

TAA Scotland Branch
Curry Lunch Meeting
Mother India in Edinburgh
12 Aug 2016.

Those present were: Katheryn Chipperfield, Clari Burrell, Alistair Allan, Euan Thompson, Trevor Abell, Charles Howie and John Ferguson.

This was the first informal TAA meeting to take place in Scotland and was well received.

Priorities

After eating, we had a short discussion. To start things off, I asked “What is the role of TAA Scotland?” The following is a summary of the responses:

1. To help students start in their careers and find masters projects
2. To link with a university (e.g. Edinburgh)
3. To collaborate with the Scottish Government international development programme
4. To link between European and African agriculture and to learn lessons from both
5. Networking (Katherine got her current job as a result of our first TAA Scotland conference)
6. To extend knowledge in new subject areas (e.g. aquaculture)

Proposed Actions

Following on from these priorities, we developed the following ideas / actions:

- John arranged a meeting with Ola Uduku, the Associate Dean for Africa at the University of Edinburgh. We agreed on three areas for collaboration – encouraging student TAA membership for job adverts, inviting students to TAA events, and finding a way of retired TAA members assisting students as they embark on their Masters studies.
- John made contact with Ryan McQuigg, who chairs the Scottish Parliament’s International development Cross-party group and he will be invited to their next meeting, on behalf of TAA.
- There was a consensus that it is not practical to expect members in Scotland to travel to the south of England for the AGM or Hugh Bunting Memorial lecture and a request to see if these could be live streamed to Edinburgh. This is being handled by Alex Tasker (ExCo).
- We agreed to continue curry lunches at least twice a year.
- We agreed to hold our next meeting in November on the subject of “The impact of climate change on agriculture in Scotland and Africa”
- We also agreed to hold a following meeting on the subject of renewable energy in both developed and developing countries.

John Ferguson

Branch Convenor