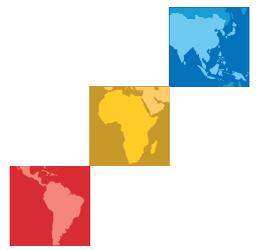
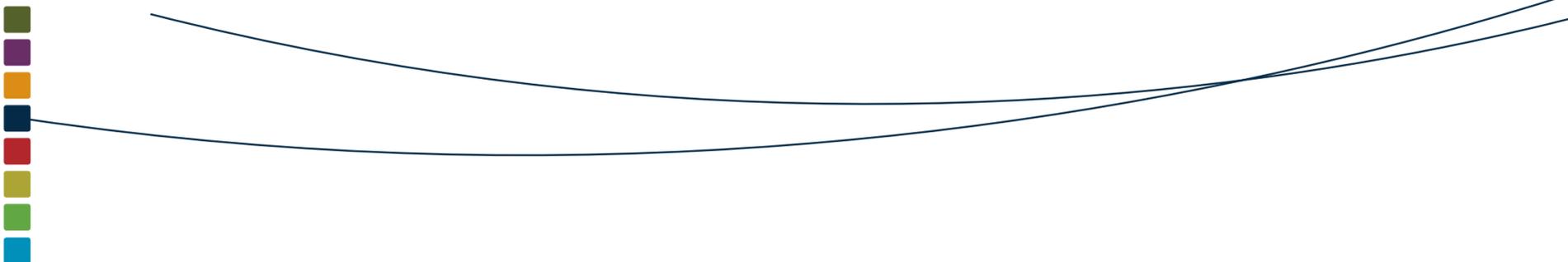


e-xchange to change **Alumni** magazine #1

April 2014



IOB
Institute of Development Policy and Management
University of Antwerp

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Exchanging knowledge

IOB believes in the power of knowledge sharing as a key factor in development. For many years already IOB has supported research projects between different actors, both North-South and South-South. More and more IOB tries to link knowledge sharing with its alumni policy, as is clear from the initiative that is described in this alumni letter, the starting up of an IOB Uganda Alumni Network.

Further on in this alumni newsletter you will find an article on fair trade with a link to an online discussion forum. IOB wants to encourage knowledge sharing between its alumni, and since you live in very different countries, this sharing will mainly be done online. Please do share your opinion with us on our e-forum!

IOB has also rethought the concept of this alumni newsletter, because we want to improve communication with our alumni. We decided shorter but more frequent editions of Exchange to Change which link to e-forums would be a better way of keeping in touch with all of you. From now on there will be three short e-alumni newsletters, 'E-xchange to Changes', and one large 'Exchange to Change' in September, to be printed and given to the outgoing and incoming students.

We hope that this E-xchange to Change will be an e-xperience for you and that you will share your thoughts and ideas on our e-forum. After all, exchanging knowledge is our main mission!

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Eva Vergaelen



Debating Development debate in Antwerp on 'How 'fair' is Fair Trade Food?

How 'fair' is Fair Trade Food?

The 'Debating Development' series that was once again organized by the University of Antwerp and the University Foundation for Development cooperation (USOS) included a debate on fair trade, which a large number of IOB students attended. The two speakers were Sushil Mohan, professor at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, and Lily Deforce, General Manager at Max Havelaar. A step by step summary of the debate, which reflects their two contrasting perspectives, is provided below.

What is fair trade?

Fair trade is a social movement that aims to support the weakest members of the supply chain, the farmers, by enabling better trading conditions, decreasing the role of middlemen, and promoting overall sustainability. Fair trade products are being sold all over Europe and the US and even in Southern countries, using big marketing campaigns.

Sushil Mohan contests the tendency to view fair trade as unambiguously beneficial on three counts. Firstly, he maintains that fair trade is oversold. Secondly, he claims that the concept is misunderstood, and thirdly, that it is unethical. We'll now have a closer look at these three arguments, as well as at the counter-arguments of Lily Deforce.

Is fair trade oversold?

According to Sushil Mohan only 10 percent of the premium paid for fair trade products goes to the producer, because of the high bureaucratic and marketing costs involved. He argues that fair trade is thus in a sense itself becoming a kind of middle man. Lily Deforce concedes that only 10 percent goes to the producer, but explains that when the market crashes, the fair trade producer earns twice or even triple the amount the non-fair trade producer does, because of the minimum price guarantee. Moreover, once fair trade is able to reach economies of scale, the price becomes even cheaper for the consumer than non fair trade products, as was the case with fair trade bananas in Europe currently. Lily also stresses that campaigns are not just marketing strategies for the products, but also aim to raise awareness about global market problems and their influence on the wellbeing of the farmers in the South.

Sushil Mohan says that all of this has to be put into perspective, because the fact remains that fair trade is not changing the global trade market. After all, fair trade only accounts for around 0,1% of the food market. Although fair trade members invest in big campaigns, the overall impact of fair

trade is rather limited. Lily Deforce agrees that the fair trade market share is still very small and gives the example of fair trade coffee, which accounts for only 5 percent of the coffee being sold in Europe. However, she also says that the fair trade market is growing steadily, with a growth rate of over 40% between 1998 and 2007 and of around 15-18% annually between 2007 and 2011.

Is fair trade misunderstood?

Sushil Mohan contests the claim that fair trade guarantees a minimum income for the producer. He says that in reality fair trade guarantees the price of the goods sold but not their quantity. This is an important distinction, since it means producers still can't really plan their production, because there is no guarantee that their produce will be sold, and the minimum price guarantee is thus meaningless. Again Lily Deforce acknowledges this claim, but also reminds us that the guaranteed minimum price paid for products during a crash is still much more than what non-fair trade producers get. So even if the producer doesn't sell it all, he does get a better price.

Sushil Mohan is also critical of the claim that only fair trade challenges unequal relationships and middlemen. Firstly, he argues, this already happens in mainstream trading through increased communication technology between retailer and producer. Secondly, fair trade itself has become an intermediary/middleman, by forcing both producers and retailers to be licensed by Fair Trade and pay its annual fees in order to be labeled as Fair trade product. Lily Deforce disagrees and maintains that fair trade, unlike normal trade, stimulates producers to organize themselves, thereby enabling them to gain negotiating power.

Is fair trade unethical?

According to Sushil Mohan most fair trade products are produced in the South and processed in the North, so again the processing value added goes to the North, making fair trade unethical because this unequal distribution of benefits merely serves

to uphold, rather than challenge, the unfairness of the world trading system. Lily Deforce agrees that so far most of the processing has been done in the North, but also states that fair trade is working with producers to increase the amount of processing done in the South. She gives the example of cocoa producers in Peru who made a local chocolate factory that exports readymade chocolate all over the world. She also refers to the recent development of South-South trading, as shows the opening of fair trade shops in India.

Sushil Mohan replies to this that the high licensing fees that have to be paid by retailers are unethical – as are the fair trade certification fees to be paid by the producer (these are quite excessive with £1570 for the first year and an annual fee of £940). Lily Deforce does not reply on the first point, but does remark that there is a high demand from producers who are keen to join fair trade, despite the certification fee. Currently there are more than 1.5 million producer members in fair trade. She adds that these fees do not have to be paid per producer, but per cooperation and that some cooperations count hundreds of producers who share the price between them. This organizes the producers and strengthens their negotiation power, even within the mainstream trading system.



What do you think?

Both speakers have strong arguments against, or in favour of, fair trade respectively. Exchange to Change is curious to know your opinion as well. Answer our poll or share your thoughts or experience with us on our fair trade discussion thread on Facebook.

Erlangga Agustino (current IOB student)
with his wife and son in Indonesia



Portrait of a student

Erlangga Agustino Landiyanto ended up at IOB after surfing the web in search of the ultimate master's programme on Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E). He has a long-standing academic interest in M&E and was keen to deepen his understanding of it. He explains with a smile, "I have always been fascinated by M&E. I kind of felt that it was a missing link in the way Indonesian NGOs and other development actors looked at development policies and interventions, so I started learning about it and using it. But I lacked a strong theoretical grounding. That is what brought me here." So far, the IOB master's very much fits the bill in terms of what he was hoping to achieve by gaining another formal qualification in this subject area.

After completing his Bachelor of Economics degree at the Airlangga University in Surabaya, Erlangga started his career as an M&E assistant at the International Finance Cooperation of the World Bank. In the aftermath of the Tsunami he moved to the province of Aceh to work as a monitoring and reporting manager for Care International and later on as a survey and research officer for the UNORC. "The Tsunami brought a lot of grief, destruction and chaos, but also a strong need for proper monitoring and evaluation. Large scale projects had to be set up, monitored, evaluated and implemented, in cooperation with many different partners. That is when NGOs and other development actors started fully realizing the usefulness of M&E in order to familiarise themselves with the needs of the beneficiaries, the impacts of their projects, and how to adapt them to make them work better."

Erlangga Agustino Landiyanto

Indonesia (33)

During his experience with M&E in this tsunami-affected area, Erlangga decided to pursue a master's programme in demography at Mahidol University in Thailand. "I wanted to dedicate my life to M&E and help to apply it to the broader Indonesian development community. After obtaining my master's, I worked as a team leader for a UNDP's endline survey, as a monitoring consultant for the World Bank, and then as a social policy monitoring and evaluation specialist for UNICEF. In the beginning it was challenging, because people saw M&E primarily as extra work, and failed to understand the benefits it could bring. However, soon the people he worked with realized the positive impact it could have. After all, M&E is a successful instrument to measure beneficiaries' needs and to adapt projects where required. It also encourages beneficiary participation, by approaching beneficiaries as agents instead of as victims."

"Though my final goal is to work in the field and to help to improve the well-being of the people I work with directly, I feel I have one more step to take in order to prepare myself fully."



Erlangga had used M&E in the projects he was involved in throughout his career, but was keen to strengthen his theoretical knowledge and understanding of the philosophy behind M&E. That is when he started to research the possibilities of further education in this field, both online and via his contacts whom he worked with in development. When asked how he now feels about his choice of IOB, he answers, "I am very happy with the IOB M&E programme. It is a practically oriented curriculum within a strong theoretical framework and at the same time it is very multidisciplinary. We learn to look and think beyond our own academic background, something which is very enriching indeed. After all, development problems are multi-faceted, so cannot be solved using only a single disciplinary approach. At IOB we are taught how to deal with complex situations, with real life. IOB itself reflects real life, with its diversity of nationalities, cultures and experiences. We learn so much from each other. It's a mini UN that prepares us for the world."

"I wanted to dedicate my life to M&E and help to apply it to the broader Indonesian development community."

After his studies at IOB, Erlangga would like to go back to his own side of the world, to his wife and little son in Indonesia, and to his former job at UNICEF. "Though my final goal is to work in the field and to help to improve the well-being of the people I work with directly, I feel I have one more step to take in order to prepare myself fully. I have built up extensive experience in, and knowledge of, evaluation and monitoring, but I still lack the knowledge to make strong political and policy recommendations. For that reason I would like to do a PhD in public policy, to complete the circle of development understanding and be ready, once more, for the real world."



Link Up:

Similar interest in M&E? Advice on how to write a PhD application for Erlangga?
email: erlanggaagustino@yahoo.com

IOB Ugandan alumni network

IOB has expanded the reach of its alumni policy, and is currently trying out different ways of creating sustainable networks of collaboration and knowledge exchange between its current staff and students and its alumni. An IOB alumni event organized in Kampala last February – and attended by some thirty IOB alumni, PhD students and staff – is a good example of this new style of networking event that IOB is interested in exploring. We provide further details of what exactly it entailed in what follows.



Get involved in the Ugandan Alumni Network. How?

Join the Uganda alumni facebook group and share Uganda news, events, announcements ...

The event itself

After a 'tour de table' where everyone introduced themselves, Sara Dewachter, IOB alumni coordinator, presented the ongoing and future IOB projects in Uganda. A direct link was made to the professional interests and experiences of the attendees, and possibilities for collaboration within the IOB projects were highlighted. Indeed, several projects already involve IOB alumni (see box 1). Alumni and staff were given a booklet in which all the contact details, research skills and professional interests of everyone present were listed .

After the overview of IOB activity in Uganda, it was time for IOB's first sounding board meeting – a focus group in which alumni evaluate to what extent IOB programmes provide them with the knowledge and skills necessary to meaningfully contribute within the development arena. Alumni were then given the opportunity to evaluate their competencies, how IOB had contributed to these, and how IOB could improve its programs to better help its students develop the professional skills expected of employees in the local development field. Following this exercise, participants discussed the possibility of starting up an IOB Ugandan alumni organization.

The IOB Ugandan alumni network

IOB alumni can be found in various influential positions in Ugandan society – in ministries, universities, media, donor organizations and NGOs. Research showed that linking up professionals in various key sectors can contribute significantly to development, as the creation of a network of this kind encourages trust, cooperation and communication between different sectors, and this in turn has a positive impact on development related work. Moreover, a network of this kind offers research opportunities, not only among alumni, but also between alumni and IOB staff. This is highly compatible with IOB's mission to stimulate both North-South and South-South knowledge exchange.

Links with UGABEL

The idea of an IOB Ugandan alumni network was also welcomed by both the Belgian Embassy and the Belgian Technical Cooperation in Uganda (BTC). Jan De Ceuster, IOB alumnus and Education advisor at BTC, invited the IOB Ugandan alumni network to join the bigger Ugandan Alumni Network (UGABEL). This network was inaugurated in 2006 as a platform that brings together Ugandan and Belgian professionals who studied in Belgium (or with a BTC scholarship in Uganda) and Uganda respectively. According to Sara Dewachter, the advantage of linking the IOB Ugandan alumni to UGABEL is that a broader network provides more opportunities for organizing activities and supporting research and training. Having a close-knit IOB Uganda alumni network under the broader umbrella of UGABEL seems to be a promising combination in terms of making the IOB Uganda chapter workable and sustainable. This avenue will thus be explored further in the near future.

Belgian-Ugandan research platforms

On 20 February 2014 two VLIR-UOS research platforms were officially launched – one platform on governance, and one on health, environment and food safety (HEFs). Both platforms aim at bringing together Ugandan and Flemish researchers and at stimulating joint research and mutual exchange. In a poster session, the projects from both platforms were presented and researchers were able to meet with each other and discuss future projects. IOB is actively involved in several of the afore-mentioned platform projects (see box 1). This also offers opportunities to other Ugandan alumni. One of the research projects is even an alumni-driven project – Tom Ogwang, from Mbarara University of Science and Technology and IOB professor Filip Reyntjens are the two promoters.

Research joins IOB professor and alumnus

The above mentioned project that brings together Filip Reyntjens and Tom Ogwang, will deal with the growing refugee problem in the Great Lakes Region. The project is entitled 'Finding Durable Solutions for Old Refugee Case-loads in Nakivale Settlement – Mbarara District, Uganda' and will be a partnership between IOB, Mbarara University of Science and Technology and Uganda Christian University (UCU). Given the rising incidence of refugee displacement, not only are a substantial number of people facing the difficult and traumatic experience of being a refugee or an internally displaced person (IDP), but also many local communities find themselves in a situation where they have become host communities for large numbers of refugees and IDPs, as is the case in Uganda. Irrespective of multiple waves of organized and spontaneous repatriation exercises, not all refugees register to repatriate and a significant number of old case-loads remain in Uganda's refugee settlements with potential consequences for Uganda's stability. This research seeks to investigate and understand why durable solutions have eluded old case-loads and attempts to establish what needs to be done to address this problem and promote peace and stability in the region.



Email **Rose Mutumba** and **Sara Dewachter** if you want to you join the Uganda alumni or the organizing committee.



Look up the **contact** details of (fellow) Ugandan alumni in the compendium.



Group picture Ugandan IOB alumni event on the 21st of February 2014 in Kampala, Uganda

Voice of an alumna

Since IOB's alumni policy is about strengthening the voice of its alumni, Exchange to Change conducted an interview with one of the alumni who participated in the IOB Ugandan alumni event. Rose Mutumba is project coordinator for the Ugandan Angels Center for children with special needs.

EtC: What did you think of the alumni initiative?

Rose: It was a very nice initiative bringing the IOB feeling to Uganda; we were reliving our memories of our studies at IOB and our friendships.

EtC: What, in your opinion, is the added value of an IOB alumni chapter in Uganda?

Rose: The added value is the fact that we get to know each other in the Ugandan context and that it encourages us to consult each other on similar understanding of development work. We know the quality of students from IOB, especially in research, and I feel that we shall be able to enrich each other academically and analytically, since we think in the same line. We studied many theories and terminologies and now it is time to incorporate them in our development work.

EtC: How will you go about starting up the alumni chapter?

Rose: I have many ideas in mind, but first we have to ensure that we are able to generate debates and discussions on pertinent issues that affect us

at country level. Our opinions and judgments will help us to reflect on the Uganda we want. This can initially be done through the use of social media, but eventually we will be meeting each other by organizing social events, outreaching community activities, education, sports, drama and others, since we are also talented besides our academic training. Exchanging ideas are interesting, since we are all attached to different organizations and institutions, which puts us in positions that allow us to improve policy making and which enables us to serve our country and people to the best of our knowledge.

EtC: What will be your role and who else will play a role? What, do you expect, will be the role of IOB?

Rose: As I said before, each one of us has his/ her own talents and we will have to discuss the different roles that we will play. I am good at mobilizing and moderating sessions or debates and also at coordinating different activities. We hope that IOB itself will support and advise us, on our activities and on the research that will, hopefully, result from

our network.

EtC: How does this IOB Uganda chapter fit in with the idea to incorporate it into the broader umbrella of UGABEL? Do you think this move will be welcomed by IOB alumni in Uganda?

Rose: Broader cooperation is certainly interesting. The idea was already welcomed by me and other alumni, in informal talks we had with each other. Informal telephone conversations are still going on amongst ourselves on organizing the second event on how often we should meet.

EtC: Do you have any nice memories of, or anecdotes about, the event?

Rose: Well, the event was organized in a first class hotel in Uganda, with plenty of food and drinks, and IOB had prepared an alumni booklet. Seeing my photo in the booklet made me feel special and proud to be associated with IOB. It was also an eye-opener to be informed about all the different projects and kinds of research that are already taking place in Uganda and the future opportunities that will become available. It reminded me of the IOB learning atmosphere. But of course meeting my IOB colleagues was the best aspect about the event. We enjoyed it very much indeed.

Uganda Research Platforms

By setting up two research platforms in Uganda, VLIR-UOS is experimenting with new, innovative approaches to inter-university cooperation between North and South. Whereas previously interuniversity development cooperation was mostly between one Northern and one or two Southern partners, now the platforms envisage bringing together multiple universities under one research platform.

The platforms thus incorporate all Flemish universities and eight Ugandan universities – Busitema University, Uganda Christian University, Kyambogo University, Gulu University, Makerere University, Uganda Martyr's University, Mbarara University of Science and Technology and Mountains of the Moon University.

GOVERNANCE PLATFORM

Governance and post-conflict reconstruction in Northern Uganda
Promoters: Kristof Titeca (IOB) & Tenywa Aloysius Malagala (Gulu University)

Towards more effective and equitable service delivery for local communities: comparing the impact of different accountability mechanisms and analysing the politics of service delivery

Promoters: Nadia Molenaers (IOB) & Mesharch Katusiimeh (Uganda Christian University)

Urban governance in Kampala: a research partnership

Promoters: Kristof Titeca (IOB) & Mesharch Katusiimeh (Uganda Christian University)

Finding Durable Solutions for Old Refugee Case-loads in Nakivale Settlement – Mbarara District, Uganda
Promoters: Filip Reyntjens (IOB) & Tom Ogwang (Mbarara University of Science & Technology)

In Quest for Effective Service Delivery: Decentralization, District Balkanization and Local Governance Challenges for the Next Decade and in Uganda

Promoters: Tom De Herdt (IOB) & Pamela Mbabazi (Mbarara University of Science & Technology)

PLATFORM ON HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND FOOD SECURITY (HEFS)

Intra-household and gender analysis to address food and health insecurities among rural communities in south western Uganda

Promoters: Nathalie Holvoet (IOB) & Viola Nilah Nyakato (Mbarara University of Science and Technology)



Launch VLIR-UOS Research Platforms

Post-script: writing, reading, E-xchanging

Remember, back in the old times, yet less than 10 years ago perhaps, posting a letter? Posting was only the last step in fact, a letter was to be written first. Having been living in Nicaragua for two years, the Cold War was still warm, I also took on a weekly habit of writing letters, to my family and friends back home, on Sunday late afternoon. These memories came to my mind when reading the draft version of this first E-xchange to change.

My generation (born in the so-called golden sixties) is still hesitating between being the last real paper generation or the first e-paper generation. With this E-xchange, we've definitely moved into the future, at least we hope: all will depend, just as in the case of letter-writing, on how and when this E-xchange will meet you: will you find it in a hurry, sifting, selecting and deleting the morning's mailbox, or will you welcome it in a curious mood, just when you were about to sit down and drink your coffee or tea, and perhaps ready to fire a friendly reaction or actively join the alumni-community in whatever other way?

Further, this E-xchange is not only in itself exemplifying exchange, it is also reporting on a set of new opportunities for 'live' exchange, on the basis of the newly established programs of academic development cooperation in Uganda. Because some of us, an ageing minority, could perhaps lament the spectacular disappearance of the paper letter, but one thing is clear: electronic communication can only play a complementary and sustaining role in relation to face-to-face contacts and 'real' flesh and blood encounters making up the social network of humanity.

Groet,
Tom



Congratulations

Alumni Applause



Theses

On the 25th of November 2013, **Christian Balyahamwabo** IOB alumnus, successfully defended his doctoral thesis '*Institutions et performances macro-économiques : effets de la décentralisation financière dans les pays en développement.*' at the Cheikh Anta DIOP University in Senegal.



On the 17th December 2013, **Juan Carlos Polvorosa** IOB alumnus, successfully defended his IOB doctoral thesis '*Opportunities and Constraints for small and medium-sized farmers in the context of the booming dairy value chains in Nicaragua; case-study of Matiguás.*' — Promoter: J. Bastiaensen (IOB).



On the 17th of March 2014, **Lodewijk Smets** IOB research assistant, successfully defended his doctoral thesis '*Essays in aid for policy reform.*' — Promoter: R. Renard and B. De Borger (both University of Antwerp).

Papers

Lara Cockx and **Nathalie Francken** (2014)
Extending the concept of the resource curse: Natural resources and public spending on health, IOB Working Paper 2014.01.

Monica Patricia Niño Peña (2014)
Colombian Coffee Strategies And The Livelihoods Of Smallholders, IOB Discussion Paper 2014.01.

New website

The **University of Antwerp**, and by extension also the **Institute of Development Policy and Management** have a new website. Nice work!



In Memoriam

Danny Van Den Bulcke (1939-2014)

While in Mumbai, India, where he participated in a conference on emerging technologies and development, Professor Daniel Van Den Bulcke learned the bad news of an illness that, eventually, caused his death on 8 January 2014.

Professor Van Den Bulcke became a full time faculty member of the Institute of Development Policy and Management in 1985. He was the Institute's chair from 1996 to 2001. He also lectured at the Faculty of Applied Economics, the Institute of Transport and Maritime Management (ITMMA) and the Antwerp Management School (AMS). Until he became emeritus in 2004, he remained the programme director of the Master of Globalisation and Economic Development at IOB.

After his retirement he remained professionally very active both in teaching and research. He was a renowned academic expert in International Business and highly respected among his peers for his many contributions to the academic development of the field. He truly embodied the belief that increased international exchange can make the world a better place.

Many IOB alumni have already shared their fond memories and tributes to this great man on the commemorative website (<http://ourmemoryof.com/danny/>). Han Lin even wrote a very poetic text "*In Loving Memory of the Deceased Prof. Dr. Danny Van Den Bulcke*" (in Chinese).

Opportunities & events

2nd - 13th of June 2014

Summer school 'The Politics and Economics of Aid'

IOB co-organizes with 5 other European universities a summer school on the Politics and Economics of aid.

🔊 Possibility to follow liverstreamed sessions. Application deadline: 01/05/2013.

28 July - 22 August 2014

Training Programme Human Rights for Development (HR4DEV)

IOB co-organizes a training programme HR4DEV 2014 maps the potential and limits of human rights in development and development cooperation, with a specific focus on children's rights. Application deadline: 15th of April 2014



Vacancies @ IOB

IOB is currently looking for the following research assistants in the area of:

- "evaluating governance, accountability, effectiveness and impact"
- "International Cooperation and Development"
- "Local Institutions in/for Development"



Applications for IOB Master programmes still open for applicants who

apply for academic admission only (not VLIR-UOS scholarship) and who need a student visa for Belgium, may apply until 1 April 2014. Applicants who are exempted from applying for a student visa for Belgium may apply until 7 September 2014.

27th & 28th of June 2014

🎤 IOB Conference: International relations, aid and authoritarianism: Rwanda, twenty years on, in comparative perspective, IOB Antwerp, Belgium



Looking for someone? IOB has its own **IOB alumni community** where you can contact other IOB alumni (name, nationality and email address are made public) and update your own contact details! If you do not want your name/nationality or email to be available to other IOB alumni, please inform us through iob_alumni@uantwerp.be



IOB alumni survey 2014! Once in every four years we ask our alumni to fill in a survey to get updated information for our alumni with regard to personal information, work and how they evaluate their study at IOB. Please fill in the survey ... It will only take 15 minutes and will help IOB a lot!



20 years

after the genocide.
Where are we now?

<https://www.uantwerp.be/en/faculties/iob/events-and-seminars/events/rwanda-twenty-years/>

Rwanda
Genocide



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