



• Innovation Specialist visits South Africa

The GRA Nerve Centre hosted a visit by Dr Anil Gupta, a world renowned expert in the field of grassroots innovation. Dr Gupta was joined in Pretoria by Mr Nicolas Gorjestani of the World Bank. This visit was sponsored by the South African Department of Science and Technology and the World Bank and afforded an opportunity for discussions in this important domain.

Dr Gupta met with officials from the Department of Science and Technology, the Agricultural Research Council, the National Advisory Council on Innovation, the Management Team of The Innovation Hub and the CSIR. A field trip was also undertaken which included a visit to a rural settlement and a meeting with the Farmers Support Group in that region and an open forum meeting was held with invited guests. The visit also generated considerable interest with the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and extensive discussions regarding future cooperation were discussed with them.

The Nerve Centre will be publishing a report on the visit which will be made available on the GRA website and will also be following-up on specific initiatives identified during this visit.

• GRA Solar Thermal Report published

The World Bank/GEF has published the GRA Study on the "Assessment of the World Bank/GEF Strategy for the Market Development of Concentrating Solar Thermal Power". This study was carried out by three GRA members, the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft in Germany, CSIRO in Australia and the CSIR in South Africa. The full report is downloadable from the front page of the GRA website (www.research-alliance.net).



• Reactive Project Opportunities

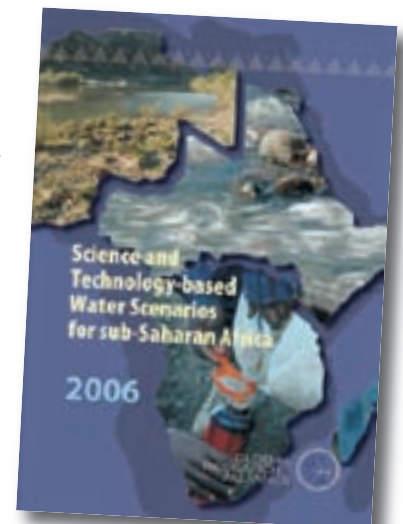
Two Expressions of Interest have been submitted – the one a study of Biofuels in Mozambique was submitted by a partner from SIRDC in Zimbabwe but includes CSIR South Africa and CSIR India and the other is for a review of sub-Saharan Africa Port Sector Performance Indicators which include CSIR South Africa and TNO.

A call for Expressions of Interest from DFID on Energy for Development is being considered.

• Proactive Project Ideas

Carol Howe from CSIRO, who is currently seconded to the UNESCO-IHE SWITCH programme in Delft (The Netherlands) has proposed a possible large-scale cross-cutting project for developing integrated solutions for megacities. Two teleconferences have been held with technical experts from Alliance members who will look at the possibility of preparing a comprehensive project proposal for submission to funding agencies

- The printed **Water Scenarios Booklet** has been widely circulated to all the participants of the workshop, copies have been sent to the Champions in all the GRA Member organisations and other stakeholders. We have had a very positive response to the booklet. A study on the impact of climate change in sub-Saharan Africa is under consideration as an outcome of the scenario work.



- **Contact** has been made with the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Science and Technology office to explore possibilities for involvement of the Alliance at the African Union Summit focussing on Science and Technology which will be held in January 2007.

People on the Move

- **Dr Gerard van Oortmerssen**, the GRA Principal for TNO, recently visited India as part of the Dutch government delegation. During his visit he spent time with CSIR India and discussed several GRA projects.
- **Dr Uwe Lommatzsch** from Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft recently attended the first meeting of the Materials Science Review Panel at CSIR South Africa. Dr Lommatzsch presented a technical talk to the staff of the Materials Unit during his visit.
- **Dr Ramesh Mashelkar**, Director General of CSIR India, met with Prof Erkki Leppävuori during a recent visit to Finland.

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.

New report unpacks the politics of Africa's water – CSIR South Africa

A publication titled "Hydropolitical Vulnerability and Resilience along International Waters" was launched at the World Water Week held in Sweden in August. This is the first in a five-part series of reports that will span continents, starting with Africa, where most major rivers, freshwater lakes and aquifers are shared by two or more countries. Nations sharing water resources are at risk of conflict, this made more acute by climatic variations in precipitation. The report is a collaboration between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Universities Partnership for Transboundary Waters. Both Dr Anthony Turton and Dr Peter Ashton from the CSIR who compiled the report are affiliated with the University of Pretoria.

Two new anti-malarial compounds released for commercialisation by CSIR India

Scientists of the CSIR's National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) in association with the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology and the National Centre for Cell Science discovered the two lead anti-malarial compounds from an Indian marine mussel. These compounds display biological activity against different malarial parasites and are non-lethal to the host cell. Scientists working on this project claim that these compounds will prove to be suitable candidates for drugs for malaria in the future. CSIR India has entered into a licensing agreement with Shreya Life Sciences for the commercialisation of these compounds.

TNO involved in drafting new International Guidelines for Greenhouse Gas and CO₂ emissions

Earlier this year the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and the United Nations Environmental

Programme (UNEP) presented new guidelines for international debate on emissions. These guidelines are intended for international negotiations on what has to happen after the obligations of the Kyoto Protocol run out in 2012. Dr Tinus Pulles along with one of India's leading experts is one of the two lead authors of the energy volume of the new guidelines. For the first time, too, methods have been incorporated for estimating the capture and storage of CO₂ emissions – an area in which TNO is also active.

SIRIM accreditation for volcanic mud products

Volcanic mud from Pulau Tiga has become the natural ingredient of a skin and face cleanser being produced by a Tawau-based company and accredited by SIRIM Berhad. Early studies on the project, under a senior consultant from SIRIM Bioprocess and Environmental Technology Centre resulted in the production of seven prototypes which included facial wash, scrub, night cream and sun block. The research and development project has confirmed the quality of natural resources in this region for cosmetic ventures.

Multisensors and Other New Technology for Improved indoor Environment in Buildings – DTI partners with Nordic neighbours

In this Nordic project, sponsored by the Nordic Innovation Centre, the goal is to establish a strong Nordic knowledge base and discussion forum to address the current and future uses of advanced multisensors to provide key information about indoor air quality of relevant to health, comfort and conservation of resources. In the Nordic countries there is considerable academic and practical expertise within all the disciplines related to this field and special focus will be placed on the possibilities of converting expert academic knowledge into practical applications and use. This study includes partners from Sweden, Norway, Finland and Denmark.