

New relationships for ECSSSUP & TEU

ECSSSUP's April 2021 Newsletter

The Episcopal University of South Sudan University Partnership

March and April have all been about building new relationships, with new trustees and advisors joining ECSSSUP and a new engineering partnership for TEU. Keep reading to find out more - and as ever, we appreciate your interest and commitment to the development of higher education for peace and prosperity in South Sudan.

Got questions, comments, ideas? Please do get in touch. Visit [Contact us | ecsssup](#)

Partnership agreed with local engineering firm

As many of you know, the community of Rokon gifted The Episcopal University a substantial amount of land, on which we will develop the administrative centre and a new campus. Rokon was at the centre of much of the conflict, so it is especially exciting to work with them to develop a university that aims to bring peace to the country.

Rev Dr Joseph Bilal and the core TEU programme team in Juba recently completed a competitive RFP process to agree a partnership with an engineering firm who will conduct the required surveys. They selected TEFCO, a local firm with international connections and a solid reputation and track record. Work will begin immediately and will take 20 days.

Work with TEFCO will enable TEU to continue making progress with Engineering Ministries International (EMI), our partners who will complete the land assessment and produce a concept design for construction in Rokon.

This is exciting progress and we look forward to sharing ongoing updates with you!

Alex spent the first ten years of his career in behavioural science research in Least Developed Communities, particularly in East Africa, the Middle East and Afghanistan. He started my career researching the impact of communications on the changing nature of warfare. Since then, he has worked on and designed several long-term research projects to understand the drivers behind instability. The majority of his research led him to realise the importance of economic stimulation as a means to improve gender equality, reduce conflict and improvement to society as a whole. He is now Head of Partnerships at GMIS combining his field experience, behavioural science understanding and immersion in emerging technologies to play my part in ensuring industrial development, particularly Industry 4.0, is for the good of society.

Nic lived in Juba from 2007-2014 working in a series of roles with the Episcopal Church of Sudan and UKAid education projects. He was international adviser to Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul around the time of the South Sudan elections and referendum, and supported SUDRA and the ECS Education and Training Office with UKAid and other internationally funded projects, including funding from Trinity Wall Street, ICCo, and Norwegian and Danish Church Aid. He has worked in every one of South Sudan's 10 states as well as Khartoum and the Nuba Mountains. During his time with the UKAid Basic Services Fund (BSF) and Girls Education South Sudan (GESS) programmes he oversaw support to a number of key South Sudanese education institutions through scholarship programmes and teacher training. Since 2014 he has worked in development and corporate responsibility in Myanmar, Uganda, and now the UK.

Kay is a retired solicitor who has always had a deep respect for and interest in the people of South Sudan. With SOMA she has visited South Sudan twice and a refugee camp for South Sudanese in Uganda. She is part of the team for Women on the Frontline.

The ECSSSUP trustees and advisors were delighted to meet with some of the Principals of TEU's participating colleges in March via Zoom. We aim to make this a regular occurrence as we continue to build strong

relationships with the colleges. As always, we were left so encouraged and in awe of the progress they are making despite ongoing challenges - not least of all the Covid-19 pandemic. A common key obstacle is the lack of students which means a lack of student fees and therefore difficulties ensuring staff salaries and even the basic protective equipment (like facemasks) that the government demands before colleges can reopen. Some highlights:

Canon Jacob Ayomwut - Renk College: As with many of the other colleges, Renk hoped to reopen to their 50 students for the first semester in February but continued lockdown due to Covid-19 stalled these plans. Instead, Renk has been offering computer courses for local people and plans to reopen for the second semester this month. They have been running an agricultural project to help finance the college, with key priorities to expand the library and computer centre.

Philip Awuol - St John's College, Wau: A particular challenge for St John's has been huge difficulties in internet connectivity, making online learning and general communication very challenging. They also want to expand their facilities. With over 300 students, the 2 lecture halls and the use of secondary school classrooms is not enough. However, they have continued to bring together students from different districts and backgrounds, and have established a task force to support Covid-19 activities.

Know someone who might want to receive this newsletter? Forward them this link. [Contact us | ecsssup](#)

Copyright © 2020 ECSSUP All rights reserved ECSSUP is a registered charity No. 1157335