

25 September 2009

Working Together: Stevenson College Edinburgh signs agreement with Soche Technical College Malawi

Today at Stevenson College Edinburgh, the Principal Brian Lister and Guy Kawanga Principal of Soche Technical College Blantyre, Malawi signed a formal agreement to work in partnership to further develop both staff and resources for the continued improvement of college provision in Malawi.

A delegation visiting the College this week included nine principals from Malawian colleges, two government officials and one delegate from the Ministry of Education. The visit is part of a major 18 month program supported by Scotland's Colleges International and part of the Scottish Government's Malawi programme.

Principal, Stevenson College Edinburgh, Brian Lister OBE said:

"We are delighted to welcome our guests from Malawi to Stevenson College and formally give our commitment to help them with vocational education and training in their colleges. Through sharing ideas and best practice we hope to support the colleges of Malawi, improve education for their students and ultimately for those students to make a positive contribution to the economy."

The week-long visit included meeting Marilyn Livingstone MSP at the Scottish Parliament and Fiona Hislop MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning. The aim of the visit was to share common issues and challenges facing both countries but importantly provide the principals with tangible examples of good practice in the vocational education field.

On Thursday, Mr Guy Kawanga and Rogers Chandidya from TEVETA(Malawi's national body responsible for qualifications) spent the day at SCE with Heather Sutherland, Secretary of SCE African Project (SCEAP) and members of the Senior Management Team. Heather said:

"This is an exciting opportunity to meet with Guy and Rogers and find out firsthand what we can do to support the students in Soche Technical College. The twinning will allow us to liaise more closely with staff and students in Malawi and give our fund-raising more focus".

Guy Kawanga was also presented with a cheque for £500 by members of SCEAP who raised funds through various events including a ceilidh. The funds will be used by Soche Technical College to pay the tuition fees and board for five students with disabilities at the College thereby supporting the drive to achieve equality of opportunity.

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