

International Student Exchange 2016 – 2019

Student Feedback Questionnaire

The purpose of this questionnaire is to evaluate the lessons learned of the AIR international student exchange.

By filling out this feedback report, you agree that your picture and experience will be published on the homepage of the AIR project. <http://www.air-project.org/>

Name of student:	Tisaye Kalua
Gender:	Male
Age:	43
Degree:	Masters, Mechanical Engineering
Hosting university:	THI
Sending university:	NMMU
Period of exchange:	2 Weeks
Field of study/major:	Renewable Energy
Field of interest during exchange:	Renewable Energy systems
Further graduation plans (e.g. PhD program):	Yes, in 2 Years

Please tick the appropriate box	I strongly agree	I agree	I neither agree nor disagree	I disagree	I strongly disagree
Program					
I gained insights into the practical implementation of RE in the host country (sight visits etc.)	√				
I gained knowhow in field of my study		√			
The courses were helpful for my further research		√			
The agenda was well structured		√			
Organization					
The journey preparations were well organized		√			
The support during the exchange was good		√			
The post processing of the exchange was well organized			(Not understood)		
The reimbursement process was satisfactory			N/A		

The accommodation was pleasant		√			
Local transportation was well organized		√			
I socialized with local students	√				
I recommend the exchange		√			
Others:	<p>What would you like to be changed/ be improved for the future?</p> <p><i>May be increase industry visits as they were more beneficial.</i></p> <p>Did you experience any difficulties during your exchange?</p> <p><i>Settling was very expensive as we did not know the affordable places to visit. Over 25% of our expenditure on food was done in the first three days with less clues where to find it affordable.</i></p>				

The Academic Initiative for Renewables, AIR, student exchange program was my best way of ending the study in renewable energy related technologies. I had an opportunity to learn the many technologies and their applications from the industry point of view and research conducted at THI.

The organization was fairly good from both universities and the support through the program was also good.

Regarding the Agenda, I learnt a lot of new technologies and visited manufacturing plants. I had an opportunity to share to fellow students and researchers at different levels through presentations and chats.

I had an opportunity to access information regarding the lectures on energy/ grid management and more, which I hope will help me in the attempt to contribute to the energy solutions of Malawi.

The pairing with “buddies” of the high level of study helped in the exchange of knowledge especially in the technology research and methodology. Cultural issues were shared and we learnt more about Germany and her people.

My most interesting excursions were the waste to electricity plant, the biomass plant with CHP engines and the biogas plant. I also found it interesting how most individuals use renewable energy to cut on the demand from the grid.



Standing on a biomass digester in Zellerfeld



Visit to Citrin Solar

Personal interests such as a visit to the Organic Rankine Cycle heat engine plant were not addressed despite timely appeals, but such can be expected when groups are involved as not every individual need can be reached.

Regarding improvements, I am of the view that the program has more activities in the future to match with the time as we had a few free times within the weeks.

Also regarding livelihood, the hosting partner may give a rough picture of the cost of living and likely more affordable places. This I suggest because we spent most of our allocation in the first week and later found EDEKA as our cheapest shop, and on the final day someone told us it's very expensive. So such information though not directly connected to the activities and interests of the program will be valuable to the happiness of the future students. The funding was fairly adequate.

I am hopeful that the resources spent on me will have a positive impact which will be measured by my contribution to the energy sector in the country where I come from. Regarding this, I would like to ask for further support in the form of advice and linking to people and organizations that can partner with me in the energy plans that I will shortly share with you. I hope this is the essence of the program.



Dining time

Many people were very kind to us by giving us several gifts and treats. One of them is a dinner at the Schneiders on a Saturday before leaving.

Thank you AIR, thank you THI, thank you NMMU !