English Abstract

1. A short presentation

The Catholic Academic Exchange Service (KAAD) is the scholarship institution of the German Catholic Church for post-graduate students and scientists from (developing) countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Middle East, as well as Eastern and South Eastern Europe. The KAAD supports its scholars in form of scholarships and educational programs and offers spiritual and personal assistance in view of future multiplying functions students will have in their home countries. This is based on cooperation with partner committees and associations of ex-scholars in those countries and it aims at setting up (scientific) networks and at contributing to a holistic development, which includes the religious and inter-religious dimensions.

History and Legal Form

During the 1950s, when German Catholics opened themselves increasingly toward questions and concerns of the Global Church community, particularly organizations of Catholic lay people recognized the opportunities that could develop in this area through a dialogue with international students in Germany. In this context, KAAD developed out of an initiative at the Catholic Convention (Katholikentag) in Fulda in 1954. Four years later it was formally registered in Bonn as a non-profit association.

Since its foundation in 1958, KAAD has been able to support nearly 10,000 individuals. A look back into history reveals that the KAAD is a unique institution in the Catholic world, due to its volume and strategic focus on lay people from developing countries and Eastern Europe.

In its General Assembly the directors of the large church-sponsored relief organizations cooperate with representatives of the dioceses and of Catholic university chaplaincies. A President heads the institution and the Academic Council, the body that selects scholarship holders, and which is composed of internationally distinguished university professors. KAAD acts as a clearing institution of the German Bishop’s Conference for all matters concerning foreign students and scientists in Germany.
2. Overview

“Global Justice, common future—Our responsibility for integral development”: This was the central theme for the year of the 60th anniversary of the foundation of KAAD leading the great events, such as the Annual Convention (Jahresakademie) of the anniversary year (cf. Chapter 3.4.1 with the documentation of the most important lectures and speeches, which extend this annual report to a small “yearbook”), the public panel discussion in Berlin (cf. Chap. 3.4.2) and the International Conference near Manila/Philippines which included a “Workshop on future issues” (cf. Chap. 3.6). Much has been said during this year by “others” about our institution and our work: Cardinal Turkson called the KAAD “a unique instrument of ‘communio’ in our Global Catholic Church”; 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 Global Church, has been testified to us many times in the “Jubilee Year”. A Colombian alumnus also compared the KAAD with a “school” giving the scholarship holders a special spiritual imprint (“which we all carry with pride”).

The aid effectiveness of our support is seen in our scholars’ successful reintegration, their multiplier effects and their networking. The authoritative publication “Wissenschaft weltoffen 2018” lists KAAD in 5th place concerning the support of foreign visiting scholars, as the most important of the smaller German scholarship organizations. By now our community consists of 51 partner committees and 30 alumni associations. This is the best proof that our approach of promoting individuals through scholarships and pastoral assistance actually leads to long-lasting community- and institution-building.

2018 in Brief: Events, Numbers, Committees

From April 26-29, 2018, the Annual Convention of the anniversary year with the topic “Global Justice, common future – Our responsibility for integral development” hosted 226 scholarship holders and 116 guests from 52 countries in Bonn (cf. Chap. 3.4.1). Among the numerous events held in our partner countries, the International Conference in the Philippines and a Conference in Brazil were particularly important (see Chap. 3.6; further alumni seminars are presented in the reports for each continent).

During the year under review the education program of KAAD in Germany and abroad comprised 66 events with 2,163 participants (for further details, see chapter 3 and the overview under chapter 6.5).
Chapter 2 reports in detail on the activities of the five *continental departments*, their strategic considerations and focal points as well as visits to partner countries during the year under review. In 2018, KAAD-representatives visited a total of 16 focus and partner countries.

Publication activity has also expanded online since 2016 through a relaunch of our homepage and the creation of a Facebook Page. In addition to documenting our work, there were publications by alumni in Africa, Latin America and Eastern Europe via their own magazines or scientific editions in cooperation with partner-universities (2018 in particular in Colombia and Poland). Furthermore, a scientific study on KAAD was published (see, in more detail, Chap. 4).

In 2018, KAAD was able to sponsor a total of 470 *scholarship holders* (previous year: 491): among these, 288 individuals in Scholarship Program 1 (298), 108 in Scholarship Program 2 (116) and 74 in the Eastern Europe Program (77). The Office in Bonn directly received 5,543 first application requests (8,556) (for more facts and numbers, see chapters 5.1 and 6).

The *total budget of about 4.95 million Euros* for the reporting year was financed predominantly (51%) by Church taxes (VDD - Association of German Dioceses). 2018 was, however, the fifth year in a row of cost-cutting measures, which will last until 2020. Significantly, and more increasingly, *Misereor/the KZE, the Federal Foreign Office, and Renovabis* contributed to the budget (cf. Chap. 1.3). Although not very high in quantitative terms, third-party funds from universities and dioceses, via cooperative relationships, are an important additional pillar of our work (in 2018 even 7%); added to this are other revenues, most of which originate from repayments of student loans (cf. the overviews in Chap. 6.3). Now in existence for nine years, our Foundation has also made a significant contribution (cf. Chap. 1.5).

At its meetings on May 15, the *Board of Directors* (Chair Prelate Krämer, Missio Aachen) and the *General Assembly of the registered association KAAD* dealt with scheduled budgetary questions and an update of the cooperation programs for the various countries, particularly in the area of sur-place and third-country support. In view of a necessary increase in scholarship rates in all programs, the financial structure of KAAD was discussed. In the General Assembly, the directors of the major Catholic relief organizations work together with representatives of the dioceses, religious orders, and university pastoral care; the episcopal representative is auxiliary bishop Wilfried Theising from the diocese of Münster. For more information on personnel-related changes in in the General Assembly and the Board of Directors please see Chapter 1.2.
The research project (as a motivation and impact study) of two migration researchers, which was approved by the Commission for International Church Affairs of the German Bishops’ Conference (DBK) in 2015 and accompanied the KAAD alumni work, has been finished in 2018 and presented to the public in Berlin on December 11th, 2018 (cf. Chap. 3.4.2 and 4.1).

The Academic Council, staffed by distinguished scholars of different academic disciplines and two Church representatives, meets twice a year. 370 applications had to be decided on by these voluntary experts in 2018, whereby new criteria had to be developed for each new (third-party funded) project. For information on personnel-related changes please see Chapter 1.2.

At 29 universities KAAD liaison lecturers were active in the year under review (including new ones in Bremen and Münster). Through invitations to groups of scholarship holders and conflict mediation they provide, among other things, an important service that complements the work of the local university chaplaincy and also contribute to the new forms of diocesan encounters of scholarship holders (cf. Chap. 3.5). Within the framework of the Annual Convention in Bonn they meet to share their experience.

(Cf. the lists of committee members, liaison lecturers and staff members of the Bonn Office in the appendix.)

Change in Personnel

At the Annual Convention 2018, Dr. Gerhard Albert gave his farewell and was awarded the Bene Merenti-Medal of the KAAD. The chairman of the association, Prelate Krämer, honored him and pointed out the fruitful cooperation between KAAD and Renovabis since the foundation of this institution. As its managing director for the project area, Dr. Albert became a committed advocate for this cooperation since 1995. Since July 2002, he was a member of the KAAD association, since June 2004, its (1st) Deputy Chairman. Since this time he has continuously supported our conceptual work and the networking with the large Church relief organizations and has financially expanded and ideally deepened the cooperation with Renovabis. This was also expressed by his participation in the „KAAD Future Conference“ within the framework of the 50th anniversary (Wroclaw 2008). His successor as a member of the association will be his successor in the management of Renovabis, Burkhard Haneke. Canon Dr. Heinz Detlef Stäps, head of the Global Church Department of the Diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart, was elected as Albert’s successor as 1st Deputy Chairman. Stäps already knows the KAAD from his time as university chaplain and member of the Academic Council.
As representative of the Central Committee of German Catholics Dr. Sabine Schößler also left the association in the year under review. She is now Managing Director of the Association of Catholic Entrepreneurs (BKU). Her successor is the theologian Rainer Gottschalg. Prof. Dr. Dr. Alexander Lohner (Misereor) left the Academic Council of KAAD in 2018. Michael Schöpf SJ, chairman of the advisory board of Misereor and head of the Center for Global Issues at the Munich School of Philosophy (Hochschule für Philosophie) of the Jesuits in Munich, succeeds him as (global) church expert and representative of the organizations and institutions represented in the association KAAD.

At the turn of the year 2018/19, a series of changes in the central services of our office in Bonn took place. On January 31, 2019, our long-standing colleague Dorit Raderschatt took her leave to change 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. 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 organizational coordinator of the educational seminars – contact person for our scholarship holders, especially at large events such as the Annual Conventions and the German Catholics Conventions. 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. From February 2019, Mareike Klemz takes 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 completed her studies in Multilingual Communication at the University of Applied Sciences Cologne (TH Köln) with a Bachelor’s Degree in Translation (main subjects 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.

The Africa secretariat, which Pia Schievink left after only a short time at the end of June, as well as other comprehensive tasks are taken over from Ms. Klemz by Julia Breker from January 7, 2019. She studied Translation/Interpreting in Heidelberg and London (English, French and Russian) and worked at the International Office of the City of Darmstadt until 2008, then as freelance translator.
Another important part of the assistance to the Secretary General, the communication with the inner German partners and committees as well as the central 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 Hulverscheidt Fagundes from February 2019. After she had 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. On December 31, Kristina Schumacher had left the Near and Middle East Department after four years of work to change her career. Among other things, she has been involved in setting up our third-country refugee program and in overarching projects like the diocesan partnerships.

Main statistical results of the year 2018:

Applications by continent p. 130
Distribution of scholars by continent and program p. 134-139
Local distribution of scholars p. 140
Degrees of our scholars p. 141
Educational work/events p. 142-147

Appendix:

Board/General Assembly p. 148
Members of the Academic Council p. 149
Staff-members (Bonn office) p. 153
Partners abroad p. 154-158
Alumni-associations p. 159-162