

CONTENTS

- *News about Staff and Guests*
 - *Doctoral Program*
 - *New Publications*
 - *Press*
-

NEWS about STAFF AND GUESTS

The BIOTA East E13 team has now eight members since Lucie Andeltova (Czech Republic) joined in as an assistant late last year and Renata Saizaki (Brazil) started to work on inverse auctions in environmental conservation as part of her master degree in economics.

The first WISDOM PhD scientific seminar took place at the UNU-EHS in Bonn from December 19–21 2007. The seminar was organized by UNU-EHS and focused on the WISDOM project's subtopics ranging from a general project progress report to an introduction of the respective PhD research concepts as well as to a presentation of keynotes talks on the Mekong Delta by experts of different fields.

Conrad Schetter gave a keynote speech on „Nichtregierungsorganisationen in Afghanistan: Eine kritische Würdigung“ at the conference „Die Bedeutung der NGOs für die Entwicklung Afghanistans“. XXI. Iserlohner Afghanistan-Tagung at Iserlohn, December 14-16 2007.

DOCTORAL PROGRAM

Lazare Tia (ZEFc, Ivory Coast) successfully defended his doctoral thesis on "Modeling of Vegetation Dynamics and its Contribution to the Water Balance in Semi-Arid Lands of West Africa" on December 19 2007 in Bonn. He received his degree from the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Bonn. Tias supervisors were Prof. Dr. Paul Vlek and Prof. Dr. Sebastian Schmidlein. The exam committee consisted of Prof. Dr. Wilhelm Barthlott and PD Dr. Jürgen Burkhardt.

Seid Nuru Ali (ZEFb, Ethiopia) also successfully defended his thesis on "Rural Livelihood, Migration, and Human Capital Formation: The Ethiopian Case" at the University of Göttingen on December 20 2007. He received his doctoral degree in Economics. His supervisors were Prof. Dr. Stephan Klasen, University of Göttingen, and Prof. Dr. Michael Grimm, ISS. See also <http://www.zef.de> for his interview.

Anabelle Ragsag (ZEFa, Philippines) gave a presentation at the Conference "Citizenship in Wartime" at the Minerva Center of Human Rights and Faculty of Law in Tel Aviv, Israel from

December 27-31 2007. Her topic was "Citizenship Dilemmas in Conflict Prone Areas: The Southern Philippine experience".

Please note: Correction of ZEF im Zentrum no. 112:

Kazi Maruful Islam (ZEFa, Bangladesh) successfully defended his doctoral thesis on "The Impact of Health Sector Reform on State and Society in Bangladesh, 1995-2005" (and *not* on extreme poverty in Bolivia, as was reported!) He received his doctoral degree from the Faculty of Economics and Social Studies, University of Heidelberg, under the supervision of Prof. Subrata Mitra and Prof. Aurel Croissant on November 23 2007.

Blogs: Two ZEF doctoral students are currently writing blogs for the ZEF homepage. Tyler Frazier (ZEFc) from the USA and Flávia Feitosa (ZEFc) from Brazil are reporting regularly about their experiences while doing field research. So if you want to know more about how Tyler deals with land use planning issues in Ghana and about how Flávia Feitosa finds her way throughout the urban bureaucracies in a Brazilian town read their blogs at <http://www.zef.de>. If you are interested in writing a blog during your field research please contact Alma van der Veen, public relations officer (a.vdveen@uni-bonn.de, # -1846).

PUBLICATIONS and PRESENTATIONS

Abdullaev, I., Kazbekov, J. and Molden, D. (2007): "Water Conservation Practices in the Syr Darya Basin of Central Asia: Water productivity impacts and alternatives". *International Water and Irrigation Journal* 2: 121-127.

Abdullaev, I., Ul Hassan, M. and Jumaboev, K (2007): "Water Saving and Economic Impacts of Land Leveling: The Case Study of Cotton Production in Tajikistan Water Saving and Economic Impacts of Land Leveling: The Case Study of Cotton Production in Tajikistan". *Journal of Irrigation and Drainage Systems* 21 (3-4): 251-263.

Abdullaev, I., Giordano, M. and Rasulov, A. (2007): "Cotton in Uzbekistan: Water and Welfare". In: Proceedings of SOAS conference "Cotton Sector in Central Asia: Economic Policy and Development Challenges".

Mielke, K. (2007): "Lokale Ordnungsstrukturen im ländlichen Raum. Vorläufige Eindrücke aus Nordostafghanistan". In: *Afghanistan Info* 54.

Schetter, C. and Weissert, M. (2007): "Die Macht des Raumes". In: *Peripherie* 108 (27): 376-392.

Schetter, C. (2007): "Talibanistan – der Anti-Staat". In: *Internationales Asienforum* 38 (3-4): 233-257.

Schetter, C. (2007): „Die Herrschaft der Stämme“. In: *Internationales Magazin für Sicherheit*. 1 (November/Dezember): 24-25.

Schetter, C. und Glassner, R. (2007): "Bundeswehreinsatz und ziviles Engagement in Afghanistan". In: Südasien 27/28 (4): 96-99.

Schetter, C. and Glassner, R. (2007): "Bundeswehreinsatz und ziviles Engagement". In: Reader Sicherheitspolitik III: 1: 274-280.

PRESS

Till Stellmacher and Jörg Volkmann gave an interview to Deutsche Welle Radio on December 17 2007 on Ethiopian forest coffee and its certification and marketing as a specialty product.

Conrad Schetter gave the following interviews:

- Live-Interview on "Talking with the Taliban". Deutschlandfunk, December 27 2007,
 - Interview on "Afghanistan. Das Jahr 2007". Deutsche Welle. Extra, December 19 2007,
 - Interview on "Kidnapping in Afghanistan". DPA, December 17 2007.
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The next newsletter will be published in February 2008. Please keep in mind the *deadline for contributions*: February 15 2008.

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