

PEACE BUILDERS

News



A NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL PEACE SUPPORT TRAINING CENTRE VOLUME 13, ISSUE 1 (01 JANUARY - 30 JUNE 2020)



**SECURING THE PEACE SUPPORT OPERATIONS ENVIRONMENT
IN AFRICA THROUGH ENHANCING MANAGEMENT OF THREATS
FROM COMPLEX EMERGENCIES AND PANDEMICS.**

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OUR MISSION

To conduct training, education and research, informing military, police and civilian personnel in all aspects of peace support operations in order to improve the effectiveness of the response to complex emergencies.

OUR VISION

To establish IPSTC as the premier Peace Support Training, Research and Education Centre in Africa.



**HEADQUARTERS,
Karen – Nairobi, Kenya**



**Peace & Conflict
Studies School
Karen - Nairobi**



**Peace & Security
Research Department
Karen - Nairobi**



**Humanitarian Peace
Support School
Embakasi - Nairobi**

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COVER PHOTO:

The French Ambassador to Kenya H.E Aline Kuster-menager participating in a demonstration exercise for detecting IEDs during her Visit to the CIED Wing upon paying the Director IPSTC a courtesy call in January 2020.

Message From the Director



Welcome to our first bi-annual newsletter for the year 2020. This newsletter covers events that happened during the second half of 2019 and the first half of 2020. Building capacity for PSO in conflict management and post conflict recovery processes has been the hallmark of IPSTC's contribution to global peacekeeping. The Centre working closely with the Government of Kenya through the Ministry of Defence, continues to strengthen partnerships with other stakeholders at the global, regional and national level.

As a Centre of Excellence, we strive to ensure that the training offered continually reflects realities in the operational setting such as impermissive mission environment, terrorism and state fragility within our region and beyond. For this to be achieved, thematic areas such as peacekeeping, peace enforcement and peace building

are well integrated into our training packages. Be as it may, the second half of 2019 was full of activities covering gender issues in PSO, Security Sector Reform, leadership at the helm of peacekeeping missions, among others. It also saw delivery of the Regional Senior Mission Leaders (RSML) course. There were also high level delegations that paid a visit to IPSTC and Subject Matter Experts who attended workshops and the annual symposium to advance discourse on critical issues in peace and security.

On the other hand, the year 2020 has seen many challenges that have impacted the peace and security arena including peacekeeping, peace building and the humanitarian aspects of Peace Support Operations (PSO). The greatest challenge of all is the Corona Virus disease pandemic (COVID-19) which has resulted to a scale down of activities and programs.

Finally, I wish to appreciate all the work done by IPSTC staff including the effort put in place to ensure that this newsletter continues to be an informative and interesting feature in our calendar. Further to this, I look forward to their commitment and contribution towards enhancing our status as a premier centre of excellence. I also acknowledge with gratitude the continued support of our partners.

Thank you.

BRIGADIER C L MWAZIGHE

Director, IPSTC

COVID - 19: A Threat to International Security or An Avenue for Co-operation?

At the heart of the study of international relations is the relations amongst states for their assured survival. Traditional scholars like Hans Morgenthau underpin the understanding of international security as all necessary measures taken by a state against external aggression.

Overtime, emerging issues such as intra-state warfare, terrorism and natural disasters have threatened survival of states. The Broadeners school of thought for instance, pushed for the reconceptualization of security threats beyond aggressor states. Gradually, this influenced the birth of new ideas like human security. The 1994 United Nations Human Development Report defines human security as “safety from such chronic threats as hunger, disease and repression” and “protection from sudden and hurtful disruptions in the patterns of daily life.” This approach focuses on seven individual-centric security components namely: economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community and political.

Disasters are not new to the human race. Their effects are calamitous and challenge the very existence of humanity. The Report of the UN High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change of 2004 and the adoption of UN Resolution

2177 offer a turning point in the securitization of health. These two instruments confer powers to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to mandate greater compliance in an event where International Health Regulations do not provide adequate access for World Health Organization (WHO) investigations.

“
Corona Virus pandemic has been termed as the worst economic downturn since the great depression of 1930.
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Most recently, global and humanitarian security has been put to test with the advent of the Corona Virus pandemic. According to WHO, Corona Virus (COVID-19) is a highly infectious disease caused by a newly discovered Corona Virus. The virus primarily spreads through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Those with underlying health factors such old age, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases are at high risk of infection. As of June 16, 2020, a total of 8,120,068

persons had been infected while 439,228 had succumbed to the virus across the globe. These figures are not static, they keep increasing given the exponential nature of the disease. International peace and security cannot exist without international cooperation. States have skillfully mastered this by forming international systems based on shared interests. The emergence of Corona Virus has disrupted international cooperation frameworks.

WHO has been in the frontline in managing the spread of Corona Virus through early disease surveillance, detection, and information sharing. However, the organization received a backlash from several member states in what they termed as the organization colluding with China to engineer information about the nature and propensity of the disease. In a letter addressed to WHO's Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, President Donald Trump of United States of America accused the organization of secrecy and a lack of independence in working with China. In effect, the President threatened to cut off donor funding to the organization. The United States one of the top funders to the organization and such a move could greatly impact the working of an already resource-strained system.

Moreover, the allegations against WHO brew mistrust among states and damage efforts to strengthen international cooperation in containing the pandemic.

At the regional level, the management of COVID-19 has threatened cooperation between longstanding friendly states. Within the East African region (EAC), neighboring Tanzania and Burundi have been on an economic row against other EAC states like Kenya and Uganda in what seems to be a clash on divergent COVID-19 response strategies directing the movement of persons and goods across borders in and out of their countries.

Similarly, strained relations between Israel and Middle East countries has continued to deepen in the wake of the pandemic. Notably, a scheduled meeting between the Israeli President Benjamin Netanyahu and representatives from countries from Middle East failed to take place. This further impedes efforts in standardizing procedures in the management of the virus within the Middle East.

Corona Virus pandemic has been termed as the worst economic downturn since the great depression of 1930. Containment measures such as partial or total lockdown have had a negative effect in the manufacturing sector and the global

free market. The World Economic Outlook projects global growth in 2020 to fall to -3 percent. This would be a downgrade of 6.3 percent from January 2020, a dramatic fall over a very short period. To cushion economies, countries and organizations are shrinking their operations. Oxfam International for example, announced that it would be closing down its operations in 18 countries among them Afghanistan, and Haiti. Cutting down funds and or closure of humanitarian projects in areas hard hit with security instability and humanitarian challenges could further impede the realization of international peace.

Although the peril is great, so too is the promise of building cooperation. Positively, the management of COVID-19 can facilitate the rapid responses to health challenges by quickly mobilizing health professionals, medicines, and supplies, and by deploying information technology for disease surveillance and sharing best health practices across nations. As an illustration, Cuba has been on the forefront in



Cuban Doctors departing to Italy to assist, amid concerns about the spread of the Coronavirus disease outbreak, in Havana, Cuba, March, 22, 2020.
REUTERS/ Alexandre Meneghini

sending medical experts to assist in hard hit countries such as Italy.

At the multi-lateral level, the Swiss Federal Council decided to provide CHF 400 million to support international relief efforts in connection with COVID-19, particularly in developing countries.

While largely unnoticed, COVID-19 has also provided an avenue where countries with a history of conflict are cooperating across borders in infectious disease detection, control, and response.

In particular, Russia sent a military plane carrying medical equipment to the United States of America. The Kremlin Spokesperson noted that "when such a situation touches absolutely everyone and is of a global nature, there is no alternative but acting together in the spirit of partnership and mutual assistance." While the Cuban Government sent doctors to Italy to help with managing the pandemic.

In the end, the task lies with members of the international system to use natural pandemics to their advantage. As illustrated, disasters have the potential to either destabilize or strengthened international cooperation for continued sustainable development.

CAPT MARIAM IDRIS

Applied Research

PSRD

Tail-End of the Research Agenda: The 2019 Annual Research Symposium

The International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC) hosted the Annual Research Symposium on 03 October, 2019 at the Centre's Central Lecture Hall (CLH). The event was held with the aim of disseminating the 2019 research findings to a wide array of a selected professional audience that comprised of representatives from the National Government (Ministries & Agencies), Security Sector (Military & Police), County Government, Non-Governmental Organizations, International Organizations, selected United Nations (UN) Agencies, Civil

Society Organizations, Community Based Organizations, and Academia. The overarching theme for the research calendar for 2019 was "Expanding Frontiers of Peace and Security: Consolidating Lessons, Knowledge and Skills".

The symposium was a followup to an earlier workshop held in April 2019 whose Agenda was setting a peer review of proposals that were meant to guide the year's research agenda. The research Agenda workshop peer-reviewed all proposals and nominated three

proposals that were deemed to be urgent in identifying gaps that impede national and regional peace and security in Eastern Africa. The identified study areas to be interrogated through field research were in Kenya (Counties of Baringo & Turkana) and The Democratic Republic of Congo (North & South Kivu provinces). These three research areas formed the basis for the research symposium which was supported by Save the Children International. The three research topics covered the thematic areas of Food Security and protracted



A participant gives her view during the symposium proceedings

conflict, Women Peace and Security, Child protection, Criminal Gangs and Terrorism. Within these areas, the main research topics were three: Nexus between Organized Criminal Gangs and Terrorist Groups: Case of Mombasa County, Protection of Women and Girls in eastern DR Congo: An Assessment of Protection Mechanisms, and Protracted Conflict and Food Insecurity: Case of Baringo and Turkana Counties.

IPSTC always strives to ensure that the research studies conducted are policy oriented with the aim of informing the curricula shapes its capacity building platforms. These are at the strategic, operational and tactical levels towards enhancing sustainable peace and security in the eastern Africa Region.

In regards to the first research, the peace and security landscape continues to be impacted by the ever-changing nature of conflict and the devastating effects that affect society. Women and girls are ever so often victims of Conflict-Related

Sexual Violence where exploitation, abuse and death have been the outcomes perpetrated by those meant to protect them and those that are actors to the conflict. In regards to research conducted in DRC, reports on the country continue to highlight the urgent need to protect this vulnerable group. It is for this reason that IPSTC and Save the Children International undertook the research in North and South Kivu.

This research brought out recommendations that would be highly beneficial to the national government, regional mechanisms including the Africa Union, and also the international mechanisms led by the UN which has an ongoing Peacekeeping Mission known as the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO). Through gaps identified, IPSTC will be able to train on Peace Support-Operations-related courses that deal with protection of women and girls as

well as all actors involved in the PSO arena- military, police and civilians.

In Kenya, the second research area on protracted conflict and food insecurity showed that food insecurity as a result of protracted conflict in the Counties of Turkana and Baringo was at a crisis level. The research findings attributed this level of crisis to weak institutional capability to cushion affected communities from the jaws of conflict and hunger. Furthermore, the Global Hunger Index (GHI) for Kenya is at 23.2 which is a level of hunger that is classified as serious. The invited guests were of the opinion that there was a constructive dialogue especially in regards to the findings presented which informed and guided constructive debate. The symposium ended with the Director's closing remarks. This was followed by a cocktail session at the Peace Banda Lawns.

WATSON KARUMA,
PSRD

Key Visits and Events at IPSTC

During this period, the Centre received National, Regional and International Dignitaries, Subject Matter Experts, and Participants who have in one or another played a role in making IPSTC strive to be a true Centre of Excellence.



The Centre Bid farewell to the outgoing Director, Maj Gen RA Elmi and welcomed Brig C L Mwazighe as the new Director during a handing over ceremony at HPSS in Embakasi



The Centre is pleased to welcome Col Elizabeth Omollo as the new Colonel Plans and Programmes. She takes over from Col J C Sitienei



The Head of Research Department Col B R Mwangona hosting Lt Col Harri Westerlund, the Finnish Defence Attaché for discussions on forging a partnership for training activities at the Centre.



The Centre bid farewell to Maj Anton Balmer a Swiss Officer and Head of Simulation and Evaluation at the Peace and Security Research Department.



The Commandant, Peace and Conflict Studies School Col H Maghanga with a Curriculum Review Board for the Explosive Hazard Awareness Training (EHAT) Course at IPSTC Karen.



The Centre hosted the National Defence College –Kenya who conducted the Ethics and Leadership for National Security Course in collaboration with Kenya School of Revenue Administration (KESRA) at Amani Hall.



A delegation comprised of permanent representatives to the UN are taken through different types of explosive devices encountered in PSO environment at HPSS



Course participants for the Hostile Environment Awareness Training (HEAT) Course in a practical demonstration of what to expect and experience when working in a conflict area in Peace Support Operations.



The United Nations Military Experts On Mission (UNMEoM) Course was conducted from 4th – 22nd November 2019 at the Humanitarian Peace Support School. The course was supported by the Government of Australia.



Daystar University students visited the Centre on 7th and 8th November 2019 on a familiarization tour on matters of international relations especially peace & security, and diplomacy.



The training for African Union Commission Focal Points on Child Protection was conducted from the 4th to 8th November 2019 with the support of The United Kingdom through the British Peace Support Team - Africa



The AMISOM Female Engagement Team course was conducted at PCSS Karen from 28th October to 1st November 2019 with the support of The United Kingdom through BPST - Africa

Re-Integrating Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups in Africa

According to the Paris Principle on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (2000), a child associated with armed forces or an armed group refers to any person below 18 years of age who is, or who has been recruited or used by these groups in any capacity.

This definition encompasses children, boys and girls used as fighters, cooks, porters, spies or for sexual purposes.

Ever since Joseph Kony and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) began their reign of terror, the decades-long conflict traumatized thousands of children in Uganda. Compared to adults, all children are vulnerable by nature and when left orphaned for example, they are then easily radicalized or recruited because they tend to lack purpose and direction. They may feel like they need a support system to act as family during the prevailing tough times or even they may join these groups with the aim of taking part in the war to avenge the deaths of their family members.

In many conflicts children take direct part in combat. However, their role is not limited to fighting. Many girls and boys are also used in support functions that also carry great risks and hardship. Their tasks can vary from combatants to cooks, spies,

messengers and even sex slaves. Equally, cases of children being used in the frontline to carry out acts of terror such as suicide bombings, have emerged as a new twist to modern warfare.

Each year, the UN receives reports of children as young as 8 or 9 years old associated with armed groups. Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups (CAAFA) and terrorism is as a result of their inability to obtain security, food, power, prestige, education, and positive life opportunities through civilian/family contact.

This then goes to show peace education is an essential element in a holistic approach to the reintegration of former CAAFA and further to the prevention of youth engagement in violence and terrorism. Securing basic amenities for children in conflict situations parallel what children in economically disadvantaged urban areas experience.

This then draws our attention to the impacts of armed conflict on children. Many become war orphans, since their parents lose their lives in active combat. In Sierra Leone for example, the number of war orphans stands at an estimated 60,000. Again, according to UNHCR, at least half of the refugee population

and internally displaced persons are children; many of whom have lost their parents in the process of fleeing violence. Girls and boys are also particularly vulnerable to sexual violence, including rape, sexual mutilation, and forced prostitution.

As a result, there also is an increased risk of exposure to sexually transmitted diseases, such as HIV/AIDS. War-affected children suffer from a wide range of disorders such as developmental disorders, nightmares, lack of appetite and learning difficulties among others. Social movements emerging in the last decade have also attempted to demonstrate that children who have less ideas about peace than they do about war are the long-term consequence of a society that legitimizes violence.

In accordance with UNICEF's recommendations of the 2015 evaluation and global evidence about effective violence prevention and response, the theory of change is informed by a number of principles which apply throughout the results framework. One of them is Principles laid out in UNICEF's 2008 global child protection strategy, which called for developing protective environments in which "girls and boys are free from violence, exploitation, and unnecessary separation from family; and where laws, services, behaviors and practices minimize children's

vulnerability, address known risk factors, and strengthen children's own resilience..."

In Angola and Mozambique, rebel groups psychologically tormented children, turning them into soldiers. Exercises that were used included killing other children who attempted to flee, killing relatives, neighbours and other innocent persons.

In 2009, the DRC passed a Child Protection Act which penalizes recruitment of children into armed groups. They also came up with an Action Plan in 2012 for the adoption of concrete steps towards this commitment with the President appointing an advisor to strengthen the fight against recruitment and use of children in the battle front as well

as against other serious violations of children's rights. Child protection specialists have been working hand-in-hand with the government, campaigning for the need to set up a sustainable system of prevention taking into account the fact that managing this would require significant coordination across all areas of the country.

Attempting to reunite children with their families and communities is also essential, but sensitization and reconciliation efforts are sometimes necessary prior to reintegration. Experience of war is far from the simple transformation of children and young people into victims of violence. They have often been both victims of the processes of imposed militarization and violence,

and at least in part, perpetrators of that violence as well. Some of them may have also been conscripted voluntarily and participated in violence. It is not rare to encounter cases where former child soldiers who have gone to several DDR processes and ended up returning to fight because of the feeling that they could have a better life and a social status that civilian life would not afford them.

Meaningful participation of children in democratic decision-making is a relatively new concept and still subject to experiment; the movement for child participation in the developing world is gathering momentum. One of the motives behind this is the conscience that young people acquire a status



Children are forced to fight as soldiers in South Sudan. Photo Credit: Aljazeera.com

through conflict, which if 'stripped' when peace returns, they could turn into spoilers.

One of the major achievements by the international community was to raise the minimum age of recruitment into an armed force or employment into the labor sector of a child from 15 to 18. However, a central challenge now is to make international humanitarian law understood, recognized, and enforced in places where children are recruited into armed conflicts on a daily basis. Beyond strengthening International Law and making them widely known, it is vital to reinforce local understanding and norms about notions of childhood and child protection from armed conflict as well as consider the intersections between international and local understandings.

The reintegration of former CAAFA is a long process, which needs extensive support from the local, regional and international community. One of the challenges is engaging the youth, especially those who feel that the system is indifferent to their needs and wishes. Authentic partnerships must involve active participation from those in power and also be

with them from taking active and empowered roles as peacebuilders, to youth participation in post-conflict reconciliation processes, these resources will provide lessons from a variety of cases.

Too often, history is presented as a rigid concept and children are led to believe that their place in it with their associated roles cannot be challenged, let alone changed. Peace education programs contribute to that goal with the aim of educating children and youth about resolving disputes through peaceful means, the importance of human rights, and the virtues of dialogue, tolerance and diversity. Cultural and artistic activities should also be used to promote reconciliation. In similar fashion, sports have been increasingly used as a tool for development and peace. While many programs are initiated by adults and NGOs who bring young people together, less known experiences are also initiated by small youth associations with sporting competitions such as soccer games, and outdoor activities. Care-givers widely accept that education is vital in the reintegration process. Providing the children with literacy and skill-learning enhances their chances for employment in future. If ex-child soldiers can gain

economic security, it reduces the chance of them being re-recruited. The fact that many child soldiers, for instance, were victims as well as perpetrators of war is a reality that families and communities need to accept. This involves the rebuilding of trust within and between communities, something from which children will not only benefit greatly but to which they are well able to contribute, given proper encouragement and support.

Unfortunately, the rehabilitation process does not always have a positive influence on ex-combatants. Cases in Liberia and Sierra Leone where children were brought to recovery institutions that counsel and prepare children in preparation for reintegration encountered some hitches. Living in an institution, children were given clothes and food without working for them. This made returning to their families look less attractive than living by the gun, as they had to work for a living.

SHARON CHEMTAI,

Peace and Conflict Major
Africa Nazarine University
Town Campus, Nairobi, Kenya
Intern, PSRD.

Capacity Building through the Internship Programme at IPSTC

I got to know about IPSTC from one of my Professors during studies at Egerton University. I finally got an opportunity as an intern to which I am grateful for. Working at IPSTC has been a good experience generally, getting to engage with my superiors coming from a diverse pool of National Security actors. It has been an educative and motivating experience each day I have been at the Institution. Over time, I was able to enhance my scope of understanding of Peace and Security, gaining knowledge on Peace Support Operations (PSO) and getting a better grounding on conflict and its impact in Political, Social and Economic domain.

Furthermore, I have gotten to write on protection of women and girls in conflict societies and had an opportunity to look at the mechanisms put in place for protection of women and girls in Eastern DRC. This got to expand my knowledge on Conflict and Gender and how women can be involved in conflict resolution and transformation. At the Centre, I got a chance to write an article on Somalia's conflict and its effect on regional peace and stability. Other duties involved writing of issue briefs and doing background studies for upcoming research papers. This served to enhance my research capacity and equipped me with the technical knowhow of how research

is carried out; a skillset I never had before. The Amani library was very useful in getting assignments done due to its vast resources on International, regional, and global peace and stability. The work environment and atmosphere was decent with accommodative staff.

Being on Internship at IPSTC has also had its advantages. As an intern, one gets open access to short online courses like the Peace Operation Training Institute Online Certificate Courses at no cost. This played a big role in giving me a platform to learn more and have certificates to show for it. I was able to complete courses on Human Rights, Protection of Civilians, Ethics in Peacekeeping, Peacekeeping and International Resolution and Ebola virus disease looking at raising its awareness and protection of peacekeeping personnel.

The staff at the institution have been welcoming and cooperative which made settling in quite easy. Prior to this, I had this notion of military personnel being unfriendly, but that position was quickly corrected during my stay. The military personnel at IPSTC are disciplined, engaging and friendly. This is well portrayed during the football matches held on Thursdays in the neighboring Defense Staff College. The sport activity is one that I have enjoyed during my time, an initiative that

has helped in promoting positive interactions and a sense of team work among its participants. IPSTC is quite unique on how its employees both the military, police and civilians carry out their duties. Work is done professionally and diligently. From the Director down to the support staff the work done is with the required precision, everyone is good at what they do. The neatly done lawns and clean pavements are pleasing to the eye, making IPSTC an incredibly conducive place to work.

I wish to thank the PSRD for the opportunity and support during my stay at IPSTC. I have had the chance to put my knowledge and skills into practice and learning a lot in the process. I have improved my writing and communication skills over time. In addition, I have known how to conduct myself in a working environment with proper etiquette, taking note of ethical standards. Professionals at the institution always reminded me of the importance of teamwork, integrity and diligence by how they carry out their daily activities. IPSTC will surely serve my CV well. The knowledge gained from the institution will undoubtedly help in my career in future.

BRIAN NYAGA

Egerton University
Nakuru Town Campus
Nakuru County, Kenya
Intern, IPSTC

My Experience in the Internship Programme at IPSTC

During my three-month internship period at IPSTC, I have been attached at the Peace and Security Research Department (PSRD).

My office research duties involved doing a number of research papers for the department including contributing a paper for the issue briefs. One of the main writings I have done is a concept paper on Impact of Food Insecurity on Peace and Security: Case of Baringo and Turkana County amidst other studies. IPSTC has a vast library (Amani Library) within the campus which eased research process as well given me more reading materials that are related to my university program of study.

The internship program has developed my confidence and professionalism as an intern at the Research Department. I interacted with military and civilian personnel. With the confidence that I gained I was able to also respond to any queries they had regarding my research or the Department.

Class work was extended to real field conditions which significantly developed my innovativeness and skills. There was exposure to peace and conflict resolution mechanisms and therefore the skills that go with them acquired through practicing with the guidance of experienced professionals.

Interaction and Socialization skills were also among the skills I acquired in the process of engaging with different people of academic, professional and cultural backgrounds. As IPSTC had officers from different backgrounds such in terms of race, ethnicity, nationality and religion, I learnt how to interact with them in consideration of their multi-cultural backgrounds.

Exposure to the demands of the work place such as giving feedback in good time, punctuality at work, and relating with different categories of people as well as performing the daily activities.

Time management was tested when I was required to write a number of research papers within a certain timeframe. That helped me improve on my time management skills as well as enhance my typing skills in terms of speed.

In terms of Team work as an intern, I found that working together was highly appreciated and that with collaboration, work was completed quickly with positive results. Above all, I appreciated the ability to communicate and relate well with others which is certainly important.

My time at IPSTC has been a wonderful experience having come across minimal challenges which I overcame thanks to my supervisor Major S Mwachinalo. I happened

to have met a very experienced office team which equipped me with sufficient knowledge about the Centre and the Peace and Security Research Department.

I have learnt so much and I indeed am grateful to everybody who was patient enough to teach me from the basics up to what I know. The most important skill I learnt at the Institute was time management as I had a number of tasks that I had been assigned which had a very tight deadlines to completion.

Another virtue I learnt was tolerance because working in such a busy environment, I was prone to a lot of pressure but thankfully, tolerance helped me make it through the tough situations and deliver what was expected of me by my bosses.

I am thankful once more to IPSTC because it gave me the opportunity to give back and be part of the team that enabled the successes of completing the courses in Peace Operations Training Institute (POTI) and the research papers.

My experience has developed my confidence level the exposure gained being meaningful throughout my Internship period at IPSTC.

MAMO ISAKO JALDESA

International Relations Major
Kenya Methodist University
Nairobi Campus, Kenya
Intern, PSRD

My Foundation for Hands-on Professional Experience with IPSTC

When I was a kid, I couldn't wait until I was old enough to get a job. Sure it would be a good way to make friends and learn how to prepare myself for the real world but for me it was mostly about making money. This wasn't entirely true but at the time it seemed like a smart thought. I must've applied for dozens of jobs and when I finally got a call from Maj Saidi Mwachinalo telling me that I needed to come down for an interview, I was excited. Sure, the job was only seasonal, but hey, at least I was finally going to have my own cash and get that experience. On my interview day, I was up early so that I could be able to get to the Centre on time. On reaching the entrance, I developed cold feet because I'm not fond of guns around me. I however composed myself by taking a deep breath hoping no one noticed how startled I was. Mr. Patrick Okabinin, led me to the Simulation and Research Complex where my interview was going to be conducted. The interview was quite good, I was praying and hoping that I could be taken in and get to be part of the team.

On 2nd March 2019 was the first day of work. I was extremely enthusiastic about the prospect of working. As I sat on the bus with my earphones on, questions kept crossing my mind such as, 'what will it be like?' and 'what will people

think of me?'. I was more of excited than anxious. I got to work and was taken to meet the Head of Research Department Colonel Beduni Mwagonga who assigned me to the Applied Research Section and Mr Joseph Mbugua as my supervisor. I was then given a brief tour and talk about the different places and daily working procedures of the Centre by Mr. Watson Karuma, who was more than willing to answer my questions on how the Centre operates.

I was so eager to start working that I asked my supervisor if there was anything I could help out with, but being the first days he suggested that I should familiarize myself with some documents the department works on like; Issue Briefs, Occasional Papers, and Newsletters. Mr. Mbugua has been helping with the article I'm writing on 'evaluation of the strategies and measures employed by Kenya prison services to rehabilitate persons associated with violent extremism.' by guiding me on how to develop it and how to go about it. As my week progressed at the Centre, so did my capabilities. I grew more confident in the delivery of the tasks that were being allocated to me. I was beginning to feel like I was part of the team. Getting to know my colleagues on a daily basis gave me some comfort that any problems I

would encounter would be quickly taken care of by simply asking for help on anything I wasn't sure of.

My undergraduate studies as well as working experience with the International Peace Support Training Center have prepared me to handle sensitive and important aspects like gender, age and ethnicity. Apart from getting the much-needed work experience I've always admired to acquire, I have also been able to engage on some courses provided by the institution in cooperation with Peace Operations Training Institute such as; human rights, preventing violence against women and promoting gender equality in peacekeeping and peacekeeping and international conflict resolution among others. I am highly appreciative and grateful because throughout my internship period, interacting with the International Peace Support Training Centre community, I have received a great deal of knowledge, meaningful skills and a sense of belonging that has nurtured my confidence in readiness for the job market. Indeed it's been my best first work experience.

ANGELA OLIVE

Diplomacy and International Studies Major,
University of Nairobi,
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The Year of the Corona

JOSEPH KIOI MBUGUA

Applied Research, PSRD

Everywhere on the face of the earth
 Cries of a creeping Jack the Ripper
 Coming in the most ordinary of inconveniences – a mere flu!
 From China with Love ... Or elsewhere as spy agencies would have it
 The creeping flu upsets social life across cities
 Turning busiest cities to motionless blocks day and night
 From streets of Rome, Wuhan, Los Angeles, London, Paris, Moscow, New York to Nairobi
 The world has known natural pathogen calamities for centuries
 Canonized as the Great Plague, Grapes of Wrath, Plague of Justinian (30-50 million dead),
 Bubonic Plague (200 million dead), Influenza, Measles, Small Pox (56 million dead), Anthrax
 No one knows how natural the HIV/Aids (25-35 million dead),
 Ebola and modern Swine (Man) flu are?
 But sickness and death knows no conspiracy ...
 Wasting time in abstract thought while lives fall asunder

Would I have known this is what globalization meant
 I would have sought lift from the eagle
 Bound to another planet where no evil man knows
 But now wingless am bound on earth waiting for the creeping ripper
 Silently flying in first class flights, trains, ships
 And now rocking rickety Matatus (public van)

To seek abode in the unexpected voyager, rich or poor
 Harping on the global resurgence of race based politics
 From the City Upon the Hill to the land of Mahabarata
 Foreigners hated from America, China, South Africa, Europe to Ethiopia and Sierra Leone

The Chinese infrastructure builder of yesterday is the bearer of the bad omen today
 All of a sudden everyone knows bats, snakes and dogs are edible in China!

Mythologically ... this is the origin of the weird syndrome

Away from age old chronicle of human frailties to good news
 Of the steadfast scientist in Germany, Russia, USA, Japan, Senegal

Mapping the viral genome
 Mapping reactions of the human immune system
 To learn lessons from natural forces
 To discover the vaccine or the cure antiviral
 As pharmaceuticals wait to make a fortune from this global gold mine
 Give unto Caesar thy dues as you give thy pound of flesh to the AntiCorona/Anticorns/Decorons/Coronadex/
 Retrocorns/Antiviraloquine

Woe unto the poor of Africa
 Unto whom the drugs reaches last
 Who needs cheap placebo/generic doses
 Who cannot afford the real medicine

The Global diseases watchman,WHO. prophesies doom for Africa
 As if there are no enough dooms on the continent
 The religious entrepreneurs alerts mankind that the end is nigh
 A fact that they have always preached to deaf ears

Woe unto the African peasantry whose herbs no longer work against modern viruses
 Who faithfully wait for what nature will unfold
 Gladly acknowledging that birth and death are two sides of the same coin
 Whose faith chased the slave trader and the colonial man out of Africa many years before
 Who survived many epidemics natural or man made
 From Sundiata's old Mali, Songhai, Gao,Axum to Monomotapa
 From Sirikwa to Azania

Good news awaits beyond the gloom
 As the Chiroko bird hums the harbinger song of a new moon, a new dawn
 As the virus obey the laws of nature...
 Grows old and withers like all living things
 To the chagrin of Matigari ...
 That everlasting shadow of survivors
 Of incessant periodic atmospheric raptures
 Be warned Korona, thy die is cast like the plagues of yore



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