



China or Taiwan?

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Taiwan foreign affairs minister was due to fly to Malawi to make last attempts to prevent Malawi from severing ties with Taipei to switch to Mainland China

Spokesperson for Taiwan Foreign Ministry, Phoebe Yeh confirmed that Foreign Minister James Huang and his aides, including Chang Yun-ping, head of the Department of African Affairs, were to arrive in Malawi on 03 January to attempt to rescue the apparently faltering relationship between the two countries.

However, it seems that a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between the Republic of Malawi and Mainland China paving way for establishment of diplomatic ties forced the Malawi government to reject meeting the visiting Taiwanese Foreign Minister.

Malawi ministers visited Beijing on Christmas eve to initiate formal relations with China, which would affect the 41 years old relations with Taipei.

President Bingu wa Mutharika dispatched Presidential Affairs Minister Davis Katsonga, Energy, and Mining Minister Henry Chimunthu Banda to sign a pact that would signal the change of foreign policy.

The southern African country has been lured with a pledge of US\$6 billion in aid to develop a waterway on Malawi's Shire River to link with Mozambique's sea ports.

Sources close to the chairperson of the China-Malawi diplomatic establishment - Minister of Presidential and Parliamentary Affairs - Davis Katsonga - say they had 'fruitful discussions' with the Chinese.

"Katsonga, who signed the MoU on behalf of the Malawi government described the talks with Beijing as very fruitful and enlightening," said the source on condition of anonymity. Under the MoU, China has told Malawi that

there is only one China and therefore the 'one-China policy' must apply. Malawi has also been prevented from opening its doors for Taipei's swift moves to prevent switching the 41 year old ties.

Huang is reported to have contacted his counterpart Foreign Minister Joyce Hilda Banda - totally sidelined in the switch negotiations - on his way to Malawi but was told President Bingu wa Mutharika was on holiday and Banda would be out of the country when he arrived.

"The Malawi government, despite agreeing to the visit say they were informed too late when Mutharika's programme who is on leave had already been made.

"Mutharika is on holiday and cannot meet the Taiwanese envoy," said Ben Mbewe, secretary for foreign affairs in the capital city, Lilongwe.

A network of faith-based organisations and civil-society organisations appealed to Malawi's government to be cautious in handling the diplomatic puzzle with the Chinese.

The Civic and Political Space Platform said in a statement there are many issues the Malawi government must consider in international relations, such as materialistic and nationalistic ideologies, that contradict human values.

It said Malawi would do well to remain with Taiwan rather than establishing diplomatic ties with China, citing Beijing's human rights record.

Source: Nyasa Times



Scotland Malawi Partnership Update

In 2008, the Scotland Malawi Partnership will be aiming to host six workshops, three stakeholder meetings and three language and cultural training events for member organisations. We are currently organising a media workshop (likely date April 2008), a funding workshop (likely date March 2008), a Malawi perspectives workshop (date TBC) and a health workshop (likely date February 2008). The language and cultural training events should be held in March, June and October.

We are also in the process of planning a stakeholder meeting with David Mkwambisi (likely date 12 February), who is currently completing his PhD on Environment and Development at Bunda College. Mr Mkwambisi is involved in a number of organisations in Malawi: Students for Rural Development (SRYD) club, RIPLE Africa and Lilongwe Junior Club; the Malawi

Higher Education Fund; Community Sustainable Initiative (CSI) and Malawi Human Rights Youth Networks (MHRYN). He also writes regularly for Nyasa Times. See www.david-mkwambisi.com.

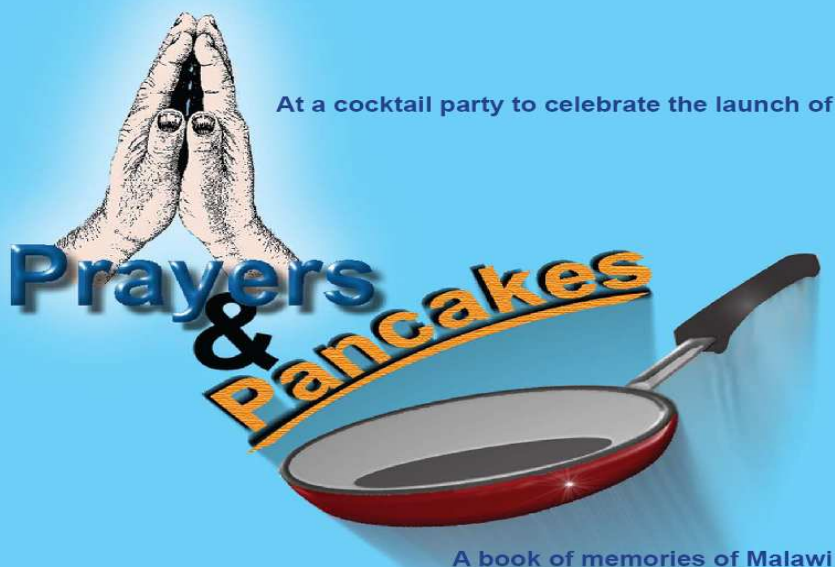
A stakeholder meeting(s) with Michael Niechzial, who works for GTZ and wrote the Government of Malawi's Human Resources for Health Strategy. These meetings will be held on the 25th and 26th February.

Further details will be circulated in due course, and will appear on the website. If you would like to suggest further potential workshops or stakeholder meetings, or more information about the current plans, please contact the Scotland Malawi Partnership on info@scotland-malawipartnership.org or 0131 5293164.

Prayer and Pancakes

Join us on

23rd February 2008
7pm for 7.30
In the Collins Gallery
Richmond St



On Saturday 23rd February the Graduates Association of the University of Strathclyde is launching a little book of memories of Malawi, called Prayers and Pancakes.

It will be held in the Collins Gallery, Richmond St, G1 1XQ, within the University. The evening will begin at 7 for 7.30 and end 10.30 – 11pm.

There will be a light buffet and cocktails, raffle, and a jazz band.

Tickets are £15 and include a signed copy of the book. For further details, contact Rose Mary Harley on Rose-mary.Harley@rpa.gsi.gov.uk or 07971 473 176, or Katie Edward on 0141 548 4807.

Tickets £15

The Allan and Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust

Aims to relieve poverty and support education by: supporting education (including educational projects encompassing world peace); overseas development; the support of education of overseas post graduate students.

Write to: Stanley Tee, High Street, Bishops Stortford, Hertford, Hertfordshire, CM23 2LU

The Rowan Charitable Trust

Aims to genuinely help people by giving to those charities that seek to improve advocacy or meet challenges presented by powerful economic forces on behalf of the poor; the powerless or the left out, especially if they are enabled to participate in articulating a vision of economic justice.

Applications should include: a brief description (2 sides of A4) of, and a budget for the work for which the grant is sought; the organisation's Annual Report and Accounts. Closing date is 31 July. Grant size is £500–£50 000.

Write to: c/o Morley Tippett, White Park Barn, Loseley Park, Guildford, Surrey, GU3 1HS

The Linsbury Trust

Make a small number of grants to overseas causes, generally in the fields of healthcare, education or the preservation of local heritage.

Applications should include a current detailed budget for the proposal, up to date audited accounts and the most recent annual report.

Write to: Allington House (First Floor), 150 Victoria Street, London, SW1 5AE.

The Barbara Ward Children's Foundation

Aims to carry out exclusively charitable purposes anywhere in the world, for the relief of poverty, the promotion of health, the provision of recreational facilities or any other charitable purposes for the benefit of the community.

Applications should include the audited accounts.

Largest grant made last year was £44000.

Write to: 5 Great College Street, Westminster, London, SW1P 3SJ.

DFID Civil Society Challenge Fund

Through funding of individual projects the CSCF aims to provide lasting benefits to poor communities and under-represented people in the developing world. We do this through our support for projects which:

- **Improve the capacity of Southern civil society to engage in the local decision-making processes:**
- **Improve the capacity of Southern civil society to engage in national decision making processes**
- **Improve international linkages through global advocacy**
- **Provide innovative service delivery**
- **Provide service delivery in difficult environments:**

The CSCF can provide up to 100% of total costs, up to a maximum of £500,000 per project. However, you **must be realistic** when drawing up your funding request. Projects can be funded for up to five years.

Concept notes can be submitted and will be appraised between 1 February

and 15 June each year. This allows DFID to concentrate efforts on appraising proposals between the end of June and 31 January each year.

Proposals must be received no later than 31 July in order to be considered for funding from the following April onwards.

See <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/funding/civilsocietyguidelines06.asp> for further details.

STARS Impact Awards

Applications are now open for the STARS Foundation's 2008 Impact Awards. In 2007, three organisations from South Africa, Tanzania and Zimbabwe became the first Award recipients, receiving US\$100,000 each of unrestricted funding, as well as consultancy support.

The 2008 Impact Awards will recognise organisations working in children's health, education and protection in Africa. The closing date for applications is 1 February 2008.

www.starsfoundation.org.uk

Big Lottery—International Communities

All Stage 1 applications for The Big Lottery Fund International Communities must be received by 30 April 2008 in order to be considered for funding.

www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland

Dates have been announced for 2008 surgeries. See <http://www.ltsbfoundationforscotland.org.uk/index.asp?pg=34> Call 0870 902 1201 to make an appointment.

The Overseas Grants deadline is 14 April 2008. See <http://www.ltsbfoundationforscotland.org.uk/index.asp?tm=15> for details.

Africa in Motion festival launches new short film competition for emerging African filmmakers

The Africa in Motion film festival (AiM), which takes place annually in October at Edinburgh Filmhouse, is officially inviting African filmmakers to submit short films for a new AiM competition. In order to target the competition specifically towards young and emerging African talent, **filmmakers who enter a film for consideration must not have completed a feature-length film previously. Films entered must have been completed in 2005 or after, and must be no longer than 30 minutes.**

The competition winner will be selected from a shortlist of films and will be announced at an awards ceremony at the third successive Africa in Motion festival in October 2008. The winner will have the opportunity for their film to be screened at AiM 2008 as well as the chance to win a significant cash prize. A selection of other short films specially commended by our competition jury will also be screened as part of a short film showcase at AiM 2008.

The AiM 2008 Short Film Competition will be judged by a jury panel consisting of local film specialists and established African filmmakers; still to be confirmed.

The deadline for competition submissions is **31 May 2008**, and following from this a shortlist of films will be selected by an AiM viewing committee. The shortlist will be announced in July 2008. These films will then be viewed by all jury panel members, who will make a collective decision as to the prize winners, based on a point scoring system that will take into account the relative merits of each of the shortlisted films.

Please see www.africa-in-motion.org.uk/call.html for full submission guidelines and to download an entry form. For any further enquiries, please contact AiM festival director Lizelle Bisschoff at: submissions@africa-in-motion.org.uk.

January Events and Meetings

10 Jan: Policy and Strategy Committee Meeting, 6pm, Edinburgh City Chambers.

11 Jan: Scotland Malawi Partnership meeting with DfID, 9 45am, East Kilbride.

14 Jan: Scotland Malawi Partnership's Quarterly Meeting with the Scottish Government's International Development Team, 2pm, Victoria Quay.

14 Jan: Staffing Committee Meeting, 6pm, Edinburgh City Chambers.

17 Jan: Higher Education Committee Meeting, 2pm, Edinburgh City Chambers.

23 Jan: Parliamentary Cross Party Group on Malawi

(Sustainable Economic Development), 1pm–2 30pm Committee Room 4, Scottish Parliament. Contact info@scotland-malawipartnership.org for more details.

24 Jan: Scotland Malawi Partnership participating in a 'Network of Networks' meeting, 3pm, NIDOS office on Rose Street.

25 Jan: Education Committee Meeting, 3pm, Edinburgh City Chambers.

28 Jan: Funding Committee Meeting, 6pm, Edinburgh City Chambers.

International Group Association (IGA) is a local Non - Governmental Organisation which was formed and registered in 2002 under the trustees act of Malawi. IGA is a member of Council for Non Governmental Organisation of Malawi (CONGOMA). The organisation has a Board of Trustees for policy issues and Management for project implementation. The organisation's thematic areas are: Food Security, Health, Human Rights, Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children (OVC, Gender, Water and Sanitation). Currently the organisation is implementing Home Based Care and Orphan and Other Vulnerable Children Project in Traditional Authorities Kabudula and Khongoni in Lilongwe District and Traditional Authority Wasambo in Karonga District. In essence therefore the organisation has operational structures in the mentioned traditional

Authorities. However the organisation is not limited to the mentioned catchment areas regarding its operational work.

For more details, please contact

Joseph Nyondo
 Director of Programmes
 International Group Association
 P.O. Box 40437
 Lilongwe 4
 Malawi

Tel: 265 1 753 427 or 265 1 920 848
 Mobile: 265 8 553 827 or 265 9 014 275
 E mail : igallw@malawi.net or josephnyondo2003@yahoo.com

Switch On with the Twinning of Scottish and Malawian Clinics

In November we visited the ten Malawi clinics in the Twinning Project and witnessed the installation of Internet and computer facilities at several of the clinics. The provision of the same, or better, technology as we enjoy in Scotland, will enable our Malawi partners to communicate on an equal platform about case problems and continuous professional development.



Staff at Chilomoni Clinic, Blantyre (twinned with St. Margaret's Medical Practice, Auchterarder)

Both Scotland and Malawi enjoy access to free healthcare at the point of delivery. In Malawi, Health Ministry clinics provide the backbone of primary health care. By empowering student nurses and experienced midwives in clinics with access to the world's free medical library and dialogue with regional and international colleagues, the project aims to send ripples of good medical practice through the wider patient and guardian community.

Resource problems mean that Malawi is behind almost all other countries in measures of clinical outcome. And yet, here therein lies the paradox: the so called 'worse' can teach the so called 'best' many lessons. Malawi can help us re-connect with the core values of patient autonomy, innovation in health education, integration of public health with clinical care, and above all, professional pride in caring for patients. Together, as virtual colleagues, we click.



Clinical Officer, Francis Phiri, using the Internet for the first time at Ndirande Clinic, Blantyre (twinned with Stockbridge Blue Practice in Edinburgh)

Join us at [HTTP://MALAWICLINICS.ORG](http://MALAWICLINICS.ORG) or email MALAWI.CLINICS@GMAIL.COM

For further details contact Jemma Neville on jemma.neville@gmail.com

INVESTMENT management company Cru has publicly launched a venture for specific ethical investment in Malawi's agricultural sector.

It wants to raise £30m in the first half of 2008 to secure 20,000 hectares of land additional to that it has already acquired.

Cardiff-based Cru will use Africa Invest to establish a commercial agricultural business in Malawi, with the aim of making profit and alleviating poverty.

The company has been tested for the last two years to see how successful it could be.

It has been expanding its senior management team, providing for greater operational control of the farms, focusing on crop selection on high-value export markets and a major expansion to its outgrowers schemes.

The company has established 8,000 outgrowers (small scale producers), 6,500 producing paprika and 1,500 producing chillies – and its returns on capital in 2008 are forecast to be between 35% and 45%, with total investments totalling £1.8m so far.

Cru says 50% of the 20,000 hectares of land it acquires in the first half of 2008 will be placed under irrigation and two paprika processing plants will be established to deal with 6,000 tonnes of paprika. It wants Africa Invest to become a major exporter of bird's eye chillies and herbs – with field tests on mint and basil already in place.

Jon Maguire, CEO of Cru, said, "Investment into Africa Invest has two principal profit drivers; land and food. We create our farming land bank from two sources; leasehold, which is customary land that cannot be sold, and freehold, principally former tobacco estates.

"We acquire arable land for less than £250 per hectare and by international standards this is extremely low.

"For instance, compared to UK arable land, our land is at a 95% discount. As pressure for farmland grows globally Malawi farmland prices should rise substantially.

"Food prices are rising strongly. Arable land is being put to biofuel, reducing supply for food. Population growth, particularly in developing countries, is increasing de-

mand for food. Thus, with supply falling and demand rising the outlook for higher food prices, and increased profits for us, is bright."

Mr Maguire said investment in Africa would provide far more positive results than simply donating aid. "In such a short time, Africa Invest now financially engages with some 80,000 Malawians, helping to lift them out of poverty, this includes our outgrower schemes which are family run," he said. "When I first went to these rural areas the people and their villages had no money, some had never even seen money.

"Now it's different, money empowers them and this has significant knock-on effects to the local wider economy. Africa Invest is employing 2,400 people, providing them wages three times higher than average and offering a career path to all.

"We have established a feeding programme at every one of our farms, providing nourishing porridge four times a week to 1,450 orphaned and malnourished children, Aids victims and the elderly."

Cru will raise its £30m by opening a collective fund allowing for charities and institutions to invest as well as offering a structured product allowing for retail UK investors to invest.

The product would be capital guaranteed and Cru said it is confident the money can be raised by next May.

Source: icWales.co.uk

Death of Jake Muwamba

Mr Muwamba was the first Malawi High Commissioner to the UK during the democratic era, serving from 1994 to 1998. Prior to that he was a major public figure over decades in Malawi and served as chair of many governmental and non-governmental bodies. He was 82 years of age when he died.

He comes from a family with long associations with Scotland, his grandfather Yakobe Msusu Muwamba having been the first theology graduate of the Overtoun Institution at Livingstonia in 1900. Jake himself served as an elder in the Church of Scotland while he was in London.



Scotland Malawi Partnership

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About the Partnership

The Scotland Malawi Partnership exists to inspire people and organisations of Scotland to be involved with Malawi in an informed, coordinated and effective way so that both nations benefit.

The SMP is an independent charitable membership organisation. It aims to foster links, consistent with our values, between the two nations, and encourage development of sustainable projects in Malawi by:

- raising awareness and encouraging support for that aim through enthusing members and supporting their activities
- acting as a forum for encouraging best possible practice in member organisations and enabling the provision of training and the sharing of ideas, processes and information
- enabling organisations in Scotland, including NGOs, to take advantage of opportunities which may arise for supporting activities in Malawi, particularly those involving Civil Society
- encouraging organisations to support activities which, through mobilising Civil Society, will lead to a reduction of poverty in Malawi and an improved standard of living for all strata of Society
- developing support mechanisms which can lead to an exchange of people and/or advance cultural, political or economic understanding between Scotland and Malawi
- informing its members of activities, opportunities or items of significance arising in either Scotland or Malawi, particularly relevant plans and initiatives of Malawian individuals and organisations
- working with national Governments, Local Authorities, other NGOs and voluntary organisations to develop an infrastructure which can be used to benefit its member organisations in their Malawian activities
- informing Civil Society in Scotland about the work of the Partnership and how the efforts of Civil Society can positively affect the situation in Malawi

Working together to eradicate poverty in Malawi.

For every £1 you donate as a tax payer, we can claim a further 28 pence from the Government at no extra cost to you. Just complete the agreement below:

Gift Aid Declaration

This Declaration is applicable ONLY to UK personal tax payers who pay income or capital gains tax of an amount at least equal to the tax deducted from the donation.

I have already completed a Gift Aid Declaration for the Scotland Malawi Partnership

I/we wish the SMP to treat all donations made by me/us from the 6 April 2006 as Gift Aid donations unless and until I/we notify you otherwise.

Name:

Address:

E-mail:

Tel:

Signature:

Date:

Donations

I enclose a **one-off** donation of £..... (Cheques made payable to *The Scotland Malawi Partnership Ltd*)

I would like to donate **regularly** and have completed the Standing Order Mandate below.

Standing Order Mandate

To: Bank or Building Society

Account to be debited

Name.....

Sort Code.....

Branch.....

Account No:.....

Address.....

Account Name.....

Payment Details

Amount of payment £..... to be paid every *month / quarter / year* (delete as appropriate)

Amount of usual payment (in words).....

Date of first payment.....

Please return this form to us: The Scotland Malawi Partnership, City of Edinburgh Council, Room 1/12, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1YJ.

Thank you for your generosity.