

Ahfad-Humboldt-Link Programme

- **What was the idea?**
- Dialogue of cultures
- Mutual understanding
- Learn about the gender debate in different societies and at different universities
- Open universities to innovative experiences & different social actors



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- **How to reach?**
- By university exchange and intensive cooperation
- Institutional and financial support (DAAD)
- Personal engagement



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What was the programme?

1. Student's exchange
2. Staff exchange for curriculum development
3. Summer Schools in Berlin /Germany and Omdurman /Sudan
4. Research and teaching by members of both universities



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1. Student's exchange

since the year 1999

- 10 Sudanese and
- 10 German students from the HU Berlin took part in this exchange programme. An other group of students from the FU Berlin spend some time at Ahfad University as well.

The Sudanese students made their experiences with living and working „hard“ on a farm in Germany;

German students learned about other ways of communication and interaction within the Sudanese families and society.

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2. Staff exchange

staff members learn about different university cultures

- different perspectives to increase knowledge and understanding in the fields of gender debates and research methodologies
- The common curriculum for different universities has been updated
- team teaching is a new experience
- students from both universities get a chance to debate their issues with lecturers coming from different countries and institutions



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3. Summer Schools

2000	Women in Internatinal Rural Development	Berlin
2001	Gender Research & Analysis	Omdurman
2002	Debating Gender Differences and Identities in Muslim Countries	Berlin
2003	Qualitative Interdisciplinary Research	Omdurman
2004	Engendered Migration in Transnational Spaces	Berlin
2005	Land Tenure and Women's Rights	Omdurman
2006	Gender Research in an Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Context	Berlin
2007	Women's Spaces in Organizations	Omdurman

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4. Research and teaching by members of both universities

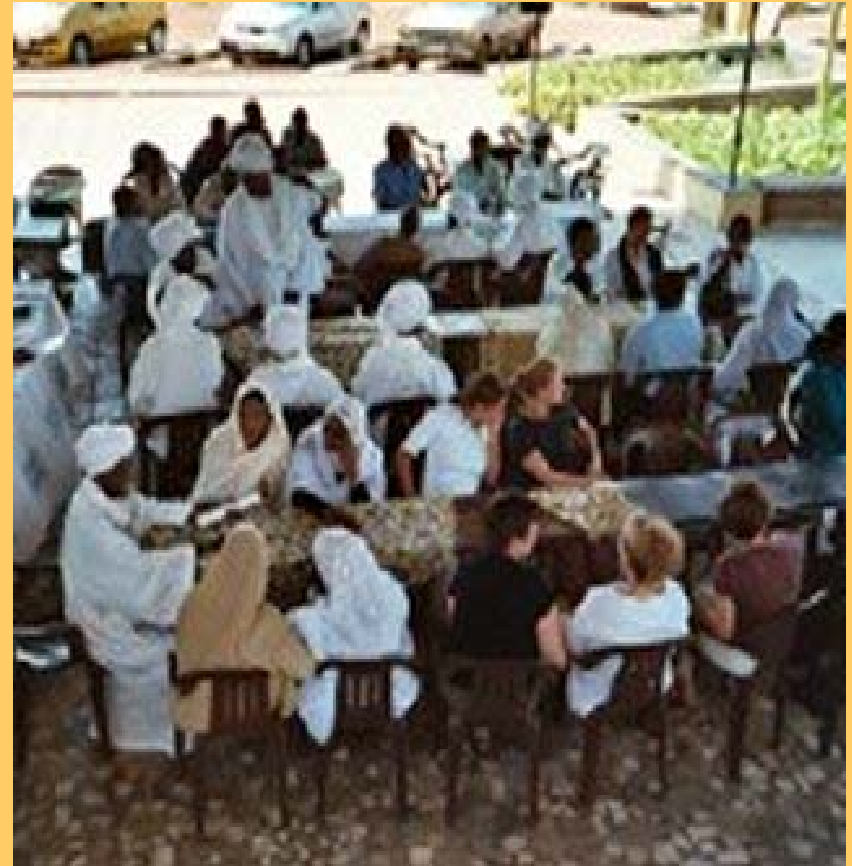
Research Areas are:

- **Engendered spaces in a village at the edge of the capital: a case study of Al Gharaza**
- **Business women in urban markets – case study of Khartoum area**
- **Credits as a tool of empowerment in rural areas**
- **Urban agriculture – dynamics, challenges and prospects**
- **Women survival strategies for food security; changing patterns and food habits**

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How does it work?

- Research team with scholars from the North and the South
- 5 of each – male and female
- Different disciplines: agriculture, sociology, social anthropology, economics, environmental management, gender research



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What did we learn?

- Our students and staff members learned about different ways of priority setting, thinking & living
- All were confronted with other ways of teaching and learning
- We learned about different positions and perspectives
- We experienced diversity and learned to respect each other
- Students reflected their own cultural attachment
- We got emotionally involved



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- In the discourse about **Gender & Islam** in the European context it seems to be important to show the many different and diverse pictures of women in Muslim countries.
- This is the idea behind our workshops and summer schools in Berlin and in Omdurman.
- Therefore we develop common curricula that can be used in Germany as well as in Sudan
- And we look forward to cooperate with other countries like Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria etc.



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**We hope they will meet
each other soon !**



The Ahfad-Humboldt-Link Programme

has been supported by the DAAD since 1998
with a commitment to be continued until 2007

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Future Perspective ?

- We look for a broader understanding of the role of universities in the new millennium
- Our aim will be to promote international global ethics & peace building
- The MDGs can build the frame of university cooperation between the North and the South



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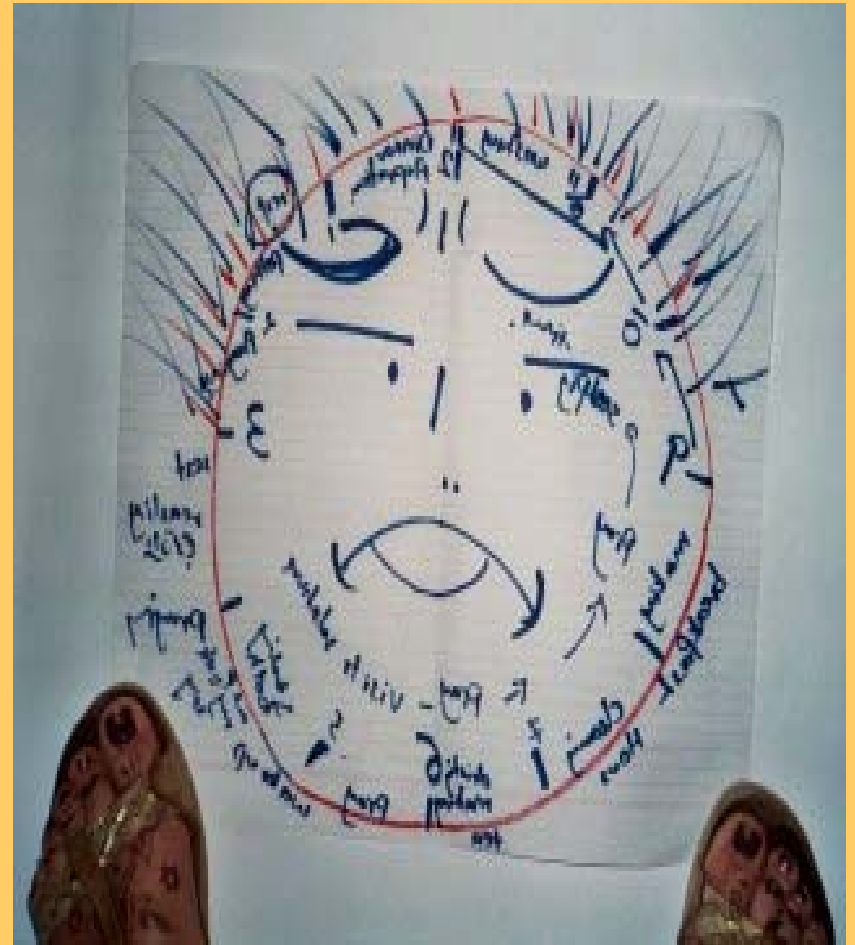
How to do it?

- Bridge the gap between theory and practice with concrete issues of the MDGs like;
- food security and sovereignty
- poverty alleviation
- girls education
- gender justice

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Recommendations

- First steps have been taken,
- Continuity of our student exchange programme as well as our summer school programme need a stable financial basis;
- The curriculum development and the special courses in research methodology need to be institutionalized;
- Capacity building needs the support of our universities as well as special long-term funding;
- We would like to broaden the link-programme to other universities in Germany and to other countries;
- In order to share our experiences we need support for networking and dissemination.



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- Based on our experiences we would like to underline the summer school idea as one step to develop and promote innovative concepts of our universities in the new millennium, addressing different actors and agencies
- It will be illuminating to go for joint research projects not only in the South but in the North as well.
- This will create a new win-win-situation, that we all are looking for.

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We are interested in your comments and ask you to contact us at Ahfad University in Omdurman / Sudan or at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin / Germany.

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**Join us in Berlin and
at Ahfad in
Omdurman / Sudan....**

•Pictures and pp-presentation by
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