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\**Veritas* is Latin for truth, reality.

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*“Don’t say you don’t have enough time. You have exactly the same number of hours per day that were given to Helen Keller, Pasteur, Michelangelo, Mother Teresa, Leonardo Da Vinci, Thomas Jefferson, and Albert Einstein.”*

*H. Jackson Brown Jr., American Author*

Source: <https://au.oberlo.com/blog/best-inspirational-business-quotes>

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# ENGINEERING SKILLS ACQUISITION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

Dr Frederick Ugwu Ozor\*

The complete version of this summarised article is available at:  
<http://www.stclements.edu/Articles/EngineeringSkillsAcquisition.pdf>

## Abstract

*This paper examined the gap between existing engineering skills in Nigeria and enterprise/entrepreneurship and the role that improved engineering skills and developing engineer entrepreneurs could play in Nigeria's economic development. A conceptual model of achieving integrated policy objectives of engineering skills acquisition and entrepreneurship and their expected impact on national economic development was developed. The paper further sought answers to key research questions of: what are the potential merits of entrepreneurship for Nigeria? How can we narrow the engineering, technology/innovation-entrepreneurship gap in Nigeria to enhance economic growth and development?*

## 1. Introduction

Industrial stakeholders and development experts in Nigeria have continued to reiterate the need for skill acquisition by the youths as a way to developing more entrepreneurs in the country. These interests advocate for capacity building to go into existing Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in order to enhance their productive capabilities for jobs and wealth creation.

In an increasingly service-orientated world of work, it is easy to miss the vital role engineers play in transforming lives. Engineering is the crucible in which scientific, mathematic and design skills come together. Engineering is a key part of a range of industries including music, TV and film, construction, transport, cosmetics, medicine, food and fashion. Overall, the engineering industry makes up a significant part of Nigeria's economy. Engineering skills can therefore be transformed into creative and innovative ventures. Businesses have a massive demand for engineers and technicians while engineering skills are particularly effective when combined with enterprise. This paper examined the gap between existing engineering skills in Nigeria and enterprise/entrepreneurship and the role that improved engineering skills and developing engineer entrepreneurs could play in Nigeria's economic development. It further provides a conceptual model of achieving integrated policy objectives of engineering skills acquisition and

entrepreneurship and their expected impact on national economic development.

The value of market research, which is about entrepreneurship process, to help steer product development underscores the need to narrow the gap between engineering skills acquisition and entrepreneurship. On entrepreneurship Efi-Imafidon, et al., (2007:10), observed,

*Entrepreneurial skill acquisition can be defined as not just about acquiring skill but acquiring knowledge and driving towards enterprise in skills that enhance personal livelihood through enduring business startups, enhancing employment opportunities, and promoting economic development and growth.*

Traits, which are often found among engineers, such as curiosity, creativity and innovation lead to a deeper exploration of entrepreneurship, the encouragement, especially among the younger generation, to pursue successful futures.

Nevertheless in this context, there appears to be a wide gap between engineering skills and entrepreneurship, which arises from key business misperceptions among most engineers, for instance, unlike the engineer who is comfortable with 'cool ideas' and new technologies, the entrepreneur would assess the commercial viability, which means evaluating third-party market research, getting real customer feedback from prototypes, and listening to concerns of successful executives in the same business area.

The engineering skills–entrepreneurship gap appears most prominent in Nigeria given that what higher institutions in Nigeria offer and the demands of the labor market tend to be widening steadily as university and graduates seem more exposed to theory than the practical aspects of their training (Adeodu, et al., 2017). Hence, the question has often remained: how do we introduce commercial skills in our university programs? However, the following sections examined the challenges of bridging the existing gap between engineering and technological skills acquisition and entrepreneurship in Nigeria, the issues of indigenous technology knowledge as an engine or panacea for sustainable development, and provided a conceptual

model for achieving integrated policy objectives of engineering skills acquisition and entrepreneurship, and ends with a conclusion including suggestions on the way forward.

## 2. Methodology

Drawing its strength from detailed review of literature, this study approach is essentially conceptual. A conceptual model of achieving integrated policy objectives of engineering skills acquisition and entrepreneurship and their expected impact on national economic development is developed, which is anchored on policy mix strategy in the spirit of New Public Management and basic cannons of governance that extols the participation of key stakeholders in the process of governing.

## 3. Narrowing the Engineering skills-entrepreneurship gap

Entrepreneurship is an important factor in the development of any nation. Entrepreneurs are responsible for taking calculated risks that open up doors to progressively higher levels of economic growth. Without entrepreneurs, the world would not have known such innovative breakthroughs as the wheel, electricity or the Internet, to name just a few.

In Nigeria, acquiring engineering skills among the teeming graduate population must be integrated into the whole gamut of entrepreneurship process. In this regard, government has an overriding role to play. In other words, Nigeria needs more entrepreneurs and government has to develop a comprehensive policy platform to achieve this.

The scope of financial freedom and flexibility that entrepreneurialism allows is a means to ginger individual and national prosperity. Given this truism for economies around the world, the Nigeria situation certainly cannot be an exception. Traditional Nigerian entrepreneurship began in a climate of economic stagnation and as a purely survivalist endeavor. Dismal human development indices, unemployment and infrastructure deficits resulted in the evolution of a massive informal economy that depended almost exclusively on personal initiative and hazardous risk-taking capacity.

The return of democracy in 1999 ushered in a period of economic reforms and a renewed focus on enterprise development as viable means to sustainable growth. Nigerian leaders initiated a massive program of disinvestment and financial deregulation aimed at boosting business development across the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) space.

One major challenge is the fact that Nigeria is not perceived as a promising business destination. The high cost of doing business, corruption and insecurity as well as systemic flaws including inconsistencies in the country's economic policies seen to result in

keeping off potential investors particularly direct foreign investors and have left it a grossly underdeveloped country instead of the economic and political giant of Africa which its founding fathers intended it to be (Onah, 2004).

Social problems, growing out of deplorable human development indicators in the absence of inclusive growth, form the second significant obstacle for Nigeria in utilizing the benefit that entrepreneurship could possibly bring.

What are the potential merits of entrepreneurship for Nigeria? Entrepreneurship promotes liberty and increase economic growth by:

1. Producing and distributing goods and services to satisfy certain public needs. To fulfill this task, businesses developed flexibility and constantly researched on consumer demands.
2. Creating job opportunities; more than that, most jobs created are productive jobs.
3. Providing income sources: income that business provides is by no means restricted to the profit its owners get. It pays salaries and wages to its employees, and this way, makes the whole business world go round: they spend the money they earn buying all kinds of goods and favor further development of business ventures.
4. Contributing to national well-being: by means of taxes businesses pay to government (though, grudgingly as in Nigeria since its management is hardly ever justified), it is possible for the government to maintain all kinds of public and social institutions and services;
5. Helping to enlighten and educate people, thereby encouraging their further personal growth.

Entrepreneurship is the foundation of any developed nation. For Nigeria to reap the full benefits of a dynamic and evolving economy however require the overcoming of entrenched social, financial and political hurdles. It is in this context that the former Nigeria President, Olusegun Obasanjo at the opening of the 3rd African Engineering Deans Council (AEDC) summit held at the Covenant University, Ota in Ogun, Nigeria on July 26, 2017 in a keynote address, which had the theme: "Engineering for Socio-Economic Development in Africa" observed that,

*In many parts of Africa, young engineers have not been trained for specific roles in the industry. We have to teach them to convert the technical knowledge acquired into useful artifacts needed in the industry. Young engineers should also learn how to transform manufactured products into viable business ventures. Let us have more engineer entrepreneurs rather than engineer job seeker. The engineering curriculum of the 20th century*

*is no longer sufficient to address the engineering challenges of the 21st century.*

In specific terms, how can we narrow the engineering, technology/innovation-entrepreneurship gap in Nigeria to enhance economic growth and development? Among other initiatives, Nigeria needs not only to sustain the current Technical vocational education and training (TVET), which plays an important role in shaping a nation's intellectual human capital, but also has to sustain the Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES) for students, which was aimed at helping students undergoing courses in engineering and technology and other professional courses to acquire the necessary practical knowledge in industry in addition to the theoretical knowledge gained in the classroom. In brief, a key to bridging the gap between schooling and work is quality technical and vocational education, which produces engineer entrepreneur. However, in pursuit of the way forward this paper developed a conceptual model of achieving integrated policy objectives of engineering skills acquisition and entrepreneurship in section 5.

### **Developing Indigenous Engineering and Technological Discoveries**

Third world countries should follow the path of countries in Europe and the United States in the quest for sustainable economic growth and development, particularly in the tested and proved area of acquiring new knowledge for economic growth. Technologies developed in United States and Europe include post harvest food processing, industrial minerals beneficiation, textile and ceramic utilization, water treatment; electrical and electronic design and fabrication, plant tissue culture, application of nuclear energy and energy generation from biomass. Nigeria, taking the cue, can turn to developing indigenous/home grown technologies to grapple with or offer solutions to peculiar social and economic problems of the county.

### **Challenges of the Application of Indigenous Engineering and Technological Discoveries**

Even in the context of bridging the engineering-entrepreneurship gap in Nigeria, the following challenges appear evident in the area of application and development of indigenous engineering and technological discoveries:

- A missing lack of appreciation of, and support for, the role that indigenous engineering and technology can play in national development by policy makers/public economic planners including the general public as their efforts are regrettably viewed to be inferior to foreign technologies.
- Inadequate financial and material support from government and the public sector to institutions statutorily mandated to facilitate the application of scientific and technological discoveries.

- A missing collaboration between industry and researchers operating within their organization's R&D programs in isolation from industry, which tend to result in research outputs either ignored or not taken up by industry.

- According to Nnadi, (2014:4),

*Entrepreneurship is inhibited by the social system which demes opportunities for creative faculties. The force of custom, the rigidity of status and the distrust of new ideas and of the exercise of intellectual curiosity, combine to create an atmosphere inimical to experiment and innovation...In less developed countries traditional attitudes discourage the full utilization of human resources.*

In such economies as in Nigeria, extreme inequalities in the distribution of income and wealth appear to stifle the growth of Small and Medium Enterprises and stand in the way of the growth of entrepreneurship.

### **A conceptual model of achieving integrated policy objectives of engineering skills acquisition and entrepreneurship**

Developing integrated public policy in pursuit of objectives of archiving balanced engineering skills acquisition and entrepreneurship in Nigeria, calls for consideration by policy makers of the application of applied research, which can provide more chance of finding expert solutions to problems. Conduct of applied research would seek to support innovation and competitiveness.

Research and development policy has always remained an important research policy field. It is theoretically and practically inevitable that bolstering the economic performance of a nation and responding to its societal needs 'will require research and development policy to be placed in a broader context and in coherence with other policy fields' (European Commission, JRC-IPTS Report, 2009:15). It is more so theoretically and practically necessary in Nigeria to link research and development policy to innovation in all sectors of the national economy including integrated policy objectives of engineering skills acquisition and entrepreneurship. In other words, the Nigeria national research and development policies must seek to achieve appropriate policy mix.

The policy mix approach takes into consideration the interrelatedness and complementarity of sectoral policy objectives as well as the strategic thrust of the overall science, technology and innovation policy objective of state. Hence, developing engineering skills acquisition and entrepreneurship, or precisely producing more engineer entrepreneurs, in Nigeria must be predicated on a practical policy mix platform to enable comprehensive and sustainable economic growth and development. Figure 1 represents a graphic process of

policy mix, which could be useful for Nigeria policy makers. Overall, this paper argues that an integrated and comprehensive policy mix approach could contribute in improving the innovation system performance through raising research and development intensity.



**Figure 1: Graphic representation of policy mix process**

However, it is equally important to develop a legally based national science and technology policy integrated into an overall development policy agenda of government, which makes it all the more necessary to formulate strategies for science, technology and innovation that are integrated into the national development plans and programs. This would require developing policies and creating institutions that facilitate the generation of scientific knowledge and its diffusion and application, expressed in the form of technological capabilities and outcomes across all the sectors of the national economy.

Overall, the challenges confronting application of indigenous engineering and technological discoveries could in fact be converted into opportunities for growth through innovation. This could be done by pursuit of fruitful collaborations with advanced countries aimed at commercializing indigenous technology. Regrettably however in Nigeria as in the rest of Africa, the scenario shows an apparent dearth of engineering and technology entrepreneurship capital, a situation that has led to the near non-existent productive capacity of the country and the African continent, with very minimal potentials for value addition (Babou and Okrika, 2011; Adelowo, et al., 2012). Even in spite of this challenge, promotion of innovation and ingenuity should not be slowed as it could result in low capacity for wealth creation and increasing levels of unemployment.

### Conclusion and Recommendations

Tertiary institutions in Nigeria should place emphasis on skills acquisition including engineering skills

perhaps by means of strictly adhering to the admission policy of 60 per cent for science and 40 per cent for other disciplines, in which circumstance graduate unemployment otherwise would not have reached such an alarming proportion as witnessed in the country. Experts insist that government should adequately fund technical education, while skills' acquisition courses should be introduced and sustained in the curriculum of the country's tertiary institutions.

Youth entrepreneurship is a source of job creation and empowerment. Effective youth entrepreneurship education could prepare young people to be responsible and enterprising individuals who become entrepreneur or entrepreneurial thinkers and prompted to contribute to economic development and sustainable communities (UN-Habitat, 2004).

Since entrepreneurship is the recognition of an opportunity to create both economic and social value and the process of acting on this opportunity, the development of entrepreneurial skills can contribute to their capacity to access employment opportunities. For this reason, it is incumbent on Nigeria government to re access its science and technology policy and adopt policy mix strategy rooted in technology, entrepreneurial skills acquisition relevant to all sectors of the national economy.

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#### **About the Author**

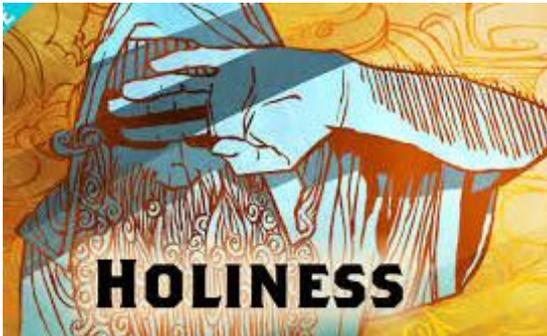


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# THE PURSUIT OF HOLINESS

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## *The Pursuit of Holiness*<sup>1</sup>

"Pursue holiness without which no man shall see the Lord" Hebrews 12:14 (NIV)

As I put pen to paper, I am fully conscious of the difficulty that meets us when dealing with this crucial topic of "Holiness". It is a vital subject which deserves far more attention than it receives in our times. This paper discusses practical aspects of 'Holiness' rather than its root meaning. For a deeper treatment of its root meaning from the Old Testament, we recommend a reading of Dr Joel Beeke or Andrew Bonar's work. In many senses, I am largely indebted to the late good old Bishop of Liverpool, John Charles Ryle (1816-1900) whose monumental work continues to echo and help many of us over a century after his passing into glory.

Our lot is cast in extremely dynamic times where any talk about or allusion to 'Holiness' is viewed with suspicion and to some extent treated as repugnant to some people. In some sense, 'Holiness' is treated like a beggar meddling with our pockets. Several reactions naturally come to the fore though at least two definitely will rear their heads. To some, any "Holiness talk" sounds archaic. The very word "Holiness" generates graphic images of being old fashioned, reclusive, backward and fossilised (Ryle 1968). Images like toe touching long skirts, old thread bare and badly bleached clothes, dangerously depreciated tilted shoes and long brittle wire-like kinky hair immediately come to the post-modern globally minded liberal Christian's mind. To others, the idea is associated with a bigotry-like "holier than thou" attitude. Yet Holiness is very much a Scriptural idea. It certainly deserves attention than it generally does in present times.

<sup>1</sup> Title was originally used by Jerry Bridges as far as I know in his land mark classic book. I have borrowed the great title.

## What Holiness is and how it is understood in the Bible

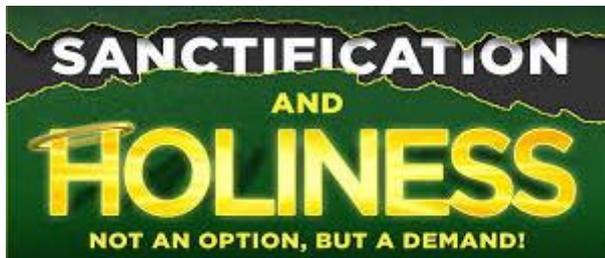


It is known that theologically, the word 'Holiness' (GK: *hagiasmos* as in 'sanctification'; Heb: *Qdash*) can be viewed at least in a two-fold sense. The first, as suggested by others such as Bonar (1864), is what is known as **positional holiness**. This is the state in which all the Christians are when they become Born Again (i.e. Regenerated (GK: *Paliggenesia*); Titus 3:5-7; I Corinthians 6:11; 2 Corinthians 5:17). The moment that person is converted from a life of sin having believed in the Lord Jesus Christ alone for salvation through faith and not works (Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5), at that moment, God declares them righteous (i.e. in Justification; Romans 3:21-24) and sets them apart. From that moment, this personal and yet holy God the acquitter deals with them "as though they have never sinned" as some scholars have rightly quipped. This positional holiness implies that anyone who has never truly turned from sin is still under God's condemnation (John 3: 18). All their good works such as church attendance, alms giving among others are futile before the Ancient of Days. Their best physical good works are as filthy rags before God's eyes (Isaiah 64:6). The Christian then is sanctified for holy use by God and thus called living 'saints', not dead (Ephesians 1; 1b; Romans 1:7; I Corinthians 1:2; 2 Corinthians 1: 1b; Philippians 1;1 etc.).

The second is **progressive holiness** which our immediate text (i.e. Hebrews 12:14) highlights. This is the moral standard that every true Christian has to strive after (Ryle 1968). Mark my words "true Christian", not any hypocrite. This means that the moment that someone flies to Christ for refuge, they suddenly resolve to fight sin to the bitter end, 'until they breathe their last', as someone has aptly coined the phrase.

To be 'holy', then, is to be separated (or 'cut off') from sin and, thus consecrated to God. It is a curious fact that several people in our day lay claim to Christ but alas, their lives fall short of their verbal profession. They carry Bibles in their hands but probably have not Christ in their hearts. Progressive holiness entails Christians consciously and diligently work out their salvation synergistically with the Holy Spirit (Philippians 2:12-13) as He works in their lives daily sanctifying them. To the extent that the Christian applies themselves to godly things and the means of grace, to that extent will they grow in holiness. In short, a holy person is someone who is more like God. A point worth noting however is that 'holiness' is a result of inward transformation by the Holy Spirit rather than works of human effort or ingenuity as some attempt to do (Ephesians 2:8-10). A person is first justified before they have holiness claims not vice versa.

### Why holiness is important and the necessity of its pursuit



It must be stated that the pursuit of holiness is compulsory for all true Christians with no special exceptions! From the time of conversion to their dying day, the Christian must pursue holiness (Bridges, 2016). Christians develop holy desires. It bothers them when they are not as holy as they ought to be. In other words, every regenerate saint will labour to be holy. Holiness must be pursued because:

(1) Yahweh is Holy and therefore all who have dealings with Him must be holy (1 Peter 1:16): It logically follows that nothing less than 100% holiness is acceptable! Further, God commands all His people to be holy.

(2) It is for Christian's own good: If the Christian persists in sin and disobedience, God will punish, distance Himself or discipline them. Regenerate people are treated as children (Hebrews 12:6) and therefore must be like their God in their outlook to life. Being personal rather than deistic in nature, God has a relationship with His redeemed children in Christ. We may wonder how many in these degenerate days walk like Jesus did. How many walk worthy of their calling? How many are holy in the common and mundane things of life? How do they conduct themselves in their dealings with other people? How about their honesty and integrity in all spheres of life? The Christian lives an ethically holy life, consecrated to God.

(3) Holiness is required for effective service to The Ancient of Days: The Holy Spirit richly empowers clean holy vessels for service. For how can He use those who live contrary to God's will? A consideration of those He has mightily used across history will confirm that they have been most consecrated to Him (2 Tim 2:21).

(4) Holiness is necessary for our assurance of salvation: Many remain in doubt and thus are not as effective as they should. Could it be that they have not progressed in holiness as they should? Those that forsake all things for Christ and live consistent holy lives are most assured. Their public and private lives match. They do not linger like Lot of old (Gen 19:16). Readers should note that the only sure evidence that one is regenerate is a holy life (2 Cor 5: 17)

(5) Holiness is for today as much as it was for the past and future: God's standard does not change as the post-modern mind is likely think. Change is the currency of the times but the Christian must remain holy even within those changing seasons. The expression may vary but the principle remains. Dimensions for sinning have significantly increased as Paul warned (Romans 1:32; II Timothy 3: 1-5) but the Christian needs to watch and pray lest they be sifted by sin. One subtle way in which sin has crippled many a saint is their in prudent use of inherently helpful resources such as the internet at times. Though much good comes with the net, yet much spiritual harm could and does equally seep through. Circumspection is essential even there. Professor Fackson Banda once correctly quipped that Christians need what he termed '*cyber holiness*' How apt that phrase!

### Some marks of a holy person

How may we know that we are holy?" Only two suggestions will suffice:

The first mark is a growing hatred for sin (Ryle 1968; Bridges, 2016)<sup>2</sup>. A holy person detests sin more and more each passing day. They strive to be like God as they wrestle with worldliness and its attendant effects, the flesh and the Devil (I John 2:15-17). The worst enemy is sin and like Paul often cry "O wretched man that I am!" (Rom 7:24) but in the same breath say "I press on" (Phil 3:12). The person fights and wrestles with sin daily. No cease fire is ever declared with sin! The full armour of God is consistently worn all the days in this spiritual battle. Does the reader of this paper know anything of any inward conflict?

The second is a deepening love for God. Genuine Christians love God deeply and sincerely from the heart that they do all things for Him out of a joyful heart. Have you noticed those two people madly in

<sup>2</sup> Jerry Bridges says it better in his own words: "*As we grow in holiness, we grow in hatred of sin; and God, being infinitely holy, has an infinite hatred of sin.*"

love? Notice the sparkle in their eyes as they are with their dear one! Everything else is irrelevant at that point, not even the air they breathe! Notice how they fondly talk about their love to other people! Something like this imperfect human love and a thousand times more is what floods the heart of the holy saint. Each life year is consecrated to the Lord and often times their minds are filled with holy things. They daily yearn to be with God in prayer. Their closet is never covered with multiple dust layers, nay they frequently visit it and that, daily. The special location and hour of prayer is most treasured. Is it the roof top or the field? No hurdle will stand in their way. The Christians' love for God is far deeper than any mortal example.

Further, consistent daily Bible reading regime without coercion is their practice. If it were possible, the Christian would rather abandon all other human books only to exclusively read this one book divine. The Bible is their love letter from God. Inward purity of life is their goal. Their walk at home and abroad is consecrated to God. They give no occasion to the flesh to indulge in evil things because they are ever grateful to God for having cleansed them from their past sins. Even if they have a terminal illness, they will love God still! In a nutshell, Christ is all in all in their lives and as such could give up everything they possess if they could be more like Christ.

What about inherent love for God's children, the saints? Does the Christian's life radiate Christ in the public domain? Does this holiness permeate all departments of daily life? What about the social, political and ecclesiastical arenas? Holiness beams out from the sanctified believer regardless of what station they find themselves in life. For them, the whole of life is worship to God (Romans 12:1-3).

### Hindrances to Holiness

One of the major hindrances to attaining/maintaining a holy life is one's attitude towards sin. Subtly, humans tend to classify some sins as being "more serious" than others<sup>3</sup>. But it must be asserted that all sin is heinous in God's sight regardless of the nature or apparent 'magnitude' (1 John 5:17). Let not the Christian misunderstand scripture or add a meaning the author never meant (Klein, Blomberg and Hubbard, 2004). Granted, some sins appear more 'public' than others but all sin is sin. Depending on one's view of sin, they may be lax or sensitively diligent against it. True Christianity is a fight of faith (1 Tim 6:12)! This fight is not waged with physical weapons but spiritual. Washer (2008) makes good case when he challenges the Church towards separation from the world. A low view of sin generally weds the Church to worldliness and sin. That said, the Christian therefore must

<sup>3</sup> Bridges aptly says the following in relation to sin: "We become so accustomed to our sins we sometimes lapse into a state of peaceful coexistence with them, but God never ceases to hate them."

diligently labour and apply themselves to the means of grace if they are to grow in holiness. The Christian must meditatively read the Bible as they frequently pray, fellowship more and it is possible that certain things will change for the better.

The lingering question is, Are you holy?

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# PERFORMANCE OF UGANDA'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILS UNDER DECENTRALIZED SYSTEM OF GOVERNANCE: A REVIEW

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## ABSTRACT

*Decentralization as a system of governance was adopted for implementation in Uganda in 1993. The exercise started as a pilot with few local governments brought on board. Overtime, all other local governments were then expected to adopt the principles and practice of decentralized system of governance. This study reveals that despite over 24 years of implementation of decentralization policy and programs in Uganda, a lot still remains to be done by the different actors of decentralization policy and programs. Services to the grassroots population have not been effectively and efficiently provided; corruption and embezzlement of public funds are rife; there is inadequate, anecdotal and fragmented capacity building of policy makers who are expected to effectively and efficiently execute their respective duties and responsibilities; there is inadequate and irregular release of quarterly funds to local government authorities; and limited political, economic and social will to effectively and efficiently operationalize decentralization policy and programs for the mutual benefit of the grassroots population. To this extent, the study recommends that effective capacity building program for local leaders and technocrats be given utmost attention; more funding is needed to implement decentralized services; and political, economic and social will be emphasized by key central and local government leaders with the main objective of improving the quality of performance of local governments in service delivery Uganda.*

**Key words: decentralization, performance, governance, Local Government Councils**

## INTRODUCTION

Decentralization entails the transfer of planning, decision making and administrative authority from the center to Local Governments. The term can be used to mean a system of government in which power is granted to local authorities, or a process by which governance is moved from a centralized to a decentralized system (Prud'homme, 2003). The different types of decentralization include political, administrative, fiscal and market decentralization. In the case of Uganda, decentralization was initiated in 1993 when the Local Government Statute (1993) was

passed by the National Resistance Council (parliament).

Decentralization policy occupies an important place in the political landscape in Uganda. It affects virtually all important decisions and programs at both central and local government levels, and yet accurate information about the legislation and policies governing decentralization has been difficult to obtain and effectively and efficiently operationalize (Kisembo, 2006). Uganda's development and the welfare of her people can best be realized through democratic decentralization. This policy which is a key vehicle for improving service provision and reducing poverty is expected to be exercised through devolution of planning, budgeting, financial management and development, management powers and responsibilities to popularly elected local governments.

### Key Objectives of Decentralization Policy

- To transfer real power to Local Governments and therefore reduce the workload of remote under-resourced central government officials;
- To bring political and administrative control over services to a point where they are actually delivered thereby improving accountability and effectiveness, and promote people's feelings of ownership of programs and projects executed in their local governments;
- To free local managers from central government constraints and enable them to develop effective and sustainable organizational structures that are tailored to local circumstances;
- To improve financial accountability and responsibility by establishing a clear link between payment of taxes and provision of services; and
- To improve the capacity of local authorities to plan, finance, implement and manage the delivery of services (Okidi & Guloba, 2004).

It is important to underscore that the philosophy of decentralization is also an instrument of shifting attitudes, developing and deepening skills and competences, and engaging multiple stakeholders in the development processes, including participation in planning and implementation of government programs.

## ***Governance***

This can be looked at as the process whereby public institutions conduct public affairs, manage public resources and guarantee the realization of human rights. Governance accomplishes this in a manner essentially free of abuse and corruption, and with due regard to the rule of law. The true test of good governance is the degree to which it delivers on the promise of human rights: civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights (Onyac Olaa, 2003; United Nations Charter, 1948). Most of the challenges in the area of governance rotate around coordination and alignment of the legal framework. While most local governments comply with line Ministry guidelines in their operations, there are as yet no adequate mechanisms for handling those that do not (Onyac Olaa, 2003).

Monitoring, supervision and coordination of local government performance as well as issuance of guidelines by line ministries have not been adequately coordinated, leading to operational overlaps and contradictions at times. Equally, reporting mechanisms are not centrally well coordinated, which multiplies the workload of local governments tremendously. In a sense, one may look at good governance to emphasize the notion of: accountability, transparency, equitable and inclusive management, effective and efficient management, the rule of law, participatory management, and consensus – oriented decision making process and implementation.

## ***Functions and Powers of Local Governments in Uganda***

Local Governments have governmental powers which include political, executive, and legislative responsibilities. The Local Government Act (1997) provides that a Local Government Council shall within its area of jurisdiction:

- Exercise all political and executive powers and functions;
- Provide services as it deems fit with the exception of the functions, powers and services reserved for the central Government;
- Protect the Constitution and other laws of Uganda and promote democratic governance; and
- Ensure the implementation and compliance with central government policies (Local Government Act, 1997).

Generally, Local Governments have several devolved powers. The powers of Uganda's districts and urban councils to deliver services now include promoting and development of primary and secondary schools, supporting the provision of health care services in hospitals and health centers, control of communicable diseases, the construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of roads, agricultural extension works, planning, land surveying, land administration, physical planning, forests and wetlands management, street children and orphans support activities, community development, trade licenses, licensing of produce buying, information services and social welfare and development (Decentralization in Uganda: Popular Version, 1997).

## ***METHODS OF STUDY***

The study is a review based on corroborating relevant and available literatures associated with local government management, and decentralization policy and practices. Key informant interviews were conducted with a few individuals. Trend analysis and interpretation was relied on, including reliance on experience of the author in local government management in Uganda for about 10 years. The Local Government Act of 1997 and 2007; and the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda also formed the basis of assessing performance of Local Governments in Uganda. The study involved an analysis, interpretation and drawing conclusions from 138 out of 162 Local Governments in Uganda (Ministry of Local Government, June 2018).

## ***LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE IN UGANDA IN 2017/2018***

The table herein presented shows a list of 138 local governments' performance in Uganda. The issues regarding the performance of local governments in this study focused on the following main areas of assessment: health services, education services, water services as well as cross cutting issues such as accountability, and filing of quarterly reports on different areas of mandatory service delivery by local governments. The assessment conducted is meant to provide incentives and promote good practices in administration, resource management, accountability and service delivery (Ministry of Local Government, 2018).

**Table 1: Showing Local Government Performance in Uganda**

Local Government	Score %	Local Government	Score %	Local Government	Score %
Masindi Municipal Council	85%	Mitooma District	60%	Bugiri District	51%
Butambala District	77%	Kamwenge District	60	Rakai District	51%
Ibanda Municipal Council	77%	Kanungu District	60%	Rakai Municipal Council	51%
Kyegegwa District	76%	Kisoro District	60%	Oyam District	50%
Apac Municipal Council	76%	Rukungiri District	60%	Nakapiripirit District	50%
Hoima District	76%	Kyankwanzi District	60%	Amudat District	50%
Kibaale District	75%	Adjumani District	60%	Kaabong District	50%
Mbarara District	72%	Lyantonde District	60%	Ntungamo District	50%
Mubende District	71%	Rubirizi District	60%	Kisoro Municipal Council	49%
Gomba District	70%	Moroto District	59%	Mayuge District	49%
Ibanda District	70%	Koboko Municipal Council	59%	Mityana Municipal Council	49%
Kiryadongo District	70%	Kyenjojo District	59%	Nebbi Municipal Council	49%
Maracha District	69%	Tororo District	59%	Kapchorwa District	49%
Lira District	69%	Aleptong District	58%	Manafwa District	49%
Apach District	69%	Kole District	58%	Makindye-Ssabagabo Municipal	49%
Kiruhura District	68%	Bushenyi District	58%	Kanungu District	48%
Amuru District	68%	Lamwo District	58%	Busia District	48%
Kiboga District	68%	Masaka District	58%	Luuka District	48%
Nebbi District	68%	Yumbe District	58%	Mukono Municipal Council	47%
Agago District	67%	Buikwe District	57%	Buyende District	47%
Dokolo District	67%	Bududa District	57%	Kotido Municipal Council	47%
Kabale District	67%	Moyo District	57%	Namayingo District	47%
Napak District	67%	Otuke District	57%	Bukwo District	46%
Mpigi District	67%	Buvuma District	56%	Isingiro District	46%
Sheema Municipal Council	67%	Nakaseke District	56%	Kamuli District	46%
Masindi District	66%	Buliisa District	56%	Sembabule District	46%
Mityana District	65%	Nwoya District	55%	Kibuku District	46%
Rukungiri Municipal Council	65%	Kaliro District	55%	Rubanda District	44%
Kotido District	65%	Busia Municipal Council	55%	Kween District	44%
Luwero District	65%	Amolatar District	54%	Sironko District	43%
Kagadi District	65%	Kumi District	54%	Mbale District	43%
Arua District	64%	Iganga District	54%	Pallisa District	43%
Omoror District	64%	Abim District	53%	Butaleja District	43%
Bundibugyo District	64%	Gulu District	53%	Bulambulu District	41%
Bushenyi-Ishaka Municipal Council	64%	Jinja District	53%	Njeru Municipal Council	41%
Nakasongola District	63%	Kayunga District	53%	Budaka District	40%
Wakiso District	6%	Kitgum District	53%	Bugiri Municipal Council	40%
Kabarole District	63%	Nansana Municipal Council	53%	Lugazi Municipal Council	39%
Ntungamo Municipal Council	62%	Pader District	53%	Soroti District	39%
Kasese District	61%	Kira Municipal Council	53%	Kapchorwa Municipal Council	39%
Kakumiro District	61%	Bukomansimbi District	53%	Amuria District	32%
Koboko District	61%	Lwengo District	52%	Katakwi District	31%
Kalangala District	61%	Namutumba District	52%	Bukedea District	31%
Buhweju District	61%	Kaberamaido District	51%	Ngora District	30%
Ntoroko district	61%	Serere District	51%	Iganga Municipal Council	29%
Zombo District	61%	Sheema District	51%	Kumi Municipal Council	28%

**Source: Government of Uganda, Office of the Prime Minister, June 2018**

According to the Local Government leaders from the local governments evaluated, they blamed their failures majorly on budget cuts by the central Government of Uganda which made it difficult to deliver effective and efficient services as earlier on planned in the financial year; low salaries of district officers thereby frustrating their efforts in attracting principal officers to head departments. Low salaries have also been responsible for killing enthusiasm and commitment to effectively and efficiently work by existing staff members.

The leaders of the districts and municipal councils also faulted political pronouncements that waive taxes payable at a time when such revenue sources are needed to support the provision of planned services. It became clear that local governments in Uganda are faced with the problem of narrow and not viable potential as well as real sources of local revenues to finance their respective activities. Many district leaders argued that better, easier to collect and more lucrative sources of revenues are a reserve and monopoly of central government of Uganda.

Importantly, the district leaders decried loss of revenues to the nearby Municipal Council authorities which collect taxes from hotels, private schools, and markets in their areas of jurisdiction. It is like a number of Municipal Council authorities have been pouching on the revenue bases of district council governments.

## **DISCUSSIONS**

Uganda attained its independence in October 1962. From that time, a lot of expectations became rife as the new breed of African leaders took the mantle of power. At the initial stage, centralized system of governance was promoted to put in place appropriate systems of governance. As the years went by, it became clearer that decentralization should take its firm basis and rightful position in the management of Ugandan affairs. Much as there was disruption in the building of strong State institutions when President Idi Amin staged a coup and overthrew the elected government of President Apollo Milton Obote, things did not fundamentally / holistically improve in terms of local governance. It is true that in 1997, Government of Uganda enacted the famous Local Government Act (1997) to operationalize the ethos of decentralization philosophy. The new Constitution came into force in 1995 which actually gave rise to the enactment of the Local Government Act of 1997 with the amended version of 2007. It is unfortunate to note that since 1993, the pace real power devolution to local government authorities have been slower than expected (Emorut, 2006).

The central government of Uganda still continues to enjoy a bigger share of the lucrative and easier to collect sources of revenue. The more difficult sources of revenue to collect have been relegated to Local Government authorities, and yet more work and services are expected to be executed at the lower level of governance such as at the district, municipal, sub-county and division authorities. It is lamented that the Local Government authorities only enjoys less than 15% of transferred money from central government for use at the local government level (Personal Communication from Chairperson Local Council V of Amuru district, June 2018). This means that local government authorities are crippled financially to execute their mandatory obligations as expected and enshrined in the Constitution of the republic of Uganda (1995) as well as in the Local Government Act of 1997 and the amended version of 2007. It is also noted that even the transfer of funds from central government through the ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to local government authorities is irregular and not timely to warrant and guarantee the effective and efficient provision of services (Personal oral communication from Chairperson Local Council V of Nwoya District Local Government, July 5, 2018).

It should have been the responsibility of the central Government to build the capacities of local leaders through comprehensive training programs right from

the inception of decentralization policy and practice in 1993. However, it is unfortunate to note that capacity building programs in the form of training leaders, especially policy makers have been in piece meals – not comprehensive enough to spur sustainable management of decentralized services in Local Governments (Ahmad, Junaid, Shantayanan, Khemani, Stuti, Shah, Shekhar, 2005). It is argued that decentralization policy and practices have been successful in Scandinavian countries mainly because a lot of resources and preparation were invested through capacity building programs to kick-start the process such that by the time the actual process took off, the different stakeholders were prepared to effectively and efficiently manage the process and the associated activities. The targeted stakeholders who are critical in the effective and efficient promotion and sustenance of decentralization policy and programs should include: the local population, the technocrats and the policy makers. So, with adequate preparation and allocation of commensurate resources for the tasks, it became easier to sustain the ethos of decentralization policy and practice in Scandinavian countries (Emorut, 2006).

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The study on local government performance offers empirical evidence and shows how challenges in effective community participation, accountability, transparency, resource allocation, infrastructure and equipment, work environment affect district and municipal council performance. These indicators have been found wanting in many local governments that scored less than 50% threshold as per the table illustrated, thereby crippling effective and efficient performance of district and municipal council authorities to execute their duties and responsibilities as expected. The findings indicate that some district and municipal council leaders do not adequately know their due effective duties and responsibilities. This affected their due diligence and commitment to work in terms of good guidance provision.

Proper and formal communication channels of reporting and raising issues was found to be a challenge. Local community members have been found not to adequately know how and when to report their concerns to the relevant authorities for appropriate action. So, the need for community sensitization becomes crucial so that they are aware of vital reporting channels in a bid to enhance performance, accountability and transparency in activity execution and management.

There has been concern by district and municipal council leaders in respect to how resources are allocated including corruption. To the leaders, the central Government has always and continues to enjoy the better share when it comes to resource allocation and management. It is argued that there is unfairness and injustice meted out in the allocation and utilization of revenue resources at the district and municipal council level. Transfer of funding and facilities for

work to the district and municipal council leaders are only limited and not balanced as compared with the tasks on the ground. Easier to collect and manage sources of revenue which are more lucrative are monopolized by central Government through Uganda Revenue Authority. To the district and municipal council leaders, this attitude and practice should be changed for the mutual good and benefit of both local and central government management. After all, the greater part of service delivery is executed at the district and other lower government councils where the bigger populations are located.

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# THE RELATIONSHIP OF WESLEY THEOLOGY AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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The complete version of this summarised article is available at:

<http://www.stclements.edu/Articles/The-Relationship-of-Wesley-Theology-and-Christian-Education.pdf>

*This is an English extract from a book published for the St Clements University Doctor of Letters degree program.*

## Preface

Wesley's theology focuses on the lower class gospel service, emphasizing human "value". He wanted to make sure that people can get peace in their life. Wesley profoundly realized the conditions in which life was difficult at that time. He cared for the "needs" of people in the spirit of Christ, including their spiritual and practical needs. He was actively involved in charity work such as prison visits, poverty alleviation programs and various kinds of charity work. He believed that the human body and soul must be satisfied. At that time, the church leaders were only focusing on "salvation", the scope of the soul, and the activities of the church, such as preaching, meeting, or evangelism. It did not understand that "all people are to be treated". Wesley wanted to take into account "the needs of all people". He believed that it is necessary not only to care for souls and salvation, but also to properly care for the actual needs in people's lives. The gospel should include "double blessings," which is "full-person service".

## The concept of Wesley Theology's "full-person service"

Wesley's theology believes that "full person salvation" is very important. During his college years, he treated the poor people in life and spirituality and enriched the dimension of Wesley's theology. He built schools and built residences to help families in need. Wesley's teaching of "a peacemaker" is to seize the opportunity to "do good to people" because God's love is doing good for all around him. Wesley believed that God helps people to help each other and people can help people in need. The action of Christians in helping others is to bring God's blessings into the lives of others and enable them to meet God. Christians have the ability to earn and use goods to help others to solve financial problems.

## The interpretation of Wesley's Theology's "full-person service"

The interpretation of Wesley's Theology's "full-person service" is to promote fellowship and serve. Advocacy is to reach people through different levels of obedience

and spread the gospel among the crowd. Fellowships are gathered together to interact and share with each other. Serve the people at different levels, including education, loans, schools and clinics. Because of the "full-person service", the service allows people to actually experience God's love, regardless of race, class, color, and knowledge. When people touch upon true love and begin to reflect deeply on life, they can meet God. Jesus enters the crowd as a human being. He wants to meet with people. People can truly see "true love" and let "true love" come into life and give their life to God.

## Practice and Exploration of "All Persons Service"

Hong Kong schools have different religious backgrounds and Christianity is one of them. Christian schools co-exist with "full person service" and existing courses. The school curriculum is based on the participation of different elements of Christianity and will not lose the ability to learn. Hope to use the following article to explore and understand how "full-person service" works in schools. The emphasis on "full service" is demonstrated through school education. Let us have a deeper understanding and introspection of the "full person", and we can grasp the essence. Sharing the mission and vision of Christian education, we pay tribute to the educators at the Christian School of "full person service".

## Conclusion

Previously, learning is teacher-centered and focuses on the teaching of teachers. Modern teaching is student-centered and focuses on students' self-discovery. The "full-person service" of Christian schools is to allow students to explore, discover, and act on their own. The purpose of Christian "full-person service" is to allow Christ to reform people's character and to have a Christ-centered act so that the whole life is under the management of Christ. "Full-person service" is to be creative: to constantly update and improve, and to do our utmost. Let people continue to change inside and outside the school scene, constantly review and create a good life outcome.

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# ECOWAS MONETARY UNION: DOES THE BANDWAGON MATTER?

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## INTRODUCTION

Following the trend towards Globalization and the economies of scale derivable in largeness, many nations sharing common geographical locations, language and culture have found it expedient to come together as a regional body, intent on cooperating with one another in the areas of currency, trade, security, free movement of citizens, culture and sporting exchanges. In West Africa, one such regional body was formed known as ECOWAS-the Economic Community of West African States, by a treaty in May 1975 in Lagos Nigeria on behalf of fifteen nations-Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cote D'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo. One of the primary purposes of coming together is to achieve the use of a common currency in the region as a basic integrating factor, facilitating both trade and free movement of citizens, following the work of Mundell [1961] Mackinuon (1963) and Kohnen (1969), on the benefits of such monetary cooperation.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To use present and past EU figures to study the practical benefits of monetary union.
2. On the basis of the outcome, to advice ECOWAS Heads of Government, to either step up or step down the current quest to form such a union.

## DEFINITION OF TERMS

ECOWAS – Economic Community of West African States

EU – European Union

EMU – Economic and Monetary Union

VAR – Vector Autoregression

OCA – Optimum Currency Areas

t- Test – A test of difference of means of two samples

ECB – European Central Bank

EuroStats – European Statistics

IMF – International Monetary Fund

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### A. Theoretical

When economists such as Mundell [1961], were theorizing about optimal unions in the middle of the twentieth century, most people regarded the exercise

largely as hypothetical. But since many European countries established a monetary union at the end of the century, the theory of monetary unions has become much more relevant to many more people.

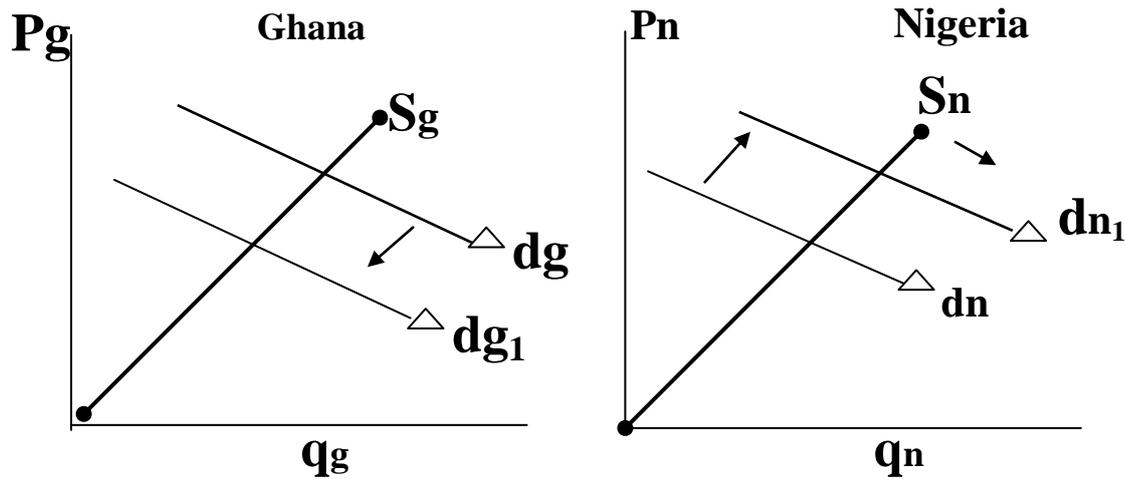
The elimination (Debrun: 2002) of national currencies and their replacement by a common regional currency continues to be a topical subject. It has inspired much research mainly in the European context, but other regions are now considering the advisability of such a project. The reasons behind such drive ranges from wanting to promote regional solidarity and integration to a fear that independent national currency may be subject to destabilizing speculations. Traditional OCA theory believes that countries exposed to similar symmetric shocks and business cycles, or possessing mechanisms for the absorption of similar asymmetric shocks may find it optimal to adopt a common currency. Much of this literature focuses on four inter-relationships between the members of a potential OCA. As observed by Frankel and Rose (1998) these are: the extent of trade; the similarity of the shocks and cycles; the degree of labor mobility; and the system of fiscal transfers (if any). The greater the linkages between the countries using any of the four criteria, the more suitable they are for a common currency.

The preliminary aspect of analyzing the costs and benefits of monetary union will be based on the work of Mundell (1961) Mackinuon (1963) and Kohnen (1969), major proponents of the theory of optimum currency area.

Initially let us present a simplified model based on two nations called Nigeria and Ghana who have agreed to form a momentary union by abandoning their national currencies Naira and Cedi to adopt a common currency called the Eco, which is managed by a common central bank.

According to Mundell, if for some reason consumers shift their demand preferences away from Ghana made goods in favour of Nigeria made goods. The effect of this asymmetric (unequal) shock in both nations is explained below.

**Fig 1: Aggregate d & S in Ghana and Nigeria**



The shift in demand will push down output in Ghana and increase same in Nigeria.

As Nigeria faces boom in output, and high prices and employment, Ghana will be confronted with a low demand, low output and high unemployment.

Immediately, two mechanisms of automatic adjustment will swing into action.

a) Wage Flexibility

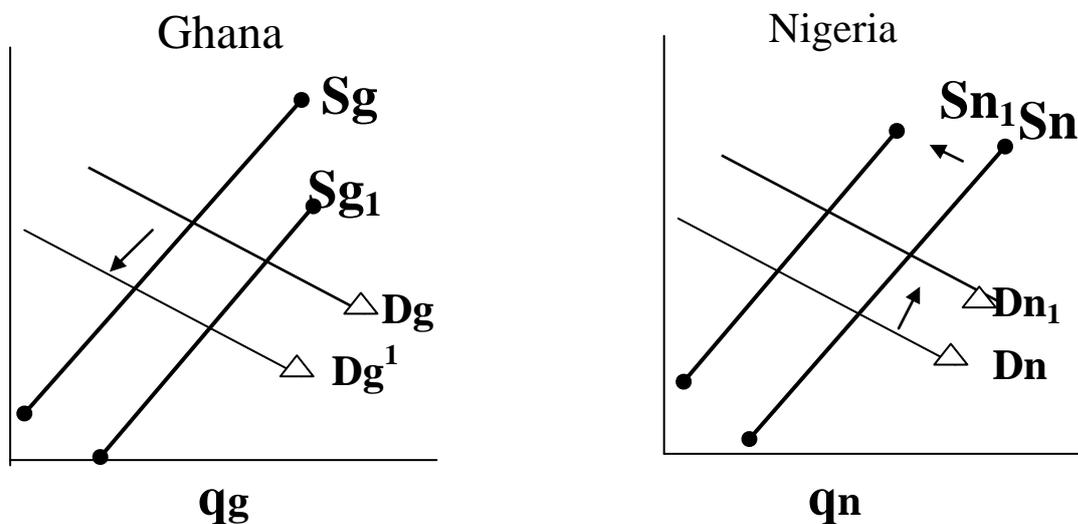
But if wages in both countries are flexible, more unemployed workers in Ghana will mean reduced wage bills in Ghana, shifting aggregate demand curve downwards, but in Nigeria increasing wage bills will shift total demand curve upward tending to bring back equilibrium.

b) Labour Mobility

If there is perfect labour mobility, the unemployed labour in Ghana will move to Nigeria where there is demand for labour. This will help to obviate the inevitability of cost of labour facility falling in Ghana and prices rising in Nigeria thereby forestalling an imminent unemployment and inflation problem in both countries.

Therefore, Mundell (1961) concludes that monetary union between nations is encouraged if there is sufficient wage flexibility and sufficient mobility of labour.

**Fig 2: The automatic adjusting process.**



But in practice wages tend to be only flexible in the upward [Keynes: 1951] direction and social and cultural values especially in Africa hampers labour mobility. In the absence of an adjustment mechanism, Ghana will suffer unemployment problems while the pressure of demand will push up prices in Nigeria causing inflation.

## B. Empirical

However, many empirical studies using Vector Autoregression (VAR) models to analyze incidence of asymmetric shocks in West Africa according to the standard pattern and techniques applied in advanced economies as pioneered by Blanchard and Quah (1989) and Boyoumi and Eichengreen (1992). Among them are also Fielding, and Shields (2001, 2003), Ogunkola (2005), and Masson and Patillo (2004), who based their studies on the optimum currency areas literature which was focused on the asymmetries of shocks and a synchronization of fiscal policies in the region, concluded that countries with different fiscal distortions are unattractive partners for monetary union.

This conclusion seems to tally with the findings of this study, which discovered that after eighteen years of EMU, current figures seems not to indicate that monetary union possess the advantages espoused by the erstwhile protagonists. **“In the long run”, said Keynes, “we are all dead, why worry”.**

## METHODOLOGY

The study was based on the analysis of secondary data from European Union as supplied by IMF EuroStats and ECB in the areas of employment, percentage changes in price level, growth of GDP percent, percentage share of world GDP and Investment percent of GDP. The pre-EMU employment figure was obtained using the average of three years before EMU or 1997 to 1999 and the post-EMU figure is the average of 2015 to 2017. The two figures were compared for mean difference using student t statistics and a hypothesis of no difference.

$X_1$	$X_2$	$\{\bar{X}_1 - X_1\}^2$	$\{\bar{X}_2 - X_2\}^2$
4.54	5.75	19.2721	18.33267
8.99	7.85	80.8201	61.6225
11.50	8.94	132.25	79.9236
10.67	9.96	113.8489	99.2016
9.19	4.18	84.4561	17.4724
11.21	20.97	125.6641	439.7409
8.74	8.36	76.3876	69.8896
11.17	11.61	124.7689	134.7921
3.08	6.31	9.4864	39.8161
4.43	6.01	19.6249	36.1201
5.35	10.80	28.6225	116.64
18.29	19.64	334.5241	385.7296
$\bar{X} = 8.93$	$\bar{X} = 10.03$	<b>1149.726</b>	<b>1499.281</b>

Hypothesis: The mean of unemployment figures before EMU and after EMU are not different.

Diagrams 1 to 4 was a comparative [a priori and posteriori] graphic presentation of selected economic indicators eighteen years before and after EMU, 1983 to 2000 and 2000 to 2017, in the believe that such will be enough to guide the author in making an informed conclusion in the topic under investigation.

## DATA PRESENTATION

**Table 1: UNEMPLOYMENT PER CENT OF TOTAL LABOUR FORCE 3 YEAR [PRE/POST] EU AVERAGE**

COUNTRY	PRE-EMU 1997 -1999 [3 Yr Average]	POST-EMU 2015-2017 [3 Yr Average]
Austria	4.54	5.75
Belgium	8.99	7.85
Finland	11.50	8.94
France	10.67	9.96
Germany	9.19	4.18
Greece	11.21	20.97
Ireland	8.74	8.36
Italy	11.17	11.61
Luxembourg	3.08	6.31
Netherlands	4.43	6.01
Portugal	5.35	10.80
Spain	18.29	19.64
<b>EU-Average</b>	<b>10.65</b>	<b>10.03</b>

Source: IMF, EuroStats, ECB

or  $H_0: \bar{x}_1 = \bar{x}_2 \quad t_{0.05}$   
 $H_1: \bar{x}_1 \neq \bar{x}_2 \quad t_{0.05}$

[Applying t test]

$$t = \frac{\bar{x}_1 - \bar{x}_2}{s} \sqrt{\frac{n_1 n_2}{n_1 + n_2}}$$

where  $S = \sqrt{\frac{\sum [(X_1 - \bar{X}_1)^2 + (X_2 - \bar{X}_2)^2]}{n_1 + n_2}}$

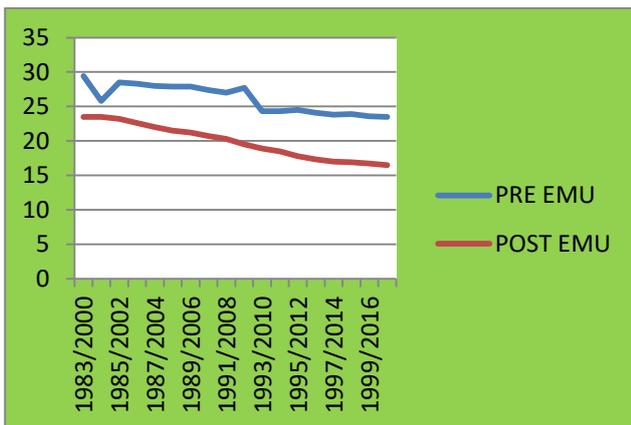
$S = 10.5$

$= -1.1/S \times 2.4$

$t = -0.27$

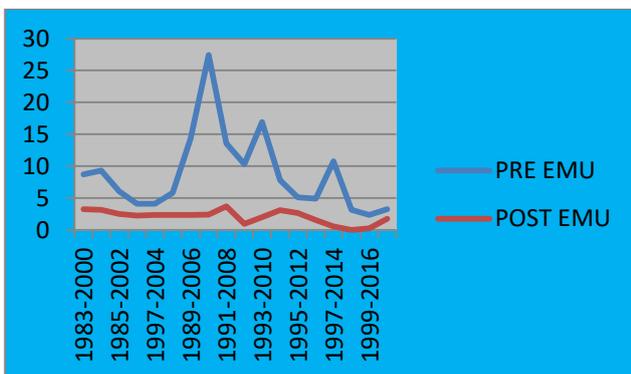
Table value [Two tail] of  $t_{0.025} = 2.07$  [Accept  $H_0$ ,  
 Reject  $H_1$ ]

**Diagram 1: EU share % of world GDP [Pre and Post EMU]**



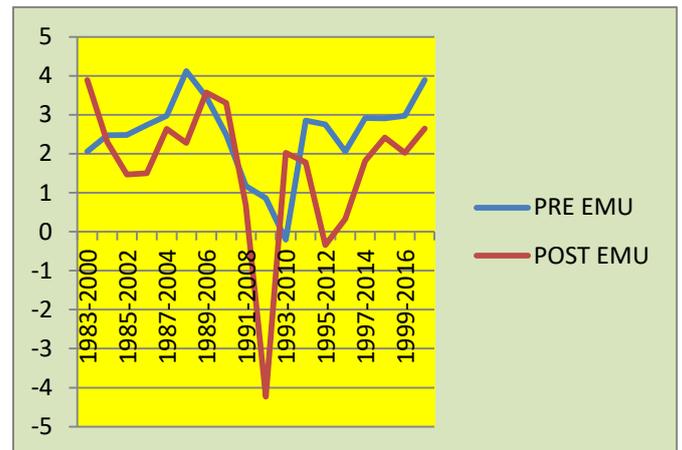
Source: IMF WEO Data Base

**Diagram 2: Percentage Change in Average Price Level [Pre and Post EMU]**



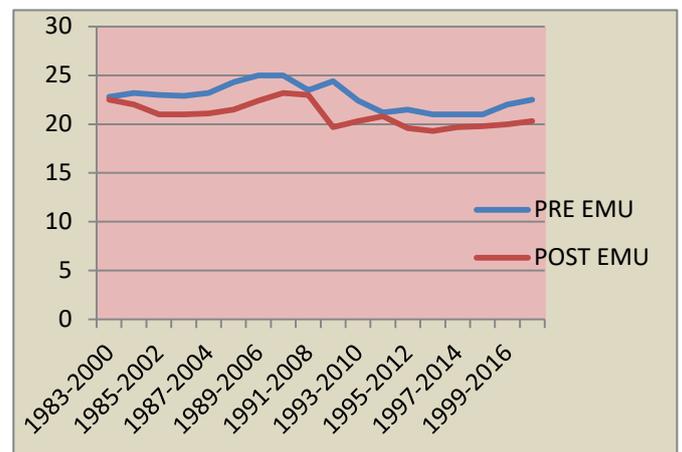
Source: IMF WEO Data Base

**Diagram 3: Annual Percent Change In GDP [Pre and Post EMU]**



Source: IMF WEO Data Base

**Diagram 4: Investment Percent of GDP**



Source: IMF WEO Data Base

**CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The hypothesis regarding the status of unemployment as the percentage of the total labour force pre-EMU and post-EMU was accepted using t- statistics at 5% degree of freedom, implying that the introduction of monetary union, on average, did not help to change the level of unemployment after eighteen years of experiment.

Other determining factors, presented in diagrams 1 to 4, also showed that pre-EMU figures or performances are far superior to post-EMU performances, except diagram 2 or percentage changes in price level which showed a lower more smooth predictable trend than it was before the introduction of EMU. In all, the benefits for now are far below expectation and the outlook for the future will require the transparent cooperation of all participating nations.

Since year 2000, when the idea was muted, no ECOWAS nation has achieved the convergence criteria, both major and minor. This is largely due to immature foundational structures and institutions and the social and cultural barriers which limits the openness of the citizens to accept ethno-cultural diversity and enculturation.

These foundational issues must first be dealt with for a fair economic maturity and stability to exist among the federating nations. The performance of EU must also be a guide, who despite their advanced institutional foundations, are still after several years of experimentation, unable to grasp those fundamental principles that can guide such a union to the part of collective prosperity.

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# KIRIBATI ISLAND'S DIPLOMACY AND FOREIGN RELATIONS

Dr Kemal Yildirim\*

## Introduction

The Republic of Kiribati is a nation made up of islands scattered across an area around the equator in the South Pacific Ocean, spanning as vast as 4,000 km from east to west and 2,000 km from north to south. The total land area of more than 30 islands is only 720 km<sup>2</sup>, or about the size of Tsushima in Nagasaki Prefecture. The soil on the islands encircled with coral reefs is not suitable for agriculture, so the country depends on imports for most of its vegetables and other daily necessities from New Zealand and Australia. Supplies from overseas are received at Betio Port on Tarawa Atoll, which is the country's capital. Betio Port is also Kiribati's only international port and is certainly the lifeline of the island nation.

Japan has been involved in the development of Betio Port for many years. From 1997 to 2000, the Japanese government improved a pier and container yard to enable cargo vessels to berth and the port to handle containers. Later Japan also repaired shore protection damaged by unusual ocean waves, considered to be caused by El Niño weather patterns. The size of cargo vessels has become larger in recent years, and some of them cannot berth at Betio Port because the water in front of the pier is not deep enough. In such cases, it is necessary to moor vessels in deep enough water, load their containers onto barges and unload at the pier. The cost of such transfer increases prices of goods.

The Project for Expansion of Betio Port (Main Construction), four years of grant assistance that started in 2011, will enable large cargo vessels to berth and unload directly at the port. Site Director Masanori Anan belongs to the joint-venture group consisting of Dai Nippon Construction and Toa Corporation and was involved in the initial assistance of Improvement of Betio Port Project that started in 1997. Mr. Anan, who has been working on-site on foreign aid projects for 15 years since he started his career at Dai Nippon Construction, said, "There is only a limited number of products, such as fish and coconuts that Kiribati is able to produce self-sufficiently. Fuel, foodstuffs and other items sold at stores are mostly imported. If stores run out of merchandise, all they can do is wait for the next scheduled ship."

## Foreign Relations of Kiribati

Kiribati is a full member of The Commonwealth, the IMF and the World Bank, and became a full member of the United Nations in 1999. Kiribati hosted the Thirty-First Pacific Islands Forum in October 2000.

Kiribati has Least Developed Country Status and its interests rarely extend beyond the region. Through accession to the Cotonou Agreement, Kiribati is also a member of the African Caribbean and Pacific Group. Kiribati maintains good relations with most countries and has particularly close ties to Pacific neighbours Japan, Australia and New Zealand. Kiribati established diplomatic relations with Taiwan in November 2003. Kiribati briefly suspended its relations with France in 1995 over that country's decision to renew nuclear testing in the South Pacific.

## Regional Relations

Kiribati maintains strong regional ties in the Pacific. It is a full member of the Pacific Islands Forum, the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission, the South Pacific Tourism Organisation, the Pacific Regional Environment Programme and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community. Kiribati is one of the eight signatories of the Nauru Agreement Concerning Cooperation In The Management Of Fisheries Of Common Interest which collectively controls 25-30% of the world's tuna supply and approximately 60% of the western and central Pacific tuna supply. In 1985, Kiribati was one of the nine initial endorsers of the Treaty of Rarotonga creating the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty.

## Extra-regional Relations

Kiribati was admitted to the Commonwealth of Nations in 1979 and to the United Nations in 1999. Additionally outside the region, Kiribati is a member or participant of the ACP (Lomé Convention), the Asian Development Bank, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the International Development Association, the International Finance Corporation, the IMF, International Maritime Organization, International Olympic Committee, International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Universal Postal Union and the World Meteorological Organization.

Finally, while Kiribati is not a member of the World Trade Organization, it does retain observer status.

Kiribati is the only developing nation in the Pacific never to have been a member of the Group of 77. Palau (which withdrew from membership in 2004) is

the only other Pacific developing nation that is not part of the group.

As one of the most vulnerable nations on the planet in terms of the effects of climate change, Kiribati has been an active participant in international diplomatic efforts relating to climate change, most importantly the UNFCCC conferences of the parties (COP). Kiribati is a member of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), an intergovernmental organization of low-lying coastal and small Island countries. Established in 1990, the main purpose of the alliance is to consolidate the voices of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to address global warming. AOSIS has been very active from its inception, putting forward the first draft text in the Kyoto Protocol negotiations as early as 1994.

In the summer of 2008, Kiribati officials asked Australia and New Zealand to accept Kiribati citizens as permanent refugees. Kiribati is expected to be the first country in which all land territory disappears due to global climate change. In June 2008, the Kiribati president Anote Tong said that the country has reached "the point of no return"; he added: "To plan for the day when you no longer have a country is indeed painful but I think we have to do that."<sup>[13][14][15][16]</sup>

In 2009 President Tong attending the Climate Vulnerable Forum (V11) in the Maldives, along with 10 other countries that are vulnerable to climate-change, and signed the Bandos Island declaration on 10 November 2009, pledging to show moral leadership and commence greening their economies by voluntarily committing to achieving carbon neutrality. In November 2010, Kiribati will host the Tarawa Climate Change Conference (TCCC), the purpose of which is to support the initiative of the President of Kiribati to hold a consultative forum between vulnerable states and their partners with a view of creating an enabling environment for multi-party negotiations under the auspices of the UNFCCC. The conference is a successor event to the Climate Vulnerable Forum. Based on the lessons learned in the COP process to-date, the TCCC proposes a more inclusive format of consultations, involving key partners among major developed and developing nations.<sup>[17]</sup> The TCCC will be a major advocacy and partnership building event embedded in the overall context of global and regional (Pacific) consultations on climate change. Furthermore, the TCCC aims to be an integral part of the process of regional and global consultations scheduled to take place in 2010. The ultimate objective of TCCC is to reduce the number and intensity of various fault lines between parties to the COP process, explore elements of agreement between the parties and thereby to support Kiribati's and other parties' contribution to COP16 to be held in Cancun, Mexico, from 29 November to 10 December 2010.

This is a list of diplomatic missions in Kiribati. The capital, South Tarawa, hosts four embassies.

#### Embassies/High Commissions

##### South Tarawa

-  Australia
-  Republic of China (Taiwan)
-  Cuba
-  New Zealand

##### Missions

-  People's Republic of China (Representative Office)

##### Non-resident embassies

-  Austria (Canberra)
-  Canada (Wellington)
-  Colombia (Tokyo)
-  Czech Republic (Kuala Lumpur)
-  Denmark (Singapore)
-  Finland (Canberra)
-  France (Suva)
-  Germany (Wellington)
-  Ireland (New York City)
-  Israel (Jerusalem)
-  Italy (Wellington)
-  Japan (Suva)
-  Republic of Korea (Suva)
-  Lesotho (Tokyo)
-  Malaysia (Suva)
-  Philippines (Washington)
-  Poland (Canberra)
-  Russia (Jakarta)
-  South Africa (Canberra)
-  Spain (Wellington)
-  Switzerland (Canberra)
-  Turkey (Canberra)
-  United Kingdom (Suva)
-  United States (Suva)

#### Lists of Kiribati Missions Abroad

This is a list of diplomatic missions of Kiribati. Kiribati opened its first diplomatic mission in 2002. The choice of Suva reflected the large number of Kiribati residents in the Fijian Islands working and studying, and Suva's prominence as a regional hub for Pacific diplomacy. In addition Sydney, Tokyo, Auckland, Honolulu, Seoul, Hamburg and London have Kiribati honorary consulates.

Kiribati opened an embassy in Taipei and a permanent mission to the United Nations in New York City in 2013.

-  United States of America
- New York City (Permanent mission to the United Nations)

#### Asia

-  Republic of China
- Taipei (Embassy)

#### Oceania

-  Fiji
- Suva (High Commission)

One of the main actor countries in the foreign policy shaping of Kiribati Smallest island of the Pacific is Australia and it has an enduring interest in Kiribati's stability and prosperity. Australia is likely to be one of the Kiribati's largest bilateral donor, supporting improved economic prospects and resilience, improved education and a healthier population in the region.

Kiribati Island Government has no any traditional form of investment from abroad but Kiribati has recently been offered \$350 million is a large chunk of cash for a country whose 2016 GDP was just \$211 million.) on the occasion to buy a one or two uninhabited islands of the country for foreign settlement Project by Putin of Russia oppositions as a result of the reaction against the Putin's policies.

As proposal came from Bakov who has established the Monarchist Party in Russia in 2012 to re-establish the throne, but his enthusiasm to go back to the days of the tsars hasn't caught fire in Russia. Perhaps that's just because he didn't have an island resort to go along with it.

Former Kiribati president Teburoro Tito stresses that he favored the deal. "If they can do it, without any cost on their government, except from the land which they can host them, then he does not see any fuss at this stage."

The government rather refuses to comment but instead they would prefer that their foreign investments commission in a way deals with such proposals to be evaluated. Such a deal could either be a rather logical investment since I also believe that this could be perhaps a solution to their financial problems.

Russians nowadays start to have a history with some of Kiribati's neighboring island nations. After the 2008 Russia-Georgia war, three of them — Vanuatu, Tuvalu, and Nauru as known — recognized Georgia's breakaway regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia in exchange for lucrative economic deals from Russia. (Russia reportedly paid Nauru \$50 million for recognizing Abkhazia).

Australia's aid aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals and Kiribati's development priorities, which include:

- improving education and building a healthier population; and
- supporting the Kiribati Government to implement its Economic Reform Plan. Across all our investments, Australia seeks to strengthen Kiribati's capacity to build climate resilience and to improve gender equality and disability inclusiveness. Support for workforce skills will increase labour mobility opportunities for I-Kiribati to work in Australia and elsewhere in the Pacific. Thus Australia's basic education program has contributed to curriculum reform, teacher training, and improved learning environments for more than 11,000 children.
- Since 2015, more than 770 I-Kiribati have worked in Australia under our labour mobility schemes.

To me Australia as an actor state in the region believes that Building a better educated and healthier population will help improve Kiribati's economic prospects and resilience. So Australian Government thus Works with the Government of Kiribati to improve the knowledge, skills and opportunities of young I-Kiribati, enabling them to contribute to a productive and resilient community as well as to pursue employment in areas of domestic and international demand.

The Seasonal Worker Programme, managed by the Department of Jobs and Small Business, connects I-Kiribati and other Pacific island workers with Australian employers experiencing seasonal labour shortages, typically in rural and remote areas.

The new Pacific Labour Scheme is also enabling citizens of Kiribati and other Pacific island countries to take up low and semi-skilled work opportunities in rural and regional Australia for up to three years.

These initiatives allow workers to build their skills and send remittances home to support their families.

Australian Government is also working with the Government of Kiribati to improve access to quality preventive, diagnostic and clinical tuberculosis services, and to reduce the incidence of diarrhea and other diseases through better sanitation and the management of potable water supplies.

- Since 2011, Australia has supported the rehabilitation and re-equipping of facilities in 18 primary schools, benefitting 4,912 I-Kiribati students. Rehabilitated schools are reporting increased enrolment rates. An updated curriculum for years 1–7, together with associated teaching resources and teacher training, has been rolled out to all primary schools. Australia's support has contributed to tangible improvements in the literacy and numeracy skills of more than 11,000 children.

- Since 2012, Australia has supported more than 1,250 I-Kiribati students to graduate from the Kiribati Institute of Technology and Australian support has enabled 842 young I-Kiribati women and men to graduate from the Kiribati Institute of Technology with internationally recognised qualifications. Graduates are finding employment in a growing private sector and in Australia.

- In 2018, Australia offered 55 university scholarships to I-Kiribati women and men to study in Australia and the region.

- In 2019, Australia will support 100 I-Kiribati students to study at tertiary education institutions in Australia and the region. Twelve new Australian volunteers will be deployed to Kiribati in 2018-19 to help build local capacity.

- Australia supported the construction and equipping of a Family Health Clinic at the Tungaru Central Hospital to provide survivors of violence with privacy and confidentiality when accessing health services. Our support to this clinic has been enhanced by training we are also providing to better equip nurses, medical assistants, police officers and lay magistrates to respond to and report cases of domestic violence.

Australia's aid objectives are guided by shared priorities with the Government of Kiribati and a shared assessment of key constraints to economic growth and poverty reduction. They reflect an understanding of where our aid can most effectively support Kiribati's development and strengthen its economic and environmental resilience.

Australia is broadening its support for labour mobility, including by expanding opportunities for I-Kiribati workers under the Seasonal Workers Programme.

The programme, managed by the Department of Jobs and Small Business, connects Pacific island workers with Australian employers experiencing seasonal labour shortages, typically in rural and remote areas. Citizens from Kiribati are able to undertake work in Australia for a period of up to nine months under the programme.

On 1 July 2018, the Pacific Labour Scheme commenced. The scheme enables citizens from Kiribati and other Pacific island countries to take up low and semi-skilled work opportunities in rural and regional Australia for up to three years.

Australia is also expanding its support to improve primary level health care. This support will complement the inputs of other partners. The initial focus will be to strengthen our support for ending the tuberculosis epidemic and support for addressing other communicable diseases including leprosy and hepatitis.

Following the completion of current infrastructure investments (\$48.47 million, 2011–19) Australia's support for infrastructure will focus on strengthening

the Government of Kiribati's ongoing maintenance of infrastructure through the Economic Reform Plan. This reflects Australia's comparative advantage in a sector where there are significant and continuing investments by the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, New Zealand and Japan.

Under the New Colombo Plan Mobility Program in 2017-18:

- 30 undergraduate students from the Australian Catholic University undertook a learning exchange with Catholic schools in Tarawa;
- ten undergraduate students from Macquarie University studied the sustainability of human settlements on low coral atolls; and
- nine undergraduate students from the University of South Australia participated in a podiatry clinical placement in Tarawa.

### **Kiribati and US Relations**

Following its independence in 1979, Kiribati signed a treaty of friendship with the United States.<sup>[12]</sup> The United States Department of State characterizes U.S.–Kiribati relations as "excellent", as of 2009.<sup>[12]</sup> Although the U.S. does not maintain a diplomatic office or consulate in Kiribati, staff from the American embassy in Suva, Fiji make frequent visits to Kiribati.<sup>[12]</sup> The U.S. provides economic development assistance through multilateral institutions.<sup>[12]</sup> From 1967 to 2008, the United States Peace Corps operated in Kiribati.

### **Kiribati UK Relations**

Britain has long-standing historic links with Kiribati. The first British visitor to Kiribati was reputed to be Commodore John Byron in 1765, the immediate predecessor of James Cook's more famous explorations of the Pacific between 1769-1779. With the growth of the British settlement in Australia's New South Wales, whaling became a key element of the regional economy, and up to the 1870s British whalers were regular visitors to the waters surrounding Kiribati. Through its network of sovereign posts in the region (Fiji, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand and Australia), the UK maintains bilateral programmes with Kiribati sponsored by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Department for Environment and Department for International Development and other government departments. The UK Government's engagement in Kiribati is largely delivered through the Commonwealth, the European Union and The Asian Development Bank.

### **Kiribati and Japan Relations**

#### **Diplomatic Relations**

- Established in March 1980

## Japanese Nationals in Kiribati

- Number of Japanese nationals residing in Kiribati: 12 (2017)

### Trade with Japan 2016

- Imports: 790 million yen
- Exports: 1,970 million yen

### Japan's Economic cooperation

- List of Exchange of Notes
- Grants: 288 million yen
- Cumulative total as of 2016: 21,030 million yen
- Technical cooperation: 224 million yen
- Cumulative total as of 2016: 5,088 million yen<sup>1</sup>

Kiribati also has to procure all of its materials from overseas. The Japanese government chartered a cargo vessel to carry 10,000 tons of materials from Japan for this project. Mr. Anan was surprised at the excellent work done by the Kiribati workers charged with unloading: "The workers were more skilled than we anticipated. In fact we were worried that some of the supplies would suffer damage during unloading. Once they finished, though, we found that the supplies were in perfect condition." The construction works done in Kiribati through ODA to date have improved the quality of Kiribati workers.

The current project has entered its second year. Steel-pipe piles manufactured in Japan are being driven into the ocean floor. The latest construction method is adopted to ensure dependable quality and the work is moving forward quite smoothly because the crew is familiar with it. Mr. Anan feels that locals have begun to see the need for this project. The government of Kiribati has taken the initiative to handle paperwork and provide other assistance to promote the project. A majority of the citizens of the small country understand that the port is being improved through Japanese assistance, and they have expressed their gratitude. Dai Nippon Primary School was so named to pay respect to Dai Nippon Construction, the company involved in implementing Japanese assistance to build roads to connect islands to one another. Mr. Anan reflected on the thanks he has received from people:

"I believe that that they maintain what they have built after they are finished and I also believe that growth depends heavily on people taking care of things they have." Betio Port is Kiribati's lifeline.

## Kiribati China Relations

Kiribati firstly established diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China (PRC) in 1980. At that time, Kiribati had been the home to a satellite tracking

base for PRC space program from 1997 until 2003.<sup>[1]</sup> On 7 November 2003, Kiribati established diplomatic relations with the Republic of China (ROC). Although it did not sever ties with the PRC, expressing the intention to continue relations, Beijing suspended ties on 29 November after failed attempts to lobby President Anote Tong to change his mind.

On 9 January 2004, the ROC opened its embassy in Kiribati.<sup>[2]</sup> On 31 May 2013, Kiribati opened its embassy in Taipei. This was the first ever Kiribati embassy outside of Oceania. Teekoa Iuta became Kiribati's first ambassador to the country.<sup>2</sup>

Chinese Ambassador to Kiribati Ma Shuxue again made solemn representations in Kiribati's capital Tarawa Saturday with the Kiribati government on its establishment of so-called "diplomatic relations" with Taiwan. The Chinese Foreign Ministry, Ma pointed out that the Kiribati government, regardless of the China-Kiribati friendly relations and oppositions from various sides in Kiribati, obstinately acted to make "two Chinas."

Such a move defies the communique signed by China and Kiribati on establishment of diplomatic relations and the principles of the United Nations charter, grossly interferes with China's internal affairs, and seriously undermines China-Kiribati relations and friendship between the two peoples, Ma said.

The Chinese government lodges strong protest to the Kiribati government and decides to cease the diplomatic relations between China and Kiribati.

## Kiribati and France Relations

Relations between France and the Republic of Kiribati have strengthened during climate negotiations. President Anote Tong took part in the high-level dialogue on climate change chaired by the French President in Nouméa on 17 November 2014. He also visited Paris for the Fourth France-Oceania Summit, as well as for COP21 on 30 November 2015. President Taneti Maamau visited Papeete on 10 and 12 February 2017, one month after a visit by the Vice-President of Kiribati, Mr Kourabi Nemen, visited Nouméa.

## Kiribati Germany Relations

### Political Relations

The Federal Republic of Germany recognised the Republic of Kiribati under international law when the island nation gained independence. The two countries established diplomatic relations on 1 July 1980. The

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.mofa.go.jp/region/asia-paci/kiribati/data.html>

<sup>2</sup> "[Kiribati opens embassy in Taiwan](#)", Focus Taiwan, 31 May 2013

German Ambassador in Wellington, New Zealand, is also accredited to Kiribati.

Bilateral relations are constantly expanding. The people of Kiribati hold Germany in high regard because of the employment of numerous Kiribati seafarers on German ships. A Marine Training Centre (MTC) was set up in the country by German shipping companies in 1967. Up to the present day, it is managed by German experts and constitutes an important source of foreign exchange. The 50th anniversary of the seafarer training programme, in which the Hamburg Süd shipping line plays an instrumental role, was celebrated in July 2017.

### **Economic Relations**

Bilateral trade between the two countries is relatively modest. According to Federal Statistical Office figures, Germany's exports to Kiribati in 2016 totalled 49,000 euros and its imports from Kiribati 53,000 euros. This puts Kiribati in 228th place among Germany's export partners and in 208th place among its import partners. A factor of major importance for the country's economy is the employment of Kiribati seafarers on German merchant ships, as mentioned above. German shipping companies provide training staff for the Marine Training Centre in the capital city and also run an employment bureau for Kiribati seafarers. More than 5000 of them work for German shipping companies. Their annual remittances amount to approximately five million US dollars. Together with the sale of fishing licences, these money transfers constitute the country's largest source of foreign exchange Revenue.

### **Development Cooperation**

In bilateral development cooperation, Germany is active in the financing of technical cooperation micro-projects in Kiribati. These include constructing a flood protection wall in Rawannawi Village on Marakei Island, increasing the holdings of the Marine Training Centre's library, equipping a school on Abemama atoll with desks, and providing kitchen utensils for three secondary schools. In addition, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) is conducting various projects in the Pacific island states that also benefit Kiribati. One example is the regional project entitled "Coping with climate change in the Pacific island region", which is strengthening the region's capacity to adapt to climate change by providing advisory services. Another GIZ project, which is designed to improve the management of marine and coastal biodiversity and runs until the end of 2018, is being conducted in a number of Pacific island countries including Kiribati. Germany also helps to promote Kiribati's development through its contributions to the European Development Fund (EDF). Priority areas here include mainly health care,

but also agricultural development, alternative energy sources and vocational training.<sup>3</sup>

### **Recent Diplomatic Ties of Kiribati with Estonia**

On Samoa, at the UN Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS), the Foreign Ministry's Undersecretary for Economic and Development Affairs Väino Reinart and the President and Foreign Minister of Kiribati Anote Tong signed a communiqué on September 4, establishing Estonia's diplomatic relations with the Republic of Kiribati.

Estonia is trying to find suitable opportunities to support small island developing states. "Estonia has great experience in implementing e-governance which we can pass on through bilateral or multilateral cooperation as solutions in the fields of e-education, e-voting, e-medicine, as well as via various other e-governance related solutions," he said.

The President of Kiribati expressed his pleasure that Estonia and other EU countries are good partners in international negotiations on global warming. The President also recalled an Estonian doctor who worked on Kiribati some time ago, and was hopeful that in the future, Estonia will have the opportunity to help contribute to the development of Kiribati.

In addition to Kiribati, bilateral meetings were held with other countries in Oceania.

Undersecretary Reinart acted as vice-president at the conference and also gave a speech at the plenary session. In his speech, he said that in today's increasingly globalized world, where countries are interdependent, we must pay attention to what is happening in remote regions. "Transnational solidarity, information exchange and cooperation are important," Reinart said. "Since the biggest challenge for SIDS countries are posed by climate change impacts, it is important that an ambitious international rules-based contract, which is legally binding for all parties be achieved in time for the climate change conference in Paris next year," he added.

Reinart also highlighted that as a marine nation, Estonia understands the SIDS-countries' problems concerning the protection of the seas and oceans and sustainable development of the so-called blue economy. Reinart also mentioned the creation of Internet connections and IT solutions in his speech, which help small countries save already limited resources, make the business environment more attractive and way of life more efficient.

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<sup>3</sup> This text is intended as a source of basic information. It is regularly updated. No liability can be accepted for the accuracy or completeness of its contents.  
By Federal foreign Office

The Conference on Small Island Developing Countries was held for the third time. The main theme of the conference was the sustainable development of small island developing states through cooperative and lasting partnerships. Discussions included how and what kind of partnerships SIDS-countries need in order to ensure economic growth, social development and at the same time to protect the environment and improve nations' resilience capability. The conference was also attended by NGOs and the private sector. Estonia contributed 20,000 Euros to the conference organisation trust fund.<sup>4</sup>

### **Kiribati Cuba Relations**

In the late 2000s, Kiribati began to strengthen its relations with Cuba. Cuba provides medical aid to Kiribati. There are currently sixteen doctors providing specialised medical care in Kiribati, with sixteen more scheduled to join them.<sup>[4]</sup> Cuban doctors have reportedly provided a dramatic improvement to the field of medical care in Kiribati, reducing the child mortality rate in that country by 80%<sup>[5]</sup> As of September 2008, over twenty I-Kiribati medical students are studying in Cuba, at Cuba's expense.<sup>[6][7]</sup>

In September 2008, President Anote Tong attended the first Cuba-Pacific Islands ministerial meeting in Havana. By meeting President Raúl Castro to discuss "mutual friendship and cooperation", he became the first Pacific leader to pay a state visit to Cuba.<sup>[6]</sup> The two countries signed an agreement on increased cooperation in the field of health.<sup>5</sup>

### **Switzerland–Kiribati Relations**

Relations between Switzerland and Kiribati are marginal. There are no economic ties with this sparsely populated Pacific island state.

### **Key Aspects of Relations**

Kiribati benefits from Switzerland's involvement in regional projects, particularly in the area of climate change. For example, the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable, which is carried out with the partner organisation the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP).

Scholars and artists from Kiribati can apply for Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships to the State Secretariat for Education Research and Innovation (SERI).

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<sup>4</sup> PRESS DEPARTMENT  
(+372) 637 7618  
(+372) 5695 2252  
[press@mfa.ee](mailto:press@mfa.ee)  
[www.vm.ee](http://www.vm.ee)

<sup>5</sup> "Cuba, Kiribati Cooperate in Health", Prensa Latina, 18 September 2008

Diplomatic relations are maintained by the Swiss embassy in Wellington (New Zealand) and are limited to sporadic contacts and occasional cooperation within a multilateral framework.

At the end of 2012 there was one Swiss citizen living in Kiribati.<sup>6</sup>

### **Finland and Kiribati Relations**

Diplomatic relations were established between Finland and the Republic of Kiribati on 25 March. The joint communiqué establishing the diplomatic relations was signed by President of Kiribati Anote Tong, and, on Finland's behalf, by Ambassador Pasi Patokallio, Special Representative of the Minister for Foreign Affairs. The dignified ceremony was held in South Tarawa, the capital of Kiribati.

Until this date, Kiribati was the only UN Member State with which Finland did not have diplomatic relations. On Finland's behalf, the decision to establish diplomatic relations was made by President of the Republic Tarja Halonen.<sup>7</sup>

### **Conclusion**

Australia is working to address issues of gender equality, inclusion of people with disability and climate change resilience across all our investments. The Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development Country Plan for Kiribati aims to reduce the incidence of gender-based violence and improve the response services (policing, health, social welfare and judiciary) for survivors of violence.

Australia is working with the Government of Kiribati to implement its disability-inclusive policy, which focuses on improving access to, and the quality of, disability-specific services. An ongoing component of our support is for the Kiribati School and Centre for Children with Special Needs, which is helping to increase enrolment rates, enhance the quality of teaching as well as to provide pathways to post-secondary technical and vocational studies.

To help strengthen the country's climate resilience, Australia is working with the World Bank to improve access to fresh water supplies in Tarawa and the outer islands (through building groundwater extraction systems, installing rainwater harvesting systems, and reducing waste in existing systems).

As one of the major objective Australian technical assistance is helping the Government of Kiribati to progress its Economic Reform Plan. In 2017-18, this

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<sup>6</sup> Federal dept of Foreign affairs notes

<sup>7</sup> Embassy of Finland Press release 110/2011  
29.3.2011

included developing a fiscal strategy for the 2019 Kiribati budget and establishing a procurement unit in the Kiribati Ministry of Finance and Economic Development to manage all government procurement activities and as a second objective Building a better educated and healthier population for the Kiribati forms important elements to develop Kiribati's infrastructure.

Kiribati receives development aid from the European Union, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Canada, USA, the Asian Development Bank, UN agencies and Taiwan. In recent years it has accounted for 20-25% of Kiribati's GDP. Recent projects and notable inputs by the EU have included telecommunications (improvement of telephone exchanges and provision of radio and navigation equipment), the development of seaweed as an export crop, solar energy systems for the outer islands, the upgrading of the Control Tower and fire fighting services at Tarawa's Bonriki International Airport, outer island social development, health services and extensive support for the Kiribati Vocational Training Programme. Additionally, Cuba provides doctors, as well as scholarships for I-Kiribati medical students.

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# IDEA OF DENOUNCING RELIGION AND ITS NECESSITY AT LEAST FOR THE SAKE OF ERADICATION OF CASTEISM

Abhijeet Ahire\*

## Abstract

The article shows the domination of religion on the human life and how religion is harmful for humanity. It also reveals that how the religion divides people and it started controlling other people too and attacking on their constitutional fundamental rights. It also rejects morality with religion and it asserted that there is no connection between morality and religion. The article denies the scientific propaganda of religion. Exploitation of people by religion is also kind of slavery. It also talks about caste based discrimination in India and force people to think on the why it is necessity to denounce religion and religious identity.

**Keywords:** Religion, caste system, human values.

## Definition and Meaning

Religion is a cultural system of designated behaviors and practices, morals, worldviews, texts, sanctified places, prophecies, ethics, or organizations that relates humanity to supernatural, transcendental, or spiritual elements. However, there is no scholarly consensus over what precisely constitutes a religion.

As we all know that there are many religions in the world. Studies have found that every religion defines the concept of “religion” in their own way. We can see that religion is powerful tool to controlling people. All religious people are explaining about their religion. To prove superiority of their religion they try to convince people about how good their religion is, in a manner to make them believe they also propagate how scientific their religion is. But at the final the question is – can any religion be good for humanity? Can it really be scientific?

Basically there are two types of groups among religious people. First group is one who propagates that their religion is the only good religion on this earth and not other religions. On the other hand second group of people appreciate positive points and good ideologies of every religions. They believe that all the religions in the world are good. All religions give good teachings (people who belong to this group are spiritual).

But how far is it true that human beings are developed just because of religion? Can any religion be scientific? Can we conclude that those who follow and believe in religion will have good and successful life otherwise those who don't believe in religion will not have better life?

As per my understanding there is no need for religion in the twenty first century. Those who adds and links good behavior of people to religion, I would like to remind them very nice sentence by Albert Einstein – “A man's ethical behavior should be based effectually on sympathy, education, and social ties and needs; no religious basis is necessary. Man would indeed be in a poor way if he had to be restrained by fear of punishment and hopes of reward after death”.

## Exploitation by Religion

Originally religion divides the people, with the existence of religion religious groups are also formed and then these religious groups begin to influence the lives of other people. They started dominating other people and through this exploitation of people begin. Exploitation in a form like ‘they force people to act according to religion, they also takes aggressive roles against those who goes against religion’. These people chose wrong and right according to their comfort and it is a religious fanaticism that is born from it (fanaticism is an enemy of humanity, then it can be of any religion) then state have to fall short of the justice. In addition, constitutional fundamental rights of human beings are destroyed. Religion makes man a slave in a way (religious people will never accept this fact). As per my understanding only two times religion has played an important role in human life. First one is at the time of ‘wedding’ and secondly ‘death’. By which religious tradition weddings should be performed it can be a matter of doubt and secondly according to which religion last rituals should be performed. In the twenty first century religion cannot play a vital role anywhere in the life of a human being except for those two things.

## Modern Religious based caste system in India

We all know that caste system was at its high peak during ancient time and it was also on large scale during pre and post independence. We also need to understand the concept of untouchability which is form of casteism. It's also true that at some places lower castes people still facing untouchability. Article seventeen of Indian constitution abolishes the practice of untouchability but despite laws to protect them, they still face discrimination in India. Time has changed now, many people bringing out themselves from casteist mentality but the caste system is still practicing in many parts of the country, it keeps coming from different forms. This casteism appears differently in

cities that is only at the time of marriages. People warn their children that they should marry only in their caste. Some people allow their male child to marry in other caste but they do not give support to girls. Some people give permission to marry in any religion or castes except few ones. This shows a casteist mentality and hatred against particular religion or caste.

At the end, the subject is how to eradicate casteism and religious hatred? As per my understanding, intercastes and interreligious marriages can play an important role but it cannot eradicate completely, because ultimately the prides of the castes and the religion is in the mind somewhere and when the time has come that too come out of it. The only solution is to total eradication of religion and religious identity because castes and creed has been created from religion. So, religion is indirectly responsible for discrimination between human beings. As long as we continue to practice religion, castes can also be followed. Due to the existence of religions religious people will continue to explain the meaning of religion according to their comfort and spread hatred towards others. The religion has given window to the person, the man cannot think beyond that window and so it gets exploited.

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# REPORTS OF THE CHINESE MARKET FOR LIQUOR BEVERAGES AND FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

Dr Qi Liu\*

*This is an extract from a paper published for the St Clements University Doctor of Letters degree program.*

## HISTORY AND CULTURE OF CHINESE LIQUOR BEVERAGES

### Liquor culture

Liquor culture is an important part of Chinese food culture. Liquor is one of the oldest foods of mankind. Its history is almost the beginning of human cultural history. Since the emergence of liquor, as a material culture, liquor has a variety of forms, its development course is synchronized with the history of economic development, and liquor is not only a kind of food, it also has the spiritual and cultural value. As a spiritual culture, it embodies in many aspects such as social and political life, literature, art and even people's life attitude, aesthetic taste, and so on. In this sense, drinking is not drinking liquor, it is also drinking culture.

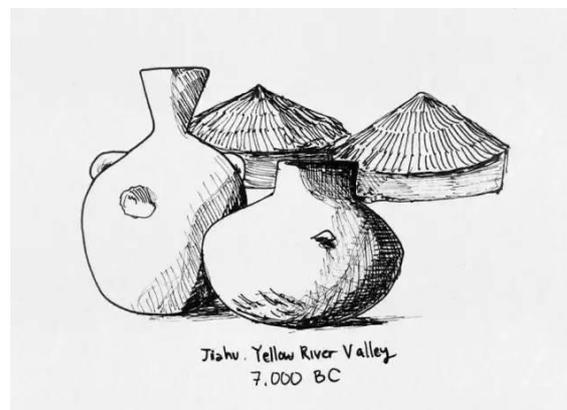
### Liquor History

China is an ancient civilization and a home of wine. Liquor and liquor culture has been playing an important role in the 5000 years of history of the Chinese nation. Wine is a special kind of food, which belongs to material but also melts into people's spiritual life at the same time. Wine culture, as a special form of culture, has its unique status in traditional Chinese culture. In thousands of years of civilization, wine has permeated almost every field of social life. First of all, China is a country based on agriculture, so all political and economic activities are based on agricultural development. The vast majority of China's wine is made from grain. Wine is tightly attached to agriculture and becomes part of the agricultural economy. The great apology of grain production is a barometer of the rise and fall of the wine industry. The rulers of each dynasty regulate the production of wine by releasing the prohibition or prohibition of the grain, thus ensuring the food. In some locals, the prosperity of wine industry has played a positive role in improving the living standard of local society. Wine is closely related to social and economic activities. Since the implementation of the state policy of monopoly on Liquor Monopoly during the period of Emperor Wudi, the monopoly fee collected from the liquor making industry or the special tax on wine has become one of the main sources of national financial revenue. The history of liquor tax revenue is also related to military

expenditure and war, and directly related to the survival and death of the country. In some dynasties, liquor tax (or liquor monopoly income) is also related to the service and other forms of taxation. The benefits of wine often become the fat of the state, merchants and the masses. The replacement of different wine politics reflects the contrast and change of the forces of different classes. The release of the order of wine is often related to dynastic changes, the replacement of emperors, and some important Royal activities. Wine, as a special commodity, adds rich color to people's life. In ancient China, the functions of wine were classified into three categories: wine for curing diseases, wine for old age, and wine for etiquette. For thousands of years, the role of wine is far from limited to these three items. At least, it includes: wine is a joy, wine is a worry, and wine is courage.

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### Other interesting Fact of Liquors-Wine



7000 BC ~ 6600 B.C.

Reference: [www.sohu.com/a/127171718\\_102736](http://www.sohu.com/a/127171718_102736)

The latest research shows that the oldest example of red wine is also from China. Coordinate: Henan, Jia Lake site. The ancient Jia Lake tribe stores rice / honey / fruit after fermentation.

## TREND OF WORLD LIQUOR BEVERAGES MARKET

World wine expo organization Vinexpo, has tracking trend of global wine and liquor production and consumption, the organization's forecast for future market trends for more than 10 years, after 10 years of tracking the trend of market development in wine and spirits has shown that the production and consumption of global wine and spirits are growing continuously from 2007 to 2010.

The report says that during the period from 2007 to 2010, the consumption of global steam free wine will continue to grow by 4.4%, and the consumption of wine and wine will continue to increase by more than half of the total consumption of 10.07%. Global wine and the increase of rose wine consumption are higher than that of white wine. The total import of wine will increase by 14%, but the cumulative increase in vins domestiques is only predicted by 1.82%, and the price will continue to rise as the global wine demand continues to expand. By 2010, the unit price of each bottle of wine was estimated at 5 to 10 dollars, or even more than 10 dollars.

The Vinexpo survey showed that by 2010, the world's strongest growth in wine consumption was in turn: China (+35.91%), Russia (+29.97%), and the United States (+18.69%). The growth rate of the global liquor consumption market is also very fast, with an estimated increase of 6%, of which Brandy (Cognac) is estimated to grow at 15%.

In the global brandy consumption market, the main players will be the United States, China and the United Kingdom. But the leading role in the wine market is still in France, Italy, the United States and Germany, the 4 major wine consuming countries, with a total consumption of 23 million to 27 million HL (Bai Sheng: Chinese units) in 2010. China and Russia will also be among the world's largest wine consuming countries: the total consumption of these two countries in 2010 is estimated at 6 million hl.

In contrast, the consumption of French wine will continue to decline, a cumulative decline of nearly 8.57%. But the decline in sales is small; the estimated decline is 1.71%. If the price of wine is less than 5 US dollars, the total sales of French wine have fallen by 12.79%; the single price of wine is 5 to 10 US dollars, and the total sales of France will rise 4.26%, if the unit price is above 10 US dollars, the total sales will increase by 22.5%.

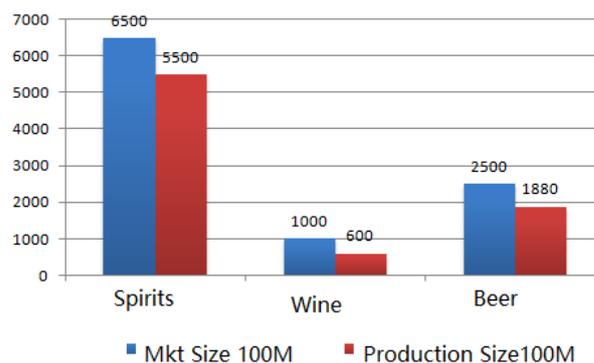
The report said that the sales volume of French high priced and high quality wines in the domestic market has been increasing rapidly. However, from 2001 to 2005, the French Rose wine trading center continued to rise, and the growth rate will drop from high in 2010. The total consumption of red wine will account for the 62%. Of the total consumption of French wine to 2010, and the total export of French wine will not exceed the level of the export of wine in 2005.

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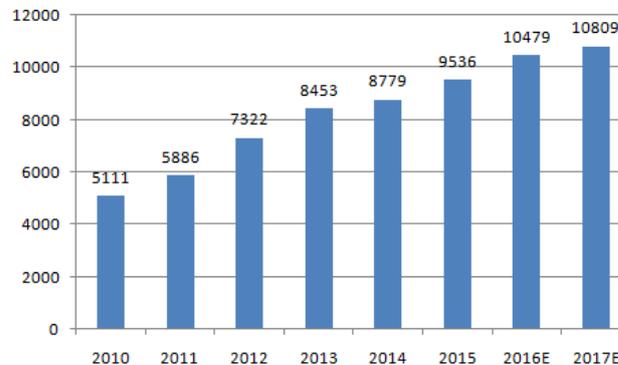
### TREND OF CHINESE LIQUOR BEVERAGES

The market size of liquor sales industry is estimated to be trillions and vast space. In the sales volume of domestic liquor manufacturers, liquor was 525 billion 900 million in 2014, and 436 billion 700 million in the

ten months 15 years ago, an increase of 7% over the same period, and the whole year is expected to be 550 billion. The current channel price increase rate, the high-end liquor income 60 billion, the average rate of 10%, medium liquor 250 billion, the rate of 20-30%, low end liquor 240 billion, the rate of 20%, the expected terminal market total of 650 billion. Domestic wine 14 years 42 billion revenue, plus import wine price 15 billion, the terminal market is expected to nearly 100 billion, 15 years of imports wine still increased by more than 30%. Beer market 188 billion 600 million, plus imported beer terminal market is expected to 250 billion. The three main liquor plus yellow wine terminal is nearly 20 billion, and the total terminal Market is expected to be 1 trillion.



The classification of Chinese liquor factory and terminal scale in 2015



The classification of Chinese liquor factory and terminal scale in 2015

The overall growth has entered a stable period. Imported wine and imported beer is relatively fast. Domestic beer has declined slightly, and quality consumption demand has been driving the upgrading of the industrial structure. According to the industry, the overall scale growth of liquor is limited, the future benefit and consumption are upgraded, the stock consumers turn to the quality consumption, and the brand tends to be concentrated, and the consumption will not change obviously in the last two years. Red wine will continue to maintain 2 digit growth in the next 5 years, increasing the proportion of alcoholic beverages, especially the fastest growing of imported wine, and high price performance products will accelerate the penetration of category. The total

amount of beer has been in a slow decline period. Merger and price promotion is the future trend. The disadvantage of imported beer is impacting domestic beer pattern, leading to high end and promoting the upgrading of industrial structure.

Liquor channel operation is highly dispersed, and channel brand strength is weak. Some medium and high-end liquor enterprises have already gained a high reputation in the national market, but the management individuals are highly dispersed. At present, the brand store, professional wine chain (both for the company and dealer management, mainly in the group purchase), catering terminal, smoke Hotel and Shang Chao (catering and business super charging rate is high, the smoke and hotel level is not homogeneous).

The backward management ability of liquor enterprises and the high profit margins of liquor industry in the past have led to the relatively low turnover mode of wine industry channels with high profit margins. I believe that the high profitability of liquor as a cultural product makes the manufacturers have differential bargaining power on the lower reaches, and the power of the industry as a whole is not strong, and the management boundary is limited to the enterprise. The liquor sales at the beginning of the planned economy, according to the administrative level monopoly system, make the traditional liquor sales model form. The multi-layer channel system, coupled with the high price rate of liquor production to the high retail price, makes the wine industry channel in the past multi-layer and individualized management to be sustained, and the peak period of the industry makes people make a full bowl.

I believe that the superposition of two important factors has led to a drastic change in the operating environment. First, the growth rate of domestic fixed asset investment has been slowing down. The growth of China's economy in the past 30 years is mainly dependent on investment driven. Infrastructure investment and real estate investment lead to the prosperity of the whole industry chain. The growth rate of fixed assets investment in China fell to the top in 2010, and it has gradually declined to 8%, and it is still in a downward trend. The sales volume and turnover rate of distributors who rely solely on commercial liquor must encounter impact.

In the long term low gross profit is only flat to maintain operation. The above two factors and the changes in the population structure determine that the golden period of the liquor industry has passed, the rise of the electric business and the emerging forces under the line, further impacting the distribution of the interests of the traditional channels, and the core concept of the new channel power with the "price to make profit to the consumers, to the management and the scale," is the core concept of the new channel power. The long-term low hairy interest rate determined by the business model of the body is a normal performance. The circulation product from the

past factory to the terminal at least 50% of the rate of price increase, to today's average of about 20%, has decided the channel multi-layer system cannot be maintained, the maximum capacity can hold a batch of two levels of business and terminal. For manufacturers, this is also the main path to improve the profit margins of channels.

Only scale can expand management by improving management and improving bargaining power. Under low gross margin, if there is not enough turnover scale, it must be a business without attractive return on investment. I believe that from the line only, the most attractive future is the single channel system which is directly sold to consumers through a large number of own terminals, which is the most needed customer. Under the two tier system, the first level channel must greatly increase the system flow through the Internet to gain competitive advantage. The two level terminals depends on the strong one - level channel to survive, but to develop and grow, I must improve the core competitiveness of the store by improving the management and realize the expansion of the terminal number. For liquor industry channels, chain management through standardized management is the main direction of the transformation of the wine terminal operators in the future.

The Internet is a necessary tool and channel to expand customer groups and improve business efficiency. The expansion of enterprise management boundary, one is to rely on people, design good organizational structure and system systems, to realize system drive; two is based on information technology, from the early closed enterprise office system, to the outside Internet system, the ability to collect and deal with large data is stronger, the more powerful the management boundary.

Related reports: "Research Report on the operation and investment strategy of China's liquor market" issued by Chi Yan consulting 2016-2022 years ago

Reference:  
[www.chyxx.com/industry/201604/406125.html](http://www.chyxx.com/industry/201604/406125.html)

## **SPECIFIC CHANGES WILL MAKE IN CHINESE LIQUOR INDUSTRY WITH OPPORTUNITIES**

### **More Professionalization in local liquor making & Joint venture will be set up locally**

LVMH explored 4 years for finding the right vineyard, and finally decided to take the Mekong River near Shangri-La (Meili Xue Shan, 6800 meters above sea level).

China's most expensive, is also the most international domestic fine wine, the world's first luxury group LVMH group LVMH group of Shangri-La produced in Shangri-La, Ao Yun ("Ao Yun"), at the present stage is the best known.



Reference: [www.lookvin.com/p38209.html](http://www.lookvin.com/p38209.html)

It is different from the high price high price liquor of certain domestic distilleries, which have come to the market directly in the main market of London and New York. It has experienced many famous international wine critics, the taste test of the masters, the channel of wine merchants including BBR, and Liv-Ex London Portuguese. The wine exchange also began to promote and retail in the Chinese market. Of course, due to its high sales price (RMB two thousand Yuan, about 300 euro domestic retail price); the international and domestic wine market caused great controversy.

Although many countries, including Australia, the United States, and so on, have very large foreign capital restrictions on agricultural land, China has opened the first end in the brewing industry, allowing many multinational enterprises to work together to become joint ventures, to bring better and more advanced equipment, technology, and even theory to the local. Good quality, enter the international market.

### More customers will change their using habits from Chinese Spirits' swallow to Tasting

#### Further Improve in Online Market



Trade scale of the 2010-2015 year alcoholic business industry

Related reports: "Research Report on the operation and investment strategy of China's liquor market" issued by Chi Yan consulting 2016-2022 years ago.

Internet greatly reduces information asymmetry, improves the speed of information dissemination, and consumers' brand awareness and discrimination are stronger. Tmall, Jingdong and other platforms, such as e-commerce, the restaurant, 1919 and other vertical e-commerce, as well as the IChat group, the circle of friends and so on, so that the national channel separation is completely broken, the local wine enterprises, channels have realized the real-time information sharing, the logistics system developed also greatly accelerated the speed of goods turnover, such a back Under the scene, the enterprise's hard division of the region has been broken, and consumers have the available comparative information channels, making them more discernible to the products they consume and choosing their own goods more individualized. And the new generations of consumers have increased the average education level, and the living environment is similar, which makes consumers more likely to accept higher quality products with higher prices. The product upgrade will continue even in the context of economic slowdown, which will be the main support factor for the future wine industry.

Since 2018-6-14 China has release 5G NR tech, which will be using in commercial market very soon, once that has been using into Unmanned Express, which will lead to cheaper rate of express fee which will lead to another boom in this market. (5G NR will link to the satellite, which will have location accurate less than 1cm and has real time connection within less than 1 Millisecond, this will inform unmanned aerial vehicle and Robot car to do deliveries).

### Habit Change in the way of using wines

With the development of the times, the dangers of excessive drinking have been deeply rooted in the hearts of the people. With many international organizations such as IST, DWA, SM and so on, many wine lovers have not been in the hands of a cup, but are more aware of how to taste wine, although the amount of drinking may be reduced each time, but the frequency of daily use is increasing. Especially in bars and restaurants, more and more people click the order. 5 years ago, it was very rare in China to press the cup, except on the top of the hotel menu, and there was no such high quality high quality storage equipment. China's drinking habits are constantly improving and moving towards a more Kantian way.

## About the Author



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# PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES: WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY ARE THEY?

Dr Sydney Adam Ndembe\*

The complete version of this summarised article is available at:  
<http://www.stclements.edu/Articles/Responsibility.pdf>

In the paper *“People with Disabilities: Whose Responsibility Are They?”* we have looked at the various disabilities and their possible causes. We have examined the causes and tried to see if the causes can be attributed to a particular source so that responsibility should be placed on the source of the cause.

We have seen that disabilities do not just occur. They occur because something went amiss at one point or another. They could have occurred because an employer did not provide the proper training to employees, or the employer did not provide proper protection to the staff, or maybe there was no proper maintenance of the equipment or machinery. Or the employee was in a state of drunkenness so that he may not have been careful enough to avoid injury from the machinery.

We have also noted circumstances where people go on dare devil escapades like sky diving, motor racing water surfing, skiing and so on, activities that obviously attract accidents and injury that may result in disability.

We have also seen that some disabilities are inherited and people get born with them. These are things like high blood pressure resulting in stroke, albinism, epilepsy, etc. these are taken from the genes of our fore fathers and nothing much can be done to avoid them. Then we have seen disabilities like blindness which is attributed to flies in some parts of the country, or some chemicals in the air that may damage the eyes.

We have also seen disabilities arising from gender based violence where one of the couple decides to cut off a part of the others body leaving him or her disabled. Again we have examined disability arising from ageing which nobody can run away from. Then we have seen disabilities arising from road accidents which are rampant these days due to the increased number of motor vehicles plying our roads to day.

We also have looked at disabilities that are being caused by diseases like polio tuberculosis of the spine, high blood pressure resulting in stroke, malaria causing cerebral palsy in children if not treated in time, rheumatism We have also noted that there are disabilities arising from crocodile attack when people go to wash their clothes or even take a bath in crocodile infested areas where people end up losing

limbs if not the whole life. This we have been saying that governments should take responsibility and put notices in all places where vicious crocodiles are lurking about and should ensure that people are not allowed in such places and if possible place barriers to physically stop people from going into the water as some people like to go into prohibited or dangerous places just for fun. There is also the malnutrition caused disabilities. This is where a child fails to achieve the right milestones during the time of growth due to lack of proper feeding. This however is a temporary thing that can be corrected with the proper food supplements. This may be placed at the government’s doorstep but to be fair it should be the parents’ responsibility to feed their children properly. They should have the right number of children they can be able to look after. That is why the family planning people are coming in.

We have also noted that there are disabilities arising from various types of wars that keep coming up in the world.

For these wars, we have placed the blame squarely on the national governments starting the wars. As an example we have placed the blame for wars of independence squarely on the shoulders of the nationalist movement seeking the overthrow of the colonial government. But where the wars are those that another country has been forced to take part in just because they were their protectorates, there then the responsibility should be with the former colonial power. Then there are wars where the people in the country do not know anything about. These are political wars where two countries do not see eye to eye for one reason or another. Tanzania and Uganda were in such a situation at one time and war erupted. This war left a lot of people disabled. The political masters know why they were fighting and should therefore shoulder the responsibility of the people disabled in that war. Then the war between the Palestinians and the Israelis needs a mention. The Israelis believe that Palestine is their God given land while the Palestinians believe it is theirs as they say go and ask your God to give you your own land. Whoever owns the land is not for discussion but the issue is that it is causing disabilities which are our concern. For this the Palestinians can hold their authority responsible while the Israelis too can hold their government responsible for bringing unnecessary disabilities. The

governments should therefore take full care of those being disabled.

It has also been observed that some disabilities are caused by wars of supremacy. One country wants to show that it can fight any other country in the world. The war between Britain and Argentina concerning the Falkland Islands, the war between United States of America and Vietnam, the war between United States of America and Iraq, are but just a few examples of these. For these, it is known as to who is to blame. But even if we know who is to blame the fact still remains they cause disabilities which should not be condoned by the International Community. On the other hand United States of America does not sign some of the protocols and cannot therefore be censured for anything. The people, who become disabled in these wars, if they are Americans, will be looked after by the American Government. But the people left disabled in the other countries have nowhere but their government to look to for help. They therefore become the responsibility of their government, their spouses and their relatives which is not fair at all. I would however like to implore those war hungry countries to desist from starting wars for whatever reason. Malawi is in dispute about the Lake Malawi which is one side Malawi and the other two sides Mozambique and Tanzania. Tanzania wants to claim the whole Lake while Malawi says it owns the whole Lake. The war of words went up and up nearing a real war. I wrote to the News papers that the Lake does not belong to anybody because it is not manmade. It is a lagoon formed by a river coming out of Tanzania and made by the hand of God. Nobody should therefore claim it wholly but each country must be contented with the portion they are able to use. I pointed it out that if war erupts between our two countries, a lot of people will either die or be disabled and worse still they will have to run to other countries to become displaced refugees. The Lake will remain there while a lot of property will be destroyed. I said there is nothing worth killing each other for in the world. Nothing. Life is more important than anything else and it must be full life and not a life with disability. For wars that happen in such circumstances, the responsibility lies squarely with the government for taking its citizens to unnecessary war.

## CONCLUSION

Disabilities of any kind cause a lot of hardships, on the person disabled, on the relatives concerned, on the community at large and on the Nation as a whole. Economic activity becomes retarded if there are many people with disabilities. They may be able to perform certain tasks but it must be admitted that they cannot do things like some non-disabled person would do. A person with a disability will always have limitations and will therefore need something to assist him when doing some work while a non-disabled person can do without the need for an assistive device.

What I am saying is that governments must have a disability policy that creates a climate conducive to

better living for all people with disabilities. I am asking governments to create a ministry responsible solely for disabilities and that ministry must not be part of another ministry but fully independent. That ministry must create a fund that will be a disability preparedness fund so that at any time a disability occurs. That fund can be used to do the needful. The ministry so created must have a media section that will sing the message of prevention of disability awareness throughout the country without leaving any corner. I am saying this because whatever other countries and the International NGOs may do to help us with our disabled people, it is not their responsibility and one day they will return to their countries. We must therefore be prepared to take up full responsibility. Whatever anyone may say or do to help people with disabilities in any country, the ultimate responsibility lies with the national government this is why I am saying government must intensify messages of prevention. They must warn people against letting their children climb tree in search of fruits. They must give the children alternative ways of getting the fruits. That ministry must also tell people not to climb trees in order to get either palm wine or firewood. That ministry must also take up the responsibility to discourage people from taking part in dangerous activities that may lead to their becoming disabled like racing on motorcycles, playing in crocodile infested rivers, indulging in unprotected sex, refusing to act as temporary husbands, taking over dead brothers wives, and all the things that are likely to bring disability on people, the ministry must preach against. Once more it must be a very busy ministry and not an office ministry but a field one and must always be on the road. There must be established a disability fund which will be funded all the time by the central government and the ministry must look into ways of creating jobs for those disabled so that they can earn a living as some people are not happy with free money or living on charity. A permanent disability fund must be established to ensure that the country is prepared for disabilities.

Again disabilities are with us and shall remain with us. Disasters occur once in a while if we can have a disaster preparedness fund or department, why not have a disability preparedness fund since disabilities are going to be there forever. All the marshes that harbor the flies that cause blindness must be sprayed and the flies eradicated forever. I know I am asking for a ministry that may be impossible but it can be done. Nothing is impossible on earth. Again if there are no people to man such a ministry, then government must take it up to train the people in the various fields that are needed. This way government will also be creating employment opportunities for its youth who are loitering around with nothing to do. What I am advocating for is a ministry that is going to be everywhere all the time, at district level at village level and every part of the community with a blitz of messages on prevention of preventable disabilities.

## About the Author



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# ENHANCING RURAL POVERTY REDUCTION THROUGH PLANNED DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES: A SIERRA LEONE CONCERN

Dr Jacomo S. Bangura\*

The complete version of this summarised article is available at:  
<http://www.stclements.edu/articles/EnhancingRuralPovertyReduction.pdf>

Sierra Leone is a small country in the West Coast of the Africa Continent with an aerial extent of about 73,326 km<sup>2</sup> (27,925m<sup>2</sup>). Its population is officially estimated at 7.1 million (AWOKO Daily Newspaper; 01-01-2017), with an arable land of about 5.4 million hectares. Their environment is poorly protected, resulting from poor Environmental Protection Policies over the years, even after 1961 independence (Activities of SLARI & IITA).

The Sierra Leone economy is typically agrarian in structure, and the rural sector accounts for about two thirds of the country's population functions. His Excellency Dr Ernest Bai Koroma on the agricultural situation in Sierra Leone states that: "Agriculture contributes 45% of the country's Gross Development Product, employs two thirds of the population and generates about a quarter of the export income of our country. However, the overwhelming majority of our farmers are poor, mainly because agriculture in this country is subsistent farming. We plan to make agriculture the engine for socio-economic growth and development by commercializing farming and promoting the private sector" (THE DEMOCRAT Daily Newspaper; Tuesday October 12, 2010: 6).

He added that a 'National Sustainable Agricultural Development Programme NSADP' has been signed in 2009 to provide direction for the sector up to 2030. Also, the programme "...is consistent with the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), the framework of Heads of State and Governments of the African Union and International Partners". Agricultural stagnation has harmed the rural poor in Sierra Leone by the creation of food shortages and higher prices that have reduced their ability to buy food and find work. Research on Sierra Leone's agricultural production intimated that: "*There is a growing consensus that a major factor in the poor performance has been the prevalence of inappropriate government policies, which either positively hindered or, at least, failed adequately to assist (even) livestock development*".<sup>1</sup>

According to the 'Universal Declaration of Human Rights', UDHR Article 25(1), "...everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food,

clothing, houses...". Under ICESCR Article 11, "...the states parties recognize the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing..." In paragraph 2 of the same article, the States Parties to the Convention recognize the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger and list measures to be taken individually and through international cooperation in order to bring hunger to an end. The general concept of 'adequate food' can be broken down into several elements:

- .. "The food should be adequate which means that the types of foodstuffs commonly available nationally, in local markets, and, ultimately, at the household level should be culturally acceptable (fit in with the prevailing food or dietary culture);
- .. The available should cover overall nutritional needs in terms of quantity (energy) and quality (it should provide all the essential nutrients, including micronutrients such as vitamins and iodine; and
- .. Last but not least, food should be safe (free of toxic elements and contaminants) and of good quality (in terms of, for example, taste and texture)".<sup>2</sup>

The **POVERTY REDUCTION** issues on Sierra Leone reflect concerns for some of the following:

- .. The rapid degradation of the lands through agricultural activities – slash and burn method (food and livestock production), backed by the positive and negative or adverse effects of traditional agricultural practices to reflect food security and improved livelihood patterns and other inhibitive environmental factors: wood; Charcoal; local bridges, house construction; etc;
- .. Strategizing for promoting pro-poor sustainable growth, and job creation – employment creation through commercial environmental management, other than agricultural practices;
- .. The promotion of 'Food Security' through 'Famine Alleviation Approaches';
- .. Introducing approaches which can identify the challenges of improper livelihood structures

through inappropriate and unplanned policies, resulting in food insecurity and poor agricultural harvests occasioned by traditional methods of farming (slash and burn), followed by the usual employment of the cutlass and hoe, unprolific seeds, poor and adverse storage facilities, absence of seed banks, no drying floors;

- .. The identification of interventions to protect land overutilization resulting from the unprecedented population explosion which is also conditioned by too many people scavenging for the same limited family land;
- .. The consideration of solving the absence of fertilizers and improved seed varieties for improved production; and
- .. Finding solutions to disarm, demobilize, reintegrate, and repatriate all former fighting forces (locally-based ex-combatants – to include former rebels; members of the Civil Defence Forces – CDF; and rebel or renegade soldiers later given the pen-name so-bels). The presence of some of these groups of individuals at certain geographical locations posed insecurity for the continuation of agricultural activities”. (Ibid – NSADP).

Dr John Munyoli Musyoka (2010) conceptualizes **POVERTY** as a form of ‘*disempowerment*’. Additionally, **POVERTY** “...is seen to be ‘*not just lack of material possessions*’, but a combination of the following:

- 1) “Inequality as demonstrated by differentiated distribution of economic, social, cultural and political (power to initiate change) resources;
- 2) Vulnerability, as demonstrated by social disadvantages, insecurity and exposure to risk, lack of economic resources to protect people from sudden contingencies;
- 3) Discrimination as exemplified by sexual, social and other forms of discrimination; and
- 4) Social exclusion as illustrated by individual and collective denial of access to work and individual and denial of access to citizenship rights (goods, services, activities and resources)”.

(Culled from the ‘*The Academic Journal of St Clements University – VERITAS*’ – Vol. 1 No. 2; Feb. 2010: 10).

In collaboration with UNDP (2007), OECD has reported that, poverty reduction involves a strategic approach that critically examines the following:

- **What is poverty?**
- **Who are the poor?**
- **How can poverty be measured and monitored?**
- **How does poverty persist?; and**
- **Which policy actions are required?**

Quoting the Bosnia Herzegovina poverty reduction paper (2002, 5):

*“It is becoming widely recognized that poverty takes various forms, including: the lack of income and production resources sufficient to ensure sustainable livelihoods; hunger and malnutrition; ill health; limited or no access to education and other basic services; increased mobility and decreased related mortality; homelessness and inadequate housing; unsafe environments; and; social discrimination and exclusion. Furthermore, restrictions on or lack of participation in the decision-making process and civil, social and cultural life is also violation of human conditions, characterized by sustained or chronic deprivation of the resources, capabilities, choices, security and power necessary for enjoyment of an adequate standard of living and other civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights, (Pty. Douma 2012)”.*

Thus ‘**POVERTY REDUCTION**’ is more than just talking about food security and conservation, considering land availability, seedlings, storage facilities, fertilizers, improved working tools, manpower resources, money, etc.; but rather, there should also be concern for other environmental considerations - climate, environmental conservation, and management.

Between 1961 and 2009, the Sierra Leone situation reflected a situation similar to the ‘**Haryana State**’ – **India Model** (Hobley, M. et al, 1996).<sup>3</sup> and provides the need to work on institutionalization in a well planned manner. As in Sierra Leone, NGO Operational successes based on one-off actions did not help to change environmental conservation and poverty reduction approaches of others in a sustainable way and proved (to be) of little value to the beneficiaries. From Mariann Jelineck (1979), any organization thinking progressively and positively for functional development models should read as follows:

*“Organizations accomplish tasks beyond the activities of their members as individuals, or even as aggregate, because of their coordination”; also that: “It then can be agreed that challenges to any institutional dispensation is to know what is expected of the target situation and to work towards it while gathering, analyzing and documenting the key issues that need consideration and how the institutional arrangement plans to deal with them in a systematic and systemic way”.*

Some projects initiated and implemented by the Sierra Leone government (1961-present), lack the proper management structures and therefore failed. It is anticipated that with proper prior restructuring of the poverty reduction and environmental conservation strategies, the future is in our hands for continuous sustainable development aspirations.<sup>4</sup>

The interlinking support to the strands should be **‘human incentives, institutional support, and transformative capacity building’**, to sustain desired change and momentum for future change”, as presented on the **‘Haryana (India) Experience’** as a reference, due to the similarities to the Sierra Leone situation, as below:

- a) “Participatory, interactive, iterative, inclusive, integrative, holistic, and action-oriented situation analysis to be able to understand actors, their motivations and the underlying factors that promote the actors to behave or act in specific ways. The key among the factors to be considered for their actions and or behaviour being the following **social, legal, economic, ecological, political, and technical (SLEEPT)** characteristics of individuals, surroundings, and existing groups, organizations, institutions as actors;
- b) Strategic analysis based on the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) to improvements of the “SLEEPT circumstances” – using an interactive matrix, strategic planning to develop the learning organization’s responses to individual changes in these circumstances based on vision, goals, values and outcomes; and
- c) Development of a result-based adaptive management and information system to help learning and its institutionalization in environmental conservation and poverty reduction, based on continuous monitoring, timely evaluation, and appropriate feedback”.<sup>5</sup>

The **‘food security phenomenon’** is a factor in the poverty reduction concept, but what food insecurity is, forms part of the situation on poverty in Sierra Leone. According to the **‘Hunger Task Force’**, **Food Insecurity** has been described as **“a condition in which people lack basic food intake to provide them with the energy and nutrients for fully productive lives”**.

The **‘World Resources Institute’** refers to **“Food Security** as the availability of food and one’s access to it”. A household is considered food secure when its occupants do not live in **‘hunger’** or fear of **‘starvation’**. Also, FAO and the USD, have presented two commonly used definitions of food security to read:

- “Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life;
- Food security for a household means access by all members at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life. Food security includes at a minimum:

- (i) the ready availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods, and
- (ii) an assured ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways (that is, without resorting to emergency food supplies, scavenging, stealing, or other coping strategies)”.<sup>6</sup>

The concept of **‘Food Security’** - World Food Summit (1996), provides a rejoinder to the above concepts:

“.....a state when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life”. It therefore stands to reason that “Food Security means far more than having sufficient food on a national basis to meet human needs – whether from domestic production (food self-sufficiency) and/or commercial/aid imports (food self-reliance)”. It is however prudent to also note that the problem of food security today is not food availability, but rather, access, since the first priority is people should have a continuous access to food, while also considering other factors, such as affordability (cost), quality (nutritional value), safe drinking water, primary health care, and environmental hygiene which should be able **“to minimize gastro-intestinal infections that can negate the benefits of a nutritious diet”**.

Unfortunately, Sierra Leone finds it difficult to fulfill the above for food security for its population due to inhibitive factors:

- “Insufficient access to food by large parts of the population;
- Insufficient food supplies, due to low production and productivity in the entire country;
- Unreliable and instability of food supplies, particularly during the “hunger season, mainly during the rainy season, which is the working period” and in remote areas with difficult road access;
- Ineffective utilization, due to various factors such as widespread diseases, lack of knowledge, poor hygiene, unsafe drinking water, etc.”<sup>7</sup> (Ibid, 1996).

However, by 2002, FAO had reported that: “About 33 percent of people in Sub-Saharan Africa are undernourished, compared to about 6 percent in North Africa and 15% in Asia (FAO, 2002). It furthered that: “More than 60 percent of the undernourished are in Eastern Africa, with more than half of the population in Congo Democratic Republic (DRC) and Mozambique affected, while Angola, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, and Zambia show prevalence rates between 40 and 50 percent. Nigeria’s prevalence rate was however quoted to below, but its large population means that the country accounts for 27 percent of the food insecure in West and Central Africa”.<sup>8</sup>

The Sierra Leone scenario is represented when Lawrence Salmen makes ‘**Voice of the Rural Poor**’ important in his article: ‘**Listen to the Poor**’. Salmen argues that: “Sound economic policies can set the stage for reducing poverty, but (that) the poor must be able to seize the opportunities.” Also, “A new analytical tool of the World Bank – *participatory poverty assessment* – promises to shed light on the subjective side of poverty, so that the development community’s inputs can be fashioned in the most effective manner”. His vision is that: “Poverty is best understood by the poor. It is the poor who must escape from poverty, and what motivates the poor to improve their own condition depends on their appreciation of the opportunities open to them, the risks involved in taking those opportunities, and the limitations their condition places upon them. Much of what society does to assist them will only be as good as it is perceived to be by those being served.”

Thus, for poverty reduction strategies to be effective and sustainable in the development index, ..“it can bring out the role of the poor as actors, not merely passive recipients of government largesse or non-governmental organizations (NGOs) attention”. Put in another way, “...the development community knows best what it can supply to meet the needs of the poor, but the poor know best what they need (demand) and what resources and services are available”. This negates ‘*top-bottom*’ approaches, and injects the alternative ‘*bottom-top*’ approaches.

The ‘**Environment**’ is also important in poverty reduction issues. The Sierra Leone environment has suffered so much abuse that today the consequences are starting to be felt. We are gradually losing the optimum eco-balance that nature really requires. The balance between plants and animals is gradually being lost. Different animals breed in different environments, but when you destroy their habitat they migrate and may even disappear. We are speedily depleting our forests”. (Excerpt from IBM Kamara: From Editor’s Desk – STANDARD TIMES: Daily Newspaper – Friday, December 10, 2010: **The Environment and Tourism...vital resource bases!** 5)

Globally, the continuous depletion of forests encourages natural erosion, and even the water-dam areas will develop negative water levels, since the trees tend to retain ground water. Later, there could be possible incidents of droughts, floods, wildfires, and mudslides (as it occurred in Sierra Leone - 2017), especially when the hills are exposed and some big boulders or rocks might roll down and wreck serious mayhem, since these rocks lose their grip through the absence of the trees.

According to Ishmail Dumbuya, “Government and other stakeholders can boost sustainable development with the help of a new ‘**Online**’ resource that identifies effective tools and approaches for getting the environment properly included in plans and decisions”. Such a resource is contributed by the cooperation of

agencies such as the IIED, UNDP, UNEP, and OECD,<sup>9</sup> all of who can functionally contribute to the resource, which shows ways that sound environmental management can enhance development policies and actions. (Ishmail K. Dumbuya; Environmental Forum: **New Web Resource helps to boost Development with sound Environmental Management** - STANDARD TIMES Daily Newspaper; Friday, August 20, 2010: 17).

With the launching of ‘**Environment Inside**’ in Sierra Leone by the International Institute of Environmental Development (IIED) - 10<sup>th</sup> August 2010, it has highlighted approaches that deserve to be recognized and build on:

- .. “Public environmental expenditure reviews that identify what a country is getting out of environmental assets;
- .. What it is spending on their development; and
- .. How to improve cost-benefit ratios”.<sup>10</sup>

Bass and Dalal-Clayton have the view that on **Environment Inside**, “...governments can do much to ensure that sound environmental management contributes to social, and economic development but, for this to happen, they must consider the environment in all areas of policy, and not just focus on a single national plan”.<sup>11</sup> Therefore, Environment Inside should be launched with a vision to help all those involved in development to do just that, considering the basic fact that Environment Inside will be rolling resource, updated and expanded on an incremental basis.

‘**Environmental Conservation and Management**’ is closely related to the ‘**Tourist Industry**’ in any country and therefore both should work together. ‘**Tourism in Sierra Leone**’ can be found in government files to reflect policies which are mere rhetorics, because they are not normally functional in operations. Since the environment is one of the major resources in promoting ‘**Tourism**’ in any country, this needs to be properly protected as a fundraising or even commercial institution.

## FOOTNOTES

- <sup>1</sup> Results of research findings on Agricultural Production in Sierra Leone: Culled from **THE DEMOCRAT** Daily Newspaper; Tuesday October 12 2010: 6).
- <sup>2</sup> The concept of ‘**Adequate Food**’ further expanded for internationally accepted standards on ‘**Food Security**’.
- <sup>3</sup> Hobley, M. et alt (1996) presenting the ‘**Haryana State (India)**’ model which could be simulated to the Sierra Leone situation in promoting the fight for ‘**Poverty Reduction**’.

- 4 A rejoinder by Mariann Jelineck (1979) to Hopley, M et al's references on '**Poverty Reduction Models**' for sustained agro-business development strategies.
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# POWER INVERTER CONTROLLERS IN RENEWABLE ENERGY AND SMART GRID INTEGRATION

Su Yin Min\*

## Abstract

This article provides the knowledge for controlling of renewable energy and smart grid integration system when the load is connected. It has introduced the converting the power system DC to AC or AC-AC and its power quality control system of frame of three phase system. Furthermore, it has many types of current and voltage controller to connect with inverter to improve the system reliability, low THD and output voltage quality. It also has the synchronizing of the system and neutral line in the system to improve THD.

## Introduction

In basic power processing, it as AC-DC conversion, DC-DC conversion, DC-AC conversion, AC-AC conversion is convert power source into voltage or current supply and it involves integrated power electronic devices and a controller. The main function of this is that the output voltage is pure DC, the input current is in phase with voltage and it does not have harmonics. It is used diode rectifiers cascaded with a boost converter to obtain a variable output and a high quality input current without harmonic components and to control in phase with the input current and the input voltage.

PWM controlled rectifier that provides to improve the quality of input current and power flow. PWM can operate as rectifier or inverter and its power flow can be from AC to DC or from DC to AC as well. In power system, inverters are required to operate proper from the electronic parts to power parts and to provide the clean sinusoidal voltage supply with a fixed or variable frequency that can reduce the switching frequency and harmonic components. Therefore, it can use the sinusoidal PWM (SPWM).

In wind power process, power electronic converter is needed to provide a voltage at fixed frequency, fixed amplitude, high reliability, low maintenance and low cost for certain turbines.

In solar system, PV needs the power electronic inverter for converting DC power by PV cells to AC power of distribution network and electrical applications. For grid-connected PV system, inverter is the major two roles: ensure the maximum power captures from the sunlight with maximum-power point-tracking (MPPT) and clean current, good power quality and reactive power inject to grid.

Smart grid system can improve the reliability, quality, operation efficiency, resilience to reduce the threats of environment impact. The requirement of smart grid is synchronization, power flow control, power quality control and neutral line provision, fault ride-through and anti-islanding. The requirement of smart grid can control by using the following technologies as high technology of inverter system in the grid.

In three phase system, the major power quality problems are the harmonic in the voltage or current provided by inverter. There are two sources of harmonics which is from inverter and grid and loads of non-linear. The total harmonic distortion (THD) of voltage and current is should be low.

The three phase system require the controller to control the power quality therefore many types of controllers supports to inverter to achieve very low current THD to inject the grid. Thus, clean current is injected into the grid. There are many different types of controller. Firstly, Current  $H^\infty$  Repetitive controller is designed to implement for injection current to the grid with significant improvement of THD, even the perfect connected with non-linear loads, and the disadvantage is that the system has low dynamics and THD to compromise with grid when the load is non-linear condition and restrictive load. This current controller is suitable for connecting with grid but it is not suitable for stand-alone operation without grid connected.

Second, Voltage and current  $H^\infty$  Repetitive controller controls maintain clean and stable output voltages. It can control the voltage to operate not only with stand-alone but also with grid connected. It can use for controlling to reject harmonic disturbances from non-linear loads or grids. And the inverter model includes switching frequency and PWM process to apart from the switching noise and to accurate the voltage reference that produces the output voltage will be accurate. When the load condition changes, the tracking error is remains very small after 5 mains cycle.

The third one is that voltage  $H^\infty$  Repetitive control with a frequency adaptive mechanism. This design is giving the feedback pf output voltage and output current to the repetitive controller. The control plant of controller is reduced to single-input-single-output and frequency-adaptive mechanism is embedded into internal model to cope with variation of grid frequencies. This can allow to control to get good performance with very range of grid frequencies. It is used for voltage control

grid connect inverter with various frequency mechanism.

Another one is that cascaded current voltage repetitive controller controls to achieve low THD for both micro-grid voltage and current changing with grid. It consist the inner voltage loop and outer current loop can achieve the low THD in both inverter and grid. The  $H^\infty$  repetitive control design is used in this controller and it achieves the seamless transfer for both stand-alone mode and grid connected mode. It also use for single phase as well as three phase system. The main objective is that it is not effect to grid when the non-linear load and unbalanced local load current passing in.

And it is also required to control the output impedance of the inverter is very important for the THD of the output voltage. Control of inverter output impedance is design to control for output impedance with resistive, R-inverter and capacitive, C-inverter. It can improve the quality of output voltage of an inverter, the output impedance of the inverter is very import things and it can possible to minimize the THD of the output voltage by using C-inverter compare to others, R-inverter and L-inverter.

Another one controller is that by passing the harmonic components in the load current, therefore, the fundamental components flows to the inverter. It can be improve the voltage quality of inverter.

The last one is that the traction power system topology of three-phase V/V transformer and three phase converter is used for traction power system that provides the balance grid currents, to compensate for reactive power and to suppress current harmonic caused by locomotives. It can also to reduce the negative sequence currents, harmonics and low power factor in the system. This system is simple structure and it improves the system reliability.

Using inverter for distributed generation and smart grid of renewable energy application, the topology of neutral leg can be independently controlled from the inverter phase legs as well as it allows the phase legs of inverter to control independently. And, another topology is developed for the independently controlled neutral leg by using classical control techniques to provide a neutral line for 3-phase 4-wire inverter. Then, H voltage-current control of a neutral leg strategy flows through only to inductor if the neutral current is large and not to flow the capacitor. It has a parallel connection of voltage controller and current controller because of decoupled frequencies domain. The current control design is used the H control technology and it can chose the weighting function that can eliminated of the following through the harmonic to the capacitor. The parallel voltage controller can control the neutral current with stable when the harmonic components contains.

However, in rural areas and remote areas, it has a single phase power supply even through the three phases is common. It is needed the devices such as converters which can convert the single phase supply to three phase balance system. It can capable the powering from single phase and/or three phase when the load is balanced or unbalanced, linear or non-linear. This conversion is applied with four legs converter to provide an independent balance three phase power source from the single supply. This converter can apply independently and generate two phase voltage together with the three phase voltage. The generate voltage is the same supply voltage so there is no need the transformer for the loads.

In the three phase system, the current proportional integral controller is applied in the industrial as a controller and is applied to the grid connected inverters to track a reference current that can inject into the grid. After adopted a SLL in synchronous mathematical model, SLL track the fundamental component of a periodic single to connect with grid connected without changing power and voltage which is same as grid voltage. SLL has good performance in quickly in the tracking frequency, amplitude of fundamental component of the signal and the phase. SLL response quickly and it is faster than the SOGI-PLL. The SLL provides a very clean with low THD, detected frequency and very small ripple amplitude.

## Conclusion

For renewable energy system, it needs the inverter to connect with the grid or load. So, this provides the inverter operation, control of power quality control system and reliability of the system when the inverter is connected with the grid or load. When the inverter is connected with directly to the non-linear load or other as stand-alone or micro-grid system, it needs to improve the current or voltage in the system that can improve by using the controllers and many advance technologies control system. The inverter is sometime like a synchronization connect with the grid or stand-alone by supplying the single phase power to three phase output power. Thus, it can achieve the renewable power system generation to micro or grid system implementation, installation and testing of the system in obviously.

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