

# nairobi newsletter



## Mark the date!

The celebrations of the 40th anniversary of DAAD in East Africa will culminate in a big **regional Alumni conference on leadership**—preparations are ongoing. You can already mark the date while you are waiting for details to be published in the next few weeks:

**May 28-30, Nairobi**

## Post-doc offers are out!

Fellowship offers to do post-doctoral studies both in Germany and within Africa are out! So are the offers for the staff exchange programme.

Postdoctoral fellowships in Germany are open to DAAD Alumni of the In-Country and In-Region scholarship programme.

The fellowships within Sub-Saharan Africa and the Staff Exchange Programme are open to all qualified applicants. They don't need to be a DAAD Alumna or Alumnus.

There is no application deadline; the application process is ongoing.

Further information can be obtained from programme officer [Bonface Nyagah](#).

## Editorial

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## 50 years Elysée Treaty: A Model for East Africa?

In October 2013, academics, politicians, legal professionals and further stakeholders, many of them DAAD alumni, gathered in Dar es Salaam and Nairobi to analyse processes of regional integration with a special focus on harmonisation of laws. Partners in both countries were the [University of Bayreuth](#), the [Rule of Law Programme of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation](#) and the [German-French University in Saarbrücken](#) whose model was presented by its Secretary General, Dr. Jochen Hellmann. National partner in Kenya were the DAAD Office and the [Institute of Economic Affairs \(IEA\)](#). In Tanzania, the [Tanzanian-German Centre for Eastern African Legal Studies \(TGCL\)](#) also celebrated its 5th anniversary. The TGCL is a DAAD-funded study programme in law to educate future leaders for Eastern Africa from all five EAC Partner States and beyond.

Professors from France and Germany, namely Professor Olivier Dubos from the Université Montesquieu – Bordeaux IV and Professor Bernd Kannowski from the University of Bayreuth, provided insights into French and German perspectives on harmonisation of laws in the European Union. The presence of experts from both regional blocs led to a number of elaborate questions and contributions, many of them involving a comparative component.

What impulses can the friendship between Germany and France provide for integration in Eastern Africa? An option would be an increased exchange of students and the establishment of regional



Christoph Hansert, Director DAAD Regional Office for Africa; Emmanuel Renoult, Deputy Ambassador of France; Friedo Sielemann, Deputy Ambassador of Germany; Prof. Ulrike Wanitzek, University of Bayreuth

centres of excellence for the academic elites to not only do joint research but to meet personally and openly discuss issues.

Beyond the academic discussions, it was the purpose of the conferences to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the French-German Élysée treaty, a bilateral treaty entered into after the Second World War for reconciliation between the two countries. At both conferences, the discussants agreed on the significant social and economic benefits of regional integration. A bilateral treaty like the Élysée treaty has the potential to **become the building stone of a strong regional bloc.**



The strength of many women: DAAD Alumni in discussion - and coming up with solutions

## East Africa: Subjects ranking: An option for universities in East Africa?

In December 2013, East African decision-makers, led by the Deputy Secretary General of the East African Community, Jesca Eriyo, visited Bonn and Brussels in search of solutions for the higher education sector in the region whose rapid expansion increasingly poses challenges to university management, employers and students alike.

By invitation of DAAD and the German Rectors' Conference (HRK), **permanent secretaries** of ministries, **heads of higher education commissions and top media representatives** like NMG's Linus Gitahi, informed themselves on quality assurance structures of European universities. Since 2005, DAAD and HRK have been collaborating with the Inter-University Council of East Africa (IUCEA) on quality assurance in higher education in East Africa within the DIES Programme.

The delegation was introduced to the German system of ranking universities by subject and not by institution. This system has proven to be a more accurate selection tool for potential students and scientists looking for quality education and research. It is a project of higher education stakeholders with the support of Germany's prestigious weekly newspaper "Die Zeit". During the meeting, Kenya's Commission for University Education (CUE) and the regional weekly "The East African", which is part of the Nation Media Group, committed themselves to pursue a similar process.

On the last day of the visit, the delegation had the opportunity to meet over 100 participants of the Africa workshop "For mutual

gain: Euro - African cooperation in higher education" with experts from European universities as well as top managers from the World Bank and the European Commission. The meeting resolved to support diversity in African higher education, Master and PhD programs that also include leadership skills' training, greater cooperation between development partners to ensure transparency and utmost utilization of resources for mutual benefit, and promotion of higher education as a social transformation tool.

Participants from East Africa brace the December cold on the roof top of the DAAD Head Office in Bonn, Germany



## Uganda and Kenya: New DIES Alumni National Multiplication Trainings (NMT) in Higher Education Management

In line with its agenda to support multiplication, to contribute to the sustainability of DIES trainings and to contribute to a more effective and efficient management of higher education in the world, DAAD decided to fund two selected projects by East African DIES-Alumni for National Multiplication Training (NMT) on higher education management: "National Quality Assurance Training for Quality Assurance Directors in Uganda" and "Curriculum Development and Review for Newly Chartered Public Universities in Kenya: Implementation and Accreditation."

The Ugandan Universities Quality Assurance Forum concluded its first phase of the National Quality Assurance Training for Quality Assurance Directors in **Uganda**. The workshop was held in November in close cooperation with the Inter-University Council of East Africa (IUCEA) and National Council for Higher Education (NCHE) in Entebbe. 37 participants from 22 universities were trained on the development and assessment of internal quality assurance systems.



In December, a workshop on "Curriculum Development and Review for Newly Chartered Public Universities in **Kenya**: Implementation and Accreditation" in cooperation with the Commission for University Education (CUE) took place in Nakuru. 50 participants were trained on curriculum development, accreditation and implementation aligned with new developments in the higher education sector since the enactment of the Universities Act No. 42 of 2012. Most participants were Deans of faculties/ schools and Chairpersons of departments of 14 universities.

Ina Grieb, German Expert, University of Oldenburg, and Prof. Nkunya, Executive Secretary, IUCEA





## Uganda: E-Resources training expands throughout the region

In order to enhance the scientific research skills of East African DAAD scholarship holders, the DAAD Office Nairobi organised an E-Resources workshop in Kampala in collaboration with the DAAD Lecturer in Uganda, Dr. Mirjam Gille, and the Information Training and Outreach Centre for Africa (ITOCA). The workshops ran for four days from 28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2013.

A total of thirty two (32) scholars participated and were drawn from eight institutions in Uganda, namely: Busitema University, Mbarara University, Kyambogo

University, Makerere University, Gulu University, Mulago University, Muni University and Ndejje University with a majority registered for their studies in Makerere University.

This was the second workshop of this kind in Uganda. A similar workshop was held for DAAD scholars in Tanzania in February; the training in Kenya in May took place for the third time. The Regional Office also managed to offer a pilot training in Sudan in June which is meant to develop into a fully-blown workshop this year.

## Sudan: DAAD Alumni Conference on "Environmental Considerations in Scientific Research" in Wad Madani

This year's annual conference of the Sudanese DAAD Alumni Organisation took place at the Agricultural Research Corporation in Wad Madani, about 200 km south of Khartoum, on 28th November 2013. It was mainly organised by Dr. Hayder Abdelgader and Dr. Emad Mahgoub from Wad Madani, assisted by Dr. Hassan Mudawi and the DAAD representative in Sudan, Dr. Wolfram Full. About 70 Alumni from different parts of the country attended the conference.

After welcome speeches by the organisers and DAAD representatives the conference was opened by the Deputy Ambassador of Germany in Sudan, Dr. Dirk Stockhausen. He emphasized the significance of the work of DAAD and the DAAD Alumni Organisation in Sudan as an important part of the bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

In the morning session four scientific papers were given related to the conference theme "Environmental Considerations in Scientific Research". Three of them dealt with ecological and agricultural problems in Sudan whereas the fourth one, presented by Kenyan Professor Dr. Simon Onywere, was concerned with the flooding from Rift Valley Lakes in Kenya.

The afternoon session started with an overview of DAAD activities in Sudan as well as information on lesser known DAAD programmes and cooperation possibilities, all given by Mr. Christoph Hansert, Director of the DAAD Regional Office in Nairobi. Finally an Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held in which a new Executive Board of the Alumni Organisation was elected. Scientists of the three main centers of Alumni activity in Sudan - Khartoum, Wad Madani and El Obeid - are represented in the new board. Dr. Hassan Mudawi was confirmed as Chairman of the Sudanese DAAD Alumni Organisation.

## Kenya: The future of our Soda Lakes - Will the Flamingoes be there tomorrow?

Between 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> December 2013, renowned soda lakes researchers converged at the Kenya Wildlife Training Institute in Naivasha to discuss their work and how the information could be used for management and conservation of the lakes. Of particular concern are the mass deaths of flamingoes and fear about resultant declining numbers of the birds. Interesting findings suggest that the population of flamingoes is actually stable at about 200,000 birds. The reported deaths happen when rainfall dilutes the lakes leading to a decline of the cyanobacteria, the food for the flamingoes. To survive, the birds move to other lakes in search of food and favourable conditions and return when the food supply is restored. Reports that pollution or toxins might be killing the flamingos were largely discounted.



Soda Lakes are found in the East African Rift Valley in Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, and include lakes Nakuru, Bogoria, Elmenteita, Baringo, Magadi, Sonachi and Lake Natron. They are home to a rich birdlife which is dominated by the lesser Flamingoes and are fantastic destinations for nature lovers

and tourists. These lakes represent some of the most extreme environments in nature with salt concentration ranging from 5% to 30%. In addition, the lakes are highly alkaline and some harbor hot springs with temperatures of between 45 and 100°C. The Kenyan soda lakes have attracted many international researchers. Knowledge has been generated that helps to understand the chemistry, hydrology, geology and biology of these lakes.

This workshop was attended by 40 participants including 29 DAAD Alumni and renowned scientists from Germany, Belgium, the UK, Canada and Austria. The Kenya Soda Lakes Network was formed to share information. Scientists appealed to KWS to facilitate easier

access to research sites for long-term studies and collaboration with Kenyan researchers.

From now on, the Kenya Soda Lakes Conference will be held every three years.

Hamadi Iddi Boga

## Africa: Emerging needs, enhancing capacities – regional academic conference seeks solutions

The 5<sup>th</sup> African Regional Conference of Vice Chancellors and Deans of Science Engineering and Technology (COVIDSET 2013), organized by ANSTI and in collaboration with the University of Botswana, took place from 6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> November at the Gaborone International Convention Center, Gaborone, Botswana. According to Dr. Peggy Efua Oti-Boateng, Senior Programme Specialist for Science and Technology UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa and coordinator of ANSTI, “the aim of this conference was to provide a forum for university leaders, policy makers, academics, development partners, international scientific and engineering networks

and private sector to deliberate on why, what and how to forge ahead in providing solutions to incipient challenges and opportunities the new wave of economic resurgence of Africa presents under the strategies intent: *Enhancing capacity in science, technology and innovation in response to emerging industrial and socio-economic needs of Africa: The role of universities.*”

The conference brought together more than 150 participants from all parts of the world. DAAD Nairobi sponsored five former scholarship holders coming from Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa, Ghana, Tanzania and Ethiopia to attend the conference. Deputy Director Jutta Quade participated and met DAAD scholars and Alumni. The conference report will be available on the [ANSTI website](#).



## Germany: At home in Deutschland

Eight students of German Studies travelled to Dresden and Bayreuth as part of their DAAD-funded Masters programme. The aim of the three months study trip was to get acquainted with German universities, to access current literature and to have their research projects partly supervised by German professors in collaboration with the University of Nairobi.

### At home in Dresden

Germany welcomed us with cold temperatures ranging between 8 and 10°C which was quite new for most of us and challenging at first. The drive from Berlin to Dresden in the south-eastern part of Germany took three hours and we were finally warmly welcomed by Dr. Tilo Weber, former DAAD lecturer at the University of Nairobi. With the help of Mandy Scheffler, a staff member of Dresden University of Technology, we were settled down with ease.



Former DAAD Lecturer at the University of Nairobi, Dr. Tilo Weber, and his wife Anne host the four Kenyan students in their home in Dresden. The reunion must have been quite pleasant.

The three months in Dresden were marked by lots of wonderful experiences leaving us wishing for more time in Germany: From friendly faces to very organized and efficient transport systems, a modern and well-equipped library and a cosy, affordable international guest house that became our home. We also participated in lectures which helped us to improve our German language skills but also to meet kind and very able lecturers as well as scholars from different countries. Dresden will definitely remain deeply etched in our hearts.

Alex Muthanga, Anuarite Kieti, Fridel Njeri, Winnie Mukami

### At home in Bayreuth

Bayreuth in northern Bavaria became our home for three months in the last quarter of 2013. Surrounded by strange faces but a familiar language, we managed to settle in well.

The first month was basically orientation, getting to know the city and the university and most importantly how to find books in the library. After the basic orientation we met our supervisors who gave us a list of

literature to kick start our research in Germany. Finding our way in the big library was only problematic the first month after which we became fully integrated into the system. We made progress not only in our research but in connecting with other students and professors other than our own supervisors.

Our social life was filled with different activities as we were welcomed with a *Gutscheinheft* by the Bayreuth city council, with complementary tickets for movies, museums, pools, breweries and libraries just to mention a few. At the end of our stay, we celebrated Christmas with a German family the German way.

Malven Mambo

## Kenya: Young lecturers trained on professional supervision of final papers

The DAAD Regional Office facilitated, under the guidance of DAAD lecturers Dr. Shaban Mayanja (UoN) and Eva Hamann (KU), an advanced training for lecturers of German Studies on the optimization of **supervision of final student papers**. The training which took place on November 11<sup>th</sup> 2013 at the University of Nairobi brought together twelve Kenyan lecturers of German studies as well as two Nigerian colleagues. Most of the participants obtained their PhD recently and were therefore at the beginning of their careers as students' supervisors. For that reason, the training was designed to make a valuable contribution to quality assurance of student supervision and mentoring.

The event was structured into three areas: Academic Writing/ Exposé Writing/ Subject Selection/ Literature Review; Evaluation and Assessment: Editing/ Feedback/ Final Assessment/ External Appraisal; Organizational considerations: Time management and keeping of appointments/ Communication/ Collaboration with university bodies.

At the end of the training, the participants agreed on a **binding catalogue of criteria for academic supervision**.

Shaban Mayanja

## Kenya: DAAD at Nairobi PASCH school to promote German language

On October 9<sup>th</sup> 2013, DAAD lecturers and representatives of the Goethe-Institut paid a visit to Precious Blood Secondary School in Nairobi, one of two Kenyan PASCH schools (Schools: Partners for the Future). This is an initiative of the Federal Foreign Office in cooperation with the Central Agency for Schools Abroad (ZfA), the Goethe-Institut (GI), DAAD and the International Exchange Service in the school sector (PAD). The initiative wants to create a global network of some 1700 partner schools with special links to Germany, promote the German language and strengthen intercultural knowledge.

The benefits for schools of being a member of the PASCH network include, among others, assistance in teaching German, the possibility to work with modern multimedia learning and cultural studies material and the provision of technical equipment. The partner schools also receive assistance to offer a high standard of teaching. Students benefit from contacts with students from other partner schools worldwide while dedicated students may receive invitations to attend summer courses in Germany to improve their language skills, which may lead to the possibility to study in Germany, maybe even with a full scholarship from DAAD.

The meeting ended with a quiz about Germany that revealed the detailed knowledge that many students already have about the country and brought a lot of fun to all participants, parents, students and teachers alike.



DAAD lecturer from Kenyatta University, Eva Hamann, enjoys speaking German with the students.

## New Initiatives of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in Africa

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation is determined to increase the number of Humboldt Fellows in Africa. The [Georg Forster Research Fellowship \(HERMES\) programme](#) offered by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation is tailored to the needs of researchers from developing countries and is currently being expanded significantly. The unique opportunities of joining the renowned Humboldt network – and the lifelong benefits which are offered to its members – have been poorly exploited by researchers from Kenya and the neighbouring countries. That is the reason why the Foundation increases its marketing efforts in the region. Approximately 120 scientists, half of whom are junior researchers from East Africa, have been invited to attend the Humboldt Colloquium which will be held in cooperation with DAAD, NACOSTI, and TWAS between 6 and 8 March 2014 in Nairobi: "The Power of Excellence in Science - Enhancing Academic Capacities in Africa" is a topic of the future that needs many allies. For many African states, the journey towards independence began, some 50 years ago, with a small group of local intellectuals. The University of Nairobi became Kenya's first national university in 1970; it had fewer than 3,000 students at the time. Today, an estimated 300,000 young people are enrolled at Kenyan universities, approximately five times as many as only ten years ago. Similar developments can be observed in many other states. Critics decry the expansion of higher education institutions as "massification" and warn of declining quality. It is necessary that emerging countries invest massively in the development of academic capacities. The availability of a sufficient number of professors who can combine their extensive teaching duties with own research experience that meets high standards of quality is however also important. This is where the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation seeks to set its priorities.





The DAAD Alumni Water Conference in Dar es Salaam in November included a reception at the residence of the Cultural Attaché, Mr. Jan Dieter Gosink. Christoph Hansert, Director of the Nairobi Office, hands over certificates to new DAAD scholarship holders. In the picture from left: Mrs. Gosink, a happy scholarship holder, Mr. Hansert, Prof. Sylvia Temu, Director for Higher Education, Ministry for Education and Vocational Training, Tanzania, Dr. Kennedy Gastorn, Chairman of Tanzania DAAD Alumni Association



More happy scholars, funded for their Master studies in Integrated Watershed Management (IWM) at Kenyatta University, celebrate with host Friedo Sielemann, Deputy Ambassador of Germany in Kenya on October 28<sup>th</sup> in Nairobi. From left to right: Glory Rocky Marandu (Tanzania), Albert Kobina Mensah (Ghana), Mr. Sielemann, Modekai Michael Sanga (Tanzania), Alex Saturday (Uganda) and Esther Nakato (Uganda)

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Visiting Hours: wednesdays, thursdays  
9 am to 12 noon or by appointment