

**Dear scholars, alumni, partners and friends of
KAAD,**

Our newsletter for the opening of the year 2019 is intended to echo the last events of the KAAD anniversary year (60) and at the same time inform about new developments, including staff changes in the head office of KAAD. Important events moved us well into Advent. If Ad-vent ("arrival") is understood as time given to us by God, then for KAAD 2018 as a whole was characterized by "advent". Much has been said this year by "others" about our institution and our work, by members of the Catholic hierarchy, by government bodies, by our overseas partners... We now want to interpret and try to implement this together. An Indian scientist and alumnus has put it this way: "KAAD has a great future! Because the foundation has the spirit of the 'catholicus' as hereditary trait." "Catholic" literally means: taking a look at the whole (hólos) from the point of view of the individual, the local. The fact that this succeeds in KAAD, as part of the "Scientific Community" as well as the Universal Church, has been testified to us many times in the "Jubilee Year", and this should also shape our path into the future.

With good wishes for a successful and happy 2019, in the name of the whole KAAD team.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Hermann Weber

**„Workshop on future issues" over a volcano:
„Challenges beyond KAAD's Sixth Decade"**

What a panorama! In a Franciscan educational institution we met in front of the scenery of a volcanic lake: The International Convention in the jubilee year led from 23 to 26 November 2018 to Tagaytay near Manila and included under the general title „Building Nations and Sustaining Peace amidst Diversity" (see also the report on our website) also a "Workshop on future issues", in which delegates from 14 focus countries of our cooperation presented "good practice" examples from the worldwide KAAD community to each other and discussed consequences for the strategic work in the coming 10 years.

The presentation of the associations and projects of the alumni groups showed a varied and heterogeneous panorama of this KAAD community, also a "gradient" of the intensity of networking and the (often politically conditioned) possibilities to come together and work together for peace, justice and the integrity of creation. The abbreviation of the newly founded Filipino alumni association AKAP means "embrace" in the national language and stood emblematically for the spirit of this conference, which should stimulate and prepare a more intensive exchange of KAAD actors, partner committees and 30 alumni associations across national and continental borders. They want to network more closely with institutions of the German foreign and governmental development policy as well as the development policy of the church and seek synergies. The expansion of our third-country and sur-place support in recent years is judged to be very helpful for the networking. Our partners also see themselves as (potential) "hosts" for KAAD scholars coming from a third country.



"Education" work in the sense of broadening horizons and critique of ideology against nationalist and populist tendencies should continue to shape the support of the KAAD as a whole. The KAAD must be even more consistent in facing the trend towards increasingly accelerated student and academic mobility (often with only superficial intercultural experiences) as well as the predominance of the English language accompanying this trend and digitization. The option of prioritizing the home orientation of support over models of knowledge transfer from the "North" or the scientific diaspora or an uncontrolled "brain

circulation" was still a general consensus among our partners. They see in KAAD a unique „niche“, which holds a great potential for the universal church. It was compared with a "school" which gives the scholars a special spiritual imprint ("which we all carry with pride"), the basis for long-term successful work, as demonstrated by a scientific study in December

Presentation of a study on development policy commitment and alumni work of KAAD

On December 11, 2018 and matching the end of the Jubilee Year, the results of a scientific study by two migration experts based on our alumni network were presented in the Catholic Academy Berlin. The



central focus of the study commissioned by the German Bishop's Conference was to examine which funding conditions are best suited to unfolding the already existing

great potential of the alumni. In the course of the panel discussion, which was attended by representatives from church, politics and business as well as scholars from 30 different countries, it became clear that the development policy orientation of KAAD is proving to be a "successful model". The personality forming support of students with the primary goal of their return to their respective home country, in order to be able to contribute to its development, has proven its worth for the KAAD compared to other models (for more details, see report on website).

The joy of celebrating the jubilee in the Middle East

On her travels to Egypt, Israel/Palestine, Jordan and Lebanon, Dr. Nora Kalbarczyk, head of the Near and Middle East Department, had the opportunity to first meet or meet again many members of the large KAAD family. At the various events in the Middle East – alumni meetings in Egypt and Palestine, a seminar in Jordan on the occasion of the anniversary year and an excursion in Lebanon – the joy of celebrating the jubilee combined with the gratitude for the service of KAAD in the region became perceptible. In Egypt and Palestine, new alumni associations have been founded this year with the aim to provide better networking opportunities between the former scholars.

In 2018, KAAD supported 97 scholars from the Middle East, 41 of them in Lebanon and Jordan. In our third-country refugee program, 55 scholars have been supported



since 2015. Further applications from refugees from Iraq and Syria, who currently live in Jordan and Lebanon, as well as from Jordanians and Lebanese, who are particularly committed to refugees, can also be accepted for the upcoming selection meeting in March.

„KAAD@60“ – Alumni networks in Africa celebrate the anniversary

At the beginning of November, two receptions took place in Ethiopia and Ghana where the KAAD networks celebrated the anniversary. Already before the celebrations of the 60th anniversary of the KAAD it was clear that the African associations of the KAAD scholars and alumni wanted to participate in the celebration of the jubilee in the focus countries with a lot of effort. In Kenya and Ethiopia, this even led to part of the costs being borne by the alumni themselves. In agreement with the head office, receptions were organized at four locations, each of which was embedded in the annual national seminars of the associations. The alumni, the current sur-place scholars and the partner committees were thus present at the receptions and met representatives of state institutions and local churches (including secretaries of bishop's conferences, bishops, vicars general of dioceses, representatives of regional associations of bishop's conferences). Representatives of German institutions and organizations were also present: Embassies, DAAD, Misereor, GIZ, political foundations (FES, KAS). In addition to the congratulators and keynote speakers, alumni whose careers and life paths are exemplary for the biographies of KAAD scholars also spoke at the receptions. Furthermore, members of the partner committees were honored for their work.

In Ethiopia and Ghana long-standing members gave their farewell and two very outstanding partners of the founder generation were awarded the Bene Merenti-Medal of the KAAD. These four anniversary receptions took place in Nairobi/Kenya (Catholic University of Eastern Africa) on July 28, 2018, in Harare/Zimbabwe on August 11, 2018, in Addis Ababa/Ethiopia on



November 3, 2018 (photo: awarding of our medal of honor to Prof. Tsige Gebre-Mariam by the archbishop of Addis Ababa) and in Kumasi/Ghana on November 10, 2018.

Staff changes

At the turn of the year 2018/19, a series of changes in the central services of our office took place.

On January 31, 2019, our long-standing colleague *Dorit Raderschatt* took her leave to make a change in her professional career. She was initially employed as secretary of the Asia Department on August 15, 2002, then took over the secretariat of the Latin-America Department and worked as Assistant of the Secretary General from January 2015 on. For more than 16 years, she contributed to our work with her outstanding communication skills and great personal commitment. As Assistant, she was the contact person for our inner German partners of the committees and university pastoral care, and - in her position as coordinator of the organization of educational seminars – contact person for our scholars, especially during large events like the annual convention and the German Catholics Conventions (Katholikentag). Being also responsible for Public Relations, she took care of our website and of publications such as the annual report. This complex field of work will now be divided up and more closely linked to the secretariats of the several Departments.



Dorit Raderschatt, Dagmar Koutsoumbidis, Mareike Klemz

From February 2019, *Mareike Klemz* has taken over the area of publications/Public Relations with half of her working hours. She has been newly employed as secretary for the Africa and Latin America Departments on August 15, 2018 after having finished her studies in Multilingual Communication at the University of Applied Sciences Cologne (TH Köln)

with a Bachelor's Degree in English and Spanish. She still works in a part-time position as secretary for the Latin America Department. The former secretary of this Department, *Helen Meier*, is on parental leave since July 2018.

From January 7, 2019, *Julia Breker* replaces Ms. Klemz and is now responsible for the secretariat of the Africa Department and other comprehensive tasks. After having studied Translation/ Interpreting in Heidelberg and London (English, French and Russian), she worked at the International Office of the City of Darmstadt until 2008 and as freelance translator.



Julia Breker

Another important part of the assistance to the Secretary General, the communication with the inner German partners and committees as well as the coordination of the educational work, is taken over by *Dagmar Koutsoumbidis* from February 2019. Mrs. Koutsoumbidis has already been responsible for the secretariats of the Asia and Eastern Europe Departments since January 2017. With half of her working hours, she still manages the secretariat of the Asia Department. The secretariats of the Eastern Europe Department and the vacant Near and Middle East Department are taken over by *Fernanda*



Fernanda Hulverscheidt Fagundes

Hulverscheidt Fagundes from February 2019. After having finished her Bachelor's Degree in Modern Languages in Giessen and a Master's Degree in European Studies in Aachen, she completed an Internship

at the GIZ Program for Transatlantic Youth Exchange before starting in our office. After having worked for the Near and Middle East Department for four years, Kristina Schumacher left the office to take over a new professional assignment. Among other things, she has contributed to the development of the third-country refugee program and to comprehensive projects like the diocesan partnerships.