African Law Association e.V.
2014 Annual Conference
November 7-8 @ Willy Brandt School of Public Policy (Erfurt)

‘Law and Development’ in Africa: Between Empowerment and Conditionality

For more than four decades, law has been recognized as a key driver of social, economic, and political development. The rule of law, human rights and transnational contracting, amongst others, are today considered core elements of the global ‘good governance’ agenda aimed at creating the base conditions for growth, security, and democracy. Yet, for this very reason, they are also sometimes seen as instruments of ‘Western’ influence and conditioning. The precise functionality and dysfunctionality of law(s) in relation to development continues to be intensely debated. In no other region has this debate played out more succinctly than in Africa with its rich legacy of colonial and post-colonial (legal) histories and its long-standing struggle to engender a model for the development of its enormous human and material resources.

The above rendition is based on a photograph depicting teachers and pupils of the Ecole Publique de Batotcha I in the village of Bansoa in western Cameroon celebrating the completion of new, purpose-built latrines for the school. The project was conceived by Brandt School alumna Lea P. Maffengang with funds received from the 2013 Commitment Award, an initiative by the Brandt School and the Stiftung Engagementpreis aimed to provide modest start up funding to development-oriented non-profit projects submitted by students of the Brandt School’s MPP programme.

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Joint Conference
Friday, November 7, 13:30-18:45
LG2/Hörsaal 5 (Main Campus)
Saturday, November 8, 9:15-15:00
Coelicum (TheolFak/Erfurter Dom)
Draft Programme

Friday, November 7, 2014

13.30 Uhr - Registration

14.15 Uhr – Welcome & Opening
[University of Erfurt, Brandt School & African Law Association]

14.30 – Panel I [Chair: TBC]

o ‘Foundations of “Law and Development”’
[Dr. Harald Sippel, University of Bayreuth]

o ‘The Multiple Reincarnations of the “Law and Development” Movement’
[Prof. Florian Hoffmann, Brandt School]

o Discussion

16.00 - Coffee Break

16.45 – Panel II [Olivia Ugokwe, Brandt School]

o ‘Human Security v. State Capacity in Contemporary Rwanda’
[Edward Kaweesi Silvestre, Brandt School]

o ‘State Formation through Constitution-making: South Sudan’s Constitutional Genesis in the light of Rule of Law Frameworks’
[Dr. Katrin Seidel, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology]

o ‘Law, Policing and Society Paradox’
[Dr. Kagoro Jude, University of Bremen]

18.45 – Meeting of the Members
African Law Association

20.00 - Dinner

Saturday, November 8, 2014

9.15 – Panel III [Chair: Prof. Florian Hoffmann, Brandt School]]

o ‘Law, Gender, and Development’
[Prof. Frederick Jjuuko, Makerere University (TBC)]

o ‘Legal Regulation of HIV/AIDS’
[Dr. Annamarie Bindenagel Šehović, University of Erfurt]

o Looking for the “right” law for development in contexts of legal pluralism: Some reflections about land law reforms in Africa
[Dr. Dominik Kohlhagen, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology]

o Discussion

11.00 – Coffee Break

11.30 – Panel IV [Chair Dr. Oliver Meinicke, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development]

o ‘The (Legal) Linkages of (Anti-)Terrorism and Development Discourse’
[Wilfried Zoungrana, Willy Brandt School]

o ‘Anti-Discrimination Law and Development’
(preliminary)
[Cynthia Banda, formerly Brandt School]

o ‘Development and the Challenge or Respecting Indigenous Rights’
[Dr. Grium G. Alemu, University of Bonn]

13.15 Uhr – Rejoinder & Farewell
[Brandt School & African Law Association]
Universität Erfurt

Friday, November 7: Lehrgebäude 2 (LG2) – Hörsaal 5

Saturday, November 8: Coelicum / Dom/Cathedral