Current and past events at HIPSIR

1. President Uhuru Kenyatta and The First Lady at the Final Vow Celebration of Dr. Elias Mokua Nyatete, SJ

On July 6, 2015 Hekima University College had the privilege of hosting His Excellence President Uhuru Kenyatta and The First Lady, Her Excellency Margaret Kenyatta at the celebration for the Final Vows of Dr. Elias Mokua Nyatete, SJ, who is a lecturer at HIPSIR. The event took place at HIPSIR and there were more than 400 people in attendance, including Jesuits from the different countries of Eastern Africa. Hongera Dr. Mokua!
II. Hekima Peace Forum: Oil Exploration In Turkana (Northern Kenya)

Mitigating Potential Conflicts & Maximizing Economic Opportunities

HIPSIR held a public forum on April 17th, 2015. The subject of the Forum was The Oil Exploration taking place in Turkana and the implications it has for Turukana’s local population as well as Kenya as a whole. The main speakers at this event were:


The main direction of the conversations was in relation to what the discovery of oil in Turkana will mean for Kenya’s future. The implications for Turkana, especially in relation to susceptibility of conflict situations within the area as a result of this discovery, was an issue of concern.

III. Breakfast Conversation On Burundi

Nkurunziza's Third Term: A test for democracy and regional peace

On 8th May, 2015, HIPSIR held a Breakfast conversation on the rising unrest within the state of Burundi. The discussions and analysis of the situation led to the realization that a majority of the citizens of Burundi were against the idea of President Nkurunziza running for a third term. This was especially based on the allegation that it would be against the agreements made in the Arusha Peace Accord. Regardless, President Nkurunziza still insists on running and this was termed as undemocratic by the conversants and a major threat to the Peace and Stability of Burundi.

In conclusion it was said that Burundi needed a leader who respects the rights of the citizens; one who fights for sustainable peace and development and is empathetic and accountable to his or her people.
IV. Hekima Peace Forum On Garissa Attacks

Exploring Spaces for Social Engagement and Strategic Response

HIPSIR held a public forum on the Garissa attacks on 8th May, 2015. The main Speakers at this Forum were:

1. Sheikh Ibrahim Lethome - Advocate, Kenya High Court & Muslim Scholar
2. Mr. Nahashon Kariuki - Researcher and Coordinator : Research, Learning & Policy Programme, Nairobi Peace Initiative, Africa (NPI-Africa)
3. Prof. PLO Lumumba - Director, Kenya School of Law/Advocate, Kenya/Tanzania, High Court.

The presentations and discussions alluded to the realization that there was a need to address issues of radicalization in an effort to counter violent extremism within the Kenya. It was also an issue of concern that Islam was being used as a tool for justification of violence even though its ideologies were fundamentally peaceful.

The role of the government was also discussed and there was a discontent expressed with regards to its inability to deal with issues of security as well as act on intelligence given as this should be used as a preventive mechanism for such attacks.

In conclusion it was clear that the solution lies in instilling values in the youth as radicalization starts at an early age. Interdependence through the creation of a common socio-economic identity based on pragmatic leadership and a genuine struggle against corruption will go a long way in developing sustainable peace thus deterring terrorism and politicized violence. After all, these issues are social constructs that can be averted or changed for the common good of the people of Kenya.
V. Consultative Meeting On Extractives Sector In Kenya

The Africa Centre for Open Governance (AfriCOG) and Hekima Institute for Peace Studies and International Relations (HIPSIR) hosted and coordinated a “Consultative forum on enhancing good governance, accountability and transparency in Kenya’s extractives industries sector” with the support of the Canadian Government. The Forum was attended by various experts from different sectors including officials from the government, from the private sector, and members of civil society organizations as well as academic institutions. The forum took place from 25-26 May 2015. The consultative forum had four core objectives:
(i) To increase awareness and bolster knowledge among sector stakeholders on the extractive industry sector;
(ii) To expose participants to international and regional frameworks, legislation and standards being applied in the extractive industry sector;
To share experiences on different community approaches currently being used to create and enhance an enabling environment in the extractive industry sector.

To contribute to the debate on policy perspectives and recommendations on Governance issues in the extractive industry sector.

The first day of the forum was dedicated to presenting the continental environment on extractive industries. The main question that came out was the exploration of the challenges and the opportunities of investing on natural resources.

The second day of the forum constituted presentations on the present perspectives of different stakeholders within the extractives industries sector as well as discussions on the way forward for the extractives industries within Kenya.

Consultative meeting presenters and HIPSIR & AFRICOG Organizing committee.
VI. Conflict Resolution, Peacebuilding And Reconciliation Certificate Course

HIPSIR conducted a certificate course on Conflict Resolution, Peacebuilding and Reconciliation on May 25-29, 2015. The course covered the following areas:

1. Contextualized analysis of African Conflicts
2. The challenge of Terrorism, Religion and Inter-religious dialogue
3. Practical skills in engaging with socio-political conflicts in Africa
4. Case study analysis of specific conflicts within Groups

The main facilitators for this certificate course mainly included:

1. Mr. Bernard Okok, Nairobi Peace Initiative Africa (NPI-Africa)
2. Ms. Lauretta Muhongo Madegwa
3. Rev. Dr. Kifle Wansamo, SJ, Deputy Director, HIPSIR

Certificate course participants and facilitators
VII. Leadership and Management Certificate Course

HIPSIR conducted a Certificate course on Leadership and Management. The certificate course was held between on 8th – 29th June, 2015. The course objectives mainly included imparting knowledge to the participants on the following areas:

1. Functional Management
2. Financial management
3. Project management
4. Operational Management
5. Leadership
6. Governance
7. Conflict and Cooperation

The ultimate goal of this course is to allow the participants to practice their skills in Planning for a project. Each participant was required to come up with a project proposal of their own choice so as to be able to appreciate the process of designing a project as well as begin the process of designing projects for the advancement of the vision of their organizations or for their own business visions.

The facilitators for this certificate course mainly included:

1. Mr. Bwibo Adieri, Organizational Development Advisor, Plan International
2. Rev. Fidelis Udahemuka, SJ, Executive Director, Jesuits Eastern Africa
3. Mr. William Kinai, Senior Consultant, Cadence Consulting Services
4. Ms. Florence Mpaayei, Senior Advisor and Coordinator, Peace Practice, HIPSIR
5. Rev. Dr. Kifle Wansamo, SJ, Deputy Director, HIPSIR
6. Ms. Lucy Akinyi, Advocate, High Court of Kenya
Leadership and Management certificate course participants and facilitators.

Contact us:
Hekima Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations (HIPSIR)
Hekima College, A constituent college of Catholic University of Eastern Africa
Physical Address: Riara Road off Ngong Road
Tel: +254 20 386 01 09 /+254 20 386 01 02
Mobile: +254 729 755 905
Email: secretary.hipsir@hekima.ac.ke