

AlumniNews

Africa Newsletter

Australian Government hosts first Alumni Conference in Africa

More than 150 participants met in Cape Town, South Africa for the *Leading Change: Australia Awards Alumni in Africa's Development* conference in September.

Writer: Adriana Abreu-Combs
Photography: GRM International

- * HE Mr Graeme Wilson, Australian High Commissioner to South Africa (back left), Jamie Isbister, Minister Counsellor Development – Africa (back right) with Dr Mamphela Ramphela (middle in blue) and Alumni at the Australia Awards Alumni conference in Cape Town

Alumni from across Africa came together to share ideas and best practice at Australia Awards' first regional conference. Leading practitioners from both Australia and Africa contributed their experience and knowledge to the discussions. Guest speakers included South African former anti-apartheid activist, Dr Mamphela Ramphela, and Australian indigenous leader, Dr Tom Calma.

Opening the Conference, HE Mr Graeme Wilson, Australian High Commissioner to South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia and Swaziland and Ambassador to Angola, emphasised how proud Australia is to contribute to the immense promise of Africa's future. He stressed the important role Australia Awards Alumni play in his country's engagement with the continent.

"Our Alumni are the essence of what we are trying to achieve because they represent an investment in the future of the African continent. Through specialised knowledge, skills, leadership and enthusiasm, our Alumni are able to bring about positive change and contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in their home countries," he said.

Also speaking at the event's opening, Mr Jamie Isbister, Minister Counsellor for Development in Africa, noted that the Awards program is central to the Australian Government's continued engagement with the continent. He challenged African Alumni to embark on a life-long journey with Australia and called for their continued commitment to translate Award-gained skills and knowledge into development contributions.

Continued on page 2



Continued from page 1

A supporter of Australia Awards, Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu sent a message to Alumni commending them for their accomplishments and urging them to “join hands in continuing to work toward a prosperous and just Africa”. He urged the audience, “We look to you to accelerate development in Africa. While Africa has made great strides towards taking its place on the world stage, challenges remain to ensure that the benefits of our work and abundant resources are equitably and responsibly managed so that all Africans can benefit. We need your hands, your minds and your commitment in order to achieve this grand objective”.

The Conference was structured around four key sectors in Africa’s development – Agriculture, Health, Natural Resources Management and Public Policy. Australia Awards Alumni presented, led the discussions and showcased the contributions they have made to development outcomes in their home countries since returning from their studies. Topics presented included: a community schools initiative in Zambia; paediatric HIV services in the Gambia; Nigeria’s experiences of developing solid mineral resources; and efforts to promote the sustainable implementation of water policy in Ghana.

Leading the way through cutting edge anti-malarial research

Writer: Adriana Abreu-Combs
Photography: GRM International

Thanks to his research on anti-malarial chemotherapy, Cristiano Macuamule has joined the ranks of outstanding Australia Awards Alumni combatting malaria.

Cristiano obtained an Australian Government scholarship in 2005 and is one of the first recipients of funding through the Australia Awards Small Grants Scheme. Working in collaboration with research groups at Australian National University (ANU) and Stellenbosch University, South Africa, he conducted a series of experiments to assess how some potential new compounds kill the malaria parasite. Cristiano shortlisted 12 target compounds, one of which has the potential to be developed into a new anti-malarial drug. Continuous drug development is critical as the malaria parasites become increasingly drug-resistant. This research has the potential to contribute to the achievement of Millennium Development Goal number 6: combatting HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.



★ / Cristiano Macuamule
Master of Veterinary Studies
The University of Queensland

Cristiano has recently resumed his role as lecturer and researcher in pharmacology and toxicology at University Eduardo Mondlane in Mozambique, and continues to supervise post-graduate students in Australia and South Africa who are using his techniques in their research. “I am grateful for the opportunities I have been offered by Australia Awards, both the scholarship to attend the University of Queensland and the Small Grant which allowed me to progress my PhD research”, he says. “These experiences helped me to build the solid skills and knowledge that no doubt played a role in my career advancement”.

Development for all

Writer: Adriana Abreu-Combs

The Conference was a meeting of minds as Alumni from across the continent came to listen and learn from leading practitioners.

Africa, you need to rise. The opportunity is here for you to make a difference... Let's join hands, together we can. We need to build sustainable African solutions for African challenges. – Dr Snowy Khoza, CEO Bigen Africa

South African former anti-apartheid activist, **Dr Mamphela Ramphele**, spoke about the challenges faced and imperatives needed for sustainable management of natural resources. Her presentation was an open call for **African Leadership for Sustainable Development**. “Despite Africa’s considerable natural resource wealth and its overwhelming reliance on natural resources, the continent’s leaders have largely failed to find a way to effectively translate this natural resource wealth into accelerated and sustainable economic development,” she explained. Dr Ramphele called for an integrated development approach to mineral resources exploitation based on strong political will and a clear understanding of Africa’s advantages. Such an approach would include investment in human capital development and the promotion of accountable and transparent governance, she suggested.

Dr Snowy Khoza presented on **Natural Resources Management in Infrastructure Development: Benefits for Poor Communities**. She spoke about how *Bigen Africa*, the infrastructure development company she leads, seeks to integrate sustainable natural resource management practices into infrastructure development. She called for governments to introduce integrated and holistic approaches to managing natural resources that put the community at the centre. The benefits from strengthened strategic management approaches, such as job creation, need to trickle down to the communities in order to have a multiplier effect on issues such as health and education.

In his speech on the **Policy Imperatives for Success in the Extractive Resources Sector**, University of Sydney’s **Professor Geoff Gallop** shared lessons from the sector in Western Australia, which is a key player in the global extractive resources industry.

He argued that the sector must be more effectively regulated, managed and integrated into society. One critical success factor in Western Australia is the policy environment which promotes transparency through a system of checks and balances, which in turn makes for a better industry. Good governance and community involvement are equally key factors. Professor Gallop noted, “A good resource industry needs to be surrounded by the right questions, should be sustainable and environmentally sound, and needs to be part of the community”.

During his presentation on **Leading Change: The Experience of Indigenous Australians**, **Dr Tom Calma** shared his personal story as an indigenous leader in Australia. He recounted the setbacks and milestones of indigenous Australians’ struggle for recognition and equality and discussed the ongoing challenges. Such challenges now include: low life expectancy; high mortality rate linked to smoking; and the lack of opportunities for youth. Dr Calma presented on some of the initiatives being undertaken to help address these challenges. He discussed transformative leadership and the need for more indigenous and business leaders who are inclusive, visionary, inspiring, daring, risk-takers and thinkers. “Transformative leadership is about making a difference and being inclusive of all people”, he said.

The contributions of the Biosciences eastern and central Africa – International Livestock Research Institute Hub (BecA-ILRI Hub) to **Mobilising Biosciences for Africa’s Development** were discussed by **Dr Appolinaire Djikeng**. Agriculture is a key sector in Africa, where nearly 80 per cent of the population is rural and mostly engaged in smallholder farming. Key to BecA-ILRI’s work is its approach to link research to applications that create solutions for smallholder farmers, working in close collaboration with communities to find local-level solutions to tackle specific agricultural challenges.

For more information about the conference, including the full program, speakers’ bios, abstracts and copy of presentations, please visit our website at <http://www.australiaawardsafrica.org/alumni-conference/>

Supporting Africa's mining sector

Writer: Karin Gellatly
Photography: GRM International

[Australia Awards is working with Awardees to regulate the Artisanal and Small Scale Mining sector across Africa.](#)

Artisanal and Small Scale Mining (ASM) has long been an important industry in Africa, providing economic opportunities for many impoverished families. The average earnings of an ASM worker are less than one dollar a day, placing them in absolute poverty. A United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) report estimated that, throughout Africa, over 8 million people are directly engaged in ASM, and that they in turn support more than 45 million dependants. This highly unregulated sector is now emerging as a challenge that governments can no longer ignore.

An unregulated environment in ASM results in environmental degradation of local communities, water pollution, land tenure issues and poor safety and labour standards. Critically, it lacks monitoring and control through mining licences and tax regulations.

The Australian Government supports developing nations to explore and maximise the benefit from extractive industries to drive economic growth and contribute to sustainable development and poverty reduction. Australia Awards supports governments and individuals to develop regulatory, management and governance structures within the mining sector.

★ / Madagascar's small scale mining pit



Miora Razafindrakoto from Madagascar, who attended the Corporate Community Relationships Fellowship course hosted by UniQuest in 2012, explains: “Studying in Australia gave me skills that have allowed me to create a climate of trust between all stakeholders in the mining area. This has resulted in a cooperative being formed that now regulates the gold operation in the region”. The cooperative established between local authorities and ASM workers has resulted in increased income, improved working conditions and empowerment of ASM workers.

Establishing a governance framework is imperative for a stable, regulated mining environment. Enatfenta Melaku Gebre, who participated in the 2012 Occupational Health and Safety mining course with UniQuest, has developed a set of guidelines on Environmental and Social Impact Assessments that are used by the Ministry of Mines in Ethiopia. “These guidelines are crucial to the Ethiopian mining sector. The guidelines ensure that we can hold accountable the mining companies and protect the environment, the local communities and mine workers”.

Tackling the environmental issues of ASMs, Désiré Alphonse Rakotondravaly from Madagascar has established a Geospatial Information System (GIS), whereby information is collected and disseminated to relevant authorities on potential location of small scale gold mines. This information allows the Ministry of Mines to manage the location and prevent ‘gold rushes’ by providing a semi-regulated environment that supports ASM workers and prevents the environmental degradation, land tenure and environmental issues normally associated with gold rushes.

As Désiré, who completed a specialist GIS Africa Fellowship in 2012 reflects, “the skills and knowledge I gained while on an Australia Award have allowed me to approach my work in a more strategic and reasoned manner. I am now able to use GIS and remote sensing to actively manage the small scale gold mining sector within my country”.



★ / Madagascar’s ASM workers gold mining in the river

Although around 40 African countries have reformed their mining legislation in the last two decades and, in many cases, have incorporated small-scale mining into the legislative framework, more than 80 per cent of small-scale miners still operate outside a legal framework.

The Australian Government works in partnership with African countries to build leadership, knowledge and technical skills in the mining sector; Australia has provided support to mining governance and policy development through over 265 Africa Fellowships since 2011. This has contributed to improved mining policy and regulatory environments and governance that have the potential to lead to critical outcomes in economic development and poverty reduction.

Australia Awards Alumni: Leading change in Africa

Writer: Adriana Abreu-Combs

Who is playing a key role in changing, transforming and shaping a better future for Africa? Conference participants left each other in no doubt – it’s them.

Alumni shared their work through panel presentations, round tables, poster sessions and discussions throughout the conference. The following stories showcase just some of the initiatives they are spearheading since returning home.

For more information about the conference, including the full program, speakers’ bios, abstracts and copy of presentations, please visit our website at <http://www.australiaawardsafrica.org/alumni-conference/>

At helm of new policy to empower women and children in Lesotho

Writer: Abi Badejo

Photography: Mookho Motheo

As a young woman in a leadership position in the Ministry of Justice in Lesotho, Mookho Motheo plays an important role in her country's development.

Deputy Director in the Department of Probation and a graduate of the Master of Social Change and Development program at the University of Newcastle, Mookho is playing a central role in the formulation of a Probation Policy and Strategic Plan. This policy will empower women and children; it is a new initiative that will mainstream the Millennium Development Goals, specifically: MDG 1 Eradicate poverty and hunger; MDG 2 Achieve universal primary and hunger; MDG 3 Promote gender equality and empower women; and MDG 6 Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.

The policy will be a guiding tool that aims to empower women on legal issues that affect them, including women's access to custody of their children. In addition, the policy will advocate for the enrolment of children at risk of offending or those in conflict with the law in formal education. Some of the policy objectives will specifically focus on income-generating projects for children who are living in extreme poverty and who are forced to fend for themselves through crime or sex work.



★ / Mookho Motheo
Master of Social Change and Development
The University of Newcastle

Mookho will co-ordinate the policy development and the lobbying of support from stakeholders including women, youths, local government, community groups, international development partners and senior management in the Ministry of Justice.

A recipient of an Australia Leadership Award, Mookho is tasked with building capacity in her Department by applying the theories of transformational leadership she gained at the Reintegration Workshop. "The Workshop has equipped me with networking skills, recognising the potential stakeholders in my project and various ways of lobbying and influencing them," she says. "I have learned to set a realistic work plan and acknowledge that change will not come overnight." Leadership training gave her the confidence and maturity to tackle the challenges of her job. "I am able to critically analyse issues and can engage in well-researched, evidence-based discussions, which will help me to lobby for support of the policy," she says.

Driving change from the bottom up

Writer: Adriana Abreu-Combs
Photography: GRM International

Australia Awards Alumnus Samson Ngutwa is raising awareness of deforestation in Malawi

In 2007, Samson Ngutwa received a scholarship funded by the Australian Government and completed a Masters in Development Practice at the University of Queensland. As Deputy Director of Cabinet Services in the Office of the President and Cabinet in Malawi, he now coordinates and facilitates policy-making. In addition to his role in the President's Office, Samson is tackling the critical issue of widespread deforestation that is taking place in villages near Lilongwe and endangering the Dzalanyama Forest Reserve and Chinsapo Forest.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, forest cover now accounts for just 27.2% of the total land area of Malawi. The challenge for Malawi, with its rapidly growing population, is to help communities develop a more sustainable approach to the environment.

With funding from the Awards' Small Grants Scheme, Samson partnered with the local community, Likuni Girls Secondary School and the University of California, Davis to conduct a feasibility study on energy use and firewood business in affected rural, urban and peri-urban. Baseline data collected in this study will inform the design of a future project on alternative sources of energy.

The study surveyed over 270 community members and held focus group discussions with 22 traditional leaders. Further stakeholders were consulted through other participatory processes. Completed in February 2013, it provides detailed analysis of the factors that contribute to uncontrolled deforestation for energy use and the reliance of the local community on wood for cooking and lighting. It recommends alternative efficient energy solutions. The findings were published in prominent national media outlets, and have been noted by the Government of Malawi, which is seeking sustainable solutions to the energy crisis. Negotiations are underway between the community and the University of California, Davis for the next phase of the project.

Samson is now working to ensure the second phase of the project becomes a reality. "I want to help people find pathways to break away from the poverty cycle," he says. "I thank Australia for the experience and opportunity to engage more meaningfully with the community."

* Australia Awards Alumnus Samson Ngutwa and Ms. Regie Junio, VSO Volunteer from the Philippines, with community members at Maziro 1 Village in Malawi



Australia Awards Alumni lead the way for a corruption-free Africa

Writer: Abi Badejo

Photography: Penelope Mwape

Alumni discuss tackling corruption in Malawi and Zambia.

According to the 2012 Transparency International corruption index, only 12 of the 53 African countries rank amongst the 75 least corrupt in the world, compared to an alarming 36 that top the list as the world's most corrupt nations.

Australia Awards Alumni, Penelope Mwape of Zambia and Maureen Mwalabu of Malawi, both completed a Master of Governance and Public Policy at the University of Queensland and have developed Reintegration Plans focussed on tackling corruption in their respective countries.

As a result, both are engaged in policy dialogue to develop anti-corruption strategies aimed at enhancing accountability and transparency in their respective political systems.



★ Penelope Mwape
Master of Governance and Public Policy
The University of Queensland

Australia Awards Scholar Penelope Mwape's take on combatting corruption in Zambia

On how she intends to tackle corruption upon return to Zambia

Through my research, I established that the main reason behind the failure of most anti-corruption strategies, particularly in developing Africa, is the mis-characterisation of the problem of corruption. This leads to the development of inappropriate strategies, which inevitably end in failure. Hence, to formulate appropriate strategies there is a need to understand the nature and magnitude of the prevailing corruption.

On the lessons learnt so far

My research results are particularly helpful in that they will assist the anti-corruption agencies to develop strategies that specifically target the different types of corruption existing in a particular locality. For example, political corruption should be fought with strategies aimed at enhancing accountability and transparency in political systems. The implication for the Zambian national anti-corruption policy, which is now being implemented, is a complete evaluation of the current corruption scenario. Where possible, revisions should be made to the activities devised to fight corruption in the private and public sectors.

On who benefits from the anti-corruption research project

The successful implementation of the national anti-corruption policy and empowerment of the Anti-Corruption Commission will translate into more effective anti-corruption initiatives, leading, in turn, to reduced corruption. Reduced corruption will mean that fewer public resources will be misappropriated or deviated to private use. Public service delivery will become more accountable and efficient; for instance, medicines intended to benefit vulnerable children and women will go where they are needed instead of ending up in private clinics where only the rich can afford them.

On concrete outputs Penelope hopes to achieve

I hope to achieve better coordination and corroboration between Departments in the Anti-Corruption Commission and between the Commission and other public and private institutions in the fight against corruption. Corruption is a collective problem, so networking is the only way to curb it.

On how the knowledge and skills gained in Australia are helping Penelope achieve her plan

My institution has been mandated to spearhead the fight against corruption in Zambia and put in charge of monitoring the implementation of the policy. The research results and the skills obtained from my study are therefore useful as I am now able to advise and give recommendations when called upon.



* / Maureen Mwalabu
Master of Governance and Public Policy
The University of Queensland

Writer: Abi Badejo

Photography: Maureen Mwalabu

Australia Awards Scholar Maureen Mwalabu and tackling corruption in Malawi

On how Maureen intends to tackle corruption upon return to Malawi

I will seek to empower public sector employees using the 'Giving Voice to Values' approach, with practical tools that will help them to voice their values when faced with value conflicting situations. I will strive to create an ethical environment in the public sector. I will advocate for an oversight body for the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), in the form of a Parliamentary Anti-Corruption Committee to enhance ACB's accountability to the public. (Currently, the Bureau reports to the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament which is responsible for all public service, and not much attention is given to Bureau activities.) Furthermore, I have been given an opportunity

to propose new interventions for corruption prevention. I am currently creating 'Giving Voice to Values' training materials so that I can present them to management to include in our strategies for preventing corruption.

On the nature of the project and the actors involved

This project recognises that almost everybody respects similar values like honesty, integrity, accountability and fairness, but the challenge lies in doing and living by what we believe is right. The project therefore aims to empower public sector employees to be able to voice these deep-seated values when faced with value-conflicting situations so that they are able to refrain from negative influence. This will involve the use of case studies on how others have dealt with value conflicts and practical sessions on how to voice values in different scenarios. The premise for this project is that everybody has the propensity to do good and be good, but sometimes we lack the courage and encouragement to practise it.

The other project concerns the accountability of the Anti-Corruption Bureau. It advocates for a special parliamentary body on corruption to help keep the Bureau accountable to the general public. The committee could receive reports on Bureau activities, monitor decisions to investigate or not to investigate cases, and investigate misconduct by Anti-Corruption Bureau staff.

I will lead the introduction of the concepts to members of my Department, the Director and other key staff, and design and implement a tailored 'Giving Voice to Values' approach.

On who benefits from the project

If public servants learn to voice their values they will eventually refrain from corruption and other unethical conduct and, consequently, resources that were misused through corruption will start reaching targeted beneficiaries. If the Bureau is made more accountable, it will gain public trust and people will be more willing to support its activities, and corruption can be minimised for the betterment of the nation.

On concrete outputs she hopes to achieve

Along with the establishment of an oversight body for the Anti-Corruption Bureau, I hope to see more public sector officers being able to voice their values when faced with value-conflicting situations, which will eventually reduce corruption and other unethical behaviour in public institutions.

On how the knowledge and skills gained in Australia will help Maureen achieve her plan

My newly acquired knowledge of Governance will help me employ appropriate strategies on how to redirect people towards my vision. My knowledge of Public Policy, which has clarified for me how government policies are developed, will help me target specific people with power who can help to ensure that the projects materialise. My knowledge of Leadership will help me understand the many different personalities involved in the project and how I can work with them so that they do not become a barrier to achieving the objectives of the projects.

Improving food security in Kenya

Writer: Adriana Abreu-Combs and John Omondi

Photography: Dr Josphert Kimatu

Fellowship recipient Josphert Kimatu leads research to improve food security in Kenya

Dr Kimatu, lecturer and research leader at the South Eastern Kenya University (SEKU), believes that collaborative genomic research and post-harvest management strategies are key to solving the invidious food security challenges that face communities in Machakos County (formerly Eastern Province) where he lives and works.

Stores of maize, a staple food in Kenya and sub-Saharan Africa, have been subject to repeated infestation by aflatoxin, a highly poisonous carcinogenic chemical produced by a fungus that thrives as a result of poor drying and storage practices. Between 2004 and 2006, an estimated 200 people lost their lives in Kenya due to the loss of grain supply as a result of aflatoxin poisoning. Post-harvest losses from aflatoxin in sub-Saharan region in Africa are estimated to be about 30% of the total crop annually.

A recipient of an Australia Awards Fellowship in 2012, Dr Kimatu, a specialist in Molecular Plant Epigenetics, conducted research on aflatoxin mitigation in collaboration with research



★ / Dr Josphert Kimatu, who is a genomic scientist, morphologically analyzing maize plants in a field.

groups in Australia, Kenya and China. His resulting publication, *The Significant Role of Post-Harvest Management in Farm Management, Aflatoxin Mitigation and Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa*, examined the vital role of good post-harvest management in the mitigation of aflatoxin poisoning, specifically the role of small scale metal silos in ensuring better quality grain and reducing pesticide usage.

As a member of the regional agriculture and livestock organisation, the Machakos County Development Forum, Dr Kimatu engages with farmers to encourage them to adopt the small scale metal silos, and supervises Agricultural Extension Officers to train and advise farmers to promote good practice in maize storage.

Dr Kimatu acknowledges the Australian Award Fellowship where, as he says, his concepts and models were crystallized.

*Josphert Kimatu
Fellowship in Post-harvest Management of Maize, Rice and Legumes
The University of Sydney*

Accelerating progress toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Nigeria

Writer: Adriana Abreu-Combs and Temana Mabula
Photography: GRM International

Achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is one of the priorities of the Government of Nigeria and is a cause close to Alumni Ambassador Jennifer Ndidi Ozegbe's heart.

Jennifer Ndidi Ozegbe was promoted to the position of Principal Administrative Officer/Economist in the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on the MDGs, while still undertaking her Master's Degree in International and Development Economics at the Australian National University.

One of the responsibilities of her Office is to ensure that Nigeria's debt relief gains are effectively channelled towards projects and programs in support of the MDGs. Jennifer works in the Conditional Grants Scheme Unit, a crucial part of the Fiscal Federalism Framework, that provides grants to states and local governments to implement MDG-related projects that require matching funding. In 2011-2012 alone, over 15,000 projects were completed across the country under the grant scheme. Jennifer evaluated and made recommendations on proposals from state and local governments; she monitored the implementation process and strengthened intergovernmental collaboration.



* / HE Mr Graeme Wilson, Australian High Commissioner to South Africa, shaking hands with Alumni Ambassador Jennifer Ndidi Ozegbe at an Alumni Ambassadors' breakfast in Pretoria

On her advice, the 2013 Conditional Grants Scheme includes agriculture as a principle area for intervention. "Through my studies in Australia on poverty reduction strategies, it gradually dawned on me that we had underestimated the importance of the role of the agriculture sector in poverty alleviation and development" she explains.

As part of the Enhancing Citizens' Engagement for Accelerating the Attainment of the Millennium Development Goals in Nigeria program, Jennifer supports training for over 300 beneficiaries, such as community-based organisations and village leaders, to advocate for social accountability and participatory development and to influence local decision-making.

Advocating for children's rights to quality education in Zambia

Writer: Yvonne Chimutimbira
Photography: GRM International

For Harriet Miyato of Zambia, the saying “Give a man a fish you feed him for a day; teach a man how to fish and you feed him for a lifetime” reflects her life.

Through an Australian government scholarship, Harriet acquired skills in policy analysis and research, community focused methodologies, and networking and teamwork. The skills and experience she gained have been instrumental in her leading and transforming the Zambia Open Community Schools (ZOCS) from an organisation that provided education support to 48 girls under a tree in the 1990s, into a flagship organisation that champions the education of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) today.

During her studies, Harriet travelled back to Zambia to undertake field work and data collection for her thesis. She foresaw the negative impact and resulting serious setbacks that poor Zambian families would suffer as a result of HIV and AIDS, and particularly the impact on children, and accordingly prepared a proposal for the provision of community education and skills to orphans and vulnerable children.

“After my return to Zambia in 1995, I was seconded by the Ministry of Education into UNICEF Zambia. As a National Education



* Harriet Miyato
 Master of Education (Social Sciences and Environmental Education) Deakin University

Program Officer, my role was to propagate a Community Schools strategy for Zambia, which was aimed at providing a supplementary and complementary education program with community participation, which would take care of vulnerable children affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic and poverty,” says Harriet.

By 1996, the number of community schools had increased to more than 55 registered community schools country-wide. “Currently Zambia has about 3,000 community schools registered under the Ministry of Education, looking after 565,000 OVC, under the supervision of 8,054 volunteer untrained teachers,” she explains. As Director of ZOCS since 2003, Harriet now provides ongoing visionary leadership focused on orphans’ and vulnerable children’s right to quality education, through engagement with policy makers and by empowering communities with advocacy skills, which enable them to participate in policy dialogue and influence change in favour of OVC.

Events

Pre-departure Briefings for 2014 Australia Awards Scholarships (Master Level Awards)

22 - 25 Oct	29 - 30 Oct	4 - 7 Nov	7 - 8 Nov	12 - 13 Nov	19 - 20 Nov	19 - 20 Nov
Pretoria, South Africa	Lusaka, Zambia	Dar-Es Salaam, Tanzania	Accra, Ghana	Abuja, Nigeria	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	Port Louis, Mauritius

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