

Mission Report

YSAP Activities Overview.

Presentation of the Technical University of Munich (TUM) in general and in particular the work at the physics department was given. Discussions with the head of the physics department encouraged both sides to further pursue relations between the two Universities.

Background.

The Young Scientist Ambassador, Thomas Schwarze, was invited by the University of Botswana (UB) to hold a seminar at the Physics Department. As The YSA is married to a Motswana and former student of UB, the visit was privately motivated in the first place. Through an EU-Project and collaboration between TU Munich and University of Bristol first contact to UB was established through a former PhD student at the University of Bristol who returned to Botswana to be a lecturer at UB.

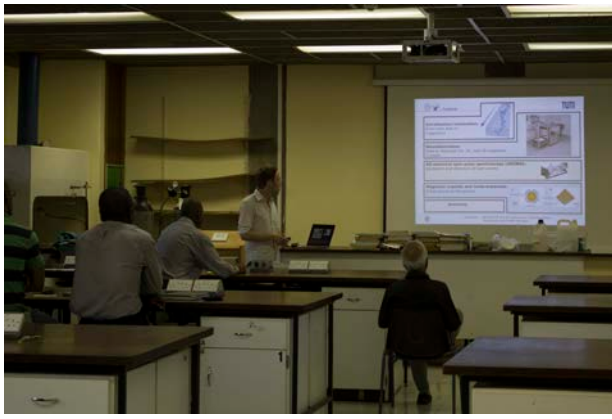


YSAP Activity: University of Botswana (UB).

After arrival the YSA met with the head of the physics department for first discussions. Opportunities and obstacles for visiting scientists as well as for students were discussed. In general, financial support from the government and from institutions like DAAD was a topic. Students and scientists from Botswana are usually given full stipends from the government to go abroad. The first choice is most of the time to go to the UK or South Africa. To give young scientists and students from Botswana an alternative to these choices was one goal here.

The YSA held a seminar for young and senior scientists where he presented the structure and the objectives of the TUM. The funding scheme of the excellence initiative in Germany was introduced and the special offers for students at the TUM that lead to the funding through the German government were explained. Furthermore, he gave an overview of the work of his group at the TUM.

After the seminar a tour through the laboratories was given. The current research at UB was explained and their equipment for material deposition and characterization, e.g. transmission electron microscope (TEM), scanning force microscope (SFM) was presented to the YSA.



YSAP Follow-up.

After this initial contact between the two Universities, it was agreed on that the contact should be intensified in the future. Scientists from UB are planning on visiting Munich in the future and another visit of the YSA to UB with a seminar especially for students is planned.

Thomas Schwarze
February 18th, 2013