



GRA HEALTH

A high level team of GRA Principals and technical experts met recently in London to finalise the GRA's discussion paper on the challenges in the domain of rural health in resource poor communities. Intensive meetings were held and a strategy of engagement with funding agencies is currently being developed in order to take this work further.

ICONIC PROJECT UPDATE

- The final draft of the study of Research Funding Councils In Developing Countries with a focus on **Science and Technology for the Poor** has been sent to the client for comment before finalisation by the GRA team.
- Two GRA members are now involved in the **low-cost ICT project in Zambia** and discussions are under way with a large multi-national regarding support for this project
- A roadmap and plan is currently being developed which will outline the role that the GRA can play in assisting the science and technology department of a national government with the implementation of their **10 year plan**
- **Funding and engagement** plans are being compiled in both the indigenous knowledge and health domains



BUILDING THE BRIDGE BETWEEN TRADITIONAL AND MODERN MEDICINE

A small team of GRA scientists and representatives from the National Institute for Medical Research and the Tanga Aids Working Group from Tanzania met recently to develop a comprehensive project dossier on the work being done in Tanzania on treating the opportunistic infections suffered by people living with HIV/AIDS.

The meeting was hosted by TNO at their offices in Zeist which provided delegates to the meeting the opportunity of visiting the world-class systems biology facilities of the TNO.

This project focuses on the fusion of traditional and modern medicine and the outcomes will impact on the quality of life of people living in the Tanga District in north-eastern Tanzania.

GRA PEOPLE

- **Dr Peter Osman**, who has served as the Champion for CSIRO for many years will be pursuing new interests in the field of energy and Dr James Moody who is the General Manager of International Development will replace him as GRA Champion
- **Mr Yahaya bin Ahmad** has taken up his post as President and Chief Executive of SIRIM and as Principal of the GRA. He will be assisted by Wan Zaharah Wan Mohamad as Champion for that organisation.
- **Dr Sibusiso Sibisi**, The President of the CSIR was awarded the Order of Mapungubwe by the President of South Africa for his contribution to the betterment of South Africa
- **Prof Walter Trösch and Dr Harald Hiessl**, both of whom have been connected with the GRA were recently awarded the Joseph von Fraunhofer Prize in recognition of outstanding scientific work in integrated water treatment systems.

Research snippets from our Members

All the members of the GRA are involved in groundbreaking world class research and development work. Presented here are just a few highlights from press releases to help us all to know a little more about each other.

TNO, Netherlands

The ambition is plain and simple. In 2011 the European GAIA satellite will start its mission to make a three-dimensional map of a large number of star systems, and show the position and movement of a billion stars with unprecedented precision. One of the aims is to find out more about the origins of the Milky Way, something that requires extremely precise instrumentation, built in silicon carbide. TNO is developing key components for the instrument.

SIRIM-Berhad, Malaysia

The Advanced Materials Research Centre (AMREC) was established to be part of a strategy to develop local capabilities and to exploit locally available natural resources for materials research. The establishment of AMREC brings considerable over-arching knowledge of advanced materials early to the design process of industries and universities in order to improve innovation and give a competitive advantage to their products.

CSIR, India

CSIR India scientists have unravelled the mystery of complex processes in animal and human development using RNAi. These path-breaking results were published in 'Cell' and they have presented an intriguing new example of how the RNAi machinery contributes to

nuclear organisation with a consequence on gene expression. The understanding of the mechanism of RNAi could be very helpful in modern medicine.

DTI, Denmark

The Danish Technology Institute is leading the research and development project Sensi-Coating, which is to develop new, hard-wearing, anti-corrosion, easy-to-clean and 'intelligent' surface coatings for amongst other things, food processing equipment. Both the food industry and the health sector will benefit hugely from the surfaces which are self-lubricating and durable so as to avoid oil and metal contamination.

CSIR, South Africa

A new digital mapping and geographic analysis platform (GAP), developed by the CSIR, The Presidency and the Department of Trade and Industry (dti), is enabling researchers and decision-makers to estimate the spatial distribution of economic activity in South Africa in greater detail than ever before. An analysis of GAP statistics, together with variables such as population, relative geographic position and land capability, indicates that 45% of the country's territory is sustaining only a very marginal level of human activity. The GAP has already been used in updating or developing a number of national strategies and perspectives.