



**Australia Awards**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

# **Australia helps to build a Rwanda Alumni Network**

**Kigali, 21 May 2015**

Australia is supporting Rwanda's development by building the capacity of Rwandan professionals. Since 2008, 84 Rwandans have been funded by the Australia Awards program to study in areas such as agriculture, governance, health, mining, education, environment and sanitation.

On 21 May Australia helped Alumni take the first steps towards building an Alumni Association through a two day Capacity Building workshop in Kigali. The event brought together 22 returned Alumni, representatives from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), and officials from key Rwandan Ministries.

Mr Emmanuel Nkezabera, the Australia Awards Alumni representative in Rwanda, graduated in 2012 with a Masters in International Public Health from the University of Sydney. Mr Nkezabera said, that he "...is better equipped professionally, academically and socially to champion development in Rwanda".

"I am pleased to see the first steps being made to establish a Rwanda-Australia Alumni Association. Our relationship doesn't stop when an Alumni returns home. We will continue to work together to assist Alumni with their professional development and support" said Australian High Commissioner-designate to Rwanda, John Feakes.

### **Background**

Australia Awards are scholarships that the Australian Government offers to citizens from developing countries around the globe. The Australia Awards Program has a growing number of Alumni across Africa. On their return to the workplace, Australia Awards Alumni are expected to contribute actively to development in their home countries.

More information on Australia Awards in Africa is available on the website:

<http://www.australiaawardsafrica.org>

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