



University for Peace
Université pour la Paix



**UPEACE-IDRC DOCTORAL RESEARCH SELECTION
MEETING
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

9th and 10th October 2008

FINAL REPORT



Compiled by Tsion Tadesse Abebe



UPEACE Africa Programme
P.O.Box 2794 Code 1250
Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia
Tel: (251) 11 6180991
Fax: (251) 11 6180993
Cell: (251) 91 1837022 (Office)
E.mail:
africaprogramme@upeace.org
Web: <http://www.africa.upeace.org>

Geneva Office
7-9 chemin de Balexert, 1219
Châtelaine
Geneva, Switzerland
Tel : (41-22) 737-3080
Fax (41-22) 737-3090
E-mail : info@upeace.ch
Web: <http://www.africa.upeace.org>

Main Campus & Headquarters
P.O. Box 138-6100,
San José, Costa Rica
Tel: (506) 205-9000
Fax: (506) 249-1929
E-mail: info@upeace.org
Web: <http://www.upeace.org>

Table of Contents

I.	Executive Summary.....	2
II.	Introduction.....	3
III.	Welcome Remarks.....	3
IV.	PhD Award Applications.....	4
V.	Selecting Doctoral Research Award Candidates	6
VI.	Reflections on way forward.....	7
VII.	ANNEX.....	11
	Annex One: Participant's Profile.....	11
	Annex Two: Agenda.....	14
	Annex Three: Announcement.....	15

I. Executive Summary

The University for Peace (UPEACE) Africa Programme organized a Doctoral Research Selection Meeting from 9 -10 October 2008 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The main objective of the meeting was to select Doctoral Research Awardees for the UPEACE-IDRC PhD Award. This award is dedicated to African students studying at African Universities and at the final stage of their PhDs.

The award will support expenses including field research, data analysis, associated travel and production costs. In addition, part of the award may be used to access updated scholarly materials and disseminate research findings through publications and conference presentations. The maximum award is \$10,000 per eligible candidate.

The Award is part of a project on Peace Research Capacity Building, which is funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). In addition to the Doctoral Research Award, the project also offers PhD Fellowships (for candidates just getting enrolled in PhD Programmes), organization of three consecutive Peace Research Workshops and publication of the *Africa Peace and Conflict Journal (APCJ)*.

A total of 94 candidates from 26 universities based in 19 African Countries submitted their applications for the competition. 8 Awardees including one francophone and two women were selected.

The Selection committee of the Doctoral Research Award was composed of 14 academicians and researchers, who are based at different African and North-American institutions.

Further to the selection process, there was also a session in which the reviewers provided their feedback as to how to improve the process of selecting candidates in the future. Some of the points they reflected on include the review process, familiarity of selected applicants to Peace, Conflict and Development issues, potential for publication by selected candidates and points for improvement in the selection process.

II. Introduction: -

The University for Peace (UPEACE) was established in December 1980 as a treaty organization by the United Nations General Assembly resolution 35/55. Based in Costa Rica, UPEACE offers ten Master of Arts (MA) Degree Programmes in peace and conflict studies. The University also implements global initiatives aimed at building the capacity of international institutions to educate, train, and undertake research on critical matters of peace and security around the world. UPEACE has regional programmes in different parts of the World.

One of these programmes is the Africa Programme, which is based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Programme was officially launched in January 2002 after extensive, continent-wide consultations that aimed to develop a programme that would respond to the true needs, aspirations and obstacles in building peace in Africa. From its inception, the Programme has focused on stimulating and strengthening the capacity in Africa to teach, train and conduct research in areas of peace and conflict studies. The current focus of the Programme is Teaching, Training and Learning; Research and Outreach.

In support of the Programme's effort in building peace research capacity in Africa, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) extended financial assistance to run a project on Peace Research Capacity Building for three years (2008 – 2010). Ongoing activities under this project include offering Doctoral Research Awards (for candidates at the final stage of their dissertation), PhD Fellowships (for candidates at the beginning stage of their PhD Programmes), organizing three consecutive Peace Research Capacity Building Workshops and publishing a dedicated Journal called, ***Africa Peace and Conflict Journal*** (APCJ).

The objective of the Project is to build capacity and develop a network of expert researchers from academic and research institutions as well as civil society organizations who will contribute to efforts toward building peaceful and secure communities, inform policy, mediate political conflicts and prevent the initiation and escalation of violent conflicts through research, information dissemination and dialogue.

III. Welcome Remarks: -

The two-day meeting was officially opened by Dr. Jean-Bosco Butera, Director of Africa Programme, University for Peace (UPEACE) who extended a warm welcome to all participants and thanked the reviewers for

taking part in the Selection Meeting. He then gave a brief background to the Peace Research Project which he said was initiated in 2007 with the financial support from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). Dr. Butera mentioned a Peace Research Training conducted in March 2008 and the ongoing work to bring out a publication of the Africa Peace and Conflict Journal as the major activities undertaken so far.

The Director emphasized the need to make the selection process of the Doctoral Research awardees as transparent and fair as it can be. He also underlined feedback from the reviewers which he said will assist UPEACE Africa Programme to improve the process even more.

The IDRC's Senior Programme Officer, Ms. Rita Bowry on her part congratulated the team members involved in the Doctoral Research Award Selection process. She explained that the project provided for two full PHD Fellowships and ten Doctoral Research Awards out of which two Fellowships and two Doctoral Research Awards have been granted already. The current meeting was therefore meant to select the remaining eight doctoral research awardees. Ms. Bowry requested reviewers to consider Gender and regional representation in addition to the standard selection criteria.

Another Senior Programme Officer from IDRC, Ms. Njeri Karuru, explained that the Peace Research Project is a collaborative activity of Ms. Bowry's and her own Programme. She said that her project is supporting the Peace Researchers group, who participated in the March 2008 Peace Research Meeting. Currently, the researchers are writing their research papers to publish in the APCJ.

Ms. Karuru's remarks were followed by participant introductions. A total of 14 participants drawn from the academic and research institutions as well as representatives of IDRC and UPEACE Africa Programme took part in the selection meeting.

IV. PhD Award Applications: -

Dr. Elias Cheboud, Research Coordinator at UPEACE Africa Programme, gave a brief explanation about the Doctoral Research Award Application Process. He said 94 applications were received from students based at 26 universities in 19 African countries. The highest number of applications came from Nigeria. In terms of gender, 21 of the applicants were women.

The coordinator said that some improvements have been made to the whole process based on suggestions given during the first selection process (February 2008). The improvements include: amending the announcement (adding more details); increasing the time given for application (from 1 month to 3 months), using more channels to advertise the announcement (the website of UPEACE Africa Programme, ACT, East African Newspaper, and posting at the Graduate Studies of the Addis Ababa University notice board).

Furthermore, he said that significant time was allocated for short-listing candidates by staff of UPEACE Africa Programme. In this process, the following points were given emphasis - fields of study, submission of required documents, proposal's relevance to the field of study of Peace, Conflict and Development, as well as to methodology. Accordingly, 21 candidates were short-listed (19 Males and 2 Females). He explained that the short-listing was made strictly on merit basis and to help ease the work of reviewers who would otherwise be required to go through each and every application received. However, he stressed that the short-listing should not at all stop reviewers from weighing all applications.

Following the explanation, the reviewers suggested further improvements to the overall Award Process. In this regard, the following points were mentioned: establishing a Progress Monitoring mechanism, creating a Data Base of teaching programmes in the area of Peace and Conflict Studies in Africa, having Evaluation Forms to help the process and applicants, informing clearly expenses that will be covered by the grant, sharing comments of the reviewers with awardees, and paying honorarium for supervisors of selected PhD candidates to ease the process.

The reviewers also shared their feedbacks on the submitted applications based on their readings. These include: research methods of most proposals are not clearly written, most propose similar kind of research methods, most proposals give lots of emphasis on data gathering but less on data analysis, ethical issues related to gathering data are not well addressed, and most did too much work on conceptual framework in cases where it is not necessary.

Dr. Butera gave explanation to some of the points raised. With regards to developing a Data Base of teaching programmes in the area of Peace and Conflict Studies in Africa, he said that UPEACE Africa Programme published a list of such institutions in 2004 and that existing list can be updated to serve the purpose. He also expressed his agreement on the importance of establishing stronger relationship with supervisors. He said the supervisors have a big role to play in the whole process as awards are released

only after agreements are reached between the awardees and their supervisors. He also agreed to the idea of allocating a modest honorarium to supervisors as a token appreciation rather than payment of their service.

The UPEACE Africa Programme Director then introduced some of the upcoming activities of the Project, including a Peace Research Training Workshop in December 2008 for the already selected Doctoral Research Award winners. The Peace Researchers will also be expected to attend this meeting and also meet their mentors. This meeting will be followed by an advanced level Peace Research Training in March 2009, which will be attended by all of the PhD Fellowship candidates, Doctoral Research Award candidates and Peace Researchers. All candidates are expected to publish at least one article on the Africa Peace and Conflict Journal.

V. Selecting Doctoral Research Award Candidates: -

The reviewers held a thorough discussion on the applications submitted. They first looked at applications short-listed by UPEACE Africa Programme, followed by applications that were not short-listed and applications submitted from Francophone Africa. Accordingly, eight candidates (including one francophone and two women) were selected.

The criteria indicated on the announcement were used as the main guiding tools for selecting candidates, which are - a citizenship of an African country; enrolled in a PhD Programme in an African academic institution; applicant's Research Proposal must be approved by the PhD supervisor; the proposed research must take place within an African country, applicant must have completed all course work and passed the comprehensive examination (if applicable); applicant must have fulfilled all academic institutional requirements and applicant must have a Masters Degree in a related discipline.

In addition to the criteria, the following points were taken into consideration to select the awardees - submitting strong proposal, strong letter of support from supervisors, coherent Literature Review, and compatible and strong methodology.

On the other hand, reasons for rejecting applications include the following: -

- Lack of connection to Peace and Conflict studies in the proposal
- Poor methodology

- Poor literature review
- Lack of focused objectives
- Assumption is not supported by existing literature
- Lack of a letter of support from supervisor
- Proposal is not well developed

VI. Reflections on Way Forward

After the completion of the selection process, Dr. Butera initiated a general discussion on how to improve the process of the Doctoral Research Award in the future. Some of the discussion points he suggested include: putting announcement, reaching more people in the announcement, the follow up of the candidates because it is important to strengthen the working relations with universities and supervisors as they have a say on the final decision.

The reviewers suggested ideas on the different points raised. To improve the relationship between UPEACE Africa Programme and advisors of the awardees, the following ideas were suggested: sending official letters to supervisors, inviting supervisors to UPEACE Africa Programme activities which their advisees attend. This will enable the supervisors to understand better the UPEACE endeavor to build peace research capacity and the context in which their supervisees are granted the award.

On the announcement, it was recommended to clearly explain related fields, which will be considered. Specifically putting thematic areas that need research in the area of Peace and Conflict studies will also be helpful. In this regard, posting abstracts and topics of selected proposals on the website of UPEACE Africa Programme for the next call for applications will really help. This will help future applicants in giving them a sense what can be acceptable.

Following the discussions, the reviewers were requested to provide their reflective feedback in writing about the process of selecting the Awardees. The points they were asked to reflect on include : Initial review process, logistics, familiarity of selected applicants to Peace, Conflict and Development issues, clarities of research questions, objectives and methodological designs, the visibility of advancing knowledge in the field and selected candidates potential for publication.

The review process was rated by many of the reviewers as very organized, quite transparent, engaging and allowed time for reviewers to air their views.

They have also pointed out that the UPEACE Africa Programme team worked very hard to short-list applicants within a month of the competition deadline. This makes it easier for the reviewers to short-list candidates and ultimately pick the winners. Regarding the selection committee members, it was explained that there was good dynamics, which is an added advantage to the process. The chairperson was also doing an excellent job in facilitating the discussion.

Similarly, they said the process was logistically organized in terms of travel, accommodation, sending preparatory files and proposals. Furthermore, the summaries of applicants that was provided along with the applications helped the reviewers a lot.

To further improve the process, they recommended to consider the following points in the future: to have a column in the summary that indicates the stage of study of applicants, which will help in understanding expected needs, to distribute applicants' files ahead of the review meeting (at least 3 days before) to provide more time for reviewers, to send applicants' files electronically ahead of time, which would also offer a bit more time to spend on each file.

With regards to familiarity of selected applicants to Peace, Conflict and Development issues, some of the reviewers indicated that it was satisfactory. On the other hand, others pointed out that only few were comfortably familiar with issues of peace, conflict and development. They further suggested that the workshop on Peace Research Training will help most of them to overcome the issue.

The other points the reviewers reflected on was clarities of research questions, objectives and methodological designs. In this regard, many of the reviewers indicated that most of the applicants need to do a great deal of work to improve these aspects of their research work-research questions, objectives and methodological designs. In fact, these aspects were pointed out as one of the weaknesses of many of the proposals submitted. In order to improve skills in the area, organizing training in writing good proposals was recommended.

The next point that the reviewers gave their feedback on was the visibility of advancing knowledge in the field. In this regard, many of the reviewers indicated that the training process is the first step towards making this field more visible. In fact, most of the proposals encouraged documentary research in the field but visibility of knowledge base will only be explicit through publication.

As to selected candidates congruency of the African Peace and Conflict trends, few of the reviewers think that it is acceptable. On the other hand, the rest pointed out that most applicants do have awareness but there was need for depth in current sources, especially in peace and conflict studies. Some also commented that the scope of peace research is wide and needs to include general and global issues, not just research on addressing specific conflicts.

Regarding potential for publication by selected candidates, many of the reviewers indicated that they saw great potential in the candidates and that the training workshop, supervision, and mentorship will assist the candidates. In addition, it was also recommended that organizing a publication workshop can help them a lot.

Furthermore, the reviewers forwarded points for improvement in the selection process which include the following: -

- (1) Have selection committee members fill a simple evaluation form for each candidate to speed up the process at the time of the committee meeting and also will help UPEACE Africa Programme to provide comments to applicants, when necessary.
- (2) Give more time to selection committee for reading proposals to increase quality of assessment.
- (3) Advertise the competition for a longer period to give candidates more time to write good quality proposals.
- (4) Use the following phrases under the eligible fields of study - *applications will be considered from a range of disciplines, but applicants must demonstrate that their topic is strongly linked to peace and conflict studies.*
- (5) Use more means to advertise the call for proposals (in regional and national journals by prior contacts).
- (6) Establish a strong network that composed of current and past members of the selection panel to advertise through their contacts
- (7) Need to develop a form for evaluation of the proposals with set criteria on what to look for.
- (8) Need to be more specific on the call for applications to ensure that applicants ground their work in peace and conflict discipline.
- (9) More quantification of the evaluation process would be useful. For example, scores could be given for core measures like, (i) Strength of and relevance of applicant's background for Research (ii) Relevance of topic to Peace and Conflict Studies (iii) Research methodology (iv) Quality of applicants writing and level of effort in preparation

- (10) It would be better to identify specific themes of interest to the Africa programme to attract more focused proposals in the area of peace and conflict issues.

VII. ANNEXE

Annexe One : List of Participants

	<p>Dr. Naison Ngoma Programme Head Security Sector Governance, Institute of Security Studies (ISS), South Africa Tel: 27 12 346 9500 Fax: 27 12 460 0998/97 Cell: 27 78 780 9421 or 27 82 959 8314 E-mail: ngoma@issafrica.org n_ngoma@yahoo.com</p>
	<p>Dr. Edith Natukunda Togboa, Senior Lecturer Languages, Peace and Conflict Tel: 256 782 645 635 Fax: 256 414 220 761 Cell: 256 782 645 635 Makerere University Kampala, Uganda</p>
	<p>Ms. Rita Bowry Senior Program Officer IDRC Training and Awards Program Tel: 613 236 6163 # 2088 Fax: 613 567 7748 E-mail: rbowry@idrc.ca Ottawa, Canada</p>
	<p>Ms. Njeri Karuru Senior Program Officer-PCD IDRC-ESARO, Kenya Tel: +254 20 2713160/1 Fax: +254 20 2711063 Mobile: +254 733 731 693 Email: nkaruru@idrc.or.ke Website: www.idrc.ca</p>
	<p>Dr. Pamela Machakanja Senior Lecturer and Associate Director Zimbabwe Institute of Peace, Leadership and Governance (IPLG) Africa University P.O.Box: 1320 Tel:+ +263 20 66788 Fax : 263 2066788 Mobile: 0912 290659 Email: machakanjap@africau.ac.zw; machacs@mweb.co.zw</p>

	<p>Dr. Moses K. Tesi Professor, Political Science Middle Tennessee State University Peck Hall 246 Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37132 Tel: 615 898 5731 Fax; 615 8985460 E-mail: mtesi@mtsu.edu</p>
	<p>Dr. Mary Ellen Purkis Associate Professor & Dean Faculty of Human & Social Development University of Victoria PH: (250)721-8050 E: hsddean@uvic.ca W: www.hsd.uvic.ca</p>
	<p>Dr. Geoffrey Harris School of Economics & Finance University of KwaZulu-Natal Private Bag X54001 Durban 4000 South Africa Tel: 031 260 1186 Fax: 031 260 7871 E-mail: harrisg1@ukzn.ac.za geoff.hrrs@gmail.com</p>
	<p>Dr. Jean Bosco Butera Ethiopia Director University for Peace (UPEACE) Tel: +251 11 618-0991/251 11 618 0992 Fax: +251 11 618-0993 Mobile: Email: jbbutera@upeace.org Website: www.africa.upeace.org</p>
	<p>Dr. Tony Karbo Ethiopia Programme Officer University for Peace (UPEACE) Tel: +251 11 618-0991/251 11 618 0992 Fax: +251 11 618-0993 Mobile: Email: tkarbo@upeace.org Website: www.africa.upeace.org</p>

	<p>Dr. Elias Cheboud Research Coordinator UPEACE Africa Programme P.O.Box 2794 code 1250 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Tel: 251-11-618-0991 Fax: 251-11-618-0993 E-mail: Echeboud@upeace.org Web: http://www.africa.upeace.org</p>
	<p>Dr. Marcel Leroy Senior Research Associate Africa Programme P.O.Box 2794 code 1250 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Tel: 251-11-618-0991 Fax: 251-11-618-0993 E-mail: mleeroy@upeace.org Web: http://www.africa.upeace.org</p>
	<p>Mrs. Tsion Tadesse Ethiopia Programme Assistant University for Peace (UPEACE) Tel: +251 11 618-0991/251 11 618 0992 Fax: +251 11 618-0993 Mobile: Email: tabebe@upeace.org Website: www.africa.upeace.org</p>
	<p>Mrs. Rahel Getachew Ethiopia Administrative and Finance Assistant University for Peace (UPEACE) Tel: +251 11 618-0991/251 11 618 0992 Fax: +251 11 618-0993 Mobile: Email: rgetachew@upeace.org Website: www.africa.upeace.org</p>
	<p>Mr. Tewodros Assefa Ethiopia Workshop Assistant University for Peace (UPEACE) Africa Programme Tel: +251 11 618-0991/251 11 618 0992 Fax: +251 11 618-0993 Mobile: +251 911 428790 Email: tedylishes@yahoo.com Website: www.africa.upeace.org</p>

Annex Two: Meeting AGENDA

PhD Award Selection Meeting ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA 9 & 10 October 2008

Thursday
9 October 2008

TIME	ACTIVITY	PRESENTER
9:00-9:10	Welcome Remarks	Dr Jean-Bosco Butera, UPEACE Africa Programme Director
9:10 -9:25	Opening remarks	Rita/Njeri
9:25- 9:40	Introductions	All participants
9:40 – 10:25	PhD Award Applications	Dr. Elias Cheboud
10:30-11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00-12:30	Selection of Candidates	all
12:30-14:00	LUNCH	
14:00 – 15:30	Selecting Candidates	All
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee Break	
16:00 – 17:30	Selecting Candidates	All

Friday
10 October 2008

TIME	ACTIVITY	PRESENTER
9:00- 10:30	Selection of Candidates	All
10:30-11:00	Coffee	
11:00-12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reflections on Responses to call for applications and way forward• Strengthening collaborations with Universities for the follow up of candidates	
12:30-14:00	Lunch	

Annex Three: Call for Applications: UPEACE-IDRC Doctoral Research Award

26 June - 12 September 2008

Location: Africa.

The UPEACE Africa Programme has secured funding from The Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC). This funding will be strictly allocated to African students studying at African institutions and in particular for those, who are in the final stage of their PhD studies. The award is intended to support PhD candidates in their field research, data analysis, associated travel and production costs. In addition, part of the award may be used to access updated scholarly materials and disseminate research findings through publications and conference presentations. The maximum award is US \$10,000 per eligible student.

Eligible Fields of Studies

- Peace and Conflict Studies
- International Relations
- Political Science
- Human Rights
- Development Studies, and
- Related fields

Criteria for Eligibility for the Competition

- Must hold citizenship of an African country;
- Must be enrolled in a PhD Programme in an African academic institution;
- Applicant's Research Proposal must be approved by the PhD supervisor;
- The proposed research must take place within an African country.
- Applicant must have completed all course work and passed the comprehensive examination (if applicable)
- Applicant must have fulfilled all academic institutional requirements
- Applicant must have a Masters Degree in a related discipline

Required Documents (Certified)

To apply for the Application Students are required to submit the following documents as outlined in below and in the checklist (Please note incomplete applications will not be considered).

1. Completed [Check List](#) (signed and dated)
2. Cover Letter
3. [Application Form](#)
4. A personal Statement
5. Curriculum Vitae
6. Transcripts
7. Proof of Citizenship
8. Reference Letters
9. Research Proposal
10. Letter of Approval of Research Proposal

11. Budget

Please refer to the [check list](#) that includes detailed information necessary to qualify for the award.

Duration

The duration of the Award is two years from the time of notification of selection. Successful applicants will receive the first installment of the award within three months after the announcement of the winners. Future installments will be provided upon satisfactory progress and submission of narrative and financial reports.

Deadline

September 12, 2008

Complete applications must be received at the Office of the Africa Programme by the deadline. Incomplete applications will NOT be considered for the competition.

Selection Process

All applications will be evaluated according to **THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA SET FOR THE COMPETITION**.

Note: -

- The Application must be sent electronically (**via e-mail and fax**) and through the **Post Office** to qualify. It is critical that the hard copy must be received by the date of the deadline.
- Only **SHORT-LISTED** applicants will be contacted. Short listed applicants will be notified by **17 OCTOBER 2008**. Applicants, who have not been contacted on the notification day, should note that their application was not successful.
- Selected candidates are expected to attend Peace Research Training Workshops organized by UPEACE Africa Programme during the Award period. The Training Workshops will be held once a year. In addition, they are required to contribute at least one article to the Africa Peace and Conflict Journal (APCJ), which is published by the UPEACE Africa Programme.
- We encourage **RE-APPLICATION** for those who have not been successful in the last call for applications.

Applications must be sent to:

The Research Coordinator
UPEACE Africa Programme
P.O.Box 2794 code 1250
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Fax: +251 11 6180993
Telephone: +251 11 6180991/92
E-mail: echeboud@upeace.org and tabebe@upeace.org