



UNITED NATIONS

**African Institute for
Economic Development
and Planning**

NATIONS UNIES

**Institut Africain de
Développement Economique
et de Planification**

IDEP e-Newsletter

Published Quarterly by the United Nations African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP)

ISSN 0850-573 X
Volume 3. N° 1
January - March 2005

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UPDATE ON TRAINING ACTIVITIES

Preparation of Academic Year 2005/2006 (MA 2005-2007)

Before the end of January, the Training Division usually sends out calls for nomination of candidates for the MA programme, which normally commences by the first week of November. In line with this practice, application forms for the 2005/2006 academic year have been sent to member states for nomination.

The forms were dispatched to the various African countries, relevant ministries and Central Banks, as well as UNDP Offices for onward transmission to relevant ministries and other appropriate government agencies, and to institutions in the private sector. The Admissions Committee meets monthly and when necessary to select candidates.

Smooth running of the MA Programme (First and Second Year Programmes)

The current (2004/2005) MA class comprises 11 trainees - 6 Anglophones and 5 Francophones - from 8 African countries. The first semester has ended with all programmed courses delivered. Examinations have also been conducted for the various courses and the first semester transcripts are being processed. The second semester commenced effectively on 11 April 2005, and is scheduled to end by July 2005. Nine courses are to be delivered during the period. All the MA trainees are expected to complete the programme by 30 April 2006.

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The second - year MA trainees are rounding up their studies by concluding their thesis defence. It is expected that this process will be concluded by the end of May 2005, leading to the award of the IDEP Master of Arts degree in Economic Policy and Management.

Short Courses

Agricultural Policy Analysis in Africa

In the first quarter of 2005, one short course was completed among the scheduled short courses. It was the course on Agricultural Policy, which took place from 21 February to 18 March 2005, with 25 participants - 14 males and 11 females - from 15 Anglophone countries. The countries that sent participants were: Botswana, Cameroon, Egypt, The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe. The course targeted senior and middle level public sector practitioners and professionals in the area of agricultural policy management. The participants visited SISMAR, an agricultural machine tool factory. The participants' evaluation of the course shows that the training programme enabled them to get acquainted with the various modern analytical techniques in agricultural policy management.

A closing ceremony, held on 18 March 2005, was chaired by Mr. Diene, Director of Statistics, Forecasting and Analysis, representing the Minister of State, Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of Senegal. In attendance were members of the diplomatic corps, including the Ambassador of the Republic of Egypt, Her Excellency Mrs. Sanaa Atauh.

Short Courses scheduled for 2005

The following tentative schedule of IDEP short courses for the year 2005 has been posted and is available on the Institute's website. The tentative programme comprises nine (9) courses including three (3) in French, three (3) in English and three (3) bilingual (French/English) courses. Details of the courses outlined can be viewed at the IDEP website (<http://www.unidep.org>).

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE ¹

No	COURSE TITLE	COURSE LANGUAGE	PROPOSED DATES
1	Agricultural Policy Analysis in Africa	English	21 February - 18 March
2	Tailor-made Debt Management Course for DRC	French	11 April - 06 May
3	Global WTO Negotiations	Bilingual	01-26 August
4	Capital Budgeting and Infrastructure	Bilingual	Rescheduled
5	Applied Econometrics for Economic Policy Making	Bilingual	Rescheduled
6	Regional Integration in Africa	English	01 - 26 August
7	Regional Integration in Africa	French	05 - 30 September
8	Debt Management	French	03 - 28 October

9	Labour Market Policy & Poverty Reduction Strategies	English	07 November - 02 December
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¹ Kindly note that the respective dates of the courses could be changed. Details to be provided in due course.

Public Lectures

The Institute organizes monthly public lectures on contemporary development issues in Africa. The lectures are typically delivered by notable scholars, researchers, practitioners, and analysts in the relevant field/subject of interest. Three (3) public lectures were delivered in the first quarter:

(a) 26 January 2005:

A public lecture entitled "**Decent Work and the Informal Sector**", was delivered by M. Mohamed Ali Ould Sidi, Director, ILO Subregional Office, Dakar (Senegal). Participants included dignitaries from the civil service and professional bodies as well as representatives of the United Nations System and other international organizations in Dakar. Present also were representations from training institutions, the corporate private sector, and the mass media.

The lecture was chaired by Professor Aloysius Ajab AMIN, Deputy Director/ Chief, Training Division. It focused on (1) the link between decent work and the informal sector, (2) the weight of the informal sector in work potentialities in Africa, (3) the definition, causes and main characteristics of the informal sector, (4) some key elements concerning the strategic management of the informal sector and (5) some case studies on integration of the informal sector. The guest speaker responded to questions from the audience and the Minister for the Civil Service congratulated IDEP for its initiatives in organizing such high profile lectures. He urged the Institute to endeavour to continue this noteworthy programme.

(b) 17 February 2005:

The second public lecture was entitled "**Management Information System for Development in Africa**" and was presented by Mr. Richard D. NGATCHOU, Regional Adviser, UNFPA in Dakar. Organized in the IDEP conference hall, the lecture was chaired by Dr. Diery SECK, Director of IDEP. Dignitaries and representatives of the United Nations System, several African Embassies in Senegal, government ministries, the corporate private sector, and the mass media were also present.

The speaker called attention to the necessity for African countries to set up information and monitoring systems with regard to their development programmes. Various issues and aspects relating to information systems as related to development were discussed by the guest speaker. The question and answer session which followed allowed the exchange of more ideas among the audience.

(c) 16 March 2005:

The third in the series of public lectures, entitled "**Transforming agricultural products & increasing agricultural productivity in Africa**", was delivered by Mr. Ibra SECK, Technical Director, SISMAR (16 March 2005). The lecture took place in the conference hall of IDEP and was chaired by the Deputy Director/Chief, Training Division, Professor Aloysius A. AMIN. In attendance were several personalities including representatives of African Embassies, the United Nations System in Senegal, ministries, training institutions, the corporate private sector, and the mass media. The lectures touched on the challenge of agricultural technological improvement and growth in Africa and the challenges faced by indigenous manufacturers of farm implements.

IDEP Scholarship Programme for 2005/2006

In the 2004/2005 academic year, IDEP initiated a scholarship programme. The Institute granted fellowships to five admitted candidates in the 2004/2005 academic year, and it hopes to extend the coverage of the fellowships as additional funds become available. The aim is to support capacity building in the continent.

Collaboration and Partnerships

Africa

Third Meeting of the AU/RECs Coordination Committee

The Director travelled to Abuja, Nigeria, from 22 January to 1 February 2005 to participate in the Third Meeting of the AU/RECs Coordination Committee which was held on 24 and 25 January 2005. He was invited to the meeting by the Commissioner for Economic Affairs of the African Union as part of the collaboration between AU and IDEP and a follow-up to the meeting held in October 2004 in Addis Ababa. The aim of the meeting was to formalize the collaboration of IDEP with AU and the RECs under the leadership of AU and to discuss the provision of capacity-building support for the RECs and AU. The following RECs attended the three-day meeting: AU, ECOWAS, COMESA, CEN-SAD, ECCAS, SADC, IGAD and MAU. In addition to the RECs, ADB and ECA were also represented.

Meetings of AU Council of Ministers and Summit of Heads of State

The Director attended the two meetings at the invitation of the Chairman of the African Union in the context of AU's collaboration with the Institute, and to further discuss the ongoing collaboration between the two organizations. After the AU meetings, Mr Seck met with the Executive Secretary of ECOWAS for the signing of an MOU between ECOWAS and IDEP.

IDEP participates at ECA's Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) for East Africa

The Director travelled to Kigali, Rwanda, from 10 to 25 March 2005 and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 26 to 30 March 2005. In Kigali, he participated in the 9th Annual Meeting of ECA's Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) for East Africa and attended the Workshop to Launch the Regional Project for Economic Policies in Support of MDGs and Poverty Reduction, organized by the UNDP. He also met with the Secretary General of the Ministry of Finance of Rwanda. In Addis Ababa, he held several meetings at the Secretariat of the African Union, had

discussions with ECA management on the budgetary implications of IDEP's programmes related to ECA's sub-programme 8 and made a presentation on his paper entitled "A Conceptual Framework for the NEPAD" at an ECA Seminar.

ECA ICE Meeting in Kigali

In line with ECA's policy aimed at strengthening collaboration between IDEP and the Subregional Offices (SROs), the Director represented the Institute at the East Africa Office's ICE meeting held from 14 to 18 March 2005 in Kigali, Rwanda. All the 13 member States of the East Africa region attended the meeting together with several ECA Programme Divisions. The Director presented IDEP's training and research programmes. Following the presentation, a number of participants made enquiries about the requirements for participating in IDEP's short courses.

Ministry of Finance of Rwanda

While in Kigali, the Director met with officials of the Ministry of Finance to discuss Rwanda's capacity-building needs. The Ministry expressed its satisfaction with IDEP's training programmes and had selected the Institute as a major partner and main source of training for its staff. It will further prepare a timeline by which staff training in accordance with IDEP's calendar of short courses for 2005 will be implemented.

Director holds follow-up meetings at the African Union (AU)

The meeting at the AU Secretariat was a follow-up to the recommendations of the AU/RECs meeting that was held in Abuja, 25-27 January 2005. At the January meeting, it was suggested that IDEP and AU should meet and formulate a programme of collaboration that would reflect the capacity-building needs of AU and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) within the framework of the MOU signed by AU and IDEP in February 2003. Deliberations therefore concerned the identification of AU capacity-building needs and the design of a programme of collaboration that would address them as part of a comprehensive medium-term programme of collaboration between AU and IDEP. It was agreed that concrete collaboration would start through participation by AU in IDEP's short-term training courses on WTO trade negotiations, gender mainstreaming, regional integration, globalization issues and their effect on the African continent.

IDEP's Administrator Visits Egypt

From 7 to 15 March 2005, Ms. Kibbesh Wolde Gabriel, Administrator, traveled to Cairo, Egypt to discuss collaborative arrangements with the Institute of National Planning (INP). Specifically, the main purpose of her mission was to discuss the modalities for hosting two important activities of the Institute, as follows:

- Workshop on Growth and Development Project, scheduled to be held in Cairo on 25 and 26 April 2005; and

- 45th Meeting of IDEP Governing Council, to be held in Cairo from 23 to 26 October 2005.

At the end of the discussions INP agreed to host the two events jointly with IDEP on the dates proposed. The meetings will be held in Cairo, Egypt and INP will provide full accommodation for the participants while IDEP will cover the travel cost. Based on this understanding “A Letter of Agreement” was signed between INP and IDEP.

In 1997 IDEP and the Institute of National Planning signed an Agreement for Scientific Collaboration in which the two institutions would cooperate in the areas of economic research and management.

Rest of the World

Rockefeller Foundation (RF)

In January 2005, the Director of IDEP, Mr Diery Seck, visited the Rockefeller Foundation in New York where he had a meeting with senior officials. The meeting discussed future collaboration and partnership programmes between the two organizations, especially IDEP’s role in African capacity building in Africa. Further discussion touched on the Foundation’s support for IDEP’s short-term courses in a) Regionalism, b) Commodity-based WTO negotiations and c) Negotiations on Economic Partnership Agreements between the European Union and African countries.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

While in New York, Mr Seck met with the top management of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa (RBA) to discuss programme support towards capacity building in Africa under their programme of “Democratic Participation” and “Making Globalization Work for Africa”.

For nearly 20 years and up to 1991, the RBA contributed immensely towards IDEP’s extra-budgetary financing. Therefore, the meeting was part of an ongoing revitalization process to establish concrete future collaboration and partnership.

Ford Foundation (FF)

Visiting the Ford Foundation as a follow-up to a previous meeting in July 2004, the Director discussed possible programme support the IDEP’s capacity-building efforts in economic management in Africa. After the discussions, it was agreed that IDEP and the Ford Foundation would continue to make close contacts with a view to establishing concrete programmes and activities.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands

The meeting at the Ministry was part of the scheduled visits to the Ministry aimed at keeping the Dutch Government informed about IDEP’s activities supported by the grant given by the Netherlands. At the meeting, Mr Seck presented the status of implementation of the

current grant activities to Ministry officials and discussed the level of progress. Further discussion focused on (1) the trade-off between IDEP's responsiveness to the agenda of African policymakers and its need to be visionary about future key issues, (2) how IDEP adjusts to its closer relationship with ECA, and (3) what IDEP's policy is regarding countries that do not pay their contributions as member States. Finally a general discussion ensued about IDEP's relationship with AERC and ACBF. It was concluded that more efforts could be made to strengthen the collaboration among African capacity-building institutions.

Club du Sahel (CdS)

The meeting at the CdS enabled the IDEP Director to discuss issues related to collaboration with IDEP in the delivery of IDEP's course on Regional Integration by disseminating the findings of their research outputs from ongoing activities in West Africa. Further collaboration would be in the form of CdS staff being seconded to lecture in the course. Finally, CdS could send IDEP training materials as part of the planned programme of collaboration

NEWS UPDATE

IDEP Director attends Meeting of the Allied Social Science Associations (ASSA)

The Director of IDEP, Mr. Diéry Seck, participated in the annual meeting of the Allied Social Science Associations (ASSA), which was held in Philadelphia, USA from 7 to 9 February 2005. Participation in the activities ASSA allows IDEP's economists to stay informed about the latest scientific developments in economics, acquire new research and teaching material and explore new avenues for collaboration with institutions and individual academics. During the ASSA meeting, sessions organized by the following organizations were of special importance to IDEP: American Economics Association (AEA), American Finance Association (AFA) and African Finance and Economics Association (AFEA).

At the request of AFEA, the Director presented a paper entitled "A Conceptual Framework for NEPAD". The ensuing discussions focussed on NEPAD and on the contribution of African researchers of the Diaspora to its implementation. To conclude the discussions, it was agreed that a research workshop could be organized in 2005 and hosted by IDEP and ECA's ESPD.

IDEP Director participates in UNDP Workshop in Kigali

As a follow-up to the discussions that the Director had with the Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa (RBA) of UNDP over the last few months, IDEP was invited to attend the workshop entitled "Launch of the Regional Project for Economic Policies in Support of MDGs and Poverty Reduction". The purpose of the workshop was to organize a forum at which the conceptual and practical aspects of policymaking aimed at poverty alleviation in Africa could be examined. The workshop was attended by UNDP staff from RBA in New York and in the field in Africa, a number of academics and representatives of the donor community.

Five main themes were presented and discussed at the meeting:

- a. Conceptual aspects of pro-poor policymaking;
- b. Practical aspects of pro-poor policy design;
- c. Country experiences in poverty reduction policies;
- d. The international donors' perspectives ; and
- e. The perspective of African research centers.

Mr Seck presented a paper entitled "A Conceptual Framework for NEPAD" during the session on the perspective of African research centers. After the presentation there were intense discussions during which a consensus emerged regarding the need for more conceptual research to help better understand Africa's development challenges. It also demonstrated to participants the complementarity of IDEP's work in training and in research.

Participants appreciated UNDP's plans to continue its policy discussions as part of its programme of support for Africa's pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals, the expected outcome being a multi-year framework of support for the continent's development initiatives.

Recruitment of staff

Mr. Samba Niang has been recruited as Assistant Interpreter/Translator and joins the Institute's Interpretation and Conference Services Section. The IDEP community wishes him a long and successful career.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The United Nations African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) and the African Finance and Economics Association (AFEA) invite submissions for papers for a Conference entitled "**NEPAD AND THE FUTURE OF ECONOMIC POLICY IN AFRICA**" to be held on 10 and 11 November 2005 in Dakar, Senegal.

The aim of the conference is fivefold:

- (I) to bring together African economists and other development experts from both the Diaspora and the continent to discuss the directions that Economic Policy in Africa should take in the context of NEPAD;
- (II) to launch both a critical and supportive discussion on NEPAD that seeks to engage specialists, policy makers and citizens of African nations with the goal of ensuring the success of this new program;
- (III) to launch a process of cooperation in scholarly work for African economists and development experts in the Diaspora and those on the continent;
- (IV) to produce scholarly work (in the form of edited volumes) by African and Africanist development experts that focuses on the challenges and opportunities that Africa faces with respect to sustainable development and growth;
- (V) to enhance the research collaboration between IDEP and AFEA with the goal of integrating the academic insights of African experts from the Diaspora into policy-making on the continent.

Authors should submit an abstract for each paper which explicitly states how the work is related to the conference theme, identifying paper title, authors' names, addresses, telephone numbers, e-mail addresses, and fax numbers by **1 May 2005**. Authors are encouraged (not limited) to focus on NEPAD's priority areas such as: The African Peer Review Mechanism; Economic Governance and Integration; Market Access and Agriculture; Human Development; Infrastructure; Science and Technology; Environment and Tourism. Papers written jointly by African development experts from the Diaspora in collaboration with those located on the African continent are particularly encouraged.

Abstracts should be sent to the Program Co-Chairs:

Dr. Sylvain Boko (President, AFEA)

Email: bokosh@wfu.edu; Fax: +336-758-6028

Or to:

Dr. Diery Seck (Director, IDEP);

Email: dseck@unidep.org; Fax: +221-822-2964.

To find out more about NEPAD please visit www.nepad.org. Find out more about AFEA at www.afea.org, and about IDEP at www.unidep.org.

CALL FOR PAPERS

AFEA – January 2006 Sessions (in Boston, Massachusetts)

The African Finance and Economics Association (AFEA) is inviting submissions of papers to be considered for presentation at the 2006 ASSA annual meeting in Boston. Those interested should send a well-developed abstract (no page limit, with a minimum of one full page), with the complete name(s) of the author(s), along with address, telephone, facsimile, e-mail, and institutional affiliation. The abstract should clearly state the research question(s), methodology, and relevance for policy. The author must be a member of AFEA. In the case of multiple-authored papers, at least one author must be a member of AFEA. The deadline for submission of the abstract is 31 March 2005. Finished papers are due by 30 November 2005. We especially encourage new members to both register and submit abstracts for consideration for the sessions.

Individuals interested in serving as session chairs or as discussants also are asked to indicate their preferences to the program chair by 1 May 2005.

Submission of abstracts and papers:

Papers, abstracts of papers, and requests for information on becoming a member of AFEA should be sent to:

Léonce Ndikumana

Associate Professor

AFEA President-elect and Program Chair

University of Massachusetts

Department of Economics

200 Hicks Way

Amherst, MA 01003

Tel: 413 545 6359; Fax: 413 545 2921; Email: ndiku@econs.umass.edu

To register as a new member

To register as a new member, please contact:

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Publication

We encourage authors to consider submitting their finished papers to the *Journal of African Development* (formerly known as *Journal of African Finance and Economic Development*). Submissions for review should be sent to:

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