

SASSCAL Task 303: Development of Regional Postgraduate Programme in Earth Observation, GIS and Remote Sensing

The project outputs are to:

- develop education and training programs at postgraduate level in the field of spatial information and earth observation for various applications;
- development course materials and purchase equipment facilities (not at all partners);
- launch and selection of first cohort;
- provide lectures which are to be handled by faculty from all universities; and
- train faculty at PhD level.

The Polytechnic of Namibia (PoN) is implementing this project in collaboration with the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT), the University of Botswana (UB) and the University of Zambia (UNZA). SASSCAL Task 303 aims at developing a regional postgraduate programme in Earth Observation, GIS and Remote Sensing in collaboration with the PoN, CPUT, the UB and the UNZA. The project has taken phases of workshop and round table planning meetings at all participating universities. The meetings and workshops were successful in identifying resources persons toward the project objectives, discussing curriculum development, course development and many other issues relating to the implementation of the project.

The project has so-far-trained about 25 staff members from all participating universities on open source GIS software and e-learning course development techniques. To-date, the collaborative agreement was signed with the four universities (PoN, UNZA, UB and CPUT) in May 2015 (see figure 1) and the PoN senate has approved the Master of Geoinformation Science and Earth Observation programme in August 2015 for implementation in January 2016. UNZA and UB masters programmes are nearly ready for submission to their respective senates early 2016 for implementation in 2016. The CPUT has fallen of the project timeline as their programme development requires a length period (about 7 years) to develop and implement, but they are committed to support in course development and lectureship of the programme.

The collaborative programme also agreed on the modalities of credit illustration and transfer within the three Universities (UNZA, PON and UB. Focus will be put into supporting UNZA and UB for their programmes to be approved. The launch of the fist student intake is expected to be held early next year at the Polytechnic of Namibia.



Figure 1: Mr. Peter Erb (National Director of SASSCAL), Mr. Jacobus Raubenheimer (HoD: Civil Engineering and Surveying at CPUT), Prof Julius Athlopheng (Dean: Faculty of Science at UB), Prof Enala Tembo Mwase: Deputy Vice-Chancellor at UNZA and Prof Tjama Tjivikua (Rector of the PoN)