



CPMRD NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 1
1st February 2008

Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution Department [CPMRD]



CPMRD TEAM BUILDING WORKSHOP

EARLY last month, the Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution Department (CPMRD) of the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) held a 2-day team building workshop at Akosombo, to design its plan of action for 2008. The event, which was held between 7-8 January, was expected to feed into the

strategic planning meeting of the KAIPTC.

The event was sponsored by the German Development Cooperation (GTZ) project at the KAIPTC to strengthen its institutional collaboration with CPMRD. The key objectives of the workshop were to: (i) outline and streamline activities of

Cont. story on page 4



From left: Eric Opoku, John, Prosper and Dorcas at the Akosombo workshop

Inside this issue:

CPMRD Team Building Workshop	1
CPMRD Lecture Series	1
Martin Luther King Award	2
International Seminar on Fragile States	2
Research, Publications and Conferences	3
Employee Profile & Contact Address	4

CPMRD LECTURE SERIES

THE first of the 2008 Lecture Series of the Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution Department (CPMRD) was held at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) in Accra, Ghana on January 24, 2008.

The Lecture Series provides the platform for sharing ideas and to facilitate conceptual thinking. Issues for discussion relate broadly to conflict prevention, management, resolution and peacekeeping in Africa.

This month's lecture which was delivered by Miss Dorcas Onigbinde and Ms Rosalie Amani, both Research Interns at CPMRD, discussed two issues on:

1. The impact and lessons learnt from the security crisis in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria and;

2. The challenges of peace operations and civilian protection in Cote d'Ivoire.

Among the key issues raised by the speakers were: (i) exploring the nexus between natural resource management and conflict prevention, management and resolution in member countries in West Africa; (ii) the use of violence and militancy in the resolution of disputes over natural resources; (iii) the proliferation of militant groups in the West African sub-region and their sources of funding; (iv) human rights violations and protection and (v) Security Sector Reform (SSR) processes in peace support operations in Cote d'Ivoire.

During the discussions, strong arguments were held over why Ghana, despite its natural resource endowment including the recent

discovery of crude oil in commercial quantities, continues to remain politically stable in the midst of the crisis in the ECOWAS sub-region. The consensus held was that just like the ongoing political crisis in Kenya- which used to be one of the test cases for peace and democracy in Africa- Ghana's peace is still fragile and that useful lessons should be drawn from the Kenyan crisis especially, as Ghana prepares for a general elections in December, 2008.

Mr Prosper Nii Addo, a Research Fellow at CPMRD, chaired the session

Cont. story on page 4



Miss Dorcas Onigbinde and Ms Rosalie Amani at the CPMRD lecture



Martin Luther King, Jr. Award for Peace and Social Justice

THE inaugural Martin Luther King, Jr. Award for Peace and Social Justice by the Embassy of the United States of America was held at Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KA IPTC) on 15 January 2008 to mark the 79th anniversary of the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

This year's award was to be given to a Ghanaian citizen who has best personified the philosophy and actions of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in peacemaking, social justice and stabilisation.

The first co-recipients of the award were: Bishop Vincent Nii-Boi, Catholic Bishop of Yendi and founder of the Yendi Peace Committee, and Alhaji Al-hussein Zakaria, founder of the Community Development Youth Advisory Centre, and an influential

figure within the Islamic community in Tamale.

The U.S Ambassador to Ghana, Pamela E. Bridgewater who presented the awards, praised both recipients for their show of courage, dedication and hard work in promoting peace in the Northern Regions of Ghana in the wake of the Dagbon crisis. She was optimistic that the peace process in the Dagbon area will be consolidated.

The recipients, in separate speeches thanked the U.S embassy for the great honour accorded them by recognising their work and asked that prayers continue to be said for lasting peace to prevail in Dagbon. They also hoped that others would be inspired by the award to work for peace in the country. The Tema Youth Choir was in attendance to grace the occasion.

International Seminar on Fragile States in West Africa

THE conference on the post-conflict situations in West Africa's fragile states - Sierra Leone, Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire- organized by the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), the Laurier Centre for Strategic Military and Disarmament Studies (LCSMDS) and the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KA IPTC), was held in Accra, Ghana, from December 6-7, 2007. The conference focused on the peace-building efforts currently underway and the role of the private sector in leading the reconstruction initiatives in those three states.

The conference brought together leading international academics and respected policy-makers from around the continent and elsewhere, who have been directly involved in issues relating to peace-building efforts and economic reconstruction initiatives. Their task was to expand ideas and policy-related recommendations on the steps that are necessary to ensure that these fragile states do not slide back into civil strife, but rather become a catalyst in the further economic growth and political stability of the West African sub-region. The aim was to highlight lessons learned which will then be incorporated in a book to be published by Wilfred University Press.

At the ceremony to open the conference, the Commandant of the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Centre, Maj. Gen. John Attipoe, thanked the organizers of the conference and wel-

comed the participants, recalling that the private sector has a key role to play in the peacebuilding process. The Commandant tasked participants at the conference to come out with policy recommendations that will help address the challenges facing the private sector in peacebuilding initiatives.

The Canadian High Commissioner to Ghana called on the participants to find solutions to address the link between conflict and natural resources, particularly in the three countries, adding that the Canadian government has instituted measures such as the Kimberly Certification Process in Liberia and Sierra Leone to help address the situation. He added that sooner, Cote d'Ivoire will join the Kimberly Process. The High Commissioner singled out corruption as one of the major obstacles that confront the reconstruction process in three countries.



A section of participants at the fragile states conference at KA IPTC



Research, Publications and Conferences

- ◆ **Dr. Kwesi Aning** participated in a Digital Video Conference (DVC) discussion on AFRICOM at the American Embassy in Accra, Ghana on January 16, 2008. The conference discussed the prospects and consequences of AFRICOM to Africa's peace and security.
- ◆ **Prosper Nii Addo** served as a facilitator on the KAIPTC-DDR training course for African personnel in peace support operations from 3-14 December 2007. About 32 participants from UN peace missions including those in Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Burundi, The DRC and Haiti took part in the course jointly organized with GTZ.
- ◆ **Prosper Nii Addo** has submitted his paper on: "*Ghana's Foreign Policy and Transnational Security Challenges in West Africa*" for publication in the special issue of the Journal for Contemporary African Studies on Transnational Security Challenges in West Africa.
- ◆ **John Opoku** is currently working on two research proposals titled; "*Understanding the challenges of state fragility*" and "*HIV/AIDS in Peacekeeping Operations in West Africa*."
- ◆ **Samuel Atuobi** is currently writing a Monograph on *Peace Support Operations and Elections in West Africa*. The study examines the role of Peace Support Operations (PSOs) in the conduct of post-conflict elections in West Africa and its overall impact on peace implementation, democratization and development in post-conflict societies. The paper, when completed, will contribute to the enhancement of the role of PSOs in the organization of post-conflict elections.
- ◆ **Andrews Atta-Asamoah** revised a joint paper on Military Challenges in West Africa for publication in Vol. V of the Hexagon series in Germany. He also served as a Course Director on MNE-5/HASE 2008 Workshop 1 hosted at KAIPTC from the 21-25 January 2008. The workshop brought together an international body of 28 health experts to deliberate and act on Africa's response to global epidemic risks and the creation of a community of mutual support and understanding that will maximize capabilities within the context of humanitarian and health sector emergencies.
- ◆ On 22 January, 2008, **Ernest Ansah Lartey** submitted a report on: "Ghana Defence Force, HIV/AIDS and Peacekeeping" to the Centre for Security Sector Management (CSSM), Cranfield University (UK) as part of KAIPTC contribution to the UNAIDS project. The report was coordinated with the Institute of Security Studies (ISS) in South Africa.
- ◆ On 24 January, 2008, **Dorcas Onigbinde, Angela Odai, Samuel Atuobi and Ernest Lartey** participated, as guest speakers, in the Model United Nations (UN) Delegates Conference at Lincoln Community School in Accra, Ghana.
- ◆ **Dorcas Onigbinde** is currently carrying out field research for her occasional paper titled: "*Natural Resource Management and its Implications for National and Sub regional Security*" in Port Harcourt, Nigeria. Her aim during this field trip is to interact with non-governmental organizations in the area as well as to assess some challenges occurring on the ground. She returns to the Centre on February 6, 2008. Dorcas was also a course director of the Model UN Delegates Conference. ,
- ◆ On 23 January, 2008, **Dorcas Onigbinde** and **Rosalie Amani** were guest speakers at the CPMRD Monthly Lecture Series at KAIPTC. Both presented papers on their respective research work at the Centre.
- ◆ **Adibeli Nduka-Agwu** is currently on a field trip to Freetown and Monrovia to gather primary data from UNMIL and UNAMSIL/UNIOSIL. Adibeli hopes to complete her field research by early February 2008.
- ◆ **Evelyn Avoxe** covered and reported on the Inaugural Martin Luther King Junior, Awards Ceremony, for the CPMRD Newsletter. This event took place on January 15, 2008 at KAIPTC.
- ◆ Upon invitation by the ECOWAS Gender Development Centre, **Mr David Nii Addy** participated in the regional task force meeting to support the setting up of the Regional Peace and Security Network for Women. The meeting took place in Dakar, Senegal between 31 January and 2 February 2008.
- ◆ **Mary Antwi** is currently undertaking a research on military diplomacy and accreditation which she hopes to finish by the end of February.

Jokes Corner

A guy was standing by the road waiting for a lift in the middle of a heavy night storm. After waiting for what seemed like ages, he saw a car slowly approach and stop by him. Without verifying from the driver, he jumped into the seat and banged the door before realizing that there was nobody behind the steering wheel.

The car then started moving slowly. Looking ahead, he realized the car was fast approaching a curve. Scared about how the car would negotiate the curve, he started praying and shouting for help. Then just before the car could skid off the road at the curve, a hand appeared through the window and turned the steering wheel. Scared and paralyzed by fear, he stole glances each time the hand appeared to turn the wheel.

He then mustered courage and jumped out of the car and ran to the nearest township. Wet and in shock, he went to a bar (blue kiosk) and asked for two shots of "Akpetshie" after which he narrated his horrible ordeal to the people at the bar. About half an hour later two guys walked into the same bar, wet and out of breath. Looking around and seeing the guy, one said to the other, "Look, Prosper, there's the idiot that got into the car while we were pushing it."

- Courtesy Bella Ekue





Employee Profile - Mr Prosper Nii Addo

MR Prosper Addo was appointed Research Fellow at the KAIPTC from June 1, 2004.

His main research areas focused on transnational crime in West Africa, mercenarism, peacemaking processes in West Africa/ West African peace agreements, small arms, security sector reform/ governance, the responsibility to protect in Africa, transitional justice issues, specifically truth

and reconciliation commissions and sub-regional/ regional security architecture in Africa.

He also played a major role in the design and facilitation of CIMIC, DDR and Negotiations Courses at the Centre.

He has recently been appointed by the African Union Commission as the Senior Political/Humanitarian Affairs Officer in Liberia.



Mr Prosper Nii Addo- Research Fellow, KAIPTC

Team Building Workshop: *Cont. story from page 1*

the department for the year; (ii) explore options for strengthening external networking and collaborations of CPMRD; (iii) build and support research capacities at the department especially, young researchers and interns; and (iv) strengthen inter-departmental linkages at the KAIPTC.

The opening day of the workshop was facilitated by Mr Eric Opoku,

UNDP Governance Programme Officer in Accra. The team was taken through various concepts and practices of team building which were interspersed with some simulation exercises.

Closing the workshop, Dr. Kwesi Aning, Head of Department of CPMRD urged the young researchers to strive for excellence in their various research work. He

was particularly thankful to GTZ for sponsoring the team building exercise. He was followed by Mr. David Nii Addy, GTZ Technical Adviser who advised colleagues to continue to share information to ensure effective team building.



From left: Mr Nii Addy, Evelyn and Adi



A section of CPMRD staff at the team building workshop



From left: Andy, Dr Kwesi Aning and Dr Thomas Jaye

LECTURE SERIES: *Cont. story from page 1*

which was attended by; Dr. Kwesi Aning, Head of Department, CPMRD; Dr. Thomas Jaye, Senior Research Fellow, Mr David Nii Addy, GTZ Technical Advisor; Col. George McGarr, Executive Director; Col. Derek S. Deighton, Training Development, all senior management members at KAIPTC.

The next lecture which comes off later in February 2008 will feature Mr Ernest Ansah Lartey and Miss Adibeli Nduka-Agwu who are also both research interns at CPMRD. The two will be making presentations on: "The Dynamics of Refugee Flows and Repatriation in West Africa" and "The Compar-

ative Analysis of Implementing Gender Guidelines in UNMIL and UNAMSIL/ UNIOSIL in Liberia and Sierra Leone" respectively.

EDITORIAL TEAM
Andrews Atta-Asamoah
John Opoku
Dorcas Onigbinde
Evelyn E. Avoxe
Newsletter Template created by Awa Ceesay Ebo
E-copy is designed by Andrews Atta-Asamoah,
available@www.kaiptc.org
Editor in Chief: Ernest Ansah Lartey

Contact
Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution Department [CPMRD]
Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre [KAIPTC]
PMB CT 210 Cantonments
Accra, Ghana.
Phone: 233 (0) 21 718 200 Ext 2007
Fax: 233 (0) 21 718 201
E-mail: ernest.lartey@kaiptc.org



A section of KAIPTC participants at the lecture



Policy Brief



The Challenges of Restoring Stability to Fragile States in West Africa

By
Ernest Ansah Lartey¹

The West African sub-region has since the early 1990s, been devastated by armed conflicts that have led to large-scale atrocities, mass displacement of populations and a general sense of insecurity. In what has been subtly referred to in most security discourses as fragile states in West Africa, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Côte d'Ivoire were the most affected states by these conflicts. However, after several efforts at peace mediation, these countries are gradually instituting peacebuilding measures for effective political governance. Most of the peacebuilding efforts in these states have generally focused on reconciliation, disarmament, demobilization, reintegration, human rights and security sector reforms.

In September 2002, Côte d'Ivoire was plunged into a civil war which was triggered by a failed coup d'etat, led by some 700 retrenched soldiers (and their allies within the Army), many of whom had their roots in the deprived northern part of the country. The root causes of the conflict revolved around the exclusion of Northerners from Ivorian politics. The following two years bore witness to peace agreements that were never implemented because of differences among the key actors. But since the Ouagadougou Peace Agreement signed on March 4, 2007, the violence has subsided. However, the country still remains divided. The major issues that need to be addressed in the Ouagadougou agreement include: elections and national identification; disarmament, demobilization and re-integration (DDR); restructuring of the army; removal of the zone of confidence; and the establishment of a joint-brigade.

So far, the zone of confidence has been dismantled. This has allowed the national administration to be extended to the northern regions. There are concerns though that the DDR process has not been comprehensive and will therefore contribute to arms proliferation in the West African sub-region. Subsequently, the support of the international community is required to synchronize all the DDR programmes currently ongoing in the ECOWAS sub-region.

"The ongoing Liberian security sector reforms should address mainly, the disconnection between the army and the police service"

After conducting what was described by international observers as one of the most transparent elections in any post-conflict society in Africa, Sierra Leone is beginning to establish democratic structures requisite to consolidate peace and security in the sub-region. This must be complemented by the mandate of the United Nations (UN) peace mission in the country which is likely to be extended for another nine (9) months after which a political office will be established to help the government conduct its local government elections. It is expected that the proposed extension will lead to the commencement of the drawdown process of the mission. The challenge that confronts the drawdown process is to ensure that it does not compromise the security of the country. Again, in order not to leave any governance vacuum, the drawdown process should be preceded by a long term bilateral and multilateral cooperation with the government in order to ensure accountability and transparency in administering the affairs of the country.

Following the successful Presidential and Legislative elections that led to the election of the first female President in Africa, Liberia has initiated a lot of reforms in the judicial and

¹ Ernest Ansah LARTEY is a Research Intern at the Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution Department (CPMRD) of the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) in Accra, Ghana.

security sectors. In the judicial sector, some of the reforms include: creation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC); adoption of new rule of law reform strategy; renovation of court houses and prisons through the UN Quick Impact Projects (QIP); screening of all judges and magistrates in the country; comprehensive training programme for legal professionals; enactment of new laws on rape, jury trial, financial autonomy of the Judiciary, and national ban on shotguns.

In the security sector, warring factions have been disbanded and over 100,000 former combatants have been disarmed and demobilised. Many weapons and ammunitions have been collected, registered, and destroyed through the DDR process. The restructuring of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) has led to more than 13,700 officers being demobilized and reintegrated.

However, the ongoing Liberian security sector reforms should address mainly, the disconnection between the army and the police service. Most especially, there is the need for proper supervision of the private security company, DynCorp which was contracted by the United States government to train officers in the Liberian new army. Efforts must be made to ensure that the DDR process feeds into the overall security sector reform. Currently, a draft design of the national security strategy has been submitted to the government for adoption. Some of its key elements, it is hoped will include:

- Broadening the gender base of security personnel at all levels as well as restoring national pride in the national security;
- Restoring and strengthening democratic control over the national security system;
- Streamlining the national security strategy to conform with international human rights and rule of law standards, and
- Integrating the national security plan into the ECOWAS security architecture.

Apart from the fact that the DDR programme did not have local inputs in its conception and design, budgetary constraints also created a gap between disarmament and demobilization on one hand, and reintegration on the other hand.

It is interesting to note that DDR in both Liberia and Sierra Leone focused more on the training aspects of the programme. Little was done to equip beneficiaries in the post-training situation. In Liberia for instance, the psychosocial programmes including counselling sessions for war affected victims were not properly coordinated, thereby leaving many people outside the DDR scheme. The reintegration process must seek to address the concerns of the vulnerable population in the country.

The impact of the ongoing trial of the former Liberian President, Charles Taylor in The Hague introduces an intriguing scenario in the West African security context. It is assumed that there may be some level of responsibility associated with Charles Taylor and his role in the conflict in Sierra Leone. The decision to transfer him to The Hague was a strategic move by the UN to establish a culture of deterrence to people of similar thinking and behaviour on the African continent. The Hague provides a global platform from which human rights actors can monitor the trial proceedings and outcomes more closely and openly, without any judicial disruptions. This is a feather in the cap of international efforts at seeking peace, reconciliation and justice, not only for the people of Liberia, Sierra Leone or West Africa, but for the world at large. On the other hand, his case could have triggered violent agitations within the ECOWAS sub-region had he been tried in the special court of Sierra Leone. Part of the reason being that some elements in the now disbanded Revolutionary United Front (RUF) in Sierra Leone still owe loyalty to Taylor and may have been tempted to use some mischievous tactics to shield him from prosecution.