



Season's Greetings from ZEF!

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous, peaceful and happy New Year!

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Results from a survey among African ZEF alumni

The doctoral program can finally reap the fruits of 11 years of hard labor since its inception 1999. It has been a stepping stone to promising careers of many ZEF alumni. A survey among participants from Africa carried out in 2009 by Benjamin Schraven, Senior Researcher at ZEFa, shows that the main target of the program is certainly being achieved, which is training future decision-makers from developing as well as from industrialized countries for international careers in a development-related context. One of the outcomes of the survey is that 85% of the graduates from Africa returned to their home countries to take up promising positions there.

The survey results also show that many African alumni contribute with their knowledge, expertise and experience to political and societal processes in their home countries, even though this takes place on an institutional rather than on an individual level. This development-relevant involvement in consultancy and decision-making processes can be ascribed to ZEF's selection procedure of doctoral candidates from Africa: Most of the candidates come from institutions with good networks enabling them to communicate their research results and have impact at a national level.

The study has been published as a ZEF Working Paper and is available at http://www.zef.de/fileadmin/webfiles/downloads/zef_wp/wp51.pdf.

Results from participants from other parts of the world will be published in the next issue of the alumni newsletter.

ZEF alumni participate in a summer school on applied solar technology in developing countries

Three ZEF alumni, Dr. Ayodele Ajayi, Dr. Sayan Chakrabarty, and Dr. Chian-Woei Shyu participated in this summer school which was co-organized by ZEF, the Postgraduate Program Renewable Energy of the University of Oldenburg, and the Program Energy and Environmental Management in Developing Countries of the University of Flensburg. Twenty-two alumni from several German institutes participated in the event, which took place from May 31 to June 12 2010 and included the visit of the international fair INTERSOLAR 2010 in Munich.

The following information might be interesting to you: Deutsche Welle offers e-Learning German courses free of charge at <http://deutschkurse.dw-world.de/KursPlattform/WebObjects/KursPlattform.woa/wo/13.1>.

"Think Tank of Think Tanks" puts ZEF among Top 10 of international Science and Technology Think Tanks

The Top "To Go To Think Tanks" ranking is a yearly published list of Think Tanks from all over the world covering different areas of expertise such as Health, Environment, Security and International Affairs. In the 2009 "To Go To Think Tanks" ranking, ZEF is among the top 5% of more than 6,000 evaluated Think Tanks in 169 countries. The Center was put on position 6 among the Top 10 of Science and Technology Think Tanks worldwide. On positions 1–5 are US Think Tanks such as RAND Corporation and the Brookings Institution. The ranking is an initiative of the "Think Tank of Think Tanks", The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program of the International Relations Program at the University of Pennsylvania, USA.

Alumniportal Deutschland

Benjamin Kofi Nyarko (ZEFc alumnus, batch 2003), Department of Geography & Regional Planning, University of Cape Coast, Ghana, has co-launched the *Alumniportal Deutschland* and invites you to use this platform to form a professional and social network of ZEF alumni all over the world. Visit it at <http://www.alumniportal-deutschland.org>!

Check the ZEF Alumni Website regularly! New announcements about jobs and conferences worldwide are available in the News section.

Please keep your profile at the ZEF database of development experts updated: <http://www.zef.de/experts.html>. You can update your profile at the ZEF alumni portal <http://www.zef.de/alumni/>. Use your old login and password for the ZEF intranet. Please contact us, in case you don't remember your login or password.

ZEF doctoral studies program at Youtube

ZEF has released an information movie about its doctoral program in the beginning of 2010. You can download a short and long version at <http://www.youtube.com/user/zefbonn>.

ZEF on Facebook

ZEF has launched a Facebook business site. Those who already have a private profile on Facebook, know what to do: Become a *fan* of ZEF and *like* everything we post! You can, of course, also post something on the *wall* of ZEF's facebook site. You can get to ZEF's facebook site via www.zef.de.

ZEF prize for an outstanding doctoral thesis (call for applications)

The "Friends of ZEF" (*Gesellschaft der Freunde der Entwicklungsforschung e.V.*) award a prize of 1500 Euro for an outstanding doctoral thesis in development research every two years. In October 2011, the prize will be awarded for the fifth time. All doctoral students of ZEF and those who have conducted their doctoral research in affiliation with ZEF or participated in the courses of the International Doctoral Studies Program at ZEF between May 2009 and May 2011, with a degree "very good" (*magna cum laude*) or "excellent" (*summa cum laude*) are eligible and are encouraged to apply. Applicants have to submit three printed copies of their thesis, a separate abstract of five pages, a tabulated CV and a copy of the PhD certificate to Dr. Günther Manske (gmanske@uni-bonn.de; +49-(0)228-731794). Deadline of application is June 30, 2011.

Awards for ZEF alumni

Devesh Rustagi (ZEFb alumnus from India) has won this year's prestigious 1st prize of the *KfW-excellence prize for practice-related development research* for his doctoral thesis on "Behavioral Heterogeneity and Human Cooperation". Article in *Science*: Rustagi, D., S. Engel, M. Kosfeld. 2010. Conditional cooperation and costly monitoring explain success in forest commons' management. *Science*, 330: 961-965



Devesh Rustagi at the KfW-excellence prize celebration.

Muo Kasina (ZEFb alumnus from Kenya) has received the Editors' Choice Award 2010 of the *Journal of Economic Entomology* and *ESA* for his publication related to his PhD thesis. In addition, ZEF had awarded him a 1500 Euro travel scholarship to attend the Awards Ceremony at the 2010 *ESA Annual Meeting* in San Diego, California, USA, on December 12, 2010. This is his prize winning publication: Kasina M., J. Mburu, M. Kraemer and K. Holm-Müller. 2009. Economic benefit of crop pollination by bees: A case of Kakamega small-holder farming in western Kenya. *Journal of Economic Entomology*, 102(2): 467-473.



Muo Kasina at the ESA award ceremony in San Diego, California.

Meeting with ZEF alumni in Bangladesh

In November 2010, Prof. Joachim von Braun (ZEFb director) visited Bangladesh together with Dr. Franz Gatzweiler (ZEFb senior researcher) and Inga Korte (ZEFb junior researcher) to initiate the research work on marginality and extreme poverty, funded by the *Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation*. During this visit they had a meeting with ZEF alumni in Bangladesh. The ZEF alumni network is becoming increasingly important for ZEF's new research projects.

Request for reference letters

We have been receiving an increasing number of requests from alumni for course transcripts, letters of reference, etc. Please send us your request well ahead of time! We need two weeks to prepare these letters.

Selected News from the ZEF website (June 2009 – December 2010)

Elinor Ostrom, Nobel Prize laureate in Economics of 2009, visited ZEF in January 2010 to discuss research ideas.

Annual collaboration workshop of the Ghanaian-German Division of Development Studies: September 27–28, 2010 in Accra, Ghana » [more](#)

ZEF starts new project to address extreme poverty and marginality: MARGIP – *Maginality Reduction for Enhanced Investments for and with the Poorest* funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation » [more](#)

ZEF is going to be an official campus of the Right Livelihood Award, also known as the Alternative Nobel Prize. This was agreed upon at a conference in Bonn on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Prize in September 2010. Partners of this agreement are ZEF, the University of Bonn, the Right Livelihood College (RLC) and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). There are three further RLC sites world wide in Malaysia, Sweden and Ethiopia. » [more](#)

ZEF at EuroSEAS: Organizing a panel on "Environmental Change, Uncertainty and the Adaptation of Local Knowledge Systems" in Gothenburg/Sweden, August 26–28, 2010 » [more](#)

Nobel Prize Peace Winner Muhammad Yunus discussed with students at ZEF in November 2010 on his unconventional wisdom » [more](#)



Muhammed Yunus with students at ZEF.

ZEF at 21st European Conference on Modern South Asian Studies 2010 » [more](#)

ZEF contributes to creating WASCAL, which is an initiative of the Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF) to establish a competence center with research infrastructure, a research program and graduate schools in West Africa, focusing on land management under climate change conditions. Scientists from 10 West African countries as well as intergovernmental and international organizations – including several ZEF alumni from the region – attended a planning workshop held in Accra, Ghana, from October 26–28, 2010. » [more](#)

From knowledge to action on climate change impact and poverty reduction: The outcome and implications of the study "Waiting for the water to come? Poverty reduction in times of global climate change". » [more](#)

ZEF will host workshop at Global Media Forum: "Covering Climate Change in West Africa: An exchange between journalists and scientists", June 22, 2010. » [more](#)

Public Lecture by IFPRI's new Director General Dr. Shenggen Fan on "The Role of Emerging Economies in Global Food Security". » [more](#)

ZEF Workshop in Ghana on "Shallow Groundwater Irrigation in the Atankwidi and Anayere Basins: Research Results and Policy Options", April 20–21, 2010. » [more](#)

ZEF strengthens academic ties with Malaysian University: ZEF Director Solvay Gerke signs MoU with the University Sains Malaysia. » [more](#)

"Clean water for a healthy world" – World Water Day on March 22nd, 2010. » [more](#)

ZEF news magazine published – March 2010. » [more](#)

ZEF Senior Fellow Oded Stark among the Top Ten Economics Professors in the German-speaking world. » [more](#)

"Development research can make a huge difference to the lives of poor people" – Interview with Professor Joachim von Braun. » [more](#)

"Waiting for the water to come? Combating poverty in times of climate change" – A study co-published by ZEF on the impact of climate change on poverty and livelihoods in developing countries. » [more](#)

Oded Stark was appointed Presidential Professor by President of Poland – The highest honour that Poland can bestow on an academic. » [more](#)

High ranking visitors from Banda Aceh at ZEF – Discussion on possible collaborations in the area of capacity development. » [more](#)

Ten Years of International Graduate Training at ZEF: Capacity Development for the Developing World – International Conference at ZEF in Bonn from October 1–2, 2009. » [more](#)

ZEF co-organizes training workshop in Uzbekistan on Challenges of sustainable water use in arid and semi-arid regions under conditions of climate change. » [more](#)

ZEF at the International Symposium on Society and Resource Management (ISSRM) in Vienna. » [more](#)

STRIVER Workshop in Hyderabad, India, on "Changes in water governance in Thungabhadra and Krishna: the longer view". » [more](#)

Interactive data for people and their environment: Geoportal developed by scientists from the GLOWA Volta Project ready to go for West Africa. » [more](#)

Official inauguration of Ghanaian-German Center for Development Studies and Health Research at University of Ghana on June 16. » [more](#)

ZEF organizing two sessions at the International Symposium on Society and Resource Management (ISSRM) in Vienna, July 5–8 2009. » [more](#)

Final workshop of ZEF's coffee project in Addis Ababa: June 1–4, 2009. » [more](#)

ZEF Annual Report just published!

ZEF's Annual Report gives you an overview of our core research and capacity development activities during the last year. Enjoy the read on research of our senior and junior researchers in Africa, Latin America as well as Central and South East Asia.

» [more](#)

News from the ZEF alumni

Katinka Weinberger (ZEFb alumnus, batch 1997) took up the position of Director of the Center for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops in Asia and the Pacific (CAPSA) in Indonesia.

George Obeng (ZEFa alumnus, batch 2005), former visiting fellow at ZEFa, was appointed Director of the Technology Consulting Centre of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Sciences and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana, as of 1 August 2010.

Muhammad Nasir (ZEFb alumnus, batch 2005) has been promoted to Secretary of Graduate School, Syiah Kuala University, in Aceh, Indonesia.

Shahjahan Bhuiyan (ZEFa alumnus, batch 2001) from Bangladesh, working at the Kazakhstan Institute of Management, Economics and Strategic Research in Almaty, has taken up a 3-month Visiting Research Fellow position at the Oxford Institute of Ageing, where he is pursuing research on climate change and its impact on older adults' health in Kazakhstan.

Arpita Chakraborty, lecturer of the BiGS-DR mathematics refresher course, and **Sayan Chakraborty**, (ZEFb alumnus,

batch 2002), both from Bangladesh, had a baby daughter. Her name is "Tathai" (a word taken from traditional dance music). We wish the young family all the best!

Franklin Simtowe (ZEFb alumnus, batch 2003) is now working as an Impact Assessment Economist at the Africa Rice Centre (WARDA) in Benin.

Nayeem Sultana (ZEFa alumnus) and **Md. Israt Rayan** (ZEFb alumnus, both batch 2004) have born a baby daughter named Fariha Raisa, on April 30th. Both of the parents have defended their thesis in 2008 and returned to their home country Bangladesh. We wish Fariha Raisa and her parents all the best for the future!

Miguel-Ángel Alva-González (ZEFb alumnus, batch 2003) has taken up a position as Research Associate at the FCN institute of the E.ON Energy Research Centre at the RWTH Aachen University in September 2009. He will be focussing on mobility needs and behavior, including sustainability assessment.

Wolfram Laube (ZEFa alumnus, batch 2000) and Kubura Laube are glad to announce the birth of their baby daughter, Marie Salamatu, on October 7th 2009 in Bonn. Both the mother and child are fine. All the best to the young family!

Lars Ribbe, external ZEFc doctoral student, alumnus batch 2002, has become Professor at and Director of the Institute for Technology and Resource Management in the Tropics and Subtropics, Cologne University of Applied Science, Germany. (www.tt.fh-koeln.de).

Ihtiyor Bobojonov (ZEFb alumnus) has taken up a post-doc position at ICARDA in Aleppo, Syria.

Ademola Braimoh (ZEFc alumnus, batch 2000, from Nigeria) is now as a Senior Natural Resources Management Specialist working at the Agriculture and Rural Development Department (ARD), The World Bank in Washington. Before that he worked for several years as the executive director of the Global Land Project, Sapporo Nodal Office, Hokkaido University, Japan, after being promoted to full Professorship on September 1st, 2008.

Manja Reuter (ZEFc alumnus, batch 2001) has taken up a position at the University of Kassel as scientific coordinator for the International Centre for Development and Decent Work (ICDD) and executive manager of the Centre for International Rural Development. She and her family have moved to Goettingen.

Maria Teresa Kohr-Almanza (ZEFc alumnus, batch 2003) is working at BCS (Bayer CropScience) in Monheim a.R., where she is making use of her knowledge on pollinators and beneficials in agriculture in the testing and development of plant protection products at a global level, which are needed for a safe use of the company's products.

Susanne Herbst (ZEFc alumnus, batch 2002) is now Head of the Division 3.03, "Health", at InWEnt – Internationale Weiterbildung und Entwicklung GmbH Capacity Building International – in Bonn.

Begzsuren Shurentuya (ZEFc, batch 2003) is married and has a baby boy.

Philip Oguntunde (ZEFc alumnus, batch 2000) won an Alexander von Humboldt scholarship for experienced researchers to conduct research on "Impact of global climate change on Niger River Basin Hydrology, West Africa" at the Institute of Landscape Hydrology in Müncheberg (ZALF) near Berlin.

Franklin Simtowe (ZEFb alumnus, batch 2003) is now working as a scientist for institutions, markets & policy impacts and as project coordinator for treasure legumes at the Regional Office for Eastern and Southern Africa of ICRISAT in Nairobi, Kenya.

Damaris Odeny (ZEFc, Kenya, batch 2002) is now working as a research scientist for biotechnology at the Agricultural Research Council in South Africa. After her doctoral graduation in 2006, she worked at the Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research (MPIZ) and the ARC-Vegetable and Ornamental Plants Institute, Pretoria. She also won a World Bank Graduate Fellowship Award.

Selected publications from ZEF alumni

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