



**DAAD**

Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst  
German Academic Exchange Service

# 40 Years Supporting Excellence

DAAD Regional Office for Africa



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# Foreword

## DAAD Nairobi: 40 years supporting excellence

### **Dear readers,**

In September 1973 the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) opened a small adjunct office in Nairobi, where it began steering the new In-Country scholarship programme for Sub-Saharan Africa funded by Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) to enhance human capacity. By the early 1970s the BMZ had realised that sustainable development would not be possible without educated African leaders and experts. This meant engaging the universities. Offering scholarships at institutions at home instead of sending students to Germany was a truly innovative move.

By 1979 the small office had grown into the fully fledged DAAD Regional Office for Africa, providing information about the DAAD's full range of academic programmes. Having navigated its way through the politically difficult 1980s, the office saw the onset of democracy in the 1990s, with universities and DAAD alumni playing decisive roles. The past decade was marked by the founding of new universities in many Eastern African countries. A region-wide quality assurance system was developed in a collaborative effort by the DAAD, the Inter-University Council of East Africa (IUCEA) and the German Rectors' Conference (HRK). Since 1973 more than 5,753 individual scholarship holders have been funded and through strengthening university cooperation the number of DAAD grants for Eastern Africa has totalled 10,565.

What will the next 40 years bring for German-African cooperation in higher education and research? Looking at the dynamic development throughout the region, I am optimistic. I envisage, for instance, the creation of African-German Centres of Excellence and joint universities. I see DAAD alumni around the world questioning old paradigms and developing new ideas for challenges not yet imaginable. One thing is for sure: the DAAD will still be in Africa and will continue to make its motto of "Change by Exchange" a reality!

Dr. Margret Wintermantel



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# Preface

## 40 years in Nairobi (1973 – 2013)

### Dear readers,

This year marks four decades of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in East Africa. As a DAAD alumnus, I am happy to be associated with the 40th anniversary celebrations. Since 1973, when the DAAD opened its offices in Nairobi, more than 2,400 Kenyan students have benefitted from postgraduate study and research opportunities through scholarships and grants offered by the DAAD. By the same token, more than 276 German students and scholars visited Kenya for study or research activities in 2012 alone. In addition, through the framework of the joint Kenyan German Postgraduate Training Programme launched three years ago, over 60 academic staff members from Kenyan universities are pursuing their PhDs in various fields in Germany. This is made possible with funding from both the DAAD and the government of Kenya through the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI).

The hundreds of Kenyan postgraduate students and scholars who come to Germany every year constitute the foundation upon which we are now building a deeper and more enduring set of relationships between Kenya and Germany. Kenya seeks and encourages such partnerships because we understand the daunting but worthy challenge facing our country – the transformation of our economy. It is, therefore, in this spirit that I personally wish that scholarship opportunities be availed to undergraduate students as well.

As we join hands in this pursuit of knowledge and economic progress through academic exchange and cooperation, it is my strong hope that our efforts will translate into a long-lasting friendship and collaboration in which we ultimately serve humanity together.

As a beneficiary of a DAAD scholarship, I am truly grateful.



H. E. Mr. Ken N. Oside



*H. E. Mr. Ken N. Oside  
Ambassador of the  
Republic of Kenya  
to the Federal  
Republic of Germany*

# Introduction

»DAAD in Eastern Africa: Friendship for Change by Exchange«

In March 2012 during a coffee break at our alumni conference on »Change«, a group of participants including the Chairman of the Kenya DAAD Alumni Association, Prof. Simon Onywere, and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) of Kenyatta University, Prof. John Okumu, discussed the difference between doctoral studies in Germany and in other countries. They both agreed that German PhD supervisors build strong personal ties with their PhD candidates. This **friendship** is typically maintained over decades by both sides, building the basis for a lifetime of joint projects in teaching and research. And the **alumni give back**. Each year our alumni organise two dozen alumni events from El Obeid in North Kordofan (Sudan) to Dar es Salaam in Tanzania. Topics range from partnerships among universities with newly elected governors and grant proposal writing, to research initiatives on water issues in urban slums and constitutional reform. Our alumni are not only those who studied in Germany but also individuals who have gone to an African Centre of Excellence at home or abroad. Today they are university and government leaders, top-level researchers, and NGO managers who collaborate closely with German companies, development cooperation agencies, political foundations, as well as with high-profile universities and research institutions in both Germany and Africa.



»DAAD in Eastern Africa: Friendship for Change by Exchange«



In this brochure we want to present some of these alumni. The selection, which was made in cooperation with the national alumni associations, intends to **show-case typical cases**, bringing together a mix of old and young, male and female, academics and non-academics. The

choice not to focus exclusively on our most prominent alumni was therefore a deliberate one.

In the **first part** we highlight **four decades** of cooperation and friendship. We asked the former Regional Office directors to present personal memories of their years in Nairobi. These accounts are complemented by views from Kenyan alumni from the same decade, whose

pieces focus on how they perceived Germany and how the DAAD scholarship has impacted their lives and careers.

In the **second part** we present one alumna or alumnus from each of our **Eastern African** neighbours. Among others, readers will meet Christophe Bazivamo, a key member of the East African Legislative Assembly and vice chairman of the ruling party in Rwanda, and Muna Mohammed, a medical doctor and committed educator from Sudan.

The brochure also includes **special features**, which include a look at the role of German Studies in the region as well as an interview with the current director of the Regional Office, who analyses the dynamics of the past and explores the future. Finally, we pay tribute to our most prominent alumna, the Nobel Prize winner and late **Wangari Maathai**.

Her life exemplifies how the combination of high-quality academics and a strong international network of colleagues and friends has made the DAAD slogan **»Change by Exchange«** a reality. As the first female professor in Eastern Africa and a fighter for democracy and sustainability, Wangari Maathai has been a role model for DAAD scholars in the past 40 years – and will certainly continue to be one in the decades to come.

REGIONAL INTEGRATION

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the East African Community (EAC) are the two key regional integration schemes in Eastern Africa. The IGAD, which focuses primarily on security, water and development, encompasses eight countries in all: Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Eritrea, Somalia and Djibouti. The EAC includes the East African countries of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania; it has an elaborate system of specialised joint bodies across various fields, including higher education. The Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) brings together more than 100 universities, the National Commissions for Higher Education, the respective ministries and national and international stakeholders. The DAAD is not only a key partner of IUCEA but has also been accepted from the beginning as a full and active member institution.



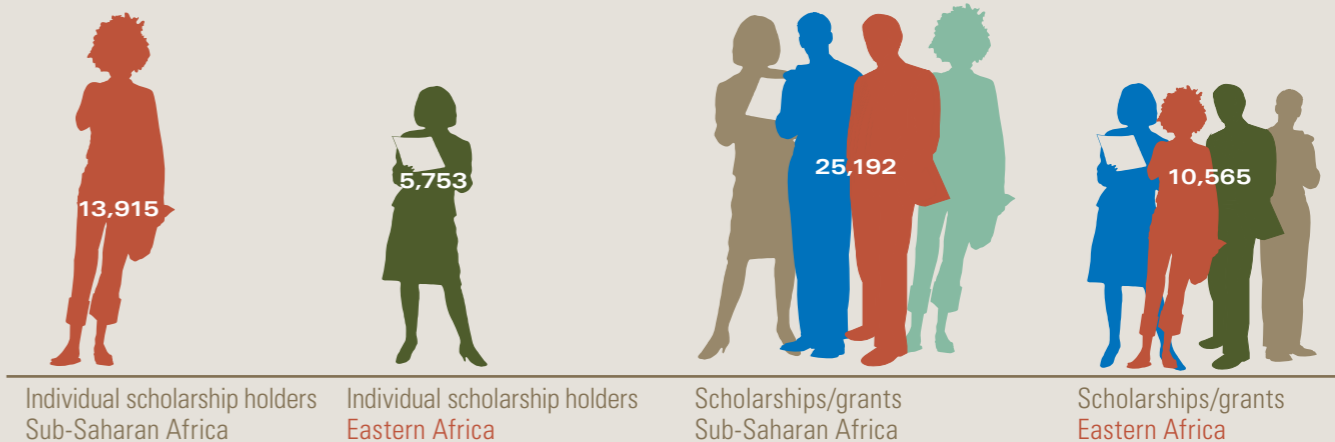
ECONOMY

Eastern Africa's largest national economy is Sudan, whose gross domestic product in 2012 was estimated by the World Bank at USD 58.77 billion (including South Sudan). The same GDP rankings put Ethiopia and Kenya in second and third place, at USD 43.13 billion and USD 37.23 billion respectively. While Sudan's economy is driven largely by oil and oil products extraction, both the Kenyan and Ethiopian economies are driven primarily by non-mineral sectors, agriculture and service industries, including transport and communication. Ethiopia's growth rate of 7.3% led the region in 2012. Kenya's 2012 growth rate of 4.2% was expected to grow significantly in 2013, up to 6.1%. Burundi has the region's smallest GDP, estimated by the World Bank at USD 2.3 billion in 2012.

GEOGRAPHY

The Eastern Africa region today consists of eight countries: Tanzania, Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Sudan and South Sudan – all members of the African Union. At 1,861,484 km<sup>2</sup> Sudan is not only the largest in the region, but in all of Africa. Rwanda is the region's smallest country, at 26,338 km<sup>2</sup>. Eastern Sub-Saharan Africa boasts immense natural resources, including rich reserves of both surface and ground water, fertile soil for agricultural production, land for livestock production and impressive freshwater bodies such as Lake Turkana and Lake Victoria (Africa's largest) for fishing. Among the big draws for tourists are Africa's two highest mountains – Kilimanjaro and Mt. Kenya – and some of the world's most famous animals: lions, leopards, rhinos, elephants and buffalo.

TOTAL FUNDING FIGURES



# Wangari Maathai and the regimes of fear

Trees and treeplanting used to be a Kenyan national obsession. On coming to power at the end of the 1970s, former President Daniel arap Moi revived the defunct ritual of the National Tree Planting Day, when every *mwananchi* – from school-going child to senior civil servant – would plant a tree.

In old Voice of Kenya TV footage, Moi can be seen among ordinary folk, with shirt-sleeves rolled up to his elbows, gravely watering a tree seedling. In other footage, he is standing at the end of a human conveyor belt, boulders being passed down the line from one pair of hands to another for His Excellency to plant at the bottom of a slope. Trees and rocks. The rocks were the emergency measure to guard against one of the chief enemies of agrarian Kenya, and by extension, the regime – *momonyoko wa udongo*. Soil erosion. From the slopes of Mount Kenya to the escarpments of the Rift Valley, billions of tonnes of fertile red topsoil, loosened by rain, was turning the rivers brown, eating away at the nation's agricultural productivity, denuding the highlands and advancing the steady southward creep of the Sahel.

Professor Wangari Maathai may today be Kenya's best-known tree-ist but she was certainly not the only one, nor was she by any stretch of the imagination the founder of a new trend. For a decade at least, that title belonged to the man who would become her nemesis – Daniel Toroitich arap Moi. For a time under Moi, tree planting became both a national ritual and

a development strategy, linking state-led collective action for the environment with Kenya's agricultural productivity.

It is even more difficult, if one is thinking in terms of trees, to talk about Prof. Maathai's legacy. By the time she scored yet another of the many firsts of her life by becoming the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004, millions of trees had been planted under the auspices of her Green Belt Movement. Yet Kenya's total forest cover had continued to fall, with all the pernicious accompanying effects, such as increased soil erosion and increased desertification.

## Honouring the role of Africa's women

In granting Prof. Maathai the Nobel Prize, the academy in Oslo recognised her as the first laureate to bring to world attention the links between peace, sustainable development and environmental conservation. This was the first Nobel Peace Prize that honoured an individual for her role in creating global awareness around the increasingly important nexus between the environment and future conflict.

In that sense, Wangari Maathai had become a symbol of a generation of African and other civil society activists that has worked tirelessly at the grassroots to resist the juggernaut of runaway state-led development. For the environmental movement in Kenya and Africa, for which she had played a central role, honouring her finally turned global attention to the

role rural women in Africa have played almost invisibly in protecting the environment and managing resources.

## String of »firsts« begins with the DAAD

Prof. Maathai's rural background in central Kenya had given her first-hand knowledge of the travails of village folk in a world that has changed dramatically over the past half-century and more. A US-trained biologist, Wangari Maathai was a 'first'. But her distinction would only come with an extra mile of sweat and tears. Studying Botany first in Mt. St. Scholastica in Kansas and later at the University of Pittsburgh, she writes about how, after finishing her Master's degree in January 1966, she was appointed as a research assistant to a professor of Zoology at the University College, Nairobi.

When she returned, however, to her surprise she found her position already taken by another student. She attributes this to tribalism. As a woman, though, she was likely to have been by-passed and sidelined in favour of male students. Professor Reinhold Hofmann from the University of Giessen in Germany offered her a job as a research assistant in the Microanatomy section of the newly established Department of Veterinary Anatomy in the School of Veterinary Medicine at University College of Nairobi.

A year later, she would travel to the University of Giessen to pursue her doctorate on a DAAD scholarship. Studying both



Wangari Maathai, a woman of "firsts": the first woman in Eastern and Central Africa to earn a PhD, the first female professor at the University of Nairobi, the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

»Wangari Maathai's distinction came with an extra mile of sweat and tears.«

»Wangari Maathai worked under Professor Peter Walter during her time at the University of Munich. Each morning he would meet with the members of his lab individually, inquiring about their progress. Because of this close supervision, Maathai found she had made much more progress in her studies there than in Nairobi.«  
Professor Kiama Gitahi, Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace & Environmental Studies

»*Wangari Maathai's victory in the face-off with the dictatorship came because of her refusal to back down against incredible odds.*«

at the universities of Giessen, Munich and Nairobi, she became in 1971 the first woman in Eastern and Central Africa to receive her PhD in Veterinary Medicine, her thesis being on the development and differentiation of gonads in bovines. Later, in September 1978, the DAAD would again be crucial in her academic career, granting her a short research stay in Germany.

Teaching at the University of Nairobi, she rose rapidly through the ranks, first becoming Senior Lecturer in 1974, then Chair of the Veterinary Department in 1976, another first for her. In 1977, she scored yet another first when she was appointed Assistant Professor.

**Gaining ground, gathering enemies**

Through her work with an NGO, the Environment Liaison Centre International, she attended the first Habitat Conference in Montreal in 1976. She returned to found the Green Belt Movement, becoming part of the nascent NGO movement in Kenya that would very soon become a thorn in the establishment's flesh.

Mobilising rural women mainly in her native Mt. Kenya region and Nairobi to begin planting and selling tree seedlings, she had gained prominence in the National Council of Women of Kenya (NCWK), the umbrella movement that incorporated scores of women's organisation around the country. In 1981, she would become chair of the NCWK, a position she held until 1987.

It says something about the erosion of the collective national psyche that the regime's tree-planting idealism began to fade around the time the Moi government's paranoia gave birth to a new fear: the fear of dissidents.

In the 1980s, a dissident stirred in every bowl of soup, lurked in every shadow. The true test of regime-loyalty had shifted from a shared fear of environmental apocalypse to a fear of leftist dissidents. And, for almost every defeat of the communists, every detention and disappearance of real and imagined opponents to the regime, a monument would be planted. Notably, in 1989, was the planned 60-storey Kenya Times Media Complex. If completed, it would rise like a fistful of hosannas to the wise and able rule of His Excellency, into the sky above Nairobi's Uhuru Park where trees had once stood.

**Taking a stand for sustainable development ...**

The depth of Prof. Maathai's courage in opposing Moi's Kenya African National Union's plans to construct this monument to itself was the country's Tiananmen Square moment. At an estimated cost of USD 200 million, the Tower would have been the tallest and most expensive building in Africa.

Prof. Maathai then did the unthinkable. She challenged the Moi dictatorship's right to hive off sections of Uhuru Park for the construction of the Tower. The action raised a storm of sycophantic protest. She became a mad woman in the eyes of Moi's loyalists, a bitter divorcee misleading good, God-fearing people to rise up against the government at the behest of her "foreign masters" in Washington and London who were hell-bent on toppling the government – an absurd accusation in the least, considering the hundreds of millions of dollars the West continued to pour into the Moi government's coffers.

**And winning ...**

Her victory in that face-off with the dictatorship came because of her refusal to back down against incredible odds. As the regime threw the vilest of charges against her, it could not escape the fact that it had lost the moral high ground to a woman, who very much like Ibsen's Dr. Stockmann, had recognised that the strongest (wo)man is she who stands alone.

By Parselele Kantai

A thorn in the government's side: Wangari Maathai's Green Belt Movement was founded in 1977. By the time Maathai won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004, millions of trees had been planted under the auspices of her Green Belt Movement.



# 1970s

1973 1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979 1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014

## From humble beginnings to a regional office

### Coordinators/Regional Directors

1973 – 1975: Dr. Wolfgang Armbruster

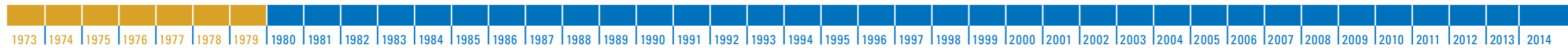
1975 – 1979: Dr. Hans-Joachim Niesel

1979 – 1985: Hartmut Glimm

When the DAAD country office in Nairobi was established in the second half of 1973, Kenya was preparing to celebrate ten years of independence – a period that saw many Kenyans disillusioned. Generally speaking, Kenya was better off than many other post-independent African states, especially with regard to political stability, security and economic growth. Progress had been made in providing access to primary, secondary and higher education, and literacy rates had increased. However, this came at the price of an authoritarian de facto one-party rule. The general public felt that certain elites had profited from independence, that economic growth and its benefits were unevenly distributed, and that little progress had been made in poverty reduction. This even led to violent strikes, the expulsion of students from Nairobi University (the only university in the country at that time) and the subsequent closure of the university. In this context, J.M. Kariuki, a Kenya African National Union (KANU) politician and a close aide to President Kenyatta, coined the famous phrase: »Kenya has become a nation of 10 millionaires and 10 million beggars«.



## 1970s



Aid policies from the 1950s and 60s were generally seen as unsuccessful, since they had not led to growth and development across all parts of society. In the 1970s, East and West Germany took the lead in shifting foreign aid priorities and emphasising education as a key to economic development.

### A new development paradigm

The political change that came with President Kenyatta's death generated hope and enthusiasm for more widespread change. But when Daniel arap Moi succeeded Kenyatta in 1978, these hopes were largely disappointed. Moi did push hard, however, on the education sector and generously supported higher education through annual budget allocations.

In 1973, the two German states – West Germany and East Germany – had just ratified the so-called *Grundlagenvertrag*, or basic treaty, which assured each country's sovereignty. Both countries became new members of the United Nations (UN) and, in the 1970s, East and West Germany took the lead in shifting foreign aid priorities and emphasising education as a key to economic development. Aid policies from the 1950s and 60s, which had focused on development through growth, i.e. promoting large-scale industries and modernisation, were generally seen as unsuccessful, since they had not led to growth and development across all parts of society. The president of the World Bank at the time, Robert McNamara, delivered a landmark speech in September 1973 in Nairobi (coinciding with the establishment of the DAAD office) summarising these findings. As a result, the focus of aid efforts in the 1970s was shifted to basic human needs, including food security, housing availability, health care, and also education and political participation.

### Education plays a leading role

As part of this policy shift, the West German Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation (BMZ) directed its funding according to the motto "help people help themselves". Education was considered the key to success. The BMZ provided initial funding to enhance DAAD programmes within Africa and strengthen In-Country and In-Region programmes, with the goal of stopping the brain drain from African countries and universities. This included funding German lecturers at African universities as a way of supporting postgraduate programmes and capacity-building of future lecturers.

*»The BMZ provided initial funding to enhance DAAD programmes within Africa and strengthen In-Country and In-Region programmes, with the goal of stopping the brain drain from African countries and universities. «*

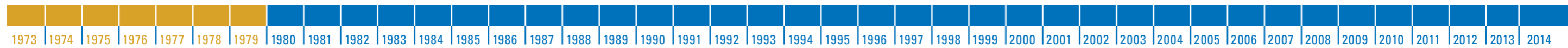
### Boom in In-Country scholarships

During the first years, the DAAD focused mainly on liaising with stakeholders and analysing the systems of higher education in the different countries and, starting in 1975, the DAAD national office concentrated on the funding of postgraduate studies. More and more, the DAAD coordinator was invited to participate in regional consultations and conferences on higher education development and management, which created a valuable network for future work.

When the political situation in Uganda forced Ugandan students to flee to Kenya, the DAAD started a special refugee scholarship programme, although the funds were insufficient to support the desired number of students. In addition, the DAAD helped establish a partnership between the universities of Munich and Nairobi in 1978 to train ophthalmologists in Nairobi.

All in all, the number of In-Country scholarships increased significantly through the 1970s and proved to be a huge success. This, of course, also increased the workload considerably. As a result, the Nairobi office was upgraded to the "DAAD Regional Office for Africa" in 1979. More staff was requested and granted the following year, but according to the regional director, Nairobi remained understaffed.

# Paul Ndalut



## Taking science to the people

There are many reasons why I chose the DAAD for supporting my studies. Because my wife is German, I had been familiar with Germany since the 1970s. The DAAD scholarship for pursuing my PhD in Essen made it possible for me to both live in my wife's home country and pursue my career.

During my time as a DAAD scholar, I discovered many differences and similarities between life in Germany and life in Kenya. What struck me most about Germany was its well-organised, orderly and punctual society. Working traffic lights, which are

actually obeyed by motorists, were for me a symbol of this. On the other hand, I was surprised by how still-functional items are thrown away so readily. During my stay in Merseburg in 2002, I witnessed intact lab equipment (in this case glassware) being thrown away because new equipment was being delivered. I scrounged the heaps that were meant to be discarded and was able to send a lot of useful equipment to Kenya.

### Fresh perspective on Germany

In comparison to Kenya, people in Germany were much more independent-minded. Even though I missed some Kenyan food, I grew especially fond of *Dauerwurst* and *Brötchen* and wished there was a better supply of these here in Kenya. Knowing Germany as both a divided and unified nation, I feel that there are still a lot of prejudices about the former East Germany in the west. To my mind these prejudices are in no way substantiated, and I believe that Germans in the east and west are far more similar than they want to admit at times.

### Learning to put knowledge into practice

In general, studying in Germany changed my way of looking at science. I no longer regarded science only as a set of theories, but as a hands-on approach to search for solutions for practical problems. This has had a huge influence on me. Today, the project closest to my heart is trying to apply my scientific knowledge for the benefit

*»I believe that Germans in the east and west are far more similar than they want to admit at times.«*

of my community. We have established a vegetable-planting project so that people can earn their living, and at the same time become independent from other food suppliers. Since I still lecture as a retired professor at Moi University, I was also able to use my contacts to sell vegetables to the university and become self-employed. I also take part in DAAD activities every year. They are a welcomed occasion to meet like-minded people and an opportunity for young scientists to present themselves. My wish is that the Kenya DAAD Scholars Association (KDSA) develops into a powerful lobby group within Kenya to promote the idea of science and how it can actually change society.

### Help transfer knowledge to where it's needed most!

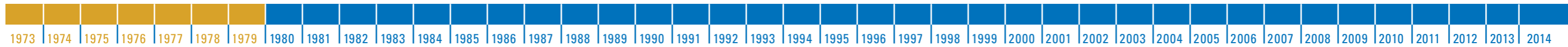
Regarding the DAAD's work, I can only say a big "thank you" and "keep up the good work", including the alumni programmes. In terms of a wish list for the future, I hope that the DAAD supports the idea of a Centre of Excellence so that we can put scientific knowledge into practice here in

### PROF. DR. PAUL NDALUT

Although officially retired since 2011, Prof. Ndalut still lectures at Moi University. Married to a German, Prof. Ndalut was in Germany from the late 1970s to the early 1980s, and again in 2002.

Kenya. Second, I hope that the DAAD can help us to transfer academic knowledge to the people out there in need of it. The greatest challenge is that many policies – relating to food security and agriculture, for example – never really reach the villages.

## Regional Director: Hartmut Glimm



I was not the first but the third “founding-father” of what in 1979 was named the DAAD Regional Office for Africa. My predecessors, Wolfgang Armbruster and Hans-Joachim Niesel, had functioned mainly as coordinators of our In-Country scholarship programme funded by the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation. Gradually that office grew into a DAAD branch office, of which there are 14 around the world today. While its responsibilities grew, the office’s core focus remained the In-Country scholarship programme, which was later expanded, opening up inner-African exchange and fostering interdisciplinary networking in Sub-Saharan Africa.

### Solidifying the base, expanding the regional network

With a good deal of pioneer work ahead of me, I arrived in Nairobi in 1979 to an office consisting of a small room in a private house with a desk, a typewriter, a cupboard with two dozen files in it, and a chair with no one in it, since the part-time secretary had just quit. I got busy visiting

my immediate neighbours, i.e. the University of Nairobi, the University of Dar es Salaam and Makerere University in Kampala. Thanks to the relationships forged by my predecessors, I was received as a friend.

I travelled extensively during my tenure, paying visits to universities and partners in 20 countries in all, with the goal of exploring further areas of cooperation. It was stressful but there was much to be done. There were meetings with vice chancellors, registrars, deans and senior staff to inform them of the various DAAD programmes and to identify programmes which would best address current needs. It was equally important to clarify what the DAAD could not offer!

I also met with DAAD scholars and other German teaching staff to receive their progress reports and listen to their suggestions for improving and intensifying our work with their host universities. The trips also served to clarify requirements and administrative procedures related to the DAAD’s various programmes, including scholarships for PhD studies in Germany, short-term study and research visits for African applicants.

Such local encounters culminated in two regional conferences (Nairobi, 1980 and 1984) with German staff sponsored by GTZ, DAAD and CIM, together with their immediate African counterparts, from all over Africa. Here, fundamental issues of German-African cooperation in higher education were discussed with an aim to improve our partnership.

### Expanding opportunities

There were plenty of opportunities to get involved and we took advantage of many of them. One example was a newly established university network called the Association of Faculties of Agriculture in Africa (AFAA). We applied our new In-Region scholarship scheme, allowing graduate students to study at other African universities. The same programme enriched our cooperation with the African Association of Universities (AAU), a programme that was later extended to include short-term exchanges of African teaching staff known as “prof borrowing”. We also included the African Network of Scientific and Technological Institutions (ANSTI) in our In-Country and In-Region programme, and entered into cooperation with the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), offering scholarships for its PhD students from various African countries.

The Eastern and Southern African Universities Research Project (ESAURP) was also initiated during this time. By then, the concept of in-country studies was regarded as a more advantageous format than studies overseas. In response, the DAAD devised an entirely new scheme comprising so-called “sandwich scholarships” – a format that enabled African doctoral students to combine study in Africa with periods of study in Germany.

### DAAD in great demand

Several new universities also emerged across the African continent, all of them



**HARTMUT GLIMM,**  
REGIONAL DIRECTOR  
FROM 1979 TO 1985

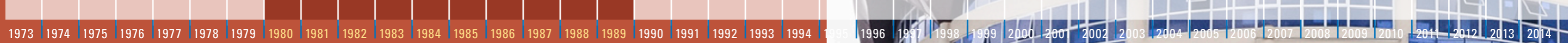
facing the same challenge of recruiting lecturers and professors. We responded by offering additional scholarships for junior academics. The new institutions were also in great need of laboratory equipment and vehicles, but “bricks and mortar” remained outside our range of possibilities. I will never forget when a Nairobi Chemistry professor came to me with such a request. It took me an hour to explain to him that regrettably, the DAAD was not in a position to equip his labs. On parting, he tapped me on the shoulder, and said, “But next time, brother!” That moment I wished – as I still do – for many next and better times to come.

*»Thanks to the relationships forged by my predecessors, I was received as a friend.«*

Regional Director  
Glimm in 1980



# 1980s



## Rethinking partnership

### Regional Directors

1979 - 1985: Hartmut Glimm

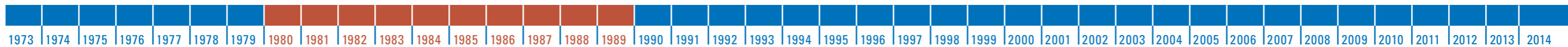
1985 - 1994: Hans M. Helfer

All hopes for a more open society were quashed in 1982 when Kenya became a de jure one-party state through a decision in parliament, which basically outlawed all official opposition. Moi's slogan of peace, love and unity was to most Kenyans all but a hollow phrase. His regime slipped into a dictatorship in the mid-eighties symbolised by the infamous Nyayo House.

At the end of the 1980s, the winds of change swept through Eastern Europe, starting with Perestroika and Glasnost in the Soviet Union and culminating with the fall of the Berlin Wall in November 1989. The end of the bipolar world also had repercussions for Africa, as Western pressure on President Moi began to mount. The crumbling of the Apartheid regime in South Africa could also be attributed to the new world order.



## 1980s



### Tight budgets lead to new approaches

For the DAAD office in Nairobi, the new decade did not get off to a good start. Budget constraints forced a review of the In-Country programmes in a lot of countries, which led to a drastic reduction of scholarships. This was all the more unfortunate, as the contribution of this programme to local student support had been such a huge success in the previous years. Also, the possibility of German lecturers coming to African universities was quite limited at the beginning of the 1980s. The tight budget situation in 1982 even put the existence of the regional office at risk, but fortunately, last-minute allocation of funds secured its continuation. When the attempted coup forced the University of Nairobi to close for 14 months in 1982/1983, this was yet another disruption for the DAAD and its work.

DAAD's work in Nairobi was also influenced by a new approach to the relationship between donor and developing countries. The so-called "Brandt Report", which summarised the findings of an independent commission at the beginning of 1980, made it clear that the goals set by McNamara's speech in 1973 had not been achieved on a broad scale and that only a new economic world order could achieve these goals. This also meant a shift from a biased North-South relationship to an equal partnership. The basic idea was to help developing countries to help themselves.

*»Moi's slogan of peace, love and unity was to most Kenyans all but a hollow phrase.«*

The conclusion, in the early 1980s, was that foreign support for African universities can only have limited impact on their ability to affect development. Not only did demand far exceed allocated funds, but it seemed that the impetus for self-development was being hindered by excessive funding. The new policy was that solutions for basic problems should be managed locally as much as possible.

The DAAD responded to the shift – from giving aid to building partnerships – by facilitating links between German and African universities and trying to convince the German universities to view these relationships as less of a burden and more of a resource with academic and research potential. One element that helped strengthen these links was the provision of six scholarships for post-graduate study in Germany. At the beginning, however, it was difficult to find six suitable candidates each year.

### Stemming the brain drain

Thanks to better allocation of funds, the In-Country programme recovered quickly from these challenges and continued to grow stronger. One highlight came in 1987, when the programme in Kenya funded a total of 192 scholars. This made a major contribution to capacity building for university staff, which was more important than ever, since three additional universities were established in Kenya in the 1980s: Moi University in Eldoret (1984), Kenyatta University in Nairobi (1985), and Egerton University in Njoro (1987). This was an especially important milestone, since the growing number of primary and secondary school graduates meant that Kenya and other African countries had become increasingly unable to offer enough tertiary education facilities.

The effort made to offer education to all (Kenya, for example, allocated about 30 % of its budget to education in the mid-1980s) had created the new challenge of meeting the growing demand for university education. Establishing new universities was one important element to stop the brain drain from Kenya. In 1986, 10,000 students were enrolled in the three Kenyan universities while another 10,000 Kenyans were studying abroad. Half of the candidates could not be offered a place at university. The introduction of the new 8-4-4 education system put further strain on university intake, as the total study period was extended from three to four years.

### Innovative ways to build educational capacity

Cooperation between ANSTI, ICIPE, AFAA and DAAD was stepped up so that postgraduates could be affiliated with institutions other than universities and to enhance networking and cooperation, not only between Africa and Germany, but also within Africa.

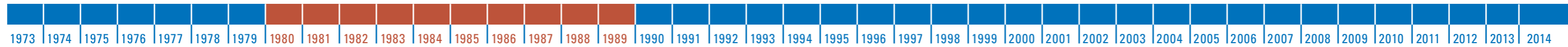
A wide range of other DAAD instruments was introduced during the 1980s to promote sustainable staff and capacity building at African universities. For departments housing DAAD scholars, this included financial support for material expenses, research funds for PhD students at their home universities, and the so-called "sandwich" programme, which enabled PhD students to go to Germany during the course of their studies to carry out specialised research.

A watershed in higher education in Kenya was the abandonment of free university education in favour of the cost-sharing principle introduced in 1989, which sought to limit expenses for the ever-growing numbers of students. Apart from having to pay tuition fees, students also had to pay for their own boarding and lodging. A student loan scheme was introduced to increase the chance that needy students could continue with their studies.

The early 1980's saw a shift from a biased North-South relationship to an equal partnership. The basic idea was to help developing countries to help themselves.

In 1987, the In-Country programme in Kenya funded at total of 192 scholars.

# Auma Obama



## A powerful voice enabling young people

Strangers were embracing on the streets in Berlin and celebrating together: this was not the World Cup in 2006, but November 9, 1989 – the fall of the Berlin Wall. I was in the city on that day, witnessing history being made, and was fascinated by how open Germans could be. Experiencing the fall of the wall first-hand was a somewhat surreal experience, and the euphoria and warmth that I was witnessing was far removed from the stereotype of the reserved, cool German.

### DAAD: Opening doors in Germany and beyond

I had come to Germany in 1980 as a DAAD scholar to study German and Sociology in Heidelberg. I stayed in Germany for a total of 16 years, living and studying in Heidelberg, where I got my Master's degree, in Berlin, where I studied film, and in Bayreuth, where I was granted my second DAAD scholarship and received my PhD from the University of Bayreuth.

The DAAD scholarship gave me the financial independence I needed to achieve my goals. It opened doors for me and made it possible for me to move forward with my life and career. Gender did not stand in the way of this pursuit. I had the mental and emotional space to study and carve my destiny as an independent woman.

### Das Brot and lego-language

Although I also experienced quite a few cultural shocks, I was nonetheless able at some level to find my place in Germany. I liked the German directness, which is not unlike my own. I also appreciated the highly developed infrastructure and efficient administration. I especially came to enjoy *Brot* – German bread, with its huge range of varieties and textures. But most of all I particularly liked the intellectual challenge of deepening my knowledge of the German language. The “Lego” principle of word building in German, that allows you to create a new word, a new noun, just by attaching words together, resulting in a word with an indefinite number of letters, fascinated me.

The social life in Germany was definitely different from that in Kenya. Away from the town and city centres, one saw very few people out and about on the streets, different to Kenya where most streets are full of people at all times. In Germany people seemed to live indoors, keeping to themselves. This could make life rather lonely and was quite disturbing until I made friends and understood the Germans a bit better.

### Of contrasts and personal development

The 9th of November 1989 showed me that the Germans could actually be quite spontaneously open and approachable. In the days after the fall of the wall the streets of Berlin were packed with celebrating, rejoicing Germans sharing the moment with strangers. This contrasted starkly with the xenophobic riots that were experienced in Hoyerswerda in 1991. Although I lived far from there and never had any problems where I lived, I asked myself if I was really safe and welcome in Germany.

During my time in Germany, I had a lot of different experiences, some good, some not so good. But all in all the time I spent in Germany was an important part of my life and critical for my personal development. During this period I also met a lot of great people, some of whom became close friends and with whom I am still in touch today.

### Enabling positive change

Launching my own foundation Sauti Kuu in 2011 has given me the opportunity to work for disadvantaged children and young people both here in Kenya and abroad. The goal, ultimately, is to support them in realising their potential and thus help themselves to achieve positive change in their lives.



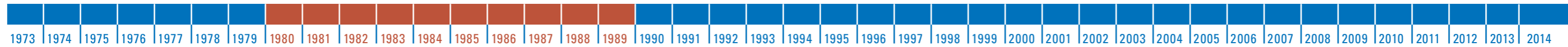
*»The DAAD scholarship gave me the financial independence I needed to achieve my goals. It opened doors for me and made it possible for me to move forward with my life and career.«*

I would like to congratulate the DAAD on its 40th anniversary. As a beneficiary of the programme I can say, without a doubt, that the work being done is definitely worthwhile. So, happy birthday DAAD! Keep up the good work.

### DR. AUMA OBAMA

Auma Obama is Founding Director of the Sauti Kuu Foundation. After returning to Kenya from Europe, she worked for CARE International running the Sport for Social Change Initiative before launching her own foundation in 2011. In 2010 she successfully published her memoirs in German, with the English translation following in 2012.

# Regional Director: Hans M. Helfer



I started my time as DAAD Regional Director in Nairobi in July 1985. The previous director, Hartmut Glimm, had upgraded the office from a Programme Management Office into a DAAD Regional Office. By the time I took over the office, Germany's Foreign Office had become the institutional sponsor for the DAAD's work in Africa, which meant that we were responsible for more than 40 countries throughout Sub-Saharan Africa. One exception was that the DAAD Bonn headquarters was directly responsible for relations with the Republic of South Africa. The main reason for this was that you could not travel to other countries in Africa if your passport revealed a South African residence permit. Because the role and responsibilities of the Regional Office for Africa had grown so quickly, this meant, for me, often exhausting amounts of travel across the region.

## The East and West German divide

Some countries in the region did not have universities that could be visited. Other countries were cooperating with East Germany (GDR) and were of course worried about people from West Germany meddling in their affairs. As an example, I can remember that the GDR had lecturers and teachers stationed in Mozambique. It was no problem for me to speak in German to

Mozambique's minister of education, who had done his PhD work in Dresden, but the East German lecturers and teachers had strict orders not to engage in any kind of conversation with me. The situation in Ethiopia was similar. Only years after German reunification could we get into contact with former GDR scholars.

## Doors opened wide to the DAAD

Many universities were built in Africa during this period, especially in Nigeria where eleven new universities were established. The contact to neighboring countries like Tanzania, Uganda and Ethiopia was of course very close. At some point, however, it was difficult to travel from Kenya to Tanzania, because the border was closed. The only option was to take a detour through the Seychelles. Nevertheless, I always received a warm and cordial welcome, since there was a big desire to establish contact with German universities and to benefit from DAAD's funding programmes.

The visiting DAAD professors and lecturers stationed at the universities in these various countries served as important travel guides for me and opened a lot of doors. It was satisfying to see how capacity building with regard to higher-education lecturers (the main aim of DAAD) progressed during these years.

## Making history

In Kenya, President Moi's personal mission was the development of the university system and the demand for professors was especially high. We addressed this demand through our In-Country funding programmes, which focused on Kenya. In addition, we got increasingly involved in developing PhD programmes and supporting African scientific networks including newcomers such as the Natural Product Research Network for Eastern and Central Africa (NAPRECA). We were also keen to strengthen the connection to Germany by integrating short study visits to German university institutes into the programmes.

During this time, a cultural agreement signed between Kenya and Germany was the first of its kind between an African country and Germany. Since the regional office already had computers, we were able to help the embassy by drafting the agreement and providing valuable and well-received advice.



**HANS M. HELFER,**  
REGIONAL DIRECTOR  
FROM 1985 TO 1994

*»I always received a warm and cordial welcome, since there was a big desire to establish contact with German universities and to benefit from DAAD's funding programmes.«*

A cultural agreement signed between Kenya and Germany was the first of its kind between an African country and Germany.

# 1990s



## Winds of change

### Regional Directors

1985 – 1994: Hans M. Helfer

1994 – 2001: Richard Jacob

The dramatic political events in Europe – the end of the East German state (GDR) in 1990 and the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 – were mirrored by political reforms in Kenya. The end of the Cold War had direct implications for the relationship between the international donor community and Kenya. Despite Moi's authoritarian regime, Kenya had enjoyed the support of the West since independence. With the advent of the 1990s, however, came a shift in discourse, which placed democracy, good governance and human rights on the agenda as touchstones for recipient countries.

The Kenyan government was under increasing pressure to allow multiparty elections, which materialised at the end of 1992. With a divided opposition, President Moi remained in office, securing the required simple majority of votes. This happened again in 1997. The struggle for a democratic Kenya, led by civil society leaders like Wangari Maathai and Chief Justice Willy Mutunga, thus continued.





## 1990s



For Kenyan universities, the 1990s was a time of unrest, rife with strikes and subsequent closures. This was due only in part to the winds of change blowing through Kenya at the time. Problems with loan disbursements and complaints about bad food quality on campuses, for example, also added to the crisis in academia.

#### Of German reunification and rising refugee numbers

For the DAAD, German reunification meant incorporating East German universities and scholarships into its own structures. Right away, the DAAD took over responsibility for some 8,000 foreign scholars studying in the former GDR and some 1,600 East German students studying abroad. These “new” programmes were managed primarily from its new office in Berlin. Despite Berlin becoming the “new” capital of a united Germany in 1992, the DAAD’s office in Bonn was kept as the organisation’s headquarters.

Events closer to Nairobi also had an impact on the work of the DAAD office: The genocide in Rwanda in 1994, Kabila's seizure of power in Congo-Kinshasa in 1997, the Ethiopian-Eritrean war of 1999/2000 as well as the disastrous conditions in Somalia and South Sudan. These events led to an increased influx of refugees to Kenya, among them qualified graduates and postgraduates. These upheavals led to the enhanced support of refugee post-graduates from Somalia, Sudan, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Burundi through the In-Country and In-Region scholarship programmes.

#### South African universities: Open to Africa

With the election of the ANC in 1994 in South Africa, and the country’s subsequent abolition of apartheid, South Africa’s nearly 30 universities were suddenly acceptable destinations for all other African nations. Kenyan and Ethiopian In-Region scholarship applicants as well as African universities had suggested that DAAD allow applications for South African universities as early as 1995.

There were many advantages to South African universities. For one, they worked in a predominantly Anglophone context. Their organisational and terminological structure was also similar to that of Eastern African universities, and most South African universities had standards equivalent to universities in industrially advanced countries. In response, the DAAD agreed on accepting South African universities into its programme and opening them up to postgraduates and graduates from other African countries.

With South Africa as a democracy, the position of the DAAD Nairobi office was reconsidered; plans called for moving the African regional office to South Africa. The plan did not materialise, however. Compared to the rest of Africa, South African universities were in league of their own. A South African-based office responsible for the whole of Africa raised fears of creating a bias in favour of South Africa and to the disadvantage of all other African countries.

#### Kenyan crisis: Burgeoning student numbers and fiscal troubles

For Kenya, the end of the Cold War also meant the loss of unconditional support and thus a massive reduction in aid. From 1990 to the mid-1990s, official development assistance was cut by nearly two-thirds. This put considerable strain not only on publicly funded organisations but on educational institutions and especially universities.

As a former teacher, President Moi had made higher education one of his top priorities. In answer to Kenya’s burgeoning student population (40,000 in the early 1990s), Moi had supported the founding of new universities and colleges. Forty percent of the nation’s budget had been allocated to education, half of which went to tertiary education. These allocations could not be upheld.

The new strategy for boosting both university budgets and the lecturer salaries was the introduction of so-called parallel programmes. These degree programmes are conducted over and above ‘regular’ courses and charge students full fees; students on regular courses are largely state-funded. Over the years students enrolled in the parallel programmes outnumbered regular course students. While critics maintained that the parallel programmes were commercialising education and watering down the quality of education due to the high number of students, they quickly became a very important source of income for Kenya’s universities.

*»For Kenyan universities, the 1990s was a time of unrest, rife with strikes and subsequent closures.«*

#### Offering solutions: In-Country scholarships and sandwich scholarships

One of the biggest challenges at the universities remained staff shortages. The DAAD’s In-Country scholarship programme has played an important role in addressing these problems. But even though 75% of DAAD scholars have actually found their way into lecturer positions at Kenyan universities, staff shortages still vexed the country’s higher education system.

Great progress was made in connecting German and Kenyan universities through so-called sandwich scholarships. The language barrier as well as course accreditation issues made this a far more challenging undertaking than with institutions from English-speaking countries with shared language and study systems. Fortunately, isolated incidents of xenophobia did not impact the attractiveness of Germany for African students.

Another priority for the DAAD Nairobi office was to keep in touch with and support DAAD and former East German alumni from the various regions. This work was facilitated by the Nairobi Circular, a newsletter for DAAD alumni in Kenya and Eastern Africa.

The DAAD’s In-Country scholarship programme helped address the problem of staff shortages at Kenyan universities, with 75% of DAAD scholars finding their way into lecturer positions.

# Hamadi Iddi Boga



»Many doors and opportunities were opened for me as a DAAD scholar.«

## Nichts ist unmöglich/ Nothing is impossible!

Not only did the DAAD scholarship enable me to become a leading Kenyan scientist in Microbiology, but it also provided me with a strong network and mentoring in administrative leadership – did you know that a large share of university leaders in Kenya today are DAAD scholars? I am the Principal of Taita Taveta University College. Over a period of four years I oversaw the successful growth and transition of the Taita Taveta Campus of Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) into a constituent college with 2,000 students.

Many doors and opportunities were opened for me as a DAAD scholar. Despite having other opportunities, I never regretted deciding to get my PhD in Microbiology at the University of Konstanz in Germany. My academic thinking and my personal life were, and still are, greatly shaped by this experience.

### New sides to old ideas

I learned to understand and appreciate other cultures while being comfortable in my own. Germans and Kenyans share much in common – they enjoy football, are preoccupied with politics and work hard. Having grown up watching the show “Football Made in Germany” made the experience even more real as I found myself in the country of Jürgen Klinsmann, Karl-Heinz Rummenigge and “der Kaiser” Franz Beckenbauer. I really enjoyed watching the Bundesliga on TV. My favourite club was of course SC Freiburg – a team that really loved their soccer. I also played football with the guys in Germany, and even played football with women – a completely new experience for me.

Another first: I embraced federalism as a basis for political organization, as it could assure unity in diversity. Having grown up in Kenya, I thought a centralist political system was the way to keep a country together. Having learned about the German system and seeing it work, I realised that this is what Kenya needed if it was to be truly unified.

### A matter of course: Giving back

On the important topic of giving back, I helped revive and strengthen the Kenya DAAD Scholar Association, transforming it into the most vibrant alumni association in the Eastern African region. As a university professor, I have supervised many MSc and PhD students and successfully started the MSc Microbiology programme in the Botany Department at JKUAT. I have also provided leadership in the field of Microbiology through the Microbiology Network, have spearheaded the development of the Kenya Microbial Culture Collection, and was appointed a board member of the World Federation of Culture Collection.

### Pre-study language and culture courses a must!

Thinking back, I believe it should be mandatory for scholarship holders to attend language and cultural introductory courses prior to studying in Germany, even if they were given in English. Talking with alumni would aid in creating such tailor-made cultural orientation courses aimed at overcoming potential prejudices. The bottom line stays the same: Everyone needs to keep an open mind and make their own discoveries.

The DAAD regional office in Nairobi was my benefactor when I was a young man seeking opportunities. It has now become a partner in my personal and academic growth. My life would have been quite different without the support of the DAAD. I think I will not be exaggerating in saying that the DAAD is the smartest scholarship-awarding organisation in the world. Keep up the good work!

### HAMADI IDDI BOGA

Hamadi Iddi Boga, who is currently the Principal of Taita Taveta University College, and the Chairman of the National Council of Science and Technology Committee for Developing Bioscience Policy, has taught in various capacities since his return from Germany, including as a full professor in Microbiology at JKUAT.

As the head of the DAAD Alumni Association in Kenya for many years, Prof. Boga serves as the Ambassador Scientist for the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in Kenya. He is also a founding member of the African-German Network for Scientific Excellence (AGNES), secretary of the Kenya Society for Microbiology and, as an alumnus of the International Deans' Course, the President of the Eastern African Network of DIES university management alumni (REAL).

»I learned to understand and appreciate other cultures while being comfortable in my own.«

## Regional Director: Richard Jacob



I worked from 1994 to 2001 as Director of the Regional Office for Africa and was, at least in principle, responsible for all Sub-Saharan countries, with the exception of South Africa. Around 30 of the over 40 countries had universities or other higher education institutions that communicated with the DAAD head office as well as the Nairobi office. These regional divisions, coupled with the diversity of DAAD funding instruments, made for a wide range of tasks for the DAAD in Nairobi. I would like to share a few memories that perhaps even today, eleven years after my retirement, are newsworthy.

agriculture or technology, only few African universities possessed qualified academic supervisors or even PhD programmes. Besides, it was highly attractive to get a degree from a prestigious German university. What was initially stipulated as an exception became the rule, with doctoral degrees being granted by the German host universities.

This situation changed as more doctoral programmes were established at African universities, and the number of suitable African supervisors increased. As a result, in the second half of the 1990s, the DAAD

“Special Programme for Southern Africa” financed by Germany’s Federal Foreign Office provided funding to 300 black South Africans and Namibians, both new scholarship holders and continuers. During my regular trips to South Africa, I experienced how the willingness to allow black South Africans to study varied from university to university.

After 1995, I watched with astonishment as some of those South African universities, which had only reluctantly admitted black South Africans before 1994, began topping the priority lists of Kenyan, Ugandan, Ethiopian and other African In-Region applicants. This positive development was a sign that things in South Africa were indeed changing quickly.

### Responding to neighbours in crisis

The catastrophic wars that occurred in the second half of the 1990s in the Eastern African lake region, in Ethiopia/Eritrea and elsewhere resulted in a substantial increase of refugees to Kenya. Despite its own share of demographic and socio-economic challenges, Kenya generously hosted refugees from these regions and countries. The DAAD responded by increasing the number of scholarships for qualified postgraduates among those refugees, enabling them to continue their studies in Kenya.

Of course, the 1998 attacks on the US embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam must not remain unmentioned here. Some of the first pickups transporting the seriously injured to the city’s hospitals passed close



**RICHARD JACOB,**  
REGIONAL DIRECTOR  
FROM 1994 TO 2001

*»After 1995, South African universities began topping the priority lists of Kenyan, Ugandan and Ethiopian third-country applicants. A sign that things were changing quickly.«*

### Starting out: Sandwich scholarships

One of the DAAD funding schemes, namely the Sandwich Scholarship Programme, developed in a way that had not been intended. Originally the programme was to give African doctoral students the opportunity to prepare extensive parts of their theses at a German university, but obtain their PhD at their home university. For good reasons the programme developed differently. In a number of subjects such as

head office tried to return to the original idea of the programme, with PhD candidates graduating at their respective African home university. While I remained unconvinced that this change was necessary, it was my job to persuade potential doctoral fellows – and even their African supervisors – to finish their PhDs in Africa, not in Germany. Luckily, exceptions were still made possible.

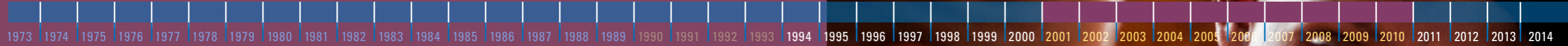
Before I went to Nairobi, I had been the head of the DAAD Africa section in Bonn from 1985 to 1994. During this time the

by the office. A Kenyan In-Region scholar, scheduled to leave the next day for his Master’s at the University of Botswana, was searching desperately for his wife, who was in one of the destroyed buildings. I spent the day with him in different hospitals in Nairobi, scouring the lists of casualties. Luckily, his wife was found with only slight injuries.

### Treasure trove of memories: Our DAAD alumni

Finally, I remember the DAAD’s 25th anniversary celebration in 1998. To lighten up the programme, former Kenyan DAAD scholars were asked to narrate anecdotes from their time in Germany. I can still remember Dr. Katana, physicist and then Academic Registrar of Kenyatta University, who conducted part of his doctoral thesis at the Max Planck Institute for Polymer Research in Mainz, recounting his tale of performing in the Mainz Cathedral as one of the three Magi from the East on Epiphany.

# 2001 - 2010



## Changing challenges

### Regional Directors

2001 – 2005: Cay Etzold

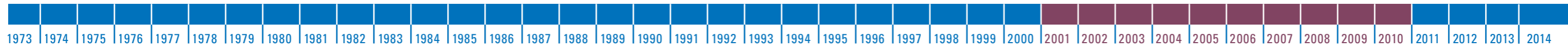
2005 – 2010: Gabriele von Fircks

One of the last decade's most important events was the so-called "second liberation": Mwai Kibaki's election as president in 2002, ending 24 years of Moi's rule. The reform process of the 1990s effected several constitutional changes in Kenya, one of which made it impossible for Moi to run for another term. In the 2002 general elections, his candidate and party were defeated by the National Rainbow Coalition (NARC) under the leadership of Mwai Kibaki, who garnered 62% of the popular vote.

Disagreement within the coalition ensued, however, making the 2007 elections a hotly contested race between former NARC partners Kibaki and Raila Odinga. The announced results, which handed the incumbent a second term, ended in violence, killing some 1,200 people and displacing up to 600,000. A grand coalition was brokered by Kofi Annan and former Tanzanian president Benjamin Mkapa, among others, that gave Kibaki the presidency and Odinga the post of prime minister. One of the biggest achievements of the coalition is without doubt Kenya's new constitution, which was approved in 2010 in a peaceful referendum by 67% of the electorate.



# 2001-2010



## More attention to higher education

The new millennium also saw the launch of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), which was adopted by the Organisation of African Unity summit in June 2001. One of NEPAD's goals was to "promote networks of specialised research and higher education institutions." To achieve this, G8 and World Bank funding was increased for higher education, marking a policy shift away from an exclusive focus on primary education.

For the DAAD regional office, these policy developments were encouraging – after all, the new policy goals had been its own focus for many years. Supporting alumni networks and networking in general, and cooperating with organisations such as the African Insect Science for Food and Health, International Livestock Research Institute, International Centre for Research in Agroforestry, Association of African Universities, Association for the Development of Education in Africa, African Network of Scientific and Technological Institutions, and the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) remained high on the agenda.

One project involved collaborating with the IUCEA to establish a regional quality assurance system for higher education institutions (HEIs) in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. A quality assurance manual was developed with local experts, and future quality assurance officers were trained at German and African universities. Pilot evaluations and peer reviews were also carried out. Workshops were held for the

participating universities' vice-presidents and deans to prepare them for the new quality assurance system. At the end of 2009, the DAAD invited a group of African vice-chancellors and chairpersons of accreditation authorities to Germany to exchange experiences with their German counterparts.

During this ten-year period, the DAAD also expanded its university management activities in Eastern Africa with its programme Dialogue on Innovative Higher Education Strategies (DIES). The first co-financed grant programme in Sub-Saharan Africa was also launched. The DAAD and the government of Tanzania agreed to jointly fund up to 20 doctoral candidates in Germany, adding to the PhD grants offered by the DAAD. A similar agreement with Kenya was also initiated.

Another important DAAD initiative started in this decade was the Higher Education Excellence in Development Cooperation programme, which provides support to institutions – German HEIs together with their partners in developing countries – addressing the UN Millennium Development Goals and other development cooperation policy goals in an innovative way. This programme acknowledges that higher education cooperation is a key factor for sustainable development. Universities participating in the programme from the region include Egerton in Kenya, Sokoine in Tanzania and Jimma in Ethiopia.

## Crisis, reform and action

The Kenya Education Sector Support Programme (KESSP), launched in 2005 and supported by international donors such as the World Bank and the UK's Department for International Development, enjoyed the involvement of the DAAD since its inception. Initially focused exclusively on primary education, KESSP began including secondary and tertiary education in its work in 2007 and 2008 respectively.

In 2007 the Public Universities Inspection Board published a report on the difficult situation at Kenyan universities. In response, the government established a commission to write a strategy paper with proposals for higher education reform. Published in 2008, the recommendations included broadening access to higher education through distance learning, implementing quality assurance programmes and conducting an in-depth review of higher education funding.

A pressing problem remained the intake at Kenyan universities. Only a fraction of the country's qualified high school students could be awarded a place at a Kenyan university. Brain drain, primarily to the US, the UK, Australia, Canada and India, continued. The pressure to increase intake grew so great that new colleges and universities were founded or upgraded. Student numbers exploded as a result, increasing from 10,000 in 2005 to 32,000 in 2010. This led to an even more acute shortage of qualified academic staff, not to mention heavier workloads.

In response and to ensure the quality of teaching, the DAAD continued to strengthen staff building capacities through initiatives like DIES, which supports HEIs in developing countries to devise strategies for improving university management as well as the quality and relevance of study programmes.

## Alumni affairs: Work that matters

Another affair of the heart for the regional office was its alumni work. The Kenyan DAAD Scholars' Association already had a viable network of 300 active members. DAAD alumni from Tanzania followed suit in 2008/2009, basing their organisation on the Kenyan model. A DAAD Scholars' Association was also formed in Burundi in 2009. The alumni associations helped organise several conferences and training courses during this time, and in 2011 a new postdoc programme for African alumni was launched. As a result, other organisations now look upon DAAD alumni support as a best practice model – incentive enough to continue with the great work.

Looking back keeps us focused on where we are going. In this spirit, the DAAD does not rest on the laurels but continues to develop new strategies and ideas for achieving our goals of "enabling young academics and researchers from around the world to become leaders in the fields of science, culture, economics, and politics – as well as friends and partners of Germany, and supporting the process of economic and democratic reforms in developing countries...by supporting their academic research and progress."

Student numbers in Kenya exploded in just half a decade – from 10,000 in 2005 to 32,000 in 2011, leading to an acute shortage of qualified teaching staff. DAAD responded with initiatives for strengthening staff building capacities, such as the DIES programme.

# Joy M. Kiiru



## Education opens opportunities

The DAAD scholarship presented an excellent opportunity for me as a woman, as it not only provided funding, but also enabled me to take my family along with



me. Before I went to Germany, I was an assistant lecturer without permanent employment at the university. The PhD was decisive in opening career opportunities to me that would not have been there otherwise. Now I am supervising PhD students – my first advisee graduated in 2012. I believe that sound economic analyses are a prerequisite to increasing aid efficiency.

## Space to open up and grow

Studying in Germany also made a difference. I realised that with a good education, opportunities abound, and it is possible to afford a good lifestyle in Kenya. After initial difficulties getting integrated into my new surroundings in Germany, I grew more open-minded and became increasingly so through the interaction with different people from different countries. The course on intercultural competencies that was offered to us in our first year of study in Germany courtesy of DAAD in Bonn really helped me in this respect. Moreover, I was able to live in an environment where you could think and interact openly. I learned how important it is to express myself – no matter if others disagree – and to give others as well as myself space to grow.

The most prominent and exciting experience I had when I was in Germany was Pope Benedict's visit to Cologne. I went to see him together with some of my friends. It was also interesting to see that no matter what part of society you come from, you use public transport or the bicycle. Even my professor came to work on his bicycle – you would never see such a thing in Kenya!



*»I learned how important it is to express myself – no matter if others disagree – and to give others as well as myself space to grow.«*

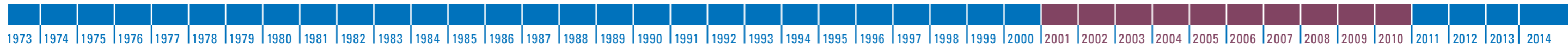
## Family-friendliness appreciated!

I truly believe the DAAD is one of the best funding agencies for scholarships available. The stipend was enough to live on, even with a family. Hence the DAAD provides opportunities to students who would have otherwise not had the chance to pursue an advanced degree, especially when they already have a family. Please continue!

## JOY M. KIIRU

Prior to her studies in Germany, Joy M. Kiiru was Assistant Lecturer at the University of Nairobi's School of Economics. After returning from Germany in 2007, Joy M. Kiiru was promoted to the position of Lecturer in 2008 at the same university. She holds a PhD from the University of Bonn, completed her Master's in Malawi and obtained a BA from Nairobi University. Her main research interests include social protection, trade policy, microfinance, food security, gender and development. She was awarded the First Prize Medal for Research on Development by the Global Development Network in 2010 for her PhD thesis on the impact of microfinance on poverty reduction.

# Regional Director: Cay Etzold



Having never been to Africa before, the beginning of my tenure as Regional Director in Nairobi was exciting and dramatic in every regard. I arrived 10 September 2001 in the evening, and can still recall the first impressions – the speedy journey to the hotel, the noises of a tropical night and the smell of African soil. The next day was filled with meetings and other tasks. Then, at night I saw the frightening images on TV and could hardly believe it. September 11th had changed the world forever. Kenya was not spared either, with a grenade attack in the city of Mombasa in November.

### Galvanizing networks

I focused on three main areas as Regional Director: mobilising and interlinking DAAD scholarship holders at the universities, mobilising DAAD alumni, and enhancing

the DAAD's participation in important social discourses.

The very first meeting of In-Country scholarship holders was held at Egerton University in 2002. The annual format, which was also adopted at other universities, gave lecturers and students the chance to discuss their plans and research ideas. The results were published and very sought after. Titles included "Toward Harmonisation of Post-graduate Training through improved Student-Supervisor Relationships", "Research Ethics" and "Research Management, Data Acquisition, Analysis, Interpretation and Dissemination". By 2005 the series had broadened its scope to include not just Kenyan but also regional topics.

As for our alumni, we decided to concentrate first on the Kenya DAAD Scholars Association (KDSA) with the aim of motivating both former Master's and PhD students who had graduated in Germany to join in DAAD alumni activities. It did not take long before a new KDSA executive committee was elected. KDSA chapters were established in Kenya's six public universities between 2002 and 2005, and they still exist today. These measures heralded a new era of DAAD alumni work in Kenya.

### Spearheading dialogue

I arrived in Nairobi when Kenya was venturing a fresh start. What I saw was an unprecedented constitutional discussion process that spanned all segments of society – all, that is, except academia. Constitutional debate was all but absent in

Kenya's universities. The DAAD took measures to change this. The culmination of our efforts was a conference held in May 2002 on the historical grounds in Limuru titled "Institutionalising Democracy in Kenya: Prospects and Challenges." The conference, which produced a very popular and quickly out-of-print brochure, paved the way for a more active role of the universities in public discourse.

### In the name of quality and growth

Until 2001 the number of scholarships for Africans had been steadily decreasing. I decided to check this negative trend with a new push for quality in tertiary education, making quality assurance one of our main action areas. One of the most important partners in this drive for more quality was the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA). In October 2003 a large regional Africa-DIES (Dialogue on Innovative Higher Education Strategies) conference took place, marking the beginning of what is still a fruitful and strong partnership between the DAAD and the IUCEA.

The regional importance of the DAAD grew and large alumni meetings were held in Tanzania (2003) and Ethiopia (2004). New universities such as Gulu University in Uganda were included in the scholarship programmes, and regional networks, like the Integrated Watershed Management Network in Kenya, were supported and strengthened. Federal Chancellor Gerhard Schröder also paid a visit and was received in Addis Ababa by 700 enthusiastic DAAD alumni.



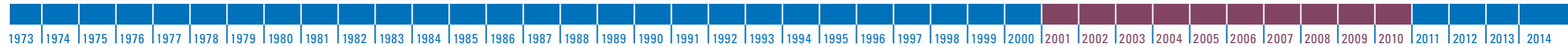
**CAY ETZOLD,**  
REGIONAL DIRECTOR  
FROM 2001 TO 2005

### Fond memories

One of the most special moments as Regional Director was when DAAD alumna Wangari Maathai won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004. I will never forget her speech at the University of Nairobi, given shortly after receiving the award. Having had the privilege of getting to know her personally, I will always have fond memories of her warm-hearted nature – a common trait among the Kenyans I had gotten to know.



## Regional Director: Gabriele von Fircks



**W**hen I think back to my tenure as Regional Director, what comes to my mind immediately are the dramatic events that unfolded in the wake of the parliamentary and presidential elections at the close of 2007. The universities were closed and teaching resumed only gradually. The time of closure was compensated by shortening the summer break.

### Invigorating alumni work

Modern means of communication had a hand in improving the work of the regional office. Over the course of my five years in Nairobi, communication changed considerably. In 2005, for example, email was used only occasionally due to the poorly equipped universities. By 2010, email had become the standard form of communication. This positive development made networking and alumni work easier than ever before.

Undoubtedly the highlights of my time in Nairobi were the alumni meetings we organised in 2006, 2008 and 2009. Since 2006 was dominated by the Football World Cup in Germany, we hosted a giant football tournament with eight universities in May. Kenyatta University came out the winner. There was a catch, however: each team had to include at least two DAAD alumni. A symposium on football was carried out parallel to the tournament, which included not only scientists but also referees, coaches as well as the managers of Kenya's first and second football leagues.

### In dialogue on big issues

The first big regional alumni conference took place in 2008. DAAD and Alexander von Humboldt Foundation alumni from across the East African Community (EAC) were invited to come and discuss issues such as the political and economic integration of the region, regional cooperation in research, biodiversity as well as environmental challenges, both regionally and globally.

In 2009 we organised a seminar on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the introduction of the German constitution (*Grundgesetz*) to discuss constitutional questions, building on the constitutional process in Kenya, which had grown out of the post-election violence in 2008. The aim was to look more closely at the history and implementation of the German constitution, examining key aspects, such as centralism vs. federalism, majority vs. proportional representation, parliamentary constitution vs. presidential constitution, and questions on judicial pluralism.



**GABRIELE VON FIRCKS,**  
REGIONAL DIRECTOR  
FROM 2005 TO 2010

*»Modern means of communication had a hand in improving the work of the regional office. By 2010, email was the standard form of communication, making networking and alumni work easier than ever before.«*

All these activities would not have been possible without the excellent team at the regional office. I wish the colleagues in Nairobi continued joy and success for their tasks ahead!





# Since 2010

1973 1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979 1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014

## Joining hands

### Regional Director

2010 - present: Christoph Hansert

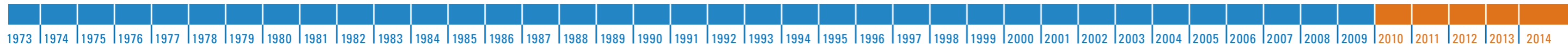
Most recently our work has focused on initiating and fostering joint efforts. Today over 25 PhD candidates leave Kenya for Germany each year to start their studies, three times more than before the launch of the Kenya-German Postgraduate Training Programme in 2010. And in 2014, the first group of freshly-minted PhDs from Tanzania – also products of a joint scholarship programme – will return home, where they are dearly awaited as university lecturers. In 2011 DAAD moved its coordination of the joint Quality Assurance Initiative with the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) and the German Rectors' Conference (HRK) to the Nairobi Office. Since then, the IUCEA has gradually taken over the leading role as well as half the financing.

We are also working to bring people together – our In-Country scholars in Kenya, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda, for example, were finally provided a platform to meet for the first time in 2011 through a series of seminars offered in partnership with the Information Training and Outreach Centre for Africa. Not only did they receive important training in the use of e-resources, but were given the chance to meet with the DAAD's national alumni associations.

Finally, two new jointly-financed lecturers will soon strengthen our regional network, taking up work at the National University of Rwanda and the University of Dar es Salaam.



# Abraham Rugo Muriu



## Attitude matters

**W**hen I was awarded the DAAD scholarship to do my MA in Germany, my family's first reaction was shock. We simply did not know what to expect and how it would impact our lives. There was no reason for concern, however, as the DAAD enabled me to take my family with me for the one-year study period at the University of Potsdam.



The scholarship changed my outlook on many things. For one, I developed a more international perspective and became less prejudiced. Most importantly, it instilled in me the desire to become wholly dedicated to my work and committed towards

society and to offer everyone my best, regardless of their background or financial standing – even if others do not do the same. I learned that people and their attitudes determine whether a governance system works or not – attitude matters and influences change.

### New perspectives, new roles

My studies in Germany presented a turning point in my career. The DAAD Public Policy and Good Governance (PPGG) Scholarship programme gave me the opportunity to specialise in policy studies and instilled within me the desire to become Kenya's lead expert in public administration and management. Being in Germany helped me to see Kenya more clearly and in a different light. I started believing that change is possible, understanding that it takes time and dedication to build a society. We need to be patient with ourselves while working continuously toward our goals.

Almost immediately upon my return from Germany, I was made the Futures Programme Officer at the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) in Kenya, a leading independent think tank in public policy research, analysis and advocacy. I provide overall leadership and management, design and coordinate policy research, conduct fundraising and manage project implementation – all with the aim to popularise methodologies such as scenario thinking, vision building and strategic

planning. Parallel to that, I mentor high school students on personal development, choices, and public speaking.

Reflecting on my stay in Germany, I was amazed by people's personal drive that often went beyond the call of duty. Germans also like their holidays, utilising them to experience as much as they can and travel the world. And unlike Kenya's communal society, Germans are more individualistic, focusing primarily on their immediate family. Germany also struck me as a fairly rule-based society, which I believe is necessary in such a diverse society.

### ABRAHAM RUGO MURIU

Currently the Futures Programme Officer with the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA), Abraham Rugo Muriu returned from Germany in October 2012, where he obtained his Master's of Public Management from the University of Potsdam. He has been a member of the Board of Directors of the International Institute of Legislative Affairs since 2005.

*»I learned that people and their attitudes determine whether a governance system works or not – attitude matters.«*

### Hats off to the DAAD staff!

As far as the excellence of the DAAD scholarship programme goes, this is due not only to high-quality communication and information, but to the personal commitment of the DAAD staff. I convey my strong appreciation for the people at the DAAD. May they continue helping individuals and countries develop and transform themselves. Thank you!

# DAAD funding programmes

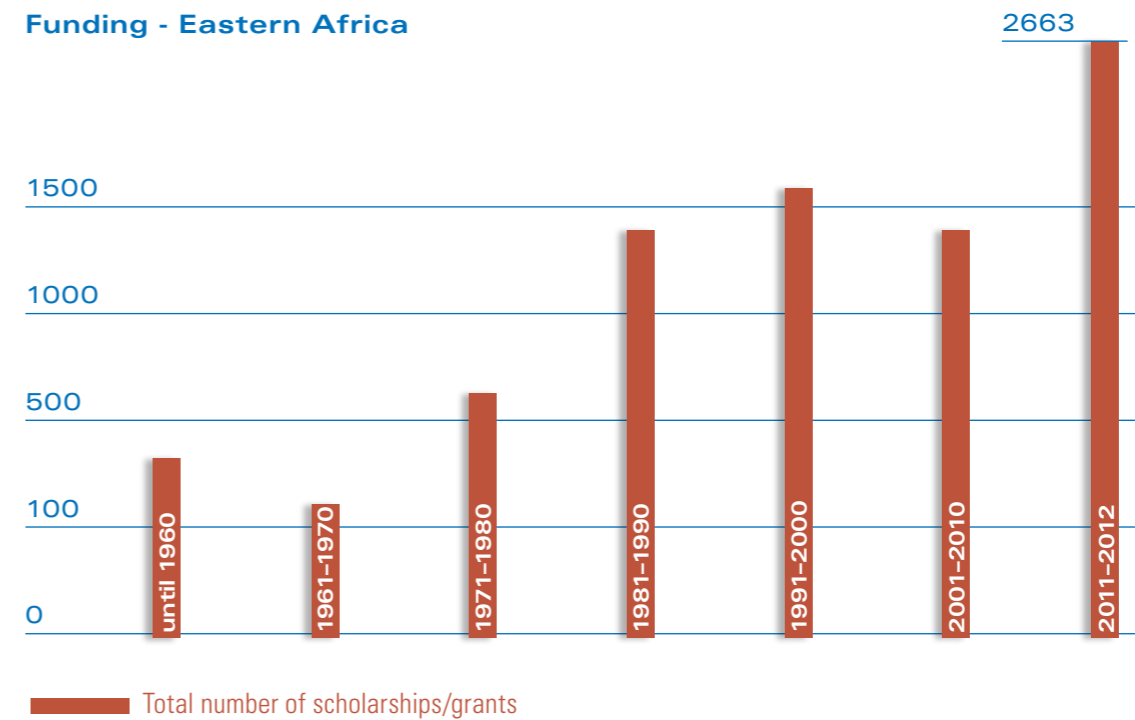
The DAAD Regional Office for Africa provides information about institutions of higher education and research institutions in Germany. It offers scholarships and research grants, supports guest professorships and assists in establishing university collaborations between the Eastern Africa region and Germany. Individual scholarships are awarded for Master's and PhD study in Germany as well as at selected universities in the region. Newly established collaborations with governments in Eastern Africa also provide scholarships for staff members of public universities and public research institutes in the region for doctoral training in Germany. Master's scholarships in Germany are available in the applied fields, such as Engineering, Agriculture or Public Health, as well as in Public Policy/Good Governance and the Arts.

The DAAD offers a wide range of funding instruments and schemes aimed at developing not only individuals but fostering exchange and knowledge transfer between higher education institutions in Eastern Africa and Germany. The DAAD Regional Office supports university staff exchanges between African and German universities on both short and long-term bases. It also sends German language and culture lecturers to African universities through its Lektor programme, and German academics to African universities as part of the Advisory Programme. Retired German

university professors can also receive funding from the DAAD's and Stifterverband Emeriti Programme to teach at an African university for at least one semester. Our programme "Subject-related partnerships with universities in the developing world" aims at building and strengthening infrastructures at partner universities through university collaboration. The Dialogue on Innovative Higher Education Strategies (DIES) programme facilitates international exchange in matters of innovative higher education policy, including quality assurance.

Collaborating with our alumni is an integral part of the DAAD's work. Individual support is provided to alumni for scientific literature, re-invitations to their former host institutions in Germany and equipment grants for their local universities and research institutes. Alumni can also receive funding to attend international conferences and workshops or to organise their own alumni seminars.

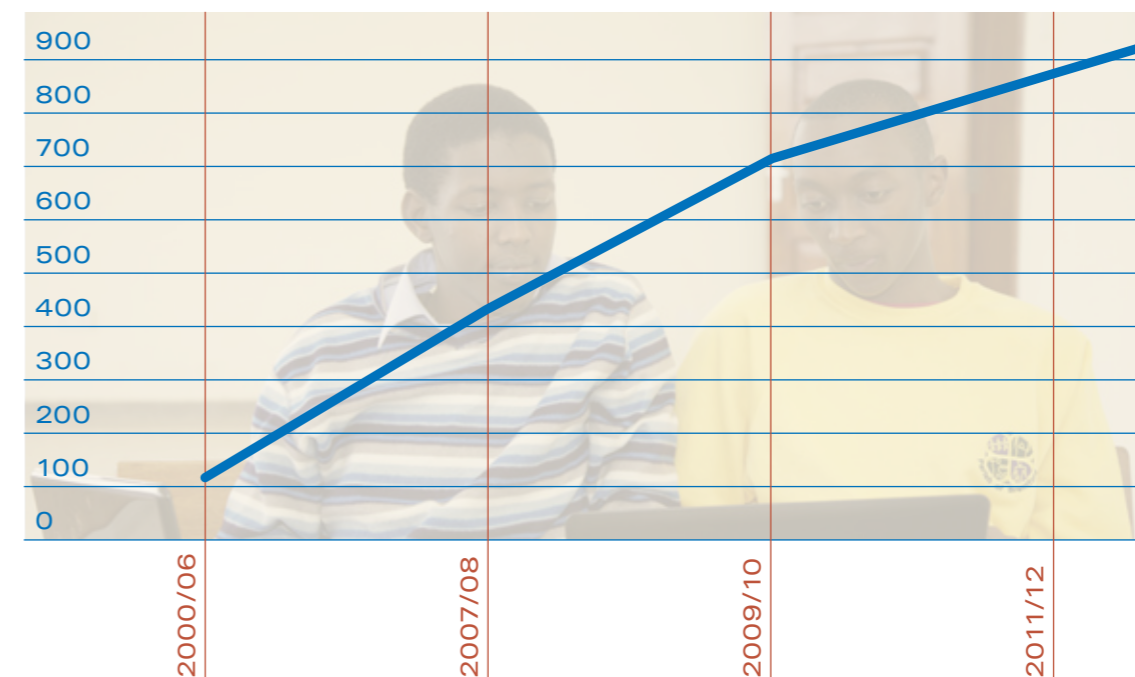
## Funding - Eastern Africa



The DAAD was able to award four scholarships to students from South Sudan in 2013, marking a first. The scholarships make it possible for the recipients to pursue Master degree programmes in Kenya and Tanzania that are relevant to the development of their young country.

## DIES programme

### Ethiopia, Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda



# Alumni thoughts

on the DAAD and Germany

»*Family-friendly*«

»*Good education*«

»*Environmental  
consciousness*«

»*Lasting friendships*«

»*Creating  
opportunities*«

»*Change  
through  
exchange*«

»*Federalism - unity  
in diversity works*«

»*Vibrant alumni  
community*«

»*Door-opener*«

»*Contributing to  
transformation  
processes*«

»*Partner in personal  
and academic growth*«

Profile:

# Eastern Africa and its alumni

## Huge potential for German universities

The DAAD office in Nairobi is celebrating its 40-year existence with numerous events in Africa. Regional office head Christoph Hansert spoke about the diverse activities of the DAAD Regional Office in Eastern Africa and advocates for new partnerships outside of the capital cities.

*Mr. Hansert, how is the DAAD Regional Office in Nairobi celebrating its 40 years of existence?*

*In May 2013 we initiated the first German Studies Conference in East Africa in cooperation with the Goethe-Institut Nairobi to provide a scientific forum for the German Studies community in the region.*

*Shortly after that, the annual conference of the Kenyan DAAD alumni dealt with the topic of sustainable urban planning. During the event, governors from recently established Kenyan counties spoke with 180 alumni and DAAD scholars about ways in which universities can contribute to current reform processes. The approach of bringing universities in closer contact with issues of local relevance has not only been much appreciated but successful. One of the outcomes has been an agreement to plan a flood protection system; another project has been lined up to establish a waste management system. »*



## Interview: Christoph Hansert

We are a regional office, which means our anniversary celebration extends beyond Kenya. We are therefore planning to showcase the diversity of the DAAD's engagement in the region, which ranges from academic exchange in development cooperation and targeted promotion of leadership capacities, to ambitious research cooperation. Some event highlights: in November, we will be addressing the issue of water use in a joint event with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the Ministry for Education in Tanzania; we will also celebrate the jubilee with alumni meetings in Sudan and Uganda. Afterwards, we will take up the question of how the DAAD contributes to educating responsible leadership.

For our big alumni meeting in Nairobi in May 2014, we are organising preparatory events in cooperation with the German political foundations to combine the academic and the political perspectives. And finally, we will explore future research cooperation with the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation as part of a regional Humboldt convention in March 2014.

As you can see, celebrating our 40th anniversary is about celebrating together – with our DAAD alumni and with our long-time Eastern African and German partners.

### **If you look back at the history of the regional office in Nairobi, which steps have been crucial to its development?**

The regional office in Nairobi has evolved from a project office for scholarships to a network centre that promotes scientific cooperation between Eastern Africa and Germany on various levels – from individual scholarships and university partnerships to the advancement of university systems. For the past five years we have been supporting carefully selected African-German centres of excellence which combine all these elements. Two years ago, the DAAD began using an integrated approach to support high-level research cooperation and doctoral education as part of the "Welcome to Africa" programme.

From my point of view, we need more bilateral centres of excellence; they should be selected and financed by way of a transparent and competitive process jointly organised by African and international partners. This would be one way to solve the current extreme shortage of high-level university lecturers without compromising quality.

### **What role do the DAAD alumni play in your work in the region?**

A very important one. The DAAD's dense network of alumni in Eastern Africa is unmatched. Many leadership positions in Kenya's most important universities are filled with DAAD alumni. In Tanzania, DAAD alumni are also found in high-level govern-

ment positions, such as the ministers for energy and infrastructure or Professor Mayunga Nkunya, the Executive Secretary of the Inter-University Council for East Africa. In the context of expanding cooperation between Germany and the economically-emergent Eastern Africa, it is a great opportunity to have contacts like these.

### **What is the thematic focus of cooperation in Eastern Africa?**

The region is known for its strength in geography, agro- and biosciences. For example, the DAAD supports the renowned International Livestock Research Institute, host of "BeCA Hub", an excellently equipped bio-technology laboratory, with scholarships for doctorates and postdocs. Kenya is also home to an innovative software industry, which develops creative and practical apps for smartphones – from money transfer apps to apps for the latest news on marketing agricultural products. People who are interested can read about similar approaches and potential research cooperation opportunities in the newly published "Country Profile Kenya" from GATE Germany ([www.gate-germany.de](http://www.gate-germany.de)).

### **Is Eastern Africa's significance for scientific exchange underestimated?**

Yes, I believe it is. And yet there is a huge potential for German universities and companies in the region. One example from the energy sector is the large gas deposits just off Africa's east coast.



Regional Director Christoph Hansert

With its expertise in technologies for downstream plant construction and transport infrastructure, Germany is well positioned as a potential and important partner. But you need locally-educated, qualified employees.

In addition, there is a largely untapped potential for cooperation between medium-sized German universities and non-capital universities in Eastern Africa. These can be highly dynamic and reliable partners. Some partnerships are already in place: TH Wildau cooperates with the well-equipped Dedan Kimathi University of Technology in the Kenyan town of Nyeri; FH Bingen cooperates with the Catholic University in Ruhengeri in northern Rwanda; and the University of Vechta cooperates with the Catholic St. Augustine University of Tanzania, located in Mwanza on the shores of Lake Victoria. It is definitely profitable for German universities to look closely at Africa and to be among those who recognise an emerging region of the world. The DAAD Regional Office for Africa in Nairobi is willing and able to render support.

# Burundi: Willy Marcel Ndayitwayeko

## Working for brain gain in Burundi



I was a second-year Agronomy student at the University of Burundi when a bloody civil war broke out in my home country. I narrowly escaped death and fled to Kenya. Fortunately, during that time, the DAAD created a programme that targeted not only Kenyans but also refugees from other countries. I whole-heartedly thank the regional director at that time, Cay Etzold, for such a noble initiative. I finished my Master's degree at Moi University in Kenya; the refugee programme ended just when I wanted to apply for an In-Country PhD programme.

I applied for a DAAD scholarship in order to obtain advanced knowledge in the career I was pursuing, and so that I could serve my society in Burundi effectively. Because I had to interrupt my academic work due to the ongoing civil war, the DAAD was like a foster parent that enabled me to finish my studies. Before earning the DAAD grant, I had completed my Bachelor under the DAFI scholarship programme. As the job was not yet done, DAAD wonderfully carried me through from 2004 to 2007 so that I was better equipped for the task that awaited me back home in Burundi in 2008, when I was appointed Assistant Lecturer.

### Master's degree and a new lease on life

On a personal level, my Master's studies with the DAAD boosted my self-esteem as well as my academic profile. And since I came to Kenya as a refugee with not much hope of ever resuming my interrupted studies, the DAAD scholarship provided me with a treasured "second chance".

Access to DAAD publications, newsletters, the DAAD online portal and networking with fellow alumni has helped me understand what needs to be done to reduce or eradicate human suffering in Burundi. It has helped me apply the skills I acquired during my studies – to help humanity by transferring the knowledge and technology gained in education at the grassroots level.

I was so glad to hear the news that the war had ended in Burundi in 2005. By 2006, Burundian refugee repatriation was taking place and I also applied for voluntary repatriation in 2007. What might have been a brain drain became a brain gain for Burundi. I secured my first job as an assistant lecturer at the University of Burundi, also because of my choice of subject, since not many in Burundi hold a Master's degree in Agricultural Economics.

My degree was like a complete rebirth and a new passport. It helped me to be selected from a large pool of applicants and be employed by the University of Burundi. Now I am considered among the country's scholars and accepted in a circle of 'elites' in Burundi.

### True to DAAD, on behalf of Burundi

I liked the way DAAD selected its scholarship candidates, with transparency and gender equity, and the coverage in Africa. My affiliation with DAAD continues to this day. I am president of ABADAAD, a Burundian DAAD alumni association. Together with my friends (and former scholarship holders), I created this association so that we alumni could network together and continue to have an impact on the society of Burundi. I am also active in the DAAD alumni portal and the Kenya DAAD Scholars Association (KDSA).

*»Because I had to interrupt my academic work due to the ongoing civil war, the DAAD was like a foster parent that enabled me to finish my studies.«*



*»My degree was like a complete rebirth and a new passport. It helped me to be selected from a large pool of applicants and be employed by the University of Burundi.«*

### Grow the regional EAC programme!

Personally, I am pleased that since 2010, DAAD's regional EAC programme has been enlarged to include Burundi and Rwanda. May the DAAD continue to grow and have a positive impact on people's lives.

# Ethiopia: Tsige Gebre-Mariam

## Promoting education in a globalised world

I received my PhD Degree from the University of Wales in the UK and first came to Tübingen/Germany in 1994 as a postdoctoral fellow with the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. I came to Germany again from July to September 1997 for a short research visit sponsored by the DAAD. The main reason for applying for DAAD sponsorship was that Germany had the kind of advanced scientific equipment I needed to pursue my research.

I experienced German people as hard working, disciplined and time conscious. They have a sense of ownership and every German is an ambassador of his/her country. Germans are governed by the rule of the law, and they keep everything in order! The orderliness and reliability of

the system as a whole was amazing. I was also impressed by the level of environmental awareness among Germans. They treat nature, greenery, and the landscape with great care and everything is well maintained.

Something I found rather annoying was that some people tasked you about going back to your country. They failed to understand that some people do return to their home country after accomplishing their mission, and that this is a matter of their own choice! These unpleasant encounters were outweighed, however, by the sincere and everlasting friendships I built. Once the Germans get to know you, they become trustworthy friends.

I currently participate in several alumni associations in order to meet friends and discuss how to promote scholarship opportunities for young academics. These include the Association of Ethiopians Educated in Germany (AEEG) and alumni activities organised by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and the DAAD.

Africa is making headway in shaping its future and DAAD has been a partner in this endeavour. As a friend of Africa, the DAAD has contributed significantly to improving Africa's human development index (HDI) by providing a variety of scholarships to talented young Africans, including In-Country scholarships, sandwich programmes, and direct scholarships to Germany.

Today, German-educated scholars are leading numerous academic and research institutions in many African countries. Let us enhance solidarity among African and German academic institutions and scholars. In this globalised world, failure or success in one part of the world has an impact on other parts of the world as well!



*» The main reason for applying for DAAD sponsorship was that Germany had the kind of advanced scientific equipment I needed to pursue my research.«*

*» Today, German-educated scholars are leading numerous academic and research institutions in many African countries.«*

In Africa today, the rate of enrolment into tertiary education is increasing faster than any other continent. DAAD should enhance its collaboration and enhance the academic exchanges it has been pursuing over the last 40 years! The world would be a better place for humankind if all had better access to education. This is a key factor to development! Germany and the DAAD have been exemplary in the support they have extended to Africa. Keep up the innovative work you have been doing!

### PROF. DR. TSIGE GEBRE-MARIAM

Apart from serving Addis Ababa University (AAU) as Professor, Head of the Department of Pharmaceutics (1989-1993; 1995-2003), Dean of the School of Pharmacy, AAU (2003-2005) and Vice President for Graduate Studies and Research, Professor Tsige also has an impressive record of other involvements including:

- Founding member of the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences
- Founding member of the Ethiopian Languages Academy
- Member, Managing Board, Food, Medicine and Healthcare Administration and Control Authority, Ethiopia
- Member, Board of Directors, Regional Bioequivalence Centre
- Referee for several peer reviewed indexed journals
- Member, International Network for Rational Use of Drugs



# Rwanda: Christophe Bazivamo

## Helping the Phoenix rise from the ashes



What influenced me a great deal was the way things in Germany were organised. In Germany, most people and services are very punctual and reliable. People work precisely and according to a plan to minimize bad surprises. The academic level I reached through my DAAD scholarship, combined with the time management and planning skills I was able to develop, has helped me tremendously in my efforts to build up my country in the various political positions I have held since 1999.

### A growth opportunity in difficult times

My DAAD scholarship actually did not begin on a good note. I had to leave my home country earlier than planned because of the genocide in Rwanda in 1994. So my start in Germany was rather difficult, not so much because of the new situation in Germany, but because of the situation back home in Rwanda.

This made it all the more meaningful to me to receive such a warm welcome in Göttingen in my German course at the Goethe Institut. The DAAD scholarship made it possible for me to meet people from different cultures and backgrounds. For me personally, this opened me up and gave me greater confidence when interacting with other people. The DAAD's role in promoting and enabling international understanding and intercultural exchange is something that cannot be stressed enough. My firm belief is that this creates a positive environment for sustainable development.

### Germany's hard exterior

Having been affiliated with the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) as a project leader, choosing the DAAD and Germany for my studies was the natural choice. I also received a great deal of encouragement from my German colleagues to apply. Since I had worked with Germans before, making the adjustment to Germany and its customs was not too difficult, but there was one thing I really did have to get used

*»I wish all the best for the DAAD in the future and hope they will manage to market themselves even better and increase awareness of their high-level competitiveness.«*

to: the way people greet each other. I was once in town and saw somebody I had seen on campus so I naturally greeted him. The response I got was: "Kennen wir uns?" which basically means: "Do I know you?" I was very taken aback and found it very rude. Only later did I understand that the person probably found it rude of me to greet him without really knowing him. I learned that building a relationship can be very hard in Germany at first, but once it has been built it is very reliable and lasting; you make friends for life.

Also, when I took part in meetings with larger groups, I would often wonder why people did not introduce themselves, as we do in Rwanda. Only after the meeting, would I (sometimes) get to know the names of the people I had been talking to.

### Networking better sooner than later

In Rwanda we are still working on putting together a network of DAAD alumni. I would encourage the DAAD and scholars to start networking earlier, i.e. during the time of the scholarship. It is easier to maintain a contact from that time than it is to establish new contacts later.

### Spread the good word!

I wish all the best for the DAAD in the future and hope they will manage to market themselves even better and increase awareness of their high-level competitiveness.

### HON. CHRISTOPHE BAZIVAMO

Christophe Bazivamo currently is a Rwandan MP, member of the East African Legislative Assembly and Vice President of the Rwanda Patriotic Front. After returning from Germany, he served his country in various positions:

- 1997-1999: Homologue (national coordinator) of the Deutsche Welthungerhilfe School Feeding Project in Rwanda
- 1999-2000: Governor of Gitarama province
- 2000-2002: Executive Secretary of the Rwandan Electoral Commission, organising the first free elections after the genocide
- 2002-2004: Minister of Local Government, Rural Development, Social Affairs and Information
- 2004-2005: Minister of Internal Security
- 2005-2007: Minister of Land, Environment, Forestry, Water and Mining



*»The DAAD's role in promoting and enabling international understanding and intercultural exchange is something that cannot be stressed enough.«*

# Sudan: Muna Abdelaziz Mohamed

Friendships can create change



The DAAD scholarship had a great impact on my career and personal life. Today, I am not only an Assistant Professor at the University of Khartoum, but am also part of the curriculum committee and director of the training programme. Furthermore, I am involved in many activities within our faculty and even at higher administration levels of our university. The scholarship gave me confidence about what I do and how I do it. I became more positive and open minded and started dealing with all my work as a project.

## Germany's lasting values

Germany is very different compared to Sudan. Germans are hard working, start their day very early, are punctual and have a high level of technological development – all factors that are lacking in Sudan. Hard work is always appreciated and people respect you for what you are achieving regardless of who you are or where you come from.

When I was living in Germany, I was pleasantly surprised by how its citizens respect the rules and regulations in all aspects of their lives. Germany has a highly organised governance system that makes life easy for all; even those who have no knowledge of the language can manage to live without any problem. However, in order to communicate and connect easily with the community you need to speak German. Once I did, I made very sincere friends.

I have many friends from Germany that visit me regularly at my house in Khartoum. The daughter of one of my close German friends was four years old when I was in Germany in 1999. She

*»When I was living in Germany, I was pleasantly surprised by how its citizens respect the rules and regulations in all aspects of their lives.«*

promised me then that she would study English in high school and come and visit me in Sudan. She came for a visit last year and spent two weeks with my family. She is 17 now and we are still in contact.

## Proud to be DAAD

What the DAAD is doing for our region is much appreciated and visible to many. Most alumni are willing to participate in and support ongoing DAAD activities as a way to show our appreciation and to increase the number of candidates supported by the DAAD. I offer a course for people who want to apply for a DAAD scholarship and have conducted proposal-writing courses twice a year since 2008. I also helped organise two DAAD conferences on science and research in Africa, as well as on genetics and its application in life.

I am proud to be a DAAD alumna and wish the DAAD a happy 40th anniversary in Eastern Africa.

## MUNA ABDELAZIZ MOHAMED

Currently a lecturer and Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Khartoum, Muna Abdelaziz Mohamed holds a PhD in Biology from the Free University of Berlin. She did her MSc and BSc in Zoology at the University of Khartoum, Sudan



*»Most alumni are willing to participate in and support ongoing DAAD activities as a way to show our appreciation and to increase the number of candidates supported by the DAAD.«*

# South Sudan: Aggrey Abate

## DAAD helping in staff development

Before coming to Germany I was employed as a Teaching Assistant at the University of Juba while pursuing an MSc at the University of Nairobi, which was partly supported by the DAAD. After completion of the MSc and a semester of teaching, the University of Juba recommended that I proceed for a DAAD-funded PhD in Germany.

My DAAD scholarship, which took me to Bonn, influenced my professional approach to things. Most of all, it enhanced my attention to detail and precision. It also prepared me well for the challenges I have met as an academic in the years since my return from Germany.

### A safe and stable haven in uncertain times

Sadly, my stay in the early 1980s coincided with the start of the second war between the northern and southern parts of the then still united Sudan. This made the warm reception in Germany all the more important to me. Overall, I had the feeling that Germans are generally courteous to foreigners.

My general impression was that Germans are disciplined and organised in the way they do things. It was apparent that German citizens believe in quality. German towns, for example, are well maintained and kept clean. Compared to

the Sudan, the extensive use of machines in building construction was very noticeable. Germany also had a very well-developed and efficient transport system, especially by train. Another aspect of life, which struck me coming from Sudan, was how little the cost of living changed in Germany while I was there. For me, one reason for this was the strength and stability of the Deutsche Mark.

Through its support of graduate training in many disciplines, the DAAD's Regional Office has been part of the solution to staff development in many academic institutions in the region. In this way, the DAAD has contributed to the creation of a pool of highly qualified and skilled workers.

### More of a good thing!

On the occasion of its 40th anniversary, I believe it is worth considering scaling up DAAD support, including more research grants to assist in solving many of the region's development challenges.



### PROF. DR. AGGREY ABATE

Professor Abate currently serves as the Vice Chancellor of the University of Juba, South Sudan. He has previously held the position of Dean of the College of Natural Resources and Environmental Studies at the University of Juba and was the founding head of the Department of Animal Science at the University of Namibia. For a decade, he taught at the University of Nairobi in Kenya. He has also served on committees and task forces at all three universities.

Prof. Abate has published widely in peer reviewed journals and has edited proceedings for book chapters and consultancy reports. He is a member of various scientific bodies in eastern and southern Africa.

Prof. Abate is a founding member of the South Sudan Nature Conservation Organisation. He is also a member of the National Council for Higher Education, the South Sudan Examinations Council and the Board of Directors of South Sudan Urban Water Corporation.



»On the occasion of its 40th anniversary, I believe it is worth considering scaling up DAAD support, including research grants to assist in solving many of the region's development challenges.«

»The DAAD's Regional Office has been part of the solution to staff development in many academic institutions in the region and has helped create a pool of highly qualified and skilled workers.«

# Tanzania: Mayunga Nkunya

## Raising academic standards in Tanzania and Eastern Africa

I came to Germany with the DAAD postdoctoral research programme in 1987. At the time, I had professional contact with a professor from Erlangen. We decided on a joint project and then successfully approached the DAAD for funding. My stay in Germany expanded my network within the scientific community. This proved to be a tremendous asset after my return to the University of Dar es Salaam, as it helped me to establish a strong chemistry research group there.

### Newfound freedom, with just a few restrictions

My stay in Erlangen was a challenge due to the language barrier. My German was not good and many on the university staff

did not speak English very well, although most people did try to help me with their existing English. I needed a translator when dealing with the chemical store, because the staff there could not speak any English. In general, I found there was a lot of trust given to me at my institute. I was given a key to the lab, for example, so that I could work independently at all hours. This gave me a lot of freedom and allowed me to organise my research very effectively. This was something that I had not experienced before – neither in Tanzania nor in the Netherlands, where I had studied before.

I came to enjoy regional food specialities like pork shoulder and beer. Actually my institute in Erlangen was situated next to a brewery so there was complimentary beer at a lot of official functions.

Something that I had to get used to was having to be cautious with greeting people or engaging them in small talk. In Tanzania it is normal to bump into somebody you do not know and just start talking. This is hardly possible in Germany.

### The benefits of membership

The great advantage of a DAAD scholarship is that you stay connected after finishing your studies. One of my first DAAD alumni activities was to help establish the Tanzanian Alumni Organization. I also did my best to develop a government scholarship programme in Tanzania together with the DAAD. Today I am part of the East African Quality Assurance Project.

### A wave of Tanzanian PhD candidates in Germany

At a 2006/7 quality assurance workshop in Bonn, we discussed the problem of continued staff shortages at East African universities. The idea was born to launch a programme, co-financed by East African governments and the DAAD, to enable African scholars to pursue their PhD studies in Germany. At that time I was Executive Secretary of the Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) and second only to the minister of education, so I set out to convince the government of the idea. We managed to win over the “doubting Thomases” and agree to a cost sharing ratio of 60% (government) to 40% (DAAD). One bone of contention was the funding of spouses, but the DAAD agreed to cover part of those costs.

The programme was successfully launched in 2009 with 60 applicants. Not everybody could get a scholarship, because the government scholarship programme just accepts applicants that stay in Germany throughout their PhD. Another selection criterion was the quality of proposals written by the applicants. Unfortunately the number of applicants is decreasing these days. One reason might be that Tanzanians shy away from going abroad and prefer staying at home.

### More consistent quality in higher education

Together with the DAAD and IUCEA, I helped establish a quality assurance

### PROF. MAYUNGA NKUNYA

Professor Nkunya has been Executive Secretary of the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) since November 2010. After returning from his DAAD post-doctoral research programme, Professor Nkunya launched an impressive career in Tanzanian and Eastern African academics:

- 1989 – 1994: Associate Professor of Chemistry, University of Dar es Salaam
- Jan – May 1994: Visiting Associate Professor, Hampton University, USA
- Since 1994: Professor of Chemistry, University of Dar es Salaam
- 1996 – 1999: Dean, Faculty of Science, University of Dar es Salaam
- 1999 – 2006: Chief Academic Officer, University of Dar es Salaam
- 2007 – 2010: Executive Secretary, Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU)

programme for universities in 5 Eastern African countries. A total of 71 institutions have now participated in workshops with the goal of harmonising the quality of higher education in the region. The vice chancellors interacted with different European countries in 2009 to compare the university systems. As part of their support, the DAAD connected IUCEA with other German institutions, such as the German Rectors' Conference (HRK), German accreditation agencies, and several German universities with strong quality assurance systems – in particular the University of Oldenburg.

»A total of 71 institutions in 5 East African countries have now participated in quality assurance workshops, with the goal of harmonising the quality of higher education in the region.«



»The great advantage of a DAAD scholarship is that you stay connected after finishing your studies.«

# Uganda: Elizabeth Sentongo

## Working for the health of Uganda

Throughout my time in Germany, I learned to appreciate situations in a totally different environment and became more mindful of how others would interpret my actions. The scholarship helped me to apply for jobs so I could earn a salary as a teacher, field worker or researcher. Ultimately, my studies at high-level institutions in Nairobi and Hamburg enabled me to work in clinical as well as community settings and also perform intricate analysis in a research laboratory.

### ELIZABETH SENTONGO

Elizabeth Sentongo is currently a lecturer at Makerere University's Department of Microbiology and a committee member of the Association for Ugandan German Alumni.

### Long journey to Germany

The first DAAD scholarship was not easy to obtain. At the time, most newly qualified doctors left Uganda for South Africa, Kenya or beyond. Many of us were working in hospitals in Kenya but wanted to study beyond the Bachelors Degree in Medicine and Surgery obtained at Makerere University in Uganda. I applied for a Master's course in Public Health at the University of Nairobi and others were admitted to Master's programmes at Kenyatta National Hospital. But in the late 1980s they started deporting Ugan-

dans from Kenya. When we applied for sponsorship at DAAD's Nairobi office, we were informed that it was not possible for Ugandans to obtain scholarships while in Kenya.

So we piled into long-distance overnight 'Akamba' and 'Mawingo' buses and then lined up at the German embassy in Kampala to apply for DAAD scholarships. I applied and obtained sponsorship from the DAAD to study in Kenya.

After the Master's programme, the DAAD conducted a conference in Kampala in November 1991 entitled 'Meeting the Needs of the Community'. At this event, I was one of two participants chosen to study in Germany. At the conference I met Professor Dietrich W. Buetner from the Bernhard-Nocht Institute (BNI) for Tropical Medicine in Hamburg, who proposed that I study at the BNI and conduct my field work in Uganda. We then successfully applied to the DAAD Sandwich Programme, making it possible for me to obtain my PhD in Hamburg.

### Rubbing shoulders with laureates

I twice attended the Nobel Prize winners' annual meetings in Lindau on Lake Constance in Bavaria. I took part in teachings and discussions with Nobel laureates from around the world, met scholars from Germany and other European countries, and went on excursions to Mainau, Reichenau and other wonderful islands.

Experiencing these Nobel laureate meetings was intellectually, socially and culturally very enlightening. My professor at the time thought it was remarkable that a student of his was invited to these meetings.

*» We piled into long-distance overnight buses and then lined up at the German embassy in Kampala to apply for DAAD scholarships. «*

*»I twice attended the Nobel Prize winners' annual meetings on Lake Constance – intellectually, socially and culturally a very enlightening experience.«*



# 40 years of DAAD funding for German Studies in Eastern Africa

Dr. Shaban Mayanja, DAAD lecturer, University of Nairobi

The DAAD has been funding German Studies in Eastern Africa for four decades now. It all started with the German programme at the Makerere University in Uganda, which was introduced in the 1970s by the first DAAD lecturer, Ingrid Hills. This was followed by the establishment of a German programme at the University of Nairobi in 1981, and the deployment of another DAAD lecturer, Hans Schlemper.

German was introduced at Kenyatta University in 1987. Today German is also offered as a fully fledged Bachelor degree course at the University of Khartoum, University of Zimbabwe (Harare), Addis Abeba University and Moi Eldoret University in Kenya. Of late, several Eastern African universities have started offering German as an elective. Master's and PhD programmes in German Studies are offered at the University of Nairobi.

The instruments the DAAD has used to cultivate German Studies in the region include the deployment of DAAD lecturers to promote the subject, the provision of books in conjunction with the Goethe Institute, and even technical equipment. The DAAD also provides PhD scholarships for future scholars in German Studies, university summer course (HSK) scholarships for outstanding undergraduate students, and in some cases, support for German interns who wish to do their internship in the German sections of East African universities.

In the 1980s and 1990s, German Studies experienced low student numbers and a lack of qualified lecturers. This trend is now changing for the better and the numbers are on the rise. Currently, there are eight PhD holders in German Studies, two of whom are active in other fields. The DAAD has funded almost 40 Master's students at the University of Nairobi, some of whom are now working as German lecturers at universities and the Goethe Institute. Notable DAAD German Studies Alumni in the region include Prof. Dr. Manuel Muranga (Principal, Bishop Barham University College, Kabale), Dr. Catherine Agoya (Head, German section, University of Nairobi), Dr. William Wagaba (Head, German section, Makerere University), Dr. Auma Obama and Mr. Mohammed An Noor (Head, German section, University of Khartoum).

The Master's programme in Nairobi was internationalised in 2012 and now attracts applicants from other African countries. Curricula reforms have also been effected in some universities. The first-ever regional conference on German Studies was held in May 2013 – a publication of the papers presented is currently in the making.

After 40 years of active DAAD support, German Studies is now firmly established in the region – and a new generation of young East African "Germanists" will surely take the subject to the next level. Without a doubt, the future looks promising for German Studies in Eastern Africa!



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