

AGGN NEWSLETTER

Learn to lead



Feature article

Editorial

AGGN at VAD Conference 2014

Synergy for Good Governance

Since the first edition of the AGGN Newsletter, the network has sought to create an impact in diverse ways. This edition keeps you abreast with new developments and a look into the future. This edition presents the vision of AGGN leadership, the academic activities of its members and a critical examination of the role of good governance in various sectors. Thus, articles found here handle issues such as the quest for equitable distribution of resources, the struggle for equal

rights for under-represented groups in society and the relationship between good governance and the performance of national teams in sporting events. Our main goal is to build mutually strengthening partnerships with individuals and institutions for the purpose of change. We believe that change will only come through a synergy of both academic deliberation and civic commitment to society. This reflects the tenor and breadth of the articles you find in this edition.

Jude Kagoro



Between 11th and 14th June 2014, Bayreuth University hosted the bi-annual VAD Conference (*Tagung der Vereinigung für Afrikawissenschaften*) on the theme "Future Africa". As a network of young African intellectuals, AGGN found the VAD platform a perfect opportunity to engage and share with the wider scholarly community. To this end and focusing on the conferences' main theme, AGGN convened a panel "Competing Development Paradigms and the Future of Good Governance in Africa" that attracted five intellectually stimulating papers.

The well attended panel discussed the dangers of narrowly defined development with regard to dam construction in Sudan; the state-society dynamics within Kenya-China cooperation; the oil

exploration and land acquisition paradox in Uganda; public administration reforms in Ghana and the local and international civil society initiatives that enforce oil resource governance in Chad. As could be deduced, the panel's geographical scope covering East, Central, West and North Africa was indeed representative.

Subsequently, the papers provided theoretical and empirical insights into the trajectories of political and socio-economic development paradigms and the future of governance in postcolonial Africa. Additionally, the papers and the panel discussion shed more light on the modes through which states, societies and individual actors in Africa have appropriated, negotiated and modified the competing development paradigms. In sum, the panel enhanced our understanding of actors/agencies and the multifaceted responses to socio-economic development approaches and the notion of good governance in the African context.

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Interview with AGGN Chair, Rebecca Gachago

AGGN Views



Rebecca Gachago
AGGN Chair

Chisha Chakanga

Rebecca Gachago is the current Chair of AGGN. She was elected in December 2013 during the annual summit in Abuja/Nigeria. Originally from Kenya, she joined AGGN in 2011. The interview was done by AGGN Newsletter's Chisha Chakanga

Chisha Chakanga: What motivated you to take on the role of Chair?

Rebecca Gachago: Being elected was an honour, an incredible demonstration of confidence from the fellows. My main motivation was the opportunity to gather ideas, nurture them and connect like-minded people towards finding solutions. I have previously served in the executive committee as secretary and treasurer, and was interested in taking up the role of chair to challenge myself, to step out of the comfort zone unto the frontline.

C C: What major achievements have been registered so far?

R G: More institutions are asking for representatives from the network to participate in conferences, deliver papers and to join decision making round tables. Through participation, we've made more connections and increased interest in AGGN. We are also able to reach out to key decision makers and share our unique ideas towards change.

C C: What are some of the main challenges to your role?

R G: The biggest challenge in our network is also one of our biggest strengths. We have fellows in Germany and in various countries and continents. Creating a sense of connectedness across distant locations is difficult. This is however not an obstacle, instead it is a way to have different perspectives.

C C: Where do you see AGGN in about 5 years time?

R G: I would like to position AGGN as a professional network of excellence, with the unique trait of bringing highly educated people from various African countries, taking part in making key decisions and guiding policy makers. My key motive is to demonstrate how each member across different disciplines can contribute towards making a difference.

C C: Any advice to new AGGN members?

R G :“If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together”. There is great power where like-minded people join hands. No contribution is ever too small, everything we do counts when done in the right spirit.



Chisha Chakanga

Change in Africa Starts with you!

Fellows at Work

Charity Musamba



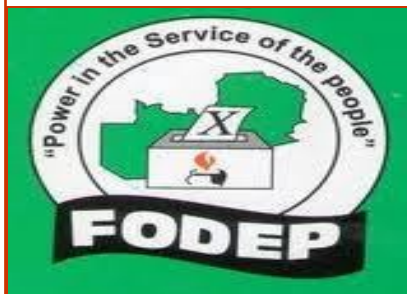
Charity Musamba returned to her country of origin, Zambia in 2009 upon completing her doctoral studies at the University of Duisburg-Essen in Germany. Back home, Dr. Musamba has been working in the area of elections, with the particular interest of promoting women's participation and representation as well as facilitating the development of

leadership careers among young girls in the country.

She has recently been involved in the constitutional review process from the angle of coordinating the participation of a network that includes the three mother church bodies, the Law Association of Zambia and the women's movement in this process.

She intends to embark upon a series of academic research works and analysis on the topics of democratisation and the prospects for civil society consolidation in Africa, generally and in Zambia, specifically. Dr. Musamba's dedication to make a difference regardless of difficulties that one may face in the

process is a clear indication that higher level change is a cumulative of individual endeavours. Her commitment is hoped to inspire young African intellectuals.



Dr. Charity Musamba led the Foundation for Democratic Process (FODEP) in Zambia as executive director in 2010

Good Governance Matters in Soccer Success

Insight Africa

Eric Njoya & Isaac Adjei Safo

The 2014 FIFA world Cup in Brazil ended with Germany as champion. Africa was represented by five countries namely Cameroon, Ghana, Algeria, Ivory Coast and Nigeria of which Algeria and Nigeria made it to the second round. Undoubtedly, African countries have talented teams capable of excelling at world cup tournaments. However, this year's teams did not perform up to the expectation of the represented nations and the continent at large. Off-pitch

issues to some extent account for the poor performances of some African teams at international tournaments. While many factors may explain the poor performance of African teams in Brazil, one cannot afford to ignore the negative impact of bad governance. For instance, the World Cup campaigns of Cameroon, Ghana and Nigeria were seriously affected by issues related to governance. The move by Nigerian national team to boycott a match due to unpaid bonuses, Ghanaian government's effort to pay extra bonuses to sal-

vage a similar situation and the Cameroonian team's refusal to fly to Brazil due to arguments over bonus were few issues which made headlines in the World Cup media coverage. These developments are directly or indirectly related to governance and had repercussions on the effectiveness of the otherwise good performing teams.

Good governance in sport can be related to a set of practices such as transparency, accountability, democracy and inclusiveness linking actors at different levels with

different capacities. It also matters at the team level, by bringing cohesiveness and effectiveness which are inputs crucial to team success. Perhaps it is about time African countries consider and adopt principles of good governance in their sports administrations to forestall some of the embarrassing headlines they made during World Cup tournament. With better governance and management structure, future African teams can outperform their counterparts to eventually win the World Cup, everything being equal.

AGGN Made it Easier!

Academic Corner

Serawit B. Debele



AGGN promotes its fellows in different ways. For instance, the Network has a means to tackle financial constraints that obstruct members' participation in relevant workshops, conferences and other events. Within the last three months, fellows namely Serawit B. Debele, Eric Njoya and Willis O.Okumu, were granted financial support to participate in such events. As a result, they took part in international conferences and summer schools in Italy, UK and Rwanda respectively. This created a platform where they presented their research papers. In her participation in a summer school in Italy, Serawit presented a paper titled "*Emergence of Irreecha in*

and as the Public Sphere". On his part Eric participated in a conference in UK where he presented his research paper that focused on "*The interaction between air transport policy, tourism and economic development in Africa*". Willis took part in a conference in Rwanda and presented his work on "*The Role of Youth in Trans-local Peacebuilding among Pastoralists Communities in Northwestern Kenya*". As can be seen from their titles, the papers presented are relevant to enhancing good governance in Africa.

All the three confirmed that their participation was successful and of immense benefit in many ways. They got invaluable feedback that enriched their ongoing research and networked with

established as well as emerging scholars. They also stated that they introduced AGGN to people who did not know about it. As a way of extending their heartfelt appreciation, they all agreed that the Network had made their attendance possible. They therefore encourage other fellows to use the financial support AGGN provides to promote its members.

Publications on Good Governance

- Assoua, Kocra Lossina: "Discussing Corporate Sustainability Management in Africa". In: Business + Innovation 2(2013) 51-59.
- Assoua, Kocra Lossina: "Discussing the nexus between Political Instability and Sustainability of the ECOWAS Single Monetary Zone - Literature review, challenges and prospects". Center for European Integration Studies, Discussion Papers n°5(2013).
- Assoua, Kocra Lossina: "Higher Education, Ethics and Governance Quality in Africa - Promises and Challenges of Forming Developmental Leaders in the Context of Globalization". In: Eckart Liebau, Ernst Wagner, Max Wyman (Hrsg.): International Yearbook for Arts Education (UNESCO), Vol. 1. Münster-New York: Waxmann Verlag 2013, 225-231.



*The king who shuts his eyes
when there is famine in the land
will soon see the ancestors*

Past and Upcoming Activities

Past Activities

AGGN Fellows Trace the Path of History in Nuremberg



Omondi R. Owino

Like many before them, it was an exciting and intellectually stimulating time for the AGGN fellows who converged in the historic city of Nuremberg for a two day workshop themed 'Authoritarian Rule' held from 10-11th June 2014 to trace a path in Germany's vast history. The fellows benefitted immensely from interesting talks delivered by diverse experts on the topic of authoritarianism in German history. These intellectual sessions were interspersed with practical activities which afforded the AGGN fellows an opportunity to visit the 'Way of Human Rights' (*Straße der Menschenrechte*) and the famous Nuremberg

Cathedral on the first day of the Workshop. The second day brought with it a tour to the expansive 'Nazi Party Rally Grounds' (*Reichsparteitagsgelände*) and an eventual bus ride by the fellows to Bayreuth just in time for the start of the annual VAD conference. At the end of our time in Nuremberg, the long distance Germany has travelled in its history between its dark chapter symbolized by the *Reichsparteitagsgelände*, and the new dawn symbolized in 'The way of Human Rights', remained etched in my mind with the precision of a surgeon's scalpel!

Africa Conference in Berlin

Justus Masa



On September 11, 2014 Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development organized a conference in Berlin at Café Moskau on the theme: "Africa – Continent of Opportunities. A Partnership for

Change." Many officials from Germany and from Africa were present. Keynote speakers were Mr. Gerd Müller, the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development and H. E. Augustin Matata Ponyo, the Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Afterwards three workshops took place: (1) Peace and Security – Preventing Future Crises; (2) Giving Young People a Future – Promoting Education in Africa; (3) The Whole is Greater than the Sum of its Parts – Regional Integration as a Driver of Development.

The main objective was to develop recommendations for Germany's future policies on Africa. Some of the outcomes of the deliberations focused on how to enhance development cooperation on vocational training and higher education; how to move toward exchange tailored to African priorities; how to enhance Pan-African trade and how best Germany should engage with African countries to ensure integration, peace and development on the continent.

Another term for ABI

The DAAD has again selected ABI for facilitating AGGN workshops the next three years. Martin Adelman and Judith Altrogge will be continuing on the side of ABI.



Judith Altrogge

Martin Adelman

Upcoming Activities

AGGN Junior-Workshop in Helmstedt/ Lower Saxony: 30 October-2 November 2014 in cooperation with KAAD (Catholic Academic Exchange Service) on "population growth".

East African chapter regional meeting in January, 2015.

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African Good

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V.I.S.D.P. : Eric Tchouamou Njoya

E-Mail: newsletter-aggn@googlegroups.com

www.aggn.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/AGGNFellows/?ref=ts>

For any questions comments and suggestions please contact us.

Editorial Team:

- Azza Ahmed
- Chisha Chakanga
- Eric Njoya
- Gilbert Ndi Shang (Vice Editor-in-chief)
- Isaac Adjei Safo
- Lohna Bonkat
- Rodrigue Naortangar
- Serawit Bekele Debele (Editor-in-chief)