Towards the implementation of WAI Strategic Plan 2016-2020

Dear Readers,

In the current edition of the Newsletter of the West Africa Institute (WAI), you will discover the main activities led by WAI from January to June 2016, as part of the strategic partnership, scientific research as well as political and social dialogue.

We also present the publications of our associate researchers in the journals «Critical Analysis and Action Strategies» and “WAI-ZEI Paper”.

The first semester of the year 2016 was eventful for WAI with the signing in March of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and WAI. According to the Chairman of the Board of Directors of WAI, Ing. José Brito, this major act marks a decisive step in the development of WAI as a “think tank” in charge of accelerating the process of regional integration in West Africa.

Leading the study on the evaluation of the Regional Strategic Plan (RSP) 2011-2015, WAI is logically part of the implementation of the Community Strategic Framework (CSF) from 2016 to 2020 for the realization of the «ECOWAS of the Peoples» in the globalization context.

Large area of 5.1 million km² with 15 Member States and nearly 332 million inhabitants, ECOWAS has a regional GDP of USD 734.8 billion, making it the 25th most powerful economy in the world. The potential of the region is huge and it urges to transform it into a development tool to the benefit of all social and professional groups.

ECOWAS was created on 28 May 1975 in order to «foster cooperation, intensify efforts towards regional integration, with the ultimate aim of establishing an economic union in West Africa that will raise the standard of living of its citizen, maintain and increase economic stability, strengthen relations between Member States and contribute to the progress and development of the African continent».

Institutional, security, democratic, socio-political and technological challenges facing the ECOWAS region are immense, but not impossible to rise. In this context, human capital is crucial, and we have to act right now!

WAI has just adopted its 2016-2020 Strategic Plan in line with the vision of the region and is committed to contribute to the emergence of an ECOWAS and a West Africa Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) focused on the needs of the peoples in order to promote their intellectual wellbeing, as well as to raise their living and working standards and to enable the implementation of a peaceful and borderless region.

WAI thanks all its Promoters and Strategic Partners for their constant support.

Prof. Dr. Djénéba Traoré
Director General
West Africa Institute (WAI)
Publications

WAI Critical Analysis and Action Strategies (WAI-CAAS)

WAI-CAAS Nr. 1-2016 — Fatoumata Kéïta: Women and Regional Integration in West Africa: Which Way forward to attain Gender Equality?

WAI Study Reports

WAI Evaluation of the 2011 - 2015 Regional Strategic Plan

WAI Strategic Plan 2016-2020

WAI-ZEI Papers


WAI Scientific Activities


Ing. José Brito, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cabo Verde and current Chairperson of WAI Board of Directors and Prof. Dr. Djénéba Traoré, the Director General of WAI participate in the Regional Dialogue on Emerging Trends and Challenges of Electoral Democracy in Africa...(Read more)

The Director General of WAI participates in the National Consultation on Scientific Research in Mali, Bamako, May 16-19, 2016

The central theme of the consultation, organized for the very first time in Mali, was entitled: «Scientific research and innovation at the heart of the Republican project» and aimed i) to consider, amend and validate the draft National Policy for Science, Technology and Innovation and its implementation plan, ii) to define the road map for the adoption process and identify the ways of implementing the policy and iii) to define the evaluation and monitoring mechanisms... (Read more)
Participation of the Director General of WAI in the Third Strategic Dialogue of the Pedro PIRES Institute for Leadership Praia, 14 May 2016

Following the kind invitation of the Pedro PIRES Institute for Leadership, the Director General of the West Africa Institute (WAI) took part in the Third Strategic Dialogue on the theme «Which Human Capital for which Development?» Prof. Dr. Djénéba Traoré contributed to the Panel 1, entitled «Education and Development: How to Promote a Virtuous Circle?». Prof. Traoré introduced the topic in commenting on quotes emphasizing the origin almost as old as humanity and the universal character of education, such as: «Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.» Nelson Mandela (1918-2013)... (Read more)

4th Academic Week of International Relations and Diplomacy of ISCJS The Director General of WAI presents Challenges and Perspectives of ECOWAS, Praia, 12 May 2016

At the invitation of the Higher Institute for Law and Social Sciences (ISCJS) of Praia, the Director General of the West Africa Institute (WAI) held a conference on regional integration in the frame of the 4th Academic Week of International Relations and Diplomacy of ISCJS, celebrated from 9 to 14 May 2016. In her introduction, Prof. Traoré gave an overview of the five (5) Regions making up the African continent and presented the main Regional Economic Communities (RECs), before stressing the key role of History in the construction of the cultural identity of individuals and nations... (Read more)

Signing of a Memorandum of Agreement between the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the West Africa Institute (WAI)

Signed by HE Kadré Désiré Ouédraogo, President of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and by HE José Brito, Chairman of the Board of WAI, the objective of the Memorandum of Understanding is to strengthen the collaboration between WAI and the ECOWAS Commission in order to support ECOWAS efforts in the realization of its 2016-2020 Community Strategic Framework. The Agreement also aims at promoting the financial sustainability of WAI for a period of ten (10) years for its transformation into a Center of Excellence for regional integration in West Africa...(Read more)

WAI Director General addresses the Importance of Research Centers at the official Opening of the Centre of Law, Economic and Social Studies (CEJES) of the Higher Institute of Juridical and Social Sciences (ISCJS) Praia

Chaired by the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, (MESCI) Dr. António Correia e Silva, the opening ceremony of the Centre for Judicial Studies, Economic and Social (CEJES, http://www.cejes-uan.org/) of the Higher Institute of Juridical and Social Sciences (ISCJS, www.iscjs.edu.cv/) Praia, Cabo Verde, was marked by several interventions. Two conferences were then presented on the selected theme, namely: «The Importance of Research Centers». The speakers were Prof. Dr. Francisco Veiga of the University of Minho (Portugal) and Prof. Dr. Djénéba Traoré, Director General of the West Africa Institute (WAI). The conference was moderated by Prof. Odair Barros Varela... (Read more)
WAI participates in the Country-level Stakeholders Consultations of WASCAL in Cabo Verde

On the invitation of the Cab Verdean Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation (MESCI), Dr. António Leao de Aguiar Correia e Silva, the West Africa Institute (WAI) has participated in the Country-level Stakeholders Consultations of West African Science Service Center on Climate Change and Land Use (WASCAL), organized in the building of the National Institute for Research and Agricultural Development (INIDA)... (Read more)

ARISA presents innovative approaches to regional integration research coordination in Africa, particularly regarding the issue of migration

The numerous and tragic deaths in the Mediterranean Sea are calling upon all African and European governments to act on how to best address migration challenges and implement policies which may be decisive for the future of regional integration in both continents. It is also an important issue for the Republic of Cabo Verde as a country of historically and projected high mobility rates. With this statement, His Excellency the Prime Minister of the Republic of Cabo Verde, José Maria Neves; addressed the participants of the 8th WAI-ZEI Study Groups Meeting... (Read more)

Under the Aegis of the Africa Trade Network (ATN), UNECA and TWN-Africa organize a Colloquium on Continental Free Trade Area and a Civil Society Strategy Meeting, Accra, Ghana, 29.02. – 03.03. 2016

On invitation of Third World Network-Africa (TWN-Africa) and the Africa Trade Policy Centre (ATPC) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the Director General of WAI, Prof. Djénéba Traoré, participated in the Colloquium on Continental Free Trade Area: Internal Coherence and External Threats and Civil Society Strategy Meeting on Advocacy around Africa’s Emerging Trade & Development Challenges, held in Accra, Ghana... (Read more)

Visit

Secretary of State of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, Dr. Degol Mendes, visits WAI

Welcomed by the Director General of WAI, Prof. Djénéba Traoré, the Minister informed that he was sojourning in Praia in the frame of the meeting of GIABA (Inter-Governmental Action Group Against Money Laundering in West Africa) and Specialised Agency of ECOWAS. He wanted to take advantage of this opportunity in order to know about the state of affairs of the activities of the Institute and particularly emphasized the role played by research for the socio-economic development in Africa... (Read more)

Internships

The West Africa Institute (WAI) hosts Ms Aleida Mendes Borges

Ms Aleida Cristina Mendes Borges, a Cabo Verdean national and an MSc student in Research for International Development at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London, is staying at the WAI since the beginning of June for 3 months internship.

Ms Borges hopes to take advantage of her time at the WAI to build her research capacity on the challenges of regional integration as well as Cabo Verdean Politics and Governance... (Read more)
WAI hosts Sidy Mariko and Oyewole Simon Oginni for three months internship

The West African Institute (WAI) is hosting for three (3) months internship Mr. Sidy Mariko and Mr. Oyewole Simon Oginni, both students for a Master's Degree in Governance and Regional Integration at the Pan African Institute of Governance, Humanities and Social Sciences (PAGHSS) in Yaounde, Cameroon.

WAI welcomes Eike Felix Hägerbäumer, Master Student at the University of Bonn, Germany

The West Africa Institute welcomes Mr. Eike Felix Haegerbaeumer, currently student of Political Science at the University of Bonn for a two-month internship. Beforehand Mr. Haegerbaeumer obtained a Bachelor’s degree at the University of Duisburg-Essen and spent an academic year at the Institut d'études politiques de Lille (Sciences Po Lille). (Read more)

Social

WAI Director General invited to the Regional Consultation for Strengthening Regional Networks Dialogue in West Africa, Lomé, on 28 and 29 June 2016

The Director General of the West Africa Institute (WAI), Prof. Dr. Djénéba Traoré, took part in the regional consultation for strengthening the regional dialogue between West African Networks on the invitation of the Chairman of the Network of the Platforms of West African NGOs (REPAOC), Dr. Dionisio Pereira. The event was held in Lomé, from the 28th to the 29th of June 2016.

The consultation which followed the meetings held in 2015 in Ziguinchor (Senegal) at the invitation of POSCAO (Platform of West African CSOs), and in 2016 in Praia (Cabo Verde) at the invitation of REPAOC «initiate a constructive dialogue between the main Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in West Africa in order to adopt sustainable development strategies for the West African Civil Society Organizations Forum (WASCOF), to asset and to set up a collective engagement framework aiming at influencing regional public policies regional of the West African institutions.»

During two days, the members of the CSOs constructively shared on their common objectives and the main tasks on which they should focus their activities in order to contribute to the realization of Vision 2020 of ECOWAS.

During the meeting, Prof. Oumar Ndongo from the Cheick Anta Diop University (UCAD) and Prof. Dr. Djénéba Traoré respectively presented contributions on the main civil society networks in West Africa and on the objectives and major challenges of ECOWAS focusing on the involvement of CSOs in their resolution.

WAI invited to the Constituent Assembly of FOSACO in Cabo Verde

The Director General of the West Africa Institute (WAI), Prof. Dr. Djénéba Traoré, participated in the Constituent Assembly of the Forum of Organizations of Civil Society Cabo Verde (WACSOF) on invitation of Dr. Dionisio Pereira Simões National Director of SOS Children's Village and Chairman of Network Platforms of West African NGOs (REPAOC). The workshop took place on April 11, 2016 at the Santiago hotel of Praia.

The opening ceremony was marked by the speeches by Dr. Ney Cardoso, National Director of Political Affairs and Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MIREX), Dr. Dionisio Simões Pereira and the Director General of WAI.

The session was also attended by Mrs. Elisabete Menes of the United Nations System representation, Mrs. Carla Folgoa of the Delegation of the European Union in Cabo Verde and the leaders of twenty national CSOs. Mr. Renato Frederico from WAI Executive Secretariat has contributed as facilitator.

At the end of the workshop, the participants proceeded to the official creation of a WACSOF National Cell headed by a Coordination Team and to the establishment of freely composed by CSOs Working Committees that have expressed the wish to be part of the National WACSOF Cell. A period of one year was given to the Coordination Team in order to prepare the next steps.
WAI participates in the preparatory and consultative meeting of the Regional Networks of Civil Society Organizations

At the invitation of the President of REPAOC, Dr. Dionísio Simões Pereira, the West Africa Institute (WAI) took part in this major event and moderated the fruitful exchange between key regional network of Civil Society organizations (CSO) in the sub-region that was held on the 28th January at the Hotel Santiago Praia. In the line with the agenda, Dr. Pereira invited Mr. Ablam Benjamin Akoutou, Coordinator of the WAI - ZEI research project at WAI, to provide an overview of WAI in general and in particular the vision, mission as well as research and publications activities of the Institute... (Read more)

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