

International Student Exchange 2016 – 2019

Student Feedback Questionnaire

The purpose of this questionnaire is to evaluate the lessons learnt 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:	Cosmas S. Mwanakaba
Gender:	Male
Age:	53
Degree:	Mechanical Engineering/Renewable Energy
Hosting university:	University of Zimbabwe
Sending university:	University of Zambia
Period of exchange:	16 th Sept, 2018 to 29 th Sept, 2018
Field of study/major:	Renewable Energy Engineering
Field of interest during exchange:	Bioenergy/Biofuels
Further graduation plans (e.g. PhD programme):	Planning a PHD in Renewable Energy

Please tick the respective box	I strongly agree	I agree	I neither agree nor disagree	I disagree	I strongly disagree
Programme					
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		✓			
Organisation					
The journey preparations were well organised	✓				
The support during the exchange was good		✓			
The post processing of the exchange was well organised	✓				

The reimbursement process was satisfactory			✓		
The accommodation was pleasant		✓			
Local transportation was well organised		✓			
I socialised with local students	✓				
I recommend the exchange	✓				
Other	<p>What would you suggest to be changed/improved for future exchanges? The challenges of the University to be visited must be clearly outlined to the sponsors</p> <p>Did you experience any difficulties during your exchange? Could not access my upkeep allowance due to the financial situation in Zimbabwe</p>				

I arrived in Harare on 16th September, 2018 and I received at the airport by the Coordinator Engineer Madiye. From the airport I was take taken to University of Zimbabwe where I was shown the office of the Air Project Coordinator Mr. Madiye. On the same day I was settled at a guest wing in grenron belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Chinyemba. That was my residence from the day of arrival up to my departure day the 29th of September, 2018.

On the 17th of September, 2018, I reported at the University of Zimbabwe and I was introduced to the Department of Mechanical Engineering starting with the Chairman Engineer Chikuku. Later was given an office to operate from. The following day I was introduced to the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering Dr. Hadson Makurira and later in the day I was taken on a tour of Mechanical Engineering Laboratory by the coordinator. Common in the laboratory under Renewable Energy are solar collectors, emitters and storage batteries. Engineer Hilton Chingosho took me on the tour of SOLTRAIN Project. This is a container containing a solar training package. The system has solar geyser training model using bulbs. The other model within the container is solar photovoltaic (PV) training model.

On Tuesday the 25th of September, 2018, visited with Engineer H. Chingosho the Practical Action Southern Africa Offices. Informed that they are involved in the upgrading the rural part of Zimbabwe not on the national grid with power supply using mini-hydro projects and solar power supply installations in the rural areas. In so doing they have managed to electrify schools and clinics in rural areas of Zimbabwe. Excess power is rented out to small traders through established kiosks. Informed that so far in Zimbabwe the organization has undertaken six (6) successful schemes whilst in Malawi they have undertaken four (4) schemes. Informed that Practical Action is a United Kingdom based organization attracting funding from the European Union (EU) and United Nations Development Program (UNDP). Informed that the program was enjoying support from the Government of Zimbabwe and the National Power Company.

On 26th September, 2018 Engineer H. Chingosho facilitated that I take his third year under graduate Mechanical Engineering class ME301. The presentation was on Biomass and Biofuels. Discussed the main biomass resources and discussed the challenges the world faces with fossil fuels. Important terms like “Global Warming, Greenhouse Gasses” and the ultimate effects to the environment were clearly highlighted. From the students mood in class to the continued consultations by the students up to my last day at campus is the testimony that the lecture was appreciated.

Final but not least was a tour of the Lion and Cheetah Park. On this trip I with the Coordinator Engineer Madiye and Engineer Hilton Chingosho.

During my stay in Harare I pay tribute to the people of Zimbabwe for being that friendly to me. Special tribute to the Coordinator Engineer Madiye, Engineer Hilton Chingosho, the Chairman Engineer Chikuku, My Coordinator in Zambia Dr. Ackim Zulu, The Air Project for the exposure and finally but not least the providers of accommodation, Mr. and Mrs. Chinyemba for their help in getting me to and from the university.