ministerial Forum on Health Research in Bamako, along with world policy makers, ministers and leaders in the health arena. "My trip to Bamako, Mali was a result of a paper I wrote in March 2008, for a competition by the Global Forum for Health Research whose theme was "Climate Change and Research".

The competition attracted more than 300 papers from around the world, and she was one of the six winners, and was selected as a regional winner from Africa.

"I wrote a paper titled "Climate Change: Let us return to Alma Ata" that the effects of climate change are going to be felt hardest by vulnerable populations and research in these populations is going to get harder and complicated. I highlighted a few of the complications and proposed that whatever researchers decide to do about these

complications, they have got to have the spirit that health authorities had while in Alma Ata in 1978 when they proposed and agreed to Primary Health Care. At that time they united with an aim to have Health for all by the year 2000. That genuine passion and unity is what research needs now especially in this era where it is out of research that we get evidence for policy".

Written in simple non-technical language that could be read and understood by policymakers, researchers, and the man in the street, the essay was published in *The Lancet*, recognised and respected leading journal in the medical field. At the forum, she addressed a session explaining her essay and suggesting ways forward for vulnerable groups and countries.

Since the forum, especially in her home country Uganda, articles in the national newspaper (The New Vision) have been dedicated to this issue. One such article was printed on the 15th December 2008, and this stimulated a series of questions from the general public about climate change. It has also stimulated the interest of other researchers including Prof. Sewankambo, Principal in the College of Health Sciences at Makerere University, Uganda and James Okware, a lecturer and environmental activist at Kyambogo University, Uganda, with whom she was offered a chance to work to help reach the lay-man in developing countries who has very little information about climate change or what to do about it.

The work has also been nominated for the Vice-Chancellor's Equity and Diversity Award, 2009 at the University of Queensland. These awards are given to a student or lecturer or group at the university that has shown effort in promoting equity in vulnerable or marginalized groups or promoted diversity.

The paper can be viewed on the WHO, Global Forum for Health Research website.
<http://w2.globalforumhealth.org/>



**Rhona Mijumbi and Richard Horton
(Editor-in-Chief of *The Lancet*)**

Alumni Workshops 2008 Feedback from Questionnaires

Matthew Pritchard, ADS Program Manager is pleased to give the following feedback:

During November 2008, AusAID organised professional development workshops for ADS Alumni in five countries: South Africa, Mozambique, Malawi, Kenya and Uganda. Dr Geoff Gallop, CEO of the Graduate School of Government of the University of Sydney and former Premier of Western Australia, presented a two-day seminar on Leadership for the Public Sector in South Africa and Mozambique. Two-day seminars on Leadership and Communication Project Management were presented by the Curtin University of Business in Malawi, Uganda, and Kenya.



**Matthew Pritchard,
ADS Program Manager**

Overall, respondents to the questionnaire rated the workshops highly successful. They were reported to be a useful way to support alumni, the facilitators were very highly thought of (average 4.5, where 5 is excellent), the overall rating for the courses was very high (4.6), administration was reckoned very good (avg 4.0), courses were well-balanced (83.1% agreeing), and the group exercises were considered helpful (100%).

Suggestions for improvements focused on the need for more and better networking opportunities, additional courses / events and additional methods of support, such as funding for research or projects on return from the studies. Particular interest was shown in regional workshops; more frequent workshops; opportunities for alumni from different countries to meet and network; more involvement of alumni in workshops; support with job placements; support for PhDs; and increases in the number of scholarships. Three very clear additional areas for courses emerged: managerial skills, motivation / conflict resolution, and managing change. In addition, there was interest in proposal writing and research techniques.

So thanks to all the Alumni who participated and returned their questionnaires. We'll certainly try to take as many of your comments on board as we can!

**Matthew Pritchard
ADS Program Manager**



Mozambique 2009 intake awardees



**Zambia 2009 intake awardees with Mr. Andrew Edge,
First Secretary (Development) AusAID**

GOING PLACES

SA Alumni and 2009 awardees with the Australian High Commission's Mr. Phillip Green



Mozambique Alumni participants with Dr. Geoff Gallop from Sydney University and Mr. Percy Stanley (Counselor, Development Africa)



Kenya 2009 intake awardees with the Australian High Commissioner, Ms Lisa Filipetto

Alumni Annual Questionnaires and Database Updates Results from 2008

2008's round of annual questionnaires to ADS Alumni produced a good number of responses: up to 128, counting web database updates as responses.

The responses themselves were also very positive. For example, across all countries' candidates, 63.3% reported that they were at a different level or had received a promotion since returning from their studies. Over 83% of students reported benefits to themselves individually, with over 35% giving real-world examples. This was also reflected in benefits to the individual's organisation, with over 87% responding positively. A further 27% of alumni were able to give 'concrete' examples of benefits that their organisations had received, but even more interestingly, over 50% of respondents could give solid examples of work achievements in their current positions as a result of their ADS scholarships.

This round of questionnaires and updates undoubtedly shows that the ADS program is having a significant beneficial impact on the scholars, on their promotion prospects, on their organisations, and on the work that they carry out. It was particularly interesting to note the wide variety of 'concrete' examples given by the students for the benefits to themselves, their organisations and their work. These cover a large percentage of topical and cross-cutting subjects, such as: policy development and monitoring (in subjects); improving gender equity; risk-based examination of banks; HIV/AIDS impact, policy, ART strategies and communication programs; tobacco control legislation; political, trade and investment negotiations; tax treaty negotiations; and Land-care and other environmental concerns, among many others.

In addition, there are clearly alumni who are starting to become more active in the private sector, for example starting consulting companies to capitalise on their experience.

The sheer variety of high-level areas that alumni report being engaged in is very strong circumstantial evidence to suggest that ADS alumni are indeed maintaining activities that contribute significantly to their countries' continuing development.

And that, ultimately, is the whole purpose of ADS. So to all the alumni who are doing such great work - well done, and keep it up!

Warm wishes, Matthew Pritchard (ADS Program Manager)

"Knowledge is like a garden: if it is not cultivated, it cannot be harvested."

Proverb from Guinea

DID YOU KNOW?

- Australia is the world's smallest continent and the world's sixth largest country.
- Tasmania has the cleanest air in the world.
- 70 percent of Australia gets less than 500 mm (20 inches) of rainfall per year.
- There are more than 150 million sheep in Australia, and only some 20 million people.

ALUMNI NEWS

Official newsletter for Alumni of the Australian Development Scholarship Program for Southern and Eastern Africa (ADS Africa)

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