

Editorial

The Africa Amani Journal has reached its 3rd edition. In the first two editions, the editorial carried articles on a wide range of topics including “Predicting State Fragility.” The Changing Nature of Peace Keeping in Africa “Terrorism and Counterterrorism”, and “Transitional Justice and Post-Civil War Peacebuilding”.

In the current issue, special focus is given to Gender Mainstreaming in Peace Support Operations. This follows a concerted effort to highlight issues affecting men and women in conflict situations, and in particular women. It also comes after intensive gender mainstreaming work at IPSTC, including the drafting and adoption of a gender policy in the institutions. It is hoped that by showing the salience of gender issues in PSOs, the practice will also take root throughout the security stakeholders.

The issue looks at theoretical work underpinning the case for gender issues in society; it also carries articles on gender and governance, culture and gender violence, gender and politics in Kenya and gender and violence in South Sudan.

As the editorial looks forward to the next issue that will focus on terrorism and counterterrorism, all are welcome to the readership of the issue and the Journal in general.

**Prof. Timothy Gatara,
Editor.**

Foreword

A Gender sensitive environment for peace

In the previous issue of the Journal, a number of challenges in peace and security in Africa were noted. These included the crisis in Burundi, persistence of gender based violence, terrorism and its escalation in the region, environmentally triggered conflicts and arms trafficking and its threats to peace and security. As the Centre continues to pursue research in these areas and to prepare regional PSO personnel for peacekeeping missions, it is also paying attention to a key and long neglected area of its work: *that of gender issues and gender mainstreaming.*

The seriousness with which the Centre has taken gender issues and mainstreaming is borne out by a number of achievements: the first is the development of an institutional gender policy to guide mainstreaming within the structures and processes of the institution. The policy has the vision of making the centre an entity that upholds gender equality and specifically pursues conclusively the objects of enhancing gender parity, building the necessary institutional capacity needed to mainstream gender and mobilising the requisite expertise necessary for implementation of the policy. The second area of effort is the training of all staff of the institution and those involved in PSO in understanding both the concept and practice of gender sensitive existence. The final push is in dedicating a volume of the Journal to gender issues with view to alerting players in PSO about the great need to recognise and take into account gender considerations in all their work.

IPSTC is grateful for the full support of UN Women, for not only funding the realisation of the gender policy, but also in supporting its implementation. I welcome you all to this special issue of the Journal and urge continued interest and contribution of articles to future issues. The Centre appreciates the steady support of the Government of Japan through UNDP in making this Journal a permanent and valued feature of IPSTC and Peacebuilding in the region.

**Director,
IPSTC.**