Implementation of a master in renewable energies in developing country: EPIC project

Andrés Fullana1* and Oana M. Driha2, 3

1Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Alicante, Alicante, Campus de San Vicente del Raspeig, Spain
2Department of Applied Economics, University of Alicante, Alicante, Campus de San Vicente del Raspeig, Spain
3International Project Management Office, University of Alicante, Alicante, Campus de San Vicente del Raspeig, Spain

Accepted for publication on 6th July 2016

Under the framework of the ACP-EU Cooperation Programme in Higher Education (EDULINK II), a programme of the ACP Group of States with the financial support of the European Union, Renewable energy in Pacific islands: Developing Skills and Capacity (EPIC) project was implemented given the challenges faced by the society of Pacific Islands. With the objective of designing master programmes in Renewable Energy according to the needs of Fiji and Papua New Guinea context an analytical assessment of the current situation was carried out. Moreover, capacity building on curriculum development, knowledge transfer for course lecturers and development of master courses was performed. After the development of the curriculum of the entire programme, the accreditation process by the corresponding authority was executed. The master programmes will be delivered starting with February 2017 at the University of Fiji and at the University of Papua New Guinea. Furthermore, a Centre of Renewable Energy in Fiji and another one in Papua New Guinea were created with the aim of facilitating research and collaboration in the field of renewable energy among higher education institutions and business community. Additionally, two Regional Conferences in Renewable Energy with local, national, regional and international participation are included under the umbrella of EPIC boosting future collaboration in Renewable Energy at regional and international level. The University of Papua New Guinea held the first Regional Conference last November 2015, while the University of Fiji will host the second one in September 2016.

Keywords: energy, challenges, renewable energy master programme, centre of renewable energy, Fiji, Papua New Guinea