

## Voluntary Cooperation Programme – supporting training and scholarships

A variety of training is supported through VCP – from working with WMO (World Meteorological Organization) on short courses e.g. the annual aviation seminar, to facilitating and supporting online training courses in various topics from applied statistics to management skills.

Over the years we have supported a number of students from developing countries to take part in university studies – from meteorology to management. Habiba Mtongori from Tanzania – who completed the Reading Msc in Applied Meteorology in September 2009 - gives her story below.

### Habiba's story...

**Can you tell us a bit more about your background in Meteorology, Habiba, and why you applied to do the Masters degree?**

My career in Meteorology started in April 2002 when I was employed by Tanzania Meteorological Agency (TMA) as a Meteorologist Trainee after graduating from the University of Dar es Salaam with a Bsc degree in Education majoring in Physics and Mathematics.

After that I did a postgraduate course in meteorology at the University of Pretoria which led me to become an approved meteorologist at TMA. Since that time, and until now, I have been working at the central forecasting office as a weather forecaster.

Despite being ambitious for further studies and professional development, I enjoyed my career as weather forecaster and never thought to take part in other branches of meteorology such as climatology, agrometeorology and hydrometeorology. Later on, I found it was useful to have an area of specialization in my career; this was the main reason that I was convinced to apply for a fellowship to pursue a Masters degree in Meteorology.

**So - reflecting on the Masters degree that you completed in September 2009, how do you feel it has benefited both you and your organisation?**

*I consider the fellowship award (WMO/UK Met Office VCP) I received to pursue my Master's degree in Applied Meteorology in 2008 at Reading University, as a great achievement in my career, both personally and professionally.*

*I am proud to say that, aside from improving my capacity in handling meteorological issues scientifically and logically, my attitude towards being a meteorologist and a weather forecaster has changed completely; I can now take charge in different aspects of meteorology such as climatology, agrometeorology, hydrometeorology and research.*

One of the achievements I got through this award, of which I consider to be the most advantageous to me and my career, is the opportunity to attend the World Climate Conference - 3 in Geneva in 2009, where I participated in a poster presentation. I learnt a lot through this conference especially on how to handle climate issues.



**And what work are you now involved in at the Tanzanian Met. Agency?**

*The greatest achievement in my career after the graduation, that I am proud of, is the recognition of my institution towards my contribution on various aspects of meteorology, particularly on climate change impacts assessments.*



I am now participating in various activities as assigned by my institution. Currently, I am an active member of the climate change project research team, whose major task is to prepare project proposals on climate change impacts assessments and undertaking various research activities to study these impacts and formulate adaptation measures at the national levels.

Moreover, I have been assigned to work together with institutions in Tanzania that are undertaking projects in assessing climate change Impacts, adaptation and mitigation. Among them is The Centre for Energy, Environment, Science and Technology (CEEST).

The CEEST foundation through grants obtained from the Royal Norwegian Government has been tasked to offer a consultancy to assess and develop climate change scenarios for Tanzania. As a member from the meteorological Institute which is the collaborating partner in this project, I have been assigned to monitor and make sure the right meteorological information is applied to come out with realistic and reliable output that can help the country to come up with the prominent adaptation and mitigation measures.

We are also collaborating with Sokoine University of Agriculture under their project on Climate Change Impacts Adaptation and Mitigation (CCIAM) in Tanzania, whose main task is to encourage better management of natural resources and the environment through appropriate adaptation and mitigation strategies and participation in climate change initiatives.

*Honestly, all these are achievements from the WMO/UK Met VCP fellowship which made me very confident with my career. The knowledge and skills acquired are of great importance to TMA and more particularly to the Nation.*