

Daworo: The Vienna African Writers Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1, July 2014

1) Editorial - Introducing Daworo: The Vienna African Writers Quarterly Newsletter

A new publication is born - *Daworo* is with us! Following the inauguration of the Vienna African Writers (VAW) Club in the Department of African Studies, University of Vienna in May 2014, we needed a newsletter to record and tell the world about what we at VAW do as a literary club. We christened this newsletter *Daworo*, and you are reading its 2014 first issue. *Daworo* is the name of a little drum in many Ghanaian languages (our literary journal is called *Tumpanne* - those big, majestic talking drums one often sees in many African cultural manifestations).

Daworo will normally appear quarterly and will record happenings about VAW activities and other literary happenings in Vienna and other parts of the world. This maiden issue, compiled by Ms. Caroline Pajancic, our editorial assistant, features activities for our Africa Week Celebrations during which we inaugurated VAW. The aims of VAW are outlined, along with summaries of talks given during the African Day celebrations. *Daworo* 2014, issue 1 also features activities of our first literary evening on June 18, 2014, and makes announcements about our future activities.

I thank Caroline Pajancic for compiling these news items. We are currently operating under capacity and we thus need volunteers to help us compile future editions of *Daworo* by joining us as editorial staff members, proof-readers, artists, design and layout specialists, news contributors, etc. Above all, join us at VAW and participate in our monthly literary evenings.

Yours sincerely,
Adams Bodomo
Professor of African Languages and Literatures,
Chief Editor, *Daworo: The VAW Quarterly Newsletter*

2) Africa Day

Within the schedule of the Africa Week 2014 at the Department of African Studies, we celebrated the Africa Day on Saturday, May 24 2014, with a number of activities. The day was planned as an open forum with African Diaspora Community members and started with a well attended lecture on restitution of African cultural objects by Dr. Kwame Opoku, an Independent Scholar living in Vienna. A lively discussion following the lecture!



Launch of the Vienna African Writers Club:

After lunch with excellent food from Mali where attendees were given the chance to get to know each other, the Vienna Africa Writers Club was launched.

For this event we had the honour to welcome Dr. Tope Omoniyi, professor of linguistics at the Roehampton University in London and writer, as a special guest. Mr. Omoniyi read from his book “Farting Presidents and other Poems” and also from his yet unpublished work while giving interesting insights to the background of his art.

After that, attendees were given the chance to present their own art and received feedback from Mr. Omoniyi. We are very happy about the active exchange on the topic of African poetry that our guest enabled us to experience.



3) Literary Evening

After the successful launch of the Vienna African Writers Club in May, poets met on June 18 at the Afro-Asian Institute in Vienna to compete in a poetry slam competition. Two African writers Eunice Stuhlhofer and Sibusisiwe Jonathan kindly functioned as judges and decided about the ranking with their expertise.

The ranking of the poetry slam are as follows:

Irina Vicol – Poetry Champion prize

Mathias Müller – Second prize

Joanna Müller & Katharina Schmid – Third prize



Adams Bodomo presenting a prize to the Poetry Champion of the evening, Irina Vicol

After the presentation of prizes for the winners, we enjoyed literary readings by Eunice Stuhlhofer, Sibusisiwe Jonathan, and Adams Bodomo.



4) Future Activities

The next literary evening will be held on July 17, 2014 at the Café Winter, Alser Straße 30, 1090 Vienna. Please feel welcome to attend, actively or as a listener! To compete in the poetry slam, kindly send three poems written by you to caroline.pajancic@univie.ac.at.

We would also like to announce the launch of *Tumpanne: the biannual Vienna African Writers Journal*. Everyone is welcome to submit literary material (i.e. poetry, short stories with no more than 3000 words, and academic journal articles on African literature with no more than 6000 words) by September 30 2014 for publication by January 30 2015.

We would like to thank all attendees of our activities so far and look forward to seeing you in the future!

Compiled by Ms Caroline Pajancic,
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