

A warm welcome to the second issue of the APPP e-newsletter, which is dedicated to capacity development!

We introduce this topic with a quote from a DFID Senior Governance Adviser that in our view provides a very good description of the aims of the Africa Power and Politics Programme in the area of capacity development:

"We are developing a substantial programme to build capacities of researchers, particularly in research methods, particularly in the more complicated political areas where it needs locals to do the digging, do the research, do the thinking, and do the analysis ..."
Richard Thomas (source: R4D website <http://r4d.blip.tv/file/844408/>)

Another reason to quote Richard is that he has recently retired and we would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you for the contribution he made to the APPP with his encouragement and guidance.

In its three years of existence, the APPP has made a substantial effort in the areas of research training, organizational capacity strengthening and building capabilities for linking research and policy. In this issue of the newsletter, we are pleased to share more details of the various activities that the APPP has embarked on as part of this effort.

Recent events

APPP Learning Weeks recently hosted in Ghana and Niger

The Africa Power and Politics Programme (APPP) held an international workshop in Accra from 25th to 30th April 2010 hosted by the Ghana Center for Democratic Development, CDD-Ghana. The week-long event brought together junior and senior researchers and communicators with a range of experience across a number of APPP research streams.

A similar meeting for the APPP's Francophone countries took place in Niamey from 9th to 15th May 2010 hosted by LASDEL. Although this workshop centred on the interests of the Cotton Reform research stream, the two workshops shared the same purpose.

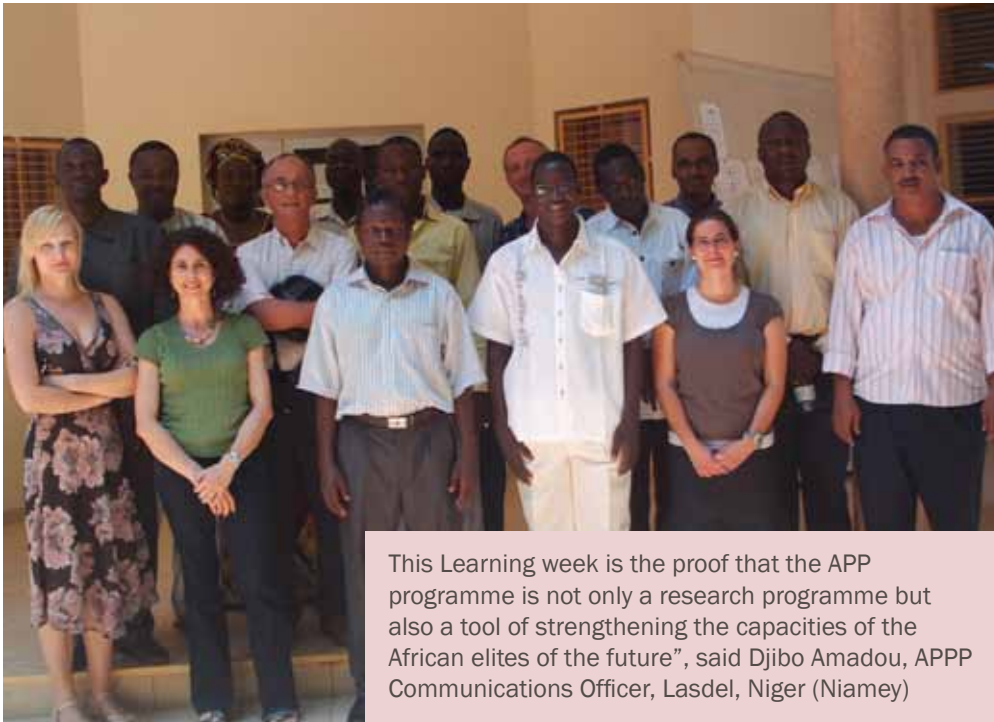
Dubbed "APPP Learning Weeks," they provided an opportunity for the various research streams under the APPP umbrella to learn from each other, share research experiences and improve upon skills in research communication. More specifically, their aims were:

- To bring together researchers contributing to one or more of the programme's seven research streams, to share and consolidate

understandings about the APPP's overall **research questions**, and the way in which the different streams are helping to answer them.

- To provide a forum for exchange of ideas, experiences and principles about **research methods**, especially the range of methods currently being employed in the APPP research streams.





This Learning week is the proof that the APP programme is not only a research programme but also a tool of strengthening the capacities of the African elites of the future”, said Djibo Amadou, APPP Communications Officer, Lasdel, Niger (Niamey)

- To develop researchers’ writing and speaking skills, and their appreciation of the styles and ‘tricks of the trade’ that help ensure effective communication of research results to different kinds of academic and policy audiences.

In total, 18 researchers participated in Accra and 14 in Niamey, representing altogether 10 sub-Saharan African countries where the APPP is active.

These events were highly praised and enjoyed by all. We are pleased to share some of the feedback from the participants. We invite you to check out the Events page <http://www.institutions-africa.org/events/list/future> on the APPP website for a stronger flavour of these events!

Research training

An essential aim of the APPP is to ground its research in a good understanding of local African realities. In this spirit, we have been keen to provide effective team training in ethnographic methods. During the course of last year, ethnographic training exercises have been conducted in Malawi, Tanzania, Rwanda, Niger and London with the participation of senior researchers, research assistants and PhD students.

Dr Fred Golooba-Mutebi (MISR-Uganda) and Prof E. Gyimah-Boadi (CDD-Ghana).

We were also fortunate to be able to draw on the expertise of Dr Jan Kees van Donge (African Studies Centre, Leiden), Dr Akosua Darkwah, Dr Betty Akumatey (University of Ghana) and Dr Jonathan Kaminski (University of Jerusalem).



Most recently, a week-long training exercise specific to the research methods of the Local Governance and Leadership stream was held in Entebbe, Uganda, from 3rd to 7th May 2010. 18 researchers, including fieldwork teams from Malawi, Uganda and Rwanda, attended.

“Getting new knowledge for my career, relating with other nations and making new friends. It has really been an adventure”, said Everness Zuze, Research Assistant, Malawi.

“Meeting different people from different countries and cultures especially different experiences was very important”, said Jean Claude Mugunga, Research Assistant, Rwanda.

Guidance and facilitation of these events has drawn upon the breadth and depth of the expertise found in the consortium core team. Different sessions were led by Dr Tim Kelsall (University of Newcastle), Prof Jean-Pierre Olivier de Sardan (EHESS and LASDEL), Dr Renata Serra (University of Florida), Prof Richard Crook (IDS), Dr David Booth, Dr Diana Cammack (ODI) and

The typical format for a week’s training includes a full day of lectures and discussion on theories and principles, followed by several few days of practical field exercises in which the researchers write and share their field notes at the end of each day and obtain feedback from peer-colleagues and trainers.

Doctoral student sponsorship

The APPP is also engaged in research training in another way, by supporting doctoral students working on programme themes. The Local Governance and Leadership stream is benefiting greatly from this strategy, as Diana Cammack, Stream Leader, explains:

“PhD students are invaluable for the programme. For example, they add new countries to our comparative analysis; they are well-trained and informed about their study areas; they have methodology training; they are in the field for a long time and can really come to grips with their area of interest; they add new insights into our subject area, as they are doing work directly related to questions we are asking ...” and the list could continue.

We are delighted to introduce our students! No less than six doctoral students are contributing to the research output of the Local Governance and Leadership stream:



Charles Ankisiba (Ghana) at University of London/ IDS Sussex.

My research topic is *“Politics of Development and the Role of Traditional Chiefs in Ghana: A Case Study of Land and Natural Resource Management in the Birim North District, Ghana”*.

I am exploring how and to what extent traditional chiefs in practice manage communal resources to provide collective benefits. The practices adopted by the chiefs may be rooted in local societies and cultures, but are they providing development outcomes to the people? So my research will make a contribution to the APPP’s broad objective of seeking to identify forms of local governance that work, or would work better for the development of African people than the current institutional arrangements.

Veronica Temesio Gomez (Switzerland) at EHESS Marseille.

The Senegalese rural water system is today managed by some forms of collective action mixed with state institutions, local authorities and private actors. My research explores these forms of governance and their different normative characteristics. As part of the Local Governance and Leadership stream, I am seeking what are the factors that could enable a more or less effective delivery of water.



Charlotte Cross (UK) at University of London/ IDS Sussex.

My research concerns local governance arrangements for the production of public security in Tanzania, and in particular community policing through citizen patrol groups known as *sungusungu*.

Ibrahim Moussa Hassane (Niger) at EHESS Marseille.

My research topic is: How the village councils of Niger work – management and accountability. My work is related to the APPP in terms of the delivery of services and public goods by the local village councils, the cooperation between the village councils and other local governance authorities, and the accountabilities and sanctions that are to be observed in these relationships.



Anna Workman (UK) at LSE London.

I have spent 2008-2009 studying local public goods provision involving the city council and urban chiefs in Makeni, Sierra Leone. My thesis compares more and less successful cases of public goods provision, analyzing the relationships between these local government actors and their citizens/ subjects, and their implications for public goods outcomes



Ursula Stelman (Canada) at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, London, has done fieldwork in municipal government, Kampala, Uganda with some APPP financial support.

Edem Selormey (Ghana) at University of London/ IDS Sussex.

Edem’s research is more closely connected to the States Bureaucracies research stream. This is what she says: My research is an enquiry into the extent to which public voice expressed through a radio phone-in programme can or cannot change the performance of a public sector organisation. This study fits into the APPP as it aims to generate empirically grounded theoretical insights into how the use of ‘voice’ mediated through radio can unearth underrated resources for collective problem-solving mechanisms that are present in African societies in ways that will be attractive to emerging constituencies for change.





Our APPP fellows at the Centre for African Studies of the University of Florida are:

- **Ashley Leinweber** (Islamic associations in a fragile state, DRC; Political Science; Supervisor: Leonardo Villalón).
- **Winifred Pankani** (informal institutions in government ministries, Ghana; Political Science; Supervisor: Conor O'Dwyer).
- **Patricia Mupeta** (accountability and participation in community natural-resource management in Botswana; School of Natural Resource Management; Supervisor: Brian Child).
- **Levy Odera** (businesses and political actors in Kenya; Political Science; Supervisor: Staffan I. Lindberg).

If you would like to get in touch with any of these students please do not hesitate to contact David Booth, d.booth@odi.org.uk and/or Sonia Sezille s.sezille@odi.org.uk.

We can also provide more information about capacity development within the APPP and will be pleased to respond to any additional comments or queries.

Some recent and forthcoming publications

- Tim Kelsall, Game-theoretic models, social mechanisms and public goods in Africa: a methodological discussion. Discussion Paper 7, Dec 2009 [also in French]
- Goran Hyden, Political accountability in Africa: is the glass half-full or half-empty? Working Paper 6, Jan 2010
- Staffan I. Lindberg, Variation in performance among members of parliament: evidence from Ghana. Working Paper 7, Feb 2010
- Staffan I. Lindberg, Some evidence on the demand side of private-public goods provision by MPs. Working Paper 8, Feb 2010
- Tim Kelsall and David Booth, with Diana Cammack and Frederick Golooba-Mutebi, Developmental patrimonialism? Questioning the orthodoxy on political governance and economic progress in Africa. Working Paper, forthcoming July
- Diana Cammack, with Tim Kelsall, Developmental patrimonialism? The case of Malawi. Working Paper, forthcoming July
- Jean-Pierre Olivier de Sardan and Mahaman Tidjani Alou, Local governance and public goods in Niger. Working Paper, forthcoming July [also in French]
- Diana Cammack and Edge Kanyongolo, Local governance and public goods in Malawi. Working Paper, forthcoming July
- David Booth, Towards a theory of local governance and public goods' provision in sub-Saharan Africa. Working Paper forthcoming July

Publications



For more information on latest publications, upcoming events and news, please visit our website:

www.institutions-africa.org