With pleasure the Mozambique Eyecare Project (MEP) team invites you to join in a celebratory event in Dublin on 25th September, 2014. We are delighted to have reached such a momentous stage and proud to have been instrumental in the generation of essential human resources for eye care in Mozambique.

In just over 5 years, the MEP has graduated 15 optometrists, to effectively double the number of eye care personnel serving the entire country and will continue to graduate 20–30 new optometrists annually. Our research has created important new knowledge in relation to north–south collaboration, the scale of avoidable blindness and the economic and societal benefit of optometry education and eye care service delivery in Mozambique.

The MEP has provided a sustainable solution to avoidable blindness, poverty and disadvantage and delivered benefits that impact on education, equality, health, livelihood and economic growth. We are confident that solid foundations have been laid from which to build a future of strength, sustainability and success in blindness prevention.

We would be delighted if you could join us in our celebration.

1.30—2.00pm Registration and light lunch
2.00—2.05pm Welcome address
   Professor Brian Norton, Dublin Institute of Technology
2.05—2.20pm MEP 2008—2014: A memorable journey
   Professor James Loughman, Dublin Institute of Technology, MEP Co-Leader
2.20—2.30pm Video session
   The First Optometrists
2.30—3.20pm MEP Research:
   The economic and social impact of the MEP
   Stephen Thompson
   A competency framework for ophthalmic professionals managing refractive error
   Kajal Shah
   Considerations in the design of a child eye health strategy for Mozambique
   Aoife Phelan
   Quality assurance and social accountability in optometric education in sub-saharan Africa
   Vanessa Raquel Moodley
   A multi–partner international development initiative – challenges and successes of the MEP
   Diane Wallace
3.20—3.45pm Tea/coffee and poster viewing
3.45—3.55pm Video session
   MEP feature on RTE’s Nationwide
3.55—4.10pm MEP graduate experience: ‘Celebrating the past, embracing the future’
   Joel de Melo Bambamba, University of Lúrio
4.10—4.30pm Keynote speech: ‘Optometry education in Africa: Changing the paradigm of eyecare service delivery’
   Professor Kovin Naidoo, Brien Holden Vision Institute, MEP Co-Leader
4.30—4.40pm MEP and Ireland’s priorities for international development
   Bronagh Carr, Irish Aid
4.40—4.50pm Video session
   MEP Photobook
4.50—5.00pm Final word and close of celebration
   Minister Joe Costello, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade