



International Newsletter – August 2013

Growth again...

It's good to be able to report two new IGI groups in the last few months: Nigeria (led by Timi, and based in Abuja) and Somalia (led by Yahya and Habiba, and based in Mogadishu). Both groups have only been registered after enormous personal effort by the founding members. Both countries greatly need the work of IGI. Welcome!

This newsletter also includes accounts of ongoing work by established groups. All over the world, corruption remains a drain on the resources of the poor, a barrier to a decent way of life, and dehumanizing. I am convinced that more could be achieved by our African members if we could provide more help from UK - expertise, networking and finance. IGI is a partnership. We need more people to become involved who have a passion to see people freed from the shackles of endemic corruption, to see God's law replace the standards of evil.

Thankfully, those fighting corruption have increasingly taken the initiative over the last twenty years, and two books reviewed below chronicle very well the growing campaign, led by Transparency International and others.

You can help this partnership by praying for, or otherwise supporting, IGI projects such as those below. For more information, please see our website: www.igi-integrity.com, or visit our Facebook group (www.facebook.com/groups/114264381979403).

Nigeria

Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa with 170 million people, but with a strong reputation for corruption. The photo below, (courtesy *The Guardian*) shows protesters who have got the message.

After much hard work Timi has managed to get an IGI group registered – Integrity 'Ododo' Development Initiative (Ododo is 'Integrity' in the Yoruba language, one of the largest of the local languages).

The group is based in Abuja, and can be contacted at: Nigeria@igi-integrity.com



Kenya

Sakwa continues his work of training CTAs across Kenya, together with his work as our General Secretary.

Somalia

In the last month, we have received news that IGI is also now registered by the Federal Government of the Somali Republic, as a local NGO, "In scrutinizing of valuable activities towards anti-corruption, good governance, civic education and training."

If you want to contact IGI in Somalia, in the first instance, please email paul@igi-integrity.com

Democratic Republic of Congo

The report from the IGI DRC seminar in April on "How to create and strengthen non-violent youth movements, peace building, and local governance" is now available on the IGI website (in French).

Fighting continues on and off between rebels and the authorities in Eastern Congo, despite the presence of UN peacekeepers. The situation remains unstable. Corruption and intimidation are rife. There is a great need for civic involvement, responsive government, and increased confidence in the authorities, which should then lead to greater stability.

The seminar has led to plans to promote increased understanding of citizens' rights and greater transparency on the part of local authorities.

For more information, please go to the website or email igi.drcprogram@gmail.com.

Cameroon

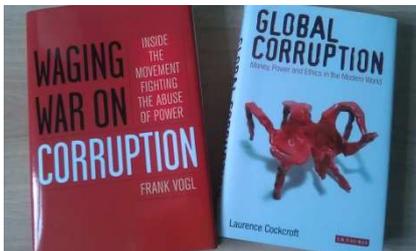
The new Vice Chancellor of the University of Buea has pledged to work with FITCAM in the monitoring of over 4.5 billion FCFA (5.8m GBP, 9m USD) of the university's development and infrastructure budget to ensure it is spent correctly as intended without fraud.

Meanwhile, FITCAM will build on its success in delivering anti-corruption training in Cameroonian universities to undertake another set of capacity- building exercises for University of Buea students leaders in September. Students need all the resources available for a good education, but also role-models of honesty and integrity.

FITCAM have also launched their own website www.fitcameroon.org , together with a hotline for reporting corruption.



Reading the story...



Two major books have been published about the fight against corruption – both well worth a read.

Frank Vogl (2012), *Waging War on Corruption* (Rowman & Littlefield)

Laurence Cockcroft (2012), *Global Corruption* (IB Taurus)

Cockcroft and Vogl both write about what they have seen over the last twenty years in leadership positions in Transparency International, Vogl in the central organization and in USA; Cockcroft more especially in UK. But both present a global view. In that time corruption has gone from being accepted as a fact of business to being a high-profile crime, a major focus of news and campaigning. This is very much due to their colleagues and to others – in rich and poor countries - whose stories they tell.

Both give a wide-ranging review of the terrible effects of corruption and its impact on human lives. Vogl gives a particularly detailed history of how TI was founded and developed - the events and forces which created the modern campaigns and legislation against corruption. He includes an account of the research that TI does. Cockcroft spends more time developing the reasons for corruption and what still needs to be done – the interplay of power politics, business, organized crime and culture. He opens up a world of shadow economies and secrecy jurisdictions. As Vogl also shows, the West is far from innocent, because of the effects of aid, military involvement (e.g. Afghanistan) and turning the blind eye in the interests of the economy. Cockcroft also interestingly discusses the reasons for the reduction in corruption historically in USA and UK and more recently in Singapore, giving hope that the war can be won.

Points for Prayer

- Recently-formed Nigerian Integrity Development Initiative and IGI in Somalia - for success in recruiting more members and developing project plans
- Continued protection for high-profile leaders in other established FITs, such as Sakwa, Stephen, Martin, Hilaire
- Peace and security in Eastern Congo, Northern Nigeria and Somalia
- Increased awareness and support by Christians in UK and Africa

and

- Thank God for success in setting up the Nigerian and Somali affiliates!

Don't forget to tell us if you are changing your email address