

## 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:	Emmanuel Karabo Mpodi
Gender:	Male
Age:	26
Degree:	BSc in Agricultural Mechanization
Hosting university:	University of Malawi
Sending university:	Botswana International University of Science and Technology
Period of exchange:	10 days
Field of study/major:	MEng in Mechanical and Energy Engineering
Field of interest during exchange:	Renewable energy technologies (solar PV and Micro Hydroelectric system)
Further graduation plans (e.g. PhD program):	PhD Program

Please tick the appropriate box	I strongly agree	I agree	I neither agree nor disagree	I disagree	I strongly disagree
<b>Program</b>					
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	✓				
<b>Organization</b>					
The journey preparations were well organized		✓			
The support during the exchange was good	✓				

The post processing of the exchange was well organized	✓				
The reimbursement process was satisfactory			✓		
The accommodation was pleasant	✓				
Local transportation was well organized	✓				
I socialized with local students		✓			
I recommend the exchange	✓				
Others:	What would you like to be changed/ be improved for the future? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase of timeframe in order to increase content of materials to learn.</li> </ul> Did you experience any difficulties during your exchange? No				

*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)*

Through the AIR student exchange program I had an opportunity to be one of participant, by visiting the Centre of Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Appropriate Technology Development (WASHTED). WASHTED is situated in the Polytechnic campus of University of Malawi (UNIMA) in Blantyre. During the period of about two weeks (04-17 November 2018) spend in Blantyre I took part in a research study; Malawi Renewable Energy Acceleration Programme (MREAP). On the fifth of November introduction and briefing about the WASHTED and its research studies was done. Then six micro Solar PV system were visited in different villages in Chikwawa District, these village are namely; Dolo, Ndakwera, Mandrade and Gola.

A solar PV powered kiosk was visited in Mandrade accompanied by two Lecturer, one Technician and two undergraduate students on the sixth of November. On the seventh another solar powered kiosk was visited in Gola, then on the eighth two system were toured in Ndakwera (i.e. one installed in a health centre and another in a primary school). The last PV project toured was situated in Dolo, where two system are installed; one in a health centre and another in a primary school. During these a field visited a comprehensive MREAP survey questionnaire, interview and visual inspection (with the aid of technician) were used to collect data from the above mentioned locations. The data collected through the site was the compiled and analysed on the twelfth and thirteenth. On the fourteenth a Bondo micro-grid hydroelectric power station (80kW) which situated along the Lichanya River in Mulanje district was toured. Final report on general observation made was compiled on fifteenth and then presented to the WASHTED staff member on the sixteenth.

In general the program was of great benefit to me in terms of personal and academic development. For personal development I enhanced the following skills;

- Knowledge- The program was also like adventure as I managed to get close-up view of one of the highest mountain in Africa, (about 3002metres altitude) mount Mulanje surround by tea plantations. I also learnt of the historic significance of Malawi in the Eastern Africa trade around the 1400-1800s.
- Networking- through this program I was able to interact with a lot of people with different culture and background. Therefore a brought a new networking of people to relate to at a social and academic level, also in improving the future opportunities.

#### Academic development

- Qualitative data analysis- As I carried out a study in hosting a qualitative data (e.g. socioeconomic, environmental impact and technical status of system) was collected and analysed. Thereafter feedback of observation made was presented to the staff member. This exercise therefore helped in improve of qualitative technique which is valuable to my research study.



*The intake point of BONDO micro hydroelectric power*



*PV system installed at Ndawera Primary school*