



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

Concept Note

Alumni Network Meeting to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the DAAD Nairobi Regional Office for East Africa Nairobi, 19 September 2023

Context

In September 2023, the DAAD regional office for East Africa will be 50 years old. For half a century, the DAAD through its staff, lecturers, and a large alumni network, has been providing information in Eastern Africa about Germany as a choice destination for higher education study and research, and advising on funding opportunities, scholarships and university cooperation. Germany enjoys a good reputation as an economic, political, and universities partner country. The German-East African academic relations, together with the 60 years of diplomatic relations, have shaped the biographies of many alumni and are visible in the regional diversity, including the diversity of cultures, disciplines and academic traditions.

The alumni network has been an integral part of the DAAD's work in East Africa, growing over the years and boasting over 10,000 scholarship recipients in various programmes in all disciplines and fields of study.

Conference Objective

The DAAD has supported significant careers in East Africa for over 50 years, namely in Ethiopia, Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. The result is: People with impressive experiences, encounters and stories that have triggered and are triggering impact in their home countries. The Alumni Meeting thus offers an unique opportunity in bringing together these experiences and knowledge, as well as the people who have supported cooperation between Germany and East African countries from the various decades of DAAD funding programmes, to share the experiences, network and strengthen longstanding ties with the DAAD.

Participants

Alumni from the countries for which the regional office is responsible - Ethiopia, Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda and Tanzania - who are actively involved in alumni work and in German-East African academic relations are invited to the regional alumni meeting in Nairobi. Attention is paid to a balanced distribution according to subject areas, funding programmes, gender and age. Representatives from public sector, private sector and civil society who have accompanied and supported the DAAD for years are also welcome to attend the meeting.



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The Secretary General of the DAAD, Dr. Kai Sicks, will on this occasion visit Nairobi with a small delegation and press representation and take part in the celebrations and alumni event.

Event Format

The one-day network meeting on 19 September 2023 is planned for up to 100 alumni and guests to physically attend. The hybrid format with livestreaming allows other alumni from the region and partners from Germany to participate online. There will be a kick-off event with welcome addresses and keynotes, a panel discussion and an alumni gallery walk.

Conference language: English

Associated partners

The event is supported by the German Embassy Nairobi and organised in cooperation with the University of Nairobi. Conference rooms have been rented at the University of Nairobi and the Norfolk/Fairmont Hotel will host the overnight guests.

Event management and organisation

The Regional DAAD Office in Nairobi is responsible for event planning and implementation.

Accompanying measure

An anniversary page was launched on the DAAD Nairobi website with the history and chronology of 50 years of DAAD work in East Africa and with 50 alumni portraits.

Link to the anniversary website: <https://www.daad-kenya.org/en/50-years-daad-in-ea/>

Contact

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