

AGGN YEARBOOK 2016



2016



AFRICAN GOOD GOVERNANCE NETWORK

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Introduction

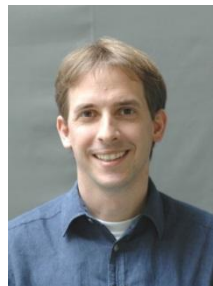
In 2016, the African Good Governance Network (AGGN) welcomed another 19 new junior fellows to the network. I was again delighted to witness how the fellows debated African politics with passion and respect for each other. At four workshops, the junior fellows engaged intellectually around political topics and forged networks among each other, but also with German institutions and academics. Besides the workshops, several fellows represented AGGN at conferences or organised own multiplier workshops. AGGN was again a joint learning experience, an investment in young scholars who have the desire to contribute to the democratic development and good governance of their continent in the future.

This yearbook gives an overview of the activities and developments of the network in the year 2016. It was produced by the fellows and addresses the growing network as well as the general public. Further information on the network is available at www.aggn.org.

Sincerely,



Dr. Martin Adelman,
Arnold-Bergstraesser-Institut
Network Coordinator

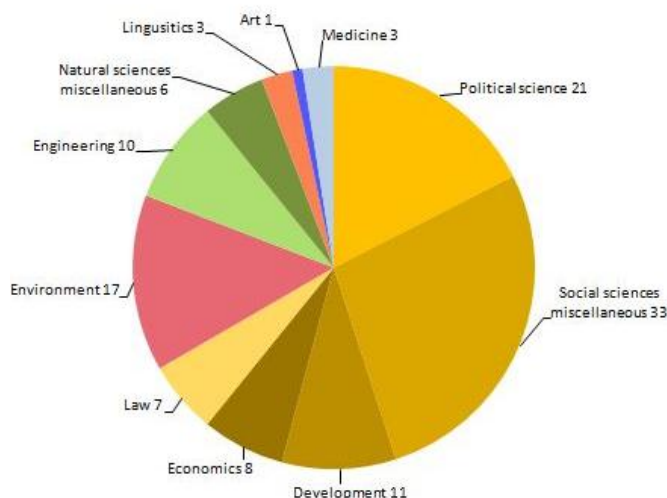
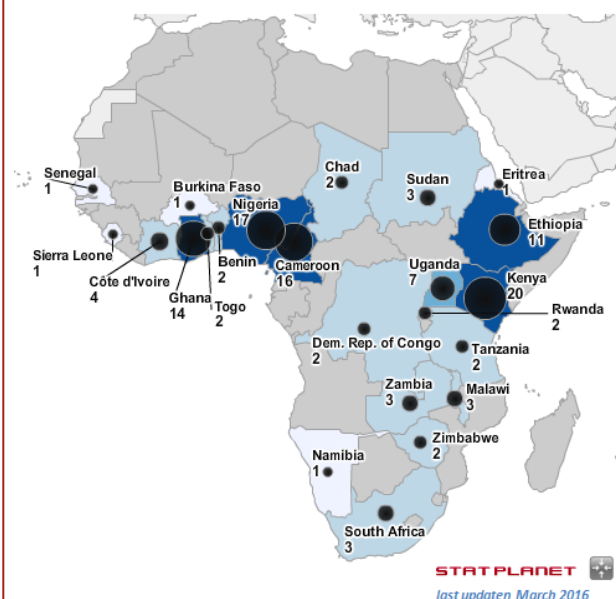


The African Good Governance Network



The African Good Governance Network was founded in 2007 by the DAAD under the auspices of the former German Federal President, Dr. Horst Köhler. The network aims at enhancing academic collaboration between Africa and Germany and supporting future leaders in their desire to promote good governance on the African continent.

As depicted above, the network operates on three levels: Junior fellows in Germany are offered a series of workshops around good governance themes, aiming at capacity building and networking of the fellows. On top of these workshops, which are offered by the Arnold-Bergstraesser-Institut, fellows have the opportunity to organise their own multiplier events and take part in good governance related conferences. Finally, the network connects all senior fellows through a number of communication tools as well as through Senior Fellow workshops organised by the regional chapters in Africa.

Academic background of AGGN fellows**Home countries of AGGN fellows**

AGGN Fellows 2016



**George
Akeliwira**
Ghana

What was/were your motivations to be a member of AGGN?

I was motivated to join the AGGN because of my passion for issues of governance and development especially as pertained in sub-Saharan Africa.

In what way has AGGN contributed to your academic/professional development goals?

Academically, AGGN would enhance my knowledge with regards to governance and development matters. Professionally, the network would help realize my dream of working with civil society organizations in the future.

What are your expectations for the next 2 years of fellowship with AGGN?

In the next two years, I expect to learn and know more about governance and development issues in the global south, especially the sub-Saharan African countries. I also expect a lovely intellectual interaction with both organizers and fellow members of the network.



**Charles Gwellem
Anchang**
Cameroon

What was/were your motivations to be a member of AGGN?

My key motivation was the opportunity of strengthening my capacities in promoting good governance, education and fostering technical cooperation between the Germany and

Cameroon. I also discovered the possibility of meeting and discussing ideas with likely minded peers, who are strongly dedicated and motivated to address critical issues concerning Africa. I have benefited very much from my first conference and I am strongly convinced that we will become more able to produce a stronger influence in promoting good governance in Africa.

In what way has AGGN contributed to your academic/professional development goals?

The AGGN is a source of rich skills training, in the domain of public relations, public policy and decision-making. I am looking forward to acquainting myself with these skills, and use them to convince stake holders in my country Cameroon, to see the importance of doing more investment in medical technology, medical research, and biomedical studies, which are my career focuses.

What are your expectations for the next 2 years of fellowship with AGGN?

My expectations are to further deepen my knowledge, skills and experiences in good governance that would enable us to work together to make critical changes in Africa. My first conference has so far surpassed my expectations, and I am convinced that in the next two years, I would be able to make a stronger impact contributing to good holistic governance in Cameroon.



**Theresia Blanz
Atemkeng**
Cameroon



**Nchanji Eileen
Bogweh**
Cameroon

What was/were your motivations to be a member of AGGN?

To be able to interact and network with other fellows, who are passionate about issues on reproductive health and agriculture in our agriculturally driven economies. To learn how other countries handle these issues better and to later implement these changes in my country through collaboration with fellows in and out of the network. To learn new skills and strengthen my expertise.

In what way has AGGN contributed to your academic/professional development goals?

AGGN has given me a forum to be able to interact and network with other experts on governance system relevant to our socio-political and economic social realities. This is a boost to my professional and academic career, as it centers on governance of natural resources and implications for technology and policy. In addition, I have been able to situate myself in a broader Sub-Saharan African context through discussions with other fellows.

What are your expectations for the next 2 years of fellowship with AGGN?

I expect more forums on thematic issues, which are relevant in our present African "situation" and an opportunity to discuss these issues and come up with practical recommendations, which can affect policy change. I expect opportunities to show case our expertise for a better Africa through dissemination of knowledge in conferences, talks and reports relevant to our overall aims.



**Kaderi Noagah
Bukari**

Ghana

What was/were your motivations to be a member of AGGN?

I joined AGGN to enhance my skills and knowledge on good governance to be able to impact positively my own society, particularly governance at the local level. My interest is to participate in the political and governance discourse of Ghana and the continent as a whole.

In what way has AGGN contributed to your academic/professional development goals?

The platform created by AGGN has enabled me to learn and also share experiences, as well as network with other colleagues from the continent to contribute to the discussion and work towards good and better governance in Africa.

What are your expectations for the next 2 years of fellowship with AGGN?

I wish to get further training and skills to solidify my expertise and give me the needed experience to better enhance my individual career prospects and leadership skills.



Simon Dankyi

Ghana

What was/were your motivations to be a member of AGGN?

AGGN provides a platform to enhance my knowledge and skills in good governance, to build sustainable networks and to share my personal experiences with other scholars from Africa. The knowledge and skills set acquired and the networks built will not only enhance my capacity in good governance, but will serve as a springboard

for me to become an effective and efficient agent of good governance especially in Africa.

In what way has AGGN contributed to your academic/professional development goals?

So far, AGGN has exposed me to the various dimension of good governance and afforded me new and interesting opportunities to network with African scholars. This will not only serve as a solid foundation for my career but also make me a better ambassador of good governance, wherever I may find myself.

What are your expectations for the next 2 years of fellowship with AGGN?

I expect the two years to be laden with exciting opportunities for learning, networking and sharing experiences on good governance from different African countries. It will be interesting to learn how they are contending with the complex challenges and the best ways of improving governance in Africa.



**Akem Noela
Forkusam**

Cameroon

What was/were your motivations to be a member of AGGN?

My main motivations are to discuss and generate solutions or alternatives to the problems that affects Sub Saharan African countries with other AGGN participants.

In what way has AGGN contributed to your academic/professional development goals?

I hope that the network provides a platform for enriching my analytic and critical skills.

What are your expectations for the next 2 years of fellowship with AGGN?

My expectations are to work with participants from different African countries and discuss about which economic and political policies could be suitable for various economies given the

myriad cultural and socio-economic differences among Sub Saharan African countries.



**Kolade Tosin
Igbasan**

Nigeria

What was/were your motivations to be a member of AGGN?

I joined the AGGN to fortify alliances with the voices of African Intellectuals on a quest, through our collective efforts, to effect positive changes in our Motherland: Africa

In what way has AGGN contributed to your academic or professional development goals?

The AGGN gives me the opportunity to meet and interact with African academia of like minds and to learn from seasoned professionals what Good Governance entails in this 21st century.

What are your expectations for the next 2 years of fellowship with AGGN?

I expect the AGGN to create projects that would put the aims of its founding fathers into practice.



**Patricia Jebett
Korir**

Kenya

What was/were your motivations to be a member of AGGN?

I joined the AGGN to be a part of a network of Africans, who want a progressive and changed Africa. The network also comes with the advantage of networking with peers - interaction with fellow Africans on an intellectual level and gain insights through skills trainings.

In what way has AGGN contributed to your academic/professional development goals?

I joined the network this year (2016) and I have already had the opportunity to attend my first meeting. In future I hope that being a member of the network will contribute to my professional development.

What are your expectations for the next 2 years of fellowship with AGGN?

My expectation is to acquire skills training in the field of good governance and to build networks.



**Godfried Aymar
Koukoubou**

Benin

What was/were your motivations to be a member of AGGN?

I am doing my PhD on social transformation in Africa. My research focuses on human agency in areas characterized by different risk constellations. The situation of the vulnerable persons concerned is usually only perceived as linked to local bad governance. The outcomes and impacts of one nation's good governance can be good for its own citizens and at the same time bad for citizens of other nations. I therefore speak for global good governance. I believe in shared African good governance and AGGN provides the platform to achieve that goal.

In what way has AGGN contributed to your academic/professional development goals?

To a great extent, AGGN gives me the opportunity to gain more knowledge about good financial governance and how to investigate and expose corruption. This powerful network will also help me to achieve my professional development goals, which is to think globally and act locally. Africa will just be the first step.

What are your expectations for the next 2 years of fellowship with AGGN?

I hope fellows will engage in translating their knowledge into practice. I also hope that AGGN will also try to cooperate with similar networks of scholars from other world regions. The world as it is nowadays needs a global solution.



Jerome Kpan

Ghana

What was/were your motivations to be a member of AGGN?

My key motivation is the possibility to meet likeminded people, who are not only concerned about what is going on in their countries but are willing to critically evaluate these situations, share with others and make their time available to work out solutions. I find that the network does what great minds do, that is, discuss ideas. Meeting and having a sound broad discussion with so many potential partners to execute the ideas is one big step towards helping to make change a reality.

In what way has AGGN contributed to your academic/professional development goals?

It has enlightened me to critically question every data and ideas related to governance and decision making in Ghana and Africa as a whole. Through participation in organized events, I have been able to make more connections and widen my interest in the network. I am able to reach out to key decision makers. I am able to contribute unique ideas and take active part in implementing the ideas into action.

What are your expectations for the next 2 years of fellowship with AGGN?

Being a member of this network has exceeded my expectation. Within the next 2 years of my membership, I might be enlightened by the way good governance stands out for the well-being and growth of countries. It would help me to understand what needs to be done for the growth of good governance in Ghana and where the little resources we have could be

used to achieve positive outcomes in our society.



Blaise Muhire

DR Congo

What was/were your motivations to be a member of AGGN?

I was motivated by AGGN goals/missions and activities. The diversity of members and different academic backgrounds make AGGN a good place to be, not only to learn from, but also to contribute.

In what way has AGGN contributed to your academic/professional development goals?

What I appreciate from AGGN is that conferences and workshops are not a simple forum of discussions and debates. So far, it has been a real capacity building process, where academics and practitioners bring together their experiences to equip AGGN members.

What are your expectations for the next 2 years of fellowship with AGGN?

To improve my skills in different topics related to Good Governance and to use that knowledge in my daily professional activities. Moreover, I hope that the real African issues will be reflected in AGGN activities (workshops/seminars etc.) during the next 2 years and beyond.



Sisay Lelissa

Negeri

Ethiopia

What was/were your motivations to be a member of AGGN?

The desire to contribute towards promoting good governance in Africa is one of the many reasons that motivate me to join the network as it provides a platform for discussion and experience sharing among fellows on issues related to good governance in Africa and thereby prepare me to contribute in a better capacity. In addition, the extensive networking and learning opportunities the network provides are other good reasons to be part of this initiative.

In what way has AGGN contributed to your academic/professional development goals?

Through its thematic workshops the network has broadened my perspective about the major challenges and opportunities of good governance in Africa. Besides, the contribution of the skills training program and the financial support of high-impact fellow's projects in enriching academic and professional development goals is huge.

What are your expectations for the next 2 years of fellowship with AGGN?

I am optimistic to learn more and share experience with other fellows on the various dimensions of good governance and to prepare myself to contribute towards the development of the region.



Lucy Njuguna

Kenya

What was/were your motivations to be a member of AGGN?

It is my desire to be part of a network of like-minded people with interest in governance issues in Africa with whom we can learn together and influence action towards good governance in Africa. For me the African Good Governance Network (AGGN) is an ideal platform that I can use to put into context what I am studying in Environmental governance with relevance to Africa. Seeing the successes

already registered by AGGN, I was determined to become part of it.

In what way has AGGN contributed to your academic/professional development goals?

The topics we discuss in the workshops and the case study experiences from Africa compliment my studies. In addition, the discussions in the network focus across all sectors and this helps me to have a broad scope of knowledge thus enriching my environmental science background. The network also provides an opportunity for me to build my professional contacts with people working here in Germany and in Africa.

What are your expectations for the next 2 years of fellowship with AGGN?

I expect to enhance my theoretical and practical knowledge and skills relevant to the field of good governance. I expect that I will be able to develop a project that will enrich the activities of AGGN. In addition, I expect to build my professional and social network.



**Florent
Noulèkoun**

Benin

What was/were your motivations to be a member of AGGN?

The first and foremost motivations to become a member of AGGN are the on-going political instability and bad governance in almost all African country, for which I believe that training more human resource in the area of good governance will go a long way to improving African institutions and governance systems. Therefore, joining one of the most reputed well-known networks on good governance will definitely equip me to play a significant role in addressing these issues for a better Africa.

In what way has AGGN contributed to your academic/professional development goals?

As a vital platform offering rooms for networking, building partnerships and skills, AGGN has so far helped me to enlarge and to strengthen my knowledge on governance, good governance and related issues. This background in good governance is of first necessity and very important for both my professional and academic career as it could be used to further the process of democratisation by accompanying the economic and political transformation in African countries.

What are your expectations for the next 2 years of fellowship with AGGN?

Developing strong partnerships and relations with other African good governance activists; develop skills and knowledge in good governance and related issues and become a very active ambassador and key advocator of good governance, not only in Africa or Europe, but also all over the world.



**Jacques
Nyembe**
Cameroon

What was/were your motivations to be a member of AGGN?

The first thinking which came to my mind when I learned about AGGN was “Jacques, you are a leader! It is a great opportunity for you to be a good governance ambassador and to transform your country”. AGGN as a professional network between understanding African students in Germany is a good preparation for me to assume future leadership position in my home country or an international organization.

In what way has AGGN contributed to your academic/professional development goals?

As a Master student of the program “management of nonprofit organization”, I need a large range of contacts with foundations, associations, international organizations. NPOs are quickly gaining in importance, and

their numbers are growing rapidly. Yet, this also means increased competition between them. The principle of good (financial) governance and fight against corruption in NGOs is a relevant topic in the nonprofit sector. Another important point is the skills training, which is also one of AGGN activities, as I see myself as a potential CEO of foundations, organizations and development cooperation program.

What are your expectations for the next 2 years of fellowship with AGGN?

I would like to learn more about Good Governance and would like AGGN to combine theory with praxis. Secondly, I want to gain contacts through about network development and hope to learn about internships opportunities.



Kuria B. Thiong'o
Kenya

What was/were your motivations to be a member of AGGN?

To join a team of likeminded people, with whom I can network and form a strong team that can create a great positive change in society.

In what way has AGGN contributed to your academic/professional development goals?

It has created a base and platform through which I can air my views and a channel through which we can foster development projects at various levels

What are your expectations for the next 2 years of fellowship with AGGN?

I would have established contact with both junior and senior fellows from my country, and identified at least one project to undertake, either in Germany or back at home.



Ahmed Umar

Nigeria

What was/were your motivations to be a member of AGGN?

My motive for joining AGGN is to meet and share ideas, experience and knowledge with other African scholars about practical ways of promoting the values of good governance in sub-Saharan Africa. It appears to me that one of the major factors behind the slow rate of development in Africa can be attributed to, among other things, the inability of its leaders to imbibe the values of good governance.

In what way has AGGN contributed to your academic/professional development goals?

I think joining AGGN will offer me the opportunities to engage in discussions on good governance in Africa with my peers, and this can allow me to reflect on my views and opinions of others on the best ways to promote good governance in sub-Saharan Africa. The networking opportunities AGGN provides, is another very important thing I would need for my academic and career development.

What are your expectations for the next 2 years of fellowship with AGGN?

Given the high-quality skills training I am currently receiving from AGGN and the networking opportunities it has provided, I am confident that joining this network will equip me with some necessary skills I need, so that by the time I complete my PhD program and go back to Nigeria, my home country, I can collaborate with others to initiate and run programs and activities that could help promote good governance in my community, region and country as a whole.



D. Kwabena

Wiredu

Ghana

What was/were your motivations to be a member of AGGN?

I desired a membership with the AGGN to learn more about the tenets of good governance, so I can make meaningful contributions therein in Africa in the near future. I also desired to meet and share with other young talents from Africa, who are future leaders and purpose driven.

In what way has AGGN contributed to your academic/professional development goals?

Professionally, I can benefit from the network's skills training sessions where I can harness my skills in proposal writing, and public speaking. The four workshops organized every year are also a great way I can have in depth discussions on and knowledge of some pertinent issues in governance and public policy.

What are your expectations for the next 2 years of fellowship with AGGN?

I look forward to contributing more actively in the network by being a member of some working committees of AGGN. I also look forward to running a project on good governance.

Workshops 2016

Junior fellows' workshop in Bonn, March 29 - April 3, 2016

„GOOD FINANCIAL GOVERNANCE/ CORRUPTION“



This was partially an introductory workshop for the newly selected fellows, who joined the network at the beginning of the year. Besides, the workshop also included a thematic part. About twenty AGGN fellows met in Bonn at a junior workshop dedicated to the topic of good financial governance and corruption. The concept of good financial governance has become one of the major themes in the discourse of development cooperation agencies in Germany and has thus broadened the discourse on corruption to also consider issues, such as the raising and administering of taxes, budget planning and external budget control etc.



The workshop took into consideration various dimensions of good financial governance, with the visit to the in Bonn-based German federal audit court being one of the highlights. The program also included a skills training on project finance.

The participants discussed the concept and dimensions of (good) governance and had the possibility to network.



Junior fellows' workshop in Frankfurt. June 1 - 5, 2016

"MIGRATION, REFUGEES & THE DIASPORA"

A workshop on migration, refugees & the diaspora was held in Frankfurt in June 2016. Around 20 fellows met and discussed issues pertaining to the topics, which have direct links to their own histories.

The topic of migration and diaspora relations has come to the forefront of the international debate on development in recent years. Migration is not only perceived in its problematic dimensions (brain drain, xenophobia etc.), but also regarding its developmental chances (e.g. circular migration).



The so-called "refugee crisis" in Europe has led to new public debates on migration to the EU from war-shaken countries like Syria and Afghanistan, but also from North- and Sub-Saharan Africa and Eastern Europe.

These different perspectives on the theme were discussed with different researchers and

stakeholders. The workshop also included a skills training on change management and organizational development.

Fellows had the opportunity to visit Frankfurt's Paulskirche, other historical places of interest and also the offices of GIZ-CIM.



The Typical African Leader

Poem by Kolade Igbasan

He starts out as a good public **Orator**.
In condemning the old system, he is a good **Commentator**.
In suing for a new government, he is a good **Facilitator**.
A few years in office, he proves himself as a good **Administrator**.
But then, all of a sudden, he turns a vicious **Traitor**.
Crushing and smashing all opposition, he becomes a **Dictator**.
He steals and loots the land, his conscience is his **Vindicator**.
His people become disgruntled, their rebellion is an **Indicator**.
He either dies in power, or flees to the asylum of a foreign **Protector**.
But soon, like a snake that leaves no trail on the rocks, he is forgotten, gone to answer questions from the **Creator**.

Junior fellows' workshop in Freiburg, July 23 - 26, 2016

"ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE"



During the summer 2016 junior fellows met in Freiburg for a workshop on "Environmental Governance". About 18 fellows met at the "Studienhaus Wiesneck", in the outskirts of the city of Freiburg to discuss, learn and share more about the relationship between environmental challenges and governance.

Environmental Governance is of growing importance for Africa and many AGGN fellows work/study in this field. The management of scarce natural resources, the challenge of the rapid urbanization processes and the consequences of climate change are just some of the problems that the African continent, among other world regions, faces. Underlying these immediate challenges is the question of creating a sustainable development model.

The fellows discussed the broad topic of environmental governance mainly with regard to sustainable city governance and the challenge of energy and climate change. As one of the "green capitals" of Germany, Freiburg served as a model town and offered many experts and practitioners on environmental governance, sustainable city planning and renewable energies. Fellows made an excursion into the city of Freiburg to witness first the planning of model cities.

This workshop like others also included a skills training on scenario planning.



Poem by Kolade Igbasan

GREEN - The Way of PEACE



She has been ever present since our birth.
She provides us with nutrition, shelter and clothing for our back.
Her body was our Eden; our paradise.
And from her breasts flowed milk and honey; her sacrifice.

But her sacrifices would not suffice.
Because we were filled with greed and cowardice.
We mistook her perseverance for Ignorance, Her patience for never-ending tolerance.
Her quietness for powerlessness,
And her loving kindness for an innate weakness.

It all started slowly initially.
But then we raped her continually.
Desecrated her body perpetually.
Destroyed her children sadistically.

Attacking everything she ever had holistically,
"We" pronounced ourselves Lords of the Earth tyrannically.
But Mother Nature is not one to be stared down.
She looked at the rips and stains in her gown.

Riding on the wings of fierce tornadoes then and
Now,

She began to rain her indignation on the ground,
with her chariots drawn by flooding and draughts all around.
She started it initially slowly.

But then she shook the earth mercilessly.
Destroying our existence massively.
Tsunamis, sicknesses and earthquakes consuming our kind brutally.
Attacking everything we built to stand in her way vehemently

"She" walks the earth and skies as Lord indisputably!
And if we would not end up as future archeological finds
Just like the dinosaurs who reigned before our kind.
There's only one way we need to retain in mind.

Only one way to appease this angry goddess.
Only one way to avert her wrath and seek her goodness....
For the way of **GREEN** is the way of PEACE
And the way of PEACE is the way of **GREEN**

Junior fellows' workshop in Berlin 17 – 20 November 2016

“HUMAN RIGHTS”

About 20 Fellows met in Berlin for the fourth workshop in 2016, examining the topic of “Human Rights”. Human Rights are seen as a central parameter of Good Governance. They are essential for sustainable human development, poverty reduction and the elimination of inequality. During the workshop, the fellows investigated the concept of “Human Rights” and their international and national structures and applications. Further, the workshops provided room for diverse and more abstract discussion about the universality of Human rights and their cultural-specific biases.

During the workshop, various lecturers, experts, and political representatives presented their work and institutions surrounding Human Rights. Moreover, they gave inputs which initiated lively debates about the relation of Human Rights and the UN, development, the ICC; and national political affairs. Further, the group looked at a specific case study from Zimbabwe, investigating gender and Human Rights.

The location of the workshop, also offered plenty of opportunities to discover Human Rights related topics. The fellows used this opportunity by visiting the Topography of Terror and discovering the city within a small tour.

Finally, the workshop closed again with a skills training on campaigning and offered room for networking and AGGN internal discussion.



Poem by Kolade Igbasan

Human rights: future impossible tense

The tar was all littered with blood and cadaver.
I got back home to remove my bloodied disheveled uniform.

My thoughts were on our nation's future and where we were coming from.
It all just doesn't add up or make any sense
And I know I cannot continue to sit on the fence.

Colonialism and the struggle for independence are all in **past** tense
Corruption, violence and oppression of our people are in **present** tense
I am afraid to describe what our nation will be in **future** tense
We all have to take a stance and for tomorrow be a defense

I remember that day just like yesterday
Innumerable thousands like sheep all gone astray
In their hands, placards of disgruntlement
In ours, arsenals from the government
How dare you ask for equality with such egregious impunity?

Sir, we do not ask for equality but for human rights and digni...
But before he finished, our commandant swung his left foot into his groins
As he arched, he pushed him down and fired shots into his loins.
Then the commandant shouted out a loud and fierce command!

The moments that followed were blurry: Was I a beast or a man?
But as soon as it started it was all over



Fellows' Projects and Conferences

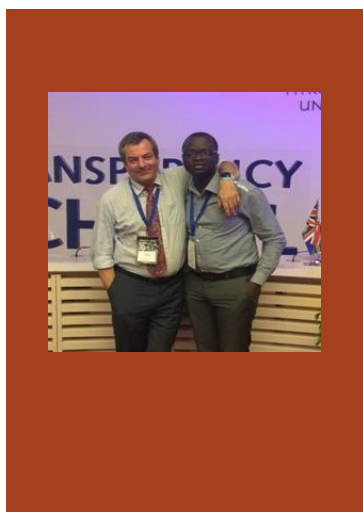
One of the objectives of AGGN is to encourage fellows to attend conferences, workshops, seminars and also carry out projects to promote the principles of good governance. Knowledge and skills from these activities are expected to support networking, accountability, transparency, sustainability and much more in our ever changing world, for the benefit of our generation and that to come. In the following, some fellows report about their conference participations and projects sponsored by AGGN this year.

International Workshop on Inequality and Middle-Class Development in Africa



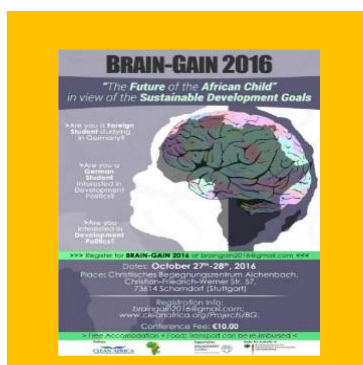
This conference was organized by GIGA Hamburg and the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR) from 4 to 6 May 2016 in South Africa. It was attended by graduate students, professors from around the world, notably from the United States, Germany, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and South Africa. The workshop aimed to explore dynamics in middle class development in Africa and its consequent socio-political implications. One discussion however that stirred considerable debate and controversy during the conference was the subject of race and class differences in South Africa.

George Akeliwira at Transparency International Summer School



About 120 participants from 60 countries took part in a summer school on Integrity by Transparency International in Vilnius/ Lithuania from July 4-10, 2016. Over 20 governance and anti-corruption experts delivered lectures on several forms of corruption in several sectors. It was agreed by many at this summer school that amidst political corruption and political parties, corruption in sports and the army petty corruption is hitting hardest on the poor and vulnerable in the society. Aside the lectures, there were sessions for skills training on projects management and development where participants were also asked to make brief presentations on how corruption is perceived in their countries. George, who deals with the topic of corruption in his PhD, had the possibility to introduce AGGN as a network seeking to promote best governance practice. He also got the chance to meet the managing director of TI, Cobus de Swardt (see picture).

The Future of the African Child in view of the new Sustainable Development Goals



As a way of providing an avenue for open Discourse on Child Security in Africa (Health, Educational opportunities, Water & Food and Environmental & Social security), Clean-Africa, a non-governmental organisation held a conference, Brain Gain on the 27 to 28 October 2016 in Stuttgart. The conference also featured experts of African origin who discussed issues ranging from the current social to economic and political situation in Africa. At the end of the conference, some solutions were preferred on how BRAIN-GAIN can be a possible remedy to Child insecurity. The event also showcased some positive contributions made by the Diaspora.

Eileen Bogweh at Democratizing Food Governance Conference in the food hub Democratizing Food Governance Conference in the food hub



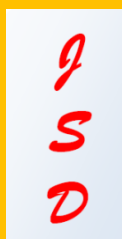
This conference, which took place on 14 October 2016 in Rome/Italy, aimed to review theories and empirical evidences of different governance in food systems. In addition, to contribute to policies and regulations which favour social justice and democracy in the food economy across the globe at different levels of development. Food systems in developed and developing countries are dynamic due to the ever changing socio-political and economic environments in which they operate. Actors and institutions through networking and discourses co-construct the processes of governance within the urban and rural food system especially where government ambiguity and plurality exist. These processes are usually constructed around the different interests and agenda of the different actors and are often not democratic and sustainable. In a world where complex relations exist at local and global level between many actors there is a need for collective decision on how to eradicate poverty and food insecurity through a system which is not only participatory but just and sustainable. The picture shows Eileen with Dr. Maria Grazia Queti.

UN Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law



This forum took place from 21 to 22 November 2016 Geneva, in line with resolution 28/14, adopted on 26 of March 2015. This session focused on **"Widening the Democratic Space: the role of youth in public decision-making"**. 5 AGGN fellows participated. Discussions focused on the legal and institutional frameworks required to enable youth to contribute to the formulation of public policies and to hold policymakers accountable. Discussions also considered the importance of education, training, capacity-building and empowerment programs as effective means to engage youth in decision making at different levels of governmental institutions. There was also talk on the effective measures to create spaces for youth participation in translating global agenda embedded in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Strategies and policies which have had a positive impact in scaling up the participation of youth in post-conflict and peace-building efforts were to be promoted.

George Mutalemwa heads the editorial team of the new Journal of Sociology & Development



The *"Journal of Sociology and Development (JSD)"* is a peer-reviewed journal published by the Departments of Sociology and Development Studies at St. Augustine University of Tanzania. It publishes scholarly, original, empirical research and theoretical contributions in the fields of sociology and development studies with a multidisciplinary and global perspective with a focus on the African continent. For the first volume to be published in December 2016, the editorial team is currently welcoming original manuscripts in the disciplines of sociology and development studies.

Paul Osei Tutu and Alexander Marful collaborated with CLEAN AFRICA to launch PAMBA project



The Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology-Ghana, Central University College Ghana and Frankfurt University of Applied Science launch the PAMBA project at a 21-day workshop in August 2016. The PAMBA project stands for "Parliament without Barriers: Kick-off for Barrier-free Concepts" and set the starting point for a dialogue on the basic principles of and the need for universally usable, barrier-free environments for all beginning at the Parliament House of Ghana. The central aim of the project is to provide guidance on creating a barrier-free built environment for everyone including persons with disabilities to increase political participation. After the opening workshop, the PAMBA initiative will go on for another 23 months to follow its aims.

First roundtable on SMEs innovation and responsive policies



A roundtable titled "Accelerating Innovation and Growth of SMEs through Responsive Policies" took place November 23-24, 2016 in Dar es Salaam/ Tanzania, with Richard Adu-Gyamfi being on the organizing team. The main purpose of the roundtable was to provide an opportunity for scholars, policymakers, development partners and business practitioners from Africa and beyond to exchange views, share experiences, disseminate research findings and practical lessons on Africa's development and the policies required to promote innovation and competitiveness of African enterprises. The roundtable was organized by the Centre for Policy Research and Advocacy and the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation through the support of Business Environment Strengthening for Tanzania in collaboration with the Intelligence for Innovation Africa Network. It was supported by the University of Leipzig SEPT program, among others.

Workshop on the relevance of ethic in non-profit organizations



Jacques Rene Nyembe organized a workshop on the relevance of ethic in Non-profit (NPO) organizations in framework of the celebration of 10th anniversary of non-profit management studies at the University of Applied Science Osnabrück. The workshop aimed to discuss the mainstreaming of ethical principles in NGO/NPO/CSO and to give the participants a better understanding of ethic and his impact for NGO. The program included an interactive podium discussion between various stakeholders of small and large NGOs and well as academics. A second component of the program informed about the work of AGGN and its contribution for improving good governance in African countries. More than 120 participants attended the workshop. Jacques himself currently does his Master's at the University of Applied Science Osnabrück.

News from the Fellows

To follow news more recently and comprehensively and to connect with other fellows, join the AGGN facebook group: www.facebook.com/groups/AGGNFellows.



Florent Noulèkoun, is from Benin and currently pursuing his PhD at the Center for Development Research (ZEF) at the Bonn University in Germany. He graduated with honours from the University of Abomey-calavi as an agronomic engineer with specialization in Landscaping and Natural Resources Management in 2011. He then worked as a project assistant for 6 months in a national institution that advises and supports farmers' organisations. In 2012, he was awarded a scholarship by Transdisciplinary Training for Resource Efficiency and Climate Change Adaptation in Africa (TreccAfrica) to undertake

his M.Sc. studies in Agroecology and Sustainable Development at Mekelle University, Ethiopia. His PhD studies are funded by the West African Science Service Center on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL)/German Federal Ministry of Education (BMBF). Florent's doctoral studies and research project aims to develop options for rehabilitating degraded cropland through the integration of well-adapted multi-purpose tree species, thereby enhancing agroecosystem resilience and improving rural livelihoods. He has experience and a passion for natural resources management, especially in forestry and agroforestry, with the focus on the sustainable management of these land use options. His main career objective is to contribute his intellectual quota to the development of sustainable forestry and agroforestry options at both local and international levels, with a particular emphasis on the conservation and restoration of these land use types through ecological processes and in response to the current environment/climate changes, in order to improve

Tanimomo Oluseun, is from Nigeria and has just completed his masters and has now joined the University of Bremen for his PhD in Postcolonial Literature. Oluseun, has a keen interest in, Transnational literature, risk and migration and his focus during his PhD studies will be to examine the relationship between risk and immigration, using literature from African authors. Some of the authors that he was selected for his studies are; *Beyond the Horizon* by Amma Darko, *Our Sister Killjoy* by Ama Ata Aidoo, *Le Ventre de L'Atlantique* by Fatou Diome and *Le Petit Prince de Belleville* by Calyxthe Beyala. His topic will be very interesting, as he will argue that "in decisions of migration by the characters, different types of risks such as economic, migration and interpersonal risks come to play". An interplay reality and the fictional characters in the novels will be considered. In his own words Oluseun said "examining migration through the lens of risk theory provides another vista for looking at the discourse of migration beyond the push and pull factors. Due to the different historical, social, economic, psychological experiences of the characters, different motives foreground their migratory patterns. The political structure and history including the politics of language will also be considered in my analysis as the four novels are equally divided between the Francophone/Anglophone language dichotomies. For the major characters in the novels, choices of destination, sense of home and place are prompted by risk- the anticipation of catastrophe. Risk evolves all through the selected novels and changes with plot and focalization."



Eric Otieno successfully completed the 2016 John Lewis Fellowship Programme and is now a 2016 John Lewis Fellow. Eric Spent a month at the National Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta, GA. USA (The Center) this July where he took part in a series of workshops, seminars, site visits and working sessions with elected officials, Civil Society leaders and Civil Rights Icons such as Dr. Roselyn Pope and Congressman John Lewis, after whom the Fellowship is named. The John Lewis Fellowship is a collaborative international programme organized by “Humanity in Action” and “The Center” on Human and Civil Rights that is designed to provide a group of university students and recent graduates with the opportunity to explore critical aspects of American pluralism, past and present. The programme also focused on multiple immigrant histories that are mirrored in Atlanta's population, as well as contemporary challenges of immigration, diversity and the relationship between Civil Rights and



Sisay Lelissa Negeri, graduated on the 25th of November 2016, with an MSc in Agricultural Economics at the University of Hohenheim. He will soon be joining the Humboldt University at Berlin for his PhD in the field of International Agricultural Trade and Development. Sisay wrote his masters' thesis on 'The Role of Household Wealth Status on Agricultural Technology Adoption among Smallholder Farmers in Ethiopia: With the premise to boosting agricultural productivity and increasing national income, several Sub-Saharan African countries including Ethiopia adopted yield enhancing technologies, more specifically agricultural inputs such as fertilizers and improved High Yielding Varieties (HYV). However, despite the efforts made the adoption and use intensity of HYV in SSA in general and in Ethiopia in particular is still low. This study reveals that the wealth status of a household is one of the significant factors determining the adoption and use intensity of improved HYV.

Kaderi Bukari graduated with a PhD in Social Sciences from the University of Gottingen. He also studied Development Studies at the the Zentrum für Entwicklungs Forschung (ZEF)/ Center for Development Research, University of Bonn, Germany. He holds an MPhil. in Peace and Development Studies from the University of Cape Coast, Ghana. Kaderi wrote his PhD thesis on Fulani herder relations in Ghana, with focus on how conflict, environmental change and cooperation interplay in these relations. His main research interests are on resource conflicts, ethno-political conflicts, environmental/ climate change, development studies and governance. His future plans are to work in academia and research and eventually into mainstream politics.



The new online database

The AGGN Website informs about the network and its activities. It aims at reaching both the general public, such as interested individuals, researchers and policy makers or institutions, such as state ministries or political foundations. It is also designed to keep the network fellows themselves up-to-date and connected. An internal section that was designed in 2015 provides the fellows with workshop and skills training material.

In 2016, an integrated fellow database was launched that introduces AGGN fellows to the public and to each other. It contains comprehensive information on the fellows' backgrounds and expertises and is the first database which the fellows themselves can fill in and update.



The database contributes to the development of the network in several ways. It allows people or institutions to find engaged experts of a certain topic or from a certain country/region in Africa. Further, it helps to support the connections between the network individuals. This is in particular valuable, since AGGN is vastly growing over the years and geographically spreading, with more and more fellows leaving Germany to Africa or some other part of the world.

Besides a fellow overview with a diverse range of filter options, the database feeds into an interactive map. The database is continuously growing, profiles can be added via the Website.

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