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## ***North-South-South Higher Education Institution Network Programme***

### ***Omusati project***

**Drs T.V. Balole and R. M. Mmolotsi attend the Omusati North-South-South staff and student exchange planning meeting at Ogongo Agricultural College in Namibia.**

Drs T.V. Balole and R. M. Mmolotsi attended the Omusati North-South-South staff and student exchange planning meeting at Ogongo Agricultural College in Namibia between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> February 2008. Dr. T. V. Balole is the project the coordinator of this project at BCA. The main objectives of the project meeting were to a) introduce the partners to each other, b) to evaluate the project and c) to plan an intensive course in Agro-environmental aspects in Agriculture and Forestry.

Omusati project is between Ogongo Agricultural College (Namibia), Botswana College of Agriculture (Botswana), North Karelia University of Applied Sciences (Finland) and Mikkeli University of Applied Sciences (Finland). The project operates under the North-South-South Higher Education Institution Network Programme which is funded by CIMO and Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Finland.

All students (agriculture and forestry, diploma and degree level) at participating institutions are eligible to participate in the North-South-South exchange programme. Students should have completed at least the first year before going for exchange. The recommended length of exchange is one semester, with a minimum of 3 months and maximum of 12 months. The medium of instruction for the participating exchange students should be English although students may take a course at local language during the exchange period.

Each institute shall provide a transcript of records for their students and in the transcript there should be a footnote or attachment explaining the credit system. Studies taken abroad should be relevant to the curriculum at the home institution and accepted as part of student's degree. The learning objectives and the contents of the course should be more or less in one line. Students must take at least 60% of the course content as prescribed at the home institution.

### **Grants for students and teachers**

The project provides funding for travelling and subsistence costs for teachers and students. It is possible to cover costs related to permits and insurances (the latter only for students of southern partners). All partner institutions must assist in local costs related to the North-South-

South exchange programme. The partners and participating individuals should turn to the administrative coordinator in all matters related to grants.

The average grants are as follows:

- ≈ Students from Finland to Africa: 1200 € travelling costs, 400 €/month subsistence costs
- ≈ Students from Africa to Finland: 1200 € travelling costs, 600 €/month subsistence costs
- ≈ Teachers: max 4000 € / exchange; for travel and subsistence costs, covered on the basis of actual costs.

The grants to the Finnish students are paid in advance after their learning agreement has been accepted by the home and host institution. Costs of the Finnish teachers are paid according to the normal procedure of business trips.

The first grant to the African students is usually paid in cash. After that the grant will be transferred to their Finnish bank account in two instalments per month. Grants to the African teachers will be paid in cash in a few instalments. The flight arrangements will be given to the travel agency.

### **Immigration rules and practices**

The sending institution is responsible for heavily supporting the outgoing students and teachers in the permit procedure and the receiving institution is responsible for the follow-up of the progress and keeping in contact with the authorities when needed. All institutions must be aware of the time needed to process the permit applications.

### **Applying for a study permit/ visa to Finland**

The applications for residence permit to studies and Schengen visa for students and teachers respectively are processed at the Finland Embassy in Namibia. Schengen visas for Botswanan participants can be acquired from the German Embassy in Botswana.

The following are required for the residence permit for study purposes (students staying more than 3 months):

- ≈ Certificate of travel insurance
- ≈ Proof of funds availability while in Finland
- ≈ Proof of Accommodation
- ≈ Copy of flight ticket with departure and return dates
- ≈ Invitation letter from host institution
- ≈ Processing fee
- ≈ English proficiency test results (*students only*)
- ≈ High school certificate or the highest qualification obtained (*students only*)
- ≈ National passport which is not about to expire (valid for more than 6 months)

- ≈ Fill Residence permit form UVI 101 (student staying for more than 90 days) (*students only*)
- ≈ An account of the applicant's studies form UVI 104 (for students only). Application forms are available on internet at: <http://www.finland.org.na/en/> or the German embassy in Botswana.

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