

newsletter



DAAD Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst
German Academic Exchange Service

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Introduction of Daniela Auer

Guten Tag & Selam! My name is Daniela Auer and I am the new DAAD Lecturer for German at Addis Ababa University. Since September, I have been lecturing at the Modern European Languages Unit (MEL) which belongs to the Department of Languages and Literature, located on the Sidist Kilo campus. At MEL, students obtain a Bachelor degree in Modern European Languages, focusing on two languages: either Italian & Portuguese or German & Spanish. In my function as a lecturer, I am teaching German as a foreign language as well as other subjects, such as linguistics, media language and translation, for 1st, 2nd and 3rd year students.

Apart from lecturing at Addis Ababa University, I am working at the DAAD Information Centre Ethiopia. My tasks there are to inform about scholarship programmes and studying in Germany as well as to run German language and study aptitude tests for scholarship applicants.

After obtaining my M.A. in German as a Foreign Language in 2007, I lived and worked in Ethiopia for more than two years, first as a Teaching Assistant for German at Addis Ababa University, then as Head of the Language Department at the Goethe-Institut Addis Ababa. After that, I worked as an Expert Teaching Advisor for the Goethe-Institut Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, and then as a DAAD Lecturer at Stellenbosch University, South Africa. I am happy to be back in Ethiopia now and am enjoying my new tasks here.

You can contact me at lecturer@daad-ethiopia.org or +251 984 004 192.

Regional Meeting of the DAAD Network in Accra



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Around the globe, the DAAD invites his representatives biennially to regional meetings. The last meeting of the DAAD network in Africa Sub-Sahara took place in Accra, Ghana, from October 21 to 24, 2016. 27 DAAD representatives from 15 countries in the region as well as three representatives of the DAAD Head Office in Bonn travelled to Accra in order to participate.

During the four days' meeting, the DAAD network was updated on current developments in the Head Office. Apart from that, the participants exchanged experience and knowledge around the field of German studies and discussed about developments and challenges in their host countries and at their host universities with the aim of finding common issues and fields of interest within which they can cooperate across country borders.

From Ethiopia, three DAAD representatives participated in this meeting: Dr. Gerald Heusing (Head of the DAAD Information Centre), Prof. Dirk Donath (DAAD Visiting Professor) and Mrs. Daniela Auer (DAAD Lecturer).

Announcements

- ◆ [Development-Related Postgraduate Courses - Educating Professionals for Sustainable Development 2017/2018](#)
- ◆ [Apply for the IPSS-Uni Leipzig M.A. and PhD in Global Studies](#)

Upcoming Events

- ◆ [Information Events \(p. 6\)](#)

Introduction of Dr. Hossein Azadi

My name is Hossein Azadi. I joined Mekelle University in January 2016, as the tandem dean for the College of Business and Economics where I was already a guest lecturer teaching "mixed-method" approach including both quantitative and qualitative techniques. I was recruited under an agreement between DAAD and the Ethiopian Ministry of Education.

My background is on sustainable development studies focusing on "Food & Land" policies aiming at understanding the mutual impacts of different farming systems and land use change/development. I hold a PhD in "sustainable rangeland management" using fuzzy modeling. I am familiar with decision support systems and spatial modeling in socio-economic aspects of environmental impact assessment.

Formerly, as a post-doc fellow, I conducted two projects on "Global Land Grabbing for Food and Biofuels" at Groningen and Leiden universities, the Netherlands. I was also the coordinator of the Middle East Networks in the Centre for Development Studies at Groningen University. Later, I conducted my third post-doc at the Department of Geography, Ghent University in Belgium on "Monitoring Agricultural Land Conversion Induced by Urban Sprawl and Transportation in Northeast Iran".

Besides, I was a visiting researcher at CIBNOR, La Paz (Mexico) and a Fulbright fellow at the State University of New York at Binghamton.

I am a member of editorial board in several journals. Additionally, I am a research grant evaluator for the National Center of Science and Technology Evaluation in Kazakhstan and a member of the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN), USAID Land Tenure and Property Rights Portal, Land Deal Politics Initiative (LDPI), and Land Portal.

I have also been involved in several agricultural and development studies including 40 national and 7 international projects among which I steered 19 projects. Furthermore, I have published over 100 papers amongst a series of high impact factor journals.

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Information Booth on the Day of German Unity



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As usual, DAAD disseminated information on study and research in Germany on the 26th celebration of the Day of German Unity on 3 October 2016 at the German Embassy. The interest of the merry-makers was intense and information brochures and give-aways were out of stock within a short time.



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INDIVIDUAL SCHOLARSHIPS

The DAAD offers a variety of postgraduate scholarships for Ethiopians. Click on the links below to learn more about the respective programme.

[Development-Related Postgraduate Courses - Educating Professionals for Sustainable Development 2017/2018](#)

[Postdoctoral Fellowships at DAAD Supported Centers of Excellence](#)

[Staff Exchange in Sub-Saharan Africa](#)

[Re-invitation Programme for Former Scholarship Holders](#)

Please find all scholarships (DAAD and non-DAAD) in our [database](#).

Ethiopia Appoints Five DAAD Alumni as Ministers

On 1 November 2016, Ethiopia's parliament unanimously approved 21 new ministers. Prime Minister Hailemariam said the new appointees were chosen for competence and commitment. Five of the newly appointed ministers have completed their PhD studies in Germany with assistance of DAAD scholarships. Here are their details:

Dr. Getahun Mekuria
Minister of Science & Technology
PhD at the University of Duisburg-Essen
Previous Position: State Minister MoST

Dr. Hirut Woldemariam
Minister of Culture & Tourism
PhD at the University of Cologne
Previous Position: Vice President for Institutional Development, Addis Ababa University

Dr. Sileshi Bekele
Minister of Water, Irrigation & Electricity
PhD at the TU Dresden
Previous Position: Senior Water Specialist at UNECA

Dr. Gemedo Dalle
Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
PhD at the University of Goettingen
Previous Position: Director of Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute

Dr. Girma Amente
Minister of Public Enterprise
PhD at the LMU München
Previous Position: President of Haramaya University

Our sincere congratulations! We wish all of them much strength to tackle the tasks lying ahead of them.

Workshop "Digital Africa"



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The workshop (held at the Ghion Hotel Addis Ababa, 12 December 2016) created a forum for exchange information among DAAD In-Country/In-Region (IC/IR) scholarship holders (2016 intake) in Ethiopia. The event also provided an opportunity to discuss outstanding issues related to the programme implementation and to hand over scholarship award certificates.

48 scholarship holders and guests from relevant institutions such as the German Embassy in Addis Ababa, GIZ and the Association of Ethiopians Educated in Germany were invited.

Dr. Gerald Heusing and Mr. Stephan Wendt (Head of Economic and Cultural Sections at the German Embassy) welcomed participants and emphasized the strategic importance of education in development and the increasing importance of DAAD IC/IR scholarships that started in Eastern Africa during the 1960s and is expanding now to Western and Southern Africa.

The main reasons towards the increasing importance of this programme are the closer integration of research to local and regional situations, relatively low costs of training, and factors that encourage researchers to stay at home without leaving their family. Currently, over 75 postgraduate programmes are supported at universities in Eastern Africa through this scholarship programme.



FUNDING FOR INSTITUTIONAL CO-OPERATIONS

Follow [this link](#) for more details (only in German).



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Nevertheless, participants of IC/IR programme are encouraged to know more about Germany. Thus, the importance of learning German language was another topic at the workshop. Ms. Daniela Auer, DAAD Lecturer for German Language at Addis Ababa University, presented the benefits related to learning German: with over 100 million native speakers and 15 million learners, German provides ample opportunities for individual carriers.

The main topic of the workshop was “Digital Africa”. Dr. Margareth Gfrerer, Education Scientist at the Education Strategy Center of Ethiopia presented a paper on digital study programmes and learning. She mentioned that all Ethiopian government universities are connected to the Ethernet (computer networking facility) which provides opportunities for learning and teaching digitally as well as for cross-border cooperation in research. Increased digitization also implies a significant deinstitutionalization of learning. Participants mentioned Ethernet access is limited to central labs and not open to all students.

Launch of Scholarships for Land Governance

A trilateral cooperation between GIZ, the Land Policy Initiative (LPI) founded by UNECA and the World Bank developed a programme called “Strengthening Capacities for Land Governance in Africa (SLGA)”. It aims at improving land policies in a regional context, as weak land governance and insecure land rights are still a major development challenge in Africa.

One of the aims of SLGA is to create a “Network of Excellence and Land Governance in Africa (NELGA)”. NELGA shall enhance the role of African universities in support of land policy development.

The DAAD supports NELGA with a south-south scholarship programme to encourage junior researchers and professionals in themes of land governance. The programme started with 8 Master and 10 PhD candidates. The first three supported universities are Bahir Dar University (Ethiopia), Ardhi University (Tanzania) and the Namibia University of Science and Technology. Eventually, up to 100 scholarships shall be awarded.

When the scholarship programme got officially launched on 20 April 2016, the permanent secretary of the German Foreign Ministry of Development Cooperation and Development, Thomas Silberhorn, held the reception speech. He clarified the importance of land rights to ensure access to productive resources, and praised





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the DAAD scholarships as additional and fundamental component of NELGA. He hopes, that in the future there will be many universities joining NELGA and an international exchange of knowledge and researchers on land government will be build, so finally African capacities on land policy will be strengthened.

German Lawmakers Visit Ethiopia

The friendship group “Eastern Africa” of the German parliament visited Ethiopia and Eritrea in May 2016. The group consisted of five members from different political parties. The chairperson is Ms Anita Schaefer. Worldwide, the friendship groups of the German parliament foster contacts with other national parliaments.



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On the occasion of the visit, an information buffet took place at the German Development Cooperation Office in Addis Ababa, where German organizations and institutions in Ethiopia presented their work. DAAD offered an information desk on academic exchange between Ethiopia and Germany.

Private Higher Education Institutions & Sustainable Development



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The DAAD was invited to the International Conference on the “Role of Private Higher Education Institutions in Sustainable Development” which took place at the African Union (AU), 12-14 July 2016. The conference was organised by the Ethiopian St. Mary University.

Speakers included Prof. Etienne E. Ehile (Secretary General of the Association of African Universities), H.E. Dr. Martial De-Paul Ikonga (Commissioner for Human Recourses, Sciences and Technology at the AU Commission) and Dr. Yumiko Yokozeki (Director of the UNESCO Institute for Capacity Building in Africa).

Keynotes were delivered by Prof. Olugbemiro Jegede and Prof. Damtew Teferra (Founding Director of the International Network for Higher Education in Africa). The Ethiopian Minister of Education was the guest of honour.

Several papers were presented and discussed including the presentation by Dr. Beatrice Njenga (AU Commission) on the AU’s Continental Education Strategy for Africa 2015-2025 and its implication for sustainable development.

Conference participants frequently mentioned the active role played by the DAAD and we disseminated relevant information on DAAD programmes to conference participants.



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Leveraging the Power of Alumni

An alumni workshop organised by the Alumniportal Deutschland (APD) was conducted on 22 August 2016 at the conference hall of the German Development Cooperation, Addis Ababa. Over seventy participants deliberated on the enhanced role of the APD in mobilizing alumni towards development.

Papers on advantages of online/offline networks, community based development projects, experience in running private share companies, and research opportunities offered by Entoto Observatory at Master and PhD levels were presented and discussed. Finally, agreement was reached to form and maintain work groups through APD. Mr. Stefan Wendt, Head of Economic and Cultural Sections of the German Embassy in Addis Ababa, emphasized the tremendous benefits of alumni networking.

Two other workshops by APD were conducted on 24 October and 14 November 2016.

A fourth alumni workshop, this time by DAAD in cooperation with the Education Strategy Center of the Ministry of Education, took place from October 31 to 1 November 2016 in Addis Ababa. Its topic was "Life-long Learning in the Framework of Digital Universities". Ethiopian alumni and specialists in the field from Germany, Italy, South Africa, Nigeria and Finland discussed issues of access to information and knowledge as well as the benefits and risks associated with the digitalization of higher learning.



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Last but not least, the 21st Annual General Assembly of the Association of Ethiopians Educated in Germany (AEEG) was held on 25 March 2017 at Ghion Hotel. Besides the regular businesses like auditing, activity reports and election of officials, a number of papers were presented. They comprised issues concerning electric power development, petroleum exploration, mining and high performance computing.

Information Events



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Within the last months, the DAAD IC Addis Ababa conducted several information events. In general, these events are held for informing students about their possibilities to study in Germany and to inform about the work of the DAAD.

Several schools in Addis Ababa were visited to hold information events. Additionally, the DAAD offered information events for university students to inform about scholarship possibilities and the advantages of studying in Germany. Within this context, also events just for women were organized, to encourage female students and researchers to continue their academic carrier in Germany.

We really enjoyed all of these events. Especially, we are happy to see so many young people showing interest in studying abroad. We want to thank all participants for their great audience and we would like to encourage everyone who is interested in attending our upcoming information events.

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