



Professor Stephanie Burton, vice-principal of the University of Pretoria, Kabre Ousmane, a participant from Burkina Faso, Australian high commissioner to SA Ann Harrap and Moumouni Fabre, the ambassador of Burkina Faso to SA, were among guests who gathered at the Australian embassy for the official welcoming of participants to a three-week course in modern diplomacy.

PICTURE: SIZWE NDIANGANE

UP joins Australia in honing envoys' skills

YOLANDE DU PREEZ

THE UNIVERSITY of Pretoria will assist the Australian government to train 290 African participants from 40 countries to become better diplomats through diplomatic training courses.

"Sharing ideas, swapping experiences and learning from each other to become better diplomats are the main purpose of the training courses," said Australian High Commissioner Ann Harrap at a ceremony to welcome the participants at the high commission.

Harrap said this was the fifth

training course funded by the Australian government and the second to be held in SA.

"By the end of the year we would have completed eight training courses," she said.

From June 4 to 22, 32 diplomats from African countries including Burkina Faso, Guinea, Angola and Cape Verde Island will be attending a customised diplomatic training course at the main campus of the University of Pretoria.

The participants are all mid-career foreign ministry officials from mostly francophone African states.

The training course, which is a partnership between the University of Pretoria, the University of Queensland and the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre, will educate diplomats on the history of diplomacy, international relations, consular and crisis management, protocol and representational skills, among others.

During the three-week course, lecturers from the University of Queensland will join their counterparts from the Department of Political Sciences at UP as well as experts from the Department of International Relations and Co-operation,

and embassies based in the city.

The course is delivered using an effective adult learning approach that provides participants with a range of tools that increase the efficiency and effectiveness of their foreign service practice.

The classes aim to sharpen the participants' skills in leadership and communications.

The African Regional Diplomacy training is funded by the Australian government, within the framework of its official development aid programme for Africa, specifically the Australia-Africa Partnerships Facility.