



Disaster Management Training and Education Centre for Africa

January 2015 Newsletter

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Congratulations

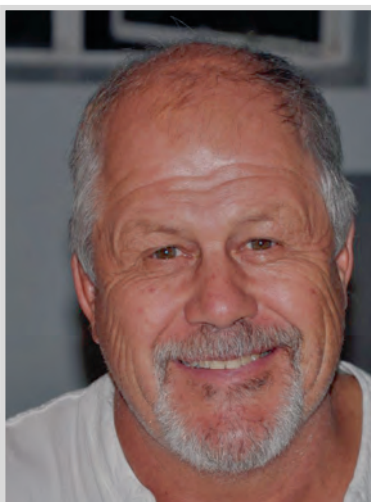
Right: Dr Andries Jordaan, DiMTEC director

Welcome DiMTEC Class of 2015

2015 is a year of celebrations for DiMTEC. We celebrate our 10th year anniversary and true to our international profile, we will involve various internationally renowned scientists in centenary lectures and workshops.

Our slogan at DiMTEC is “*because we can*” and we are proud to see alumni making a difference in societies in Africa and elsewhere in the world. Former DiMTEC students work in senior positions at UN Agencies, NGOs, governments and the private sector globally.

DiMTEC's mission is to prepare each student for the developmental and risk reduction challenges in a world that is becoming increasingly vulnerable – largely due to people's ignorance. During your studies, you will become familiar with concepts like global change, climate variability, vulnerability, resilience, hazards, conflict, poor governance, corruption, risk reduction and others. After completion of the course, you will understand the root causes of disasters and be able make a positive change in society.



If you have a passion for Africa and its people, its natural assets and its development under the threat of ever-increasing disaster risks, you made the right decision to study with us. We pledge our utmost best to support you in obtaining your academic goals and to prepare you for the challenges in the real world. In return, we expect from each DiMTECTOR to take responsibility, to work hard and do your best.

International workshop and ToT on Eco DRR/CCA

From 16 to 21 June 2014, Mr Johanes Belle from UFS-DiMTEC, attended an international conference/workshop and the Global Training of Trainers on Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation (Eco-DRR/CCA) in Bogor, Indonesia.

The first part of Mr Belle's visit to Indonesia was in response to an invitation to participate in The International Science – Policy Workshop 2014 on Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation. Participants from across the globe discussed the role of ecosystems in reducing disaster risk and adapting to climate change. This is a new international paradigm shift towards building community resilience through DRR and CCA using the natural environment. During this workshop, Mr Belle presented a paper on *"The legal and institutional framework for effective wetlands management to reduce disaster risk and adapt to climate change in the eastern Free State of South Africa."* This paper is part of Mr Belle's current PhD research.

The second part of Mr Belle's visit was to participate in the Global Training of Trainers on the new Master's degree course developed by the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) on Ecosystem-Based Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation (Eco-DRR/CCA). Currently, 25 universities worldwide run this Master's course and UFS-DiMTEC will follow suit from the start of the 2015 academic year. The agreement was reached after serious negotiations between UFS-DiMTEC and UNEP led by Mr Belle. These two international events were organised by UNEP and represented by:

- Dr Muralee Thummarukudy, Senior DRR specialist at UNEP
- Ms Marisol Estrella, UNEP Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch, Geneva
- Dr Karen Sudmeier ToT facilitator, UNEP, Geneva
- Dr Fabrice Renaud, Head of Environmental Vulnerability and Ecosystem Services Section at the United Nations University-Institute of Human Security (UNU-EHS)
- Dr Diaz D. Santika, Executive Director of ICIAR-LIPI (Indonesia Institute of Sciences)
- Dr Udo Nehren, Scientific coordinator at the Centre for Natural Resources Development (CNRD) in Bonn Germany

UNEP also plans to introduce this Master's course cost-free on the MOOC, which is good news for students unable to access the course through the current few formal tertiary institutions like UFS-DiMTEC.



Delegates at the Global Training of Trainers on Eco-DRR/CCA in Bogor-Indonesia

Epidemics, floods and droughts are the most occurring disasters in Africa

Solving the drought-issue in Karamoja, Uganda

Dr Andries Jordaan paid a visit to Karamoja in Uganda during July 2014. The main aim of his visit was to provide insight into the recurring droughts in this region. After extensive fieldwork, he was able to compile a detailed report to the International Rescue Committee (IRF), shedding light on this pressing issue.

The frequency of droughts reported in the Karamoja region, raised some serious questions. There is a tendency to blame increased dry periods on climate change, however, this study could not find any such evidence. "When droughts are experienced every second year, it indicates that there is a problem with the adaptation of the agricultural system to the climatic conditions of a specific region," Dr Jordaan explains. The drought risk assessment completed for Karamoja, concluded that the increase in drought experiences is firstly a perception based on negative experiences exacerbating a normal dry period to a drought. And secondly, normal dry periods are experienced as droughts due to poor production practices, high vulnerability and lack of coping capacity.

Besides identifying the causes of increased drought reporting in Karamoja, Dr Jordaan suggested solutions. "Drought risk can be reduced by implementing measures controllable by the people living in Karamoja themselves. They cannot change the weather, but they can adapt to weather conditions and do something about their own living standard without dependency on external support.

"There are adequate natural and human resources to make Karamoja a thriving and successful region."



Valley tank



Weeding



Cultivating and green manure

Adapting to and coping with drought in the Eastern Cape

During August of 2014, the fourth deliverable for the Water Research Commission project “*Vulnerability, adaptation to and coping with drought: The case of commercial and subsistence rainfed farming in the Eastern Cape*” was completed under the guidance of Dr Andries Jordaan. The main objective of the research is to propose drought risk adaptation and coping strategies based on drought risk assessment for the rainfed farming sector in three Eastern Cape district municipalities: Cacadu, Joe Gcabi and OR Tambo. This includes both commercial and communal subsistence farmers.

The project included three prior deliverables. Firstly, the study area was identified and described. Thereafter a hazard assessment was completed, followed by a capacity building report. The fourth deliverable was a coping capacity and adaptation assessment for the region.



**Drought causes 78% of
all disaster related deaths
in Africa**

One of the main challenges in drought risk assessment is the identification of all the indicators and the weighting of these indicators in relation to each other. Indicators for social, economic and environmental vulnerability as well as coping capacity and adaptation were identified and evaluated in context of its relevancy to the livestock and crop production sector in the proposed study area. Further, vulnerability and coping capacity indicators will be proposed after the forthcoming fieldwork and research during the next phase of the project.

Dr Jordaan would like to acknowledge students and research assistants, Fumiso Mbano, Nomalanga Mdungela, Oluwatoba Fadeyi and Boitumelo Phatudi-Mphahlele for their positive attitude and hard work during the completion of this report. “Their enthusiasm, optimism, studiousness and zeal to expand their horizons were pivotal to the high level of teamwork experienced throughout this project. It is exciting to work with such dedicated team members in seeking solutions to one of the major challenges in Africa, namely drought.”

Left: Site in the Eastern Cape

Below: Dr Jordaan and the students



Art and science unite

On 23 May 2014, the Art on Disasters project was launched with a stylish affair. All attendees were deeply touched by this call to engage artistically with disaster impact. Olivia Kunguma, junior lecturer at DiMTEC, drew inspiration from Japanese artist, Katsushika Hokusai, for this unique project. Hokusai created his famous woodblock artwork, commonly known as *The Great Wave*, in 1830. It is one of the greatest depictions of a vulnerable situation in the history of art.

Part of the captivating evening was a performance of the Odeon String Quartet and an artwork exhibition of various artists. Attendees were moved by the musicians' soulful interpretation of among other, drought, floods and the 9/11 disaster – accompanied with visual slideshows of the actual events. All artworks depicted real occurrences ranging from war to fires and pollution.

Art on Disasters entails the collection of different categories of art related to all forms of disasters such as paintings, photographs, sculptures, poetry, theatre, music and short stories. This project seeks to educate people about the risks and impacts of disasters through art. It wishes to help advocates of humanity to communicate peace and safety of communities more effectively. Also, art therapy can serve as an effective means of facilitating rehabilitation and treatment of post-traumatic stress disorders among affected communities and rescue workers. During September 2014, the Art on Disaster exhibit was showcased at DMISA where more works of art were on display from artists who joined the project since its launch.



Dr Jordaan and members of the Odeon String Quartet



Malerata Macheli (left), Senior Manager Capacity Building National Disaster Management Centre, unveiled the “Working on fire” painting by artist Mariette Pretorius. Here, joined by Olivia Kunguma (right).



Olivia Kunguma and Tonderai Chiyindika

Success for DiMTEC in the USA

DiMTEC director, Dr Andries Jordaan, paid a visit to the USA during November 2014. At the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, he did a presentation on drought and vulnerability and met with professor of Applied Climate Science, Don Wilhite. Professor Wilhite is the founding director of the National Drought Mitigation Centre (NDMC) and currently scientific advisor on drought to the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation) and WMO (World Meteorological Organisation).

The NDMC is busy with a series of international workshops to advise countries on the development of drought policy and plans. The Ebola virus breakout in western Africa threatened the West African workshop, hence Dr Jordaan convinced Prof Wilhite to re-schedule the already planned workshop for Southern Africa during 2015. Dr Jordaan is the scientific advisor to the National Drought Task Team and confident that such a workshop will provide momentum towards the development of a drought policy and plans for South Africa.

Former DiMTEC student and current associate professor at Tulane University in New Orleans, Regardt Ferreira, introduced Dr Jordaan to distinguished professor and associate dean at the school of social work, Charles Figley. Prof Figley is an internationally renowned expert in disaster-related mental health and founder of the Green Cross Academy of Traumatology – an international, humanitarian assistance organisation comprised of trained traumatologists and compassion fatigue service providers. Prof Figley is expected to visit DiMTEC during 2015, aiming to establish a Green Cross unit at the University of the Free State.

A successful discussion with Ky Luu, executive director and clinical associate professor, Disaster Resilience Leadership Academy at Tulane University, resulted in possible funding and support to African students at DiMTEC. He is eager to collaborate with DiMTEC and invited the centre to present their PhD Block Course in Washington next year. Dr Ron Marks, dean of the School of Social Work at Tulane University, is also looking forward to a future partnership with DiMTEC. Following Dr Jordaan's fruitful visit to the USA, 2015 will clearly be a busy, prosperous "disaster risk reduction" year.



Above: [left to right] Dr Jordaan, Prof Luu and Prof Ferreira

Right: [left to right] Prof Figley, Prof Ferreira and Dr Jordaan in front of the Hurricane Katrina flood line in Starbucks



International relations

A United Nations research team consisting of international experts recently paid a visit to Zambia.

Dr Andries Jordaan from DiMTEC was part of this team who analysed the use of space base technology for disaster risk reduction in Zambia.

The results of the research will be submitted to the Disaster Management Authority at the Office of the Vice President of Zambia.



ELSEMIDA conference in Romania

During October 2014, Dr Andries Jordaan paid a visit to the National University of Public Services in Budapest, Hungary. Discussions towards possible collaboration and joint projects were held with the director of the Institute of Disaster Management, Prof Bleszity János, and senior researchers.

Thereafter Dr Jordaan travelled to Cluj Napoca in Romania to attend the ELSEMIDA (Environmental Legislation, Safety Engineering and Disaster Management) conference at the Babes-Bolyai University. He was a member of the conference's scientific committee and also presented a paper on drought index insurance.

During discussions with Prof Alexandru Ozuno, dean of the Faculty Engineering, Environmental Science and Disaster Risks, future collaborations were planned as well as the possibility to invite Prof Ozuno to DiMTEC as a guest lecturer early in 2015.

More than 11 million people in Africa are affected by disasters each year



Above: [left to right] Dr Agoston Restas, Dr Andries Jordaan, Prof Bleszity János (Director Institute of Disaster Management)

Outstanding presence at SASDiR

From 6 to 8 October, the Southern Africa Society for Disaster Reduction (SASDiR) hosted their second biennial conference in Windhoek, Namibia. With no less than eighteen papers from DiMTEC staff members, former and current students, the University of the Free State boasted an extraordinary presence.

With the core theme of risk reduction, children's resilience received the much needed attention not often experienced at conferences of this nature. This indicates a global shift towards preparedness, instead of recovery. Keynote speaker, Professor Lori Peek, who is also Co-Director of the Centre for Disaster and Risk Analysis at the Colorado State University, unpacked the "vulnerable victims myth". In doing so, she highlighted children's capacity as illustrated by the SHOREline project empowering children to cope with disasters.

Former DiMTEC students Bowen Banda, Simon

Lilonga, Everson Ndlovu, Tichoana Muzuwa and Mmaphaka Tau, underlined the appreciation of their state of the art training. Not only does DiMTEC deliver theoretically sound researchers, but experts who can implement real change. Current PhD students Daniel Mulenga, Alice Ncube, Joseph Mutsigwa, Cindé Greyling, Alfonso Niemand and Olivia Kunguma impressed the assembly with innovative and thorough research. All of whom are inspired and guided by DiMTEC director, Dr Andries Jordaan – who also presented several papers.

The impressive DiMTEC exhibition stand received significant attention from people considering collaboration and further studies.

The second SASDiR biennial conference presented the opportunity for knowledge sharing and relationship building between countries, colleagues and researchers from various institutions.

Grass root Consultation Conference

On invitation of the Islamic Relief South Africa and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Southern Africa Regional Office (UNOCHA-ROSA), Mr Johanes Belle from DiMTEC attended and actively participated in the Grass root Consultation Conference held as a build up to the World Summit on Humanitarian Action in Istanbul Turkey in 2016. The consultation conference took place in Johannesburg from the 22-24 September 2014.

Participants at the conference represented UN Agencies, INGOs, Local NGOs, Government

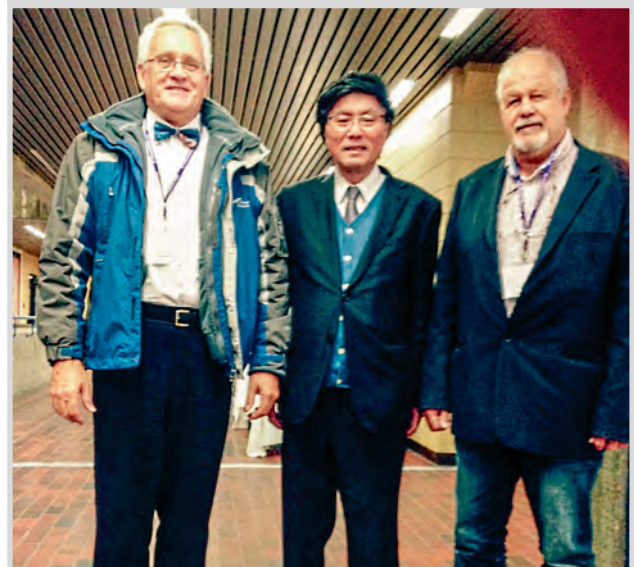
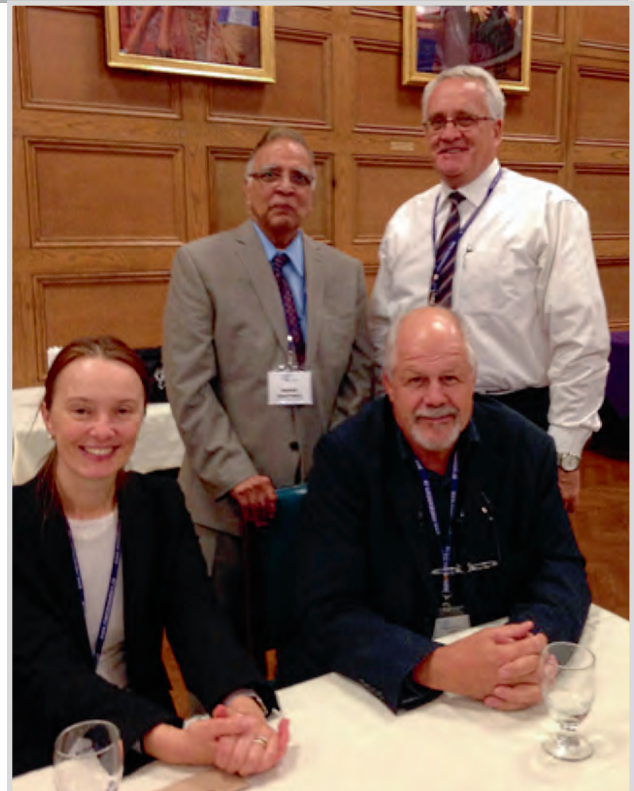
Departments and academia from eastern and Southern Africa.



Building resilience at IDRiM in Canada

The 5th annual conference of the International Society for Integrated Disaster Risk Management (IDRiM) was held at the Western University in London, Ontario Province in Canada, from 30 October to 1 November 2014. The theme of the conference was “*Building Disaster Resilient Communities*”. Both Dr Andries Jordaan, Director of DiMTEC, and Alfonso Niemand, DiMTEC PhD student, attended and presented at this conference. Dr Jordaan’s presentation was titled “*Wildfire Risk Assessment Methodology: Case Study of the Northern Cape Province, South Africa*”. The title of the presentation by Mr Niemand was “*An International Perspective on Legislation for the Management of Human-Induced Safety Risks*”. Both papers were well received and DiMTEC once again upheld its high quality reputation.

Below: [left to right] – Prof Ana Maria Cruz (Kyoto University), Mr Alfonso Niemand, Dr Elisabeth Krausmann.



Top: [left to right] – Dr Elisabeth Krausmann (Institute for the Protection and Security of the Citizen, European Commission), Prof Manas Chatterji (State University of New York), Dr Andries Jordaan, Mr Alfonso Niemand

Above: Dr Andries Jordaan and Mr Alfonso Niemand with Professor Norio Okada, President of the IDRiM Society.

DiMTEC steals the show at DMISA

On 17 and 18 September 2014, the Disaster Management Institute of Southern Africa (DMISA) presented a conference in partnership with Dealing with Disasters (DwD) Series – Disaster and Development Network (DDN) of Northumbria University, United Kingdom. The theme of this conference held in Umhlanga Rocks, Durban, was *“Building disaster resilience is everybody’s business”*.

DiMTEC was once again well represented, with staff, students and former students contributing to the body of knowledge shared during the two conference days.

After the official opening, DiMTEC junior lecturer Olivia Kunguma, launched the 1st *“Art on Disaster”* exhibition— this was one of the conference highlights. The exhibit graced the foyer to the conference venue and was applauded by all attendees.

DiMTEC PhD students Mr Johanes Belle, Mr Alfonso Niemand and Mr Siviwe Shwababa presented papers at the conference.



Above: [from left to right] Alice Ncube, Germie van Coppenhagen and Olivia Kunguma at the DiMTEC exhibition stand during the DMISA conference

Where there is smoke...

During September of 2014, Dr Andries Jordaan presented a paper at the 10th Fire Management Symposium hosted by the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (George Campus) and the Southern African Institute of Forestry (SAIF). His paper *“Wildfire risk assessment and challenges for implementation”* neatly addressed the technical knowledge transfer aim of the conference. Former DiMTEC student and guest lecturer, Malcolm Procter, presented a paper titled *“Who is really in charge at veldfire events”*.

Germie van Coppenhagen manned the DiMTEC exhibition stand that attracted much attention from potential students and collaborators.

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facebook

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What's on

4th International Conference on Disaster Management and Human Health: Reducing Risk, Improving Outcomes

20-22 May 2015- Istanbul, Turkey

<http://www.wessex.ac.uk/15-conferences/disaster-management-2015.html>

3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

14-18 March 2015 - Sendai City, Miyagi Prefecture, Japan

<http://www.unisdr.org/we/coordinate/wcdrr>

World conference on disaster management

8-11 June 2015 - Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto, ON Canada

<http://www.wcdm.org/programs.html>

3rd UNCCD Scientific Conference

9-12 March 2015 - Cancún, Mexico

<http://3sc.unccd.int/>

Disaster Risks Sciences & Management Conference

2-3 March 2015 - Polokwane, Limpopo, South Africa

<http://www.univendrmc.co.za/index>

XIV World Forestry Congress

7-11 September 2015 - Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

<http://www.fao.org/forestry/wfc/en/>

Congratulations!

Congratulations to all Advanced Diploma in Disaster Management students who wrote exams during November 2014 —the results were the best we had so far. And class of 2015... this is what you need to aspire to! The averages for the following subjects were:

605	Disaster Risk Management	62%
606	Information Technology in Disaster Management	72%
607	Public Health	60%
608	Management of Natural and Human-Made Disasters	68%

Because We Can