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lead

## Editorial

### Fostering the goals of AGGN!

African Good Governance Network (AGGN) is a network committed to the promotion of good governance on the continent through the active involvement of Africa's promising intellectuals. In order to achieve its goals, AGGN mainly aims at reaching the public through various media. The launching of this newsletter which is mainly dedicated to fostering the goals of AGGN is part of this endeavour. The newsletter sets out to present the network, promote the link between individual disciplines and good governance as well as to make the network visible to the wider public. This is part

and parcel of our attempt to seek and keep contact with interested persons and institutions on matters related to good governance in Africa. A lot of interesting and thought provoking articles have been featured in the first issue of the newsletter. The articles range from the recent Summit in Abuja/Nigeria to the 20th commemoration of the Rwandan genocide. In addition, a brief introduction to AGGN, inspirational achievements of members in relation to good governance and proverbs are presented.

#### Inside this issue:

Editorial: Fostering the goals of AGGN!	1
Feature article: AGGN Summit 2013 – Memories of Abuja!	1
Good Governance corner: African Good Governance Network (AGGN): A General Overview	2
Personal corner: Farafina Institute	2
Africa corner: Rwandan genocide: Remember- Unite-Renew	3
Academic corner : Awards and Publications	3
Recent and Upcoming activities	4

# AGGN NEWSLETTER



## Feature article

### AGGN Summit 2013 Abuja!



By Jimam Lar

From 3 to 7 December 2013 the African Good Governance Network (AGGN) met in Abuja, Nigeria for the annual summit under the theme "Resource Governance". A special welcome address to AGGN by the German Ambassador in Nigeria, Her Excellency Mrs. Dorothee Janetzke-Wenzel got things going on the first day. As a hosting fellow, I would say there are several memories we took home.

Abuja will be remembered for its rich intellectual offerings. The overarching theme of resource governance was further broken down to sub-themes with a wide range of presentations on resource governance and conflicts, water and land resources in Africa, and oil and gas resources. A recurrent point of most of the presentations was the governance (appropriate management and

distribution) of resources or the lack of it, how this can consequently lead to such resource becoming a blessing or a curse.

The Abuja summit also marked a change of guards at the top of the network. Our dear 'First Servant' Joy Alemazung handed the baton to Rebecca Gachago and her team of new executives. Not just a power shift from central to east – from Cameroon to Kenya – but also a gender shift: For the first time in the history of the network we have a female fellow at the helm of affairs.

The summit was equally a great opportunity for old to meet new. With 45 fellows in attendance and a fair share of senior and junior fellows there was ample time for acquaintance and exchange. As is the custom with AGGN meetings, the discussions and engagements never disappoint. Ranging from the topical, to the controversial and the mundane – it's always a pleasure to listen, to participate and occasionally you are just perplexed.

## African Good Governance Network (AGGN): A General Overview

### Good Governance corner

#### By the Editorial Team

Upon the foundation of the African Good Governance Network (AGGN) in 2007 under the auspices of the former German Federal President Horst Köhler, collaboration between African countries and Germany assumed a newer dimension. As the name suggests, AGGN is primarily committed to fostering good governance via an interdisciplinary network of scholars who are enthusiastic to broaden and diversify the collaboration between African countries and Germany. The Network comprises of 81 members highly qualified in more than 25 disciplines from over 20 African countries. The members have either studied in Germany or are still studying in Germany. AGGN is

sponsored by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, however the management falls under the responsibility of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in collaboration with an Executive and three sub-committees of the Network whose representatives are elected by the members. The Arnold-Bergstraesser-Institute Freiburg on behalf of DAAD organises several workshops on various theoretical and practical issues in order to improve the knowledge and the skills of the members in aspects related to Good Governance. Since 2013 the Network has become a registered association recognised by the German government as "eingetragenen Verein" (e.V).



## Farafina Institute

### Personal corner



Dr. Kocra  
Lossina Assoua



**By Dr. Kocra Lossina Assoua**  
(Former chairman of AGGN and co-founder of Farafina Institute)

Farafina Institute was established in 2012 in Germany by a group of African scholars as an independent and not-for-profit Think-Tank which is also represented in three West African countries (Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Ghana) and possesses a wide network of scholars affiliated to many universities. One of the key objectives of the Institute is to collect and manage data on Africans' expectations, opinions, mindsets and feelings on economy, politics and to conduct qualitative and quantitative research on

various topics related to governance. In so doing, Farafina Institute serves as a one-stop-shop qualitative-quantitative data on governance

made available through its databases relevant data to development actors for evidence-based policy-making. The pool of experts of the institute is comprised of scholars and consultants from Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies, the African Good Governance Network and Partner Universities in Africa.





## Rwandan genocide: Remember-Unite-Renew

By **Michaela Rugwizangoga**

An estimated one million Rwandans died in the hundred days of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsis and moderate Hutus. It was one of human history's darkest times. Since the tragedy Rwanda has achieved a relatively impressive progress and we can only acknowledge the strength and the sense of resilience from the Rwandan population.

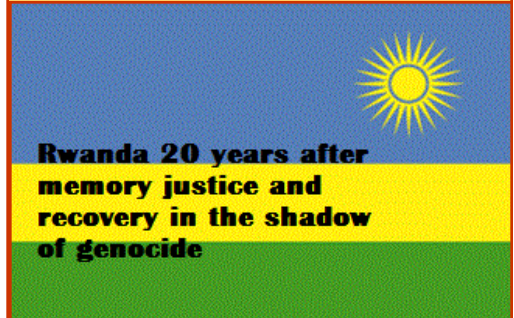
This year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1994 Genocide under the theme Remember-Unite-Renew. Rwanda re-

members by honouring the memories of those who died and by offering their/our support to the survivors. Rwanda unites by showing that reconciliation through shared human values is possible and exemplary for the rest of the world. As we build Rwanda anew, we share our experiences and learn from others to create a better world together.

Rwanda has a vision of hope, dignity and prosperity and the people of Rwanda are working together for a well deserved brighter future.



Michaela  
Rugwizangoga



## Awards



Salma  
Abdalla



Gilbert  
Ndi Shang



Sylvia  
Amiani



Dr. Meron  
Zeleke

By **Eric Njoya, Serawit B. Debele and Gilbert Ndi Shang**

The AGGN is a pool of talented intellectuals who are leaving their mark in Germany, their home countries and in other parts of the world. In this issue we recognize major recipients of awards for their inspirational achievements.

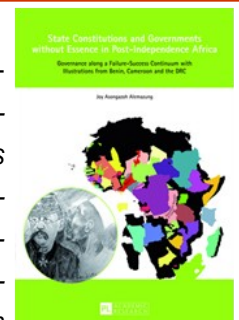
In the course of the past few years, three AGGN fellows have received the DAAD Prize for International Students awarded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) to foreign students in recognition of their outstanding contribution to "enrich the higher education world both culturally and academically". Sylvia Amiani, MA in Social Work, received the award at the University of Applied Sciences Coburg in June 2011. Salma Mohamed Abdalla, PhD candidate at Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies, received the award in November 2011. Gilbert Ndi Shang, PhD in Comparative Literature from Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies, received the award in November 2013. Salma and Gilbert received the award at the University of Bayreuth.

## Academic corner

In the same light, Dr. Meron Zeleke Eresso has been awarded by the Gender Office of Addis Ababa University to honor her academic achievements. During her study time at the University of Bayreuth, Meron has served at various levels of student representation and leadership. She is currently a post-doctoral fellow at Addis Abeba University where she is playing significant roles in the research and teaching environments.

## Publication on Good Governance

Alemazung, Joy Asongzoh (2013): *State Constitutions and Governments without Essence in Post-Independence Africa Governance along a Failure-Success Continuum with Illustrations from Benin, Cameroon and the DRC*. Frankfurt-am-Main: Peter Lang 2013.





*If you want to go quickly,  
go alone. If you want to  
go far, go together.*

## Recent and Upcoming activities

### Bonn 2014: Introduction of new members and Workshop on Media

From 30 March to 5 April 2014 AGGN fellows met in a weeklong workshop on Governance and Media held in the German city of Bonn. The talks comprised of Media and Politics by Prof. Dr Stephan Kaußen of the Makromedia Hochschule für Kommunikation (MHMK) Köln, Media and Conflict by Jane Ayieko-Kummeth a BIGSAS Junior Fellow and a practising journalist, Media Freedom in Africa by Eric Topona of Deutsche Welle and African Media in Germany presented by Hon. Kenneth Gbangi of Heritage Magazine. Given that representations of Africa in the media is replete with prejudices and biases, the underlying aspect of the discussions focused on the need for balanced information on Africa at the local, national and international levels.

### Nuremberg/Bayreuth 2014: Workshop on "Authoritarian Rule" and VAD conference

A shorter thematic workshop on the theme of "Authoritarian Rule" will take place from the 09 to 11 June in Nuremberg, followed by participation in the VAD

conference (German African Studies; in German: Vereinigung für Afrikawissenschaften in Deutschland) in Bayreuth from the 12th to 14th June.

### Helmstedt 2014: Workshop on "Population Growth"

A workshop on the theme of "Population Growth" will take place from the 30th of October to the 2nd of November in Helmstedt. This will be a joint workshop with KAAD scholarship holders.

### Summer School on Swahili offered by an AGGN Fellow

Summer School on Swahili in Vechta, Germany: George Mutalemwa will offer Swahili courses to students and staff at the University of Vechta in Lower Saxony during a summer school from the 15th to 26th September 2014 shortly before his return to his Tanzania homeland. Students taking part in the Swahili summer school will sit for an examination and earn credit points accordingly.

For any questions comments and suggestions please contact us.

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