



**Scotland Malawi Partnership (SMP)**

**Further and Higher Education (FEHE) Forum**

**20<sup>th</sup> September 2017, Edinburgh City Chambers**

Further and Higher Education: member updates:

<p><b>Akuzike Kamwanja and Susan Flynn</b></p> 	<p><b>CHIFUNDO UK AND CHANASA MALAWI</b></p> <p>We will explain how the work of Chanasa – a women’s enterprise based in Blantyre Malawi that makes sustainable fashion accessories and household products, using recycled denim and cotton mixed with African fabrics, is transforming the lives of these women and their families; but also that it could hold a commercial key to potential funding for female university scholarships at public funded universities in Malawi. Glasgow University has agreed to pioneer this commercial model and we invite other interested Scottish Universities to make contact.</p>
<p><b>Damien Frame</b></p> 	<p><b>Off-Grid Renewable Electricity and Community Energy in Malawi</b></p> <p>This talk will provide an overview of the University of Strathclyde Energy for Development team’s engagement with a range of stakeholders in Malawi. Progress and key learning from the Sustainable Off-Grid Electrification of Rural Villages (SOGERV) project and our ongoing partnership with Community Energy Malawi will be presented. Topics include: sustainable business models combining entrepreneurs, communities and district government; studies on productive use of energy and sustainability of off-grid solar PV systems; district energy officer blueprinting; a toolkit for productive use or renewable electricity; and building research and innovation partnerships.</p>

**Molly Gilmour and Mia Perry**



The University of Glasgow leads various initiatives, research projects, and programmes in direct partnership with Malawi. At this time, we would like to highlight the following two examples:

1. Linked to our clinical research facility in Malawi, **MALBOP (Malawi - Biology of Parasitism)** is an advanced course for PhD students and early postdocs in the interaction between the immune system, Parasites and other Pathogens. The course consists of intensive learning sessions and symposia on the most recent advances in the immunology and parasitology of malaria, HIV, TB and helminths, delivered by leading researchers in the field. And 2. **The Sustainable Futures in Africa Network** is an interdisciplinary collective that brings together researchers, educators, and communities of practice that acknowledge the situated and complex nature of practices and conceptions of sustainability. Academics and NGOs from Malawi form part of this Network that is building capacity, infrastructure and research in socio-ecological sustainability in Africa.

For more information see:  
<https://sustainablefuturesinafrica.com/>  
and our partner in Malawi -  
<http://abundanceworldwide.weebly.com/malawi.html>

**Carol Clement**



**IMMPAQKT**

Impact on Malaria, Maternal health and the Prognosis for Aids by Quality Assurance, Knowledge exchange and Training

This collaborative project between the University of Strathclyde and the University of Malawi aims to make an impact on the above conditions and the overall health in Malawi by improving the safety and efficacy of traditional herbal medicines: by facilitating knowledge exchange between traditional healers and medical professionals; by the training and education of doctors and pharmacists in traditional herbal medicines through the establishment of a MSc. in Traditional Herbal Medicine and Drug Discovery; and by the development of quality assurance procedures for herbal medicines.

**Julie Struthers**



**The University of St Andrews Medical School** has completed (January 2017) two Scottish Government International Development funded projects working in partnership with the College of Medicine (COM), Malawi. These were focused on **'Enhancing Medical and Healthcare Training'**. Academic staff from both institutions worked closely to modernise the medical school curriculum and to develop a BSc (Hons) in Biomedical Sciences. In addition St Andrews IT staff worked with the COM ICT staff to build and **strengthen IT capacity** in the Blantyre and Lilongwe campuses. This included as well as providing training, consultancy, support and IT resources. An enduring partnership exists between the 2 institutions.

**Alistair Tough**



**Health information management and medical record keeping systems in Malawi – a preliminary investigation**

With funding from GCRF, Paul Lihoma and I have been undertaking this study. Our approach is to begin at the grass roots and work up. So we have visited some hospitals and many health centres and other small facilities in Chikwawa, Zomba and Blantyre. We have seen good people at work. However, the systems they work with tend to be fragmented and inflexible with occasional stand-alone IT systems and a lack of feedback mechanisms to support local planning and management. We may undertake further work - with a view to devising and testing more flexible and locally productive approaches that can be sustained without long-term reliance on external support - if there is buy-in from key people in Malawi.

**Karl Magee**



**The Peter Mackay Archive Project:** is a major new resource which documents the struggles for independence in a number of Southern African countries including Malawi. Peter Mackay (1926-2013) devoted himself to the cause of African liberation. In 2014 his nephew organised the transport of his papers from his home in Zimbabwe to Stirling University. Following a successful fundraising campaign using the Crowdfunder online platform we have started a project to catalogue and digitise the Archive. A key aim of the project is to make this collection freely available to researchers and students throughout Africa through online access to digitised material. Further information: <http://libguides.stir.ac.uk/archives/MackayArchiveProject>