Second International Conference on Democratic Governance in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East

Conference Theme: Issues, Constraints, and Opportunities in Democratic Governance

Place: Kigali, Rwanda

Dates: June 25-27, 2014

Call for Proposals

The purpose of this conference is to bring together an international group of scholars and practitioners from diverse disciplines (economics, sociology, public administration, political economy, business, anthropology, law, political science, information technology, journalism, international relation, education, public health, etc.) to collectively explore the multiple facets of the problems and emerging opportunities of democratic governance around the world.

Interested scholars and practitioners in economic development and democratic governance are invited to share their experiences, discuss their perspectives, and present concrete proposals to help advance democratic governance in developing nations. More specifically, participants of the conference are encouraged to present papers and participate in group discussions on developing strategies for building sustainable democratic governance practices in developing countries. Since Rwanda is the host country, presentations on the problems of post-conflict societies are particularly welcome.

The issues conference participants could address in their papers include, but are not limited to:

- **The importance of home-grown initiatives and practices in building sustainable democratic governance**
  - Problems of social capital, political capacities, and democratic identity in participatory democracy
  - The role of local and national political culture in democratic governance
  - Lessons learned from worldwide home-grown initiatives in promoting democratic governance

- **Citizen participation in democratic governance processes**
  - Role of the youth in building sustainable healthy communities
  - The role of women in fostering development / democratic governance
  - The role of civil society organizations and NGOs in democratic governance
  - The information and communication technologies / E-governance and citizen participation in democratic governance
Democratic governance and integrity
  • Problems of corruption and ethics in politics and public service
  • Problems of transparency and accountability in the local and national governments and in international relations
  • Micro and macro-corruption in developing nations
  • Corruption in business practices of international corporations operating in local business and the intersections of these with corruption in governance

Public and private institutions and democratic governance
  • The role and function of collaborative and participatory forms of public governance in enhancing effective, democratic and innovative public governance.
  • Challenges of improving public service delivery
  • Public service and governance
  • Imitation versus innovation in public administration reforms
  • Role of educational institutions in advancing democratic governance

Governance and sustainable development
  • Governance and socio-economic transformation
  • Poverty and governance

Democratic Process in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East
  • Free and fair elections and their role in decision-making for poverty reduction
  • Role of media in democratic process
  • Arab spring and democratic process in Northern Africa and the Middle Eastern region

Governance networks and democracy
  • Impacts of regional political and economic organisations on governance in Africa, Asia, and other continents
  • The role of academia in democratic process in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East

Submission of Paper and Panel Proposals

The conference program committee welcomes proposals for high-quality conceptual papers, qualitative and quantitative empirical research papers, and policy- and practice-oriented papers. In addition to individual paper proposals, the committee encourages the submission of complete panels consisting of no more than three papers. Panel submissions should bring together complementary papers that address similar research questions or topics. Panel proposals should provide information on the overall theme of the panel and indicate how each of the proposed papers connects to the panel's theme.
Proposals from individuals at all stages of their careers are welcome. Proposals by graduate students are particularly encouraged and will be evaluated separately by the program committee.

The deadline for submission of proposals is December 15, 2013. Proposals will be evaluated by the conference program committee and proposers will be notified of the committee’s decisions via email by January 15, 2014. Email your proposals with your complete contact information, including institutional affiliation, to the conference program committee chair, Dr. Gedeon Mudacumura, Cheyney University of Pennsylvania, USA, gmudacumura@cheyney.edu. The members of the conference program committee are:

- Dr. Felicien Usengumukiza, Deputy CEO, RGB – Governance Research, fusengumukiza@rgb.rw
- Dr. Frank Okuthe, Executive Director (ICGLR – LMRC), frank.okuthe@icglr.org
- Dr. Jean-Bosco Butera, Director of the Africa Programme of the United Nations Mandated University for Peace, Ethiopia, jbutera@upeace.org
- Dr. Chika Ezeanya, School of Finance and Banking, Rwanda, chikadyke@gmail.com
- Dr. Shamsul Haque, National University of Singapore, polhaque@nus.edu.sg
- Dr. Posiah Mohd Isa, UniversitiTeknologi MARA, Malaysia, and Director of Education Malaysia Department in Washington DC, drposiahmsd@aol.com
- Dr. Anne Mette Kjaer, University of Aarhus, Denmark, MKJAER@ps.au.dk
- Dr. Oluwole Owoye, Western Connecticut State University, USA, Owoyeo@wcsu.edu

Submission of Conference Papers and Publication of Final Papers

Conference participants are encouraged to submit their conference papers to be posted at the conference website by April 25, 2014. The lengths of papers should be between 5,000 and 7,000 words, including references and endnotes. They should be sent electronically to Gedeon Mudacumura at gmudacumura@cheyney.edu. Authors should use the most recent edition of the American Psychological Association style guidelines (http://www.apastyle.org/) when they format their papers. The papers should be submitted to the program committee in a Microsoft Word or compatible format.

Participants may submit their revised papers after the conference for possible publication in an edited book by September 1, 2014. All papers submitted for the book will be peer reviewed and the authors will be notified of the final publication decisions by November 3, 2014.
Information about the Conference

Conference Organizers: Rwanda Governance Board & Cheyney University of Pennsylvania

Rwanda Governance Board (RGB) is a national institution established by law in 2011 with core mission of promoting the principles of good governance and decentralization, monitoring the practices of good governance in public and private institutions and conduct research related to governance for achieving good service delivery, sustainable development and prosperity.

Cheyney University of Pennsylvania founded in 1837, is the oldest of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) in America. The University’s Master of Public Administration (MPA) program is expanding its international focus on democratic governance.

Conference Venue: The plenaries and panels of the conference will be held at Serena Hotel, Kigali, Rwanda (http://www.serenahotels.com/serenakigali/).

More information about the conference program, hotel, travel, and tour arrangements will be soon available at the conference website.

Financial Assistance for Presenters: There will be a limited amount of funds available to support the presenters at the conference. The program committee will make the decisions to allocate the funds.