

## ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

On behalf of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the Brandenburg Technical University of Cottbus-Senftenberg, and the University of Johannesburg are organising the

### International Germany Alumni Training Seminar

in the framework of the DAAD programme

SDG Alumni Projects: Knowledge and Practice for Development:

### Adapting to Climate by Developing Circularity (AC/DC)

8<sup>th</sup> February – 16<sup>th</sup> May 2025: Training Seminar – *online phase (every Friday, sessions of 2 hours)*

1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> July 2025: Training Seminar – *in presence* at the **University of Johannesburg, South Africa**

*followed by the*

### Participation in the IFAT Africa 2025 trade fair:

Water, Sewage, Refuse and Recycling: Solutions for Sub-Saharan Africa

8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at the **Gallagher Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa**

#### Seminar aims and content

The integration of innovative water management strategies, sustainable agriculture methods, and wastewater re-use has become essential to addressing water, wastewater, and water security issues across Africa. The continent faces severe climate-related challenges, such as water scarcity due to prolonged droughts, desertification, and unsustainable water practices in arid and semi-arid regions. Climate change, evidenced by a global temperature increase of approximately to 1.2°C, further exacerbates these issues, disproportionately impacting developing countries with limited adaptive capacity, particularly in Africa. In response to these challenges, international frameworks, including the Paris Agreement, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), underscore the urgent need for adaptation in developing regions, particularly in water, energy, and food security.

To address these pressing issues, capacity-building initiatives in water resource management are crucial. These initiatives include specialised training aligned with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6, which advocates for universal access to clean water and sanitation. In addition, the training promotes sustainable water use, wastewater re-use, sustainable agricultural practices, and resource conservation through methods like agroecology and agroforestry that bolster climate resilience. This project, therefore, will provide capacity-building seminars for 25 water management professionals, alumni, and environmental educators from Africa, with a focus on sustainable water management, climate resilience, and environmental security. The seminars will cover essential topics, including efficient water use, wastewater treatment advancements, smart irrigation, water quality assessments, and agroecology. Participants will gain practical knowledge on water management and wastewater re-use through case studies showcasing successful interventions from academic and industry experts.

These capacity-building measures aim to foster competencies in sustainable water management across South Africa and other African regions by empowering alumni with skills in wastewater re-use, circular economy, and sustainable agricultural practices. Such training will equip water professionals to apply circular resource management models, emphasize material re-use, and reduce water wastage in their respective regions. These goals align with Germany's Circular Economy Act (KrWG), which emphasizes closed material cycles and efficient resource use. The act promotes conservation, minimizes water waste, and supports environmental protection through progressive water and waste management policies.

The project will include in-person training at the Centre of Ecological Intelligence at the University of Johannesburg in 2025, in conjunction with the IFAT Africa 2025 trade fair. This engagement will foster

networking and collaboration on water security, wastewater re-use, and circular economy principles. Experts from BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg, as well as speakers from IDOS Bonn, DWA, Hitachi Germany, and BTU's specialists in Environmental Law, Circular Economy, and Environmental Planning, will participate in these sessions. A long-term objective of this project is to establish partnerships between the University of Johannesburg's Centre of Ecological Intelligence and BTU Cottbus, thereby strengthening cross-regional connections and creating a foundation for ongoing exchanges, training, and cooperative efforts in water management and climate change adaptation between German and African institutions. This cross-regional partnership will serve as a foundation for capacity building and skill development in digitized water management, contributing to long-term resilience, sustainability, and security in water and sanitation across the Global South.

## Tentative training seminar programme

The training seminar programme will include:

### 1. Online phase (every Friday from 8<sup>th</sup> February – 16<sup>th</sup> May 2025, 2-hour sessions)

- Online seminars on topics such as: Introduction to climate change and EU regulations, status of water profiling: challenges and opportunities, efficient water management in agriculture, agriculture meets agro-ecology, sanitation in a post pandemic world, water-smart urban development, women in water and waste management, along with two information sessions for coordinating the in-person phase of the project in Johannesburg in July 2025.

### 2. In-person training seminar in Johannesburg (1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> July 2025):

- Sessions and workshops on topics such as: agro-ecology strategies for adapting to climate change impacts on smallholder crop farmers' livelihoods, water Resource management, and need of wastewater re-use in a warming world – case studies from Africa, African climate adaptation policies and measures from african union and the role of African development bank in financing climate adaptation, circular economy act and its implementation in Germany for wastewater, waste management, and resource reuse, and circular economy and waste regulations in South Africa and its implementation in the water and agricultural sector. The in-person session will also have networking sessions, brainstorming sessions, along with two Alumni presentations on Alumni presentation on Water resource management and wastewater re-use in Africa.
- Group work activities and professional networking opportunities with scientists and companies in the field of education and sustainability
- Field trips and cultural events to University of Mpumalanga and the Kruger National Park

The final training seminar programme will be published once all applications have been reviewed.

**It is necessary to participate in the whole programme:** online training seminar, training seminar in Johannesburg, trade fair IFAT 2025, and social activities.

The training seminar and the conference participation are supported by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) within the framework of the programme *SDG Alumni Projects: Knowledge and Practice for Development*, funded primarily by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) ([www.daad.de/sdg-alumni-projects](http://www.daad.de/sdg-alumni-projects)). The training sessions and conference participation are scheduled to coincide with the lead-up to the IFAT Africa 2025 trade fair (<https://ifat-africa.com/en/trade-fair/>) which is a regional knowledge-sharing and networking event focused on water management, wastewater re-use, and circular economy, offering a global forum where water experts, partners, and practitioners can share their experiences, knowledge, and emerging trends in water resource management. It serves as a premier platform for connecting practitioners, private sector actors, academia, and like-minded professionals in environmental resource management. The theme for IFAT Africa 2025, "Water, Sewage, Refuse, and Recycling: Solutions for Sub-Sahara-Africa", will allow alumni participants to gain insights into challenges and opportunities in water resource management, wastewater re-use, best practices, and connect with the broader pan-African water community.

The costs are mainly covered by funds from the DAAD provided by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

## Eligibility criteria for participation

This seminar targets **alumni of German universities / research institutions** (so called Germany alumni) who

- **are citizens of countries in the African Union listed on the OECD DAC list** ([https://au.int/en/member\\_states/countryprofiles2](https://au.int/en/member_states/countryprofiles2))
- **spent at least 3 months in Germany on professional errands** (study, training, teaching, research) OR which were funded within the framework of
  - the DAAD In-Country/In-Region Scholarship Program
  - the Centres of African Excellence or
  - the SDG Graduate Schools
  - the Excellence Centres for Exchange and Development – exceed
- **currently live and work in their home countries / in countries in the African Union** listed on the OECD DAC list.

### Successful applicants have:

- (1) **Demonstrated academic background** in water resource management, wastewater re-use, sustainable agriculture, circular economy, and climate change adaptation or related fields,
- (2) **Professional experience and personal interest** in higher education, research, development, governance, policy making, and the active involvement of local communities and stakeholders,
- (3) **Potential to act as multipliers** who will disseminate training seminar contents and results in their home countries / regions / academic institutions and thus inspire and trigger ideas and projects for regional implementation,
- (4) **Adequate English language proficiency** to actively participate in the workshops and discussions.

**Eligibility for repeated attendance at SDG Alumni Projects:** Alumni are eligible to participate in up to two SDG Alumni Projects within four years. The year of participation, not the year of application, is decisive for the calculation: This rule does not apply for attendance in a completely digital SDG Alumni Project.

## Cost coverage

- International return ticket to Johannesburg and from Johannesburg and airport transfer to hotel (lowest possible economy class airfare – up to a maximum grant of **€ 900** (in case the flight budget does not allow for a full flight reimbursement))
- Local transport in Johannesburg on excursions and during the IFAT Africa 2025 trade fair in Johannesburg
- Accommodation and partial living expenses during the stay in Johannesburg (training seminar and trade fair phase)
- Registration fees for the IFAT Africa 2025 trade fair
- Visa costs (max. 35 Euro)
- Travel health insurance (max. 35 Euro)

### Please note:

Any other than the above-mentioned costs **must be covered by the participants**, i.e., particularly:

- Transport between the participants' place of residence and the national airport.
- Travel costs associated with participants' visa application in their country of residence.
- Local transport in Johannesburg for private errands not associated with the seminar/ trade fair.

In case of a self-inflicted no-show, the costs must be covered by the participant. Rebooking can only be considered in exceptional cases and only after consultation.

**Extensions of stays before or after the official programme are possible for up to 5 working days upon submission of a comparison of flight ticket prices before booking the ticket.** Any additional cost incurred (airfare, travel, accommodation, subsistence, other) by deviating from the official arrival / return date (see below) must be borne by the participants. Participants must organize their accommodation for extension periods themselves and must make sure to have sufficient health insurance coverage.

**Extensions beyond 5 days** may be granted by DAAD **only upon prior application** and **only for official purposes** (e.g. professional visits to universities, organisations, institutions, companies). Such extensions must be applied for well in advance and approved by DAAD beforehand. They must be substantiated by official invitations, agreed work plans and schedules of visits by the respective host organisations. Plans for such extensions must be communicated well in advance – possibly already with the application for this SDG Alumni Project.

## Travel dates

30 <sup>th</sup>	June 2025	Arrival in Johannesburg, South Africa
1 <sup>st</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup>	July 2025	Training seminar in Johannesburg, South Africa
8 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup>	July 2025	Participation in the IFAT Africa 2025 in Johannesburg
11 <sup>th</sup>	July 2025	Individual departures of Alumni participants

**Attendance is compulsory for the preceding online seminars, the in-person training seminars in Johannesburg to the last day of the IFAT Africa 2025 in Johannesburg, South Africa.**

**The online training seminar will take place from 8<sup>th</sup> February – 16<sup>th</sup> May 2025, every Friday, 2-hour sessions.**

## Application procedure – deadline: 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

Applications (in English language) must include the following documents in **one single pdf file**:

- a **filled application form**: The form is available on: [https://www-docs.b-tu.de/fg-umweltrecht/public/2024/ACDC/BTU\\_Applic\\_Form\\_IFATAfrica25.docx](https://www-docs.b-tu.de/fg-umweltrecht/public/2024/ACDC/BTU_Applic_Form_IFATAfrica25.docx)  
Applicants should emphasize their motivation and professional / personal benefit of participation in the application form and illustrate how they plan to apply and disseminate the gained knowledge.
- a **short two page CV** with current and past professional appointments, publications, references, educational backgrounds, and relevant documentation of alumni status
- an **abstract (max. – 400 words) on the subject of** “Laws, Policy Formulation, and Implementation for Climate Change Adaptation and Circular Economy through wastewater re-use, water management and conservation, and sustainable agriculture” (font type “Arial” 11pt, 1.5 line spacing)
- a **short description of applicants’ present duties / position and of professional goals**, indicating envisaged field of activities and duty level
- an **overview** on seminars, workshops or conferences visited in Germany after completion of studies in Germany.

**The PDF-file should be named ‘Last name\_First name\_country’**

**(e.g., Shetye\_Niyanta\_Germany) and must be sent via email to:**

**[niyanta.shetye@b-tu.de](mailto:niyanta.shetye@b-tu.de) AND [mutezo.gamuchirai@gmail.com](mailto:mutezo.gamuchirai@gmail.com)**

**latest by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.**



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst  
German Academic Exchange Service

b.tu Brandenburg  
University of Technology  
Cottbus - Senftenberg



**Please note: Completeness of personal data in the online application form and concerning further documents will affect eligibility.** Applicants will be notified upon review by the selection committee and will be called for a short interview by BTU Cottbus and University of Johannesburg approx. mid of January 2025.

**For further questions**, please contact

Mr. Niyanta Shetye ([niyanta.shetye@b-tu.de](mailto:niyanta.shetye@b-tu.de))

Cottbus, November 2024

Supported by:



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst  
German Academic Exchange Service

b.tu Brandenburg  
University of Technology  
Cottbus - Senftenberg

