



Civilizations Exchange & Cooperation Foundation

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (GLDP)

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, DIVERSITY & INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

FOR PARTNERING UNIVERSITIES

East Africa

International University of East Africa, Makerere University, Umma University and Kampala International University



<https://iuea.ac.ug>



<https://www.mak.ac.ug>



<https://www.umma.ac.ke>



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March 27 – 29, 2021



The speed of technological development in communication and transportation in our world is creating a challenge for our universities today, who struggle to develop ways to keep our graduates competitive on a global level. If the message of Islam is “*Mercy for Mankind – Rahmatan Lil Alameen*”, then the university graduates of today have to be aware of the diversity within “*Alameen*”. Providing hands-on experiences and sharing successful practices is needed today more than ever.

Through activities, interactions and seminars, the 3-day **Global Leadership Development Program (GLDP)** in East Africa has been tailored to help participants learn best methods of sharing ideas, ideals, and values within the human family. Participants will discuss:

- “Opportunities & Obstacles” following graduation
- “Internships” and available training programs
- The world stage and competition today between Africa, Asia, America & Europe
- Peacebuilding, capacity building, social & economic development programs and leadership in professionalism
- Religious freedom and harmonious coexistence
- Global outreach and engagement



CECF is delighted to partner with universities in East Africa to hold these conferences.

Conference Convener & Tentative Speakers

- **Imam Mohamad Bashar Arafat, Founder & President of CECF and Al Basheer Seminary**

<http://www.cecf-net.org/about-us/team/>



Imam Mohamad Bashar Arafat was born and raised in Damascus, Syria. He received a degree in Islamic Studies, Arabic Language, Islamic Law from Damascus University. Under the guidance and mentorship of the late Grand Mufti of Syria, Sheikh Ahmad Kuftaro, he studied Qur'anic interpretation, wisdom of the "Shari'ah" and the Islamic spiritual teachings for 15 years. He accompanied the Grand Mufti during most of his international programs and conferences (1989 – 1997).

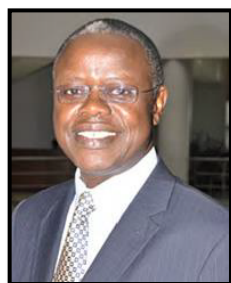
He served as Imam in Damascus (1981 – 1989) and was then invited to the U.S. to lecture in various Islamic Centers. He was Imam of the Islamic Society of Baltimore (1989 – 1993), founded An-Nur Institute for Islamic Studies and Arabic Language in Baltimore in 1993, co-founded An-Nur Mosque in Carney and was the Imam from (1995-1997). Currently he is President of the Islamic Affairs Council of Maryland.

He taught courses on Islamic Studies and Comparative Religions at prominent universities in MD and DC.

He served as Campus Imam at John Hopkins University (1993 – 2003), Adjunct Chaplain at John Hopkins Hospital (2000 – 2003), and Muslim Chaplain for Baltimore City Police Department (1998 – 2006).

Since moving to Baltimore in 1989, he has been heavily involved with interfaith work, both nationally and internationally, promoting better understanding between Muslims and other Faith Traditions. ([click on CECF's web-site link above to see his entire short bio](#)).

- **Prof. Waswa Balunywa, PhD., Principal, Makerere University Business School**



Born in Iganga town, Iganga District, Uganda, Prof. Waswa Balunywa holds a PhD in Entrepreneurship from the University of Stirling, UK., Masters of Business Administration from the University of Delhi, 1981 and Bachelors of Commerce from the University of Delhi, 1979.

He has taught at Makerere University and Makerere University Business School where he joined as a lecturer. He has taught a wide range of subjects including: Financial Accounting, Taxation, Cost and Management Accounting. In recent years his interests have been in the areas of Change, Strategy and Creativity & Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Leadership. He has taught at different levels and recent times concentrated at graduate level. He has been associated with different Institutions like Xavier Institute of Management – India, Babson College, USA, Uganda Management Institute, Institute of Bankers- Kampala, Eastern and Southern Institute of Management Government Accounting Courses, Uganda National Examination Board, Senior Government Accountants Courses conducted by Glasgow College of Technology at IPA and Glasgow College, Scotland, National University of Rwanda in different capacity.

He is presently the Principal (*Chief Administrative and Academic Officer of the School*) of Makerere University Business School, (MUBS). He joined Makerere University (Mak) in 1983 as a Lecturer. He became the Head of the Department of Finance and Accounting in 1987 up to 1991. He then became Dean of the Faculty of Commerce from 1991-1998. In 1998 he became the Director of the newly created Makerere University Business School. He was appointed Principal in 1999. He is Chairman Academic Board-MUBS (2000-todate), Member of MUBS Council 2000-date, Member MUBS Appointments Board.

He has also served on several boards as a Director including Kakira Sugar Works (2003-to date), Bank of Uganda from 2002-2012, Chairman of Uganda Airlines Board (from 1993 to 2001), Head of the Country Chapter of the ORSEA (*Operations Research Society of Eastern Africa*) (2003-todate). He is the Patron, AIESEC in Uganda Chapter, Patron Young Professional Managers Association (YPMA) among other board responsibilities.

▪ **DR MOUHAMAD MPEZAMIHIGO, Vice Chancellor, Kampala International University**



Born in Uganda, Dr. Mouhamad Mpezamihigo was educated at Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda (Bsc Forestry and Msc Agriculture). He obtained his PhD at the University of Reading in the United Kingdom (Horticulture and Landscape Management), through a Science and Technology Merit Scholarship of the Islamic Development Bank. He attained additional qualifications and training in University Management Skills, Leadership and Governance, Quality Management and Partnerships and Scientific Collaborations. He is a pioneer among the Quality Assurance Coordinators in the Inter University Council for East Africa.

Dr. Mpezamihigo was Dean of the Faculty of Science, Vice Rector in Charge of Finance and Administration, Vice Rector in Charge of Academic Affairs at the Islamic University in Uganda. He served the Islamic University in Uganda for 11 continuous years. He is the current Vice Chancellor of Kampala International University in Uganda, the largest, premier private Comprehensive University in Uganda, with campuses in Uganda and Tanzania. The University has the largest Medical and Dental School and Nursing and Pharmacy schools in Uganda. The only University in Uganda, with its own Teaching Hospital.

He is an award winner of the Global Education Excellency Awards; Islamic Development Bank Award winner of Leadership Excellency; Uganda National Council for Higher Education Recognition Award in appreciation of dedicated service and exemplary contribution to the NCHE; Appreciation Award winner by Ecosystem Network Systems in recognition for having developed knowledge plus good character in generations, which has made a goal of a true Education, 2017/2018. He has won many awards from the Association of Commonwealth Universities, UK.

He is currently Uganda's Country Representative to the ISESCO Executive Council with headquarters in Rabat Morocco. This is not a full-time assignment.

He is married with sons and daughters and a community worker and Director and Founder of a new Dual Curriculum Primary School called Milestones Junior School in Uganda, which aims to support quality primary education for the needy and disadvantaged kids and provide employment opportunities

He is very eloquent with excellent communication skills, and techno ready with excellent computer skills and working with the Internet and social media platforms. He is also very community oriented and focused on achieving success of any activity based on teamwork and good interpersonal relations with people of diverse backgrounds.

▪ **Jamila Mayanja, President, Smart Girls Uganda**



Jamila Mayanja has 8 years of experience working with profit making companies and Social ventures. During her time at high school, Nabisunsa Girls' School, she was on every cabinet of every club where she also started the Red Ribbon AIDS Club. As she was taking her bachelor degree at MUBS, she was hired to join the marketing team of one of the top SMS companies in Uganda where she gained her experience as a professional marketer, while working at SMSOne (U) Ltd. She also volunteered in a number of Non-Profit Organizations.

In 2012, she resigned from her job and started a social venture called Smart Girls Uganda, a social enterprise that empowers and supports girls and women through training to build their life and economical skills. Smart Girls has famous girls and women empowerment programs like the Girls with Tools Program that socially and economically empower vulnerable girls and young women through models of skills development in male dominated careers like automotive mechanical engineering, electronics, carpentry, driving big trucks and welding and metal fabrications in order to increase their employability and their earning potential, out of this program she launched an all ladies car service and washing bay. Because of her work, she was chosen to be part of the 2015 Mandela Washington Fellowship for young African leaders' Initiative where President Obama recognized her for curbing youth unemployment and her Smart Bags 4 Girls idea has been selected as one of the winners of the Openideo UNFPA Young People's Sexual and Reproductive Health Challenge.

▪ **Robert H. Stucky, Program Officer, CECF & Faculty, Al Basheer Seminary**

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Rob Stucky earned both a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art and a Master of Divinity degree from Yale University, as well as a Master of Anglican Studies degree from Berkeley Episcopal Divinity School. He studied Indian Philosophy, Yoga, and Meditation intensively under the direct tutelage of Swami Muktananda Paramahansa of Ganeshpuri, India, for nine and a half years, and served as an Episcopal priest for sixteen years.

He left the priesthood in 2002 to dedicate himself to the promotion of trans-cultural spirituality and intercultural understanding.

For the past fifteen years, he has collaborated with a devout Muslim friend, scholar, and Saudi diplomat, Sadig A. Malki, in promoting Faith in Diversity (FID). In 2016, at the invitation of Imam Mohamad Bashir Arafat, Rob joined the faculty of Al Basheer Seminary, Interfaith Center and Institute, and the Civilizations Exchange and Cooperation Foundation (CECF), fostering mutual understanding between religions, and promoting the positive spiritual values and practices common to all traditions. ([click on CECF's web-site link above to see his entire short bio](#))

▪ **Betty Nantongo, Intern Coordinator – East Africa, CECF**



Betty Nantongo assumed duties as an **Intern Coordinator in East Africa** with Civilizations Exchange Cooperation Foundation in June 2019.

She found her motivation to work in the community early on when she volunteered at a school teaching adults European History and Christian Religious Education.

She later applied to Makerere University to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Adult and Community Education. Over the years, she interned at Youth Alive Uganda, volunteered with Balloon Ventures, a UK based social enterprise working to support local entrepreneurs grow their businesses, and then took on a team leader role safeguarding and supporting her fellow volunteers from UK and Uganda.

Betty also worked as a Curriculum Facilitator delivering content to various cohorts in Kenya and Uganda. She was promoted to a Senior Program Coordinator where she managed a team of young people from the UK and Uganda in their journey of personal and professional development.

Eventually, Betty started an organization with a colleague known as “Out Of Comfort Zone”, which worked to empower and support high school youth to grow and become better versions of themselves and prepared them for the world of entrepreneurship challenges and personal development.

In 2019, after organizing an advocacy campaign to address sexual violence, which attracted a lot of media houses, local youth, civil society organizations and cooperating agencies, Betty decided to work with her fellow survivor friends to start an organization that supports and empowers victims of sexual violence. This newly established organization called Girls Like You Network (Girly Network) is a fully registered CBO dedicated to the prevention and response to sexual violence. She works part-time as the Chief Operations Officer, in charge of developing programs and systems.

Betty also works with a Korean Donor Aid organization (KOICA) to coordinate university students, who are dispatched in various communities in Uganda.

Having taken part in CECF's Better Understanding for a Better World International Conference (BUBW) in Kampala, Uganda in March 2019, Betty was eager to learn and support the mission of CECF and its operations. In June, she was appointed Intern Coordinator – East Africa. In this position, Betty works with the alumni to support CECF's activities with passion, honor and pride.

She aspires to be a role-model for girls in the community, maintaining her self-respect and continuing to believe in humanity. She dreams of a violence free community and believes that a united world starts with gender equality.

- **Kimberly King, Programs Director, CECF**

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Kimberly King, a native of Ohio, enlisted in the U.S. Army and traveled during her 4-years of service throughout the United States and abroad. After completing her time in the service, she moved to Maryland to pursue her degree in Business Administration and Management.

She has worked in various levels of management for the last 25 years, the most recent being **Programs Director** of Civilizations Exchange and Cooperation Foundation. She works in a close coordination with Imam Arafat on all programs, including the Better Understanding for a Better World Conferences (BUBWs), International Observer Programs (IOPs), Study Abroad Programs (SAPs) and Regional Imams Conferences (RICs). She has been administrating the follow up activities with Alumni in 68 countries.

Since becoming Muslim in 1989, she continued studying Qur'an, Arabic and Islamic Studies in Islamic Centers throughout Maryland, DC, and Virginia before traveling to Damascus, Syria to advance her studies.

She coordinated and led a study circle for Muslim Women in the Washington, DC area and has been a guest speaker for courses on Islam at various colleges, universities, mosques, churches and other institutions.

- **Gracie Davis, Intern Programs Coordinator, CECF**



Gracie Davis assumed duties as an Intern with Civilizations Exchange Cooperation Foundation in the Interfaith and Public Diplomacy Programs in January of 2019. Previously she served as an American Student Ambassador in Tunisia speaking on American foreign relations and taking part in national policy discussions. She was the youngest recipient of the Kennedy-Luger Finland-US Youth Exchange scholarship program where she spent time in the Finnish Ministry of Education and the U.S. Embassy in Helsinki. Miss Davis has experience in public relations and conflict resolution.

Miss Davis attends Texas A&M University, where she majors in International Studies focusing on Policy and Diplomacy in the Middle East with minors in the Arabic language and Military Studies. A member of the Corps of Cadets Squadron 6, she was named Most Outstanding Cadet in 2018. Her duties include Career Readiness, Public Relations, Community Service and Event Planning. As a cadet in the Air Force ROTC, she is assigned to Detachment 805.

- **Imam Arafat's team of volunteers include BUBW Alumni from Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and other African countries.**

GLDP in the U.S. & Europe

Selected participants from the GLDP in East Africa will be eligible to be invited to CECF's International GLDPs in the USA and in Europe.

The following images are from various recent programs for Imam Arafat in East Africa in 2018 & 2019 through Speaker Programs with the U.S. Embassies in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania.

UGANDA



KENYA



TANZANIA

