

**UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI**



**REPORT ON THE KENYAN- GERMAN STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAMME**

**COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND VETERINARY SCIENCES**

**FACULTY OF VETRINARY MEDICINE**

**PARTICIPANTS:**

- ❖ **Dr. G.C. GITAO (ACCOMPANING LECTURER)**
- ❖ **Dr. EVERISTO MALENJE**
- ❖ **Dr. ELIZABETH OTUNGA**
- ❖ **GEOFREY MWANGI**
- ❖ **SUSAN NJAMBI**
- ❖ **JANET MWADIME**
- ❖ **JANEROSE MUTURA**
- ❖ **SAMWEL OUYA**
- ❖ **PENINAH WAMBOI**
- ❖ **PHYLLIS MASUDI**
- ❖ **ELLY KIRWA**



## **INTRODUCTION.**

Following a visit by a group of German students and a lecturer from Free University of Berlin, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine to the University of Nairobi, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, the two universities entered an MOU.

They visited during the August long holiday, the year 2013. Most students were off session so, a few were called upon to come and give them a tour guide around the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, showing them around the various departments and what goes on.

Apart from visiting our Faculty, they also visited Egerton University located in Nakuru county (Njoro) and the North Horr where they were studying Tropical Medicine and had a lot to say about their experiences over there.

Among the provisions of the MOU, was a return visit to Germany by Kenyan students to be organized and was intended for academic exchange.

In Germany we visited two universities; Free University of Berlin in Berlin where we spent a greater part of the tour and University of Kassel in Witzenhausen where we spent four days.

## **TRIP PREPARATION AND FINANCES**

When Peter Clausen (parasitology professor at FUB) first suggested the organizing of a return visit while in CAVS, in the principal's office in the presence of the principal (prof. A. Mwang'ombe), the faculty dean (Prof. S. Mulei) and some lecturers, most of us thought it would never actualize.

Later on Dr. G.C. Gitao called us and told us about the MOU and the need to start planning for the trip and that was when the reality dawned on us. The preparations began.

We started by applying for passports since majority did not have and despite some minor technical problems, we all managed to get them on time.

After this we applied for financial assistance, through proposals, from various institutions majority of which we got negative feedbacks except one, the DAAD.

The DAAD, based on their terms and conditions financed the trip partially, but at a higher percentage. This involved catering for all the financial costs during our stay in Germany. They paid for; accommodation, health insurance, transport tickets, entry tickets to various museums and sites, the tour guide and gave us a daily allowance of 18 Euros daily for meals (lunch and supper) as breakfast was already paid for at the hotel.

The students from the FUB organized a fundraising event through which they raised money that catered for return tickets for 9 Kenyan participants. This was quite a relief on our side as raising money for the air tickets could have been so difficult based on financial situations of some of the participants. However this left us with two participants' air tickets unpaid for.

As students, we were to contribute some money, 10,000 Ksh each. This money in addition to some money that was added to it by Dr Gitao from his own savings, helped to pay for the remaining two air return tickets.

To finalize on the preparation, we applied for German visas from the German Embassy in Kenya. Through Dr Gitao, the accompanying lecturer, we booked an appointment to visit the Embassy to submit our visa application forms and after a few days, we got our visas. Since the trip was partly sponsored by the German Government body, the DAAD, we were not charged for the visa application and this yet was another financial relief.

We were now set for the trip.

We departed from JKIA, at 0100 hours, on Saturday. We travelled in Qatar Airline. The trip was 5 hours, then a stop over at Doha, for 6 hours. We then resumed the trip taking another 5 hours to reach Germany, Berlin-Tegel airport at 1800 hours where we received with a warm welcome from our tour guide, Nicholas.

## **THE STUDY TOUR**

This was done according to a schedule prepared by DAAD, facilitated by the tour guide that they provided. For this to be successful we had to be really good time managers.

Part of it was visiting the FUB faculty of Veterinary Medicine where we got to learn more about their different departments and clinics such as small animal clinic, large animal clinic, parasitology lab among others.

While in Berlin we visited the Kenyan Embassy, The DAAD office, the Bundestag, city tour, a dairy and beef farm and several museums. We got a chance to be present during the “bringing of the trophy home,” not to forget touring the famous Olympic Stadium.

The other part of the tour was in Witsenhausen, a small 5 hours drive from Berlin. We were staying near river Werra. We visited University of Kassel which deals with Organic Farming studies, two large scale and one small scale dairy farms. On our way we visited the palace where Martin Luther King was held prisoner and Saint Elizabeth lived and died.

During our free time we went swimming in the lakes and shopping in centers like C&A.

The experiences of the above mentioned were well shared with fellow students during an exhibition in CAVS whose report is attached.

## **RETURN HOME**

Sad as it was we had to leave, in fact just as it was getting more interesting and better. We left Witsenhausen on a Thursday Morning to Berlin-Tegel Airport where we departed at 1800 hours. The flight was 5 hours to Doha and a 17 hours stop over. We left Doha at 1900 hours and after 5 hours landed at JKIA, Kenya.

## **Student Led exhibition of UoN Veterinary students' experience in Germany**



**Group photo of students and staff who attended the exhibition on 15-10-2014 at CSD Seminar Room Kabete**

## **Introduction**

A student led exhibition was organized by the 10 UoN Veterinary students on 15-10-2014 who visited Germany with support from DAAD from 13- 24 July 2014 in order to

- Share their experience in Germany with colleagues and peers
- Inform other students of potential opportunities in higher learning (With support of DAAD and other donors)
- Open more chances for other students to study exchange programs

## **Materials and Methods**

Snacks were kindly supplied by Students. The students also printed the photos and used their personal items for the exhibition. This

Various methods were used to reflect on the above issues at the exhibition

- Role Play
- Exhibition of photos and items
- Power point presentations
- Plenary discussions

## **Results**

A total of 35 students and two staff members attended the afternoon session. The session started at 2.30 pm and went on up to 4.30pm

It was a very useful learning point for the students. They were able to discuss with colleagues and impart some of the virtues they gained. The most significant was respect to time keeping. By the time they left Germany, they were always 10 minutes earlier for any scheduled appointment. Many of them were flying for the first time and had endless stories on cultural shock in Germany. The public bus transport, train were all in perfect conditions. They encountered robots milking cows on 24 hour service with owners getting online updates. They saw an MRI expert handling small animal cases. It was clear the students learnt a lot during their visit.

Role Play: DrGitao as News reporter asking visitors Phyllis and Janet about culture shock in Germany



Malenje and Wambui explain issues on innovations in agriculture







Mwangi (Student Vet -5) leads the discussions



Janet makes a presentation of their experience in Germany



Students admire Images of Berlin on Display



Items on display during the exhibition



The Chairman of Dept. Prof Gathumbi clarifies a point during the discussion



The Students enjoy refreshments during the exhibition

## **COMMENDATIONS**

We would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their tremendous and unconditioned support towards the success of the trip:

- a. DAAD
- b. Students and staff of FUB
- c. Student and staff of Kassel University.
- d. Our tour guide, Nicholas
- e. Dr.G.C. Gitao
- f. Some lectures from Department of Veterinary Pathology Microbiology and Parasitology and animal Production Department.
- g. The 10 students that participated in the visit.
- h. All unmentioned persons who directly or indirectly contributed.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The UON and the Kenyan government should encourage and support such programs as they are productive to the country, the university and other students.

DAAD, in conjunction with the universities, should create more awareness about their existence and the activities and programs they partake and offer. DAAD scholars should also engage in provision of mentorship and expository programs to help enlighten students about DAAD.

Students should come out and fully participate in such programs as way of establishing global networks and opportunities for their own benefit.

## **FUTURE PROSPECTS**

This group of students wants to start a student led organization that will aim at :

- Maintaining the already created linkage between the Kenyan-German student, so as to create a global forum to exchange ideas on:
  - a. Agriculture and scientific innovation.
  - b. Environment and sanitation.
  - c. Time management.
- Establishing a forum in CAVS that will bring together DAAD scholars and students to discuss on the various opportunities provided by DAAD and resource mobilization in the case of such events like exchange programs and scholarship. Through this more opportunities will be created in addition to those offered by DAAD.

## **CONCLUSION**

The group learnt a lot, had marvelous experiences and total fun in Germany.

### **GERMAN VET STUDENTS VISIT UON VET STUDENTS FROM 6-8<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2013**

*"Background on the DAAD Application for Support of a Study Visit to Germany by Veterinary Students of the University of Nairobi Kenya in 2014"*

The cooperation between University of Nairobi and the Free University of Berlin is grounded in an MoU signed between the two universities where student, staff and cultural exchanges are highlighted as key objectives. Genuine collaboration between FUB and University of Nairobi

Veterinary students was initiated from 6 to 8<sup>th</sup> September 2013 when a group of 14 students from FUB visited the UoN (DAAD and PROMOS International Office FU Berlin). The coordinator in Kenya working on the issue was Dr. Gitao, from Vet Pathology and Microbiology. The FUB students were taken around all the faculty departments where they exchanged views with their counter parts from the UoN. Contrasting issues between the two countries with regards to curriculum, higher education and challenges with associated opportunities in Veterinary Medicine were discussed. In one session, a game developed by VSF-Germany was the center of action between these two groups as they came face to face with the decision making process that pastoralists have to go through in normal life. The highlight of the visit was in the evening where *Nyama Choma* , *ugali* and *Sukuma* were on the menu.



The Students from Germany at the Large animal lecture theatre



The Kenyan and Germany students play the game on Pastoralists



The German and Kenyan students have fun



Malenje and the German students play the Game



Helena, Christian, Elizabeth, Elly and others pose





A group photo for the German and Kenyan students

### **KENYAN UON VET STUDENTS VISIT GERMANY FROM 13-24<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2014**

A return visit was undertaken from 13<sup>th</sup> July to 24<sup>th</sup> July in order to strengthen and deepen these linkages. During this visit, the students were exposed to the specific knowledge and experience of German veterinary medicine education, strategies on animal disease control and the current efforts to link German Universities like FUB to the global network of University education.

The following specific professional aspects were presented and discussed at the German universities and the institutions involved

- Study of Veterinary Medicine and of International Agriculture in Germany (Curricula and participation in lectures)
- Professional expectations of students
- Professional branches for graduates
- Postgraduate studies (doctoral, MSc, PhD theses) at the FU Berlin (FUB) and the University of Kassel (Witzenhausen)
- Internationalisation of FU Berlin and the University Kassel – Witzenhausen with the Centre for International Rural Development and the German Institute for Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture
- Contact (Collaboration) of institutes of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the FU
- Aspect of on-going and future collaboration in training, research and development

Visits to various institutes of the faculties and of other institutions of veterinary public health and agricultural significance in Germany will complete the professional program as visits to the

- Federal Institute of Risk Assessment (BfR), Berlin,

- Institute of Agricultural Technology and Animal Husbandry (LVA), Groß-Kreutz, Brandenburg (Animal Breeding, Performance Monitoring, Database capabilities,

Nutrition)

There were discussions on the possibilities of postgraduate education (practicals, doctoral, MSc theses) and of scholarships through the DAAD or other organisations.



Kenyan student and staff in Doha enroute to Berlin



The Dean of Free University of Berlin is presented with a shuka by the students



The Student meet the Deputy Ambassador at the Kenyan Embassy in Berlin



A close up of the students and their German counterparts



A history lesson on the East and West Germany



The students observe a post mortem



The German and Kenyan students listen to a presentation on Parasitology research at FUB



The students enjoy a meal at Alexander Platz in Downtown Berlin



The students have quality time in Berlin



Mwangi (student) has quality time



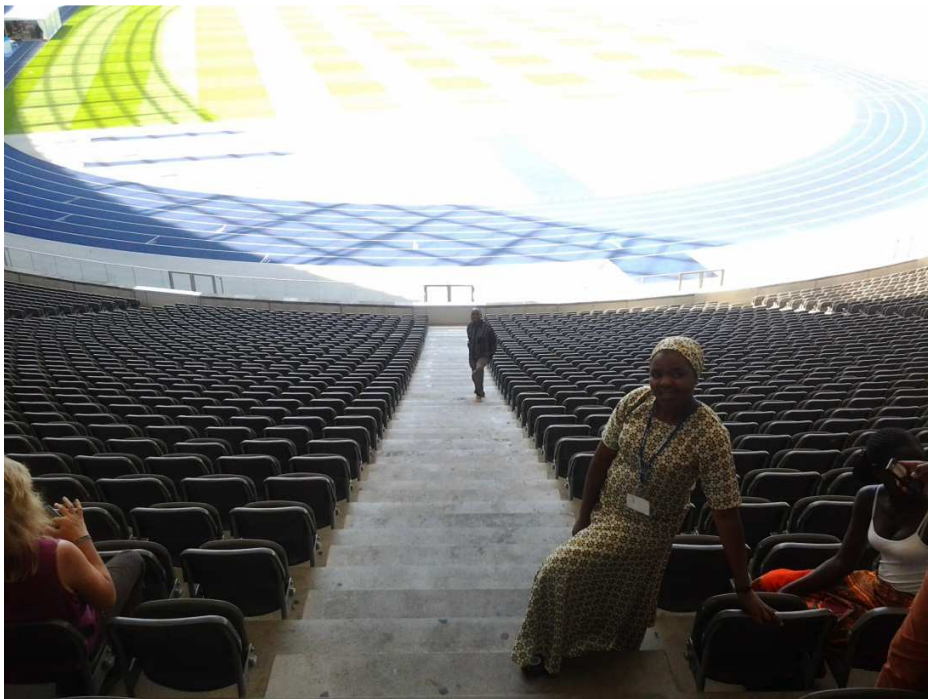
The students enjoy Berlin sights



The students visit the cattle holding area



The students visit the Natural Museum



Wambui and Phyllis at the Berlin Olympic Stadium





The students enjoy a Barbeque at FUB