

GOVERNANCE

BASEL INSTITUTE ON GOVERNANCE

Conference «Non-State Actors as Standard Setters: The Erosion of the Public-Private Divide» | February 8-9 2007 | Hotel Hilton Basel, Switzerland

What's new? Local and regional non-state actors at the margins of public policy in Africa

Prof Dieter Neubert, University of Bayreuth, Germany

The current debate on local and regional non-state actors in public policy implies their rising importance. However, at least in Africa this type of actors is not new. For a systematic understanding of the scope of 'boundary' actors and arenas we should first consider different types of former and current 'boundary' actors. Second, we should ask why they attract attention, only now. One reason might be that they used to be seen as transition phenomenon that would disappear with the consolidation of African states. But with the uncertain perspectives of state building in Africa these 'boundary' actors are more and more accepted as a persistent reality.