TUM.Africa Newsletter

Latest news on TUM.Africa

► Visit of Bundesminister Dr. Gerd Müller (BMZ) to TUM

Bundesminister Dr. Gerd Müller (BMZ) visited TUM on October 18, 2019. Thematic focal points were the engagement of TUM and the TUM.Africa strategy.

Recent TUM activities in Africa

► Africast: Podcast series of the TUM Young Academy (TUM JA)

The TUM Young Academy team is developing a podcast series on both academic and practical KNUST projects in Ghana. These podcasts are aimed to be spread at TUM to help the Africa Initiative gain attention, so that more TUM and KNUST students are informed. In the third podcast episode Electronic Waste Management, Frank Achampeong, a student of industrial chemistry and environmental resource management, talks about the challenges of waste management in Ghana. The fourth episode on Renewable Energy Systems introduces Johannes Winklmaier, founder and CEO of TU eMPower Africa, who talks about creating decentralized, renewable energy systems in rural regions. More podcasts will be following soon.
First guest lecturer from TUM at Burkina Institute of Technology (BIT)

Earlier this year, the Burkina Institute of Technology (BIT) hosted their first guest lecturer from the Technical University of Munich.

Nadia Riedl, by now a Bachelor of Science graduate, combined the research for her Bachelor’s thesis at the Chair of Entrepreneurial Finance with an exciting teaching experience at the BIT during her two months stay in Koudougou, Burkina Faso.

The first practical module “Introduction to Microsoft Office” is a 5-week course for first semester students, where students get to know the basics of Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and Excel.

She prepared the entire course syllabus based on EdX courses and TUM resources. Considering many students have never used a computer before starting with university, the progress they made was incredible.

Apart from the technical knowledge they gained, it was also about developing soft skills – further improving their English, teamwork and presentation competencies were a big focus of this practical module.

Overall, the course was a great success and contributed to forming a solid basis for the following Computer Science modules.

Parallel, Nadia met and interviewed various interesting entrepreneurs researching their self-perceptions within the framework of the Social Identity Scale developed by Fauchart & Gruber.

While Nadia profited from the connections of the BIT with numerous business people throughout the country, she also managed to spread the new university concept further during the interviews and to attract potential guest speakers for future references.
Blockchain for land registration in Ghana (FIT4Ghana)

In the context the practical course DLT4PI during the summer semester 2019 a project team of 5 Master Students at Department of Informatics (C. Dragnea, A. Pettirsch, A. Azmat, S. Dasgupta and N. Gopinath) conducted a blockchain proof of concept project with the support of fortiss (Forschungsinstitut des Freistaats Bayern für softwareintensive Systeme und Services) and the Chair of Land Management.

Goal of the project was to design and implement a workable solution for land registration and land grabbing problems in Ghana. The pilot focused on the land management context of Trede, Ghana, which has a complex system of land tenure arrangements, consisting of a mix of both customary and statutory land rights. The aim was to design a Proof of Concept (PoC) based on Hyperledger Fabric whereby all stakeholders could register and manage statutory and customary lands simultaneously. The PoC was presented at fortiss on July 15, 2019.

Health science internship at the TUM Field Station in Malindi, Kenya

This summer term, several students (Bachelor in Health Science) had the opportunity to complete an internship in Kenya while living at the TUM Field Station in Malindi.

With this report, Lena Kramheller and Claudia Seidl give an insight into their experiences and lessons learned while staying abroad. If you have any questions and/or are also interested in an internship or research stay in Kenya, please contact Dr. Isabella Bertmann-Merz.

Land tenure in semiarid Kenya

In August and September 2019, a team of four students – Anna Linda Samhammer (Environmental Engineering), Sophia Barbara Endt (Geography), Stellamaris Ogutu (Land Management) and Elizabeth Wandakay (Land Management), two field assistants and one leading researcher, Tobias Bendzko, lecturer at the Chair of Land Management – collected data on land tenure. Read more about the project

ADLAND conference in Zanzibar, Tanzania

The land management Chair organized and contributed to the ADLAND conference which took place July 25 to 26, 2019.

During the conference book chapters of the upcoming publication Responsible and Smart Land Management Interventions in Africa were presented and discussed. It was connected to and preceded by the annual meeting of the Eastern African Network for Land Administration (EALAN). For further information, please contact Dr. Pamela Duran.
Recent TUM publications on Africa

► Mekonnen, Dagnenet Fenta, 2019, Impacts of changes in Climate, Land Cover and Water Management on Water Availability of the Upper Blue Nile River Basin, Ethiopia; Doctoral dissertation at the BGU department of TUM


Calls for proposals related to Africa

► Teaching and Training opportunities outside of Europe+
  New call for proposals for Erasmus+ worldwide including Egypt, Ghana and South Africa: TUM International Center and Erasmus+ give lecturers, scientists, and administrative staff of TUM the opportunity to go abroad to teach in non-European countries. The “International Dimension” of the program offers funding for stays at one of the participating partner universities worldwide. Further information on teaching and training mobility opportunities for TUM staff.

Events relating to Africa

► Dialog International: Chancen der bayerischen Wirtschaft in Afrika

When: November 8, 2019 at 4 p.m.

Where: Haus der Bayerischen Wirtschaft
  Max-Joseph-Straße 5
  80333 München

Please find further information on the event and regarding the registration on the vbw website.

Contact

If you would like to contribute to this newsletter, please send an e-mail to Prof. de Vries.
Deadline for the next issue: December 31, 2019