

A REPORT ON CURRENT CO-OPERATION PROJECTS INVOLVING IRISH UNIVERSITIES WITH EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

Introduction

In April 2004 the Universities Ireland (UI) Council – comprising the presidents of the nine universities on the island of Ireland – asked the UI secretariat to carry out a survey of links between universities in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland and higher education institutions in Eastern and Southern Africa, with a view to ascertaining if there were any areas of co-operation in which the island's universities might combine together to work with these HE institutions. This was in response to an offer from the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs Development Co-operation Ireland (DCI) section to finance a trip by three UI representatives to these regions to explore co-operation possibilities.

Universities Ireland formed a small sub-committee to explore the matter (comprising Professor Noel Whelan, Vice-President of the University of Limerick, Professor Gillian Robinson, Director of the INCORE international conflict research institute at the University of Ulster, and UI Secretary Andy Pollak). In mid-May the Universities Ireland liaison people in the nine universities received a letter from this sub-committee explaining that its brief was to examine how the universities on the island might work together to explore co-operation possibilities with Eastern and Southern Africa.

The letter requested two inputs from the universities to a short UI proposal paper to present to DCI:

1. A short description of specific co-operation projects with Eastern and Southern Africa that each university on the island is currently undertaking, together with the relevant contact in the African country.
2. An indication by each university as to where it sees its potential contribution to a possible initiative by Universities Ireland to raise the level of this co-operation by an exercise in inter-university, North/South collaboration.

In response to queries from the universities, Eastern and Southern Africa was defined as the six Ireland Aid programme countries – Ethiopia, Uganda, Zambia, Tanzania, Mozambique, Lesotho – plus South Africa.

Current co-operation

Information about current co-operation involving universities in Ireland is set out in an appendix to this report. The universities interpreted the request for information about links with HE institutions in these African regions differently: some listed only major co-operation programmes and projects they were involved with on an institutional basis; others cited individual researchers' contacts and research interests. Thus, as will be noted from the appendix, some universities provided longer lists of both

institutional programmes and individual contacts, while others produced shorter lists of programme-type interventions.

In analysing this information, the Universities Ireland sub-committee has used DCI's own criteria for offering support to co-operation projects so that recommended inter-university interventions have the greatest possible effect in promoting socio-economic development.

Thus DCI stresses that **health and education** should be given "a very high priority". It also prioritises a number of additional key areas. These include:

1. **HIV/AIDS**
2. **Governance, Democracy and Human Rights**
3. **Support for Civil Society, including Capacity-Building**
4. **Support for the Private Sector**
5. **Conflict Prevention and Resolution**

One interesting Irish university project with an existing cross-border dimension fits into another DCI category: **Resource Development**.

In putting forward these suggested project areas, the sub-committee has endeavoured to (i) involve each of the nine universities on the island; (ii) maximise their potential impact by focussing on inter-university 'island of Ireland' combinations; (iii) select areas where universities not yet involved in African partnerships have particular strengths.

Areas have also been highlighted (e.g. AIDS work and other health issues) where there seems to be an obvious need in Eastern and Southern Africa. Projects have been selected across a range of disciplines and activities (medicine and health, law, adult and teacher education, marine research, nursing, library co-operation, public management and governance, entrepreneurship and volunteering).

The projects chosen by the sub-committee for further consideration are as follows:

Health and HIV/AIDS

- a. **Trinity College Dublin** is working with Makerere Hospital's medical school in Kampala, Uganda to investigate the feasibility of using handheld computers (PDAs) to provide expert information and advice to healthcare workers who are delivering care to patients with HIV/AIDS. The study will conduct a needs assessment and develop a working prototype, which will be evaluated by a selected group of healthcare workers in the field. The aim is to enhance the care of HIV-infected people in sub-Saharan Africa and support measures to prevent further transmission by developing a clinical care, prevention and research programme that would serve as the major training programme for African healthcare professionals. This project already involves an alliance of academic clinicians from TCD, Dublin Institute of Technology and North American universities. (Prof Jane Grimson, Vice-Provost and UI's liaison person in TCD, is the leader of this project)
- b. **Queen's University Belfast's** School of Nursing and Midwifery is developing links with Makene University in Kampala and Kiwoko Hospital,

founded by Dr Ian Clarke, a QUB graduate. A staff member at Kiwoko Hospital is coming to QUB in September to complete training to enable her to return to head up the nurse training school at the hospital, and QUB School of Nursing staff members are visiting Kiwoko this summer (Norman Bennett, Director of Finance)

- c. **National University of Ireland Maynooth** 's Molecular Phylogenetics and Systematics Laboratory (under Dr Grace McCormack) has been working in collaboration with the Karonga Prevention Study in Malawi, the School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in London and the UK Health Protection Agency on a project studying the molecular epidemiology and evolution of HIV-1 in the Karonga district. Through this work, links have also been made with other groups working with AIDS in Africa, including those in Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya.
- d. **National University of Ireland Galway** is currently in the process of establishing a Community Knowledge Initiative/Service Learning project (incorporating volunteering opportunities for students) with the Sisters of Nazareth's AIDS orphanage in Khayelitsha, Cape Town, South Africa.

Education and Capacity-Building

- a. **University of Ulster** (UNESCO Centre) and **Mary Immaculate College** (University of Limerick) have put forward a joint proposal for a three year programme of partnerships with Mary Immaculate College of Education (part of the University of Limerick) and teacher education institutions in Zambia, Gambia and Sri Lanka. This would build on existing links the two Irish institutions have in these countries, and with support from Development Co-operation Ireland in Dublin and the Department for International Development in London, would construct a formal framework for contact between staff and students of the participating institutions. The proposal would provide staff and students with opportunities to work together with colleagues from the other Irish jurisdiction in an area of mutual interest in and benefit to Sub-Saharan Africa. It would also offer an opportunity for DCI to join in a common project with DfID (Prof Anne Moran/Prof Alan Smith/Dr Peadar Cremin)
- b. **University College Cork** 's Centre for Adult Continuing Education (CACE) has run a popular Diploma in Development Studies for eight years, which addresses many Africa-related issues, and as part of a course restructuring programme envisages building links with African universities. Many staff at the CACE are engaged in development and health projects in Africa and many past students have come to the course after having worked with development agencies. CACE also has a growing number of overseas students, many from Africa. It works with a wide range of Irish aid and development organisations (Trocaire, Concern, GOAL etc). CACE would like to initiate 1) a student exchange programme with sub-Saharan Africa; 2) a guest lecture programme with African lecturers; 3) an IT-facilitated distance learning programme for sharing and exchange of learning materials, approach strategies and ideas. Course coordinator Regina Sexton would like to "encourage active involvement between our course and Eastern and Southern African

universities via the proposed Universities Ireland project of linkage and co-operation.”

- c. **University College Dublin** ‘s Centre for Development Studies does not have any formal collaboration with universities in Eastern and Southern Africa. However over the past decade, with DCI support, 40 fellowships have been awarded to students from Uganda, Ethiopia, Zambia, Tanzania, Sudan, Lesotho, Kenya, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. The CDS director, Dr Majda Bne Saad, notes that during a recent visit to Makerere University in Uganda she was advised by academics in the Depts of History and Development Studies that they suffered from a lack of books, computers (and weak computer capacity), inadequate proper library cataloguing, a library data base, training for librarians and inadequate funds to hire librarians. She suggests a capacity building project in selected university libraries in countries in the region would be a very worthwhile initiative for Universities Ireland.

Governance, Democracy and Human Rights

- a. **Trinity College Dublin’s** Law School organises annual workshops on constitutionalism and democratisation for senior African judges, including members of the judiciary from South Africa, Swaziland, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Zambia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Mozambique (Prof William Binchy).
- b. **University of Limerick** has developed and delivers courses in public management and governance for Regional Commissioners in Tanzania. These courses are delivered in Limerick. The Regional Commissioners report to the Tanzanian President and are fundamental components of Tanzania’s governance, democracy and human rights programme. The university is offering variants of these courses to other Southern African countries.

Support for Civil Society

Dublin City University ‘s Centre for International Studies plans a study of the role of civil society in poverty reduction in Sub-Saharan Africa (funded by DCI). As part of this project, the CIS is developing a relationship with universities in Tanzania and Ethiopia which are being contracted to do studies of this subject in their countries. A separate DCI grant will go towards hosting researchers from two African universities as a capacity-building measure (Peadar Kirby).

Support for the Private Sector

University of Limerick has two programmes replicating its entrepreneurship programmes in Rhodes University and Port Elizabeth Technikon, both in the Eastern Cape, and in the University of Kwa Zulu Natal (Durban and Pietermaritzburg). This project is funded by the Anglo-American Corporation and is run jointly by professors from UL and the respective South African institution.

Resource Development

University College Cork 's Coastal and Marine Resources Centre (CMRC) has a track record of working with **University of Ulster** 's Centre for Coastal and Marine Research (CCMR), which has carried out marine archaeological surveys off the coasts of Kenya and Sudan. The CCMR is headed by Dr Andrew Cooper, who has undertaken projects in various parts of Africa, including Mozambique and South Africa (where he lived for nine years). Dr Cooper is very interested in the Universities Ireland initiative, and CMRC and CCMR have expressed a willingness to combine to work together with higher education institutions in a poor region of Eastern and Southern Africa.

APPENDIX

Other projects and contacts with Southern and Eastern Africa listed by each university.

Trinity College Dublin

1. Joint research work by Genetics with the International Livestock Research Institute, Nairobi, Kenya (Dr Dan Bradley)
2. Exchange of postgraduates and staff between Geography and Zomba University, Malawi (link ceased in early 90s but would like to re-activate it -David Drew).
3. Physics lecturer Werner Blau has links with head of physics department at Bindura University of Science Education, Zimbabwe, who will be on a sabbatical doing research at TCD from July 2004.
4. Ph.D student doing disaster preparedness study based in Lesotho
5. Links on malaria research between Microbiology and Dept of Pharmacy/Pharmacology, Univ of the Witwaterstrand (Angus Bell).
6. Link between Botany and National Botanical Institute in South Africa (John Parnell).
7. Botany researcher Mike Jones involved in EU 5th Framework programme on wetland ecosystem resource management in eastern Africa.
8. Links between Civil Engineering and the Depts of Civil Engineering in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and Lusaka, Zambia (exchanges of lecturers and students) in areas of groundwater hydrology, rural water supply and sanitation (Paul Johnston).
9. Economics signing research partnership agreements (funded by DCI) with University of Sokoine (Tanzania) and the Bank of Uganda Economic Policy Research Unit to examine Ireland's official development co-operation activities, particularly in agricultural trade and support policies (Prof Alan Matthews).
10. Professor of Linguistics, John Saeed, has done extensive fieldwork in East Africa studying Cushitic languages (continuing links with Nairobi University, Kenya).
11. Statistics has had links with Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda (external examiners) although not much contact in recent years (Myra O'Regan).
12. Geochemistry lecturer Valentine Troll has a research link with a geochemist in the University of Cape Town.

13. Irish School of Ecumenics' MPhil in Reconciliation Studies programme includes a focus on South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and links with S. African reconciliation expert Wilhelm Verwoerd. ISE has been invited to visit and develop contacts with Ecumenical Institute for Namibia (David Tombs).
14. Geography researcher Laragh Larsen looking at monumental landscapes in Nairobi and Dublin.
15. Political Science researcher Vanessa Liston researching the impact of NGOs on political behaviour in Kenya.
16. DIAS/TCD cosmic physics professor Luke Drury is a member of the international consortium building a series of gamma-ray telescopes in Namibia.
17. Zoology lecturer Dr Ken Irvine involved in funded research projects on the ecology of demersal fish in Lake Malawi; the impact of increased sediment load on benthic invertebrates in Lake Tanganyika; and flamingo breeding success and food availability on the Makgadikgadi salt pans, Botswana.
18. Social work course director Dr Trish Walsh has links with Cape Town (inc. students on placement) and is exploring links with Univ. of Cape Town and Univ. of the Western Cape.
19. Political science PhD studying political parties in Botswana, Namibia and Zambia.
20. History of Art PhD student analysing landscape imagery produced by 19th century British writers and artists in southern Africa.
21. Pharmacology lecturer and consultant physician in infectious diseases at St James Hospital, Dr Concepta Murray, and a colleague have just established a foundation to support work on the pharmacology of antiretroviral therapies in Sub-Saharan Africa (*these people are also involved in project 1.*) They also established the first African AIDS Treatment Information Centre at the University of Makerere in Kampala, Uganda.
22. Postdoc. in Clinical Medicine, Dr Annemieke ten Bokum, has link with tuberculosis research group in Dept of Biochemistry at University of Pretoria, which in turn has good collaboration with other tuberculosis researchers in South Africa and with the very strong tuberculosis/HIV group at Makerere University medical school in Kampala.
23. Computer Science lecturer John Waldren worked for a year in University of Natal, S. Africa on programming languages and learning technology, and is involved in organising a conference on ICT in Cape Town in January 2005.
24. Professor of Geography, David Taylor, has been involved in environmental change research in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda since 1984 (he is a member of the Council of the Nairobi-based British Institute in Eastern Africa). Supervising a PhD student at University of Mbarara, Uganda. Also has links in the areas of environmental change/archaeology with University of Cape Town and University of Zambia and the national museums of both countries.
25. Physiotherapy lecturer Juliette Hussey has links with School of Physiotherapy in universities in Witwaterstrand and Johannesburg.
26. Geography lecturer Desmond Gillmor has written about rural development in Malawi and has been visiting professor at University of Zomba, Malawi.
27. Zoology lecturer Ian Donohue is IUCN African wetlands advisor and has links with Departments of Environment and Fisheries and university departments in Zambia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.
28. Lecturer in Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering Laurence Gill is collaborating with GOAL to 'trial' a solar process for disinfecting village water supplies in either northern Uganda or Dem. Republic of Congo.
29. Sociology lecturer Treasa Galvin – an expert on migration, refugees and asylum-seekers – has recently moved to the University of Botswana.
30. Theoretical physics graduate Katherine Mayes is working as a volunteer in a teacher training college in Dilla, Ethiopia, and Institute of Physics has been supplying the college with free books and equipment.

31. Clinical Speech and Language Studies lecturer Martine Smith exploring research links with Centre for Augmentative and Alternative Communication at the University of Pretoria.
32. Law lecturer Rosemary Byrne has set up a field project at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Arusha, Tanzania, to look at how international justice has responded to the commission of atrocities in an African context, and how African lawyers and judges have adapted and contributed to the evolution of international criminal law and procedure.
33. The Centre for Global Health is due to be launched shortly, with a focus of strengthening health systems, psychology, nutrition, information technology and some social science disciplines. It will have links with a number of universities in Eastern and Southern Africa, including South Africa, Malawi, Botswana and Uganda (Eilish McAulif)
34. Geology lecturer Dr Chris Nicholas and PhD student are part of collaborative research programme with Tanzanian Petroleum Development Corporation.
35. Modern history lecturer David Dickson runs the only course in African history (Sub-Saharan Africa since 1870) in the Republic of Ireland and is current chairman of the all-island African Studies Association of Ireland.
36. Computer science lecturer Saturnino Luz has link (“collaboration in developing software tools for supporting corpus-based translation studies”) with Department of Linguistics at University of South Africa.
37. Three Masters in Social Work students at the Children’s Research Centre did their fieldwork placements this spring in Cape Town, while their supervisor presented a seminar at University of Cape Town School of Social Work. Also links with the Research Director of the Child, Youth and Family Development research programme at the South African Human Sciences Research Council. The Centre’s director, Robbie Gilligan, will teach for a week on new Masters in Social Work programme at University of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in spring 2005.
38. As well as the annual workshop for African judges (*see 2 above*), the Law School has co-hosted two conferences of Irish and South African judges and academics which have yielded two books. It has also organised training conferences for magistrates in Botswana and a programme on constitutionalism senior judges in Tanzania.
39. The Centre for Health Informatics has links with Makerere University in Uganda (*see 1 above*).
40. Geography PhD student is studying human-environmental relationships in Uganda and Eastern Africa.
41. Professor June Nunn (Head of Dentistry) worked in Ethiopia in the 1990s on an epidemiological dental study of twins.

University College Cork

1. Dr John Ryan, a UCC PhD graduate (and Kiltegan priest) who has spent 25 years in Malawi is now a lecturer in mathematics at Mzuzu University. Another UCC maths lecturer, Pat Fitzpatrick, will lecture there on ‘Information, Coding and Cryptography’ this summer.
2. Professor of Psychiatry, Ted Dinan, has for several years run summer pharmacology workshops (jointly with Emeritus Prof Brian Leonard of NUI Galway) for psychiatrists and nurses in South Africa, Zimbabwe and neighbouring countries.
3. Geology Lecturer Dr Alistair Allen has a postgraduate student who is employee of Geological Survey of Ethiopia (GSE), and is looking for another. He has

- established a close collaboration with GSE, which has provided logistics to allow him and colleagues to undertake fieldwork and sample collection in Ethiopia.
4. Director of BSc Environmental Science/Environmental Studies programmes, Dr Debbie Chapman, worked for many years with the UN Environment Programme based in Nairobi running workshops in developing countries on environmental monitoring.
 5. Librarian Max McCarthy has contact with professor at the Dept of Information Science at University of Pretoria, who is chair of an International Association of Library Associations committee dealing with projects to establish libraries in developing countries.
 6. PhD student from Ethiopia did an interesting study of Irish and Ethiopian river systems and methods of pollution assessment in 2001.
 7. Education Lecturer Marian McCarthy suggests a multiple intelligences project in first and second level education with a strong focus on disadvantage, and then “sharing our thinking re developing a scholarship of teaching and learning for academic staff in higher education” in Africa.
 8. Senior Lecturer in Food Science Tom O’Connor was external examiner for Food Science and Nutrition at University of Zimbabwe from 1997-2001. He and a colleague will teach a new module on Human Nutrition in the Developing World next year.
 9. Industrial Liaison Officer Tony Weaver is exploring co-operation with Dr Cathy Garner, head of new UK charity for assisting third world countries to obtain drugs and medication at affordable prices. Dr Garner is trying to get university researchers and technology transfer offices to write in a clause to licenses of ‘pharma related inventions’ to big pharmaceutical companies restricting their monopoly in Third World countries. Weaver also has good contacts with heads of technology transfer offices in University of Cape Town and Stellenbosch University.
 10. Tony Weaver has also been discussing possibilities of developing technology transfer and health research collaboration “two way training exchanges” between Ireland and South Africa with the S. African government official in charge of policy on technology transfer in S. African universities.
 11. Process Engineering is involved in a research project with South Africa, Mozambique, Uganda and Zambia to develop new dried fruit products by a novel combination of technologies, with higher quality characteristics than existing products. This project (funded by the EU R&D programme INCO-DEV) is coordinated by Prof. Fernanda Oliveira. It also involves the project coordinators in South Africa, Mozambique and Uganda doing part-time PhDs with UCC.
 12. Microbiology is exploring collaboration in training and research with Stellenbosch University and University of the Western Cape in S. Africa (Prof Fergal O’Gara).
 13. History lecturer Mike Cosgrave’s research interest is in UN peacekeeping operations (PhD on ONUC in the Congo). He suggests an Irish initiative for Africa similar to the EU’s Asialink programme, which provides 75-90% funding for projects up to 400,000 euros over three years.
 14. Dr Charles Spillane is a Science Foundation Ireland biotechnology investigator with an interest in science policy in developing countries in relation to education, research and development, primarily in biotechnology and poverty reduction. He has strong links with many multilateral (CGIAR, FAO, UNIDO, World Bank) and bilateral (DANIDA, DFID) organisations and “would be interested to actively contribute to the Universities Ireland project”.
 15. Professor David Morgan writes about the 20-year-old Cork-Singida partnership which links UCC with Makinju Hospital in Tanzania. Around 120 UCC staff covenant to pay (as deduction from salary) around 10,000 euros p.a. to support the hospital. Two students from Makinju have studied at UCC/Cork University Hospital.

University of Ulster

1. The International Centre on Conflict Resolution and Ethnicity (INCORE) collaborates with the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation in Johannesburg on two ESRC-funded projects: 'Developing and Implementing Public Policy in Societies in Transition' and 'Re-imagining Women's Security in Societies in Transition.'
2. The School of Sociology and Social Studies has links with Durban Technikon and the University of Natal, whereby students and staff go there as part of their programme (funding for this project comes from the Northern Ireland Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister).
3. There is a link through Coleraine Borough Council to the city of Zomba in Malawi, and letters have been exchanged about links with the University of Malawi at Zomba.

Queen's University Belfast

1. The School of Nursing also has links with a number of other projects in South Africa: teaching and research links with the University of Cape Town Nursing Dept; advice on health assessment, materials and student placements to the Centre for Early Childhood Development in Clareinch; and nursing expertise and student and staff placements to the Living Hope Centre in Simons Town (Prof Jean Orr).
2. The Faculty of Medicine has links with the medical school at Tumbaini University in Tanzania, based in Kilimanjaro Christian Medical College, which houses the regional rehabilitation unit and a large malaria project part-funded by the Gates Foundation. Professor Rod Hay chairs an international dermatology and venereology foundation which has established a "very effective" training school here which takes students from over 18 African countries and trains them to degree level in skin disease, leprosy and sexually transmitted disease. The foundation supplies external faculty, quality assurance for the course and funding for African staff members. Professor Hay also has contacts in Sudan, where he worked for some time.
3. Three South African primary schools are involved in the pilot stage of the Chalkbytes project – a digital, multi-media resource project for schools run by QUB together with Invest Northern Ireland and other partners.

National University of Ireland Maynooth

1. Education lecturer Dr Aidan Mulkeen is working with DCI on a project to examine the use of ICT in education in Uganda. This is in two parts: using ICT in a pilot teacher education college at Fort Portal; and working with the government to develop an ICT strategy for education.
2. The acting head of the Centre for Adult and Community Education, Dr Anne Ryan, has links with individuals in Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda, and SARIPS (Southern African Regional Institute for Policy Studies), University of Zimbabwe, Harare.

3. The acting head of the Dept. of Anthropology, Dr Abdullahi Osman El-Tom, is in the process of creating links with the University of Botswana.

University of Limerick

UL has three major programme-level interventions in Southern Africa, plus multiple specific interventions by various individual faculty members (not listed). The three major interventions are in the following areas:

1. **Health and Conservation of Life:** Through one of its campus companies, UL is developing a medical technique, suitable for the Southern African environment, to stop post-partum bleeding in pregnant women. This technique is currently being applied and tested in various Southern African countries. Its effects will lead to a major reduction in maternity and immediate post-pregnancy deaths and life conservation.
2. **Capacity Building in Educational Institutions in South Africa – with the proposed extension of the programme to other Southern African countries:** UL is working with the National Research Foundation of South Africa, the Universities of Rhodes and Kwa Zulu Natal, and the Technikon of Port Elizabeth to enhance the capacity of these South African educational institutions to contribute, through their educational programmes, to the enhancement of socio-economic growth and development in the states of Eastern Cape and Kwa Zulu Natal. This programme involves major outreach activity from the educational institutions to civil society, the business community, and the South African townships. The National Research Foundation of South Africa has decided – based on the success of these capacity-building programmes – to extend the overall programme to six other states in South Africa. The programme is also being developed for extension to other Southern African countries, e.g. Ghana, Uganda, Mozambique.
3. **Democracy, Governance and Public Management:** UL has developed a governance and public management programme for delivery in Limerick to Regional Commissioners in Tanzania. These Commissioners report to the Tanzanian President/Head of State and are of fundamental importance to Tanzania's programmes for governance, democracy and public management. This programme is also being offered to other Southern African countries.

National University of Ireland Galway

1. The university has 25 students from Botswana registered on the undergraduate medical programme. This recruitment is carried out through the Irish Universities Medical Consortium.
2. The Irish Centre for Human Rights and the Department of Health Promotion also have contacts with Southern and Eastern Africa, and I am awaiting further details of these.

University College Dublin

Until the early 1990s there was a technical co-operation programme (funded by the DFA), mainly in the business area, with HE institutions in Zambia, Kenya and Zimbabwe (run by Dr Tony Cunningham) – now discontinued.

*Andy Pollak
Noel Whelan
Gillian Robinson*

18 August 2004