

WORLD SOCIAL SCIENCE FORUM 2018 ATTENDANCE REPORT

by
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1.0 Introduction

The fourth World Social Science Forum was hosted by Kyushu University from 25th to 29th September 2018. The forum was held at Fukuoka International Convention centre, Japan. I was privileged to be part of the presenters at the forum. The forum was attended by about 1000 participants from 60 countries. See the following link for more information about WSSF 2018, <http://www.wssf2018.org/wssf.html>. Following is a brief report about the forum.

2.0 About my poster presentation

I presented a paper through a poster on the third day of the forum (27th September, 2018). The title of the paper was, “Left behind in early mathematics teaching and learning in Malawi”. The paper was on the possible enablers of learning as well as possible challenges to early grade mathematics learning in Malawi.

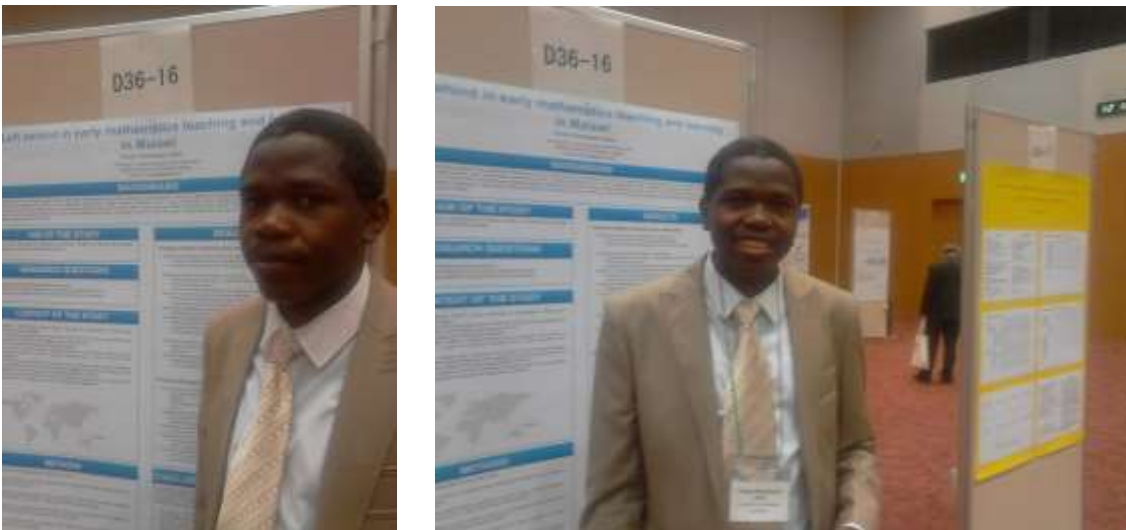


Figure 1: Poster session in progress.

3.0 Outcomes of the WSSF 2018 attendance

The following are what I consider to be the outcomes after having attended WSSF 2018;

- Presented my work to a global community and got feedback that will be helpful when I will be turning the poster into a journal manuscript.
- Met with people that I will network with – exchanged business cards with more than 10 people.
- Got exposed to examples of trans-disciplinary research which is highly promoted by WSSF.
- Got exposed to new knowledge, some which will have to be studied further and proposed to be included in the national curriculum in Malawi. Such knowledge areas include; decision science, deep learning, machine learning and big data.

4.0 Financial support for the trip

My participation to the conference was fully sponsored by NRF-DST (a grant holder linked bursary number 98573) through Prof E Henning (South Africa Research Chair: Integrated Studies of Learning Language, Science and Mathematics in the Primary School) and the Division of Internationalisation at the University of Johannesburg. The Division of Internationalisation provided a flight ticket while the rest of the financial support was covered by the grant holder linked bursary.

5.0 Conclusion

Attending WSSF 2018 accorded me a wonderful see, hear and learn experience in Japan. I am very grateful to NRF-DST through Prof E Henning (The Sarchi Chair) and the Division for Internalisation for providing financial support for me to attend the WSSF 2018. I am also very grateful to Nozipho Motolo, Delia Arends and Berneth Koopman for the great support they provided during the preparations for the trip.

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