

RISE Annual Meeting

October 12-13, 2012, White Sands Hotel, Dar es Salaam

Day 1: Friday, October 12

Gamba Nkwengulila, Principal of the College of Natural and Applied Sciences at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), spoke on behalf of the Vice Chancellor. He noted that UDSM was honored to host scientists from across Africa and all of the meeting participants. While introducing the Deputy Minister of Education and Vocational Training, Philipo Mulugo, Dr. Nkwengulila stressed that RISE's efforts will need to be sustained by governments in the long term and he asked for the Tanzanian government's support.

Mr. Mulugo welcomed RISE delegates to Tanzania, emphasized the need for developing countries to catch up and keep up with technological developments and praised the RISE networks for working to bridge the gap. Furthermore, he spoke about the many natural resources Tanzania has and officially opened the meeting.

Phillip Griffiths voiced his hope that RISE will strengthen economic development in the countries in which it operates. Designed at a meeting hosted by the African Academy of Sciences in Nairobi in 2007, RISE's rationale is to leverage knowledge and facilities across the region to produce excellent results. He noted that RISE had achieved a great deal to date, especially in terms of networking between students and supervisors, and he welcomed the new generation of scientific leaders graduating through RISE. The areas in which RISE students are training have significant applicability to the region. Governments should recognize this and be catalysts for further scientific discoveries.

RISE-AFNNET presentation online at

<http://sig.ias.edu/files/AFNNET%20presentation%202012%20RISE%20meeting.pdf>.

SABINA presentation online at

<http://sig.ias.edu/files/SABINA%20presentation%202012%20Annual%20RISE%20Mtg.pdf>.

AMSEN presentation online at

<http://sig.ias.edu/files/AMSEN%20presentation%20at%20RISE%202012%20meeting.pdf>.

SSAWRN presentation online at http://sig.ias.edu/files/SSAWRN_report_at_RISE_2012_meeting.pdf.

WIORISE presentation online at <http://sig.ias.edu/files/WIORISE%202012%20RISE%20Meeting.pdf>.

Partnerships: Arlen Hastings introduced the partnership discussion sessions by describing a joint effort with Princeton University. Currently, Princeton University is funding a 5-month visit by SSAWRN student Kele Mpho as a Visiting Student Research Collaborator (VSRC) in the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering. Princeton will potentially host another student as well.

Materials science panel with Wole Soboyejo representing AUST-Abuja and Alfonse Dubi representing AIST-Arusha.

Prof. Soboyejo's presentation is available online at <http://sig.ias.edu/files/RISE%20Talk%20-%20Materials%20Program%20at%20AUST%202012.pdf>. He spoke about hosting joint workshops involving the three Nelson Mandela Institutes (NMIs) – the International Institute for Water and Environmental Engineering (2iE) in Ouagadougou, the African Institute of Science and Technology-Arusha (AIST-Arusha), and AUST-Abuja – open to all RISE and NMI students. This could include a water workshop at 2iE, a materials science workshop at AUST-Abuja or the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits), and a life sciences and natural products workshop at AIST-Arusha.

Prof. Dubi's presentations are available online at <http://sig.ias.edu/files/OCT2012%20-%20NM-AIST%20-RISE%20MTG-1.pdf> and [http://sig.ias.edu/files/Oct12%20-%20\(EPark\)%20MaSE4RISE_NMIAIST.pdf](http://sig.ias.edu/files/Oct12%20-%20(EPark)%20MaSE4RISE_NMIAIST.pdf).

Discussion: While Prof. Soboyejo's presentation of AUST-Abuja focused on materials science, the university works in a number of other fields too. A suggestion was made to put aside funds for a development person for each network; someone whose job would be to go after additional grants and funding to support network operations. Prof. Griffiths asked what would be needed to have RISE and the NMIs work together. Prof. Soboyejo talked about networking across networks and centers of excellence to diffuse knowledge and talent. Oleg Reva asked Prof. Dubi if AIST-Arusha, which is planning to go into bioinformatics research, was interested in linking up with South Africa. Quintino Mgani recommended that AIST-Arusha strengthen its link with universities in Dar es Salaam (including UDSM) to recruit postgraduate students.

Water resources panel with Denis Hughes representing Rhodes University, Amadou Hama Maiga representing 2iE and Alfonse Dubi representing AIST-Arusha.

Rhodes University presentation: Rhodes is formulating a bid for a Category 1 UNESCO Hydrology Center. UNESCO currently has one in Delft, is building one in China and is strengthening one in Brazil. If Rhodes is successful, this center would be the one for Africa. The center would train MScs and some PhDs and be multidisciplinary within water sciences. UNESCO will be putting out the bid in 2013 and Rhodes will have to submit an application by the end of 2013. Rhodes is hoping the South African government will help move the process along.

Since UNESCO doesn't provide funds for centers, the big question is how to fund the bursaries for students to attend the center if it is approved. Through his work with the International Hydrology Foundation (IHF), Prof. Hughes has been identifying areas of capacity in southern Africa that could tap into and support the center. Rhodes is now looking for funding to have a 2-day workshop with key constituents of the proposed center, but it is proving difficult to find funding agencies that provide support for this kind of workshop.

Prof. Maiga's presentation on 2iE is available online at <http://sig.ias.edu/files/2iE%20at%20%20RISE%20meeting%20Dar%20es%20Salam.pdf>. He welcomed RISE involvement with 2iE's research center on water and climate.

Prof. Dubi's presentation of AIST-Arusha's water research capabilities is available online at <http://sig.ias.edu/files/Water%20Resources%20at%20NMAIST%20-RISE%20MTNG.pdf>.

Discussion: In response to a question about whether any of the presenters collaborate with the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) in Sri Lanka, 2iE reported that it has two scientists from IWMI at 2iE. The difference between a UNESCO Category 1 and Category 2 center is that a Category 1 center is a UNESCO center and a Category 2 center is a UNESCO-endorsed center (see <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/water/ihp/about-ihp/>). Three different models of collaboration were discussed – increasing collaboration whenever possible, competing and collaborating, and competing first and collaborating later. Getting more diaspora Africans involved in African science is critical; one way this is being done is through the African Renaissance Institute of Science and Technology (ARIST).

Day 2: Saturday, October 13

Peter McGrath's presentation on The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) is available online at <http://sig.ias.edu/files/TWAS%26OWSD%20presentation%20by%20Peter%20McGrath.pdf>.

TWAS Discussion: Participants asked 1. why TWAS covers ticket and visa fees for students to study in foreign countries rather than covering academic fees/costs so students with funds for a ticket could come study at more African universities; 2. whether TWAS exchange fellowships are drawing bright students away from Africa; and 3. why TWAS funds visiting scientists (internationally renowned scientists who go teach short courses in developing countries) to teach short courses rather than funding professors at under-resourced universities to, say, visit a university in the United States. The responses: 1. TWAS covers ticket and visa fees because the receiving countries/universities foot the entire bill for student study. 2. Those students who leave Africa to study in places such as China tend to come home once they've received their degrees and their visas have expired. 3. TWAS provides tickets to internationally renowned professors to visit institutions in developing countries, as the cost of one ticket allows for the professor to interact with many individuals, and paying for the reverse only impacts one scientist in a developing country.

Charles de Koning's presentation on Natural Products and the Role of Synthesis in Developing Medicines is available online at http://sig.ias.edu/files/TanzaniaOctober2012_de_Koning.pdf.

Martie van Deventer's presentation on SABINA's Virtual Research Environment (VRE) is available online at <http://sig.ias.edu/files/Natural%20products%20VRE%20progress%20and%20lessons%20learnt.pdf>.

End of meeting

--Lori Mulcare, 11/1/2012

Participants

RISE Network Representatives

RISE-AFNNET

Prof. Stephen Gitahi Kiama, University of Nairobi, Kenya
Dr. Stevens Kisaka, Makerere University, Uganda
Prof. Robinson Mdegela, Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania

AMSEN

Prof. Joseph Borode, Federal University of Technology-Akure, Nigeria
Prof. Lesley Cornish, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
Prof. P.K. Jain, University of Botswana
Prof. Frank Kavishe, University of Namibia
Prof. George Rading, University of Nairobi, Kenya

SABINA

Prof. Charles de Koning, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
Prof. Martha Kandawa-Schulz, University of Namibia
Dr. Sylvester Lyantagaye, University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Dr. Quintino Mgani, University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Ms. Ella Nyakunu, University of Pretoria & POL-SABINA, South Africa
Dr. Oleg Reva, University of Pretoria, South Africa
Dr. Martie Van Deventer, CSIR & POL-SABINA, South Africa

SSAWRN

Prof. Denis Hughes, Rhodes University, South Africa
Prof. Wellington Masamba, Okavango Research Institute, University of Botswana
Prof. Elonio Muiuane, Eduardo Mondlane University, Mozambique
Prof. Michael Ocaido, Makerere University, Uganda

WIO-RISE

Dr. Musa Chacha, Institute of Marine Sciences, University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Prof. Antonio Hogueane, Eduardo Mondlane University, Mozambique
Dr. Margareth Kyewalyanga, Institute of Marine Sciences, University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Prof. Chris Reason, University of Cape Town, South Africa
Mr. Juma Silayo, Institute of Marine Sciences, University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Non-RISE Participants

Mr. Alan Anderson, Research and Editorial Consultant, Science Initiative Group (SIG), USA
Prof. Alfonse Dubi, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Planning, Finance and Administration, AIST-Arushu, Tanzania
Prof. Phillip Griffiths, Chairman, Science Initiative Group (SIG), USA
Ms. Arlen Hastings, Executive Director, Science Initiative Group (SIG), USA
Ms. Andrea Johnson, Program Officer, Higher Education & Libraries in Africa, Carnegie Corporation, USA
Dr. Pius Kamau, Africa America Higher Education Partnerships (AAHEP), USA
Dr. Amadou Hama Maiga, Deputy Director General, 2iE, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
Mr. Peter McGrath, The World Academy of Sciences, Italy
Prof. Vedastus Muhikambebe, Director of Research, Sokoine University of Agriculture, Morogoro, Tanzania
Ms. Samantha Nkirote McKenzie, AllAfrica, Nairobi, Kenya
Ms. Lori Mulcare, Program Associate, Science Initiative Group (SIG), USA
Mr. Philipo Mulugo, Deputy Minister, Education and Vocational Training, Tanzania
Dr. Asifa Nanyaro, Executive Officer, Tanzanian Academy of Sciences
Dr. Gamba Nkwengulila, Principal, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Ms. Donna Podems, Director, OtherWISE, Cape Town, South Africa
Prof. Wole Soboyejo, President, African University of Science and Technology-Abuja, Nigeria

Students & Graduates

Dr. Gaymary Bakari, PhD graduate, Sokoine University of Agriculture (RISE-AFNNET)
Mr. Richard Clement, MSc student, Institute of Marine Sciences, University of Dar es Salaam (WIO-RISE)
Mr. Johnson Grayson, PhD student, Institute of Marine Sciences, University of Dar es Salaam (WIO-RISE)
Mr. Stephano Hanolo, MSc student, Institute of Marine Sciences, University of Dar es Salaam (WIO-RISE)
Mr. Mourice Mbunde, MSc student, Sokoine University of Agriculture (RISE-AFNNET)
Mr. Mabula Masunga Migata, MSc graduate, Sokoine University of Agriculture (RISE-AFNNET)
Mr. Edward Moto, PhD student, Institute of Marine Sciences, University of Dar es Salaam (WIO-RISE)
Mr. Shabani Mshamu, PhD student, Sokoine University of Agriculture (RISE-AFNNET)
Mr. Festo Mtanga, MSc student, Sokoine University of Agriculture (RISE-AFNNET)
Ms. Grace Mutia, PhD student, Institute of Marine Sciences, University of Dar es Salaam (WIO-RISE)
Ms. Liberata Mwita, MSc University of Dar es Salaam (SABINA)
Mr. Francis Mwonjoria, PhD student, Institute of Marine Sciences, University of Dar es Salaam (WIO-RISE)
Mr. Mwita Nyambega Sokoine University of Agriculture
Mr. Jangson Ngabo, MSc graduate, Sokoine University of Agriculture (RISE-AFNNET)
Mr. Siajali Pamba, PhD student, Institute of Marine Sciences, University of Dar es Salaam (WIO-RISE)
Ms. Nyamisi Peter, MSc student, Institute of Marine Sciences, University of Dar es Salaam (WIO-RISE)
Mr. Christopher Robert, MSc graduate, Institute of Marine Sciences, University of Dar es Salaam (WIO-RISE)
Ms. Sikitu Simon, MSc student, Sokoine University of Agriculture (RISE-AFNNET)
Mr. Thadeo Filbert Sogomba, Sokoine University of Agriculture