

# nairobi newsletter



## Germany is calling!

Within the joint scholarship programme between DAAD and the Government of Kenya, ten more Kenyans were selected to pursue their PhD degrees at a university in Germany. They will start with a German language course in October in Nairobi for two months before proceeding to Germany in December to complete the six-months language training. Their research will start in April 2013.

Our warmest congratulations go to: Job Otieno Obonyo, Wycliffe Omurwa Masanta (Maseno U), Kipkemoi Changwony, Bilha Saina Chepchirchir (Chepkoilel UC), Eric Ouma Jobunga (Mombasa Poly UC), Noah Kerandi (SEUCO), Justus Chimoni Mtende (Pwani UC), Mercy Wanjiku Mwaniki, Jackson Githu Njiri (JKUAT), Bernard Owino Oyayo (KU)

## Editorial

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## Towards a Competition for Centres of Excellence — High Powered East African Delegation Visits Germany

Managing research and innovation systems effectively and efficiently - a DIES Information  
Visit of 28 East African science policy decision makers from May 20 to 26 to Germany

Invited by DAAD, the high-ranking delegation visited key institutions of the German science system. Part of the delegation were two **Kenyan Assistant Ministers**, the Chairman of the Committee for Education and Research of the **Kenyan Parliament**, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology (MoHEST), the Executive Secretary and the Chairman-Elect of the **Inter University Council for East Africa (IUCEA)**, Chairmen and Directors of the **National Councils for Science and Technology** and **Research Institutes** in Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda, **Vice-Chancellors and Principals** as well as Board Members of the **Kenyan Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA)**.

The one-week visit aimed at introducing innovative models of science management in Germany and discussing how competition and profiling of research in East Africa can be enhanced, not least in order to maintain the high cooperation potential of East African research institutions and universities with their German counterparts. The participants concurred that the results of the discussions may well influence the final **drafting of a new Uni-**

**versities' and the Science and Technology Bills**, in particular with regard to the independence and funding of the National Council for Science and Technology. Moreover, upon return to Kenya, the Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Education and Research, Hon. David Koech, succeeded in campaigning for a **budget increase by 75 percent**, which will be used for **funding a new competition for research groups**. Not least, steps towards **“joint calls” for research projects** have been agreed on between the Kenyan MoHEST and the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF) and a **workshop on “multi-dimensional” rankings** along the CHE-ZEIT model has been requested. Finally, the **German friendship group within the Parliament of Kenya is planned to be extended** by three dedicated new members.



Left to right: Edwin Ataro (KENET), Christoph Hansert (Director DAAD Nairobi), Ignace Gatere (CEO, Research Council Rwanda), Francis Aduol (Principal, Nairobi Polytech U), Asman Kamama (Assistant Minister MoHEST, MP), Freida Brown (Association of Private U, Kenya, VC USIU), Shaukat Abdulrazak (CEO, NCST, Kenya), David Koech (Chairman, Education and Research Committee, Kenyan Parliament, MP), Kabando Wa Kabando (Assistant Minister Youth and Sports, MP) at the shores of the “Great Wannsee” on their way to the Research Cluster Potsdam

## DAAD Open Day in Nairobi Attracts More Than 500 visitors

When DAAD held its Open Day at Nairobi's Goethe-Institut on May 5, numerous students took advantage of this unique opportunity to learn more about what DAAD has to offer to local university and college students. In total, the DAAD representatives counseled more than 500 students both in presentations and small group discussions. While most visitors reported to live in the capital area, some of them came all the way from the coast, Western Kenya, and even South Sudan to attend the Open Day.

The main purpose of the event was to convey an idea of the scholarship programmes for postgraduate studies at German universities. Students asked about eligibility criteria, application procedures, and the admission process. However, many visitors were equally interested in German student life, living costs, and how to settle in as an international student in Germany. The majority of students concluded that the Open Day furthered their understanding of DAAD's scholarship programmes to Germany, aroused their interest in the country and its educational opportunities, and encouraged them to submit an application for Master's or Ph.D. studies supported by DAAD.

## DIES Training for Quality Assurance Coordinators Opened by Kenyan Minister for Higher Education



The training took place from June 17 to 21 at Utalii College in Nairobi. 30 participants from both Universities and Higher Education Commissions from all

EAC Member countries participated. Minister Prof. Kamar stressed the importance of Quality Assurance in rapidly expanding Higher Education sectors in the region. Quality Assurance by including non-academic stakeholders should enhance relevance of study programmes. Only by harmonized QA, she stated, mobility of graduates will be facilitated. She commended the Kenyan Commission for Higher Education, IUCEA as well as DAAD and the University of Oldenburg for their combined efforts. She especially welcomed the training being organised by mainly East African trainers and the cost sharing arrangement found for both the training and embedded national multiplication workshops and pilot evaluations.

## DIES Training Course "Proposal Writing for International Research Projects", Part II, Naivasha, Kenya 09-14 April 2012



The Proposal Writing courses are offered in the framework of the DIES (Dialogue on Innovative Higher Education Strategies) programme of DAAD. The Proposal Writing course addressed young scientists, predominantly DAAD Alumni, from East African countries. During the first part of the DIES training course, held in Nairobi in November 2011, 31 participants gained basic knowledge

and skills in writing a convincing research proposal. The second part of the workshop was addressed to those participants of the first part who revised their drafted proposal between both training course parts.

The main goal of the second part of the Proposal Writing course was to evaluate and to improve the individual proposals. The evaluation was done in a participatory review process: the participants took over the role of the reviewers and evaluated the proposals of their colleagues. Furthermore, the participants learnt more about presentation and argumentation techniques. In addition, participants gained knowledge about further topics: e.g. project management, public awareness, networking, research and knowledge management.

Anette Stumptner

## DAAD Regional Office Team on the Road to Potential Scholars in Kenya

At the end of May, a delegation from DAAD's Nairobi office visited six universities and university colleges in Western Kenya. Headed by Programme Officer Anja Bengelstorff, the DAAD representatives advertised the scholarship programmes that DAAD offers for Kenyan students who intend to study or conduct research at a German university. Hundreds of students, most of them graduates, took advantage of this unique opportunity. Although DAAD's programmes have been known in Kenyan academia for many decades, the trip proved to resolve a number of formerly unanswered questions.

In detail, the delegation paid a visit to Karatina University College, Moi University, Chepkoilel University College, Masinde Muliro and Maseno University, and Bondo University College where each time DAAD was very warmly welcomed and hosted. Our Alumni did a terrific job in preparing our visit. With that said, the team covered more than 1,000 kilometres on highways, country roads, and mountain passes within four days.

Ms. Bengelstorff pointed out that every year, DAAD offers ten full scholarships to Kenyans who aspire to do PhD studies in Germany. In addition, since 2010, 20 additional scholarships are available thanks to a collaboration of DAAD and the Kenyan Government. What came as a surprise to many listeners was that there are no tuition fees to be paid for Ph.D. studies at German public universities.

Ms. Bengelstorff's presentations were complemented by remarks of DAAD's German lecturer at Kenyatta University, Dr. Georg Ver-



MMUST VC Prof. Wangila (centre) with his guests and DAAD Alumni

weyen. Dr. Verweyen stressed that there are potential supervisors in virtually every field of study at one of Germany's 409 institutions of higher education. Besides Google, using search engines such as DAAD's [Research Explorer](#) can ease the quest for a supervisor.

In early June, DAAD was also hosted by Pwani University College and Mombasa Polytechnic University College for the same purpose.

The application deadline for all Ph.D. scholarships to Germany is September 30, 2012. More information is available [here](#).



First stop: Karatina University College at the slopes of Mt. Kenya. DAAD Alumna Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho, Deputy Principal AA (picture), made sure we took the detour to talk to staff members.



Full house wherever the team went: Here at Chepkoilel University College near Eldoret, we had to be given a bigger venue to fit all that wanted to attend. We counted about 100....

## Postdoctoral Fellowships in Sub-Saharan Africa

*No deadline, but limited funds*

The purpose of this programme is to provide opportunities to post-doctoral researchers from Sub-Saharan Africa to conduct cooperative research within the region and under the guidance of certain Centres of Excellence. In order to be eligible for the programme, researchers must be (at least prospective) teaching and / or research staff and have completed their PhD degree.

Their field of research should have a strong relevance to national development.

The awards are tenable for three up to six months and are not renewable.

The scholarship must end before January 31st 2013 and cannot be deferred.

Please find more information on the [website of DAAD Nairobi](#) or email Programme officer [Bonface K. Nyagah](#).

## International DAAD-Alumni Summer School „Tropical agrobiodiversity as a guarantor for sustainable food security”

held from September 11, 2012 (arrival date) to September 18, 2012 (departure to Göttingen)

in Stuttgart Hohenheim, Germany

followed by the participation at the Tropentag 2012

“Resilience of agricultural systems against crisis”,

September 19 to 21, at the University of Göttingen

If you are interested, please send your application by **June 30, 2012** by e-mail to [tropenzentrum@uni-hohenheim.de](mailto:tropenzentrum@uni-hohenheim.de).

## Writing for science – workshop held in Kenya

In March and June 2012, the Regional Office organised for the 4th time a 2-day PhD Proposal Writing Workshop for potential PhD scholarship applicants. The success rate of the previous years encouraged us: We were able to increase the number of awardees significantly, and this was not least due to improved research proposals.

With the invaluable assistance of our ever-encouraging Alumni and the infrastructural support of ICIPE, we hosted 60 participants for the initial workshop in early March where they were first briefed on the scholarship application process to Germany, how to find a supervisor in Germany and the basics of scientific proposal writing. Our guest Dr. Pamela Marinda from [ITOCA](#) enlightened both participants and trainers on electronic literature access, review and reference management. For the afternoon session, participants were grouped together according to their academic fields and discussed their papers written thus far in detail with their respective trainers. They introduced their projects in the group and faced tough but nevertheless constructive questions that helped them improve.

Beware of the questions: Participants of the PhD Proposal Writing Workshop at ICIPE Nairobi grill their peers on the feasibility of their projects.

Until the second part of the workshop in early June, participants were given time to work on their proposals and send them to their trainers for revision. Half of the initial participants were invited to attend the second and final workshop. Each was interviewed by their group, acting as the DAAD scholarship selection commission, as if they were already applying for the PhD scholarship. This exercise highlighted what DAAD is looking for in its scholarship holders: Scientific quality and relevance of the project, the personal academic qualification of the applicant to carry out the proposed project and the passion to defend one's cause.

We wish all participants the very best for their scholarship applications! Attendance of the workshop however is NOT a requirement for the application.



## Undergraduate Admission Now Easier to Universities in Germany's Federal State of North-Rhine Westphalia

While Tanzanian and Ugandan secondary school degrees are accepted by German universities for direct admission, holders of a KCSE have it not as easy going to Germany for undergraduate studies. But there is good news: The federal state of North-Rhine Westphalia (NRW) has passed a law allowing Kenyans to enter universities directly with their high school degree plus a passed university admission test: [TestAS](#).

The twenty-two universities in NRW alone are offering hundreds of undergraduate programmes. More than 200 of those programmes are offered fully or partly in [English](#)

Further details on graduate admission for East

Africans can be found [here](#).

The TestAS of October 27th 2012, will be offered FREE OF CHARGE in Nairobi. TestAS is conducted in English or German to test your academic aptitude, i.e. neither knowledge nor language skills are tested. Sample questions are provided at <http://to.ly/dW4k>

Registration: August 1st to September 24th: Send an e-mail with name, ID and telephone to [Dr.Verweyen@gmail.com](mailto:Dr.Verweyen@gmail.com) to receive a TAN.

This new law is still limited to NRW and you will still have to fulfill the specific requirements of the programme you want to join.

## Alumniportal Event in Uganda

On May 10th 2012, the Alumni Networking Event took place at the residence of the German Ambassador Klaus-Dieter Duxmann in Kampala, Uganda.

Aim of the evening was to strengthen the network of academics and researchers who have participated in a German educational programme and to establish and maintain valuable contacts with German organisations.

During the event, Ugandan Germany-Alumni had the opportunity to learn more about the Alumniportal Germany, an online platform for networking, advanced training, and international job exchange. Apart from DAAD, other German organisations presented themselves during the event such as the German Embassy, GIZ, Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), Goethe-Institut, Deutsche Welle as well as German political foundations.

More than 200 Germany Alumni joined the event and used the opportunity to network, among them a large number of DAAD Alumni. During the event, we introduced the DAAD Brochure „Empowerment at home“, in which DAAD In-country Alumni were portrayed in their work and positions after the DAAD scholarship. Ambassador Duxmann and DAAD lecturer Dr. Gille handed over a DAAD scholarship to Dr. Julius Tumbwiine who will join the University of Munich for six months to continue his research in Mathematics.

Three DAAD Alumni Dr. William Wagaba (Makerere University, Coordinator Subject of German) Dr. Elizabeth Sentongo (Makerere University, College of Health Sciences, School of Biomedical Sciences, Department of Microbiology) and Professor John David Kabasa (Makerere University Founding Principal, College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources & Biosecurity) shared their experiences in Germany with the participants.

This event was for many attendants the first step to build up an active German-Alumni Foundation in Uganda.

Mirjam Gille



Dr. Mirjam Gille, Benjamin Alipanga, participant, Beatrice Odongkara

## Quality Assurance Initiative Extends to Malawi

The IUCEA/DAAD/HRK QA Initiative continued to extend its influence beyond the borders of the East African Region when Prof Mike Kuria, the coordinating expert of the initiative from the DAAD Office in Nairobi, represented the project at a two days' workshop themed *Quality Assurance and Learning Outcomes in Higher Education in Malawi*. The workshop was held from 7th to 9th May 2012 in Lilongwe. Prof Kuria's presentation titled *Hands-on Capacity Building for QA: The Experience of the Joint QA Initiative for East Africa of IUCEA, DAAD and HRK* was well received and participants promised to apply similar principles in their own institutions. Courtesy of the DAAD office Nairobi, the participants were each given copies of volumes 1 and 2 of *The Road Map to Quality: A Handbook for Quality Assurance in Higher Education*.

While opening the workshop, the minister for education appreciated the support of the DAAD and reiterated that it was necessary to focus on quality assurance at both primary and secondary schools if excellence in universities was to be attained.

The event was also graced by Prof Florence Lenga from the Commission for Higher Education, Kenya, and Dr Anette Koester from the University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany both of whom were supported by the DAAD. Prof Lenga made two presentations: *Why QA is Becoming Trans-National* and *The Role of a National Regulatory Agency for Higher Education/Commission for Higher Education in introducing QA*. Dr Koester made several presentations including *International Trends in Quality Assurance in Higher Education*, and *Principles and Criteria for Quality Assurance Processes*. Other highlights of the workshop included presentations by Malawians such as *Challenges and Prospects of Institutionalising Quality Assurance Systems in Higher Education* by Professor Fred W. Msiska.



In the words of some of the participants, they realised that quality assurance was so critical to the survival of universities that Malawi Universities had to embrace, institutionalise and systematize quality assurance as a matter of urgency.

Mike Kuria

Participants of the QA Workshop in Malawi

## DAAD Workshop on Scientific Research and Proposal Writing in Khartoum

On 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> April 2012 a successful workshop on scientific research and proposal writing was held at the Development Studies and Research Institute (DSRI) of the University of Khartoum. It was organized by the DAAD alumni Dr. Hanadi El Dessougi (University of Khartoum) and Dr. Mohamed El Nour Taha (University of Kordofan) in co-operation with the local DAAD lecturer Dr. Wolfram Full and the DAAD Regional Office in Nairobi that provided the necessary funds.

After the opening ceremony with short welcomes from Dr. Dessougi, Dr. Abubakr Hussein (Director of DSRI), Dr. Full and Ms. Koeller from the German Embassy, the plenary session started with a paper by the DAAD representative Dr. Full on the DAAD scholarship programmes for which Sudanese students and scientists are eligible. He was followed by Dr. Hussein who spoke about the foundations and methodology of scientific research.

The second part of the workshop concentrated on the practical skills in proposal writing introduced by a presentation from Dr. Muna Abdelaziz from the Faculty of Medicine (University of Khartoum) who also supervised the following working group sessions in which proposals of the participants were analysed and discussed. This work was continued on the second day before the results of the group discussions on selected proposals were presented and commented by the whole audience in a final plenary session.



Sudanese scientists being trained in scientific writing by DAAD in Khartoum

The workshop was a success not only regarding the high number of participants (nearly 50) but especially because many came from different universities in rather remote areas in Kordofan and Darfur. In the future they can act as multipliers in their respective region to train other students and scientists in the skills they have achieved during the workshop. Furthermore the personal relations set up between the participants of the workshop can help to establish networks between universities and regions in Sudan.

Wolfram Full

## Funding of “Welcome to Africa” Projects Launched

With this programme put up in 2011, the DAAD intends to enable German universities both to establish new contacts to African universities and to further develop existing cooperation as well as academic exchange. One main focus is set on sending German students, graduates and young academics to an African university for a study or research stay.

In detail, the programme seeks to

- strengthen the Africa expertise of young German academics
- promote the mobility of students, graduates and scientists
- develop and further research co-operation between African and German universities;
- expand research/ training capacities at African universities

Thanks to funding of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), ten projects are currently being funded over a period of three years. The respective universities are enabled to organise academic exchange according to the specific aims set by themselves. On March 12, 2012 funding of the following projects in the East African region has officially been launched (only cooperation partners in East Africa mentioned):

*University of Leipzig – University of Addis Ababa/Ethiopia, University of Dar es Salaam/Tanzania: “Africa Network”*

*University of Hannover – University of Tumaini/Tanzania: Construction of a “Child Development Lab”*

*University of Rostock – Jimma University/Ethiopia: Vocational Education Training Network*

*Free University of Berlin – Kenyatta University/Kenya: Integrated Watershed Management Research & Capacity Development*

*University of Weimar – Addis Ababa University-Ethiopian Institute of Architecture, Building Construction and City Development/Ethiopia, University of Juba/South Sudan: Concept-Test-Realization (sustainable low cost building in Africa)*

*Dresden University of Technology – Hawassa University-Wondo Genet College/Ethiopia, University of Khartoum/Sudan, University of Kordofan/Sudan: Scientific Cooperation Network on Climate Change Adaptation*

## Second East African Quality Assurance Forum Held in Entebbe

The Second East African Quality Assurance Forum was held in Entebbe, Uganda from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> May 2012. This Forum is an annual event of quality assurance practitioners in the region conceived in 2010 to promote sustained dialogue on quality assurance issues, practices and challenges. The Forum was organized by the Inter-University Council for East Africa in collaboration with its partners: DAAD, HRK and the University of Oldenburg. The main goal of this Forum was to continue to build the capacity of quality assurance directors and coordinators and to foster dialogue on and networking in quality assurance in higher education in the East African Partner States. The May Forum mainly provided QA practitioners with the opportunity for training on curriculum development and change management. The facilitators were thorough and very engaging to enable the participants to fully understand the issues of curriculum design, delivery and assessment and how to manage change in all process of curriculum to ensure quality.

A major milestone of the 2012 Forum was the birth of the East Africa Higher Education Quality Assurance Network (EAQAN). The following persons, all of who were unanimously elected in an environment of political maturity, hold the offices of the Network for a period of two years:

*President: Prof. Michael Mawa, Uganda*  
*Vice President: Dr. Bigendako Marie Josee, Burundi*  
*General Secretary: Prof. Mike Kuria, Kenya*  
*Finance Secretary: Dr. Jennifer Sesabo, Tanzania*

EAQAN members agreed to undertake key activities including: development of a strategic plan for the establishment of its Secretariat at the IUCEA; facilitate the establishment of national QA networks in countries where these are non-existent and reach out to the universities through the country networks to share QA practices; and collaborate with other QA Networks within and beyond Africa to enhance sharing of best practices.

Michael Mawa



FIRST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE EAST AFRICAN HIGHER EDUCATION QUALITY ASSURANCE NETWORK 2012-2014



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and “like” it in order to keep in touch with us.

It offers useful information on upcoming events, scholarship opportunities, and degree courses at German institutions of higher education.

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