

Doctoral students in Environmental Governance and Management Program at WMI, attended the 2013 Session on Security and Democracy at Democratic Governance Institute in Dakar, Senegal from 5th to 23rd August 2013. The travel grant was provided by the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA).

Security is an emerging paradigm for understanding global vulnerabilities whose proponents challenge the traditional notion of national security by arguing that the proper reference for security should be the individual rather than the state. The UNDP's 1994 Human Development Report's definition of human security expanded the hitherto narrow definition of human security to include threats in 7 thematic areas **including threats to the environment**. Environmental security aims to protect people from the short- and long-term ravages of nature, man-made threats in nature, and deterioration of the natural environment.

During their stay in Senegal, the students had an opportunity to visit Goree Island (the Slave Island) a UNESCO World Heritage Site along the coast of Dakar where they witnessed the horrors of the slave trade throughout the Atlantic world.

The students also attended a round table discussion on "Security and Democratic Governance in Africa" that was held at the Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar. The speakers of the round table discussion included prominent scholars from across the globe who are knowledgeable in various issues related to the African continent and included Dr Kwamena Ato Onoma, current and Founding Director of the Training Center of the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Professor Abdullah Cisse, former Dean of the Faculty of Law and Political Science of the University Gaston Berger of Saint Louis (Senegal) and former Vice Chancellor of the University of Bambey (Senegal); General Mamadou Seck, former Ambassador of Senegal to the United States from 1993 to 2002 and also served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the African Organization of Business Intelligence (AOBI);

Dr Jeffrey O. Isima, former coordinator of the African Security Sector Network, and currently the Principal Research and Planning Officer at the Inter Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA); and Professor Jean-Herve Jezequel, Senior Analyst of the Sahel International Crisis Group/West Africa Project.