



## Disaster Management Training and Education Centre for Africa

### January 2016 Newsletter

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## Welcome class of 2016!

Congratulations on your decision to become a DiMTECtor! Be assured of gaining all the knowledge and skills you might need in order to make a valuable difference in your region, and the world.

Although we ensured that you have the best mentors and lecturers possible, navigating your studies remain your own responsibility. Therefore, we encourage you to familiarise yourself with all the administrative and academic procedures while you are on campus and have access to the relevant staff.

May 2016 be one of the most memorable years of your life, where you not only learn and grow, but also find your special place in the world to make your unique contribution – we value you!

## Highlights of 2015

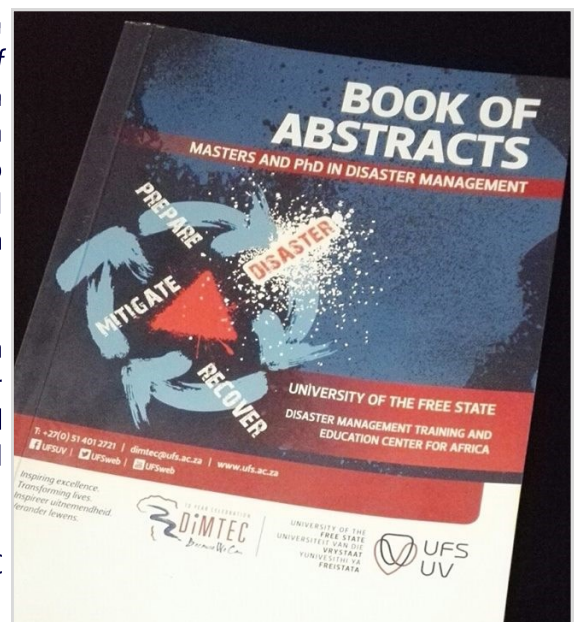
2015 was an eventful year for DiMTEC. Celebrating our 10th anniversary, we put in extra effort to make the DiMTEC voice heard – locally, and internationally.

The year was filled with disaster specific workshops, and many international visit – leading to partnerships and exchange programmes.

One of our flagship projects was a compilation publication: *Book of Abstracts*. This initiative envisioned a project by which students' research abstracts were published in order to give them academic exposure, and display the wide scope of research done by DiMTEC students.

We are extremely proud of each student and wish you all the best for the future. Please stay in contact, and inform us about your professional progress.

[Copies are available from the DiMTEC office.]



## In the face of the current drought

Prof Andries Jordaan, DiMTEC director, is a world renowned drought expert. During the past couple of months, he attended various drought meetings, and the situation does not look good. The current drought in South-Africa, is the worst in 50 years. The impact thereof is even worse than the 1981/2 and the 1992/3 droughts. Our country is much more vulnerable than it used to be back then. The population count is double, and the number of commercial farmers have been halved. For the first time, food security is a very real threat.

Only a very small percentage of maize was planted, and the harvest thereof is no guarantee. Currently, it is estimated that we would need to import 10 million tons of grain – were in the past, we exported. To make matters worse, South Africa does not have the infrastructure to receive and transport 10 million tons of grain.



This drought has the potential to push our economy into a recession. It is estimated that the price of basic foodstuff may increase from 30% up to 50%. Poor people will be affected the most by unaffordable food.

Livestock fodder is also not available anymore. Farmers who can still afford to buy feed, cannot find supply. Hence, livestock numbers are drastically reduced. In towns and cities, a shortage of drinking water is becoming increasingly problematic.

The biggest problem is that we were not prepared for the drought. There is a lack of organisation and coordination. Up till now, the situation has not been declared a national disaster – the authorities do not realise how dire the situation is.

We need to save as much water as we can.

## African Forest Forum meeting

During July 2015, Prof Jordaan attended a African Forestry Forum meeting in Mombasa as one of their members.

The African Forest Forum is an association of individuals with a commitment to the sustainable management, wise use and conservation of Africa's forest and tree resources for the socio-economic well-being of its peoples and for the stability and improvement of its environment.

PhD mentorship was discussed at this meeting, and DiMTEC student, Muluken Fenta, received a \$12 000 bursary for his PhD study on the impact of climate change on pastoralist in the Afar region in Ethiopia.



*Above: African Forest Forum meeting delegates*



## DMISA professionalization of disaster management profession

DMISA (Disaster Management Institute of South Africa) pursued the professionalization of the discipline for a number of years, and the quest to become a professional body has finally delivered results.

The SAQA (South African Qualifications Authority) Directorate: Registration and Recognition, informed DIMSA on 3 March 2015 that the SAQA Board approved the recognition of DMISA as a Professional Body for the purposes of the NQF Act, Act 67 of 2008, and also approved the registration of the designation "Disaster Management Professional" as a Professional Designation on the NQF.

In order to process the registration of professionals, a number of candidates needed to be trained and qualified as assessors. DiMTEC facilitated the assessor training, delivered by CBA (Central Business Academy) during October 2015.

All attendees successfully completed the course, and are now certified assessors against the unit standard: Conduct Outcomes Based Assessment 115753. The first batch of applications were successfully assessed and registered with SAQA.

DiMTEC will also play a major role in facilitating the continuous professional development of all registered Disaster Management Professionals. This initiative was a major step towards maintaining excellence in all Disaster Management spheres, and DiMTEC is once again proud to be at the forefront of this development.



*Above: Front, left to right: Johaness Belle (DiMTEC), Alice Ncube (DiMTEC), Dr Cindé Greying (facilitator), Mduduzi Nxumalo (DMISA), Annelene van Straten (DiMTEC)*

*Back, left to right: Olivia Kunguma (DiMTEC), Owen Becker (DMISA), Germie van Coppenhagen (DiMTEC), Schalk Carstens (DMISA), Fumiso Muyambo (DiMTEC), Prof Andries Jordaan (DiMTEC)*

## 14th IRDR Scientific Committee meeting

From 16-18 November 2015, Prof Andries Jordaan attended the 14th Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) Scientific Committee meeting. Disaster risk management experts from 13 countries around the world attended the meeting at Stellenbosch University (SU), it was the first time the committee met outside China or Europe.

Sharing insights and innovations, disaster delegates from Uganda, USA, UK, China, Thailand, the Netherlands, France, Kenya, Dubai, China, Japan, Egypt and Sweden gathered at STIAS for the three day event mapping ways for disaster risk reduction.

"We are not living a sustainable lifestyle at the moment. We cannot continue to drive in a vehicle that weighs 1.5 tons, that produces 200 kilowatt power to move an object that weighs 80 kg. We will have to change our lifestyles drastically," Prof Eugene Cloete, SU Vice-Rector: Research, Innovation and Postgraduate Studies, remarked.

"The question is how do we manage the risk and disaster that is on our doorstep," he asked, calling on delegates to help people understand what is happening and mitigate risk and disasters.

*Below: Delegates attending the meeting*



## Bulawayo visit

From 4-12 August 2015, Ms Alice Ncube visited Bulawayo to meet with current master's students who are busy with their research. Students Sharmaine Sambayi, Sithabile Moyo and Simanga Ndebele are all at advanced stages of their research and are looking forward to submitting soon. Ms Ncube also had a discussion with Mr Thabo Ndlovu, who is currently busy with his PhD at DiMTEC. Further meetings included some alumni who are working for various humanitarian NGOs in the country.

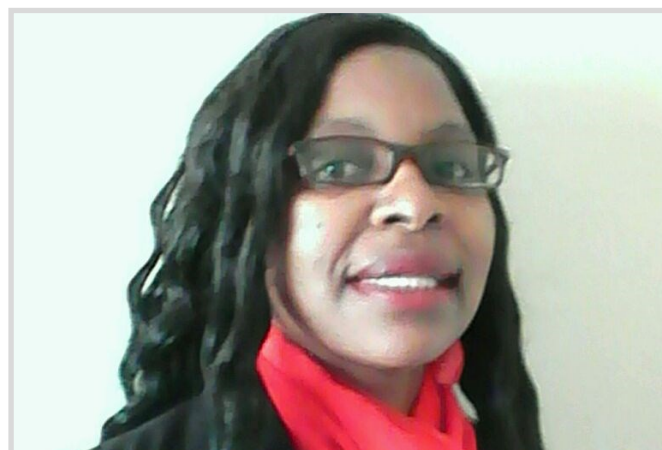
A fruitful visit to the National University of Science and Technology, Institute of Development Studies, saw discussions with the Director of the Institute, Dr Peter Nkala, and some of the lecturing staff (Mr Funa Moyo, Mr Everson Ndlovu, Mr Chipangura and Mr Thabo Ndlovu). The director expressed his keenness on DiMTEC and IDS collaboration.

Ms Ncube attended one of their lecture sessions where they were doing group presentation on "Structural fire preparedness planning and institutional capacity in various organisations around the City of Bulawayo". The students who were part of the practical presentation expressed keenness to interact with DiMTEC and the director advised that they will look into the issue of possible exchange programs.

*Right: Sithabile Moyo*



*Above: Sharmaine Sambayi*



## DiMTEC celebrates in style

During November 2015, DiMTEC hosted a stylish affair at Tuscan Rose in Bloemfontein, to celebrate its 10-year anniversary. This event was also the closing down function for a bursary scheme valued at over R14 million since 2011, supported by the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) and AgriSETA. This initiative enabled many South African students to obtain a Master's Degree in Disaster Management.

DiMTEC once again proved that they play a vital part in the sustainability of Africa and the world. Many DiMTEC alumni play an active role in building resilient communities, to the benefit of society at large. Prof Jansen, UFS Rector, Ms Malerata Macheli, Capacity Building and Development NDMS, and Mr Jerry Madiba, Chief Executive Officer AgriSETA, delivered insightful speeches, highlighting DiMTEC's important role in education and research.

The evening was closed with local entertainment, after which inspired guests returned to their homes – reminded of the significant contribution they make.



*Above: Ms Malerata Macheli*



## Graduation ceremony, December 2015

A graduation ceremony is always a very special occasion, where students are acknowledged for their hard work and dedication to a specific study field. During the summer graduation, the following DiMTEC students received their Master's Degrees:

- MASHA, Morongoa Doris
- MASHEBE, Percy Mashebe
- MONCHO, Lesego
- MOSHOKE, Seabata Leslie

Besides their family and friends, they were supported by DiMTEC staff who assisted them along their journey.

What made this graduation ceremony special, what that the very first DiMTEC PhD in Disaster Management was awarded. Cindé Greyling was accompanied by her promotor, Dr Lydi Terblanche, and co-promotor, Prof Andries Jordaan [more detail on page 7].

A message from the speaker, Prof Busisiwe Rosemary Bhengu [University of Kwa-Zulu Natal], made a special impression. She highlighted the fact that a butterfly needs to struggle its way out of the cocoon to obtain the ability to fly. Should any assistance be given, the butterfly would never be able to fly, and only be able to

crawl for the rest of its life.

Always remember that you need to get through your studies on your own account, that is they only way to strengthen your wings – and fly!



**Above:** Graduates with DiMTEC lecturer, Alice Ncube, and Professor Andries Jordaan

## What's on?

**DiMTEC block course 7** – 19 February 2016, River Lodge Conference Venue, Windhoek, Namibia. Bookings: Germie: VCopenhaG@ufs.ac.za OR Alice: ncubea@ufs.ac.za

**2016 Understanding Risk Forum** 16–20 May 2016, Istanbul, Trukey: <https://understandrisk.org/event/ur2016/>

**The World Conference on Disaster Management** 7–8 June 2016, Toronto, Canada: <http://www.wcdm.org/>

**6th International Disaster and Risk Conference IDRC Davos 2016** 28 Aug—01 Sept 2016 – Davos, Switzerland: <http://idrc.info/>

**35th International Geological Congress** 27 Aug—4 Sept 2016, Cape Town, South Africa: <http://www.globaleventslist.elsevier.com/events/2016/08/35th-international-geological-congress/>

**DMISA conference** [Dates and venue to be confirmed] – preliminary dates: 14 and 15 September 2016, preliminary venue: Western Cape

**ELSEDIMA International Conference** [Dates to be confirmed] Cluj-Napoca, Romania: <http://elsedima.conference.ubbcluj.ro/>

**7th International Conference on Integrated Disaster Risk Management Disaster and Development: Towards a Risk Aware Society** 1–4 October 2016 – Isfahan, Iran: <http://idrim.org/>

## DiMTEC current PhD students

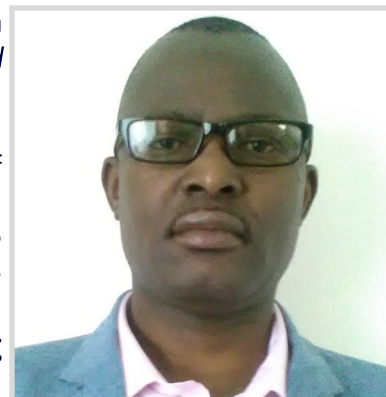
### Joseph Kudzanai Mutsigwa

Mr Mutsigwa is a Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development Consultant in Mbabane. The title of his thesis is: *The interplay of urban development planning and vulnerability to disaster and climate risk: A Case Study of Mbabane City in Swaziland.*

“Besides attaining my PhD, I hope that the research will assist the Municipal Council of Mbabane in particular and other local government authorities including urban development planners to appreciate the importance of integrating disaster and climate risk in urban planning systems and processes. In addition, the research will contribute to the body of knowledge, both academic and policy development literature on the imperative for integrating disaster and climate risk in urban development planning systems and processes at central, sectoral and local government levels involving multi-sectoral urban development planning stakeholders for sustainability.”

**Advice:** “Once you have set your mind on your research topic go for it. You will refine the idea as you go widely and deeply engaging the various literatures. Always fix your eyes on the big picture, which is to get your PhD.”

*Below: Mr. Mutsigwa*



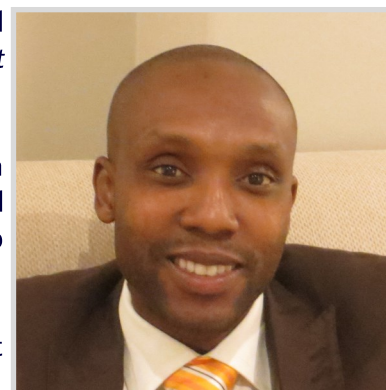
### Siviwe Shwabababa

Mr Shwabababa is the Chief Environmental Specialist at the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform in East London. The title of his thesis is: *A drought impact mitigation model for rainfed land reform farms in the Eastern Cape Province.*

“I wish to assess vulnerability, adaptation and coping capacities of land reform beneficiaries to drought. Thereby, assisting the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform in embracing coping and adaptation strategies as policy response to drought.”

**Advice:** “Read, read and read extensively regarding your topic before you start working on your proposal.”

*Below: Mr Shwabababa*



### Thabang Thinda

Mr Thinda is the Training Manager for Rural Disaster Mitigation Services Unit, Nationally. They are responsible for capacitating rural youth and land reform beneficiaries. He currently resides in Silverton, Pretoria East. The title of his thesis is: *Modelling land reform choice for disaster risk reduction, resilience and adaptation measures on weather variations.*

“I want to assist land reform beneficiaries in better understanding and making better choice and decision for their adaptation and resilience measures on weather variability.”

**Advice:** “Be persistent, work hard and always trust God to lead you in every step of your research.”

*Below: Mr Thinda*



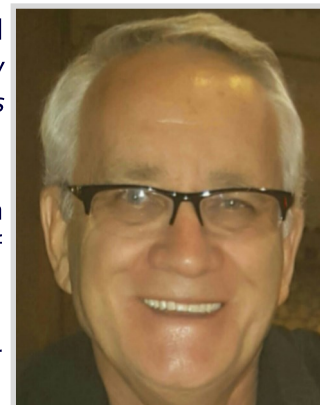
## Alfonso Niemand

Mr Niemand is currently the Managing Director of Nature & Business Alliance Africa (Pty) Ltd and resides in Roodepoort. The title of his thesis is: *An Optimised Model for the Regulatory Management of Human-induced Health and Safety Risk Associated with Hazardous Facilities in South Africa.*

"I aim to develop a new disaster management regulatory model that can be applied in South Africa and worldwide, that will accommodate the vulnerability and sustainability of communities near hazardous installations."

**Advice:** "Stay focused on your research and stick to your research schedule no matter what."

*Below: Mr Niemand*



## DiMTEC first PhD graduate

### Dr Cindé Greyling

Dr Greyling is a consultant from Bloemfontein. With her thesis, *A narrative communication approach towards drought resilience for foundation phase children*, she combined natural sciences and humanities. This delivered a much richer outcome than would have been possible with either discipline alone. She attempts to address drought resilience among children with an age appropriate message. The study delivered a picture book, "Voda and the Big Drought", that may have the stickiness-factor required for behavioural change. The positive results of this investigation not only indicates that children can be risk reduction agents, but it also serves as a framework to build resilience for different age groups and other types of disasters.

**Advice:** Take part in the 3-minute thesis competition presented by the UFS Postgraduate School – it will be the most valuable 3-minutes of your entire study. It helps you to explain your research to anybody, fast! A clear indication that you have truly mastered your field. Good luck!

*Below: Cindé Greyling*



## Find us at...

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## Alice's corner: International migration—human coping and adaptation

### Looking at international migration through the resilience lens!

*Sub-Saharan Africa is portrayed as a continent of people on the move (de Bruijn et al. 2001)*

In my last article (September 2015, edition) I stated that the international migration in South Africa does not seem to be abating. In reality, more and more people are arriving into a country that many perceive as a land full of opportunities. The question I posed was: Is it the various coping and adaptation mechanisms the migrant women bring from their home countries that enable them to make it in host countries? It is with this that I would like to move forward and briefly discuss the resilience factor as part of coping and adaptation mechanisms utilised by migrants in South Africa.

The resilience of the migrants will be navigated through the concept of the Sustainable Livelihood Framework (SLF), which is adapted to show how the pentagon of capitals are utilised as bench marks for the assessing of the resilience factor in the migrants. The focus is on the livelihood capitals and modification of the Community Capitals Framework (CCF), to come up with hexagon of capitals. These capitals are human, social, physical/ built, economic, political and cultural. I have to hasten to say that the natural/environment capital was assumed to be normal, as migrants in most cases do not have access to, let alone control on, the environment/nature in host societies. The assumption also takes into account the fact that the discussion will look at urban migrants who are more impacted by the built, social, human, economic, and cultural capitals than the natural/environmental capital.

Resilience is the ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner (UNISDR 2009: 24). Migrants are exposed to exogenous factors, both in their home countries resulting in their migration, and in host countries like South Africa. In host countries, migrants are often faced with rigid institutional arrangement and recurrent xenophobic attacks.



Their resilience lies in the fact that they are able to resist, absorb, accommodate and recover from these events. They have managed to cope in the short term, and adapted in the long run. Positive coping and adaptation are reflected in these migrants, and they are enhancing their resilience while also improving their wellbeing.

Regardless of the origins of resilience, there is proof to suggest that it can developed and enhanced to promote greater wellbeing. Resilience therefore is a process that varies across circumstances and time (Luthar 2006). The migrants will have to build on what they already have in order to enhance their resilience. In a host country, the migrants need to develop adaptive capacities. They need to build on their initial livelihood capitals. They even need to be dynamic and innovative in order to cope and adapt in host communities.

It is therefore critical to assess how much of the typical and prominent capitals the migrants possess, and how they are utilising these in order to enhance their coping and adaptation mechanisms in South Africa. Their possession and access to the capitals will enable them to respond positively to the institutional structures and processes (Carney 1998) in the host country, and thereby positively enhancing their resilience to cope and adapt better. The six livelihood capitals will be explored and the resilience indicators derived from the capitals will be identified and categorised as typical, and then the prominent indicators that will be selected by migrants themselves as the ones that enhance their coping and adaptation mechanisms in South Africa. In the next issue, I will discuss the identified capitals and start with discussions on the various resilience indicators for each capital.

Because We Can



