



# AGGN NEWSLETTER

Learn to lead



Feature article

## AGGN East and South African Chapters meeting in Nairobi

Editorial

### Committed to keep it going!

AGGN-Newsletter has continued to be a mouth-piece for the network keeping it in touch with various stakeholders. This edition follows suit with updates of what happened and what will happen in the near future within the realm of the network. It also presents a myriad of articles with reflections on the economic, social, and political issues related to good governance. The issues being raised are linked to boosting the prospects of good governance on the continent of Africa. What is benevolent dictatorship?

Could it be thought of as an alternative? What are the prospects of good governance in post 2015 Africa? How do we make sense of development and law considering the African situation? These are few of the thought provoking pieces we have presented to you in this edition. The articles are hoped to provide food for thought. We believe some of them will initiate a response from other fellows. Interview with Heike Martin is another stimulating addition. While inviting you to go through the articles, it is our belief that you will be motivated to contribute for the next issue. Enjoy reading!

### Justus Masa (PhD)

In accordance with the regional chapters' arrangement, the AGGN fellows are grouped into four geographical regions based on their countries of origin, namely, the Eastern, Southern, Western and Central Africa chapters. The regional structures of the Network are intended to promote the active engagement of fellows who have returned to the continent in advancing the values of good governance across Africa. After this structuring, fellows from the Eastern and Southern Africa Chapters convened in Nairobi from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> of January 2015 for the inaugural meeting. The meeting was the first of its kind to be organized by the AGGN fellows themselves. It was held at Hotel Best Western Premier. It was attended by sixteen AGGN fellows; four of them from Ethiopia, four from Kenya, one from Namibia, two from Rwanda, one from Tanzania and three from Uganda. Also in attendance was Dr. Chikas Danfulani from Nigeria, who represented the Western Africa Chapter in her capacity as the coordinator. The launch of the regional chapters included a one-day workshop under the theme "Good Governance in Post-2015 Africa" which attracted the participation of 18 alumni of the Kenya DAAD scholars association (KDSA) including their country representative Prof. Simon Onywere. Dr. Helmut Blumbach, the Director of the DAAD regional office for Africa also graced the event and revealed that he was very pleased to witness the growth of the AGGN having been actively in-

involved in its formative stages. Member of Parliament for Kibra constituency Hon. Kenneth Okoth participated in the event and he was also one of the panelists. Other panellists included Ms. Jessica Musila, Senior AGGN fellow and executive director of Mzalendo Trust, Ms. Hawa M. Noor, from the Governance, Crime and Justice Division of the Institute of Security Studies, Prof. Simon Onywere from the Department of Environmental Planning and Management, Kenyatta University and Ms. Sarah Ooro from the Commission for University Education. The workshop featured four very stimulating and highly enlightening keynote lectures delivered by Mr. Pete Ondeng, the director of the East African Centre for Leadership Development, Dr. Bitange Ndemo, the immediate former permanent secretary of the Ministry of Information Technology, Prof. John Oucho, the Executive Director, Africa Migration and Development Policy Centre (AMADPOC) and Ms. Dr. Linda Oucho, the director for Research and Data Hub at AMADPOC. The discussions on governance in Post 2015 Africa were intended to reflect on how issues of governance have been mainstreamed in the implementation of the MDG since 2000 and to envisage the model of governance necessary to foster new goals, especially in view of the current United Nations debate on the Post-2015 development agenda. The next meeting of the Eastern and Southern Africa Chapters will be held in 2016 in Kampala.

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Interview with Heike Martin, Outgoing AGGN Coordinator

AGGN Views

**When did you start as the coordinator of AGGN?**

During the AGGN summit 2010 in Frankfurt, I was officially introduced to the Network.

**Looking back in time, what were your major challenges?**

First of all, to get in touch with as many senior fellows as possible as it was much easier to bond with the junior ones. And secondly to differentiate between business and personal attachment to the subject.

**AGGN has grown numerically over the years and applications for membership are still high. In your view,**

**what makes the network so attractive to African scholars in Germany?**

I assume it is the wider coverage of various governance related subject which makes it a unique program.

**In your opinion, which aspect(s) of AGGN should be strengthened to enable it achieve its objectives?**

The fellows themselves in particular those that engage in governance activities in particular on the national or regional level respectively.

**As a person who has worked in many African countries, What do you think are the key challenges of the continent that require the commitment of a network like AGGN?**

You know better than me what key challenges are but I am sure that you fellows will raise your voices in order to obtain more attention.

**How does it feel to leave the network after serving for many years?**

To be perfectly honest, I miss you already but will remain dedicated to the African continent in mind and deed.

**Finally, your message to current and incoming fellows of AGGN?**

I appreciate and admire your dedication and engagement to aim for a prosperous future all over Africa. Wishing you all the best of luck!

Change in Africa Starts with you!

Fellows at Work

**Glory Lueong (PhD)**



Since 2011, Glory has been working with marginalised and excluded Baka ('Pygmies') in a project called **Beyond Being Pygmies (BBP)** aimed at promoting participatory local governance and intercultural tolerance. In June 2013, Glory received financial support from DAAD-AGGN to organise a conference titled: Beyond Being 'Pygmies' (BBP): Generational gaps and the future of Baka ('pygmy') youth in participatory local governance in Bertoua-Cameroon. This conference sought to discuss the challenges of Baka participation in local governance of forest and municipal resources. After the conference, participants created a synergy of young leaders coming from the following institutions : The National police service, The Forest Trust (CSE

Etoua Meki Yaoundé), The Dimako Municipal Council, Mayos and Lossou Baka traditional councils, local NGOs like: OKANI and CADDAP. Through this synergy of young leaders, young Baka leaders have become more active in local governance with more representation as municipal councillors at the level of municipal councils unlike was the case in 2013 when only four Baka municipal councillors were known to exist. In August 2014, Glory was invited by the UNAOC (United Nations Alliance of Civilizations) in New York where she shared more about her project with the Baka.

Upon completion of her PhD in Development Sociology at the University of Giessen –German, she is currently providing technical support in the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) funded CSO (Civil Society Organiza-

tions) training of trainers on Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGRT) in Malawi, Senegal and Niger, as well as negotiating for a training of Baka young leaders on this Voluntary Guidelines for the responsible governance of Tenure.



## Benevolent dictatorship: Between efficiency and sustainability

Insight Africa

### Silas Udahemuka (PhD)

While democratic rule is widely considered as the only best approach to governing a country, a number of now economically successful countries triggered a debate that other approaches might be a possibility. It is broadly agreed that Singapore (as an example) became what it is now not via democratic rule but rather it started and sustained its economic ascent during the rule of Lee Kuan Yew who is perceived to have been a dictator. But what sort of dictator? Based on this, one raises the question might it be that benevolent dictatorship is another option?

Under benevolent dictatorship, final decision especially when a democratic consensus is hard to reach belongs to one strong individual who genuinely cares for the wellbeing of his/her population and who is wise enough to make the 'right' decisions. This is done for the sake of efficiency. Benevolent dictators believe that some decisions should be straightforward. For example why would it take years to discuss whether to enrol everybody in a health insurance scheme or not? Or to ban plastic bags or not? Those are types of decisions a benevolent dictator helps expedite. Some groups feel offended at the start but after a certain time, everybody feels it was the right decision. That was the case for forced savings that was imposed on Singaporean employ-

ees and employers under the colonial rule which was enforced under the rule of Lee Kuan Yew. The savings rate could go up to 25% and beyond. Few years later, when roads, schools, hospitals, public houses were being built from the central provident fund created from the savings; everybody applauded the forced saving decision. In a democracy, probably such a decision would never have been reached or it would have taken long. A benevolent dictator is not only a decision maker but also one who enforces accountability vigorously. Having the bias for action pushes a benevolent dictator to be ruthless to his ruling team when things are not progressing. However, its strength namely the efficiency in getting things done is also a source of its weakness. The institutions are weakened because they tend to be replaced by an individual. Ruling team members will work to praise firstly the leader and secondly the population. It follows that the sustainability of the quick gains is questionable beyond the reign of a benevolent dictator. Furthermore, benevolent dictators feel they are irreplaceable and should rule till death. Thus, it is highly probable that a good guy who started benevolent grows to become just a dictator; with oppression, silencing of opposing voices, suppression of free speech; all anti-democratic practices. Where should be the middle ground between efficiency and sustainability?

## Law and development in Africa: between empowerment and conditionality

Academic Corner

### Yvonne Awuor Atieno & Jane Ayeko Kümmeth

Despite the prevailing DB strike which left millions of people stranded, we managed to find our way to the Willy Brand School of public policy in Erfurt. The Conference was organized by the African Law Association and the School of Public Policy. It commenced with an introduction to the Law and Development movement by the current president of the Association Dr. Sippel from the University of Bayreuth. Lectures began with Professor Dr. Florian Hoffmann giving insights into the multiple incarnations of the Law and Development movement. His main point was the current paradigm shift to the needs based development where the individual who is empowered through the rule of law defines the development agenda. The whole development discourse is turned upside-down and the state no longer defines the development agenda. In the end we see an exponential rise in social rights litigation.

A key Lecture on Saturday in the beautiful Coelicum where the Catholic Theology Faculty operates from Professor Fredrick Jjuuko of Makerere University on Law and the Development was an epitome of the program. Professor Jjuuko reminded us that the African state was constructed on the guise of the Westphalia treaty of 1648 where the Nation state of today finds its underpinnings. Accordingly, the African

state was arbitrarily curved but not organic states. With constitutions from Europe which were meant to secure the economic man, they cannot bring the desired results of development we expect on the continent. Today Africans are lost in translation problems of constitutions given the prevailing structural limitations. We therefore need to fundamentally think the state and constitutions and look into questions of moral economy and original customary law. As the African state becomes increasingly dysfunctional, these questions become increasingly relevant.

Notwithstanding the numerous presentations made, AGGN fellows Dr. Wilfried Zoungrana and Dr. Jude Kagoro also spoke about law policing and society paradox as well as indices in Africa. Wilfred shed more light on how the Mo Ibrahim index functions. Generally, he has been critical of indices. Whereas Jude shared some of his findings on how Ugandans perceive the police and the new shift in police services from colonial to community police.

Overall, AGGN made itself visible through the active participation of fellows. Dr. Oliver Meinicke from the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development is interested in gaining more information about our network. Quite a good number of the MPP Students are keen in joining AGGN and we gave them information about the benefits of joining

our network. We rounded up the day with a little tour in the city of Erfurt.



## Publications

- Mohammed Shafiu et al. 2014: "Performance evaluation of a health insurance in Nigeria using optimal resource use: health care provides perspectives". BMC health service research 14 (1): 127.
- Mohammed Shafiu et al. 2014: "Satisfaction with the level and type of resource use of a health insurance scheme in Nigeria: health management organizations' perspectives". In: International Journal of Health Planning and Management 29(4) 309-324.





*"It is only a stupid cow that rejoices at the prospect of being taken to a beautiful abattoir"*

## Past and Upcoming Activities

### Reflections on the AGGN-KAAD Seminar on "Population Growth Chances and Challenges for Africa"

**Catherine Promise Biira**

As a scholar who belongs to both groups, the joint seminar was a very good opportunity to harness the strengths in both groups. I would recommend that such collaborations be formalized also at the country network level where KAAD has established alumni networks and yet AGGN may still be thin on the ground. With regard to my presentation entitled *"Population Policies in Uganda: Experience and Practice at the Population Secretariat in Kampala"*, scholars found the subject intriguing. Whereas they engaged in discussions passionately, many were shocked by the demographic indicators presented. Many male participants acknowledged that they had not really been paying attention to population issues because they did not understand the magnitude of the problems. Commenting on the statistics on teenage pregnancy, one scholar said, *"your presentation made me feel guilty that as a man, I have not done anything to change such things in our societies."* Following the presentation, I was invited to discuss the work of the Population Secretariat with the GIZ in Bonn. A preliminary meeting was held in December 2014 and a follow-up shall be held in May 2015.



### Introduction workshop in Bonn, March 2015

**Uchenna Oyali**

From March 26 to 29 2015, the African Good Governance Network (AGGN) hosted new Junior Fellows to an introduction workshop tagged 'Introduction to AGGN and 'Good Governance', at the Gustav Stresemann Institut (GSI) in Bonn. Attended by 17 new fellows of the Network, the program ranged from the highly informative introduction to DAAD as well as AGGN, to the thought-provoking talk on Good Governance Indicators that was delivered by Robert Schwarz of the Bertelsmann Transformation Index. Moreover the engaging soft skills training sessions facilitated by Anne-Marie Dingemans highlighted on some tips on how to convince others. But beyond the talks, the fellows had time to further 'network' over lunch and/or dinner and this created the informal platform for fellows to get to know each other better, understand their respective fields of interest and possible avenues for collaboration in the future. Contented with the success of the program, some of the participants were happy to explore the night life in Bonn.

### AGGN Upcoming events

- The next workshop of AGGN will take place in Freiburg 1-5 May. The theme of the workshop will be "Development", with Prof. Göran Hyden (Tanzania/Florida/Sweden) as the keynote speaker.
- Another event coming up at the end of the year is AGGN Western Africa regional meeting in Accra, Ghana in November 2015 under the theme 'conversion of technical institutes into universities'.

#### Impressum:

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Governance Network

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