

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:	Chikomo Lavinia Lylla
Gender:	Female
Age:	29 years
Degree:	Masters in Renewable Energy Engineering (student)
Hosting university:	Stellenbosch University
Sending university:	University of Zimbabwe
Period of exchange:	One week
Field of study/major:	Renewable energy systems
Field of interest during exchange:	Biomass and Biogas
Further graduation plans (e.g. PhD program):	PhD in Renewable and sustainable energy

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.)		X			
I gained knowhow in field of my study		X			
The courses were helpful for my further research	X				
The agenda was well structured		X			
Organization					
The journey preparations were well organized	X				
The support during the exchange was good	X				
The post processing of the exchange was well organized	X				

The reimbursement process was satisfactory	X				
The accommodation was pleasant		X			
Local transportation was well organized		X			
I socialized with local students		X			
I recommend the exchange	X				
Others:	<p>What would you like to be changed/ be improved for the future? To be sent all the pre-reading documents in time or at the same time with the rest of the class.</p> <p>Did you experience any difficulties during your exchange? No, I did not experience any difficulties.</p>				

Please write a report about your student exchange including organization, agenda, experience, lessons learned, suggestions for improvement, and tips for other students (max. 590 words, Arial 12)

Before my departure from my home town, I was provided with detailed information on where I will stay and how I will get there. This helped me to search and know the climatic conditions of the places where I will be for a week; thus it helped me to prepare all the necessary staff and clothing needed during my stay. I also used the contact details provided to help me with all the inquiries during my travel and stay at the Sustainable Institute Guesthouse. Exceptional coordinators went an extra mile to assist me on making adjustments on the departure pickup time since I was not given much time to see around the place, though it was not part of the programme.

The agenda for the training was not mentioned and I did not receive some pre-reading documents that were sent to others. I later received a flash (USB) drive on the first day of the course with all the documents including the pre-reading documents that were sent to other students. It was a bit late but I managed to cope up with others since an introduction to the course was done perfectly.

The course stretched for a week with Professor N. Mohamed taking all the renewable energy resources lectures except for the introduction; and biomass and biogas section which was done by Professor A. B Sebotosi. New renewable energy systems were also discussed, in depth that includes generating of electricity by osmosis. I also had an opportunity to visit a company which specializes in wind energy machinery. It was an enlightening experience since i had a chance to ask about the potential of wind as a source of renewable energy in Zimbabwe. Furthermore, I now have a rough idea on the costs involved during and after the installation of such technology. The company also has a PV system installed to generate electricity for general office use. Again, I managed to have a view of the panels connected in series and in parallel which I read in books, and I also managed to trace the electrical wiring of the PV system up to the electrical distribution board.

In short, the course was an eye opener to me and everyone who attended it. This was made more by the way the Professors delivered it to students. They used communicative tools such as videos, audios and discussions; thus enhancing teacher

to student interactive way of lecturing. To my fellow students, I would urge you to attend since it helps in improving your knowledge and your communication skills through presentations (which was done at the end of the course by every student). Secondly, it helps to improve on team building aspects because some group projects will be allocated to everyone.

As mentioned earlier, it is important to send a copy of all the pre-reading documents to everyone registered for the course in order to help in preparation of the course. Otherwise, I learnt a lot during a week I spent at the Sustainable Institute of Stellenbosch University.