



# E-Gazette

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## **24hr Videoconference Consultation around the international Conference "Improving Governance and Fighting Corruption: New Frontiers in Public-Private Partnerships"**

On March 14, a group of first and second year PhD research fellows of the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance participated in the World Bank videoconference on governance and corruption. A report by Treena Wu, ESPP Research Fellow from Malaysia.

The conference was set up in the form of role-playing game in which and the MGSOG represented Government body. Given our skills in governance research and analysis, we were able to present sound formal and operational policies for reducing corruption. It was very interesting to see how the other groups from Harvard Law School and Vlerick University and young professionals of the World Bank responded in their roles as Civil Society, the Private Sector and Donors. We managed to persuade them of the importance of government structural power in promoting business competitiveness and fighting corruption. We emphasized that reducing corruption is more than having simplistic ideas about fighting corruption, e.g. citizens should refuse to pay bribes when caught speeding etc. We argued for strategic solutions that would appeal to all stakeholders. It was a lot of work coming up with our recommendations. But in the end, our hard work and enthusiasm paid off and I think in that sense we have created an overall awareness of the importance of good governance!



## **Obtaining a PhD next to your fulltime job? GPAC<sup>2</sup> is the answer**

*Successful start of Dual Career programme in Governance and Policy Analysis: GPAC<sup>2</sup>*

On March 19, fifteen participants from fourteen different countries started with dual career PhD programme in Governance and Policy Analysis for four to five

years next to their fulltime job. The Maastricht Graduate School of Governance is the first institute within the Netherlands, known thus far, to offer such a unique dual career PhD programme in this specific field. It's worldwide appeal is evident looking at the list of participants: a colonel of the Swedish Army, BBC correspondent from Poland, a snow expedition leader from Canada, a World Bank employee from Cameroon. Participants will work on their research independently while following advanced training modules and intensive research supporting activities in the field of policy analysis, social protection, risk management and sustainable development. Specific research fields for GPAC<sup>2</sup> are for example diverse case studies like: Governance, Conflict and Development: A Case Study of Somalia, Missing links and prerequisites for effects on development and poverty reduction efforts in developing countries like Pakistan and Economic migration within the European Unions, with special attention to the new member states. Participants will follow online courses next... and there will be also special "Writing Camps". These "writing camps" will be organized at least twice a year and will bring together junior and senior researchers to work on their research in a secluded and inspiring location. During these camps, fellows of all PhD programmes of the Maastricht School of Governance work on their research in a social setting allowing them to profit from lively discussions with their peers and with experienced visiting scholars. MGSOG offers an inspiring international and committed learning environment consisting of international knowledge networks, academics and professionals. [Are you inspired? Please click here for more information on the GPAC<sup>2</sup> programme >>](#)

#### **Academically up-to-date?**

From 4 to 6 July the School organises the Advanced Academic Update (AAU) on [Reforms in Sickness and Disability Programmes](#). The aim of this AAU is to make the knowledge on reforms in sickness benefit and disability programmes as well as return-to-work-policies, available for policy makers, supervisory bodies and social security managers. We aim to do so from a multidisciplinary perspective, highlighting the topic from different angles. MGSOG organises the AAU in cooperation with *AStri* Research and Consultancy Group, which regularly carries out comparative studies and evaluated domestic reform programmes.

The Advanced Academic Updates provide the state of the art on a specific "hot" topic, discussed from different angles by academics and professionals in a comfortable short time period of 2-3 days. The best academics and professionals will inform you on the current trends, issues, debates in the specified area. The purpose is not only to provide an opportunity to quickly and conveniently increase your knowledge on a specialized topic, but also to have a practical exchange of experience of professionals, as well as build networks between academics and professionals. [Please check the agenda for upcoming Advanced Academic Updates >>](#)



### **ALIENS run for Governance**

On Sunday 15th March, UNU-MERIT and MGSoG, for the second time, formed a common team for the 'Treechloop'. The 10 runners of the 'Aliens in Maastricht' team finished the 11.5 kilometres long track around the St. Pietersberg in less than 1 hour. The team, made up of all foreigners (fearless leader Luc Soete, Melissa, Florian, Henry, Jasper, Ezequiel, Lena, Maren, Birthe and Robert), managed to out-run the rest of the pack and win the Treechloop team competition at a team average time of 54:50 minutes which resembles a speed of 12.6 km/h.

### **Empowerment in Higher Education: Conference on Realising Our Potential at Maastricht University**

DEMOS, the study association of the Maastricht School of Governance, and the Student Workforce for Sustainability and Development, an independent student association, will be co-hosting a conference on empowerment within the context of higher education with particular focus on the University of Maastricht. It is the aim of this conference to bring the concept of empowerment closer to students and staff of the university, to discuss practical approaches how to bridge the gap between university and society, and to inspire participants to think outside the box with regard to their own role in the future and what they expect from the university in this respect. Concrete results from the conference will be compiled and formulated by Demos, the Studentworkforce, and students from the University council to be handed to Dr. Jozef Ritzen, President of Maastricht University. If you are interested to receive more information, to sign up, or to join this initiative which will go beyond the conference, let us know by sending an email to [info@studentworkforce.org](mailto:info@studentworkforce.org).

Date: Friday, 27 April (9.00-13.00)

Place: Karl-Dittrich Zaal, Student Service Centre, Bonnefantenstraat 2, Maastricht

Free entrance

### **April 17: Top UN Official to inaugurate Maastricht Policy Seminar Series**

José Antonio Ocampo, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs will inaugurate the new Maastricht Graduate School of Governance/ UNU-MERIT Joint Seminar Series on 17 April 2007. The lecture at the Maastricht University is the first of a monthly series that seeks to bridge the academic and policy dimensions of key global issues in the area of technological development, innovation, international policy and governance.

Professor Ocampo has a vast experience within academic and policymaking circles at national, regional and international level. He previously headed the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and has served as a government minister in Colombia and Director of the Foundation for Higher Education and Development in that country, in addition to holding professorships at leading universities in South America, the US and UK. [Please click here to read more >>](#)



### **Nice to meet you...Bas Thijssen (Programme manager GPAC<sup>2</sup>)**

In January 2006 I came to study the MPP programme at the School of Governance. Before that I had been studying International Business Administration at the Economics faculty, also in Maastricht. In January 2007 I had completed all the course work of my MPP master, I only had my thesis left to do. I planned to finish my thesis in Antwerp, where my girlfriend is living.

Just after I had everything arranged to move towards Antwerp, Annemarie approached me if I would be interested to work as coordinator of the GPAC<sup>2</sup> programme. Although commuting from Antwerp is not the most practical thing to do, I still decided to take up this opportunity. Since I always really enjoyed the atmosphere at the school, and working par-time for the GPAC programme and part-time on my thesis, would be a very enjoyable way to finalize my study career. Regarding my work, the first weeks of GPAC<sup>2</sup> programme are now over. The start of the programme has gone very smoothly and the fellows are very satisfied with the programme which has been offered. The GPAC<sup>2</sup> fellows have managed to form itself as tight and very enthusiastic group in a very short time span. Most of the fellows are now returning to their jobs, they will return in mid June, for another two weeks of intense course work. In the mean time the will be working on future refining their research proposal in their spare time.

**[To learn more about the activities of the School please check our online agenda>>](#)**

