

“Mano River Region at Risk?: Post-Conflict Conversations Within and Across Borders”

Monrovia, Liberia: January 13th & 14th, 2009

**A “States at Regional Risk” Conference sponsored by
the Institute of Critical International Studies (ICIS) of Emory University**

Conference Schedule

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

- 9:00am: Conference commences
Breakfast and Introductions
- 9:30am: Welcome: Dr. Bruce Knauff, Executive Director, ICIS
- 9:45am: Conference overview: Dr. Michael McGovern, Assistant Professor, Yale University
- 10:00am: Opening Remarks and Response: Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of Liberia
- 10:30am: Opening Remarks: Honorable Lawrence Bropleh, Liberian Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism
- 10:45am : **Session One: *Under what conditions are international peacekeeping operations appropriate? Looking forward, how should they ideally unfold in the future? How might they differ in various contexts in West Africa?***

Facilitator: Dr. Michael McGovern, Assistant Professor, Yale University

Panelists:

- Dr. Gilles Yabi, Researcher and Independent Consultant
- Ms. Margrethe Loej, Special Representative of the Secretary General and Coordinator of UNMIL
- Dr. Will Reno, Associate Professor, Northwestern University
- Mr. Waly Ndiaye, Program Director, Gorée Institute

1:00pm: Lunch, P.A.’s Rib House

2:00pm: **Session Two: *Conflicts often unwittingly transform patterns of gender, ethnic, class, and other inequalities. What is the best way to harness and reinforce the potentially positive aspects of this collateral effect of conflict?***

Facilitator: Ms. Frances Fortune, West and Central Africa Director, Search for Common Ground

Panelists:

- Dr. Sékou Konneh, Professor, University of Liberia
- Dr. Robert Leopold, Director, National Anthropology Archives, Smithsonian Institution
- Mr. Oscar Bloh, Executive Director, Search for Common Ground
- Madame Ruth Caesar, Gender Activist, Liberian National Commission for Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration
- Ms. Elizabeth Cote, Guinea Country Director, International Foundation for Electoral Systems

4:00pm: Concluding discussion and comments

5:00pm: Reception, P.A.'s Rib House

7:00pm: Dinner, Mamba Point Hotel

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

9:00am: Conference Day Two commences
Breakfast

9:30am: **Session Three: *What would you do with “no strings attached” donor funding?***

- **Facilitator:** Mr. Hervé Ludovic de Lys, Head of Regional Office for West Africa, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

Panelists:

- Dr. Byron Tarr, Principal Consultant, Development Consultants, Inc., Liberia
- Dr. Stephen Smith, Visiting Professor, Duke University
- Mr. George Wah Williams, Executive Director, Liberia Democracy Watch
- Mr. Jordan Ryan, UN Deputy Special Representative, UNMIL
- Mr. Lancedell Mathews, Executive Director, New Africa Research and Development Agency (NARDA)

11:30am: Discussion and comments

12:30pm: Lunch, P.A.'s Rib House

1:30pm: **Session Four: *How does a history of porous boundaries and regional movements impact contemporary experiences in the nation-state and the Mano River region? Can international institutions engage in locally relevant regional networks in a meaningful way?***

Facilitator: Dr. Bruce Knauff, Executive Director, ICIS, Emory University

Panelists:

- Dr. Bill Murphy, Lecturer, Northwestern University
- Dr. Stephen Ellis, Senior Researcher, African Studies Centre, Leiden, Netherlands
- Mr. Hervé Ludovic de Lys, Head of Regional Office for West Africa, OCHA
- Mr. Samuel K. Dworko, University of Liberia

3:30pm: Final Discussion

4:00pm: Closing Remarks

4:30: Conference concludes
Reception: P.A.'s Rib House

6:30pm: Dinner, Cape Hotel