

## WELCOMING THE 2012-13 IRISH AID FELLOWS



**A total of 41 scholarships for study in Ireland were awarded for the 2012/13 academic year under two schemes supported by Irish Aid - the Fellowship Training Programme (FTP) and the IDEAS programme.**

In addition, up to 29 further scholarships are being provided through the FTP for fellows undertaking regional study, primarily in Tanzania, Uganda and Indonesia.

The breakdown of scholarship awards by country is as follows: Ethiopia 2, Lesotho 1, Malawi 4, Mozambique 3, Tanzania 12, Timor Leste 5, Uganda 9, Vietnam 26 and Zambia 8.

Fellowship Training Programme awards for Ireland were for Masters programmes in:

- International Criminal Law
- Public Health
- Development Studies
- Education
- Gender, Globalisation and Rights

- Humanitarian Action
- Environmental Resource Management
- Women, Gender and Society
- Public Advocacy and Activism
- Human Resource Management
- Sustainable Energy

IDEAS Programme awardees at the UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School are studying for either an MBA or one of several specialist MSc courses, including Project Management, Finance and Marketing.

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# Returned fellows invited to IDEAS exchange

The Embassy of Ireland in Vietnam reports on a meeting in September 2012 with Irish Aid IDEAS fellows who had just returned to Vietnam after a year studying in Dublin

The purpose of the meeting was to welcome the returned IDEAS fellows back to Vietnam after their studies in UCD, to learn about their experiences during the year studying and living in Ireland, to hear about their future career plans, and to exchange ideas on ways to improve the IDEAS scholarship application, recruitment, and advertisement process.

5 of the 7 IDEAS fellows based in Hanoi came to the de-briefing - Nguyen Manh Hung, Le Thi Kieu Huong, Nguyen Khanh Linh, Bui Thi Hien Anh and Pham Tung Lam.

The fellows highlighted the strength of the IDEAS scholarship programme as unique in providing opportunities for people working in the private sector to access scholarships and were attracted by the high ranking of Smurfit School and the intense but convenient one year length of the programme which is suitable for busy career people. They also considered that there were relevant courses available under IDEAS that other scholarship programmes do not offer.

The living and studying environment were remarked upon as diverse and friendly. The fact that English is the first language in Ireland and its location in Europe – allowing travel opportunities – also attracted the students.

Nguyen Manh Hung, who successfully completed a Masters



**2011-12 IDEAS Fellows pictured with Embassy Staff**  
Left to right: Nguyen Mai Chi (Embassy), Pham Tung Lam, Le Thi Kieu Huong, Garvan McCann (Deputy Head of Mission), Nguyen Khanh Linh, Bui Thi Hien Anh, Nguyen Thi Huong (Embassy), Nguyen Manh Hung

in Finance, shared his reasons for choosing to study in Ireland: he was offered two scholarships at the same time, one from Irish Aid and one from AusAid. He chose to take the Irish Aid IDEAS scholarship because of the very high ranking of UCD's Smurfit Business School. His course, ranked 30th in the world and his background research indicated that no school in Australia matched this ranking. He said that Ireland's location in Europe makes it more interesting to study in Ireland and is an advantage over Australia and New Zealand for those who want to spend time to explore Europe.

Fellows also spoke highly of the services provided by the Irish Council for International Students (ICOS) and the assistance given by the Embassy.

According to the fellows, areas that Ireland needs to improve include increasing awareness of

Ireland in Vietnam, promoting the high-quality Irish education in Vietnam, starting the scholarship application process earlier in order to compete with other scholarship programmes and providing more flexibility with regards to accommodation particularly in the last semester.

Social networking and word-of-mouth advertising through the alumni network were considered the best ways to market Irish education. The fellows expressed their appreciation to the Embassy for facilitating their study in Ireland.

They all had a memorable and enjoyable year. They learned a lot and enjoyed visiting Ireland and neighbouring countries. They want to maintain the long-lasting relationship they made with new friends during their studies, Irish and international students alike and consider that these contacts may be useful to them in their future careers.

# Season's Greetings...



*Photo taken in Dublin by 2010-11 fellow Lina Mbewe, Zambia*

**From Irish Aid and ICOS**

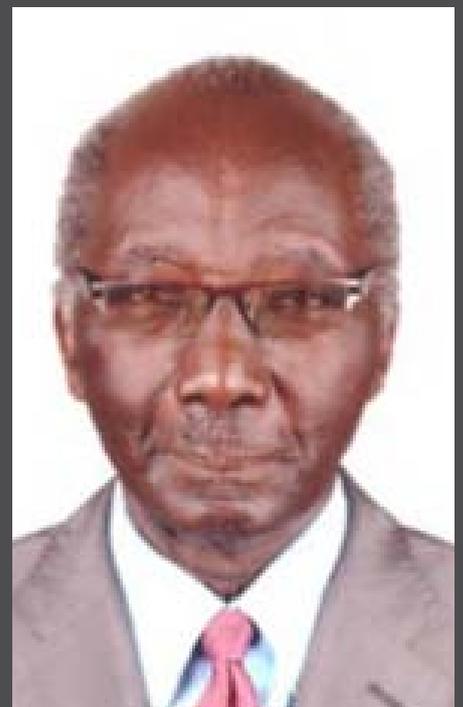
## **Sad loss for Uganda Alumni group**

With great sadness, »[The Link](#) recently learnt of the death of Prof. Joseph M.N. Kakooza, at the age of 82, an alumnus of the Uganda network.

In the late 1950s, he studied for a Bachelor's degree in Law at UCD (then known the National University of Ireland, Dublin), graduating in 1960. Afterwards, he went on to make a big contribution to the judiciary, law society, education and Uganda at large, as well as being active in Irish Aid events.

Prof. Kakooza served for many years as a High Court judge and was also founding Dean of the Faculty of Law at Makerere University and Chairman of the Law Commission.

More recently, the Professor's considerable energies were slowed by illness and he succumbed to liver cancer at his home in Kikaaya in October. He was laid to rest at Kitovu village in Masaka and will be much missed.



# Staying connected: **Belaynesh Yifru**

**Dr Belaynesh Yifru Mulugeta, from Ethiopia, studied for the 2006-07 Masters in Global Health at Trinity College Dublin, supported by Irish Aid. »The Link found out how things have gone since her return and how her studies have helped shape her subsequent career.**

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Before I came to Ireland on the fellowship in 2006, I had been appointed as a Nutrition Unite Team Leader in the Family Health Department of the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH). My duties were coordinating all nutrition programs of the country (development and emergency nutrition programmes.) Prior to that, I was working as a clinician in Black Lion Hospital, which is a referral and teaching hospital.

I needed more knowledge on public health and the Ministry was building the capacity of employees in this area so I applied to get the Irish Aid scholarship and was successful.

## **Experience in Ireland**

When I arrived, ICOS were well organised in settling students and I started the course in September. At first it was difficult to understand the Irish accent. Later on I got used to it and I had a good time in my stay in Ireland, both academically and socially.

I will never forget the people of Ireland. When you are asking them for a location they will show you if they know it - or if they don't know it they will go with you until you find it or until they will find someone who knows the location! This was very impressive.

In terms of what I gained from the course, I was from a clinic and

was new to public health so the knowledge helped me to manage and implement the programme properly.

## **Knowledge into Practice**

After finishing my studies I returned home to my Team Leader role and was leading the development of the National Nutrition Strategy and the National Nutrition Program. The strategy and the program were launched by the government of Ethiopia for the first time.

Two years later, in 2009, I became country coordinator for USAID's Infant and Young Child Nutrition project and my role was to implement the planned nutrition activities in the project areas. We were working with agriculture sector through the Urban Garden Project and I developed a training manual for the agriculture extension work to link nutrition with the sector.

I was also working with the FMOH at health facilities where I developed a training manual for



health workers and developed counselling tools. I was providing training for agriculture workers, health workers and mother support group leaders.

Working at national level, I have incorporated nutrition in the HSDP IV, which is a five year Ministry of Health plan. I think this is a success for me. Nutrition was a cross-cutting theme in the last three health sector development programmes.

My college research paper focused on the factors influencing salt iodization in Ethiopia [a measure to remedy an easily preventable nutritional deficiency], which took us a long time. I shared the results with the heads which allowed us to see some of the factors. Now we are iodizing salt in Ethiopia with the commitment of the government and other stakeholders.

For the past year, I have been working as Senior Health and Nutrition Advisor with the ENGINE Project of Save the Children International, a technical assistance project working with the health and agriculture sectors to improve the nutritional status of mothers and children under two.

Looking to the future, my hope is to see stunting and other nutritional problems reduced and to see healthy and happy children.

# Spotlight on: Agriculture

A feature series in »[The Link](#) taking each of Irish Aid's thematic priorities in turn

Irish Aid's support to Agriculture is a key element of its commitment to tackle global hunger. The 2008 Hunger Task Force Report recommended that Ireland focus on three areas to address global hunger: improving agricultural productivity of smallholder farmers, particularly women, in Sub-Saharan Africa; targeting maternal and infant undernutrition; and promoting political commitment and leadership to tackle hunger.

Irish Aid supports a broad range of initiatives in the agriculture sector, through government, multilateral organisations and civil society. Its six areas of focus are: International and national-level coordination; Scaling up of pro-poor agricultural research; Strengthening smallholder farmer associations; Improving links to the private sector; Supporting improved land rights; and Supporting access to improved inputs and financial services.

Across all of these areas, Irish Aid has three priorities:

## Climate-smart agriculture

The effects of climate change are already being experienced by many farmers in developing countries. Irish Aid supports agricultural practices which can both adapt to and mitigate climate change. These include agroforestry, drought and flood resistant seeds, sustainable livestock schemes, conservation agriculture, intercropping legumes, terracing, and water management schemes.



Malawian smallholder farmer Agnes Malcolm-Kondani. Through the support of Irish Aid, she now grows groundnuts, which are both nutritious and help combat the effects of climate change through improving soil fertility.

## Nutrition-sensitive agriculture

Too often, agricultural programmes are focused on increasing yields of staple crops, rather than the production on a diverse range of crops and livestock which would provide adequate nutrients for a healthy

diet. Irish Aid supports farmers to diversify to more nutritious produce such as legumes, potatoes and livestock, as well as biofortified crops such as quality-protein maize, iron-rich cassava, and Vitamin-A rich maize and sweet potato. It also works with national governments and multilateral agencies to ensure nutrition is seen as a key objective of agricultural programmes.

## Gender-sensitive agriculture

While the majority of smallholder farmers in Africa are women, they rarely enjoy equal access to farm inputs, training, financial services or land rights. Irish Aid prioritises women in its support to agriculture, and supports programmes which have specific plans to ensure women have equal access to resources, and which include gender-specific indicators and gender-disaggregated data.

## Examples of Irish Aid support to Agriculture

Tanzania - support to the government to implement the Agricultural Sector Development Programme.

Mozambique - support to smallholder farmers to produce and sell Vitamin-A rich Orange Flesh Sweet Potato.

Malawi - promotion of several climate-sensitive farming practices, such as conservation agriculture and agroforestry.

Malawi and Tanzania - support to the national smallholder farmer associations, NASFAM and MVIWATA.

Tanzania, Malawi, Ethiopia and Uganda - support to African radio stations to produce farm programmes to educate smallholder farmers on new farming techniques and seeds.

At a global level, support to agricultural research to develop bio-fortified/nutritious crops and to examine the links between climate change and agriculture.

Support to the International Land Coalition to advocate for the land rights of smallholder farmers, particularly smallholder women farmers.

# Your Master's degree is the key!

**Rex Baluwa, 2010-11 Irish Aid Fellow**

**How I miss the corridors of UCD and its wonderful experiences!**

My name is Rex Elias Baluwa, one of the Irish Aid sponsored postgraduate students from Malawi during the 2010/11 academic year. I studied for a Masters in Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (MSARD) at University College Dublin.

When my name was among the successful candidates to be sponsored in 2010, I was very excited but at the same time nervous on how I was going to adapt to the new environment. I was not sure how I would interact with the crop of new friends from different backgrounds, cultures, experiences and whatever you might think of!! To my surprise, I felt at home the first day I arrived in Dublin. I could feel the love and warmth of people in Ireland, how they were willing to help out when you were stranded or lost. In a special way, it is worth recognising the untiring support from ICOS staff in trying to make life very comfortable and unforgettable living experience.

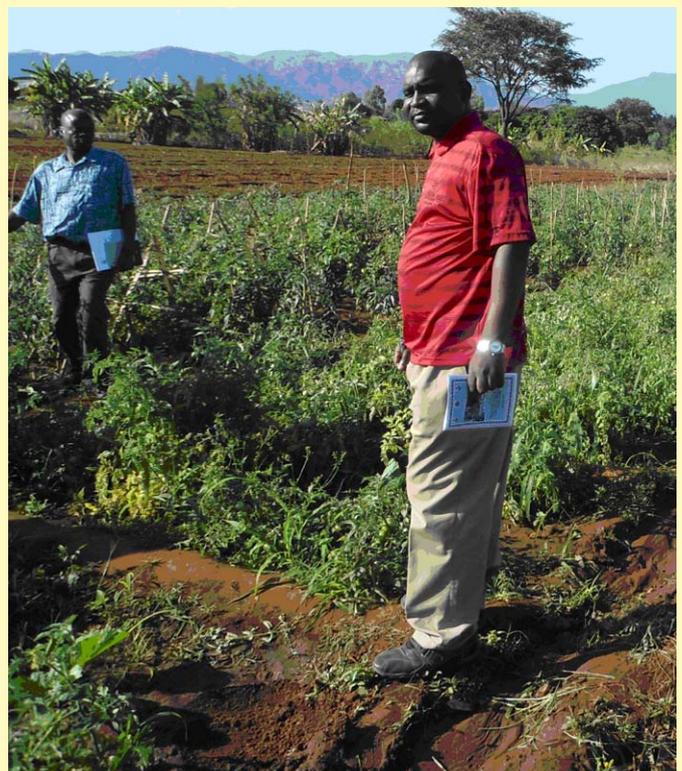
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Like most fellows, I worried how I was going to cope with young classmates at the college, but my UCD experience cleared all those worries. It was interesting and enjoyable to share experiences with younger students. During my time, most of them were willing to learn from us, more especially those of us coming from the developing world. It was also worthwhile sharing experiences in class, especially among people with a prior working background, as most of the issues were relevant.

When my academic days were over at UCD, I was excited to reunite with my family as well as my work colleagues and friends, but at the same time sad that



**Rex on a supervisory visit after resuming his role**

I was going to miss some good friends that had become part of my life in Ireland.

I arrived in Malawi toward the end of November 2011 and reported back to work after a month of recuperation from academic pressure. I am enjoying my work since that time as my masters degree has given me confidence to contribute at a higher level, having acquired more knowledge on policy and other development related issues.

Of course, before I reported for work, I was worried that I had missed a lot on career progression but the studies were key to my career. I have since adjusted very well in my working environment.

My appeal to all new Irish Aid sponsored students is don't strain yourself on how you are going to adapt to the Irish college environment or how you are to adapt to your work afterwards.

Life is good when you have your academic papers. Your Master's Degree is the key.

Wishing all Irish Aid Fellowship Alumni all the best!!!

## College Spotlight:

# Dublin City University



» **The Link** takes a closer look at DCU, the newest of Dublin's three universities and the only one sited north of the River Liffey.

While some of Ireland's universities can trace their history in centuries, others like DCU represent a new wave of institutions established in recent decades.

In 1989, the two National Institutes for Higher Education in Dublin and Limerick were elevated to university status, giving rise to Dublin City University and the University of Limerick. In the case of DCU, the move came less than ten years after its predecessor began accepting its first students.

The campus site extends to some 85 acres, located just north of Dublin City Council's Albert College Park and a relatively short hop from Dublin airport. It is almost entirely composed of modern, purpose-built structures - the only significant building which predates the new phase of development is the Albert College Building, beside the student residences.

The early academic focus was on engineering, computing, science and technology, plus business related subjects. More recently, DCU has developed a reputation in the humanities and performing arts.

The Helix, a purpose built "performance space" completed in 2002, was a notable addition to both the campus and Ireland's cultural life. It includes the country's largest concert hall and has hosted major visiting orchestras and ballet companies.

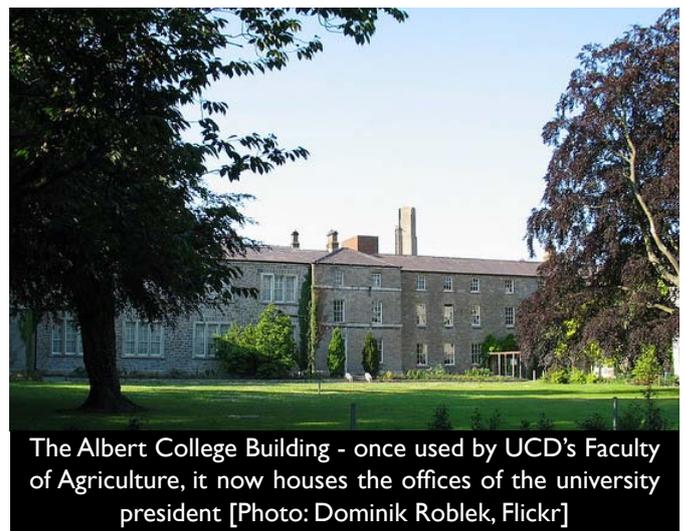
### Irish Aid Alumni and DCU

The first Irish Aid fellows at DCU necessarily took up programmes in science and engineering. For a time, Irish Aid also made provision for a number of shorter fellowships at DCU for an English programme specifically oriented toward diplomats.

In recent years, the majority of Irish Aid fellows attending DCU have undertaken courses within the Centre for International Studies - including programmes in International Relations, Security and Conflict Studies, Globalisation and Development. Within the Business School, fellows have focused on the Masters in Accounting and Human Resource Management.



The Henry Grattan Building - the first modern addition at the campus site in 1981, now home to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences [Photo: Learn English at DCU]



The Albert College Building - once used by UCD's Faculty of Agriculture, it now houses the offices of the university president [Photo: Dominik Roblek, Flickr]



The Helix performance space, incorporating Ireland's largest concert hall

**NEXT ISSUE:**  
**UNIVERSITY**  
**COLLEGE CORK**

**UCC**

Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh, Éire  
University College Cork, Ireland

# World AIDS Day 2012



**Irish Aid**  
Government of Ireland  
Rialtas na hÉireann

**A colourful and uplifting commemoration for World AIDS Day took place in Limerick on November 28th.**

The theme of this year's Irish Aid Father Michael Kelly World Aids Day event addressed 'Education, sports and music – social vaccines against AIDS'. In keeping with its namesake, the evening was punctuated with superb musical and dance performances hosted by the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance in the University of Limerick.

The speakers at the event included Minister Joe Costello, Minister of State for Trade and Development; Professor Sarah Moore, Associate VP Academic, University of Limerick; Father

Michael Kelly, HIV and Education; Ann Mason, Red Ribbon Project HIV/AIDS Limerick; Dr. Busi Mooka, Consultant (Infectious Diseases), Limerick; and Marcus Horan, Munster Rugby Player. A panel discussion was chaired by Professor Tom Lodge, University of Limerick, while Dr. Douglas Hamilton, Senior HIV/AIDS Advisor, Irish Aid facilitated the evening.

The presentations were informative and engaging, addressing the local HIV epidemic in Ireland and Limerick, the global HIV epidemic and the value of education, music and sports as strategies to combat the continued spread of the disease.

## Father Michael Kelly



Father Michael Kelly has lived and worked for over fifty years in Zambia, becoming the Dean of the School of Education in the University of Zambia (UNZA) in 1975. He has dedicated his career to researching the impact of HIV and AIDS in Africa, particularly its impact on education, and has been to the forefront of research in his field. In recognition of his work, Professor Kelly was awarded an Honorary Degree from University College Dublin in 2006 and honoured by the Minister of State for Overseas Development Cooperation and Human Rights for his work on HIV and AIDS. Most recently, he received the Presidential Distinguished Service Award for the Irish Abroad.



L-R: Marcus Horan, Minister Costello, Ann Mason and Father Michael Kelly

» The Link is published by ICOS on behalf of Irish Aid.

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