



Mr Andries Jordaan

Disaster Management Training and Education Centre for Africa (DiMTEC)

Overview

The Disaster Management Training and Education Centre for Africa (DiMTEC) has experienced rapid growth in its intake for the master's degree programme in Disaster Management over the last couple of years. In 2007 the centre had a record intake of 70 first-year students compared to 60 students in 2006.

Because of the multi-disciplinary focus of the master's programme and the relevance of the course in the developing African continent, it is expected that interest in the course will remain high. The main challenge however for the UFS is to provide the necessary institutional support to DiMTEC to maintain current intakes and to support the large number of students in their research.

DiMTEC secured a bursary programme for the master's degree programme in Disaster Management which will run until 2008. The programme is funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) and the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC). Bursaries to the value of R2.3 million were received for the 2006 intake and another R3 million for the 2007 intake. The programme enables students to gain experience in disaster management in different government departments while completing their master's degree studies in Disaster Management.

During 2007 staff from DiMTEC presented short courses on various aspects of Disaster Management to government departments and non-governmental and private organisations. These courses were presented on demand and tailored to suit the organisations. Some of the courses were: the Sphere Project and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response course, presented to 19 members of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in Bloemfontein and 30 participants in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe; the Introduction to Disaster Risk Management course, presented to 170 officials of the Cape Winelands District Municipality; the Introduction to Disaster Management and the Creation of the Free State Disaster Management Framework, presented to 25 Free State Disaster Management officials in Bloemfontein; and the Political Strategic Planning course, which was presented to local government political officials in Bloemfontein.

DiMTEC staff also played an active role in agricultural development in South Africa. Mr Andries Jordaan, Director of DiMTEC, acted as the agricultural advisor to the Richtersveld community during the court case in the battle for their land. He

also supported the community during the transfer phase of the land from government to the community.

Eight unpublished reports on projects from as far as the Sudan and the Richtersveld were produced by DiMTEC staff. Mr Jordaan is the only South African specialist, together with specialists from Germany, Finland, France, Italy and China, contracted to the US\$5.5 billion Sudan project. He produced five research reports for the Sudanese government and is contracted to support them for the next five years. This project entails the building of a dam on the Nile River (which is nearly completed) and the development of one million hectares of new irrigation land. Four students from the Sudan enrolled for the DiMTEC programme as a result of Mr Jordaan's activities.

Asia is well-known for its disasters and Mr Jordaan used the opportunity during the International Disaster Reduction Conference in China to link up with Chinese universities and scientists working in the field of disaster management.

DiMTEC staff were also involved as specialist advisors in two environmental impact assessments for Ninham Shand/ESKOM, the development of the Free State disaster management framework, external evaluation of disaster risk assessments and several small scale agricultural development projects.

Mr Jordaan presented papers at the National Conference for Risk Assessment and the conference on community vulnerability. He also presented papers at the International Interdisciplinary Social Sciences Conference in Spain and at the International Disaster Risk Reduction Conference in China. Messrs Theuns van der Linde and Pios Ncube presented papers at the annual conference of the Disaster Management Institute for Southern Africa (DMISA), presented in Jeffrey's Bay, Eastern Cape.

DiMTEC staff are well represented on provincial and national bodies. This includes the South African Qualifications Authority's (SAQA) Scoping Committee for Disaster Management Training in South Africa, the Free State Disaster Management Advisory Forum, ICSU Regional Consultative Forum for Africa, and the National Disaster Management Technical Advisory Forum on Disaster Risk Assessment.

Probably the biggest challenge at DiMTEC is to publish the results of the research completed by students and staff. A



The centre secured a bursary programme from the Department of Science and Technology (DST), the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) and the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) for the master's programme in Disaster Management. The programme, which runs until 2008, is administered by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). Attending the launch of the bursary programme are, from the left: Mr Chris Swiegers, DWAF, Mr Lance Williams, Head: NDMC, Prof. Magda Fourie, Vice-Rector: Academic Planning at the UFS, Ms Ramadolela Lindelani, M.Sc. student, and Mr Andries Jordaan, Director: DiMTEC.



Students who graduated during the September 2007 graduation ceremony are, from the left: Mss Joan Mute, Regina Gapa, Messrs Mc Donald Kadzatsa, Gift Chatora, Ms Sibusiwe Ndlovu, and Mr Andries Jordaan, Director: DiMTEC.

number of research papers are in the pipeline. Although students only complete a mini dissertation as part of the requirements for the master's degree, most of the research is publishable. The challenge is to motivate students to prepare scientific papers for publication after completion of their studies.

Some of the research topics completed during 2007 were:

- Analysis of a food aid programme in Murehwa district and its contribution to community resilience.
- Adapting to the negative effects of drought: A study of the coping strategies of the Marange community of Manicaland Province in Zimbabwe.
- Living with flood risk: A case study of the Dambakurima area of Muzarabani district in Zimbabwe.
- Effectiveness of disaster contingency planning in Southern Africa.
- Traditional cultural practices contributing to vulnerability of food insecurity in Gwembe district of Zambia.

Staff

Director: Mr Andries Jordaan
Junior Lecturers: Messrs Theuns van der Linde (contract appointment), Pios Ncube (contract appointment)
External Lecturers: Messrs Schalk Carstens, Anthony Keston
Secretary: Ms Annelene Schröder-Groenewald
Research Assistants: Mss Olivia Kunguma, Alice Ncube, Messrs Derrick Sissons, Regardt Ferreira
Lecturer: Units: Dr Dusan Sakulski

Contact details

Mr Andries Jordaan
 Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences
 Disaster Management Training and Education Centre for Africa (DiMTEC)
 University of the Free State
 PO Box 339
 Bloemfontein
 South Africa
 9300

Telephone: +27 51 401 2721

Fax: +27 51 401 9336

E-mail: jordaana.sci@ufs.ac.za

Website: www.ufs.ac.za/dimtec

Research outputs

Research articles

Jordaan, A.J. 2007. Disaster risk assessment: Thumb sucking or scientific risk quantification? *International Journal of Interdisciplinary Social Sciences*. [Electronic].

Report

Jordaan, A.J. & Breytenbach, T. 2007. *Richtersveld sosio ekonomiese opname*. Report to the University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa.

Conference contributions

Jordaan, A.J. 2007. *Disaster risk assessment at municipal level in South Africa: The need for a multi-disciplinary approach*. Paper presented at the International Disaster Reduction Conference (IDRC), Harbin, China. 21-25 August.

Jordaan, A.J. 2007. *Disaster risk assessment in informal settlements*. Paper presented at the Conference on Disaster Management in Informal Settlements, Sandton, Johannesburg, South Africa. January 2007.

Jordaan, A.J. 2007. *Disaster risk assessment: Thumb sucking or scientific risk quantification?* Paper presented at the 2nd International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, University of Granada, Granada, Spain. 10-13 July.

Jordaan, A.J. 2007. *Participatory disaster risk assessment: The only true risk assessment.* Paper presented at the Disaster Risk Assessment Conference, Randburg, Johannesburg, South Africa. February 2007.

Ncube, P. & Jordaan, A.J. 2007. *Taking the 'naturalness' out of 'natural disasters': A focus on flood risk and gender.* Paper presented at the International Disaster Reduction Conference (IDRC), Harbin, China. 21-25 August.

Van der Linde, T. & Jordaan, A.J. 2007. *Disaster management at South African academic institutions and the development of a complex disaster management system.* Paper presented at the Disaster Management Institute of Southern Africa (DMISA) Annual Conference, Jeffreys Bay, South Africa. 17-18 October.



Participants who attended the Sphere Project and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response course in Bloemfontein.