



As the holiday season comes near, we would like to wish you a wonderful merry Christmas and happy New Year celebration! Also, we'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for staying in contact with ZEF. It is the ZEF alumni network which makes our jobs a pleasure and keeps our research efforts successful and sustainable.

Günther Manske & Rosemarie Zabel



Rosemarie Zabel, Hannah Peters und Günther Manske,
December 2004 at ZEF

Content

- Foundation fiat panis supports doctoral research on food security at ZEF
- Opening of international campus of „Alternative Nobel Prize“ at ZEF in Bonn
- ZEF ranks again among global most important think tanks
- Visits of alumni at ZEF
- Awards for ZEF alumni
- News from ZEF alumni
- Miscellaneous
- Selected new discussion papers from ZEF
- Selected new publications from ZEF alumni

Foundation fiat panis supports doctoral research on food security at ZEF

With its newly established program “Dr. Hermann Eiselen PhD Grant”, the Foundation fiat panis supports research on food security and rural development in developing countries. This new grant provides doctoral students from the Center for Development Research (ZEF) at the University of Bonn and the PhD program “Global Food Security” of the Food Security Center (FSC) at the University of Hohenheim with funding for sound empirical research in this areas. Thereby, the doctoral programs are substantially strengthened as more comprehensive empirical research is facilitated by this grant for currently about 40 doctoral students from ZEF and 14 from FSC.

The awarded students are to work on issues of food security at local and global level. The overall aim is to contribute to improving food security, especially among the poor in developing countries.

Besides providing funds for the actual research work of the doctoral students, the Foundation supports also collaboration and exchange between the two doctoral programs at ZEF and FSC. Therefore, joint courses at ZEF and FSC are being conducted, during which the doctoral students will discuss methodological and strategic approaches for their implementation-oriented research involving local stakeholders and decision-makers. In addition, leadership and intercultural trainings will be part of the program.

Opening of international campus of „Alternative Nobel Prize“ at ZEF in Bonn

In May 2011, the new international campus of the Right Livelihood Award in Bonn has been inaugurated officially at ZEF. The Right Livelihood College (RLC) in Bonn is one of four international RLC campuses and therewith part of a global network promoting transfer and exchange of knowledge and competence between “Alternative Nobel Prize” laureates and science, civil society and politics. The RLC in Bonn will particularly support the exchange between laureates and young scientists from developing and transition countries. Some doctoral students, supported by stipends of the DAAD, have the chance of visiting the laureates and backing up their projects with scientific analysis and input. Moreover, the laureates have the opportunity to teach as guest lecturers in Germany.” The RLC Campus is being funded by the DAAD.

During a three-day workshop 20 selected doctoral students dealt with the issue of “Reverse degradation by innovation: New pathways of sustainable natural resource management”, together with the four attending laureates.

ZEF ranks again among global most important Think Tanks

In the 2010 ‘To Go To Think Tanks’ ranking, ZEF is - for the second year in a row - among the top 5% of more than 6,000 worldwide evaluated Think Tanks in 120 countries. It holds position 5 among the Top 10 of Science and Technology Think Tanks, and position 14 among the “Best University affiliated Think Tank”.

The ranking is an initiative of the The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program of the International Relations Program at the University of Pennsylvania, USA. Since 2006, the Program has been collecting and selecting data and information from the more than 6,000 known Think Tanks around the world. Since 2006, the nomination and ranking is carried out by hundreds of international experts. More at: http://www.zef.de/fileadmin/media/news/5737_2010globalgotoreport_thinktankindex_unedition_15_.pdf

Visits of alumni at ZEF

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.

In 2011, several ZEF alumni have visited ZEF. Some stayed longer to conduct research. Others visited ZEF while participating in conferences in Germany, or visited ZEF as partners of our larger research projects. Actually, most of ZEF's research projects benefit from the expertise and knowledge of our alumni.

Some of the visiting alumni gave lectures or presentations about their current research, like Yuansheng Jiang (ZEFb alumnus from Sichuan Agricultural University, China) and Ademola Braimoh (ZEFc alumnus from Nigeria) on October 21, 2011. Professor Yuansheng Jiang gave a presentation on “Innovation of International Agro-Assistance in Wenchuan Earthquake Areas: Agro-Input Voucher and Its Evaluation”. Dr. Ademola Braimoh talked about “Climate-smart agriculture: panacea for challenges of climate change and food security?” The picture shows both visitors after their presentation together with ZEF staff.



Awards for ZEF alumni



Joy Mueni Kiiru (ZEFb alumna from Kenya) won this year's "Medal for Research on Development" in the category "Innovative Sources of Development Finances". The prize was awarded by the Global Development Network (GDN) at its 12th Annual Global Development Conference taking place in Bogotá, Colombia, from January 13-15, 2011. Joy Kiiru won the GDN Medal for her contribution on "Impact of microfinance on rural poor households' income and vulnerability to poverty" which she defended at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Bonn. Dr. Kiiru is an economist and did her PhD at ZEF from 2004 to 2007 on the topic of microfinance. After finishing her PhD she returned to the University in Nairobi, School of Economics, as a lecturer and senior researcher. She was nominated for and awarded several prizes.



Sayan Chakrabarty (ZEFb alumnus from Bangladesh) working at the Shahjalal University of Science & Technology, Sylhet in Bangladesh has been honored with the award in Social Sciences by the University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh. Dr. Chakrabarty received this year UGC award for his fundamental research on child labor, which has been

published in the multi-disciplinary international journal "World Development" and was co-authored by Prof. Dr. Ulrike Grote, Leibniz University Hanover, Germany. The grant is awarded annually in Bangladesh on the basis of a competition among the social science faculties of all public and private universities in the country. The national Minister of Finance of Bangladesh, Mr. Abul Mal Abdul Muhit handed over the award to Dr. Chakrabarty during a ceremony at the UGC auditorium in Dhaka, Bangladesh on April 27, 2011.

The research outcome of Chakrabarty and Grote, as published in their article "Child Labor in Carpet Weaving: Impact of Social Labeling in India and Nepal" in the journal "World Development", indicates the impact of social labeling on child labor in India and Nepal, see doi:10.1016/j.worlddev.2009.03.013



Usman Khalid Awan (ZEFc alumnus from Pakistan) currently working as an Assistant Professor at the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan, has taken the lead in acquiring research funds under the recently established German-Pakistani Research Collaborations Program of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). Together with colleagues from ZEF, he successfully applied to a call by the DAAD with a project proposal on "Improving Irrigation Water Use in the Punjab Province of Pakistan by Raising Flexibility and Integrating Surface and Groundwater Resources". The project was one of 13 projects selected out of 34 applications for further funding.

Charles Eyong (ZEFa alumnus from Cameroon) has won the 2nd prize at a drawing among participants of a DAAD online tracer study. The prize includes a round-trip ticket to Germany for visiting ZEF and participating in a conference in 2012.

Beloved family, friends, and colleagues commemorate Konrad Vielhauer



Nearly 100 persons gathered in Burgbrohl to remember Dr. Konrad Vielhauer who passed away on December 8th 2011. Konrad was dear to all who knew him. He was seriously ill since some time but impressed us by his tremendous courage and kindness. He kept working on the Global Water System Project (GWSP) at ZEF until a few days before his death. Konrad worked for ZEF since 1999 and made important contributions to water and land related research, including in Brazil and Africa. We convey our deep felt condolences to Konrad's dear wife Stefanie and their children.

News from ZEF alumni

Kirsten Kienzler (ZEF alumna from Germany) has left ICARDA and Uzbekistan and is working now at the International Bureau of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research at the Project Management Agency c/o German Aerospace Center (DLR) in Bonn. In her new position she has responsibilities for Central Asia. kirsten.kienzler@dlr.de

Gerd Rücker (ZEF alumnus from Germany) also found a new position at the Bureau of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research at the Project Management Agency c/o German Aerospace Center (DLR) in Bonn. Gerd.Ruecker@dlr.de

Hong Ching Goh (ZEF alumna from Malaysia) has found a new position as a senior lecturer at the Department of Geography, Faculty of Arts and Social Science, Universiti Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. gohhc@um.edu.my

[um.edu.my](mailto:gohhc@um.edu.my)

Chian-Woei Shyu (ZEFa alumnus from Taiwan) is working now as an Assistant Professor at Department of Political Science, National Chung Cheng University, Min-Hsiung, Taiwan. cwshyu@ccu.edu.tw

Ayodele Ajayi (ZEFc alumnus from Nigeria) working in the Department of Agricultural and Environmental Engineering, Federal University of Technology, Akure, Nigeria, has received an award for a 6-month Georg Forster Research Fellowship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation for a postdoc visit in Germany. ayo.ajayi@gmail.com

Ademola Braimoh (ZEFc alumnus from Nigeria) found a new position as a Senior Natural Resources Management Specialist at the Agriculture and Rural Development Department (ARD), The World Bank, Washington (ademola_b@hotmail.com). He has sent us the links to two informative videos on Climate Smart Agriculture:

<http://live.worldbank.org/open-forum-food-crisis/response/climate-smart-agriculture>

and

<http://microlinks.kdid.org/learning-marketplace/blogs/cracking-nut-interviews-ademola-braimoh-world-bank-agricultural-challenge>

We congratulate **Seid Nuru Ali** (ZEFb alumnus from Ethiopia) and his wife to the birth of their second child. It is a boy called Omer. Seid is working at the Ethiopian Economic Association and Ethiopian Economic Policy Research Institute, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He is also a visiting lecturer of the ZEF Doctoral Studies Program, where he lectures econometrics. sali1@uni-bonn.de

Lazare Tia has become Assistant Professor at the Institute of Tropical Geography (IGT), University of Cocody – Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. Lazare Tia is also a Regional Coordinator of the German Alumni West and Central Africa Network (GAWCAN). ltia@gmx.com

ZEF Calendar 2012 just published

ZEF has published a calendar again for 2012 with pictures from field research in different regions of the

world. You may order this calendar for free by sending an e-mail with your current mailing address to us.

Miscellaneous

The World Bank Soil Carbon Sequestration website provides a web-tool to analyze the carbon sequestration potential of different land management practices. Soil carbon sequestration through sustainable land management technologies offers triple win by enhancing agricultural productivity and reducing rural poverty, offering effective solutions for limiting greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere, and building natural soil capital and minimizing the variability of agricultural ecosystems to climate change and variability. Information on carbon sequestration potential of a location can be derived by point-and-click or by searching using place name. The database allows users to download and integrate Geographical Information System data with other information to estimate soil carbon stock changes for different agricultural projects. <http://www-esd.worldbank.org/SoilCarbonSequestration/>

Google recently has developed a free program for dealing with messy data sets, where researchers often waste a lot of time. We had a look at the video on the main page <http://code.google.com/p/google-refine/> We think it is very useful to handle huge data sets.

There is a new facebook site called "watermonitors2015". You may like to check it out and if you want to, facilitate the site to grow into a global monitoring tool.

German Alumni Water Network (GAWN) offers an interesting network for young professionals and former students of German universities and development associations in Germany. Registered users of the database have the opportunity for using detailed search functions within the database to identify potential collaborators, to locate former colleagues, and to establish new links. Registered alumni receive the newsletter automatically. Other parties interested in the newsletter may contact the network via: [GAWN\[at\]uni-siegen.de](mailto:GAWN[at]uni-siegen.de). For more information and registration go to <http://www.gawn.de/>.

Here is a guide from the European Science Foundation on how to peer review research projects. This might be useful for many of us who regularly review research projects and papers. <http://www.nature.com/news/2011/110504/full/473017a.html>

ZEF has released a movie informing about research activities and outcome of the ZEF/UNESCO project in Uzbekistan. See: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FPxD0b4Cxnw>

You can watch the 20-minute movie in English, German and Russian.

jobs.ac.uk has just launched a brand new CV service to help you find your next job. Upload your CV today - <http://bit.ly/shRNbC> - and give yourself an advantage by making your CV visible to top employers now. By uploading your CV and creating a profile on jobs.ac.uk you could let your next job find you. Over 5,000 employers from leading UK and international universities, large research institutions, colleges, charities and commercial organisations use jobs.ac.uk and they are looking for high calibre candidates.

If you would like some help uploading your CV please see the help page - <http://bit.ly/vQUC4g> - for FAQs and how to contact the service.

Selected new discussion papers from ZEF available at <http://www.zef.de/discussionpapers.html>

- The formation of international migration policies when no country has an exclusive policy-setting say
- A concern about low relative income, and the alignment of utilitarianism with egalitarianism
- The New Cooperative Medical Scheme (NCMS) and its implications for access to health care and medical expenditure: Evidence from rural China
- Should China revisit the 1994 fiscal reforms?
- The environment and human health - An agenda for Research
- Pro-active farmers and supportive municipalities in Ethiopian dam projects
- Rebuilding livelihoods after dam-induced relocation in Koga, Blue Nile basin, Ethiopia
- The economics of desertification, land degradation, and drought - Toward an integrated global assessment

- Why would some migrants choose to engage in degrading work?
- Forest coffee certification in Ethiopia: Economic boon or ecological bane?
- The reinvention of agricultural service organisations in Uzbekistan - a machine-tractor park in the Khorezm Region
- Endogenous selection of comparison groups, human capital formation, and tax policy
- Harnessing the forces of urban expansion - The public economics of farmland development allowance
- The prospect of migration, sticky wages, and “educated unemployment”

Selected new publications from ZEF alumni

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Khamzina, A., J.P.A. Lamers and P.L.G. Vlek. 2011. Conversion of degraded cropland to tree plantations for ecosystem and livelihood benefits. In: Martius C., I. Rudenko, J.P.A. Lamers, P.L.G. Vlek (eds.): Cotton, Water, Salts and Soums - Economic and Ecological Restructuring in Khorezm, Uzbekistan. Springer Science+Business Media, B.V., 235-248.

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ZEF Annual Report to be published soon!

ZEF's Annual Report will give 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.

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