



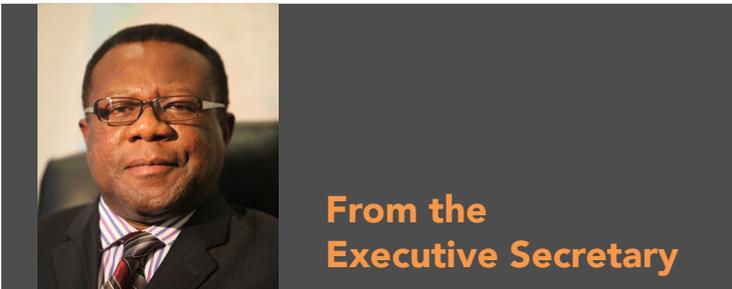
Africa Capacity

ISSUE 2 | MARCH - APRIL 2014



In this issue:

From the Executive Secretary | ACBF boosts National Institute for Legislative Studies with a \$900,000 grant | FEATURE: Economic and Social Research Foundation, Tanzania | ACBF to undertake critical capacity development studies through the Strategic Studies Group | ACBF's Policy Institutes Committee country reports highlights capacity strengths and weaknesses in Mauritania and Mali | The Chairperson of the ACBF Board of Governors hosts meeting, solicits amplified support for ACBF | AfDB supports ACBF's Strategic Plan with a USD 4.6 Million grant | Online Knowledge for Capacity Development | Senegal set to host ACBF annual Board of Governors meeting | Events



From the
Executive Secretary

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the second edition of our bulletin. On 26 & 27 June 2014, ACBF's Governors will meet in Dakar Senegal to discuss pertinent issues concerning the Foundation's work and how to strengthen and finance it so that it can continue to promote capacity development across Africa. ACBF Board of Governors who are Ministers of Finance, Economy or Planning of African Member States plus Representatives of Bilateral and Multilateral Organizations, will also focus on the issue of Building Capacity for Domestic Resource Mobilization in Africa.

Mobilizing additional domestic resources will enable African countries implement the continental transformation agenda. Africa has

the resource base to support the development and implementation of viable domestic finance instruments that go beyond tax revenues: pension funds, diaspora remittances, earnings from minerals and mineral fuels, international reserves, liquidity in the banking sector, the growing private equity funds market and the potential resource flow from securitization of remittances. Developing the human and institutional capacity to mobilize and effectively use these resources will unleash Africa's development potential.

Here at ACBF, we have recently completed a very busy first quarter. A few highlights of our work include launch of the ACBF Strategic Studies Group (SSG) and the second annual meeting of the Policy Institutes Committee (PIC). These are two knowledge networks facilitated by ACBF to address issues of policy think tanks, research, policy development and implementation. We continue to collect data for two of our major publications for 2014. These are the Africa Capacity Report 2014 which will
- cont. on next page

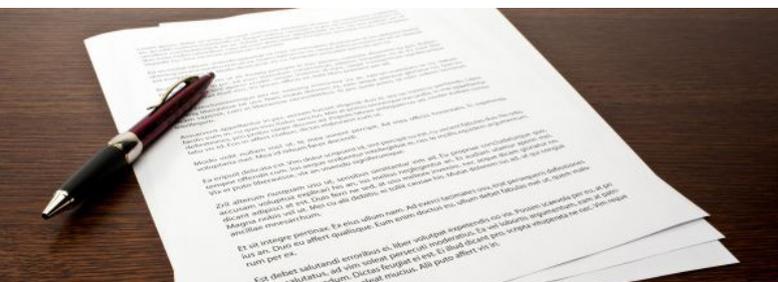
focus on capacity development for regional integration and a collaborative study with the African Development Bank (AfDB) on the survey on the capacity needs of Regional Economic Communities.

With regards to resource mobilization, ACBF received a grant of USD 4.6 million on March 31 from the African Development Bank (AfDB), which will enable the Foundation to continue enhancing development capacity in Africa under its present capacity development strategy. I am glad to inform you that African member countries continue to show strong support to ACBF through their contributions. We thank the Government of the Republic of Benin for its contribution towards our third strategic plan. Also, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Coordinating Minister for the Economy and Minister of Finance of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and Chairperson of the Board of Governors of ACBF hosted a meeting of Members of ACBF's Board of Governors who were attending the 7th Joint AUC/ECA meeting of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development in the Nigerian capital Abuja on 29 March. The

meeting, to which 36 African countries were represented, discussed resource mobilization for capacity building in Africa. Another activity in Abuja included the signing of a grant agreement between ACBF and Nigeria's National Institute of Legislative Studies (NILS) on March 27.

Looking forward to the next quarter, from May 19 to May 21, ACBF will be collaborating with the Think Tank Initiative to bring together African think tanks and other stakeholders to identify core needs for capacity development to improve research quality and disseminate the findings of three studies (in Africa, Latin America and South Asia). The studies were commissioned by the Think Tank Initiative (TTI) to explore relationships between think tanks and universities. ACBF is also the conference partner in the forthcoming 15th Annual Meeting of the Global Development Network (GDN) in Accra Ghana from June 18 to June 20. The theme of the meeting is "Structural transformation in Africa and beyond".

Expect to know more about these important issues in the next edition of the bulletin. We look forward to getting your feedback.



OUR WORK

ACBF boosts National Institute for Legislative Studies with a \$900,000 grant

In continuation of its efforts to develop the legislative capacity of Nigeria's Parliament, the African Capacity Building Foundation has boosted its contribution to the National Institute for Legislative Studies through the provision of a \$900,000 grant through to 2016. An agreement to formalize the assistance was signed in Abuja, the Nigerian capital, on March 27, 2014.

The NILS Capacity Building Project (NILS-CAP) seeks to support efforts by the Nigerian National Assembly and the Economic Community of West African States Parliament to improve good governance, fight corruption and effectively manage national resources in the sub-region. Its goal is to enhance the capacity of legislators in Nigeria and the West African sub-region to effectively carry out their mandate, foster learning and best practices, as well as enhance the institutional capacity of the NILS to improve legislative capacity building and research services in the ECOWAS sub-region.

Following the return of the country to democratic rule in 1999, the ACBF helped the Nigerian government to establish the Policy Analysis and Research Project (PARP) in 2004 as a think tank and an organization for developing legislative capacity. ACBF provided a grant support of \$2 million towards the first phase of PARP from 2004 to 2008 and an additional US\$2 million to the second phase from 2008 to 2012. The Project has since transformed from a think tank into a

permanent institution set up by law owing to its initial success which saw it exceed its targets in virtually all the areas of its activities.

For example, it helped to train newly elected lawmakers and their support staff to perform their functions effectively. This was through the organization of training workshops and seminars, short-term courses, conferences, exchange of experiences, studies and research. By the end of 2011, PARP had succeeded in strengthening legislative committees and legislative reporting, Information and Communication Technology applications and systems, among others.

Apart from legislators, other beneficiaries of the two phase funding of PARP are the management of the National Assembly, committee clerks and official reporters. About 6,000 of them have participated in local and international conferences, study tours, seminars and retreats which have immensely enhanced their efficiency. With the continued support of ACBF, the NILS in its strategic development Plan for 2013 to 2016 hopes "to have legislative capacity and culture in the national and regional legislatures that would produce high quality law making and sustain democracy".

Since 2000, the Foundation has been at the forefront of parliamentary capacity building efforts in Africa, both at the national and regional levels. Its involvement in this strategic area is rooted in its commitment to support good governance as a necessary condition for poverty reduction. Through parliamentary support, ACBF has been assisting to improve accountability, participation and support to develop transformational leaders in Africa.

FEATURE

Economic and Social Research Foundation, Tanzania

Celebrating twenty years of ACBF support to capacity development in Tanzania

Among the 15 think tanks in Tanzania, the Economic and Social Research Foundation stands out. Since its creation some 20 years ago, it has been playing a catalytic role in the country's socio-economic reforms. Little wonder

it was ranked as one of the top 30 think tanks in Africa in a study done by the University of Pennsylvania in 2011. With the active support of ACBF over the past 20 years, ESRF has been able to undertake core research for the public and private sector, civil society organizations, Parliament and the East African Community's secretariat. It also carries out commissioned studies for international organizations like the World Bank, the AfDB and the UN agencies.

The primary objective of ESRF is to strengthen capabilities in policy analysis and decision making through research and strategic thinking. ESRF has successfully put in place a team of qualified professional staff and has created a favorable environment for discussing economic and social development issues. This was made possible through a partnership between policy makers and practitioners on the one hand and the research community on the other. Around its core function of conducting research, ESRF articulates and facilitates policy dialogues, conducts trainings and extends short term advisory services in the form of commissioned studies, consultancies, as well as through membership of various task forces and government commissions.

The Foundation has undertaken extensive analytical work on social economic assessment, education, health, water, agriculture, poverty trends, pro-poor growth and chronic poverty, to name a few. To a larger extent, these studies informed the National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty (NSGRP) or MKUKUTA Review process as it is called in the local language. It is also acknowledged by key stakeholders as an instrumental institution in capacity building for economic policy analysis. Beneficiaries of its capacity development programmes cut across a broad spectrum - public, the NGO community, civil society and private sector organizations.

Participation in policy reviews, policy discussion workshops and policy seminar dialogues has been the most popular activity of ESRF. Amongst highly rated results of policy reviews it helped to facilitate are the Tanzania Development Vision 2025, the Development Vision 2020 for Zanzibar Islands, the Mining Policy, the Investment Policy, the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, the Rural Development Policy and the Rural Development Strategy.

ESRF is the manager of the Tanzania Development Gateway - an internet portal that provides online networking with about 6,000 visits per day, and Tanzania Online - a gateway to information on development issues with more than 32,000 visits per day. It is also hosting the Tanzania Knowledge Network (TAKNET) – a forum that provides opportunities to professionals to network, share and exchange experiences and knowledge with about 500 registered members. The ESRF library, together with information technology, provides an adequate backbone for a stronger national and regional Knowledge Management Centre (KMC) in the areas of policy analysis and development management. It is also worth pointing out that ESRF was first assigned by the government of Tanzania in 2000 to lead the process of preparing Tanzania's National Development Vision 2025.

Between 2010 and 2011, which was about 10 years after ESRF prepared the Vision 2025 document, it was again picked by the Planning Commission in the President's Office to review the status of implementation of the Vision and to identify new or emerging issues – such as the global financial crisis, fuel prices, competition between bio-fuels and food crops production, climate change, alternative energy sources, urbanization, exploration and mining of natural gas and iron ore and uranium -- to be addressed in fulfilling the stipulated goals.

The institution has also been involved in continental studies. Two of such projects are the Economic Transformation of African countries: the case of Tanzania, which it executed in collaboration with ACET of Ghana, and regional

studies such as the EAC Regional integration studies which it carried out in collaboration with think tanks in Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda. Among its key publications are research working and discussion papers. Others include the Tanzania Political Economy series, the Quarterly Economic Review (QER), ESRF Newsletter and the ESRF annual reports. Some other ESRF research outputs are published in non-ESRF sources such as through the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), the Southern and Eastern Africa Policy Research Network (SEAPREN), the Consumer Unit and Trust Society (CUTS) and a number of referred journals.

Although ESRF is considered to be a matured think tank, its major constraint still remains inadequate funding. Although it receives a fee for some of these activities, the income so generated is insignificant in comparison to its needs. Over the past 20 years, ACBF has approved a total grant of USD 11 million to support the institution, ensuring it of long term investment to enable it continue rendering valuable services to the country and the region. It requires all the assistance it can get to remain relevant.

RESULTS

KNOWLEDGE NETWORKS

ACBF to undertake critical capacity development studies through the Strategic Studies Group

The African Capacity Building Foundation on March 7 in Lusaka inaugurated its Strategic Studies Group (SSG). The body's main role is to assist the Foundation in identifying and focusing its capacity building services in line with the needs of national and regional stakeholders. The inauguration brought together knowledge experts from academia, international development organizations, ACBF-supported think tanks and former members of the Technical Advisory Panels and Networks (TAPNET) from Africa and the Diaspora.

The SSG inaugurated the first ACBF 2014 Strategic Studies Competition to generate knowledge for capacity development policy for Africa's development. The studies will



embody critical, conceptual and empirical analysis of issues, challenges, opportunities, and possibilities in relation to capacity development in Africa. Successful proposals will be published under ACBF's Operations and Thematic Research Studies and will be available in September 2014. The call for papers by the SSG focused on 6 areas that include:

- Capacity Imperatives to Achieve African Union Agenda 2063
- Political Economy Approaches: What Lessons for Determining Country Policies?
- Youth Unemployment in African Countries: Capacity Building and Innovative Strategies
- Capacity Imperatives for Infrastructure Development and Financing in Africa
- Alternative Models for Economic Growth in Africa: State, Causes and Way Forward
- Policy Choices after a Decade of the BRICS: from Dependency to Agency?

Among other outcomes during the launch in Zambia, the group agreed on the composition, modalities, roles and responsibilities of the SSG and the 2014 thematic focus areas. It welcomed the establishment of the SSG, saying that the composition and diversity of its members offered a unique opportunity to have a multi-disciplinary view on the issues requiring the attention of ACBF and its stakeholders. The group indicated the need to increase women's participation, as well as the involvement of regional organizations such as the African Union, the Economic Commission for Africa and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency.

The Group also urged the Foundation to focus its activities on its core business of capacity building and assume the role of the apex capacity development agency in Africa. In addition, the meeting said the Foundation should serve as a 'clearing house' that coordinates capacity development across the continent. On their part, the SSG members pledged to be Ambassadors of ACBF and to individually and collectively continue to advance the course of the Foundation both on the continent and abroad.

ACBF's Policy Institutes Committee country reports highlights capacity strengths and weaknesses in Mauritania and Mali

Two country reports were presented for review by the Policy Institutes Committee of the African Capacity Building Foundation from April 25 to April 26 in Nouakchott, capital of the West African country of Mauritania. The reports were those of host country Mauritania and neighbouring Mali. It was the highlight of the meeting with its focus on rethinking capacity development solutions in Africa. Invited participants critically reviewed the reports with a view to providing insightful feedback and to ensure ownership of the recommendations.

The Mali country review mapped out all major economic and social development policies developed during the period of 1960 to 2014 and assessed the results of the different policies in terms of per capita GDP and economic growth. The main results identified indicate that the economic growth and GDP per capita in Mali is primarily driven by agriculture and this is heavily dependent on climate uncertainties. Secondly Mali has very low and erratic economic growth trend due to uncertain policy decision making and thirdly, no attention has been focused on sustainable capacity development.

The review further highlighted the lack of capacity as the common feature explaining the failure of the different development policies undertaken since the independence. Specific



weaknesses and gaps were identified as the lack of a clear understanding of the national vision at all levels; policies based on wrong misdiagnoses; unrealistic forecasts; technical weaknesses in the strategic implementation of policies and programs; weak leadership in the decision making bodies; poor governance at the institutional and individual level and inadequate human resources and methodological tools. The PIC made recommendations for the three main sectors in Mali – the public sector, private sector and civil society organisations. For the public sector, they recommended that capacity development must focus on developing the leadership; adequate management of the state and public policies; good governance; prospective and strategic planning; natural resources management and food security; coping with climate change. For the private sector, capacity should be strengthened for financial management especially the use of computational tools; international trade negotiations; jobs creation strategies; financing private sector; public policies analysis and advocacy. For the civil society, capacity should be strengthened for policy analysis and evaluation; advocacy and lobbying and social watch.

Mauritania presented a different picture. The PIC recognized that capacity development dimensions have been taken into account in almost every sector of the economy. However the country has relatively low economic growth. Capacity constraints identified are both human and institutional and the main recommendation from the review is for Mauritania to develop a Capacity Referral National Plan that will help to craft a clear and comprehensive diagnostic of the capacity development initiatives and their results. The constraints identified as urgent and need immediate address are the lack of a capacity development nation plan; weak coordination of the different capacity development programs; duplications between the different ministries and agencies; lack of evaluation of the capacity building supports; weak mobilization of national expertise and lack of domestic training on the formulation/management of policies and strategies, projects and programs.

In order to extend the country review exercise to other countries, the PIC developed a generic template for the future reviews and also for

national development comparisons at the regional level. The template focuses on the capacity development dimensions that need to be taken into account by every country reviewed. Representatives of governments of Mali and Mauritania were present at the review and will share results of the discussions at national levels.

Other discussions on the PIC agenda included Africa's Agenda 2063 and the continent's capacity building landscape and strategic capacity building imperatives for a rising Africa. The role of think tanks in rethinking capacity development in Africa and financing capacity development in a post-crisis world also featured. Participants at the meeting included ACBF-supported policy institutes and think tanks, Mauritanian stakeholders, policy makers, development partners and the media.

PARTNERSHIPS

The Chairperson of the ACBF Board of Governors hosts meeting, solicits amplified support for ACBF

The African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) on 29th March 2014 in Abuja, Nigeria, hosted a luncheon for African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. The event, held on the sidelines of the 7th Joint AU/ECA Meeting of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, was to thank the delegates for their countries' continued support for the ACBF over the years, according to the chief host, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Chairperson of the Board of Governors, who is Nigeria's Coordinating Minister for the Economy and Finance Minister.

In her speech, Dr. Okonjo-Iweala said support from African countries had "increased from an average of three percent of the Foundation's resource envelope over the first 20 years to 15 percent under the ongoing third Strategic Medium Term Plan (SMTP III 2012-2016)." While the countries collectively pledged USD 28.15 million to STMP III to date, only USD 10.3 million had already been paid, she said. She was full of praise for Cameroon, Guinea, Rwanda

and Zimbabwe which have already paid in full, and expressed the hope that pledges made by others would be effectively converted into disbursements.

Dr. Okonjo-Iweala equally urged member-countries to scale up their financial contribution so as to increase the attractiveness of the Foundation. Not only that, they would also need to increase their political support for the ACBF to ensure that all pledges made for its sustenance are fully disbursed. In this regard, she called on member-countries to ensure their full attendance at meetings of its Board of Governors and to advocate for the Foundation at international events such as annual meetings of the World Bank and the AfDB.

“ACBF received pledges from the World Bank (USD 100 million), the African Development Bank (USD 50 million), from Sweden (USD 10 million) for its current Strategic Medium Term Plan” in addition to pledges from member countries, she said. “It is therefore critical that we mobilize ourselves to ensure these pledges are paid in full.” Besides African member-countries, international organizations which have given their support to date include multilateral partners like the World Bank, AfDB, the United Nations Development Programme and the International Monetary Fund. Bilateral partners including Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, India, Ireland, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the UK and the US are also assisting.

The Chairperson also appealed to the ACBF member-countries to ensure the long term financial sustainability of the Foundation to enable it continue with the task of developing capacity on the continent. To make this a reality, she said a Permanent Committee of the Board of Governors on Resource Mobilization had been created. Under the leadership of South Africa, its mandate is to grow the Foundation’s Endowment Fund to a level that will make its financing more predictable and sustainable. Thirty six (36) African countries were represented at the meeting

OUR RESOURCES

AfDB supports ACBF’s Strategic Plan with a USD 4.6 Million grant

The African Development Bank Group and the African Capacity Building Foundation on March 31 in Tunis signed an agreement to provide USD 4.6 million to the ACBF for the implementation of its third Strategic Medium Term Plan (SMTP III).

Chief Economist and Vice President, Prof. Mthuli Ncube, signed for the Bank, while Executive Secretary Prof. Emmanuel Nnadozie represented the Foundation. The grant was another demonstration of the strength of the partnership between the Bank and ACBF, a key strategic partner of the Bank’s regional member countries for capacity building, Prof. Ncube said. The Bank is committed to working towards the materialization of the second tranche of its support to ACBF, he added.

Prof. Nnadozie thanked the Bank for its continued commitment to ACBF and underlined the complementarity of the Foundation’s work with AfDB’s operations on the continent. He expressed his appreciation to the Bank for the renewed commitment to honor the second tranche of its pledge to SMTP III.

The grant, which was approved by the Bank’s Board on February 17, represents the first tranche of a total amount of UA 33 million (USD 50.2 million) pledged in support of SMTP III. The grant will be targeted at ACBF’s support to the Macroeconomic and Financial Management Institute (MEFMI) of Eastern and Southern Africa, the National Institute of Legislative Studies (NILS) in Nigeria and the African Governance Outlook (AGO), a joint initiative by the Bank Group and ACBF.

KNOWLEDGE

Online Knowledge for Capacity Development

The ACBF Virtual Library on Capacity Development (VLCD) <http://elibrary.acbf-pact.org> was recently allocated an international serial standard number (ISSN) becoming one of the few institutional repositories in Africa to be registered with ROAD and the first in Zimbabwe. ROAD is a directory of Open Access Scholarly Resources launched by the ISSN International Centre with the support of the Communication and Information Sector of UNESCO. More information about ROAD is available at <http://road.issn.org>.

The VLCD is a one stop shop digital library that offers fast, well-structured and unified interface to access free full-text copies on capacity development produced and published by the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), its networks and partners. The VLCD collections comprise books, occasional papers, working papers, reports, development memoirs, lesson notes, conference papers etc. Other online reference sources that can be accessed via the VLCD are various relevant databases, gateways, portals, e-journals, e-books and e-news.

EVENTS

Senegal set to host ACBF annual Board of Governors meeting

Senegal is finalizing arrangements for hosting the 23rd annual meeting of the Board of Governors of ACBF from June 26 to June 27 in Dakar. The theme of the meeting is "Building Capacity for Domestic Resource Mobilization in Africa."

To ensure a successful meeting, an ACBF delegation was in Dakar from March 11 to March 14. At a meeting with Senegal's Minister of Economy and Finance Mr. Amadou Ba, ACBF's Executive Secretary Prof. Emmanuel Nnadozie thanked the government for accepting to host the gathering, which is a major event in the Foundation's calendar.

The BOG meeting will provide the Governors an opportunity to discuss the challenges facing capacity development in Africa, said Prof. Nnadozie. It is imperative for African countries to ramp up the mobilization of resources for capacity development in order to drive national, regional and continental development, he added. The BOG constitutes Ministers of Finance and Economic Planning, and it is the highest governing body for the Foundation.



18-20 June 2014

Global Development Network (GDN), 15th Annual Meeting: Structural transformation in Africa and Beyond, Accra Ghana

26 – 27 June 2014:

ACBF BOG Annual Meeting: Building Capacity for Domestic Resource Mobilization in Africa, Dakar, Senegal