

Executive Summary: World Plumbing Council Scholarship Travel to Rwanda

Submitted by Daniel Rademacher

Introduction: In 2019, Daniel W. Rademacher was awarded the World Plumbing Council Education and Training Scholarship. Due to the pandemic, the scholarship travel to Rwanda was delayed until June 2023. The purpose of the trip was to support the efforts of the Rwanda Plumbers Organization (RPO) and contribute to the development of the plumbing industry in Rwanda. Accompanied by United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry of the United States and Canada (UA) Director of Plumbing Services and WPC Chairman Mr. Tom Bigley and Director of Education and Training Mr. Raymond Boyd, the five-day training event held at Rwanda Polytechnic/IPRC in Kigali aimed to enhance plumbing knowledge and promote the adoption of plumbing codes and standards in Rwanda.



Training Program: The Refresher Training Program on Residential, Commercial, and Industrial Plumbing Systems took place from June 26th to 30th, 2023. The event featured three experienced facilitators: Tom Bigley, Raymond Boyd and Daniel Rademacher. The program attracted over 130 attendees, including journeyman plumbers, instructors, plumbing engineers and government officials. The sessions covered various essential plumbing concepts, including definitions, drainage, venting, water supply, and more. Practical knowledge on designing, installing, and maintaining sewerage systems, as well as modern plumbing tools and equipment, was also emphasized.

Importance of Plumbing Codes and Standards: During the training, the facilitators stressed the significance of adopting plumbing codes and standards in Rwanda. The RPO officers effectively organized a meeting with Rwandan government officials, who expressed support for the implementation of a plumbing code. Recognizing the importance of qualified and licensed plumbers in protecting the country's water supply and developing its infrastructure, the government acknowledged that a well-regulated plumbing industry would be integral part in bringing safe, clean potable water as well as proper sanitation and hygiene to future generations of Rwanda citizens.



Future Prospects for the Rwandan Plumbing Industry: Rwanda, especially its capital, Kigali, with a population of 1.2 million, is in the early planning stages for a centralized sewer as well as a properly trained licensed plumbing industry. The Rwandan government realizes the need to address this demand and appreciates the efforts of the RPO in providing training and education to develop a skilled workforce. Licensed and qualified plumbers will play a vital role in Rwanda's growth and development.



Conclusion: The World Plumbing Council scholarship travel to Rwanda in June 2023 was a resounding success. The collaboration between international plumbing experts and the Rwanda Plumbers Organization (RPO) proved to be beneficial for both parties. Attendees gained valuable insights into essential plumbing concepts, while the Rwandan government recognized the importance of adopting plumbing codes and standards for the country's future development. The RPO's commitment to training and education will be instrumental in meeting the demand for skilled plumbers as Rwanda embarks on major infrastructure projects, such as the centralized sewer system in Kigali. The training event fostered global cooperation in the plumbing industry, contributing to the overall advancement of plumbing practices worldwide.







