

DAAD Ghana Newsletter, 15.October 2007

Today's topics:

DAAD PROGRAMMES

- (1) REMINDER: DAAD GROUP VISITS – DEADLINES
- (2) ALUMNI PROGRAMMES AND “WORLD-CLASS CONNECTIONS MADE IN GERMANY”

DAAD IC ACCRA / IN-COUNTRY-EVENTS

- (3) NEW DAAD REPRESENTATIVE TO GHANA
- (4) DAAD INFORMATION CENTER - CHANGE OF E-MAIL-ADDRESS
- (5) WORKSHOP ON THE CHANGING NATURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION MANAGEMENT
- (6) GERMANY AND GHANA TO CONTINUE THEIR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION
- (7) NEW ADVISOR FOR RETURNING PROFESSIONALS AT “RUECKKEHRERBUERO ACCRA”

MISCELLANEOUS

- (8) NOBEL PRIZE AWARDED TO GERMAN RESEARCHERS
 - (9) MEDICINE AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
 - (10) MORE FEMALE PROFESSORS IN GERMANY
 - (11) 2007 – THE YEAR OF HUMANITIES IN GERMANY
 - (12) SCIENCE IS MULTILINGUAL
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(1) REMINDER: DAAD GROUP VISITS – DEADLINES

The DAAD programme “Study Visits/Study Seminars and Practicals” supports visits to Germany by groups of foreign students headed by a university teacher. The programme aims to provide students with subject-related knowledge by arranging appropriate visits, tours and information meetings (Study Visits) or by organising subject-related seminars and practical courses (e.g. specialist courses, block seminars, workshops) at the invitation of a German university (Study Seminars and Practicals). Another objective is to facilitate meetings with German students, academics and researchers to establish and maintain contacts between German and foreign universities. Finally, the programme intends to give students a greater understanding of and insight into economic, political and cultural life in Germany.

Applications must be submitted in accordance with the following deadlines:

- 15th November for trips starting from 1st March
(DAAD decision in mid-January)
- 15th February for trips starting from 1st June
(DAAD decision at the beginning of April)

- 15th May for trips starting from 1st September (DAAD decision at the beginning of July).

For more information about the programme, please consult the DAAD website (www.daad.de) or contact the DAAD Information Centre in Accra.

(2) ALUMNI PROGRAMMES AND “WORLD-CLASS CONNECTIONS MADE IN GERMANY”

Taking good care of former scholarship holders is important to DAAD. Therefore, DAAD expands the range of services and offers more opportunities to stay in touch with DAAD but also to stay in touch with other alumni. DAAD scholarship holders and alumni may have their own free web-based DAAD E-mail account for a better communication among each other and for the DAAD to keep them updated with news and information.

In June 2007, a global alumni campaign was launched. The Internet portal www.germany-alumni.org aims to rekindle the interest of former students, graduates, lecturers and researchers in Germany. The DAAD encourages “Germany alumni” to act as bridge builders between countries and cultures and to enrich the academic and business world with the wealth of transnational experience. Germany alumni are invited to register on the portal, in order to make contact with other alumni, join networks on particular subjects as well as to find information on research and science in Germany and on training opportunities.

In order to find out more on the Alumni-Programme visit <http://www.daad.de/alumni/de/>

(3) NEW DAAD REPRESENTATIVE FOR GHANA

Dr. Heike Edelmann-Okinda, the new DAAD representative for Ghana, has come to Accra in October. The former DAAD representative, Dr. Harald Olk, has left the country this summer and handed over the running of the DAAD Information Centre Accra to his successor after having stayed in Ghana for four years. Dr. Edelmann-Okinda was warmly welcomed to Ghana, and she is looking forward to continue the very successful cooperation between DAAD and Ghanaian Institutions of higher Education as well as with those who are interested in furthering their education in Germany. To find out more about the new representative please visit the Information Centre website.

<http://www.ic.daad.de/accra>

(4) DAAD INFORMATION CENTER - CHANGE OF E-MAIL-ADDRESS

The DAAD Information Center Accra wishes to inform you about the change of E-Mail-Address to daadghana@yahoo.com due to technical reasons. Please stay in touch with us, using our new E-Mail-address.

(5) WORKSHOP ON THE CHANGING NATURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION MANAGEMENT

A DAAD funded national workshop on the “Changing Nature of Higher Education Management: Strategic Planning and Management, Governance and Quality Management” was held in Kumasi on October 4th 2007 at KNUST, chaired by Prof. K.K. Adarkwa, Vice-Chancellor. It was organized by the Ghanaian participants of a Dean’s Course in Germany on the respective topic as a follow-up event.

Prof. Francis Momade, Provost of the College of Engineering, opened the workshop. Dr. Kwaku Kessey, Head of Department of Planning, introduced participants and facilitators. Then it was explained by Prof. William Otoo Ellis, Po-vice Chancellor, why strategic planning and management matter to institutions of higher education.

Case studies from Ethiopia and KNUST were presented by Prof. Dr.-Ing Abebe Dinku, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia and by Prof. Francis Momade, College of Engineering.

Major changes in Management and Governance in higher education institutions in Germany were highlighted by Prof. Dr. Peter Mayer, University of Applied Sciences, Osnabruck, Germany. As was outlined by him, changes in Germany can be observed in different dimensions: less and different state regulation, more stakeholder guidance, less academic self-governance, more managerial self-governance, more competition for scarce resources, a new role of deans with enormous responsibility on them, requiring special training in order to master the new management challenges.

Prof. Dr. Peter Mayer focused then on the need for quality assurance in institutions of higher education and the role of stakeholders for quality management, being a central matter for top leadership, since higher education systems and higher education institutions are increasingly influenced by international trends. Results of international rankings for teaching quality and for research as well as the number of important prizes matter more than they had ever before.

Prof. Dr. Mayer concluded with some desiderata: A consistent and coherent policy and procedures for quality assurance should be introduced as well as a periodic review of programmes and awards. Students should be assessed based on published criteria, regulations and procedures, and systems should be established to assure quality of teaching staff. Resources should be made available for the support of student learning, as well as an information system concerning programs of study should be established. Finally, programs of study should be transparent (cf. European Association of Quality Assurance in Higher Education 2005). Quality will be one of the key issues in the next years in Institutions of Higher Education, was strongly pointed out by Prof. Mayer.

The new DAAD representative in Ghana, Dr. Heike Edelmann-Okinda, contributed to this workshop with a presentation on the role of DAAD in human resource development. She appealed to the DAAD Alumni to stay in touch with DAAD or to get in touch again through the Information Center. Moreover she invited the Alumni to benefit from the various schemes within the DAAD Alumni Programmes.

In order to find out more on the Alumni-Programme visit <http://www.daad.de/alumni/de/>

(6) GERMANY AND GHANA TO CONTINUE THEIR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

A bilateral agreement of the German and the Ghanaian government respectively, settled on 13th and 14th September 2007 in Accra appreciates Ghana's efforts to reduce poverty and to improve democracy. Funds for development cooperation amount to € 53 Million in 2007/2008, which comprise € 39 Million for financial cooperation and € 14 Million for technical cooperation.

(7) NEW ADVISOR FOR RETURNING PROFESSIONALS AT "RUECKKEHRERBUERO ACCRA"

CIM [Center for International Migration and Development] announces the appointment of a new advisor for Ghanaian returning professionals at the "Rueckkehrerbuero Accra". Dr. Francis Kofi Bih will support returnees seeking advice on their reintegration and assist them in finding a job.

(8) NOBEL PRIZE AWARDED TO GERMAN RESEARCHERS

It is not only a marketing tool of DAAD to make claims Germany is the "Land of ideas" and to recommend to "Study and Research in Germany".

The German researcher **Peter Gruenberg** from the research center Juelich near Aachen and the French researcher Albert Fert won the **2007 Nobel Prize in physics** for their discovery of giant magnetoresistance, a process used by billions of people on their computers and digital music players.

In 1988, Gruenberg and Fert each independently discovered a very new physical effect, GMR. In this effect, very weak changes in magnetism generate larger changes in electrical resistance. Information stored magnetically on a hard disk can be converted to electrical signals that the computer reads. "Applications of this phenomenon have revolutionized techniques for retrieving data from hard disks," the prize citation said. "The discovery also plays a major role in various magnetic sensors as well as for the development of a new generation of electronics."

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said the discovery could also be considered "one of the first real applications of the promising field of nanotechnology".

The award winners will share the 10 million Swedish kronor (1,1 Million Euro) prize.

The German researcher **Gerhard Ertl** won the **Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2007** "for his studies of chemical processes on solid surfaces". Gerhard Ertl researches at the Fritz-Haber-Institut of the Max-Planck-Society in Berlin. He was awarded the prize for his works on chemical reactions, like those ones in catalytic converters or during the rusting of iron - processes that are relevant to many industrial technologies, hence his works are important for the chemical industry, and they can even help to understand the decrease of the ozone layer.

Ertl spent most of his academic life in Hannover, Munich and Berlin, and he appreciates the superior qualities of Germany as a place of research. "I cannot understand why there is so much moaning over shortages in research funds", he said. "German researchers have quite often more favourable terms for their research work than those ones in the United States."

With awarding the prize to Ertl the Swedish Nobel prize committee honours also the systematic German approach in Ertl's scientific work.

The prize is donated with one (1) Million Euro.

(9) MEDICINE AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

DAAD Alumni who studied medicine at German universities take medical progress to their home countries after completion of their studies. About 100 doctors met now in Germany for further education and discussions on how the expertise they acquired in Germany can be transferred to the situation found in their home countries, which is often marked by shortages of equipment and also an extreme lack in organization.

To find out more on the topic please visit <http://www.daad-magazin.de/07520/index.html>

About 3000 students from developing countries are currently being trained at German universities as physicians or dentists. DAAD wants to establish an interdisciplinary network that will support their further education after having completed their studies in Germany. Read an interview on this topic with Cay Etzold, in charge of Alumni Programmes for developing countries.

To find out more on the topic please visit <http://www.daad-magazin.de/07521/index.html>

(10) MORE FEMALE PROFESSORS IN GERMANY

The proportion of women amongst German professors has nearly doubled within the recent decade. In 1995, only 8 per cent of German full professors were female, while in 2006 the proportion had increased to 15 percent, i.e. 5700 female full professors were holding a chair in 2006. Nearly 25 per cent of the chairs are held by female professors in Humanities, whereas it amounts to only 10 per cent in Maths and Natural Sciences.

(11) 2007 – THE YEAR OF HUMANITIES IN GERMANY

Germany's Federal Ministry of Research and Education declared 2007 to be the Year of the Humanities. The humanities in Germany have been feeling undervalued, and they are certainly under-funded. Thus, the search is on for ways to acquaint the public with the significance of this important field. At a conference, jointly organized by the DAAD and Freie Universitaet Berlin, humanists called for a more international approach in research and education. Globalization is opening up doors to new areas of research that in many cases cannot be adequately addressed except in international cooperation. All participants agreed that implementing an international approach means maintaining diversity.

(12) SCIENCE IS MULTILINGUAL

Scholars in the field of cultural studies and others interested in language discussed this topic at a symposium held by DAAD in Berlin. Symposium participants rejected English as the sole language of science. While agreeing that English is indispensable as a means of communication, they felt that the use of English as the lingua franca actually lowers standards in research and education. Moreover, reducing English to the language function it also curtails creative thinking, which is rooted in an individual's mother tongue. Participants argued for multilingualism in the sciences, and at the same time for a return to greater reliance on translations. To find more reasons on why to learn German and how to do it, visit our Homepage

<http://www.ic.daad.de/accra>

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Send us an E-mail: daadghana@yahoo.com

Visit us during our office hours for more information and up-to-date information material.

OFFICE HOURS

Mondays 16.30-18.30 at the Goethe-Institut (next to NAFTI, East Cantonments)

Thursdays 14.30-18.30 at the Goethe-Institut

Fridays 14.30-18.30 at the Goethe-Institut

Tuesdays 9.00-12.00 at the German Embassy (Main Building, North Ridge)
