



International Newsletter – April 2018



From the Trustees...

We are grateful to the Lord for a safe and successful IGI international conference in Cameroon on November 25th – not to mention the very useful meetings that followed (see below). Thank you for your prayers, too. Violence or political uncertainty remain a feature in Cameroon and Congo, but the work of building integrity continues. New programmes are starting in Cameroon, Kenya and Rwanda, which we hope to report in future Newsletters.

Meanwhile please do look at our newly relaunched website at www.igi-integrity.com . As always, we're happy to hear from you at paul@igi-integrity.com.



Figure 1 - The IGI delegation meets with the Minister for Small and Medium Enterprises, Professor Laurent Serge and colleagues.

Engaging with government in Cameroon

Over the last few months, IGI in Cameroon has taken a big step forward in broadening the attack on corruption and shaping new opportunities to build integrity.

The IGI 2017 International Conference in Limbé, Cameroon proved a very useful

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opportunity to have strategic meetings with key government ministers. The conference was followed by a three-day visit to Yaoundé, for discussions with the Minister for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises, the Minister for Employment and Vocational Training, and the Minister of State for Public Contracts. This was an unrivalled opportunity to present the work of IGI in promoting good governance and fighting corruption. It is intended that the meetings will lead to memoranda of understanding with the respective departments, for IGI to work with them in providing training in integrity on a wider scale than has been possible to date.

International concerns have been expressed about official corruption in Cameroon. But whatever the truth of such allegations, the individual ministers are keen for their departments not to suffer fraud. They also know that to achieve the ambitious growth targets set by President Paul Biya, they will need business confidence and external investment that will only happen in a stable, law-abiding environment.

Cameroon is a poor country with low per-capita GDP (ca. \$3,000 annually per person, PPP) and a low human development index (153rd). In practical terms, this means poor health, poor education and lack of employment opportunities. Cameroon is also threatened by Islamism in the north and Anglophone secessionist unrest in the west (the country is 80% Francophone, 20% Anglophone, but the economic engine tends to be the south-west, Anglophone region). It desperately needs investment, economic growth and increased employment. IGI wants to play its part by helping to create a climate of integrity.

Meanwhile the excellent training provided by IGI Cameroon in Buea over several years is set to develop further in 2018 with the new Professional Certificate in Public Sector Governance and Local Government Administration, including three key modules on

- Ethical Behavior in Public Organizations;
- Public Service Integrity and Corruption Risk Management;
- Money Laundering, Asset Recovery and Tracking of Stolen Assets.



Figure 2 Out of the window of the air-conditioned hotel...

Kenya update

In the last issue we reported concerns about fraud in the Kenyan general elections. As you have probably heard, the successful court challenge was followed by a rerun of the election, which the main opposition boycotted. The incumbent Uhuru Kenyatta was duly re-elected with 98% of the poll, but on a turnout of only 39% - the main opposition simply stayed away. Fortunately, fears of violence did not materialize.

IGI Kenya is now planning its strategy for the Community Taxpayers' Associations for the next few years, as they seek greater effectiveness in holding local government to account.

Congo update

After long delay, the DRC Presidential election scheduled for 2016, is now again rumored to be delayed – from 23 December 2018 into 2019. It has now been delayed three times by President Joseph Kabila, who having served two terms is constitutionally denied a third. A previous delay was supposedly due to lack of money for the cost of the election, and the current delay is put down to a surge of violence following nationwide protests. Meanwhile, violence is never far away from the east of the country (where IGI operates).

Nevertheless, the previous work by IGI in Goma has borne fruit in that the provincial government now recognizes the need to enhance resources for fighting corruption in North Kivu province. One of the consultants who helped with that work has been appointed to a role in the OBLC (Office for Good Governance and Anti-Corruption).



Figure 3 Explaining the work of IGI

Rwanda update

Integrity training will recommence in schools in Southern Province in May, following resolution of issues in negotiating permissions with local authorities. Plans are also in place to launch a programme monitoring and assessing corruption and conflict in work places, following agreement with a trades union. This will represent a major widening of the work of IGI in Rwanda (RIG).

Please pray for...

- Stephen and colleagues, for success in concluding good agreements to pave the way for widening the work in Cameroon;
- Peaceful resolution of political problems in DRC; safety for Martin / friends
- Hilaire and the new programme in Rwandan workplaces;
- Sakwa, for better health, and the new strategy for Kenyan CTAs.