

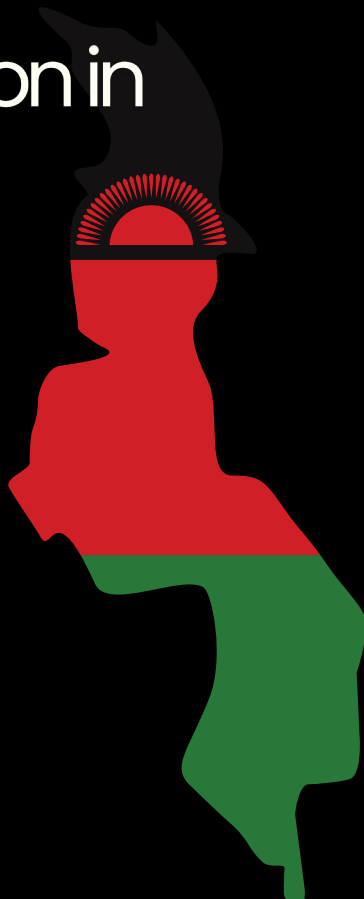


# Building a sustainable future: A collaborative approach to greening construction in Malawi

As Malawi continues to develop, the construction sector presents a unique opportunity to promote sustainable practices. Green construction focuses on minimising environmental impact while maximising resource efficiency. Exeter College, NOCN, Outsourcery Services LLP and 4 Malawi vocational colleges have come together to explore the skills needed to foster green construction in Malawi, addressing current gaps and proposing pathways for improvement through innovative curriculum development.

The partnership has focussed on the sharing of best practice regarding the highly successful Green Construction Advisory Panel (GCAP) that Exeter College pioneered in the UK. GCAP is a member-led committee of over 500 building services, housing, and construction businesses, supported by local authorities, charities and training providers across the United Kingdom. The group exists to improve and develop sustainable training and education opportunities for the housing and construction industry with the aim to close the skills gap throughout the UK.

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GCAP is now moving internationally and the ethos is set to build in Malawi. Mentoring and supporting the development of the Malawi GCAP partnership will help 4 partner Colleges in their aims to enhance quality, accessibility, innovation and efficiency in sustainable educational delivery whilst focussing on green construction practices.



This project, funded by The British Council has so far seen two overseas visits with a UK to Malawi visit in August 2024 to explore the possibilities around replication of the GCAP model and current curriculum models, followed by a group of Malawi College Principals and Ministry of Labour officials visiting the UK in October 2024.

Mike Blakeley, Executive Director for Apprenticeships and Partnerships went to Malawi to discover more about the Malawi curriculum.

***“ There is an appetite to develop sustainable practices and develop a culture of change and entrepreneurship in TEVET in Malawi. In August, I met with local employers, stakeholders and the Chamber of Commerce to see how a collaborative approach to curriculum development could benefit students, employers and the TEVET Colleges. We have started discussions around the GCAP model and how Exeter College’s approach to working with awarding body organisations such as NOCN, employers and stakeholders can foster innovative curriculum models, project-based learning and respond to evolving skills needs.”*** – Mike Blakeley – Executive for Apprenticeships and Partnerships

Malawi delegation at Exeter College



The Malawi visit to Exeter College in October 2024 focussed on green construction practices which included sustainable design, energy efficiency, sustainable waste management, student-led projects in green construction, public-private partnerships and attendance at the GCAP meeting. A curriculum development workshop with NOCN also took place.

Yusuf Josaya, College Principal at Nasawa Technical College states “The visit has helped me to enhance my mindset in the way green technology and construction is managed in the UK. The information gained will enable me to put in place appropriate measures to champion the green skills at my institution and within the TVET system in general.”

***“I am going to establish a student engagement project: A Green Club, encouraging students to participate in sustainability initiatives and projects”.***

Mbasa Mwawembe, College Principal at Mangochi Community Technical College

Benson Zigona at Salima Technical College, one of Malawi’s new Centre of Vocational Excellence Colleges (COVEs) is going to “improve the engagement of the industry to support TVET and start to introduce environmental management in the construction courses and introducing sustainable green skills in all construction and engineering programmes.”

The final part of the project will see Mike Blakeley return to Malawi in December 2024 to formalise the GCAP model by identifying key stakeholders and mapping out a GCAP implementation plan. Priority will also focus on the development of sustainable practices within the Colleges and build a culture of behaviour change around sustainability.

The transition to green construction in Malawi presents both challenges and opportunities. By focusing on the development of essential skills in sustainable design, renewable energy, waste management, and innovative collaboration, Malawi can create a robust green construction sector. Investment in education and training will be key to building a workforce capable of supporting this vital transformation. As the country embraces sustainable development, the potential for green construction to contribute to economic growth and environmental protection is significant.



Malawi delegation speaking at GCAP on 3rd October 2024

Funded by



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