

# The Purdue Peace Project Post



## “Promoting Peace Through Local Action”: The PPP

**Our Mission:** The Purdue Peace Project (PPP) encourages and assists local leaders to take constructive action to prevent violence in conflict-prone regions of the world. Where local groups already exist, PPP offers to assist them. Where such groups do not exist, PPP convenes local leaders and supports them to take action.

PPP seeks to contribute knowledge about preventing violence in fragile states and to disseminate that knowledge to the peace-building community and beyond. PPP will document its efforts, assess its effectiveness, and evaluate the results.

**What We Do:** PPP addresses situations in which violence appears to be imminent by empowering local leaders to take immediate action to prevent violence. PPP builds on the experience of local leaders in successfully preventing or ending armed conflict in their countries. Many small countries that have avoided armed conflict have made impressive political, economic, and social progress without significant outside help.

**Where We Work:** PPP’s first operations are in West Africa. It cooperates with local, regional, and international



### In this Issue

The Mission of the PPP  
P.2

The COPE Summit  
P.3-4

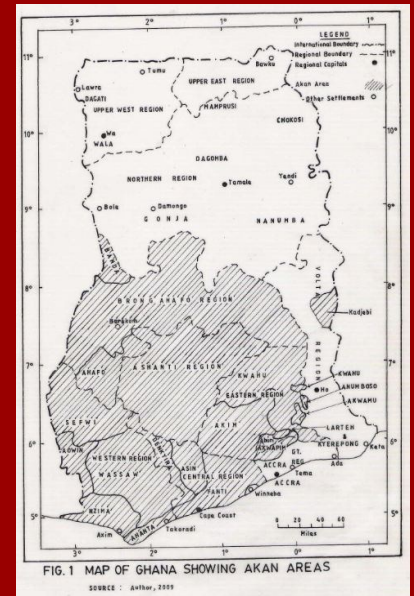
PPP at the Indiana State Fair  
P.5

Continued work in Berekum  
P. 6

PPP’s Newest Member  
P. 6



Quarterly Newsletter  
ISSUE 02 OCT 2012



## Promoting Peace in the Brong Ahafo Region: The PPP's Inaugural Project

Berekum is one of the municipalities in the Brong Ahafo region of Ghana created in 1989 by splitting the former Berekum/Jaman district. A chieftaincy dispute has erupted within the region as a faction rejects the currently installed chief. As such, the potential for violence is imminent, particularly in light of forthcoming elections.

The PPP focuses on building the capacity of local leaders such that structural change can be made from unifying communities to act to prevent violence. To help do so, the PPP is supporting the Berekum Patrons, a group of highly intellectual and well respected personalities in Ghana who are citizens of Berekum, to play an advisory role in strategizing to avert political conflict.

The PPP has facilitated the convening of meetings of members of key stakeholder groups in the region to develop strategies for preventing violence. In addition, PPP has collected and is evaluating its approach to violence prevention.

### Mission of the PPP

—To facilitate the convening of groups of local leaders in West African countries and in so doing, giving them the opportunity to do what they believe will be most effective in averting widespread political violence which threatens to erupt in the near term. These groups may be newly formed or already established groups of local leaders.

—To attend to the local context in designing and executing its approach to violence prevention.

—To compile and document information on its operations and analyze their effectiveness.

—To disseminate information on the Project and its effects to both the academic community and a wider audience. In so doing, both successes and failures will be shared.



# COPE

September 7-10, 2012

Washington D. C.



The Colloquium on Peacebuilding Effectiveness took place in Washington, D.C. September 11-12. Jessica Berns, consultant to PPP, and Katherine Magraw, director of the Peace and Security Funders Group, organized the event which brought together fifteen participants from a total of 12 different organizations around the world to discuss various peace building and conflict avoidance strategies and effectiveness. PPP and the Peace and Security Funders Group co-convened the colloquium.

COPE had four major objectives:

- To reflect on the effectiveness of activities intended to reduce the likelihood of violence and identify those approaches that appear to be among the most effective.
- To consider the costs of different activities in order to assess their relative cost and effectiveness.
- To identify ways to increase the resources devoted to peacebuilding activities that are most likely to reduce violence.
- To brainstorm actions that COPE participants can take to contribute to the cost-effectiveness of peacebuilding approaches.

Berns said that the caliber and depth of discussion and the connections between participants were some of the biggest successes of the colloquium. “It was very satisfying that people could put aside two days and be so present and focused,” Berns commented. The participants discussed trends in the field of peacebuilding and tactics/practices that were most effective and addressed major questions in peacebuilding work. A full report of the colloquium is being drafted by PPP and we will bring you more on this in our next issue.



Jessica Berns,  
PPP consultant  
and coordinator  
of COPE



# COPE

September 7-10, 2012

Washington D. C.



---

## Feedback from a COPE Participant

“I also like to thank you, the Purdue Peace Project team and Katharine Magraw of Peace and Security Funders Group for sponsoring this very important and educative Colloquium. I am grateful for the opportunity to participate and share our own field-based evidence and experience. Thanks to every one of the participants also for sharing their very rich experiences. It helped me adjust my own thoughts as I continue to work in the field of peace-building in the Mano River sub-region.”

Jackson W. Speare, II

Head of Office

International Alert-Liberia

---



## A Day at the Fair: Promoting PPP at the Indiana State Fair August 10, 2012



Dr. Stacey Connaughton, Agaptus Anaele, CLA Dean Irwin Wieser, and Christina Jones (left to right) at PPP's booth at the state fair.



Greeting guests and talking with them about PPP.



Enjoying a little rest at the end of the day.

The Purdue Peace Project was one of three programs selected to represent the College of Liberal Arts on Purdue Day at the Indiana State Fair in August. Purdue Day is an annual event at the fair that features various schools, colleges, and programs of the university. This year twenty different organizations were represented.

PPP showcased our inaugural project in Ghana, featuring photos from recent activities in Berekum. This was an important opportunity for PPP as it allowed us to share with members of the public the work we are doing, which directly impacts the lives of the citizens of Berekum. Dr. Stacey Connaughton, Christina Jones, and Agaptus Anaele were present and took turns sharing the goals of PPP's peace building efforts in West Africa.

Chris Sharp, director of alumni relations & special events in the College of Liberal Arts, said, "CLA wanted to highlight some new and interesting programs in the tent that would excite the alumni and visitors at the tent." It would seem from the feedback that PPP did just that. Agaptus Anaele, one of the PPP members present that day, said the group received a good amount of interest and encouraging feedback. CLA Alums seemed particularly impressed with the group's application of theory to practice and the global outlook of the Purdue Peace Project.

## Further Work in Berekum August, 2012 Berekum, Ghana



Dr. Stacey Connaughton, Rosaline, Former Inspector General, and Jessica Berns (left to right)



Jessica Berns (far left), Peace Committee Members, Rosaline, and Dr. Stacey Connaughton (right)

Dr. Stacey Connaughton and Jessica Berns made a trip to Ghana in August in order to further observe and contribute to PPP's peace building efforts there. This was PPP's second trip to the project site in Berekum. During their time there Connaughton and Berns met with leaders and citizens of Berekum including members of various groups such as the Queen Mothers, Berekum for Progress, the Peace Committee, and the Women's Group. Connaughton said, "Jessica (Berns) and I very much enjoyed our interactions with the leaders and citizens of Berekum during our trip, and admired their commitment to enhancing the lives of their community. They are an engaging, thoughtful, hard working group of people, and it is a pleasure to be collaborating with them."

### PPP Welcomes a New Team Member

#### Kelly Vibber, Graduate Research Assistant



is a PhD Candidate studying Global Public Relations at the Brian Lamb School of Communication. She received her Bachelor's degree from Western Michigan University in 2003 in Organizational Communication and in 2005 completed her Master's degree in Intercultural Interpersonal Communication at Purdue University. Her research interests include the impact of digitalization and globalization on diplomacy, the role of the individual in diplomacy, and how publics arise to resolve problems and seek support and collaboration.



*Beering Hall of Liberal Arts and Education, Purdue University*

### In the Next Issue:

- ◆ Updates from trip three to Berecum
- ◆ The full COPE summit report
- ◆ PPP meets with U.S. Ambassador Mahley
- ◆ More information on PPP's current projects

## PPP on the World Wide Web

Please visit our website <http://www.purdue.edu/ppp> to learn more about the PPP, our team, and to contact us.

Comments, Questions, or Suggestions about the Newsletter?

Please contact the Editor, Kelly Vibber, at [kvibber@purdue.edu](mailto:kvibber@purdue.edu)

We thank you for your interest in our work on peace building in West Africa.



**PURDUE**  
LIBERAL ARTS

PURDUE PEACE PROJECT

Beering Hall, Room 2114  
100 N. University Street  
West Lafayette, IN 47907, USA  
(765) 494-9107  
[ppp@purdue.edu](mailto:ppp@purdue.edu)  
<http://www.cla.purdue.edu/ppp/>