Welcome to the TUM SEED Center Newsletter!

Fall 2022

Announcements

**New SEED Team Member: Welcome Carina Seidl!**

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest team addition: Carina Seidl. Carina
Carina Seidl is joining the TUM SEED Center team, as a financial officer, working closely with SEED researchers and project managers at the TUM Chair of Corporate Sustainability and beyond. Carina will be managing financial transactions, also per the SEED project requirements for the funding of partnerships with the 8 partner universities in the Global South.

Carina brings a wealth of international experience and professional skills in project management. On a more exciting note, Carina is also a trained yoga instructor. We look forward to getting all her yogi vibes to the office!

You can contact Carina Seidl at: carina.seidl@tum.de

---

New Doctoral Scholarships Available for The “SEED Entrepreneurship in the Global South” Project

This announcement is addressed to the professors of the SEED partner universities in the Global South, more specifically Bahir Dar University (Ethiopia), Bandung Institute of Technology (Indonesia), Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (India), Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (Kenya), Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (Ghana), Makerere University (Uganda), Namibia University of Science and Technology (Namibia), and Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (Peru).

The TUM SEED Center plans to finance two new doctoral scholarships on “SEED Entrepreneurship in the Global South” investigating a topic relating to one of the three specific research areas: A) Sustainable Entrepreneurship, B) Informal Entrepreneurship, C) Community Entrepreneurship

The doctoral positions are hosted, supervised, and organized by the SEED partner universities listed above. Each DAAD doctoral scholarship amounts to the equivalent of EUR 600 per month, starting from January 1, 2023, until December 31, 2024 (with the possibility of prolongation).
When the sky dusked over the idyllic Olderkesi, Narok County on Friday, October 7, 2022, as the shadows got long and the night crept in, one thing was clear. It was not going to be a dark night. Not anymore. Earlier in the day, the Olderkesi mini-grid powerplant was officially commissioned, marking a major milestone in the journey towards providing the community with clean renewable energy, and subsequently spurring business activities. “Since my shop got connected, now I can keep working till late in the night, and serve more customers because people now feel safer in the shopping center,” said John Sinjaapi, one of the shop owners in Olderkesi.

The Olderkesi mini-grid powerplant is a product of the JKUAT Sustainable Energies and Entrepreneurship Development (SEED) project, a five-year initiative funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), and supported by the Technical University of Munich. The project is jointly implemented by JKUAT and Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation (REREC).
When we left the national road and crossed the dry river bed with the four-wheel jeeps, policemen welcomed us behind the iron bridge. My mind started spinning: Did they want to control us? Did we do anything wrong? Or is it so dangerous to go to the outskirt of Windhoek and visit the community of Kharoxas? Soon I would find it out. We just stopped beside them in the shade of a tree and waited for the traditional leader of the region, her Majesty, Goas Juliane Gawa!Nas. About ten minutes later she arrived with four cars, including two police cars, the representative of the city of Windhoek, and a couple of advisors. After a short welcome and briefing, we continued our journey in the rough terrain of sand and stones. The
police cars were at the beginning and the end of the large conveyance with flashing lights. I felt like a statesman on a mission. 

After some time we arrived at a gate. We were welcomed by two young men elegantly riding horses without a saddle. They were the harbingers of the village. When we exited the car, we were welcomed with traditional dances and wonderful music performed by the villagers of Kharoxas. You could sense the good vibes in the air. It was the opening ceremony of the new power plant, equipped with the latest technology, 50 solar panels, and batteries to store the power of the sun.

A Project Study on Rural Electrification & Entrepreneurship in Kyampisi, Uganda: Impressions from Our Master Students on The Ground

By Ekaterina Braun & Anna-Sophie Kreipp
One billion people worldwide lack access to electricity — remote and isolated regions are especially affected by this. For this reason, our TUM master students Ekaterina Braun and Anna-Sophie Kreipp decided to conduct their project study in Rural Uganda. As part of an academic exchange program, they spent four weeks there to investigate how rural electrification influences entrepreneurial activities in the remote village of Kyampisi. This is where TUM SEED Center has constructed a solar mini-grid, which will be put into operation soon.

They first spent time in Kampala where they met SEED colleagues from Makerere University. Together they traveled to Kyampisi in the central region of Uganda.

That is where the fieldwork started: they surveyed households to capture the current state of electrification and entrepreneurial activity but also dreams about future businesses in the village. During their interactions with locals, they met motivated individuals currently unable to realize their entrepreneurial ideas and goals due to the very restricted access to power.

It was interesting to learn how creative some people are and what businesses they have already started: For example, a local started a cinema in the village for people with no power at home to come and watch movies or even soccer (in particular the Champions League games are very popular).

The people in the village are eagerly awaiting more electricity and accordingly have high expectations for the living lab constructed by TUM SEED Center. The project not only offered Ekaterina and Anna-Sophie the possibility to go abroad
On a Mission at JKUAT in Kenya: SEED Researcher Sofia’s Academic Experience with Students & Faculty

By Sofia Abid

The keyword for our work at the TUM SEED Center is “academic exchange”. Whenever we are visiting our partner universities and living labs, we make sure to engage with relevant faculty. That is precisely what TUM SEED doctoral researcher, Sofia Abid, did during her last trip to Kenya, back in September. In addition to meeting and engaging with technology founders in the vibrant Nairobi ecosystem, Sofia spent time at our local partner university, JKUAT, to
meet students and management scholars. On her Research Day, she first conducted the “Ignite Your Entrepreneurial Thinking”, an entrepreneurship workshop seminar, designed and developed by colleagues at the TUM Entrepreneurship Research Institute, and targeted at students in management and technology to explore their entrepreneurial potential.

JKUAT students from the School of Management, as well as the division of Computer Science, joined Sofia as she took them through a series of creative psychological exercises to explore the five pillars of the entrepreneurs’ DNA: observing, questioning, associating, experimenting, and networking.

Sofia was then joined by Dr. Allan Mugambi, professor of entrepreneurship at JKUAT, in a meeting together with researchers from the entrepreneurship division to discuss avenues for potential research collaboration, mostly in areas of resource mobilization of technology ventures, employability in start-ups and gender lens in entrepreneurship research in Kenya. She could also meet SEED’s newest doctoral researcher, Harold Mate, and had the opportunity to share ideas on theory building.

Conversations, exchanges, and learnings were Sofia’s main takeaways from her stay at JKUAT. These and how to make amazing chapatis, of course!

Seed Researcher Bouchra on Her Journey to Indonesia and ITB SEED Center

By Bouchra Lamhamedi
As part of my thesis project, in collaboration with the TUM SEED Center, I traveled to Indonesia from September 25 to October 11, to conduct fieldwork in partnership with Bandung Institute of Technology ITB. My journey started in Bandung, 180 kilometers southeast of Jakarta, the capital city of the province of West Java, 4th most populous city in Indonesia and known for its beautiful tea plantations.

I got the opportunity to meet with Prof. Dr. Ir. Suwarno, head of the ITB SEED Center, and his team from the School of Electrical and Informatics Engineering. We got to discuss Indonesia’s green transition, its renewable energy potential, and the main factors blocking this type of investment, which include land acquisition.

I also visited the ITB School of Business and Management SBM and met with Dr. Fajar Achmad. We got to discuss the SEED living lab project and the different entrepreneurial activities that we can build around to help promote the development of the nearby communities and the region.

I then continued my journey to Garut, 70 km southeast of Bandung, to visit the SEED living lab. The living lab is primarily maintained by workers of the boarding school.

I met the land owner of the living lab site, the director of the boarding school, and some of the nearby community members working for the school and on the project.

I got to spend the second week in Jakarta, the capital city of Indonesia, where I had the chance to meet with many land professionals, working for the Indonesian Land Agency “Badan Pertanahan Nasional BPN”. We discussed several topics related to
land registration, land tenure security, land acquisition for public interest projects, its social and environmental impacts, and how the land agency can adjust its legal framework and procedures, to prevent land disputes and conflicts, and to promote sustainable land management and sustainable development.

Overall, it was a very enriching and instructive experience for me, and I would like to thank all the people I have met, for their time, help, cooperation, and support.

By Frank-Martin Belz

Academic Exchange with Namibia University of Science and Technology: Visit by Prof. Frank-Martin Belz

At the beginning of October 2022, the Director of the TUM SEED Center, Prof. Dr. Frank-Martin Belz, visited the Namibia University of Science and Technology
(NUST) to engage in academic exchange. On the first day, he was welcomed by Dr. Colin Stanley, the Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research, Innovation, and Partnerships. The meeting took place on the top floor of the High Tech Transfer Plaza Select (HTTPS), which represents a state-of-the-art technologically inspired ecosystem for the university community, industries, development partners, and entrepreneurs, ranging from mobile technologies to sustainable energies.

After the meeting with the NUST management, Prof. Dr. Frank-Martin Belz gave a talk on “Sustainable Entrepreneurship in the Energy Sector” for the faculty of engineering and the built environment. He was invited by his host Prof. James Katende, chair of renewable energy systems at NUST and Director of SEED Namibia.

In the following days, Prof. Frank-Martin Belz had further, in-depth conversations with Prof. Asa Romeo Asa and his colleagues from the management department to explore opportunities for research and teaching at the intersection of sustainable energies and entrepreneurship in the Global South. One of the highlights was the talk for the Faculty of Management Sciences on “How to Publish in Leading International Journals”, which was well attended and received.

Read more
Our SEED Research Coordinator, Esther Salvi, was part of the 2022 Academy of Management Annual Meeting in Seattle. There, she presented her current research together with her co-author Prof. Dr. Daniela Gimenez Jimenez titled “The Role of Collectivism and Gender Equality in Informal Entrepreneurship” (accessible here). During the 2022 AOM Annual Meeting, she received very valuable feedback from the international entrepreneurship community, graduated from the AMR Bridge Reviewer Program, and discussed research projects with many bright scholars. Besides, she could celebrate her first publication, which appeared first online at the time of the event. Her first article has been published in the FT50 journal, Entrepreneurship Theory, and Practice (IF=10,07). It relates to the field of informal entrepreneurship and is the result of a great collaboration with Prof. Dr. Frank- Martin Belz and Prof. Dr. Sophie Bacq.

If you are interested in the topic of informal entrepreneurship and want to discuss potential collaborations, you can contact her at Esther.Salvi@tum.de.
Contact us

Sofia Abid | Communications Manager & Ph.D Researcher | sofia.abid@tum.de

Prof. Frank-Martin Belz | TUM SEED Center Director | frank.belz@tum.de

TUM SEED CENTER
Technical University of Munich
Alte Akademie 14, Freising
Germany

You received this email because you are part of our SEED Center community, signed up on our website, or expressed interest in receiving news from us.

Unsubscribe