

News Release

Welsh Institute for Natural Resources (WINR), Bangor University

14 September 2010

Into Africa - Welsh Sustainable Development

Welsh experts in renewable energy technologies have been sharing their experience with African entrepreneurs. It is hoped that the entrepreneurs can take their experiences from Wales back to Africa to find solutions to the global climate challenge. The 15 participants in the programme are being encouraged to develop their own ideas to the African challenge of sustainable development.

“Our role has been to encourage them to consider what sustainability really means and to dare to think and do things differently and creatively. We want them to have the confidence to go back with ideas for renewable technological solutions that can be adapted to solve their challenges in their own way.” said Dr Einir Young the Head of Sustainable Development at the Welsh Institute of Natural Resources (WINR) at Bangor University. The month long course is supported by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG).

The group includes participants from six African countries and they are committed to the UNIDO ideal of ‘promoting industrial development for poverty reduction, inclusive globalization and environmental sustainability’.

“We are all from different parts of Africa to learn about sustainability in Wales. We are joined in the global challenge to make the world a zero carbon environment,” said Mr Samuka Dunnoh from Liberia.

Enter the Welsh Dragons

Experts from; BC (The BioComposites Centre), BML Oils, Bright Light Solar Ltd, Centre for Alternative Technology, Clifford Jones Timber Ltd, Climate Change Centre Wales, Forestry Commission Wales, Infinis Plc, Moelyci Environmental Centre, Reegen Ltd, Resurgam (the Conwy tidal power project), Q Marketing & PR Ltd, Venture Wales, Waste Recycling Group Ltd, Wind Power Wales Ltd and Ynys Resources Ltd have been informing and are encouraging the entrepreneurs.

The climax to the course, on Thursday 16 September, is presenting the business plans developed while at Bangor to a panel of ‘Welsh Dragons’ to practise making a successful business pitch. In

the evening they will meet with Alun Ffred Jones the Welsh Assembly Minister for Heritage to discuss their plans, and share some of the highlights of the month with him.

“This has been a great opportunity to showcase the best of Wales’s renewable technology and I hope their Welsh experience will help them find African solutions to our global climate challenge,” said Alun Ffred Jones.

“I would like to thank the University for their expertise and hospitality. The trips to meet Welsh experts have been enlightening. This course has demystified sustainable technology, I now have the confidence to implement Welsh technology in an African context. We are up to the challenge,” said Usamah L.Kaggwa, Energy Officer for the Republic of Uganda.

Ends

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