

ALUMNI NETWORK NEWSLETTER

Collaboration between the ICGLR and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies of Geneva with the Support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

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ENJOY THE SECOND ALUMNI NEWSLETTER!

Dear Alumni,

I have the pleasure to present to you our second newsletter in which you will find a lot of information on the last training programme, on the alumni's event as well as other news and articles from the alumni and the ICGLR.

I would also like to take the occasion to welcome and to introduce to you the new alumni network members. Indeed, the third Training Programme for Officials from the Great Lakes Region was held in Bujumbura in September and welcomed 20 participants who are now part of the network. We count now 60 members! I hope they will actively contribute to our very interactive facebook group where we are sharing information, news and success of our alumni. I am sure you will welcome them on the national level and in our future national activities.



Ms. Lydia Maniraho
 Regional Alumni Network Coordinator

I wish to all of you a pleasant reading and please do not hesitate to share any comment or suggestion!

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Let's keep in touch!
We are on facebook
so join us now!

THE THIRD TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR OFFICIALS FROM THE GRATE LAKES REGION

From 24th September to 5th October 2012 the third Training Programme for Officials from the Great Lakes Region was held in Bujumbura. 20 civil servants from Burundi, Congo, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda working for their Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Human Rights Commissions, Ministry of Justice or for the ICGLR participated in the 2 weeks course.



Participants to the Third Training Programme of September 2012

The training tackled issues of regional dynamics in the Great Lakes region and modes of integration and cooperation during the first week. The second week focused on international law, more particularly the signification of international legal commitments, human rights and the African

Court, as well as investment and dispute settlement were discussed. Sessions to develop communication and negotiation skills were also part of the programme.

The programme was opened by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of External Relations and International Cooperation H.E. Mr. Shingiro, the Director of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation in Burundi Mr. Tognola, the Deputy Executive Secretary of the ICGLR H.E. Mr. Muanda and the Director of the Graduate Institute of Internationals and Development Studies Executive Education Department of Geneva Prof. Cédric Dupont. Each welcomed the participants and encouraged them to actively engage in discussions and benefit from the expertise of the trainers as well as to contribute to building the alumni network.

A variety of experts ranging from international civil servants, academics from the Graduate Institute, Ambassadors and representatives from civil society were invited to teach or participate in roundtable sessions, thus offering a large exposure to various views and approaches to the discussed topics. For example, a roundtable on the peace process in the Great Lakes region brought together the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General and Head of the UN Office for Burundi, representatives from the ICGLR and the NGO Centre d'Alerte et de Prévention des Conflits and political advisers from the EU and Switzerland. The contribution of those actors and their institutions to the peace process highlighted the necessity to adopt a comprehensive approach in the spheres of security, social and economic development, reforms and stabilisation of the political process as well as conflict management and dealing with the past. Furthermore, the participation of civil society and vulnerable groups such as women and youth to tackle the many challenges facing the region was considered key.

The ICGLR welcomed the participants in its premises for a working visit and presented its mission, organisation and programme of work. Participants had the opportunity to get acquainted with the tools of the ICGLR to address concerns of its 11 member states.

Various social activities were part of the programme and an excursion to Karera-Gishora-Gitega-Teza allowed the participants to discover the host country. Hard work, lively discussions and fun made this edition of the Great Lakes training an unforgettable experience for everyone!



The Opening Session of the Training

ALUMNI NETWORK REUNION AT THE ICGLR

In the framework of the Training Programme for Officials from the Great Lakes Region, the 18 civil servants from Burundi, Congo, CAR, DRC and Rwanda discussed with alumni from former training programmes the objectives of the network and possible involvement to further develop it.

Alumni shared their experiences on the usefulness of such networks for their future professional activity and advocated the benefit of developing ties among individuals from the region. The following tools and steps are already or in the process of being implemented:

- Facebook group for the alumni to share news, ideas and information.
- Opportunities available to develop activities with the support of the Graduate Institute.

- Develop contacts and synergies with the national coordination mechanisms of the ICGLR to gain their support and strengthen the visibility and potential of the network at the national levels.
- Develop synergies with the Centre for Good Governance of Levy Mwanawasa in Lusaka.

Participants of the training programme expressed strong interest to become active members of the network and start with the organisation of activities in their countries to discuss issues of interest for the Great Lakes region.



ARTICLE: TURKISH-AFRICAN RELATIONS

by Omer Ahmed Abdalla
Sudan Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Permanent Mission of Sudan in Ankara

“As a requirement of our country’s multidimensional and active foreign policy, to place our relations with African countries base on partnership understanding and a sustainable ground is highly important”
statement by Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Prime Minister

In 1998, the Turkish foreign policy establishment surprised many observers of Turkish politics when it began to aggressively expand Turkey’s foreign relations portfolio to include deepening its economic, political and cultural ties with the African continent. Under the Government of former Prime Minister Ahmet Mesut Yilmaz, Turkey commenced its “Opening to Africa Policy” with the objective of seriously engaging the continent at the highest levels and on a long-term basis. Ten years later, in August 2008, Turkish President Abdullah Gul presided over his country’s first Summit on Turkish-African Cooperation, in Istanbul. The summit brought together representatives from 50 African countries with their Turkish counterparts to discuss the qualitative expansion of Turkish-African relations. Two years later, in July 2010, Turkey hosted the United Nations Conference on mediating the armed conflict in Somalia. More importantly, this re- engagement emerges within the context of a rapidly unfolding multipolar world, Africa’s increasing importance to that emerging multipolar world, significant changes in the Turkish body politic, along with a re-balancing of Turkey’s relations with the West and developing world.

Turkey welcomed the decision of the 10th African Union Summit in January 2008 declaring Turkey as a strategic partner. “Turkey-Africa Cooperation Summit” held with the participation of 49 African countries on 18-21 August 2008, in Istanbul, is considered as the beginning of a steady and sustainable cooperation process.

The Istanbul Declaration on Turkey-Africa Partnership: “Cooperation and Solidarity for a Common Future” and “Cooperation Framework

for Turkey-Africa Partnership” were adopted in the First Turkey-Africa Cooperation Summit in 2008. The follow-up meetings envisaged to be organized in the first five year cycle are a High-Level Officials Meeting at the end of 2010, a Ministerial Level Review Conference in 2011, a second High-Level Officials Meeting in 2012 and the Second Turkey-Africa Cooperation Summit in 2013.

In addition to the observer status of Turkey in the African Union since 2005, Turkey has been accepted as a non-regional member of the African Development Bank in 2008. Turkey is also a member of the Inter-governmental Authority on Development Partners Forum (IGAD) since 2008 and the Turkish Embassy in Abuja is accredited to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) since 2005. Furthermore, the Turkish Embassy in Dar-es-Salaam is accredited to the East African Community (EAC) since 2010.

A Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TİKA) Program Coordinator Office in Africa was first opened in Addis Ababa in 2005 and later in Khartoum and Dakar in the years 2006 and 2007 respectively. TİKA offices support development projects in their respective regions.

The Turkish Government attaches particular importance to ensuring peace and stability in Africa and contributes to the United Nations missions deployed in the continent. Turkey is currently providing personnel and contributing financially to six of the existing eight UN missions in Africa.

In this context, Turkey co-chaired with Egypt an “International Donor’s Conference for the Reconstruction and Development of Darfur” in Cairo, on 21 March 2010. During the Conference, Turkey announced a pledge of around 65 to 70 million US Dollars of humanitarian assistance mainly in health, agriculture and education sectors.

Turkey hosted the Istanbul Somalia Conference organized within the UN framework on 21-23 May 2010. The Conference provided an important support for the Djibouti Peace Process and the TFG. The Istanbul Declaration adopted during the Conference constitutes a road map for the settlement of the Somali issue.

Turkey has recently decided to open 15 new Embassies (Ghana, Cameroon, Cote d’Ivoire, Angola, Mali, Madagascar, Uganda, Niger, Chad, Tanzania, Mozambique, Guinea, Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Zambia) in African countries. In this context, the Turkish embassies of Dar-es-Sa-

laam (May 2009), Abidjan (November 2009), Yaoundé (January 2010), Accra (February 2010), Bamako (February 2010), Kampala (March 2010), Luanda (April 2010) and Antananarivo (April 2010) have started to operate. Turkey currently has 20 embassies in Africa, 15 of which are located in Sub Saharan Africa.

SOURCES:

Turkish African Relations - Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey - the website

Turkish-African Relations in the Twenty-First Century - Murrell Lamont Brooks - November 2011

The Turkish policy towards Africa

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