Prize for best dissertation in MSc Environmental Health 2012

Title of dissertation: Variation of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon levels in soot from improved cook stoves and residential dust in rural Malawi

Kondwani Chidziwisano
Malawi

After completing BSc in Environmental Health at University of Malawi, I enrolled at University of Strathclyde to study MSc in Environmental Health. The course content is very comprehensive and covers important aspects of environmental health such as air pollution, water and environmental management, food hygiene, waste management and public health which are directly related to environmental health challenges in my home country Malawi. Considering the carcinogenic effects of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), my dissertation involved analysing the variation of such hydrocarbons in house dust and soot in rural Malawi. The study found that the PAH levels are high compared to WHO recommended standards; and this is detrimental to the residents in the rural areas particularly women and children. This project recommends strategies for local residents to follow that would reduce PAH emissions.