



International Newsletter – April 2017



From the Trustees...

Elections are in the news: France, UK, Germany... but also Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda. Kenya goes to the polls in August, and IGI is helping with the process (see article below). DRC remains poised on the edge of violence as Kabila clings on by delaying elections. Rwanda also polls in August. Away from elections, in Cameroon (FITCAM), IGI was recently officially declared by the government a recognized Foreign Organisation and continues its good work. We also thought you'd like to hear about another country, in which we don't yet operate, India.



As always, for more information, please go to www.igi-integrity.com, or join the discussion on our Facebook page.



Figure 1. Ewang Ngole on his premises before rebranding.

In this issue

- **From Creation Apocalypse to Creation Companies**
- **Corruption in India**
- **Kenyan Elections**
- **Rwanda's Institute of Governance plans the new semester**

From Creation Apocalypse to Creation Companies

The September edition of *International Newsletter* featured the fellowship in Business Management and Public Service Governance Training (BMF) in the town of Buea, Cameroon. This partnership between Buea Municipal Council and FITCAM (IGI in Cameroon) is aimed directly at improving the performance of local civil servants and business leaders, including training them in integrity and anti-corruption controls.

Ewang Ngole is a classic African entrepreneur, founder of "Creation Apocalypse". After benefiting from the BMF, he radically refreshed his business values, which he

reflected by rebranding his company (more prosaically) "Creation Companies".

Ngole says:

With the limited education and training I had in business management, I faced a number of challenges in growing my business, including capital management and working with other stakeholders such as taxation officers and even clients who repeatedly approach us to inflate prices and value of products on their receipts and invoice.

The Council recently instituted BMF-2, a mechanism for BMF fellows to receive follow-up mentoring. These exchanges help with overcoming new challenges the business operators encounter on their day-to-day interaction with clients and public officials, such as corruption, policy issues, management practices, marketing, profit maximization, environment protection, human trafficking and job creation.

Ngole again: “*I have come to understand that business is not solely about money, but serving your community and serving them diligently*”.

Corruption in India

In November, Jonathan McAllister, whom many of you know as our accountant, spent seven weeks in India working with a charity called *Slum Soccer*. Jonathan writes:

Strengthening general financial management and governance controls in NGOs is one of the ways in which the potential for corruption relating to donor funding can be reduced. From October to December 2016, I spent seven weeks volunteering my financial skills to help an NGO which uses football to aid social development in underprivileged children and young people, based in Nagpur, India. This was my first visit to a developing country and in many ways it was an eye-opening experience which gave me a valuable insight into some of the daily challenges of life which IGI members will also face in Africa. You can read more about my experiences in the blog which I wrote [here](#).

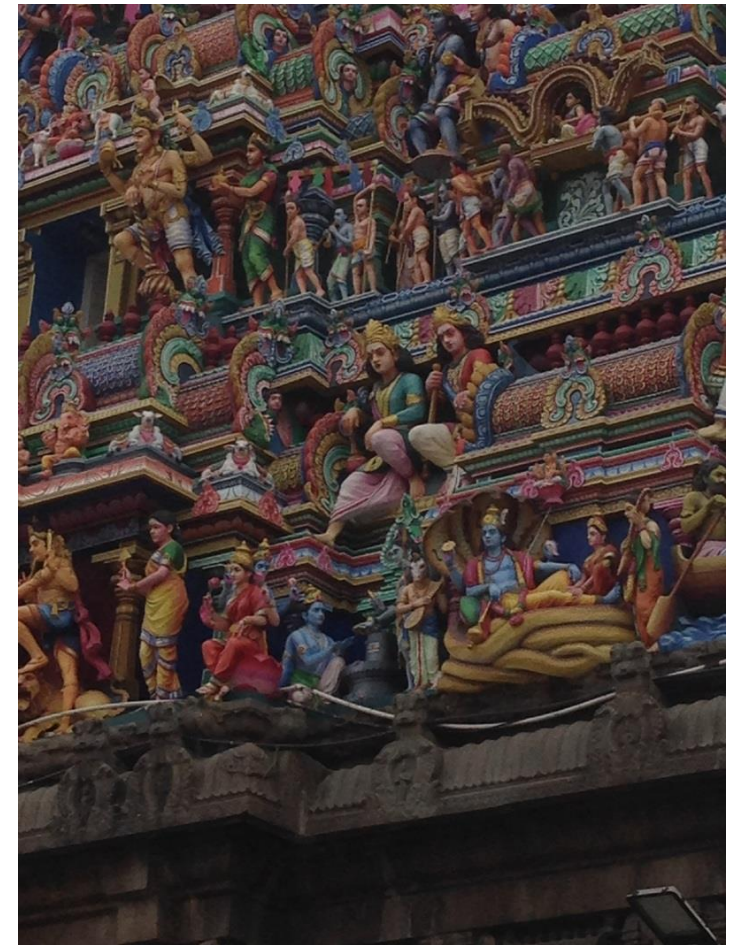
Although India, with a population of 1.25bn people, is known as the world’s largest democracy, corruption is a part of everyday life and I heard various anecdotes of its impact during my stay.

Friends I met who are establishing a new school for deprived village children have made extremely slow progress in dealing with the authorities to gain the necessary approvals because they are not willing to pay bribes to various local officials. Those wanting to study at college are obliged to offer additional ‘donations’ to be sure of a place. I also heard about people having to get into financial difficulty to pay bribes to secure a job and someone being falsely arrested for a crime they did not commit. People tend to do everything they can to avoid getting the police

involved in situations – for example after road accidents – to steer clear of being forced to pay bribes or being falsely arrested.

If you want to learn more, I can recommend reading a recent book by James Tooley – *Imprisoned in India: Corruption and extortion in the world’s largest democracy*. Professor Tooley is Professor of Education at Newcastle University and a renowned pioneer of low cost private schools in the developing world, including in India, and the book documents his awful experience of being arrested without charge and imprisoned in Hyderabad - all because a colleague failed to pay a bribe a decade before.

Figure 2. Artwork from a Hindu temple



Kenyan elections

In August Kenya will go to the polls again. The elections will include the post of President, National Assembly and Senate members, and the devolved government of the 47 counties. Already violence and vote-buying is being reported in the local primaries to choose who represents each party.

As in previous elections, IGI Kenya is using its network of Community Taxpayers' Associations to organise "Aspirants' Forums" at which candidates can be quizzed by the voters. IGI-K has developed a leaflet to brief the organisers of the forums to ensure that they are run efficiently and in a focused and fair way.

Hanging over the elections is the spectre of the violence during the 2007 election, which saw over a thousand killed and hundreds of thousands displaced after a disputed result.

Rwanda's Institute of Governance plans the new semester

Over the next few months, RIG will progress its anti-corruption programme on two fronts. As well as continuing educating high school students in the practice of integrity in society in Eastern Province and Southern Province, it plans to carry out a survey of local public service delivery in Kigali.

A similar survey carried out in Cameroon in previous years highlighted the police and judiciary as two of the services seen as most corrupt. We eagerly await the results from Rwanda's survey.

Please pray...

- Peaceful and fair elections in Kenya, and safety and effectiveness for Sakwa and other IGI Kenya members as they organize Aspirants' Forums;
- Continued impact from the work of Stephen, Didero and their colleagues in the BMF training of local leaders in integrity in Cameroon and in Stephen's other anti-corruption activities;
- For the success of education programmes in Rwanda and Congo (DRC);
- Provision for the financial needs of IGI and its African leaders (who are not paid a salary by IGI), particularly in Cameroon and Kenya;
- For the resources to extend the work to other countries;
- Wisdom for the Trustees as we try to use our resources more efficiently, maintaining a close relationship with those working on the ground in Africa.