

Bringing Hope to the Youth in Alego, Kenya: Sauti Kuu



Left to right: Sauti Kuu Youth Development Coordinator, Kennedy; Founder & Director, Dr. Auma Obama; Project Field Coordinator, Danny / BIGSAS

On 15 October 2013, Dr. Auma Obama, founder and director of [Sauti Kuu Foundation](#), returned to a familiar place as she often does – the small, picturesque town of Bayreuth, Germany, where she graduated with a PhD in 1996. Dr. Obama had a roundtable discussion with students of the [Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies \(BIGSAS\)](#) and engaged with members of the [Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies](#).

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Also present at the discussion were students of the Markgräfin-Wilhelmine Gymnasium of Bayreuth, 16 to 17 year olds who through a BIGSAS school project have the opportunity to meet African students and challenge media stereotypes of the continent with the personal stories the BIGSAS students tell.

Auma Obama's Kenya-Germany relationship began many years ago when as a young girl she discovered and fell in love with German authors such as Heinrich Böll or Wolfgang Borchert. Dr. Obama describes being a foreign student in Germany as not having been without its challenges. As someone who is passionate about intercultural communication, Dr. Obama regaled her listeners with anecdotes about feeling like "the other" for the first time and rising above the pressures of constantly being "confronted with oneself."