

ISNAD-Africa Mentorship Experience

Mentor: Dr William Blyth, Chatham House UK

Mentee: Chipo Ruth Sitotombe, Pan African University, Algeria

Topic: Renewable Energy Integration “A System Dynamic Approach”, Case of Tanzania

This short report gives an account of my mentorship experience under the Mentoring for Research Programme (MRP) 2018.

I am humbled by this amazing opportunity awarded to me by ISNAD-Africa to be part of a programme that fosters quality research among young African learners. It has been quite an interesting time doing my research under the wings of an expert in the energy field, Dr. William. He dedicated his time and paid special attention to every detail in my work.

We started off just as I was beginning with my research and he was there to guide me every step of the way until he saw me through to the end. I had very little time to prepare my work and I did not think I would accomplish my objectives in time, but having a mentor made my work a lot easier. We held Skype Calls on the following dates:

- Friday 1 June 2018
- Friday 15 June 2018
- Friday 29 June 2018
- Friday 20 July 2018
- Thursday 26 July 2018

My research involved building a model and the discussions we had on Skype with Dr William played an instrumental role in ensuring that the models produced meaningful results. We would literally go point by point whenever we had to do any troubleshooting during the building of the model until the model started behaving in a manner in which we expected it to. In addition, Dr. William’s input helped me to have a better understanding of my research topic and that made arranging my research work a lot easier.

Supervisors are not always available because they get caught up in their busy schedules and in some cases, it affects students’ research work, but I was fortunate to have a mentor who filled in the gaps and complimented the work of my institutional supervisor. The quality of knowledge he imparted me during our conversations is invaluable and the successful completion of my thesis owes a lot to his dedication.

My heartfelt gratitude goes to Dr. William for his special guidance and to the organizers of the Mentoring for Research Programme (MRP), ISNAD-Africa for their tireless efforts to make this programme a success.