

Activity Report

2015



A responsible freedom for a shared prosperity

<http://www.audace-afrique.org>

Who are we?

Audace Institut Afrique (AIA) is an independent Ivorian think tank, apolitical, non-profit established in 2009.

Our mission : Through its publications, its seminars ,its conferences ,its researches , its will to collect multicultural and multidisciplinary innovative ideas , AIA stimulates political debate by making contextualized proposals of reforms based on free market and the expansion of economic freedom, private property, the rule of law and individual freedoms. AIA also works to strengthen civil society through discussion meetings and a training program for students.

Our Vision: A responsible freedom for a shared prosperity

Edito



The year 2015 was for Audace Institut Afrique a year of innovation and sharing with a consolidation of the organization. In fact, beyond gaining the loyalty of our donors, we got the trust of new financial supports. The team has been

expanded with the arrival of two new members in the Scientific Committee. The activities of our Malian antenna began and the permanent team was trained at the management and promotion of a non-profit organization.

The research program "How to reinvent the rural land system?", started in 2014, continued to reach the stage of completion of the study which will be presented in February 2016. Innovative ideas are standing out of this work and go in the direction of creating wealth in rural areas but also of reducing conflicts. Property security is an essential element of freedom. To propose a way

of securing that respects tradition while modernizing governance was a major challenge for the institute. We are then ending this year in the impatience of sharing our work and the preparation of the implementation phase of our proposals in four Ivorian villages with the support of the Friedrich Naumann Stiftung. New challenges are emerging!

The students training program dear to us was very dynamic again this year with civic topics and contests. For the first time we have expanded our interventions to Yamoussoukro.

The information in this brief activity report can be complemented by our website which is very complete and that has been completely revamped this year.

On behalf of all the Audace Institut Afrique team, I wish you a good reading. We hope to see you on our way in 2016 to share new ideas and make advance the voice / path of freedom.

Gisèle Dutheuil
Directrice d'Audace Institut Afrique

4 axis to promote freedom

- ◊ **Research**
- ◊ **Awareness raising**
- ◊ **Training / Action**
- ◊ **Citizens studies**



Ideas for action

RESEARCH

How to reinvent the rural land system in Ivory Coast?

A multicultural and multidisciplinary research work



This study has been carried out with the help of the Atlas Economic Research Foundation and Friedrich Naumann Stiftung.

Reinventing Land Security

According to the most optimistic figures, 4% of the lands are currently registered in Ivory Coast. At this rate, it will take more than a century to cover the whole territory. Let's say that the land certificate is at the expense of the requestor and it costs on average one year of the income of a regular Ivorian. However, the government cannot afford free certificates. This context obliges us to rethink about land security. Actually, we should secure the remaining 96% of the land while waiting for the registration.

The development of a clear contract solving in land exchanges is a good way for security. In order to cut down on risks, and therefore to encourage investment, to reduce conflicts, to encourage social unity, it is suitable to create a frame that generates a maximum of clearness and credibility to contracts. The geographic

space, the name of the parties, the family referent, the contract duration, the type of contract, the crops and activities that are possible on the land, the exact price, should be well defined by the parties with a translation if necessary, so that the commitment becomes clear.

A clear contract permits an investor to make predictions which are adapted to the type of contract that he has. These contracts have the privilege to adapt to the context in which they are made in compliance with the local realities which differ according to the region.

In order to equip the contract solving with a sufficient credibility, some basic reforms are necessary.

Reinventing the modality of governance

Government alone doesn't have the capacity to register rural lands, neither do the populations. A complementarity between the two is necessary. **Communities have a good knowledge of their lands and that is an indisputable wealth that should be absolutely given more potential and be explored.** In order to achieve this, a relocation of the land governing is necessary. In this dynamic, village committees of rural land management (CVGFR) have a great part to play. Actually, the clearness of contracts relies on them. The role of the (CVGFR) should be seen as:

- The creation of community land's registry, village maps indicating geographic spaces and the relationships between the dwellers on the land (customary rights holders, users, etc.)
- The registration, for family's land, of the referent's name that can act in the name of everyone.
- The assistance of the parties during the conclusion of contracts.
- The archiving of the land information of the village.

Reinventing land wealth

As a Feeding mother land but also very commercial, that is possible. Thanks to a clear contract solving, even before registration, lands have a great value in their customary space and the income from the land can absolutely be individualized. Every user takes advantage of the fruits produced by his work. The risk of investing in

In order to be efficient, the committee should be made up of the key actors of rural land in villages and their organization should be more structured. That can only be possible by the impulse of the government that should insure the setting-up, the control and the training of the committees. It is worth doing. **Relocating the governance will permit to improve land security, a breeding ground for investment.** So agriculture, food security, conflict reduction and social unity are depending on it. The relocation of the land governance is a mean to reconcile tradition and modernism in a context of globalization. It is a modern policy that allows Ivory Coast to flaunt its specificity by becoming a more attractive world. Because we cannot make any breakthrough by losing oneself intellectually and culturally.

This new frame of governance, a righteous circle between the government and communities is a good breeding ground for lands formalization. This will help the government in the implementation of the 1998 that governs rural land.

rural land is drastically diminishing, because when an agreement is clear and socially recognized, the risks of contestations also diminish and the social unity is reinforced. The atmosphere is becoming good for loan, for the implementation and the creation of wealth.

The Study results will be presented publicly in february 2016.



Friedrich Naumann
STIFTUNG

FÜR DIE FREIHEIT

Common Goods Regulation in Africa: Can we compensate for states failure?



In February 25th 2015 in Abidjan, AIA in collaboration with the panafrican company **ARIS-intelligence**, organized a multidisciplinary symposium on the theme **Common Goods Regulation in Africa: Can we compensate for states failure?**

The crucial and overlooked question of "common goods regulation", this key vehicle of social cohesion, as an important component of healthy and sustainable development on the African continent.

In the spirit of AIA's objective, independent, critical, and constructive stance before all subjects of great significance, and in adherence with its commitment to challenge prejudices and conventional discourse, the multidisciplinary approach adopted to engage with this multifaceted subject – philosophical, economic, legal, and historical – allowed for the thorough exploration of complimentary thematic content adapted to the African context

The quality and density of the contributions and the rich, animated exchanges they prompted enabled us not only to meet the stated objectives of the symposium, but also to open the door for further discussions that will raise the awareness of liberal and active citizens.

Speakers :

- ◊ **Yahot CHRISTOPHE** Full Philosophy professor. Researcher and Teacher at Alassane Ouattara University of Bouaké.
- ◊ **Jean-Marie SALAMITO**, Ancient Christianity history Professor at university Paris-Sorbonne, he is the Treasurer of the Augustinian Studies Institute (ASI) known worldwide as a leading research center on holy Augustine (354-430). He co-directs the bilingual collection (latin-french) of St. Augustine's famous works under the name « Augustinian library» (AL).
- ◊ **Alban Alphonse Emmanuel AHOURÉ**, Acting Executive of the Policy Analysis unit of the Ivorian Center for Economic and Social Research (CEPAC).
- ◊ **Denis L. BOHOUSSOU** Ivorian Office of Intellectual Property (IOIP) Chief Executive.

Strong ideas

Professor Christophe prefers assimilating or substituting the idea of common good to the «public service» that is developing since Independence years, distinguishing public from private interests. In this perspective, he finds out while regretting that the operation of African States is informal and the public service is at the embryonic stage.

According to Alban Ahouré, in response to the failure of African states, alternative solutions for common goods governance do exist, such as the model that won a Nobel Prize to the American Economist Elinor Ostrom. This is a model of decentralized and participatory local governance of common goods. This new governance which doesn't preclude the state, can limit its fragility and failure while creating a shared added value locally. Coordination arenas, forms of discussion and information sharing according to norms of reciprocity are success factors. A way very adapted to the African context.

Prof. Salamito explains that according to Saint Augustine, these assets belong to the people,

An independent judiciary to improve governance of common goods

multitude of rational beings associated with the joint participation and in harmony with something they like and that gathers them. Far from any elitism, common good is an objective and universal moral good. Numbers and mathematical truths are ones that are shared and do not wear off. Just as the truth common to all, or happiness a supreme good

For Professor. Bohoussou, intellectual property giving monopoly on ideas (common goods essentially), is in deep contradiction with the principle of freedom of trade and industry which states that competition rules the market without protection. However, intellectual property right presents several advantages in many ways for common goods by enriching them. Indeed, the protection of invention encourages innovation. The protection having a defined duration in time enriches it when it returns in the common good.

Training – Action

A series of trainings and competitions carried out with the support of NETWORK FOR FREE SOCIETY



Training the team of the new antena of Audace Institut Afrique in Mali



How to manage a nascent association in Africa ?

From setting-up to promotion, in fundraising. A week of reflection to leave on good foundations.



Training ACTOR CITIZEN

A monthly training for 6 months bringing 100 students together from various disciplines of the University Félix Houphouët Boigny in Abidjan.

The training concept:

- ◊ A topic
- ◊ A presentation
- ◊ Ideas sharing
- ◊ An implementation in our daily life
- ◊ Readings for Inspiration, to change, to go further, to understand, to surpass!



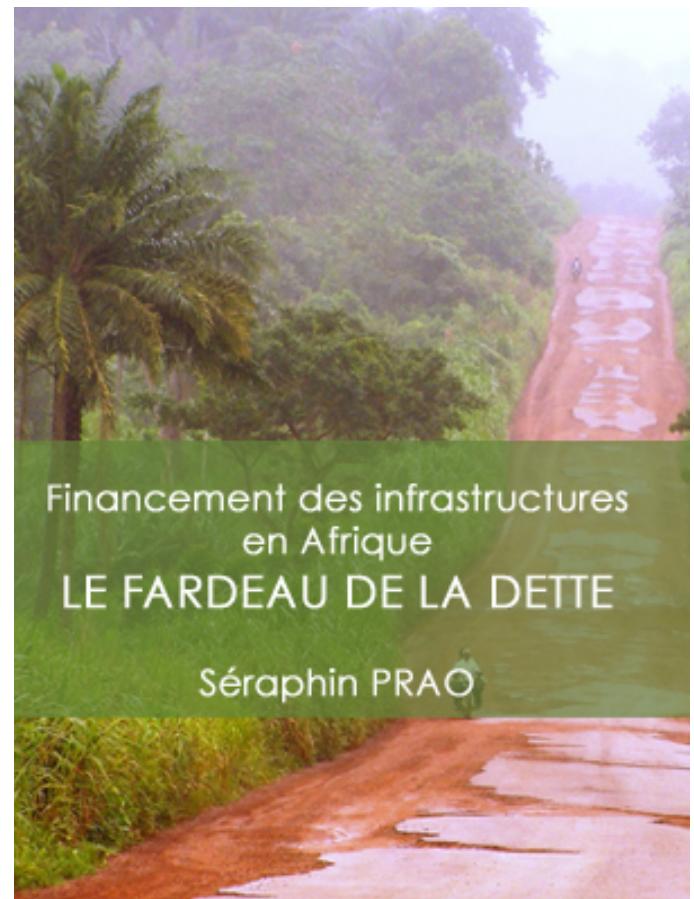
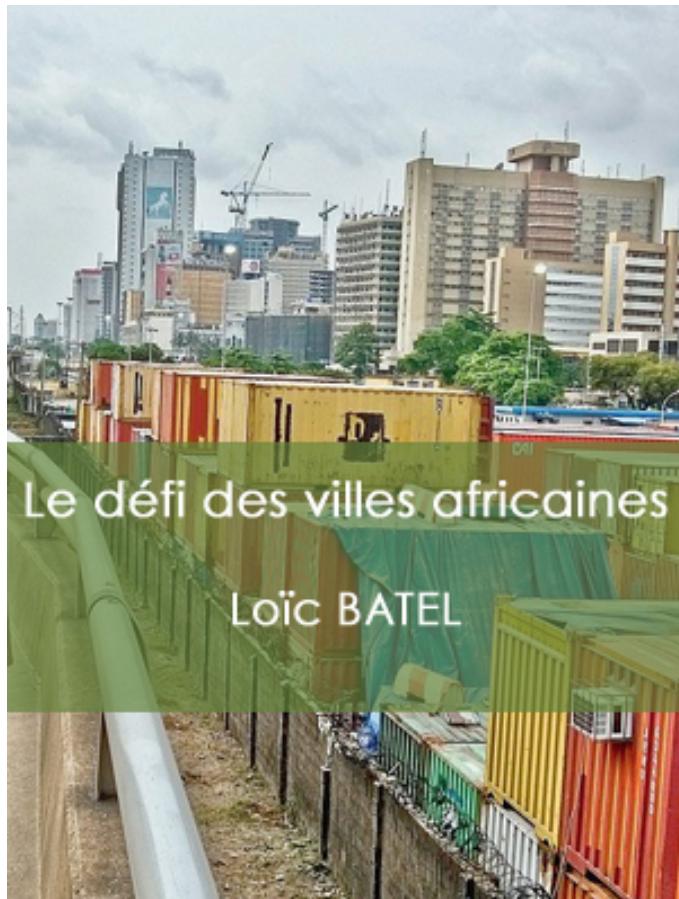
The objectives

- Raising students' awareness at the possibility of being, every day, actors of a positive change ;
- Understand the legal foundations of citizenship;
- Understand the fundamentals of the rule of law and the importance of freedom as the engine of progress ;
- Having practical and intellectual tools to become activists, fight with words, ideas, constructed arguments ;
- Understand that the poor governance and corruption duo isn't inevitable and we can live in an ethical environment while progressing.



The Citizen' Studies

Two background studies available on the website of the institute.



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An independent african voice in the service of freedom

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