



MULTIPRO 2015

INTERNATIONAL NEWS 2015

Experiences of International Students in Iisalmi

EDITORS: Pirjo Suhonen and Sanna Savela

SAVONIA UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES PL 6 (Microkatu 1), FI-70201 Kuopio savonia@savonia.fi www.savonia.fi

Editors: Pirjo Suhonen and Sanna Savela

Writers: Alexandra Adamecz, Frederik Dalton Nyakiti Ajwang, Lourenco Zacarias Júlio Ferro, Maria Theresa Filzer, Máté Hajzser, Uaraisa Kandiimuine, Laura Lechner, Florida Nyasha Danai Mlambo, Patroba Nabakwe

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Visual look and lay out: MultiPro 2015 – International Exchange Students and Pirjo Suhonen

E1/1/2015

ISBN 978-952-203-204-1

ISSN 1797-3384

Painettu julkaisu

ISBN 978-952-203-205-8

Sähköinen julkaisu:

ISSN 1797-3384

http://theseus.fi/handle/10024/1687

MultiPro 2015 International News

IISALMI

7 APRIL 2015

Editorial

The nine students of the International MultiPro group at Savonia University of Applied Sciences in Iisalmi come from Austria, Hungary, Kenia, Mozambique, Namibia and Spain. They have learnt during their stay different ways to communicate. This leaflet is one example of their work.

lisalmen Sanomat, the local newspaper, has published videos made by the exchange students and visiting teachers as well. In those videos students and teachers tell about their experiences in lisalmi and Finland and give greetings in their native language from their home counties. The video blogs can bee seen at lisalmen Sanomat:

http://www.iisalmensanomat.fi/ category/blogit/ international_savonia/ It has been a great experience for us as teachers to work with such talented and energetic students.

We hope that this leaflet with the students' articles gives you a diverse review of the experiences of the MultiPro students in Finland and at Savonia in lisalmi and of their own culture.



Photo by Jari Puustinen

Editor teachers Senior Lecturers Pirjo Suhonen and Sanna Savela

Savonia University of Applied Sciences Iisalmi

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Three months in Finland

Hello, I'm Lourenço **Júlio Ferro** and I was born in Mozambique on 24 August, 1992. My place of birth is Chimoio city which is located in Mania Province in Mozambique. I lived in Chimoio since the day I was born until January 2011 and then I left this city to live in Maputo.

I was in Maputo until 10 January, 2015 and I left this city when I travelled to Finland which is the last country where I have been to stay for three months. This last trip has been one of the great experiences I have had in my life.



Enjoying the time in the hostel with MPRO 2015 students Picture by Marie Filzer

2015



Mozambique - my home country

Mozambique is located in southern part of Africa at the coast line, and the area is 799,380 sq. km. There are 10 provinces including Maputo which is the capital city, and the official language is Portuguese.

The Mozambican economy is based in agriculture and the biggest faculty of Agriculture is FAEF (Faculdade de Agronomia e Engenharia Florestal) which operates at Eduardo Mondlane University where I am studying Agronomic Engineering.



Some differences between Mozambique and Finland

Actually I have found out that Mozambique is mostly deferent from Finland. In this article I describe the dissimilarities that I could see between Mozambique and Finland.

About the weather

My first week in Finland was so difficult. When I left Mozambique I did not have an idea of what kind of cold I would find. When I arrived at Helsinki airport I was almost crying because my hands and toes were frozen. The temperature was around -17°C and when I left Mozambique the temperature was around 31°C.

About entertainment at the winter time

In Mozambique, sports entertainments in winter time are almost the same as in summer time. People practice the same sports except swimming when it's cold. But in Finland I found out that there are different kinds of sports in winter and summer time because of the weather conditions.

During my first month in Finland it was a little bit difficult to walk in the streets and to know all the places I needed because of the weather. But one month later it became easy and I could I manage to walk and to know Iisalmi. I am happy to have had this chance to get to know Finland and to add more adventures to my history.



Winter activities in Iisalmi Picture by Lourenço Ferro

My appreciation about Multipro exchange program at Savonia University of Applied Sciences

During the MPRO exchange program I have learned a lot about agriculture and also about different cultures. This program brought to me the scientific and social components that I needed to be the man who is able to face the challenges in life. The MPRO program added my knowledge which I'll use for all my life. I have also had a lot of fun during the program. I have enjoyed interesting stud trips in Iisalmi and to other places. So actually all I need to say is that this program is great.



Visiting a Finnish farm.
Picture by Lourenço Ferro

Alpine pastures — Farming in the mountains

My name is Maria Theresa Filzer, I am 21 years old and I come from Tyrol, Austria. I study agrarian pedagogy in Vienna and want to become a teacher when I finish my studies. Every year my family and I spend the summer at our alpine pasture. My family includes my parents Nik and Marianne, my brothers Hannes and Christian and my sister Andrea.



Our cottage at 1,750 meters above the sea level

The begin of the summer

Alpine pasture farming has a long tradition in Austria. Every year in June my father and the farmers of our region bring their cows, heifers and calves to our alpine pasture. Usually we take care of about 50 dairy cows, 35 heifers and 15 calves. Also our goats, pigs and hens move with us to the alpine pasture.

After the arrival we split up the heifers in three groups. We herd each group to a different pasture where they will stay for a few weeks. The dairy cows and calves stay for 3 weeks at the lower cottage which is located at 1,450 meters above the sea level.

During the summer we walk a lot with the animals. We have to change the pastures from time to time to make sure that there will be enough fodder for the whole summer.

"Alpine pastures need a good management."

The vegetation period is very short in the mountains and it takes a lot of time till grass grows again. It is also important for the quality of the fields to make sure that the animals eat all the grass because if the grass is too old, the cows do not like to eat it anymore and other plants which are worthless start to grow. After a while also trees and shrubs grow and the actual size of the fields shrinks. Without a good management alpine pastures turn into forests again.



We walk the cows to the meadow

Herding in the mountains

After three weeks we walk with the cows up to the second cottage which is located at 1,750 meters above the sea level. This walk takes us normally about 2-3 hours. It depends on the mood of the cows how much time we actually need. We normally go and get the calves 3 days later and walk with them also to the upper hut.

Alpine pasture farming includes many difficulties. The

pastures are pretty steep, the weather is testier than in the valleys and work is mainly done by hand. The fields are split up in smaller meadows and we walk with the cows and calves to a different meadow every day. Every group has specific pastures which are adapted to the needs of the animals, e.g. calves and dairy cows get the best pastures available.

Life in the mountains



Panorama view from our upper cottage - sun rise



Our pigs enjoying the sunshine outside the barn

To live in a cottage

Life in the mountains is different than in the valleys. It is much simpler and you do not need so many technical things than at home. The washing machine is the most luxurious thing we own. There is no TV or PC but we do not miss them at all.

"Life is simple in the mountains."

You work the whole day outside in nature with the animals. There are much more important things to care about than TV programs. Since 2003 we have had electricity at one of our cottages. Before that we did not even have a street to reach our upper cottage. We had to walk if we wanted to get to the hut.

" Almabtrieb" — A tradition to celebrate a good summer

In September the animals go back home to their owners and we close the doors at our alpine pastures. If it was a good summer and all animals are healthy, we celebrate it with an "Almabtrieb". We walk with the animals down the mountain to the next village. There we dress the cows with small trees which are decorated with handmade paper flowers. After that we walk to Kitzbühel, our final destination, where we have a small party. The way from the cottage to Kitzbühel is about 18 kilometres long but it is a great tradition to end the summer.



Me, my brother Christian & my sister Andrea at the "Almabtrieb" with our goats arriving in Kitzbühel, our final destination

BARATON, A FRIEND TO SAVONIA



Sir Nabakwe the legendary

Halloo! My name is Nabakwe O. Patroba and I am a 26-year-old Kenyan citizen by birth. I am a third year student at the University of Eastern Africa, Baraton main campus. I study agriculture.

I am privileged to be among the MultiPro 2015 students in the peaceful land of sauna, Finland, and at Savonia University of Applied Sciences. I leave in the countryside of Kenya but my school is located in Baraton, in the evergreen Nandi County, Rift Valley Province approximately 50 km from Eldoret or 35 km from Eldoret International Airport and 9 km off Eldoret Kapsabet road.

UEAB was the first private institution to be chartered in 1991 by the Kenyan government. The university is owned and run by the Seventh-

day Adventist Church. It is based on the Seventh-day Adventist world view which holds that God is the Creator and Sustainer of the universe and life and is the source of true knowledge.

It is missioned to provide and advance holistic quality Christian education which develops men and women to be earnest seekers of truth and be adequately equipped with appropriate knowledge, skills and attitudes for service to God and humanity.

WITHIN KENYA

Kenya has its own unique and queer geographical features, different cultures, wild life social life and climate

Surrounding Baraton is the beautiful and peaceful land of Kenya wellendowed with natural resources and talents.

Kenya has its own unique and queer geographical features, different cultures, wild life, social life and climate which are extremely different from the ones I have seen here in Finland. We had a total of 44.35 million people by the year 2013. Kenya adds up to a total area of 582,650 Km². It has 42 tribes with 42 different languages, different dialects and cultures.

Let's throw a quick glance at the different cultural practices of the second biggest tribe of Kenya, the Luhya, to which I belong. It is found in the western part of Kenya and we uphold our traditional way of life. We carry out traditional child naming, circumcision, weddings, & burials up to date which are all accompanied by isikuti dance, bullfighting, cock fighting and local brew called "BUSAA".

We have our traditional food like finger millet, sorghum, ugali made from maize flour and nutritious indigenous green vegetables like blacknight shade etc. and forest fruits.

GEORGIOUS GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES



UEAB Students in a cool nature reserve in Baraton

Our lakes, mountains, rift valley, natural forests, rivers and escapements give Kenya an appealing scenery for you and me to enjoy.

For instance, if you like mountain climbing there is Mt. Kenya, the second highest mountain in East Africa. The peak of this mountain is the only snow place in Kenya.

We also have numerous game parks with diverse wild life and vegetation as well as national museums with fascinating ancient histories.

Kenya is also blessed with big lakes like Lake Nakuru which has beautiful Flamingo birds. Lake Bogoria, which has a hot spring can literally boil an egg. The marine life is also interesting to have a close view at.

We Kenyans are also proud of our crying stone in Kakamega county which is the biggest tourist attraction site in the western province of Kenya. These scenes are just awesome to view. Come one come all and you'll be amazed.

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FROM AFRICA- KENYA TO EUROPE

When it came to my notice that I was supposed to fly to Finland, I had mixed feelings. It felt so nice to interact with new people abroad but sad saying goodbye to my family despite the fact that it was just for a while.

It actually felt strange to leave my home and travel to another continent yet so lucrative. I could not figure it out how life would be in a foreign, extremely cold white land but the warm welcome from Markus, and Marie at Kuopio airport gave me a vivid picture of how life would be.

All the eyes everywhere were friendly always promising peace and generosity, from lecturer's to fellow pedestrian's but the weather deemed so ruthless. For a fortnight, my lips were frozen by the time I reached school. I preferred staying indoors the whole day whenever

I had no lessons to attend. I had to learn to put on several layers of clothes by force.

Food was a problem both in the cafeteria and supermarket. I didn't know what to serve in the cafeteria nor to buy in the supermarket. I didn't know how to inquire in Finnish putting in mind that most of the people speak Finnish. Therefore I was compelled to use a sign language when need arose.



Photo by Mentor

SHORT POEM & A WISE SAYING

Thank You, Friend

Thank you, friend, for all the things

That mean so much to me--

For concern and understanding

You gave abundantly.

Thanks for listening with your heart;

For cheering me when I'm blue:

For bringing out the best in me;

And just for being you.

Thanks for in-depth conversation

That stimulated my brain;

For silly times we laughed out loud; For things I can't explain.

flaws and faults; For all the time you spend; For all the kind things that you did, Thank you; thank you,

friend.

For looking past my

By Florah Susan

And the wise men say "Never cut a tree down in the wintertime. Never make a negative decision in the low time. Never make your most important decisions when you are in your worst moods. Wait. Be patient. The storm will pass. The spring will come." take care bro.

"Never cut a tree down in the wintertime. Never make a negative decision in the low time. Never make your most important decisions when you are in your worst moods. Wait. Be patient. The storm will pass. The spring will come."

GOODBYE BRETHREN FROM ANOTHER MOTHER

I just happened to meet my brothers and sisters from another mother in Europe, very kind, generous and welcoming. True and very true, we are different colors but one people. You reading this are the brethren I am talking about and even though time comes for us to part, I will live to remember you buddies. Your culture amazes me, especially the sauna culture. I like the Lusto Museum. It is there I noticed you also have funny beliefs like a bear is sacred etc. I didn't expect to hear that though. I loved playing baseball on Saturday nights with my new Seventh-day Adventist Church mates at Kirkonsalmen koulu.

I will miss the delicious food. I am glad to interact and learn a lot from the Finish.

GOODBYES ARE NOT FOREVER. GOODBYES ARE NOT THE END. THEY SIMPLY MEAN I'LL MISS YOU UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN!

Nabakwe O. Patroba



MPRO 2015 STUDENTS. Photo by Lourenco

Namibia: The Rainbow Nation

County where the sun always shines

Namibia is quite mountainous with the highest peak being 2606 meters above sea level.

Florida Mlambo is my name and I am 19 years old. Zimbabwe is my home country but I have spent most of my life in Namibia with my family. I am a social work student from the University of Namibia but currently I am part of the Multipro programme at Savonia.



Namibia is located in Southern Africa, it has a population of about 2 million people. It is a dry country and has three seasons, spring, autumn, sum-Temperatures can range from about 35 degrees and to extremely cold conditions which is -1 in Namibia. So it was quite an adjustment for me to come to a country where temperatures can drop as low as -35 degrees. Namibia is quite mountainous with the highest peak being 2606 meters above sea level. It has beautiful landscapes despite it being a dry country.

The Namibian economy is fairly stable. Mining brings in half of the country's foreign earnings, and Namibia is the 4th largest producer of uranium in the world. Farming is the second most important industry most **Namibians** work in this sector. Fishing sector also contributes greatly to the economy, with snoek and hake being the most popular types of fish.

The total of the cultivable land in Namibia is estimated to be about 25 million hectares. Millet, corn and peanuts are the main crops which are grown



This is a an examplre of the traditional clothes we have in Namibia. The OVambo are the ones wearing the pink skirt and the Herero have the dress and the hat.

http://www.thevillager.com.na/articles/1727/

Tradition and Food

Namibia is one of the most diverse countries in terms of culture. There are 13 tribes in Namibia. Each tribe speaks a different language and has a unique and distinct way of dress-

ing. However the official languages are English, Afrikaans and German. Our staple food is Pap which is like a harder version of porridge. It is made from maize meal and we usually

have it with meat and vegetables. We have other delicacies like mopani worms, which are worms you fry in cooking oil. Believe me they taste better than they sound!

Namibia: The Rainbow Nation

Welfare system and Education

As a social work student I am quite impressed by the Finnish welfare. It was quite advanced, efficient and caters for every sector of the population even the unemployed. comparison to other African countries, Namibia's welfare system is quite good but there is still room for improvement. Unlike Finland, the education

system is only free at primary level, so we have to pay school fees in high school and higher education. My university has about 19 000 students and it is bigger compared to Savonia.



Me skiing in Paloisvuori

My university has about 19 000 students and it is bigger compared to Savonia



My family friend Pekka and Eeva at a ski cottage

Experience in Finland

The 11th of January is the day that I arrived in Finland, and I remember being hit by the coldest breeze ever. The time was 16:40 but it was already dark which was quite strange for me. As I exited the Kuopio airport, I got a glance of the snow which was a

beautiful sight for someone who had never seen snow. The week that followed was quite challenging, it was so cold I could barely feel my toes as I walked to school. Simple tasks like shopping became



Uaraisa and I during the cultural week

It was quite an adjustment being at a new school and the way of teaching was different. That however was a month ago and today I feel like at home in a foreign land. Sauna, coffee and skiing are the words I would use to describe Finland. My experience in Finland has been quite memorable so far. I

have had many great experiences like skiing, snowboarding and I have even been in the sauna and I enjoyed it a lot. The Finnish people are one of the nicest people who love their coffee and most importantly. My stay has been made easier by my Family friend Eeva and Pekka. We have been to concerts

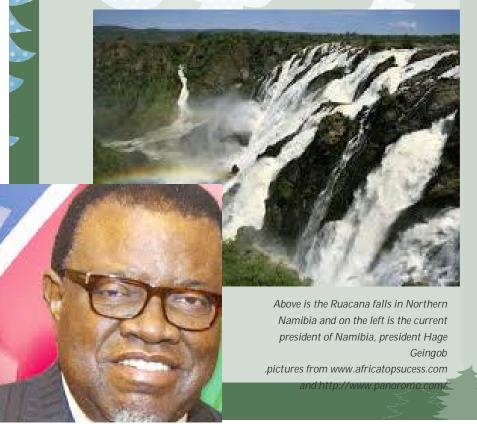
and we even went fold dancing. I really enjoyed that, most of the great experiences I have experienced have been with them and I am just glad I met them. Our parents in a foreign land, overall I am having a great and memorable time here in Finland.

NAMIBIA IN FINLAND

My name is Uaraisa Kandiimuine. I am 19 years old and I am an exchange student from Namibia. Currently I study at Savonia University of Applied Sciences but originally I am from the University of Namibia and I am a social work student there. The exchange period I spent here in Finland has been very interesting so far, especially in terms of the weather differences. I was so used to experiencing warm weather that the Finnish cold weather was a bit of a shock during the first week. In this article I will share some basic information about Namibia and also my experiences here in Finland with regards to the Finnish culture that I found to be interesting and quite different.

Namibian History

Namibia was colonised first by Germany and later by South Africa. The system of apartheid was practiced and people's rights, privileges and working professions were determined by skin colour. Namibia achieved its independence on 21 March 1990 after the war against the South African regime.



2015



The current situation in Namibia

Today Namibia is an independent country and there is political stability throughout the country. The presidential elections are held every 5 years. Last year in November we had our presidential election and our new president is Hage Geingob. Every citizen can register to vote provided that the person is 18 years and above.

Natural beauty of Namibia

Namibia is a very dry country so water is considered to be a very precious resource. The Ruacana falls, found in Northern Namibia, is therefore a breath-taking sight to see especially during the flood period. Another beauty to behold in Namibia is the different ethnic groups. There are about 13 ethnic groups and each has its own dialect, food and way of dressing. The San and the Himba are very special and quite popular groups because they still maintain their primitive way of dressing and living.

Namibian girl with Finnish experience

Silence is absolutely normal

My experience here has given me the opportunity to learn about the Finnish culture which is different from my own culture. At first I thought the Finns were hostile because of their long periods of silence and their seemingly stone face composure, but I discovered that silence is actually a part of the Finnish culture and it is a normal part of Finnish interaction.

I found out that the Finns are not hostile at all. They are actually very helpful, kind and caring people and once you approach them and talk to them the "stone face composure" disappears and is replaced with a very kind smile. The silence and the "stone face composure" were new to me because where I come from we are quite talkative and sometimes always smiling even while walking.





Finnish rye bread is a highlight

There is also one delicious aspect of the Finnish culture I discovered and that is rye bread (dark bread typically eaten in Finland). This bread is served with every meal, so is milk and to me this was a very unique experience because in Namibia we don't have this bread and I don't think we drink milk as much as the Finns do. The Finnish rye bread marked one of my favourite highlights of my experience here in Finland.

Sauna best invention ever!

Another important part of the Finnish culture is the sauna. At first it was really difficult to understand how it could possibly be normal to go into a heated room with no clothes on, but after I experienced it I found out that it is so relaxing and so soothing. It was such a wonderful experience that I even went "swimming" in the snow and that seemed like a crazy thing to do at first.



The sauna. Picture from www.hotelbergzeit.at

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Traditional food in Hungary

These days the consumption of traditional Hungarian food is an important part of the diet of Hungarian consumers, and this is the root of the Hungarian food industry as well

My name is Alexandra Adamecz and I am a 22-year-old exchange student from Hungary. I am really glad to be here in Finland during this 3 months with the Erasmus scholarship. I am an agriculture student in Hungary and my profession in future will be a food engineer. That is why I would like to tell about the role of the food industry in Hungary and I would like to introduce some traditional Hungarian food as well.



Invitation to a day of traditional Hungarian foods

The food industry in Hungary

The Hungarian food industry still uses the traditional methods of preservation such as smoking and pickling. The food industry in Hungary contributes to the continuance of the national traditions with saving some traditional method of selling products.

There are some traditional Hungarian food and now I would like to introduce you some of these.



The branding logo of the goodquality Hungarian foods

"The food industry in Hungary contribute to the continuance of the national traditions with saving some traditional method of selling products. "

Wine

Hungary is a good wine-producing region. The total area of the country is suitable for viticulture. As our country lies on the northern border of viticulture, the growing season is usually long and this results in wine with rich aromas and flavors. There are many high-quality white, red and rosé wine beyond the world-famous Tokaj wine.



Traditional Hungarian wines

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Brandy

World-renowned, uniquely mellow brandy, that representing Hungary all over the world. The climatic conditions of our country are favourable for fruit production. The Hungarian brandy, called pálinka is very tasty and it cannot be compared with other brandies made in other parts of the world. The pálinka reflect truly the taste and odor of the fruit that is used for making it. The temperature of consumption is 18-20 ° C, and pálinka is usually served in a special glass.



It is the most delicious kind of pálinka, the Panyolai

Smoked sausage

The Hungarian sausage is made from minced pork meat which is filled in the laundered thin intestines of the pig. It is preserved by salting, drying and smoking in cool air. The sausage is pleasantly smoked, with harmonious taste, and often spicy because of paprika. Paprika is a kind of spice in Hungary that gives a really decisive taste to food, and it has red color



Hungarian smoked sausage made in Gyula

Scone with greaves

Scone with graves has a circular, cylindrical shape. It is 3-5 cm in diameter and consists of roasted scone and pork fat. These scones are savory pastries with salt and pepper flavor, and with crispy or folded leaf texture.

I hope that if you come to Hungary some time, you will taste some of these because it would be a mistake to skip them because of they have very delicious taste.



Traditional Hungarian homemade scone with greaves

Photos: magyar jellegzetességek

Writer: Alexandra Adamecz

How it is to live in lisalmi Hostel in Finland

My name is **Laura Lechner** and I am twenty years old. I am studying agrarian pedagogy in Vienna at University College for Agrarian and Environmental Pedagogy.

At the moment I am part of the MulitPro group 2015. Here in Finland I participate in agricultural courses and lectures and try to improve my knowledge.

When I'm not at the Savonia campus, you can probably find me in the hostel in Iisalmi. That's the place where all the MultiPro exchange students live. It is a place where many different cultures converge. A place of joy and fun, where you probably won't be able to ever feel alone. It's a place where people come and go. A place where new friendships arise.

The hostel contains a small living room where we can sit down after a busy school day and watch TV or just relax, a room for the laundry and a kitchen.

The kitchen is probably the most important room because this is the place where we sometimes sit all together and chat or celebrate birthdays. It is the "get together room".

And last but not least there are many rooms where you can get privacy. There we do our schoolwork and it is also the place where we can simply enjoy silence if we are stressed.

As you can see, the hostel is a place where you can find everything you need to have a good time in Finland.

A place of joy and fun and a place where friendships arise.



Exchange students of the MultiPro Group 2015 in the hostel before our International Evening (I am the girl on the showlders)

20th of August - the Annual Anniversary of Foundation of State in Hungary

My name is Máté Hajzser. I came to lisalmi from Hungary for a 3-month student exchange period. Currently I learn at Savonia University of Applied Sciences about the agriculture all around the world. But now I won't speak about agribusiness because I would like to present you one national Hungarian feast.

What do we celebrate?

On the 20th of August we celebrate the foundation of the Hungarian state. On 1 January 1001 our first Christian king Saint Steven the first got his crown from pope Sylvester the second. After the King´s death in 1038 the church impregnated him to Saint on the 20th of August. This is why we celebrate on this day.

We celebrate the first bread of the year that was baked from the freshly harvested wheat. The Hungarian Bishop endue it, by cutting a cross to the bread.

How does the day go?

Nowadays in Hungary on this day people don't work. We have a lot of festivals and programs and these are pretty good fun for the whole family.



-Stand at a streer sale



-Firework in Budapest (National TV)



-Horse show and flag crabbing



- The "New bread" of the year



- Army parade on the main square



-Flower parade car

People can go to the National Opera House to see the nice operas about our first King. In the theaters they play the Steven the King that is a popular musical about him. People can watch concerts too on outside stages in a lot of music styles from multifarious musicians.

We have a lot of sales on the streets on instant stands. People can eat delicious national food, taste handmade sweets and cakes and you can also drink Hungarian beer, vines and hundred kinds of Palinka which is our national drink. The markets offer homemade beer too which you can't find in the shops on the other days of the year.

At the end of the day in Budapest we have the biggest firework of the year. Thousands of people watch it from the piers and bridges of the Danube. It usually starts at 10 p.m. when it's already dark to be able to see its full beauty.

Are you interested in?

If you ever come to Hungary my advise is to stay there this day too. I'm sure that you will enjoy it very much and that you will spend a really good time in our country.

I hope I piqued your attendance about Hungary, and you will visit us soon!

-pictures: Google.com

TALE OF AN EXCHANGE STUDENT

Mul ti Pro2015

My name is Fredrick Dalton Nyakiti Ajwang and I am an exchange program student 2015 at Savonia University of Applied Sciences. I am a third year at Maseno University, Kenya. I am a Bachelor of Arts Criminology student.

I am a sociable and outgoing guy who is so focused and committed to his academics. I am a MultiPro2015 student here at Savonia UAS. I chose to take part in this exchange programme because Savonia University is one of the leading universities offering applied sciences in the world.



Myself at Maseno

I chose to represent Maseno University in this programme so that I could broaden my global perspective on criminology and social service in general. I am looking forward to broaden my friendship and professional network as the exchange has given such an opportunity. I would like to use the experience gained during this exchange programme to enhance my career now and in the future.

The understanding of Finnish culture will be an advantage to me owing to the fact I have never been in Europe before. Thus it would be a starting point to know the cultural aspects of values and customs of the Finnish people and Europeans. This knowledge of culture will be a valuable and significant asset to my educational life.

EXPERIENCE IN FINLAND



MultiPro2015 students.

Photo by Pirjo Suhonen

I am two weeks old here in Iisalmi, Finland and the experiences are good so far. I came here when the temperature was very low and it was really challenging for me but I have adapted. It has been awesome being here.

Meeting and spending time with other MultiPro2015 students has been the most wonderful thing to me here in Finland. It is amazing how lovely, friendly and a family they have been to me. I am really humbled how these ladies and gentlemen from other countries all over the world have been. Precisely I would call them "brethren from another mother". These guys are so lovely.

Our time in lectures have always been good ones. Without mentioning our lovely, dedicated, and gifted lecturers. My *Communication skills* course teacher has been very patient with me guiding

me in every step in the course; it is just humbling how polite and motherly she has been while offering her guidance to us in class. It cannot escape me to mention how good and kind the students at Savonia have been to me especially the tutor student Markus. This is an unforgettable experience. Secondly, I have been able to go for ice-skating and it was total fun. I love being at Savonia because without the opportunity that Savonia offered me I would not be able to be here and have this fun.

Savonia UAS is a destination that every international student would wish to be. The life

I and my mentor, a friend Photo by

here is good and friendly. The conducive and friendly environment is quite best for education.

This is the most awesome experience one could

have in the entire academic life, exchanging ideas, socializing and having fun all simultaneously.



MY SCHOOL (MASENO UNIVERSITY)



Maseno University, photo from buzzkenya.com/wpuploads/2013/08/

Maseno University

- Founded in 1991
- Located in Western Kenya on the Equator (00)
- A destination for many who wish to pursue their career for example in social service or sociology, economics, education and nursing
- Has about 10,000 students
- Only pioneer university offering elearning studies in Kenya.
 READ MORE ON MASENO UNIVERSITY: http://www.maseno.ac.ke



I and classmates at Maseno University Lectures Complex

KENYA AND ITS CULTURE



Maasai morans, photo from www.nomads.org

The following are few facts about Kenya;

- A diverse country with 43 ethnic groups. Among these are 5 major communities consisting of the Kikuyu, Luo, Kamba, Luhya and Kalenjins. Each tribe speaks its own dialect.
- The official languages are English and Swahili
- Some communities such as Maasai stay knit to their traditional cultures like wearing the traditional clothes "the kitenges" as shown in the picture.
- Kenyan Music is spiced by the famous musical rhythm from the Luo music called benga and ohangla. The two are mostly liked for their native aspect such as items like as "nyatiti",drum ("bul") among the Luo.
- Benga and ohangla music originates from the Luo but this name differs in other communities and their slow nature which then make them referred to as colloquially as "muziki bila jasho" literally meaning music with no sweat.
- Marriages are either monogamous or polygamous and mostly done traditionally.

There are many religions although the majority of the population belongs to the mainstream religions such as Catholic, Seventh Day Adventist, Protestant and the Islam.

Kenyan staple dish is "ugali" which is made from corn flour which every community has its own word for refer-

ring to it. For example the Luo calls it "Kuon", the Luhya "Obusuma" and the Kikuyu "Ngima". Kenyans especially the Luo are also fish lovers. Fish is most caught from Lake Victoria which is located in the Western part of Kenya.



Ugali and fish

 Kenyans love their local beer ("busaa").



Kenyans in Malaba taking busaa

READ MORE ABOUT KENYAN CULTURE:

- 1. http://www.magicalkenya.com/
- 2. http://www.africaguide.com/country/kenya/culture.htm



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