Geosciences Information for Teachers (GIFT) workshop in Cape Town, South Africa

27-28 August 2016

by Leena Mpingana Iileka-Shinavene

A two day workshop on Geosciences Information for Teachers (GIFT) with the theme "The Mineral Resources and Natural Hazards" was held in Cape Town, South Africa during the 35th annual International Geological Congress in August 2016. This Congress made a provision of the Geosciences Information For Teachers (GIFT) for the first time in South Africa as it only takes place mostly in European Countries. The GIFT was attended mostly by South African Teachers, five teachers from Namibia and few from Nigeria.



The Namibian delegates (1. From the left- Mr. Benjamin Ambambi (Delta PS, Ms. Leena Iileka-Shinavene Van Rhyn PS, Mrs. Ingenesia Katjinaani (Fidel Castro PS) , Mr. Flanan Sikopo (Jan Jonker Secondary School) and Mr. Leon Husselman (M&K. Gertze High School)

Teachers were taken on the tour around the whole museum with interesting fossils and history of different animals (**Aqua and terrestrial).**





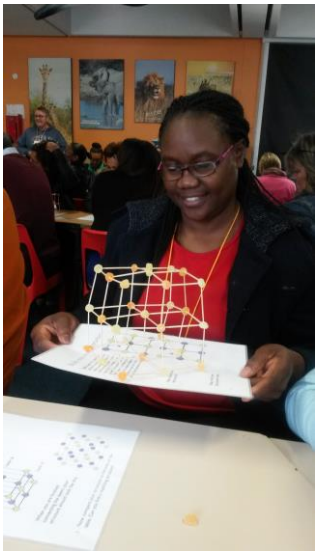
The whole delegation group photo- not all

During the workshop the teachers attended many theory sessions and hand-on activities presented by many different scientists from South Africa, who have specialised in wider areas of mineral resources and natural hazards.



Pro. Chris demonstrating how valuable ores may become concentrated on the river banks by the action of water movement.





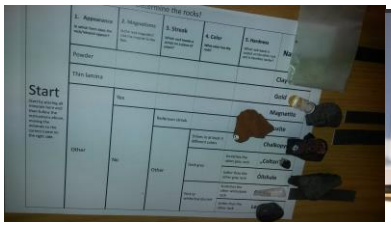
Some of the hand-on activities during the workshop: <u>Building atoms forming the different crystals.</u>

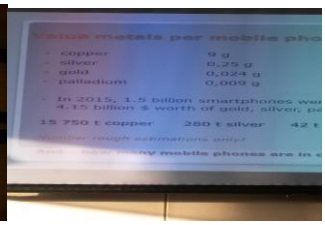
Some more of the hand – on activities: (At the bottom)↓

1. Disassembled the mobile phones to identify the type of raw materials in them.

2&3. Identifying the raw materials from different items (rocks/ores**)**

1. 
2. 

3. 



Additional to the GIFT workshop I attended in Vienna, Austria in April 2016, this has been a bonus on top of what I have learnt. This was an experience which could not be missed by any passionate teacher should it be accessible to most. If only financial situations could be better off, it would be a great opportunity for each and every teacher by chances.
However I would like to greatly thank Ms Kombanda who still desires to reach out more to the very dedicated and passionate Science teachers, in order to give them this rare opportunity and to equip them for the next generation. This time she has worked very tiresomely to ensure that at least five (5) Namibian teachers attend the GIFT workshop in South Africa. It was not easy and is not, to find funding that covers all five teachers plus three young scientists. Therefore to attend this workshop I see that is not just for the fun of it but to have a greater responsibility/task to share with the rest of the teachers who did not get an opportunity in such workshops. To apply in class what one has learnt and experienced from the workshop.
I was so excited to attend this workshop with more of my colleagues who I know they will give full support in all we plan together so we can get other dedicated teachers on board and form a dynamic team, which one day will present something similar in Namibia with full support from the Ministry of Mines and Energy.

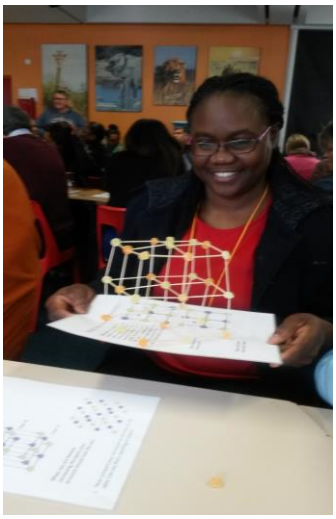
We thank also FNB, Namibia for sponsoring our accommodation expenses and all necessities. I acknowledge my school, specifically the principal and the whole management for supporting me in full with all motivations and encouragement to continue with passion in my subject area.
As I did the presentation previously from Vienna GIFT workshop, I still plan to do the same to a wider level, because with my colleagues as a team we can do more and prepare a regional presentation should we get regional directorate permission.



About Leena Mpingana Iileka-Shinavene

Leena Mpingana Iileka-Shinavene is a science teacher at Van Rhyn Primary School. Since 2003 she has taught Natural Sciences to grade 5, 6 and 7 pupils. Her pupils regularly participate in out-of-the classroom science activities such as science fairs and trips. She is on the lookout for new ways to teach science in the classroom.





Our delegation trip to the Cape Town GIFT workshop was supported by the FNB,Namibia and Trip Travel.