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.

Synergy for Good Governance

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.
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.
Good Governance Matters in Soccer Success

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 Word 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 salvage 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!

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”. Willist ook 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

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 Adelmann and Judith Altrogge will be continuing on the side of ABI.

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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*Pictures for this issue are obtained from the AGGN profile book and individual contributors.