

**BIOS AND ABSTRACTS FOR THE CONFERENCE: MARITIME SECURITY IN THE GULF OF GUINEA:
LOOKING BACK – CONTEMPLATING THE FUTURE**

JOINTLY PRESENTED BY

KAIPTC (GHANA) ; RDDC (DENMARK) ; SIGLA (STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY)

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Issac Ziem Aratuo

Biography

Naval Captain Isaac Ziem Aratuo is currently a Course Director at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre. Prior to this appointment, he was the Commanding Officer, School of Maritime Operations, Naval Training Command at Sogakope. a Directing Staff at both the Ghana Armed Forces Command and Staff College, Teshie and the Armed Forces Command and Staff College, Jaji-Kaduna in Nigeria. Naval Captain Aratuo holds a Master of Arts Degree in International Affairs, a Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Computer Science and Statistics from the University of Ghana, Legon. He also holds a Master of Arts Degree in Human Resource Management from the University of Cape Coast, a Post Graduate Diploma in Defence and Conflict Studies from Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration, and Post Graduate Certificate in Defence Planning from the Naval PostGraduate School, Monterey, California-USA. Naval Captain Aratuo has held command both ashore and afloat. He also served as a staff Officer at the UNMIL Headquarters in Monrovia, Liberia.

Emmanuel Kofi Ankamah

Biography

Experience: Director Naval Liaison, Ministry of Defence : Jul 2013 to Aug 2015.

Director Naval Operations, General Headquarters Joint Operations: Dec 2011 to Jul 2013.

Command Operations Officer, Western Naval Command, Sekondi: Dec 10 to Dec 11.

Commanding Officer, GNS ACHIMOTA: May 09 to Dec 10.

Commanding officer Naval Base SEKONDI: Jun 07 to Feb 08.

Naval Secretary: Mar 02 to Aug 03.

Military Observer, United Nations Mission in Rwanda: Aug 95 to Mar 96.

Staff Officer, United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone: Feb 01 to Mar 02.

Military Observer, United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo : Feb 08 to Feb 09.

Deputy Director Ship Inspections and Maritime Security, Ghana Maritime Authority: Jul 2016 to Date

Commandant Richard Addo Gyane Biography

PROFILE OF MAJOR GENERAL RICHARD ADDO GYANE

Major General Richard Addo Gyane was commissioned into the Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (EME) Corps of the Ghana Armed Forces (GAF) on 14 August 1987 as Second Lieutenant.

He has held several appointments in the Ghana Armed Forces, including serving as Commanding Officer in two units. Prior to his appointment as Commandant, KAIPTC, he was the Director-General, Plans, Research and Development (DG PR&D). His main responsibilities included:

1. strategic planning for the Ghana Armed Forces,
2. research to enhance the future development of the Ghana Armed Forces,
3. determination of the strategic disposition of the three Arms of Service i.e, Army, Navy, Air Force,
4. budget planning and management,
5. development of policy for formation and organisation of new Units, among others

Major General Gyane has varied peacekeeping experiences to his credit. His foreign operational deployments include:

- Serving as Chief Force Training Officer at the United Nation Mission for the Referendum of Western Sahara (MINURSO) in 2008/2009.
- Four duty tours with United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL),
- Two duty tours with United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO).
- A tour each with United Nations Mission for the Referendum of Western Sahara (MINURSO) and United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL).
- ECOWAS Force in Sierra Leone (ECOMOG) in 1999.

By way of both military and civil qualifications, Major General Gyane holds the following qualifications:

- UN Staff Officers Course, German Armed Forces Command and Staff College, Germany.
- International Peace Support Operation Course, KAIPTC
- Certificate in Strategic Defence Management, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) School Oberammergau, Germany.
- Certificate in Defence Resources Management, The Naval Post-Graduate School (NPS), Monterey, California, USA.
- Post –Graduate Certificate in Contemporary Management, The Nobel International Business School, Ghana.
- International Diploma in Logistics and Transport, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST).

- Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST).
- Master of Arts Degree in International Affairs, University of Ghana.
- Executive Masters Degree in Business Administration, University of Ghana.
- Master of Applied Business Research Degree
- Doctor of Business Administration Degree from the Swiss Business School (SBS), Zurich, Switzerland.
- Major General Gyane is also a member of the Ghana Institute of Engineers (MGhIE). He is married to Gifty and they have 4 beautiful children. His hobbies include farming, playing golf and listening to music.

Anna Mensah

Biography

Dr. Anna Naa Adochoo Mensah is a Lecturer and Research Associate at the Faculty of Academic Affairs and Research (FAAR) of the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KA IPTC). She lectures International Humanitarian Law, Gender Rights, and International Law in the KA IPTC master's programmes in Gender Peace and Security, and Conflict Peace and Security. Her research focus includes Gender mainstreaming in Peace Support Operations, Maritime Security, Conflict Resolution in Africa, Violent extremism, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in armed conflicts, Sexual Exploitation, and Abuse in peacekeeping theatres.

Afua Lamptey

Biography

Mrs. Afua Lamptey is a Deputy Program head/Senior Researcher on the Conflict Management Program at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KA IPTC), Ghana. She is currently the Acting Program Manager for the Danish Sponsored Maritime Security Project at the KA IPTC. She has led and supported efforts at research, capacity building and the creation of a platform for dialogue on maritime security issues in the Gulf of Guinea. Her research expertise and publications are in the areas of armed violence reduction, maritime security, border security management, gender, elections, and peacebuilding. Over the past 17 years, she has been involved in capacity building, research and policy analysis on peace and security issues in Africa with a strong focus on West Africa. She also has extensive experience in managing projects in the sub-region which are focused on reducing maritime insecurity, armed violence and strengthening the skills and capacities of a cross section of state and civil society actors. She holds a Master of Philosophy in International Affairs from the Legon Centre for International Affairs and Diplomacy at the University of Ghana, Legon.

Kwesi Aning

Biography

Kwesi Aning is full Professor and Director, Faculty of Academic Affairs and Research (FAAR), Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre and the Claude Ake Professor at the Nordic Africa Institute and Uppsala University. He served as the AU's first expert on counterterrorism from 2005-

2007. In 2006 and 2014, he wrote the Independent mid-term in-depth evaluation of the Global Programme on Strengthening the Legal Regime against Terrorism and a UN Secretary General's report on the African Union relating to peace and security for the UN Security Council.

Until January 2019, he served on the UN Secretary General's Advisory Group for the Peacebuilding Fund. In 2021, he, served as a senior consultant on the Independent Project Evaluation on Support to the Maldives on Counter-terrorism, and has recently been appointed as a UN Expert on evaluating the EU's Counter-terrorism interventions in Sri Lanka.

He specialises in peacekeeping economies, hybrid security/political orders and organised crime. Presently he is the visiting Claude Ake Chair at the Nordic Africa Institute in Uppsala, Sweden.

Kwaku Danso

Biography

Dr. Kwaku Danso is a Research Fellow and Deputy Dean at the Faculty of Academic Affairs and Research of the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC). Kwaku holds a Ph.D. in International Conflict Management from Kennesaw State University, and an MSc in African Studies from the University of Edinburgh. His research interests revolve around maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea, DDR in conventional and non-permissive contexts, election-related violence, and security knowledge generation in postcolonial locales. Kwaku teaches and facilitates a number of courses at the KAIPTC. He is a current Visiting Lecturer at Rhodes University. Kwaku has published a number of scholarly papers on peace and security in Africa. His most recent publications include:

Danso, K. and Salihu, N. (2022). Ensuring effective prosecution of maritime crimes in the Gulf of Guinea: a focus on Côte d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone.

Danso, K. and Aning, K. (2022). African experiences and alternativity in International Relations theorizing about security. *International Affairs*. Volume 98, Issue 1, pp. 67–83.

Charles Ukeje

Biography

Charles Ukeje, holds a doctoral degree in International Relations at Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. He joined the Faculty of the University as a Graduate Assistant in 1992 and rose through the ranks to become University Professor in 2008. He has held prestigious awards, including the Fulbright Scholarship; taught and conducted research in major academic centers in Nigeria, the United States, Sweden, the United Kingdom and Ethiopia, including Oxford University's Department of International Development; and provided specialist consultancy advisory to major inter-governmental institutions such as ECOWAS, AU and several UN entities.

His teaching and research interests are at the intersections of peace, security and development issues in Africa. He co-authored the monograph on 'African Approaches to Maritime Security- the Gulf of Guinea' (Bonn: FES, 2013). He has authored, co-authored or coedited over 50 publications in major peer-reviewed journals and books.

Professor Ukeje previously served on the Advisory Board and Selection Committee of the Next Generation African Social Sciences Fellowship Programme of the Social Science Research Council in New York, and also on the Technical Committee of the Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa. He served as Lead Author of the African Union Peace and Security Council- mandated continental study on the 'role and contributions of youth to peace and security in Africa'.

Abstract

Africa between competing power centers: Using the oceans for national or global security

Until recently, the dominant narrative was that Africa is a pawn on the chessboard of global powers; and by extension, that whatever issues and challenges the continent was facing were externally-induced and contrived. While this argument may apply in pockets of instances, it is becoming contested in relation to the emerging security challenges in different maritime domains on the continent, especially in the Gulf of Guinea. The core argument in my paper is that African countries, by omission or commission, are even more complicit in explaining the myriad of their present challenges, in view of the wide range of governance, political, socio-economic, security, demographic and environmental factors on land that invariably spill over into the maritime domains. Addressing these multidimensional issues is central to fully and effectively harnessing the oceans for national, regional and global security.

Thomas Mandrup

Biography

Thomas Mandrup is an Extraordinary Associate Professor at Stellenbosch University, South Africa and Associate Professor at Royal Danish Defence College, Denmark. He has published articles and book chapters and co-edited several books on issues related to African security governance, climate security in Africa, Peacemissions and South African foreign policy. Currently, he is finalizing a monograph on the South African National Defence Force. He works as a consultant for Risk Intelligence on African Security.

He received his PhD in International Relations (2007) from the University Copenhagen, Denmark, for a dissertation entitled: '*Africa: Salvation or Despair? A study of the post-apartheid South African government's use of the military tool in its foreign policy conduct from 1994 to 2006*'. Prof. Mandrup was a Doctoral Candidate attached to the Danish Institute of International Studies (DIIS). He has vast consultancy experience working for the UN, AU, ISS, Chatham House and diplomatic missions in Africa. From 2018-2020 he was the editor of the South African Journal of Military Studies. He has extensive fieldwork experience from, for instance, DR. Congo, Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia, South Africa, Zimbabwe, South Sudan, Mali, and Sudan. From 2016-17 he headed the African section of a larger EU-funded project (Horizon 2020) on EU conflict management and has been part of the Effectiveness of Peace Operations Network (EPON) since its initiation in 2016.

Hüseyin Yücel

Biography

Mr. Hüseyin Yücel is acting director of the Center for Stabilisation at the Institute for Strategy and War Studies, Royal Danish Defence College. He has a master's degree in Political Science from the University of Copenhagen. Since 2017, he has worked with projects and themes relating to Denmark's stabilisation engagements in various regions, initially Afghanistan-Pakistan and later Maritime Security in West Africa. He is teaching Strategy at the Danish Military Academy and at the

Master in Military Studies. His current research covers maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea and landward security challenges in West Africa.

Rikke Haugegaard

Biography

Rikke Haugegaard is a Ph.D. fellow at the Royal Danish Defence College and the University of Copenhagen, Department of Anthropology. Her research areas are military capacity building, culture in military operations, special operations and conflict, crime and security in the Gulf of Guinea.

Ms. Haugegaard is currently writing her dissertation, working title: 'It is Their War – cultural interaction in Military Assistance'. The dissertation focus is maritime capacity building of Ghana Navy SBS in partnership with Danish SOCOM and the Danish Maritime Special Operations Task Group. In addition, Ms. Haugegaard assists the Danish Ministry of Defence as cultural advisor and expert on Sahel and West Africa.

Ms. Haugegaard has previously conducted research in the UN mission MINUSMA in Mali.

Abstract

Local Ownership in Maritime Capacity Building? – A Case Study of Ghana Navy Special Boat Squadron

In recent years, Military Assistance has become a trend in the task portfolio of European defense units. Military assistance (MA) is a broad category of activities that support and enable partners through training, advising and mentoring. This presentation focus on dilemmas in maritime capacity building. Based on anthropological field research in Ghana and Denmark, the discussion focus on capacity building of the Ghana Navy Special Boat Squadron conducted by the Danish Maritime Special Operations Task Group. How do the two partner units view the task portfolio of the Ghana Navy SBS, and what are the most important maritime threats this unit should combat? The answer is complex and an ongoing theme of discussion in the maritime capacity building program. This presentation will highlight some of the dilemmas, and suggests that the concept of 'local ownership' is key to successful capacity building in the Gulf of Guinea.

Katja Lindskov Jacobsen

Biography

Katja Lindskov Jacobsen is a senior researcher at The Centre for Military Studies at the University of Copenhagen's Department of Political Science. Mainly focusing on the African continent, her research explores several aspects of intervention efforts, as well as several dimensions of the types of insecurity that interventions are designed to address, from maritime piracy to terror financing. Her research has been published in several high-impact academic journals as well as in various policy reports, including for the UN and EU.

Abstract

Asked to address the title "Old debates and concepts: new threats and vulnerabilities" this presentation makes two main arguments. It accounts for the current drop in piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, and shows how the history of piracy in that region is one of re-emergence, which suggests reason to be cautious even in the face of a current decline. To say that piracy - for historical and

other reasons - may not have disappeared, is not, however, to say that piracy should remain the main focus as external actors move forward in addressing maritime insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea. The second argument is that in this period of low levels of piracy, a new convergence is emerging. Not new in the sense that the themes in focus are new (IUU fishing and oil crime have for example long affected the region). Something else is new, including broader geopolitical changes. The presentation then suggests that it is important to explore the place of geopolitics and other interests that are often backgrounded as different maritime security actors now increasingly converge around other themes than piracy.

Ifesinachi Okafor-Yarwood

Biography

Dr I. Okafor-Yarwood. Dr Ifesinachi Okafor-Yarwood is a lecturer at the University of St. Andrews' School of Geography & Sustainable Development in Scotland. Her work advances an interdisciplinary understanding of oceans' sustainability, security, governance and criminality as a question of resource management, environmental justice, and the disproportionate effects of depleting marine resources on inequality, poverty, and insecurity. She has extensive field research experience with strategic maritime stakeholders in West and Central Africa. Dr Okafor-Yarwood has contributed to high-level reports on ocean governance and security at the regional and global levels and published extensively on the blue economy, fisheries governance, maritime security and maritime boundary delineation. Dr Okafor-Yarwood has a PhD in Leadership, Security and Development from King's College London, an M.A. in Conflict, Security, and Development, a B.A. in International Relations, Peace and Conflict Studies, and a preparatory Diploma in Law.

Abstract

Depleting fish stock as a threat to the security of West African states.

Characterised by two sectors, small-scale fisheries or artisanal and industrial sectors, fisheries contribute to the food and economic security of millions of people in West Africa. The artisanal sector is dominated by local fishers who produce over 85% of the fish consumed by the local population. The industrial sector is dominated by distant water fleets that gain access to the region's fish stock through licensing, agreements and joint partnerships, including beneficial ownership. The artisanal fishing sector employs millions of people and is highly gendered. Although men dominate direct fishing activity at sea, women oversee the value chain as processors, distributors and fish mongers. Whilst often invisible to the casual observer, women are the power behind fishing enterprises and the settlements along rich fishing grounds and often finance the fishing activities done by men. However, the important contributions of fish to food, economic security and social well-being of West Africans are threatened by depletion caused by pollution, the impact of climate change, expansion of maritime security and overexploitation through legal and illegal fishing. Although West African states are working to address the lack of sustainability in the marine sector, some of their actions further undermine the well-being of fisherfolk whose livelihood is already threatened by depletion. My contribution explores the impact of depletion on human and national security and what must be done differently to address the threats to fisheries sustainability in the West African region.

Michelle Nel

Biography

Dr Michelle Nel (Stellenbosch University). Michelle Nel, BLC, LLB (Pret) and LLM, LLD (Unisa), is Vice Dean of Social Impact and Personnel and joined the Faculty of Military Science in 2002 as a senior lecturer in Criminal and Military law and the Law of Armed Conflict, having served as Military Law Practitioner in the SANDF since 1996. She was admitted as advocate in 2005 and completed her Doctor of Laws in 2012. She also serves as part-time researcher in SIGLA's maritime governance hub. Her areas of research include good governance, International Law, Military Law, and Maritime Security. Her work has been published in South Africa and internationally.

Abstract

Francois Vrey

Biography

Prof Francois Vreÿ (SIGLA Stellenbosch University). Francois Vreÿ is Emeritus Professor in Military Science, Stellenbosch University. He currently serves as the research Coordinator for the Security Institute for Governance and Leadership in Africa, Stellenbosch University. He completed his PhD in Futures Studies, and his current research focus is on maritime security and governance off Africa. He served as a lecturer in the Faculty of Military Science in the Military Strategy Department (now the Strategic Studies Department) before retiring and taking up the research post in SIGLA to build international research partnerships and coordinate research and publications on security governance and leadership in Africa.

Abstract

Lisa Otto

Biography

Prof L. Otto (University of Johannesburg). **Prof L. Otto (University of Johannesburg).** Lisa Otto is an Associate Professor with the NRF-SARChI Chair in African Diplomacy and Foreign Policy at the University of Johannesburg and is joint editor in chief of the journal *African Security Review*. She holds a PhD in Political Studies from the University of Johannesburg and a MA in International Peace and Security from King's College London. She has specialised in African issues, particularly those related to conflict and security as well as foreign affairs and diplomacy. Her research interests have largely revolved around non-traditional threats to security, where she has developed specific expertise in Maritime Security.

Abstract

Maritime diplomacy remains a poorly defined concept despite the fact that the maritime domain carries implications for the ways in which states relate to one another both in the past and in the contemporary era. Nonetheless, for many states, the maritime domain has come to hold increasing importance as it intersects with present environmental, economic, and security concerns. This is particularly true in Africa, where many states see the Blue Economy as their next economic frontier, presenting manifold opportunities for growth, but which are in turn threatened by transnational criminal activity, and, the universal challenge of climate change and environmental degradation. The concept of maritime diplomacy will be detailed and a typology provided for a deeper understanding of this form of diplomacy. Thereafter, the application of maritime diplomacy in the Gulf of Guinea will be discussed, providing a number of examples or mini-cases.

Mark Blaine

Biography

Mr Mark Blaine (Stellenbosch University). Mark Blaine is an active member of the South African Navy, which he joined in 1983 and has been a researcher in the maritime security field with the Security Institute for Governance and Leadership in Africa (SIGLA) since 2012. His underwater speciality in the SA Navy led to two terms of command and the appointment as Defence Advisor to Kenya from 2007 to 2011. In his capacity as researcher for SIGLA, he has attended various maritime security conferences and seminars and contributed to peer reviewed journals and chapters in this regard. He completed his master's degree in Maritime Security from the University of Coventry in 2016 and is currently a lecturer for nautical science at the Faculty of Military Science of the University of Stellenbosch.

Abstract

Underwater infrastructure: Security of communications and cable networks in the GoG.

The “global village” concept has given credence to the fact that subsea data cables are vital for global connectivity and play a crucial role in the economies, security and prosperity of all states, be they littoral or landlocked. The security and physical protection of these submarine data cables are historically neglected which could have huge economic and security implications for policy makers and leaders. Recent events, specifically in the Baltic, have highlighted the fact that states neglect this vital part of subsea infrastructure at their own peril. The Gulf of Guinea is a hub for such submarine data cables, which necessitates a coordinated and focussed approach to understand the problem and chart a course of action to safeguard the region from any such insecurities, be they intentional or accidental.

Eve De Coning

Biography

Ms Eve De Coning (Stellenbosch University)

Eve de Coning (LLB, LLM shipping law and law of the sea UCT) is a research fellow at SIGLA, University of Stellenbosch, and currently on research leave from her position as policy director at the Norwegian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries. She represented Norway as the chair of the Interpol Fisheries Crime Working Group 2017-2019 and headed the Working Group's capacity building activities from 2014-2017. De Coning is a lawyer and crime intelligence analyst and has published research reports and academic articles pertaining to international law of the sea, international fisheries law, and mutual legal assistance. She is currently undertaking research into the relationship between IUU fishing and crime under international law.

Abstract

Are African small-scale fisheries involved in IUU fishing?

Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing is generally regarded as one of the major threats to global fish populations, with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations recently tweeting that an estimated 20 percent of capture fisheries is a result of IUU fishing. The international community has established a comprehensive regulatory framework over the past 20 years in order

to prevent, deter, and eliminate IUU fishing through improved law enforcement and more deterring sanctions. However, there are conflicting opinions of what constitutes 'illegal', 'unreported', and 'unregulated' fishing and both policy makers and researchers are struggling to define the nature and scope of IUU fishing in practice. For instance, it is claimed that small-scale fisheries (SSFs) are prone to IUU fishing, and case studies show that African SSFs, as opposed to industrial fisheries, may have become an excessive target of IUU fishing measures, such as criminal law enforcement and export trade restrictions. In contrast, according to a recent report submitted to the European Parliament, EU member States identified over 18 000 violations of fisheries regulations between 2014 and 2019 for which it was levied more than 14 000 administrative and criminal sanctions, yet no one seems to be suggesting that IUU fishing is prevalent in European waters. With the meaning and scope of IUU fishing remaining vague and ambiguous, claims that IUU fishing is widespread and a particular concern in small-scale fisheries, should be critically assessed, particularly as advocacy organisations, researchers, and law and policy makers are calling for the criminalisation of IUU fishing and imposing tougher sanctions against both individual fishers who "commit" IUU fishing and the States where IUU fishing takes place.

M.S Tshehla

Biography

Prof M.S. Tshehla IStellenbosch University). Professor MS Tshehla is a Professor of Mathematics, at the Faculty of Military Science, Saldanha Campus of the University of Stellenbosch. He currently hold a PhD in industrial Mathematics from the University of Cape Town. He also holds Master of Science (MSc) degree in Applied Mathematics, from the University of Limpopo. His research interest is in the study of flow of fluids (Fluid Dynamics). He continues to publish internationally in this field of study. His work experience, ranges from a lecturer in Applied Mathematics at the University of Limpopo, flood frequency analyst, at the Department of Water affairs and Forestry. A senior lecturer of Mathematics, Faculty of Military Science. His managerial experience include, Vice Dean, Faculty of Military Science for a period of six years and he is now the current Dean of the Faculty of Military Science. He serve as an external examiner for various universities. He is a member of the Joint Advisory Committee between the University of Stellenbosch and the Department of Defence. He is a member of Executive Committee of Senate and a member of Senate at the University of Stellenbosch. He is the interim Director for Security Institute for Governance and Leadership in Africa (SIGLA). He is a recipient of the African Leadership Award in Education as "Best professor in Military Science": Presented by World Leadership Congress: Corporate Sustainability and Responsibility (CSR) and Stars of Industry Group. He is also a recipient of the 251 Fabulous Leaders in the Category of Education. He completed Advanced Management Programme at INSEAD business School of the World.

Abstract

Pascaline Alexandra

Biography

MS P. Alexandre (ACCI) Pascaline ALEXANDRE (panelist).

Ms Pascaline ALEXANDRE is a strategic and institutional communication practitioner with over 16 years of experience at regional and international levels. Over the past 7 years, she has been working

in the maritime security domain and international cooperation in Eastern, Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean as well as Central Africa. She has developed a broad experience in regional cooperation through her work with the Regional Maritime Security Programme (EU- funded MASE programme) and the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (renamed Contact Group on maritime illicit activities in Western Indian Ocean) through the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) secretariat. She has been working closely with the IOC, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC) and Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). In her latest project, she is now based in Central Africa and works for the PASSMAR project (another EU funded programme) supporting the ECCAS (Economic Community of Central African States) in implementing their Maritime Security objectives. She is also the Deputy Secretary of the Africa Center for Competitive Intelligence (ACCI) regrouping experts and practitioners in competitive intelligence in Africa.

Abstract

African Union and the maritime security of Africa: Shifts and new perspectives

The African Integrated Maritime (AIM) Strategy 2050 and the Lomé Charter are undeniably laudable initiatives that have put blue economy and maritime security in the limelight as the “new front-line of Africa’s renaissance”. Yet, to date, the uptake and explicit implementation have been highly limited for both due to several challenges. While the African maritime domain is the scene of salient evolutions in terms of maritime crime and threats, the strategy and its objectives seem to be moving further away from reality. The African Union through its 2050 AIM Strategy emphasizes on the multidimensional aspect of maritime security and advocates a whole-of –Africa approach to maritime security sharing common goals. The emerging and fast evolving transnational crimes and threats, the overload of uncoordinated maritime initiatives on the basis of increasingly complex geopolitical competition and the “*lack of political will*” by African countries demonstrate the inter-linkage that exist and how important it is to develop a more holistic approach while taking into account regional and national specificities. The African Union strategy has set the tone for a united Africa and suggested a top-down approach to secure the African waters. In light of the limited implementation results, tapping on the achievements made by some States and regional organizations in the maritime security domain and favoring a bottom-up approach seems paramount for the review and the update of the strategy. However, the key question of who is ultimately responsible for Africa maritime security remains largely unanswered.

Anthoni Van Nieuwerk

Biography

Prof A. van Nieuwkerk (University of South Africa). Professor Anthoni van Nieuwkerk holds an MA in political science from the University of Johannesburg and a PhD in international relations from Wits University, Johannesburg. Anthoni joined the Thabo Mbeki African School of Public and International Affairs at the University of South Africa in April 2022 as professor of international and diplomacy studies. He publishes widely on African foreign and security policy, has participated in several scenarios exercises, and has wide experience with advising African decision-makers at national and regional levels.

Abstract

Africa and emerging world (dis)order

My paper will address the question of the expected impact on Africa of the unfolding conflict between the Russian Federation and NATO over Ukraine. New forms of warfare and new alliances are in the making. The deepening crisis already impacts negatively on global supply chains, economic and financial stability, and food and energy security. Africa is not being spared these dynamics and the paper will examine the key features of the crisis and whether, and to what extent, African decision-makers and institutions are able to shield its citizens and interests from harm.

Emma Birikorang

Biography

Abstract

Charles Smith

Biography

Communications and Media Officer with the Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF).

I have been reporting and working as a communications specialist in Ghana's fisheries sector for the past 10 years. Led communications and visibility of a number of projects in the fisheries sector such as the EU funded Securing Sustainable Fisheries, Oak Foundation/Oceans 5 funded Improving Fisheries Governance Project in Ghana and the Wider Sub-region, EJF funded Turtle conservation project, Norwegian Retailers Environment Funded Net Free Seas project in Ghana, among others.

Abstract

Derek Attachie

Biography

Naval Captain Derrick Attachie is currently a PhD student in International Affairs and Diplomacy at the Legon Centre for International Affairs and Diplomacy. He is a graduate of the Ghana Armed Forces Command & Staff College, Accra and Defence Services Staff College, India. In addition, Captain Derrick Attachie has attended several professional courses including, Sub Lieutenants course in India, Naval Intelligence Officers course in the US, Senior Officers Intelligence Course in France, and Principal Warfare Officers course in the UK. Captain Attachie has held several appointments both ashore and afloat in the Ghana Armed Forces, including Commanding Officer of Ghana Navy Ship YOGAGA, Deputy Director Counterintelligence at the General Headquarters and Director Naval Operations & Intelligence at the Naval Headquarters.

Captain Attachie was an ECOMOG peacekeeper in Liberia in 1995 and Sierra Leone in 1999 whilst serving on board GNS SEBO and GNS ACHIMOTA, respectively. He also served as an UNMIL MILOB

in Liberia from 2009-2010. Between February 2017 and February 2020, Captain Derrick Attachie to the Interregional Coordination Centre, Yaoundé, as the Head of Training.

Abstract

Ibikunle Olaiwola

Biography

Captain Kunle Olaiwola retired from the Nigerian Navy having served in the Service between January 1983 to April 1994. While in the Nigerian Navy, he attended the Basic and Seamanship Training College as well as the Navigation and Direction School. A specialist in Radar Plotting and Electronic warfare, Captain Olaiwola sailed on various warships, stone frigate (ashore base) as well as engaged on flag showing tour and peacekeeping mission as a Naval officer.

He was decorated with several military medals for his meritorious service to Nigeria. He also attended the Maritime Academy Of Nigeria, Oron where he obtained a National Diploma In Nautical Science; Singapore Polytechnic and Singapore Maritime Academy where he was trained in Advance Management, International Ship and Port Security, Automatic Radar Plotting and Maritime Study, Nautical Science, Navigation Control, Electronic Navigation System, Maritime Safety System (GMDSS), Maritime Administration, Basic Survival At Sea, International Safety Business and Law, Ship Handling, Meteorology for Ocean/Sea, Global Maritime Distress and Command Navigation.

Captain Kunle Olaiwola further obtained Class 3 (Deck Officer) Certificate of Competency at Maritime Port Authority Singapore, Class 2 (Deck Officer) Certificate of Competency and Class 1 Master Mariner respectively at Maritime Port Authority Singapore.

Captain Kunle Olaiwola sailed onboard various international ships such as General Cargo Ship, Crude/Product Oil Tankers, Anchor Handling Tug Boat Dp2, FPSO and Container Ship. He rose from ranks to take command as a ship captain onboard ocean-going and coastal ships during his sailing days. Captain Kunle worked in various organisations in UAE, Singapore, Malaysia, Nigeria, Angola and the UK. He experienced sailing across Asia, Africa, Micronesia, South America, Baltic, Bay Bengal and Europe ocean/seas and ports. Captain Kunle Olaiwola also attended Lloyds Maritime Academy London where he obtained certificate in Marine Pollution Management, port/ Flag State Surveyor Certificates and Nautical Examiner Certificate.

He is a seasoned ship captain, a Lead Auditor of International Safety Management and ISO compliant. He also obtained PGD in International Maritime Law and LLM in International Maritime Law at different occasions at World Maritime University, Malmo, Sweden. He is currently a Nautical Surveyor at Nigeria Maritime Administration and Safety Agency. Captain Kunle Olaiwola is an alumni of Kofi Anna Peace Keeping Institute, Accra Ghana. He was recently awarded a Fellow of The Nautical Institute, UK as well as a Chartered Master Mariner by the Honourable Company of the Chartered Master Mariners, UK.

Angela M Lamptey

Biography

She is the CEO of CSDS Africa. Experienced Fisheries and Aquatic Scientist with more than eighteen (18) years' experience in the field of Fisheries Ecology, Taxonomy and Management; Biodiversity Ecology and Conservation (seabirds, turtles and mammals); and Aquatic Ecology (water and sediment quality assessment). Innovative, smart and committed Scientist with proven history of quality and timely research output. An individual who prioritizes working alongside clients in order to achieve the desired results in an effective and efficient manner. Familiar with marine, brackish water and coastal ecosystems as well as all stages of project design and implementation, Biodiversity Management Plan, Environmental Impact Assessment and Fisheries Impact Assessment. She is a Reviewer and an Author for a number of International Scientific Journals. She is affiliated to Ghana Science Association, Society for Conservation Biology (SCB), British Ornithologist Union and Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC). In Ghana, she is a Fisheries, Maritime, Ecology and Biology Consultant to a number of Maritime and Environmental CSOs (ESL, CEMLAWS Africa, CSDS Africa) and various governmental agencies notably the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, Ghana Education Service, amongst others. Internationally, she has consulted for CIDA, DANIDA, AUC, IFC, DFID and the World Bank through various projects. She was nominated in 2016 as an Independent Expert by the African Union Commission to be part of the Adhoc Experts Group drafting the annexes for the finalization of the Lomé Maritime Charter. She has been involved in the training of Fisheries Observers and Fish Processors over the past 5 years. She has been involved in the preparation and documentation of the National Integrated Maritime Strategy of Ghana. She is currently the Chairperson for the Scientific and Technical Committee of the Fisheries Commission of Ghana. She is a fulltime Faculty Member and Researcher at the University of Ghana. A human rights advocate, motivational speaker to various youth groups and a Career Guidance Advisor to young ladies in Second Cycle Schools.

Afua Lamptey

Biography

Mrs. Afua Lamptey is a Deputy Program head/Senior Researcher on the Conflict Management Program at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC), Ghana. She is currently the Acting Program Manager for the Danish Sponsored Maritime Security Project at the KAIPTC. She has led and supported efforts at research, capacity building and the creation of a platform for dialogue on maritime security issues in the Gulf of Guinea. Her research expertise and publications are in the areas of armed violence reduction, maritime security, border security management, gender, elections, and peacebuilding. Over the past 17 years, she has been involved in capacity building, research and policy analysis on peace and security issues in Africa with a strong focus on West Africa. She also has extensive experience in managing projects in the sub-region which are focused on reducing maritime insecurity, armed violence and strengthening the skills and capacities of a cross section of state and civil society actors. She holds a Master of Philosophy in International Affairs from the Legon Centre for International Affairs and Diplomacy at the University of Ghana, Legon.

Nana Ofosu-Boateng

Biography

Dr. Capt. Nana Ofosu-Boateng is from the Regional Maritime University in Ghana. He had his high school education at the Pope John's Secondary school and proceeded to the Regional Maritime Academy now Regional Maritime University to study navigation. After his cadetship with OT Africa Line and Black Star Line Ghana, he attended courses at Maritime Institute Willem Barentsz in Terschelling West Frisian and the Shipping and Transport College in Rotterdam and graduated as a ship officer. He lived in Amsterdam Holland and sailed on diverse Dutch flag ships often times being the only foreigner on board. He said enough to sailing after ten years having navigated Greenpeace (the environmental campaigners) ships worldwide and taking part in some Greenpeace environmental campaigns in different parts of the World. With the environment in mind he pursued a Master's degree in Maritime Safety and Environmental Administration at the renowned World Maritime University (WMU) in Malmo, Sweden and also attended full leadership training with the US Coast Guard. He also has a PhD in Transport Planning and Management which he obtained at the Shanghai Maritime University (SMU). He is into Maritime Consultancy, E- Commerce Logistics and is a Senior Lecturer at the Regional Maritime University where he heads the Nautical Studies Department. He has published several academic papers on Maritime Security, E- Commerce, International Logistics and Transportation.