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LMRC contributes to the Eastern Africa Resilience Hub Seminar on the Elasticity of Democracy in Mosaic Societies



Group Photo: ICGLR- LMRC Executive Director, Dr Frank Okuthe and other participants

The Levy Mwanawasa Regional Centre for Democracy and Good Governance (LMRC) and two other regional Think Tanks namely the Nairobi Consulting House and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) have since 2015 been implementing the Eastern Africa Resilience Innovation Hub (EARIH) project with the support of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). The EARIH Project aims to establish a reference centre (Resilience Hub) for research and innovation in strengthening the resilience of States and societies in the Eastern Africa Region.

At the beginning of 2018, the Project commissioned a study on “Elasticity of Democracy” in eight (8) study countries in the Horn of Africa and Great Lakes Region namely the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Burundi, Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda, Somalia and Zambia. This study sought to identify and interrogate different models of democracy within ethnically divided or mosaic’ societies in Eastern Africa and evaluating their relationship with electoral conflict.

To further debate on the subject matter, the Eastern African Resilience Hub organised a Seminar on 22nd and 23rd May 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya to share experiences and lessons learnt so as to strengthen resilience among states.

Participants included researchers, policy makers, innovation thought leaders, civil society actors, private sector representatives and development practitioners from the East African Region and beyond. They were also representatives of IGAD and the Nairobi Consulting House. The LMRC was represented by its Executive Director, Dr. Frank Okuthe and the two Heads of Departments namely, Dr. Chantal Niyokindi, Fora and Observatory, and Mr. Pamphile Sebahara, Research, Training and Documentation respectively.



LMRC Participates in the Executive Committee Meeting of the ICGLR Regional Youth Forum

The Levy Mwanawasa Regional Centre for Democracy and Good Governance (LMRC) in advancing its mandate of facilitating the activities of the ICGLR Regional Fora participated in the Executive Committee Meeting of the ICGLR Regional Youth Forum held on 26th and 27th April 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya. The main objectives of the meeting were to amend the Regional Youth Forum Accord to enable the signing of the Host Country Agreement between the Government of Kenya and ICGLR Conference Secretariat and plan on the convening of the General Assembly and electing the Bureau of the Executive Committee and approving its composition.

The two day meeting reviewed, adopted and signed the revised ICGLR Regional Youth Forum Accord which paved way for the signing of the Host Country Agreement between the Government of Kenya and ICGLR Conference Secretariat in readiness for the launch and operationalisation of the Permanent Secretariat of the Regional Youth Forum. It also appealed to the ICGLR Conference Secretariat to organise a regional meeting of Ministers in charge of Youth Affairs to ensure ownership and sustainability of the ICGLR Youth Forum Secretariat by all the Member States.

It was also attended by Dr. Ludwig Chweya, Director General, Kenya School of Government on behalf of the Principal Secretary, Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs, Mrs Susan Njau, Director of Youth, Mr Wamunyu Kamau, Deputy National Coordinator of the Republic of Kenya, Mr Raymond Ochieng, Chief Executive Officer, National Youth Council, Amb. Ambeyi Ligabo, ICGLR Programme Director for Democracy and Good Governance and Mr Hamoosa Halubala, ICGLR-LMRC Programme Assistant.



Photo: Delegates at the meeting of the Executive Committee of ICGLR Regional Youth Forum: Mrs Susan Njau, Director Youth and Amb. Ambeyi Ligabo, ICGLR Programme Director (front row 3rd and 4th from right respectfully)

LMRC participates in the Child Protection Course



Photo: Mr. Lweendo Kambela (middle), a Human Rights Fellow at the LMRC receiving his participation's Certificate at the IPSTC in Nairobi, on 18th May 2018.

The Levy Mwanawasa Regional Centre (LMRC) of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) participated in the Child Protection Course at the International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC) in Nairobi, Kenya, from 7th to 18th May 2018. The Course was organised by IPSTC with support from the Danish Government.

The training course was designed for military officers, police officers, probation officers, corrections officers, humanitarian personnel, government officials, particularly those working with Ministries of Gender, Education, Social Welfare and Justice and civil society representatives.

The Course was attended by twenty participants from seven countries namely, Burundi, Comoros, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan and Zambia. LMRC was represented by Mr. Lweendo Kambela, a Human Rights Fellow attached to the LMRC's Fora and Observatory Department, under the Mandela Washington Fellowship (MWF) and USAID sponsored Professional Practicum.

The training enhanced participants' knowledge and understanding of child protection issues, including skills required for prevention, utilisation of holistic framework and response actions aimed at creating a protective environment for children in Peace Support Operations (PSOs).

Upcoming Events: July-September 2018

- The ICGLR Regional Inter-Ministerial Committee (RIMC) to hold its meeting in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo on 21st July 2018.
- Workshop on ICGLR'S Thematic Focus on Democracy and Elections in Bujumbura, Burundi from 29th -30th August, 2018

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LMRC contributes to the National Coordinators Meeting

The International Conference on the Great Lakes Region National Coordinators Meeting was held on 1st – 2nd June 2018 in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The main objective of the meeting was to receive and discuss a Report on current priorities and challenges of the organisation.

The meeting was officially opened by H.E. Aggée Aje Matembo Toto, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the DRC. He welcomed all participants to DRC and noted that the ICGLR remains the best mechanism for resolving conflict and ensuring security, stability and development in the Great Lakes Region. He noted the crucial role played by the National Coordination Mechanism in the implementation of the Pact and called for strengthening of the organization which is the primary responsibility of the meeting.

Ambassador Vinalu Kakese, the National Coordinator of the DRC welcomed participants to the meeting and urged them to reflect on the overall value of the organisation and build a strong institution that ICGLR Member States will continuously be proud to belong.

The Executive Secretary, Ambassador Zachary Muburi-Muita noted several myriad challenges facing the ICGLR which he cautioned the National Coordinators that resolving them requires taking stock and plotting the most optimal way to chart the course of the organization for the years to come and ensure that it delivers on its ambitious agenda.

The meeting availed an opportunity for National Coordinators to discuss the current financial situation of the Secretariat, including the status of Member States contribution. The meeting also considered the following questions, the progress in filling the vacant positions at the Conference Secretariat and its affiliate organs, the proposal for restructuring the Secretariat and its decentralised organs, as well as modalities to strengthen

coordination and synergy among all ICGLR structures, namely the National Coordination Mechanisms, the Conference Secretariat, its decentralised organs and the ICGLR regional Fora.

Meeting attendees included Ambassador Zachary Muburi-Muita, ICGLR Executive Secretary, LMRC Executive Director, Dr. Frank Okuthe and National Coordinators / representatives from the ICGLR Member States namely Republic of Angola, Republic of Burundi, Central African Republic, Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of Kenya, Republic of Rwanda, Republic of South Sudan, Republic of Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania, Republic of Uganda and the Republic of Zambia.