

NEWS FROM SOUTH AFRICA

OTARG NEWSLETTER

November 2007

The South African participants in the OTARG Congress in Zanzibar have returned home with interesting stories about their travels, but most importantly have been very complimentary about the hospitality, quality of papers presented and organisation of the Zanzibar congress. A sincere thank you to all the people involved that made the congress so successful, especially the Congress Committee and the Scientific Committee.

The OTARG Congress is not only about gaining knowledge and experience, but also networking and meeting others in the same field of practice. Communication is essential for this, and today E mail is amazing technology that can connect people instantly and easily. The secretary of OTARG, Lisa Wegner has a comprehensive list of the participants that attended the Zanzibar OTARG Congress. We would like to encourage as many people as possible to join OTARG as this strengthens Occupational Therapy in Africa and the network between the African countries. The cost for two years is South African rand, R70 which is very worthwhile. This entitles the member to receive the OTARG Newsletter twice a year and to be informed of congresses and other exciting developments. Please contact Lisa Wegner to become a member of OTARG on the E mail lwegner@uwc.ac.za or mobile phone +27 82 332 7167. An OTARG website is in the process of being set up which will also be informative and connect people from different countries. Each country will be informed of the launch of the website when it happens. Please also refer to the OTASA website for information from South Africa www.otasa.org.za

South Africa proudly congratulates Alfred Ramukumba (South Africa) for his second term as the OTARG president, the election of Brenda Ephraim (Tanzania) as vice-chairperson, the continuation of Christa Meyer (South Africa) as treasurer, the election of Lisa Wegner (South Africa) as secretary, the continuation of Rosemary Crouch (South Africa) as newsletter editor, the election of Julius Kamwesiga (Uganda) as OTARG WFOT representative and the election of Bertha Mbuya (Tanzania) as student representative to OTARG. This team will certainly strengthen the organisation and encourage OTARG to grow to represent further countries in Africa.

Next congress in Malawi

Malawi, OTARG is really looking forward to coming to your country! South Africa sends encouragement to Butani Butao and the Malawian Congress Coordinating Committee together with Pat de Witt and the University of the Witwatersrand Occupational Therapy School of Health Sciences as the Scientific

Committee, assisted by Pretoria University and the University of Limpopo, for the planning of the next OTARG Congress in September 2009. See you there!

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