



AFRICA DAY

2007 Symposium

Friday, 2007.05.25 09.30 ~ 13.00
U Thant Hall, UN House Tokyo, Japan

Co-Organized by United Nations University and African Diplomatic Corps
Supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

Focus on Africa

Selected UNU research and capacity development initiatives

Addressing the needs of developing countries, and of African countries in particular, is a cross-cutting focus of UNU's work. UNU seeks to help the countries of Africa plan and implement programmes that can lead to achievement of the primary objectives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as well as to attainment of the UN Millennium Development Goals. The projects described herein are a sampling of the scope and variety of UNU's Africa-focused activities; the list is neither exhaustive nor indicative of the overall breadth or depth of UNU work in and on Africa.

UNU Programme for Comparative Regional Integration Studies (UNU-CRIS, Bruges, Belgium)

Research on African Regional Organizations and Their Intervention in Conflicts

Given the increasing centrality of regional organizations in conflict management, and cognizant of the gap that exists in the academic literature, this UNU-CRIS project seeks to assess the reasons that lead regional organizations to intervene in conflicts as well as the impact that they have on the typology of intervention. While over the past decade the international community has been seeking to enhance the potential of African regional organizations to deal with disputes on the continent, it remains unclear just how effective these intervention decisions have been.

This project aims to contribute to the regional peace and security debate in three ways: (1) By filling up a clear void in the literature, the project will seek to generate an original theory that explains and describes regional organizations' military interventions in conflicts. The study will be inductive and case study-oriented, based on a comparative framework. (2) The study will produce descriptions and collect data on the reasons and types of intervention, to devise systematizations and causal inferences. (3) By pinpointing the biased and unbiased causes of intervention, the study will enable a better understanding of motivations and conditions that are likely generate future interventions. Field research will be conducted in East Africa (Ethiopia and Sudan) and West Africa (Liberia, Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast, Guinea Bissau and Nigeria).

Project partners: Department of Peace and Development Studies, Göteborg University; African Institute for Arbitration, Mediation, Conciliation and Research (Addis Ababa); Organisation for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (Addis Ababa); Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (NIIA); Instituto Nacional de Estudos e Pesquisas (INEP)/National Institute of Studies and Research (Bissau).

For more information, please contact **Dr. Rodrigo Tavares** of UNU-CRIS (rtavares@cris.unu.edu).

Regional Integration, Economic Partnership Agreements and Their Impact on Employment and Labour Market Policies

This project has been conceived as an awareness- and capacity-development initiative focusing mainly on International Labour Organization (ILO) constituents' training needs. Discussions in the wake of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization report identified six areas on which ILO should concentrate: (1) the implementation of integrated local, national and regional policies, and their linkage to the economic aspects of globalization; (2) the promotion of decent work in global production systems; (3) policy cohesion within the multilateral system; (4) the global socio-economic framework; (5) the multilateral labour migration framework; and (6) strengthening of the international labour standards system. This project aims to address the impact of regional integration processes and open-trading regimes on employment and labour market policies within the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU).

Project partners: International Training Centre, ILO (Turin) and Higher Institute of Labour Studies (Leuven)

For more information, please contact **Dr. Philippe De Lombaerde** of UNU-CRIS (pdelombaerde@cris.unu.edu).

UNU Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS, Bonn, Germany)

Promoting Scientific Exchanges with African Scientists

The work-plan of the UNU Vice Rectorate in Europe envisages scientific exchange programmes between UNU Research and Training Centres/Programmes, European universities and research institutes, and African scientists. Areas of particular interest for such exchanges include:

- Energy security
- Innovative land use management
- Technological risks and high-tech in disaster management.

Support for the National Disaster Management Centre (South Africa)

The National Disaster Management Centre of the Republic of South Africa requested UNU-EHS support for the implementation phase of that country's new disaster management legislation. Since January 2007, a UNU-EHS academic officer has been placed in South Africa to build up a UNU Cooperation Unit for Southern Africa (UNU-CUSA). The entity, to be hosted by the University of Stellenbosch, will be active in training, the application of space-based technologies, development of the methodology, and the preparation of risk profiles for communities and risk atlases for different parts of the country. The entity, to be based on cost-sharing, will serve the entire southern part of Africa (SADEC).

For more information on the Africa-related activities of UNU-EHS, please contact the UNU-EHS Director, **Professor Dr. Janos J. Bogardi** (Bogardi@ehs.unu.edu).

UNU Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS, Yokohama, Japan)

Education for Sustainable Development

UNU seeks to promote regional and local approaches to education for sustainable development through a network of existing formal, non-formal and informal education organizations that have been designated as UNU Regional Centres of Expertise (RCEs). This network of RCEs worldwide will constitute a Global Learning Space for Sustainable Development. The individual RCEs aspire to achieve the goals of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005–2014) by translating its global objectives into the context of the local communities in which they operate.

The first African RCE, in Ghana, was acknowledged by UNU in 2006 and launched in Kumasi on 8 May 2007. Two RCEs in South Africa — in Kwazulu-Natal and Makana & Rural Eastern Cape — were acknowledged by UNU in January 2007, following the Stakeholder Consultation Workshop jointly organized by UNU-IAS and the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA) in August 2006. The RCE Greater Nairobi is expected to be acknowledged by UNU very soon.

For more information, please contact **Dr. Katsunori Suzuki**, Senior Visiting Fellow, UNU-IAS (k_suzuki@ias.unu.edu) or **Dr. Zinaida Fadeeva**, Research Associate, UNU-IAS (fadeeva@ias.unu.edu).

IAS Fellows/Interns from Africa

Current and recent researchers from Africa at UNU-IAS include fellows from Uganda, South Africa and Nigeria (2), and an intern from Zambia. For more information, please visit the UNU-IAS Fellowship Programmes website:

http://www.ias.unu.edu/sub_page.aspx?catID=6&ddlID=127

UNU-Global Virtual University (UNU-GVU)

Master's Degree Programme in Development Management

UNU Global Virtual University, in collaboration with Adger University College (Norway), is facilitating the implementation of a Master's Degree Programme in Development Management. The programme commenced in 2005 with 24 students from Norway and partner universities in Uganda (Makerere University), Ghana (Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology), Ethiopia (Mekelle University) and Tanzania (Mzumbe University). Adger University College has academic responsibility and awards the degrees, while UNU-GVU provides the pedagogical approach, the tutors and the course development guidelines. The African universities assist with recruitment of the students and provide on-campus supervision at quality-assured study centres.

In December 2006, Adger University College received additional funding of about US\$1 million through the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) to support master's programmes from 2007 to 2010. As a result, this Development Management Master's Degree Programme will be expanded to include links with the University of Ruhuna in Sri Lanka.

For more information, please contact **Dr. Brendan Barrett**, UNU Media Studio (barrett@hq.unu.edu) or **Professor Arne Olav Oyhus**, UNU Visiting Professor (arne.o.oyhus@hia.no).

UNU-Maastricht Economic and social Research and training centre on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT, Maastricht, The Netherlands)

Rural and Health Sector Innovation in Africa

Each year, UNU-MERIT undertakes several research and capacity building activities to support the mainstreaming of the innovation systems approach within science and technology policy-making processes in Africa.

In collaboration with the Africa Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS), UNU-MERIT is guiding 12 African country teams to conduct surveys of their health innovation systems. Against a backdrop of increasingly stringent intellectual property regimes, the project builds on several case studies of (bio)pharmaceutical innovation systems in African countries to explore how countries can shift their focus from simply producing drugs under license to building the capacity to identify and develop new medicines based on indigenous plant materials, create vaccines to meet local needs, and develop policies that encourage learning and innovation within the health system.

Through its Learning INnovation and Knowledge (LINK) network, which operates out of three sub-regional hubs in Eastern and West Africa, UNU-MERIT is exploring ways to build innovation capacity within the rural sector. LINK network projects include: (1) improved livestock feeding systems to cope with drought and desertification; (2) responses to changing standards, consumer preferences and patterns of competition in domestic and international product markets within the export horticultural sector; (3) diffusion and scaling-up of improved seed varieties; (4) implementation of a learning-based approach to improve the impact of agricultural research in Sub-Saharan Africa; and (5) support for process monitoring, policy dialogue and interactive learning activities in Africa's Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) regional economic community.

For more information, please contact **Wangu Mwangi**, Communications Coordinator, UNU-MERIT (mwangi@merit.unu.edu).

UNU World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER, Helsinki, Finland)

Designing Africa's Poverty Strategies: Creating the Capacity for Policy Simulation

Since 2000, some 150 researchers have contributed to more than a hundred research and discussion papers and four books focused on Africa. A recent UNU-WIDER initiative on development and poverty reduction in Africa supports policy makers to assess the impact of policies at the level of individual households by using microsimulation models. This project has produced a website with user-friendly microsimulation models that enable policy makers and others to experiment with the impacts of policy changes for five African countries: Botswana, Cameroon, Nigeria, South Africa and Uganda. Users can develop tax and transfer policy scenarios or conduct "what if" simulation analysis. Each model assesses the poverty, distribution and budgetary impacts of policy choices, and compares the simulation results with the current state or a base scenario.

For more information, please contact **Dr. Asghar Adelzadeh**, Research Fellow/Project Director, UNU-WIDER (asghar@wider.unu.edu). On the Internet, please visit: http://models.wider.unu.edu/africa_web/

UNU Centre/Office of the Rector (Tokyo, Japan)

Innovative Centre on Education Support in Africa

The aim of the Innovative Centre on Education Support in Africa — a joint initiative of UNU and the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology — is to strengthen African higher education so that it can better contribute to the achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals, both in education as well as in terms of the tangible development of African countries. Currently, four African research teams are attempting to identify prospective approaches and concrete initiatives likely to help improve education in Africa. These teams, at the University of Botswana, the Pedagogic University (Mozambique), Cheikh Anta Diop University (Senegal) and the University of Cape Coast (Ghana) are focusing their efforts on the following themes: (1) policies and reforms of educational systems in Africa, (2) training of teachers in Africa, (3) programmes, pedagogy and teaching tools, and (4) research on education in Africa.

Their research proposals will be presented and discussed in a seminar to be attended by a representatives from African Universities and Higher Education Institutions, scheduled for August 2007.

Africa-Asia University Dialogue for Basic Education Development

The Africa-Asia University Dialogue for Basic Education Development is a project designed to complement the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) by twinning African and Asian universities to promote a self-reliant approach to improving and expanding basic education. The programme aims to provide African experts, including university and government representatives, with opportunities for research, dialogue and reflection. In 2007, 12 African university experts and national policy-makers — from Zambia, Nigeria, Madagascar and Burkina Faso — undertook a five-week study mission to Asia seeking to develop a more self-reliant policy perspective for basic education development. The group conducted four weeks of intensive work in Japan, including one week at UNU for in-depth discussions and presentations on priority key issues.

A reflective dialogue meeting is expected to take place in Paris in November 2007, so that the universities participating in the project over the past three years can share their results and insights, both among themselves and with other researchers, policy makers, educational administrators and teachers. The eventual creation of a network on the issue of the partnership between Higher and Basic Education in Africa is envisaged.

Project partners: UNU, UNESCO, the Centre for the Study of International Cooperation in Education (CICE) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

For more information on the Africa-related activities of UNU Centre, please contact **Professor Dr. Francisco Komlavi Seddoh**, Adviser to the Rector on African Issues, UNU (k.seddoh@unesco.org) or **Ms. Soisik Maubec Habert**, Programme Officer, Office of the Rector, UNU (Habert@hq.unu.edu).

Recent Public Lectures by African Leaders at UNU Centre

- June 2006: Keynote presentation by **President Festus G. Mogae**, Republic of Botswana, on “Tools for Development: an African Perspective” (at the 2006 Africa Day Symposium)
- July 2006: Lecture by **Alpha Oumar Konaré**, Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union and former President of Mali, on “Africa Dynamism: Efforts towards Regional Cooperation and Integration”
- October 2006: Lecture by **Getrude Ibengwe Mongella**, President of the African Union Parliament, on “How to Keep Governments Accountable: the Role of Parliaments”
- November 2006: Lecture by **President Paul Kagame**, Republic of Rwanda, on “Reconciliation and Reconstruction in Rwanda”
- March 2007: Lecture by **President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf**, Republic of Liberia, on “The Role of Women in African Development”.