

From the Editor

Prof. J.G.M. Massaquoi
 Editor

The last issue of the newsletter was published in August. There has been a lapse of seven (7) months, which was due to staff problem at the secretariat. The programme officer who was in charge of the newsletter left and we are still awaiting a permanent replacement. In the interim we have managed to put together the current issue.

In the last issue we reported on the grant we received from The United Nations University. The fortunes of the network continue to improve and in this issue, we announce the award of a grant from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The grant covers all the main activities of ANSTI.

The reader will also find information on the various fellowship awards made by ANSTI. There are also two articles on two initiatives recently embarked upon by the network. These are the promotion of the use of ICT in Science and Engineering Education and the revitalization of Continuing Engineering Education.

ABOUT ANSTI

ANSTI was established in 1980 by UNESCO with the financial support of UNDP and the German Government. The original aim of ANSTI, which has remained unchanged over the years, is to develop active collaboration among African scientific institutions so as to promote research and training in areas of relevance to the development of the region.

Dutch Government Provides Funds for ANSTI Activities

ANSTI's programme of activities to be boosted

With the agreement signed in November 2002, the Dutch Government has agreed to support ANSTI's efforts in Science and Engineering Education in African universities. According to the agreement, the Dutch Government will give financial support to all the core activities of the network. These include fellowships, research grants, conference grants, publications and the dissemination of scientific information. The support will be for a period of four (4) years.

The new cooperation will focus on ANSTI's fellowship activities. Specifically, it is aimed at improving the quality, relevance and equity in access to science and engineering education in Africa.

Next deadline for fellowship applications 31st May 2003

The next deadline for ANSTI postgraduate fellowship applications will be 31st May 2003. As usual, the application forms can be found from our website <http://www.ansti.org>. Remember that they are restricted to staff of ANSTI member institutions and are tenable only in sub-Saharan universities.

Thank you, Dutch Government!

We wish to express our gratitude to the Dutch Government for their assistance and support for capacity building in African universities.

Revitalizing Continuing Engineering Education: - A Training-of-Trainers Workshop

In 2001 ANSTI organized an expert group meeting to map out the status of Continuing Engineering Education (CEE) in various African countries, and as a continuation, a training-of-trainers workshop was organized in November 2002 in Cape Town, South Africa.

The Workshop attracted 17 participants from eight African countries.

The objective of the workshop was

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to provide hands-on experience on how to run short courses and how to facilitate the management and administration of those activities, perhaps by establishing a separate CEE facility in the university.

It was very encouraging to hear from the participants that CEE activities were going on in virtually all the countries that were represented in

this workshop. Some universities had even already established centers for CEE (e.g. National University of Science and Technology in Zimbabwe), consulting companies under the university umbrella (e.g. The Bureau for Industrial Corporation (BICO) at the University of Dar es Salaam) or holding companies owned by the university (e.g. Moi University in Kenya).

The main result of the workshop was the gain from each other's experiences. It was agreed among the participants that after six months each one will write a report on what happened afterwards. We really look forward to those reports and sharing the experiences of revitalizing CEE in Africa!

Experiences of ANSTI Fellows

We are going to continue publishing these experiences in our coming issue. If you feel you have something to share with other readers please don't hesitate to get in touch with us!

GOODBYE TO MR. SAKARI KOIVULA

Mr. Sakari Koivula from Finland who has served the ANSTI Network as a Programme Assistant for the last two years is leaving us at the end of March 2003. Mr. Koivula joined the Network on March 5th 2001 as a fully funded UNV, financed by the Finnish Government. He was involved in the administration of the ANSTI/DAAD and ANSTI/UNU fellowships, dissemination of information to ANSTI member institutions as well as the development and administration of the ANSTI website, which is currently being updated.

Best wishes to Mr. Koivula from the Coordinator and the entire ANSTI team on his new assignment.

COMING EVENT - CE 2003

International Civil Engineering Conference on Sustainable Development in the 21st Century
"The Civil Engineer in Development"

Dates:

12th -16th August 2003

Venue:

SAFARI PARK HOTEL, NAIROBI KENYA

An exhibition of relevant equipment and systems will be held in conjunction with the regular sessions for paper presentations in this conference.

Organized by:

Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and technology
And
Institution of Engineers of Kenya (IEK)

All enquiries with regard to Registration and accommodation fees or presentation of papers should be directed to: -

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WE STILL NEED YOUR CONTRIBUTION!

We invite you all to contribute to this newsletter with short articles: announcements for meetings, descriptions of recently concluded activities, or any important scientific activities that might be of interest to others. ANSTI Newsletter is produced by:

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African Journal of Science & Technology Vol. 3 Number 2 (January 2003)

The latest issue of African Journal of Science & Technology (AJST) is now available at the ANSTI website (http://www.ansti.org/ansti_journal.htm). Like

the previous issues, this current one includes research findings from several scientists and researchers all over

Africa. The printed version is currently in the process of distribution to subscribers.

Recent Staff Exchange Fellows

Each year about 8 to 10 academic staff members of ANSTI institutions are awarded grants to enable them teach and do research in another ANSTI institution through grants from DAAD and UNESCO. This activity further enforces the collaborative objective of ANSTI. Some of the recent (August 2002 - March 2003) staff exchange fellows who have benefited from these grants are as follows: -

Dr. Edward Nganga Ndungu'
He is from Jomo Kenyatta University

of Agriculture and Technology. Kigali Institute of Science, Technology and Management, Kigali Rwanda is currently hosting him. His visit commenced on 1st October 2002 and he is expected to return home after the 31st of March 2003. The purpose of his visit was to teach various courses in his host institution.

Dr. Celestine Lele
Currently a staff of University of Yaounde Cameroon, Dr. Celestine is visiting University of Zimbabwe for a

period of one semester where he is going to be a Mathematics lecturer.

Dr. J.T. Mailutha
His host institution is Bunda College of Agriculture, University of Malawi, where he is involved in teaching several courses. His home institution is Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology. He visits from the 27th of January till the 23rd of May this year.

Don't Forget ANSTI Website!

- Even if you have visited our website once you should do it every now and then to check the latest updates on various news (<http://www.ansti.org/news.htm>) and announcements (<http://www.ansti.org/openings.htm>)
- Make use of the Message Board! Feel free to use it as a forum for discussion and spreading information. http://www.ansti.org/message_board.php
- Have you already enrolled yourself to our Scientists Database? If not, please do so at http://www.ansti.org/inclusion_scientist_databases.htm
- Ask your friends and colleagues to join ANSTI mailing lists at http://www.ansti.org/ mailing_list.htm

ANSTI/UNESCO Programme on the use of ICT in Science and Engineering Education

Several African universities are gradually building their ICT infrastructure. Unfortunately most of these resources are used mainly for communication. The investments in the infrastructure are usually considerable and for most

universities the maintenance costs represent a significant portion of their budget. It is therefore prudent to use the facilities in as many ways as possible. The use of the ICT as an educational technology offers a cost-effective application of the

infrastructure.

ICT offers new ways in which the quality, effectiveness and the flexibility of higher education can be improved. It will certainly enable African universities overcome some

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of the chronic problems such as shortage of learning materials, staff and journals in the libraries.

The objective of the ANSTI project in the use of ICT in Science

and Engineering Education is to facilitate content development and train staff in the development and dissemination of electronic course materials.

In the coming months ANSTI will

identify institutions that have the basic infrastructure to implement such a programme. Pilot training activities will then be conducted in the use of ICT for teaching.

Visit of ANSTI Coordinator to Ethiopia and Ghana

The coordinator of ANSTI Prof. J.G.M. Massaquoi visited Addis Ababa from 8th to 11th January 2003. The main purpose of the visit was to meet the staff of faculties of engineering and science and to assess the training facilities especially with regard to access of postgraduate students to ICT and scientific journals.

During the visit Prof. Massaquoi held discussions with the dean of the faculties of engineering and science and also made a presentation on ANSTI activities. He was also taken on a tour of the computer laboratories and various ICT facilities in the university.

In December 2002, the coordinator was on mission to Ghana where he visited two universities and the United Nations University's Institute of Natural Resources in Africa (UNU/INRA).

At the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Kumasi, he led a meeting with the vice-chancellor Prof. K. Andan, who is also the chairman of ANSTI Governing Council. The coordinator briefed the chairman on recent development at the Network's secretariat and the improvements in the financial position of the Network.

Prof. Massaquoi also made two separate presentations on ANSTI activities to staff in the faculty of

Engineering and the faculty of Science. He also held discussions on the ANSTI subnetworks for the promotion of renewable energy resources and Continuing Engineering Education. Both subnetworks are hosted by KNUST.

At the University of Cape Coast, the ANSTI initiative on the use of ICT as an educational technology was received enthusiastically. Staff of the faculty of Science expressed interest in participating in the project when it commences.

The coordinator visited the UNU/INRA where discussions were held on possible collaboration for the application of Biotechnology in

Fellowships and other awards for 2003/04

The African Network of Scientific and Technological Institutions (ANSTI) is offering the following awards for the 2003/04.

- ◆ Visiting Staff fellowships
- ◆ Postgraduate training fellowships -
- ◆ Research Grants
- ◆ Conference Grants

ELIGIBILITY FOR AWARDS

These awards are restricted to staff of institutions, which are members of ANSTI.

Please enquire from ANSTI secretariat

(info@ansti.org) or visit our website: -(<http://www.ansti.org>)

Here you will find out if your institution is a member of ANSTI.