Maria Sibylla Merian Institute for Advanced Studies in Africa (MIASA)

Inaugural conference:
Africa’s Institutions for Sustainable Governance
University of Ghana, Accra
27-28 September 2018

This conference

- features the fundamental role of Africa’s institutions, past and present, in shaping sustainable governance - in the fields of democracy, conflict management, economy and socio-ecological transformation,
- aims at establishing a balance between - at face value - home-grown, adapted or imported institutions,
- draws on the knowledge and experience of scholars from different disciplines.

Institutes for Advanced Studies all over the world are the ideal places for such interdisciplinary work, encouraging encounters of different generations of researchers and providing knowledge hubs for innovation. Therefore, a good part of the conference will be devoted to developing the philosophy of this new research institution based at the University of Ghana: the Merian Institute for Advanced Studies in Africa (MIASA).

Sponsored by Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung
Africa's Institutions for Sustainable Governance

Programme

(Version: 20 September 2018)

Thursday, 27 September
Venue: Great Hall, University of Ghana, Accra

8.30 – 9.00  Registration

9.00 – 11.00  Opening Ceremony

Chair: Professor Takyiwaa Manuh, Former Director, Social Development Policy Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) (2014-2017), and Professor Emerita of African Studies, University of Ghana

Welcome from Professor Ebenezer Oduro Owusu, Vice-Chancellor, University of Ghana

Introduction to MIASA: Professor Andreas Mehler, Chair of Executive Council; Professor Abena D. Oduro, Director (Ghana); Professor Gordon Crawford, Director (Germany)

Official speakers: Hon. Dr. Matthew Opoku Prempeh, Minister of Education, Ghana; Professor Kwesi Yankah, Minister of State (Tertiary Education); Ibrahima Ibou Diallo, Centre de Recherches sur les Politiques sociales (CREPOS) / Université Cheikh Anta Diop; Dr. Annette Steinich, Ministry of Education and Research, Germany; Mr. Christoph Retzlaff, Ambassador, German Embassy, Accra; Professor Bernd Kortmann, Representative of the University of Freiburg

Interlude: Ghana Dance Ensemble

Keynote speaker: Professor Amina Mama, Department of Gender and Women Studies, University of California, Davis, U.S.A.
Title: In the Pursuit of Freedom: Feminist intellectuals in African contexts

11.00 – 11.30 Break
11.30 – 1.00 Keynote speech

Chair: Professor Dzodzi Tsikata, Director, Institute for African Studies, University of Ghana

Speaker: Dr. Kwesi Aning, Director of the Faculty of Academic Affairs & Research (FAAR), Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping and Training Centre (KAIPTC), Accra, Ghana

Title: Producing the next generation of scholars in an era of globalisation

1.00 – 2.00 Lunch, Venue: ISSER Conference facility, University of Ghana, Accra

2.00 – 3.30: Panel I: Sustainable Democracy and Africa

Chair: Professor Mamadou Diawara, Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Frankfurt, Germany and Director “Point Sud”

Speakers:

- Professor Paul Nugent, Centre of African Studies/ School of Social and Political Science, University of Edinburgh, UK
- Professor Gabrielle Lynch, Department of Politics and International Studies/ Faculty of Social Sciences, Warwick University, UK
- Dr. George Ofosu, Department of Political Science, Washington University in St. Louis, U.S.A.
- Professor Dominika Koter, Political Science Faculty, Colgate University, U.S.A.

3.30 – 4.00 Break

4.00 – 5.30 Roundtable: The Role of an Institute for Advanced Studies in Africa in the 21st Century: Opportunities and Challenges

Chair: Professor Bernd Kortmann, Director Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies (FRIAS), University of Freiburg, Germany

Speakers:

- Professor Elisio Macamo, Centre for African Studies, University of Basel, Switzerland
- Zenebework Tadesse, Principal Vice President of Ethiopian Academy of Sciences (EAS), Ethiopia
- Dr. Olivier Bouin, Director, Network of French Institutes for Advanced Study, France
Friday, 28 September
Venue: ISSER Conference Hall, University of Ghana, Accra

9.00 – 10.30 Keynote speech
Chair: Professor Francis Dodoo, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research, Innovation and Development, University of Ghana
Speaker: Professor Francis Nyamnjoh, Department of Social Anthropology, University of Cape Town, South Africa
Title: Incompleteness and Conviviality: A Reflection on International Research Collaboration on Institutions for Sustainable Governance

10.30 – 11.00 Break

11.00 – 12.30 Panel II: Africa’s Institutions for Sustainable Peace
Chair: Professor Joseph Kofi Teye, Director, Centre for Migration Studies, University of Ghana
Speakers:
- Professor Gilbert Khadiagala, Department of International Relations, University of Witswatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa
- Dr. Mimmi Söderberg Kovacs, Head of Research at Folke Bernadotte Academy, Sweden
- Professor Andreas Mehler, Director, Arnold-Bergstraesser-Institute, University of Freiburg, Germany

12.30 – 1.30 Lunch

1.30 – 1.45 Introductory remarks about the role of Biodiversity as an integral part of sustainable governance models in Africa
Presentation of the German Africa Award winner 2018 Gerald Bigurube
Speaker: Ingo Badoreck, Secretary General of the German Africa Foundation

1.45 – 2.30 Protection of Biodiversity in Africa: how to reconcile economic growth with the sustainable use of land and natural resources; Tanzania as a case study
Speaker: Gerald Bigurube, Country Director, Tanzania Frankfurt Zoological Society, former Head of Tanzania National Parks Authority (TANAPA) and Laureate of the German Africa Award 2018

2.30 – 2.45 Break
2.45 – 4.15 Panel III: Sustainability Transformation: The challenges of land, energy and livelihoods

Chair: Professor Thomas Maissen, German Historical Institute Paris (DHIP/IHA), France, and Le Centre de Recherches sur les Politiques sociales (CREPOS), Dakar, Senegal

Speakers:

- Dr. Simon Bawakyillenuo, Head, Statistics and Survey Division at the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER), University of Ghana
- Professor Ruth Hall, Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS)/ Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences, University of the Western Cape, South Africa
- Professor Vanesa Castan Broto, Urban Institute/ Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Sheffield, UK
- Dr. Boubacar Barry, International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Burkina Faso and Initiative Prospective Agricole et Rurale (IPAR), Dakar, Senegal

4.15 – 5.00 Closing Ceremony: Conclusion and Outlook: MIASA until 2020

Chair: Professor Samuel Agyei-Mensah, Provost of the College of Humanities, University of Ghana

Speakers:

- Professor Andreas Mehler, Chair of Executive Council
- Professor Abena D. Oduro, Director Ghana
- Professor Gordon Crawford, Director Germany

Saturday 29 September

Venue: Dept. of Economics Conference Facility, University of Ghana, Accra

9.30 – 12.00 MIASA Executive Council meeting (only by invitation)
Location
The conference “Africa’s Institutions for Sustainable Governance” will be held at the University of Ghana, Legon (Accra).

Registration
All papers are invited papers only.
Participants need to register via miasa@frias.uni-freiburg.de

Contact
For further information please visit www.mias-africa.org
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