

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

At their annual meeting on May, 8th 2019 (the „birthday“ of KAAD 61 years ago), the General Assembly and the Board of Directors of KAAD e.V. summarized once again the anniversary year 2018: Above all, they acknowledged the deepening of our international network and the effectiveness of our scholarship programs, as impressively proven by a scientific study of two migration experts commissioned by the German Bishops' Conference. The study will also be published in an extended form as a book in autumn (cf. page 3).

The General Assembly also made important personnel decisions. With the end of his term of office at Missio Aachen, *Prelate Dr. Klaus Krämer* will also resign as chairman of KAAD e.V. on July, 31st. For eight years, Prelate Krämer was a committed chairman and, in particular, successfully promoted KAAD in the painful

cost-cutting discussions of 2013, which still set limits to our work today. *Canon Dr. Heinz Detlef Stäps*, who has been a member of our General Assembly since 2016 and who has also been a member of the Board of Directors for one year, was elected as



his successor. As former university chaplain and expert in our Academic Council, and above all through his current position as Head of the Global Church Department of the Diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart, Dr. Stäps is familiar with all areas of KAAD's support for scholarship holders. He comes from a diocese which is characterized by a diverse and broadly linked global church work.

*Burkhard Haneke* was elected as Vice Chairman. As Board member, he represents the major ecclesiastical institutions. Like his predecessor, Dr. Gerhard Albert, he is also managing director of the project management at Renovabis, the Eastern European relief organization in Freising, and thus succeeded Dr. Albert in this position. In addition, the theologian, slavist and political scientist has broad experience in public relations. The president of KAAD, Prof. Dr. Eberhard Schockenhoff, is also a member of the board.



We are looking forward to the cooperation with the new board!

There is also an important change in personnel in the KAAD office: As of September 1st, 2019, the President of KAAD has appointed Dr. Nora Kalbarczyk (Head of the Middle East Department) as Deputy Secretary General of Dr. Hermann Weber. The long-standing deputy, Dr. Heinrich Geiger, had asked for an early release from his position in view of his age-related retirement in 2020.

### Our Topics for 2020

On June 28/29, the KAAD Educational Committee met in Bonn: 15 student representatives from the 5 continental departments met with representatives of the KAAD office, the General Secretary and one of the Spiritual Counsellors to discuss the focus of the educational work of the coming year. Regarding the list of topics, which had already been prepared by the student representatives in advance, mainly through online surveys of their respective group, it was especially striking how much the students were concerned about the tension between local/regional identities and globalisation processes or constraints.



The list of topics for our 10 seminars in 2020 (working titles), which takes into account the diverse and also different areas of studies, still reflects the lively discussions which finally led to the following priorities:

### Continent-related Seminars:

- African identity: local identity and togetherness
- Borders: The future of cooperation in Asia
- Migration in Latin America
- Ancient Languages and Cultures in the Middle East
- Russian dominance in Eastern Europe

## Cross-regional Topics:

- Dealing with Big Data in different development areas
- Youth on the street: generational gap?
- Country life and structural change of agriculture in Germany
- Photography: Images and their effect
- (Psychological) Problems in the course of doctoral studies

The offered spiritual seminars will also again include Spiritual Days in the Monastery in Beuron and the study trip and pilgrimage to Rome.

With the subject "*Power and Freedom of Language*", the Annual Convention of the coming year will address a topic which has already been of great interest to the student representatives in the previous year. However, this topic had to be postponed in order to deal with the concept of development as the central theme of the jubilee year 2018 on an even broader and more interdisciplinary basis. With "*Identity Politics and Language Biographies*" as subtitle, the Annual Convention 2020 is now able to address not only many conflicts and divisions of the current geopolitical spectrum from an only seeming side perspective, but also the individual, familiar and gender-related experiences of our scholarship holders: Multilingualism at home and within the (extended) family ("intercultural upbringing"), language learning and steering of language learning at school and university (dominance of "Global English"), and in particular the "experience of being different" in Germany. Furthermore, the impact of digitization on language, in particular of technologies which make social networks possible and of artificial intelligence, will play an important role.



The alumni work of KAAD was also lively discussed. How can we best continue to integrate former scholarship holders still (temporarily) staying in Germany after the end of their scholarship? How can we intensify the academic networking of alumni all around the world ("trans-regional") despite limited financial resources? Regarding the first question, a meeting of Syrian alumni will take place in 2020 as a "pilot project" in view of their future perspectives for their professional/scientific work.

## Seminars in Ethiopia and Zimbabwe

In May, Dr. Marko Kuhn, Head of Africa Department, travelled to Ethiopia and Zimbabwe.

This time, the focus of the seminar in Ethiopia was on flight, migration and ethnic violence. Cardinal Berhaneyesus Souraphiel, long-time partner and friend of KAAD, was appointed as coordinator of a national Reconciliation Commission. This is a sign of the growing role of the Catholic Church in difficult times. Since the impressive reforms of the new Prime Minister Abiy a wave of ethnic violence has broken out in the country. Many conflicts are now emerging that were prevented by the previous autocratic system. In addition to the more than one million „external“ refugees (from Eritrea, Southern Sudan and Somalia), there are now up to three million internally displaced persons. This



problem was the focus of this year's seminar of KASHA (KAAD Association of Scholars from the Horn of Africa) on „National Cohesion and Ethnic Strife“.

In the course of the seminar, the participants also visited one of the camps of internally displaced persons near the city of Gondar and talked to the local inhabitants. In this city, marked by historical monuments, the tension between the rich heritage of the Ethiopian nation and the current conflicts between ethnic groups was particularly noticeable.

On the first evening of the KASHA seminar, the members and invited speakers met the delegation of *Archbishop Stefan Heße*, Chairman of the Migration Commission of the German Bishops' Conference and Special Representative for Refugee Issues. Together with the Head of the Global Church Division of the German Bishops' Conference, Ulrich Pöner, the Representative for Migration Issues, Dr. Alexander Kalbarczyk, and three other delegation members he travelled to Ethiopia from May, 20th to 25th 2019 in order to inform himself about the situation of refugees and internally displaced persons in the region. Dr. Marko Kuhn accompanied the delegation and provided his support for the preparation and organization of the program. In this context, KAAD's connections to the local church, local politics and the scene of international organizations were of particular importance.

The delegation met, for example, the KAAD alumna and acting Minister for Development and Planning of Ethiopia, *Fitsum Assefa Adela*, to inform herself about the current tense



situation in the country. (More details on the information trip of the Migration Commission can be found at <https://www.dbk.de/themen/fluechtlingshilfe/informationsreisen/reise-nach-aethiopien-2019/>.)

Following his stay in Ethiopia, Marko Kuhn travelled to Zimbabwe for negotiations and preliminary talks for an International KAAD Convention abroad in the coming year. In addition to the relief organization Misereor, the Arrupe Jesuit University could now be won as a further cooperation partner. This year's seminar of KASSA (KAAD Association of Scholars from Southern Africa) took place in Bulawayo, the location of Zimbabwe's second largest university. On this occasion, 'external' (university lecturers) and 'internal' speakers (KASSA Members) discussed the topic „Exploring women participation, leadership and governance within the church, home, social and political field and men's response“.



The seminar concluded in the city of Livingstone in Zambia, the neighboring city of the Victoria Falls, to which the group made an excursion. One of the two African KAAD artists who

represent their countries and exhibit at this year's *Biennale in Venice* also comes from Zimbabwe (see „Alumni today“ on our homepage).

### Intercultural Workshop

On May, 25th an intercultural workshop took place for the third time which was attended by all of the current 21 KAAD language course students. Led and organized by the two desk officers Santra Sontowski and Miriam Roßmerkel, the main focus of the event was on preparing the students for their time in Germany right at the very beginning of their stay. The aim of the event was not only to create an awareness of one's own culture and identity, but also for cultural differences in the way people from different cultures think and act. Taken as a whole, the workshop and networking of the KAAD language course students was perceived as very enriching.



On July 9th, all language course students, including the theology scholars of the "Albertus-Magnus-Programm" of the German Bishop's Conference, visited among other things the UN-Quarter in Bonn in the context of a joint introductory meeting with the General Secretary.

### Briefly noted: Publications

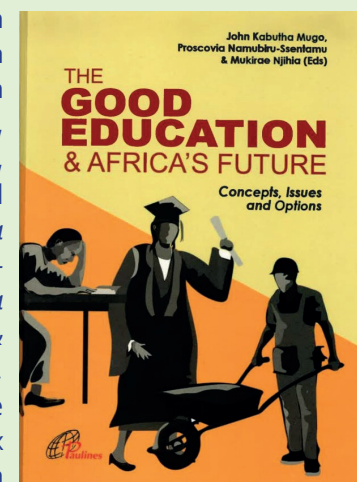
Several publications are also the fruit of our anniversary year, such as the study by two migration researchers on our alumni network and its developmental effectiveness: *Uwe Hunger/Sascha Krannich: Das entwicklungsbezogene Engagement von internationalen Studierenden und Alumni. Wie kann es am besten gefördert und unterstützt werden?* (Here available as PDF on the KAAD homepage)



At the Annual Convention 2019, the "Festschrift " in celebration of the 60th birthday of Dr. Hermann Weber was presented and handed over to him. It contains scientific contributions of 16 reknown authors of the KAAD network at home and abroad. The texts written from a perspective of various disciplines, including literature and art,

unfold a deeper understanding of interculturality in socially heterogeneous contexts and also pay tribute to the role of KAAD and its longstanding General Secretary (Please find the link to the index here).

From a series of events organized by our alumni associations in Africa between 2015 and 2018, a collected volume has now been published in Nairobi which contains 12 studies on education in Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Mozambique and Zimbabwe: *John Kabutha Mugo, Proscovia Namubiru-Ssentamu and Mukirae Njihia (Eds): The Good Education & Africa's Future – Concepts, Issues and Options.* (Please find the link to the index here). What they have in common is the emphasis on „good education“ in the sense of „holistic“ and „service learning“ instead of focusing on „measurement“ in the educational sciences.



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