



Volume 5 Number 2 July - December 1999

ISSN 0856 - 5791

MISSIONS BY ESRF STAFF

Kampala Meeting on ESRF and EPRC

A three-day meeting was convened in Kampala, the capital of Uganda, from 27-29 July 1999.

The purpose of the meeting was to draft a synthesis paper on the experiences of ESRF and EPRC. The Executive Director of ESRF, Professor Samuel Wangwe, was one of three persons who attended the meeting. Others were Mr Peter Morgan and Professor Patrick Asea.

The trio discussed and agreed on the structure of the reports and the main points to be covered. The reports were later presented in a workshop on Operational Approaches to Institutional Capacity Building that was held in Harare, Zimbabwe, from 27-29 October 1999, organised by ACBF. During the visit he had the opportunity to visit the Economic Policy Research Centre.

ESRF Librarian/Documentation Officer at IFLA Conference, Industrial Attachment

The 1999 IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) General

Conference, whose theme was 'Libraries as Gateways to an Enlightened World', took place in Bangkok, Thailand, from 20-28 August. The event brought together 2000 participants from all over the world, who included librarians, directors of information centres, computer personnel and other information professionals. ESRF was represented by the Foundation's Librarian/Documentation Officer, Mrs Margaret Nzuki. The objective of the Conference was to provide participants with an opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences as well as to introduce new innovations and products. Activities during the Conference included presentation of more than 100 papers and reports, various seminars, workshops, library exhibitions and library visits. New information and communication technologies are having a huge impact on all aspects of life, bringing great opportunities as well as great risks. Further, it was cautioned that there is threat that the developing world will be left behind in the

information stakes, therefore IT providers should encourage and introduce cooperation so as to remove this threat.

The conference was also an opportunity for Mrs Nzuki to make contacts with various advanced library organisations, and visit library exhibitions for products and services available in the market today. She also made contacts with vendors, bearing in mind the needs of the Foundation's expanding library.

Right after the IFLA Conference, Mrs Nzuki travelled to South Africa where she spent five weeks (03 September to 09 October 1999) at the University of Cape Town (UCT) Libraries for an industrial attachment. The objective of the attachment was to exchange experiences as well as to learn recent developments in Information Technology related to libraries, such as worldwide access of information via the Internet, Library Management Software, information retrieval using CD-ROM etc.

She spent most of her time at the Reference Centre, working with Reference Librarians in providing information to



students, academicians and research staff. However, she found time to visit other UCT libraries (the African Studies and Government Publication Libraries, Law and Education Libraries, Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit (SALDRU), the Graduate School of Business (GSB)

Library and Business Information Centre) as well as the University of Western Cape and University of Stellenbosch libraries. Both are very advanced in using information technology in providing library services.

Another event that Margaret took part in was the Library Association of South Africa (LIASA) Annual Conference and Library Exhibition, which took place from 21 to 23 September 1999 at Bellville City of Tygerberg. The main theme of the Conference was *'Democracy of Libraries in the New Millennium: The Future of Library and Information Services in South Africa'*. The conference offered a varied programme to delegates, who came from various sectors of the library profession. Several papers were presented in parallel sessions. In addition, Margaret was able to meet with library software vendors, database providers and library furniture suppliers.

ESRF Participates in UNU/WIDER Project Meeting

On 10 and 11 September 1999, Professor Samuel Wangwe and Dr Paula Tibandebage, a Research Fellow at ESRF, were among 26 researchers and academicians who attended a

UNU/WIDER meeting in Helsinki, Finland. The meeting was convened so that participants in the WIDER Project on Group Behaviour and Development could present their respective papers and comment on papers by fellow participants.

A total of 18 papers, focusing on group behaviour and how different modes of operation have different outcomes, were presented. The ESRF staff presented two papers jointly with other researchers: Sam Wangwe teamed with Tom Hewwitt and David Wield of Open University of UK, while Paula Tibandebage teamed with Maureen Macintosh of Open University of UK.

The ESRF staff at the meeting seized the opportunity to discuss, with other researchers & academicians, prospects for future collaboration between ESRF and other institutions.

Study Report On EAC Industry Development Strategy Launched

The study report on industry comparative advantages within East African Co-operation was launched at a meeting held in Arusha on 10 September 1999. Dr Haji Semboja, Senior Research Fellow at ESRF, was one of the four consultants (one international consultant, and three consultants, one each from the three EAC countries) who carried out the study. In addition, Dr Semboja recommended that the study report be communicated to all stakeholders in Tanzania, at a policy dialogue workshop, before the preparation of the development strategy.

The aim of the study was to assess the state of industrial

sector and determine how best the economies of the region can derive maximum benefits from existing and potential industrial advantages. Specifically, the study analysed various categories of industries that are currently operating in East Africa; identified current and potential industries where East Africa could capitalise on comparative advantage; and provide background material for the formulation of an industrial development strategy for the East African Co-operation Region, with a view to revitalising the industrial process.

IFPRI - MERRISA Workshop

The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) organised a final project workshop on Macro-economic Reforms and Regional Integration in Southern Africa (MERRISA). The workshop took place on 08 and 09 October 1999 at Hotel Cardoso in Maputo, Mozambique. The objective of the workshop was to present and discuss final papers describing observed changes in macro-economic policies in the countries covered by the study (Malawi, Tanzania, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe), and their apparent effects on agricultural performance, overall economic growth and income distribution. Tanzania was represented by two participants: Dr Haji Semboja and Mr Laston Msongole of Planning Commission, who reviewed the Tanzania paper.

At the conclusion of the workshop, ESRF was identified as a credible local research institution in Tanzania with which international institutions can collaborate in building capacity in CGE model



and policy analysis.

**T o k y o ,
Washington,
Dakar, Addis
Ababa and
H a r a r e
Meetings**

During the second half of September 1999, Professor Wangwe travelled to Japan and the United states to take part in four activities that have an important bearing on the Foundation. In Tokyo, on 21 September, he attended a FASID Seminar on Africa III titled *'Putting Research Results into Action in Africa: Closing the Gap?'* The seminar was attended by about 50 participants from Japanese institutions that are doing work on Africa, African embassies in Japan and heads of selected research institutions in Africa. On the following day, Professor Wangwe attended a Steering Committee Meeting of the Research and Capacity Building Network for African Development.

From Tokyo, he travelled to Washington DC where he visited the ODC regarding the *'Aid Dependence in Africa'* project.

Professor Wangwe also took part in three other forums: [i] a meeting of Ministers for Industry in Africa held in Dakar, Senegal, from 18-23 October. He presented a paper; [ii] a Conference on Information Economy in Africa that took place from 24-26 October in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He attended the conference on behalf of the Director of UNU-INTECH, as part of the work he did for INTECH on National Systems of Innovation; [iii] a Workshop on Operational Approaches to Institutional Capacity Building held in Harare, Zimbabwe, from 27-29 October, and presented a paper on ESRF.

**ESRF IT Expert attends
ICT Sector Roundtable,
ACT Summit**

Mr John Kajiba, ESRF IT Officer, took part in a workshop on *'Information and Communication Technology Sector Roundtable'* at the BOT Training Centre in Mwanza from 28 June to 02 July 1999. The main objective of the roundtable was to identify local high priority and demand-driven areas of ICTs application, identify and formulate ICTs good project ideas in the field of livelihood opportunity created by Tele-Centres, and ensure that these project ideas can readily be implemented.

Organised jointly by IICD and TCCIA, this was a follow up of the first ICT Roundtable that was held at the Sheraton Hotel in Dar. IICD initiates National ICT Roundtables in developing countries in order to assist the creation of ICT policy reforms. It helps formulate pilot projects where these technologies can be implemented for the benefit of all members of society, on the basis of demand. A national ICT Roundtable is a joint endeavour undertaken by all stakeholders including the government, key specialists, industries, the media, NGOs and users.

From 25 to 27 August 1999, Mr Kajiba attended a three-day summit of the African Computing & Telecommunications (ACT) that was held at St John's College, Cambridge, in UK. This was a training workshop whose theme was *'Planning Beyond the Millennium'*. The Summit brought together about 200 participants comprising of Africa's IT policy makers, managers, innovators and

marketeers in a relaxed, comfortable and enjoyable environment. Here, they were able to review IT status in Africa and suggest key issues that will lead into rapid growth of the knowledge to the whole continent, with the aim of spearheading African development.

Seminar on budget reform ...

A three-day Budget Seminar, to which Dr Haji Semboja was invited, was held in Harare, Zimbabwe from 25 to 27 October 1999. Targeted at Civil Society Organisations (CSO) and Think Tanks (TT) engaged in and/or having potential to be engaged in public budgets through applied research and/or training activities in Anglophone Africa, the seminar drew participants from senior staff who are central to strategic management or economic analysis work in CSO and TT.

The seminar aimed at critically evaluating new trends in budget analysis and reform and in enhancing the effective participation of African CSO in the budget processes. It was organised and financed by the Institute for Democracy in South Africa (IDASA) with technical support by world Bank staff of the Poverty Reduction and Expenditure Management Division, which is actively involved in assisting developing countries with budget reform.

**ENHANCING
ESRF IMAGE**

The Management of ESRF decided to give high priority to improving the quality of the Foundation's research output.

To enable the Foundation carry out this task, SIDA extended a grant for the engagement of two consultants. Consequently, ESRF engaged the services of Dr Yvonne Tsikata and Professor Brian van Arkadie primarily for quality improvement activities. To supplement this effort, the Executive Director appointed a four-person Quality Assurance Committee (QUAC) comprising of Dr Yvonne Tsikata, Senior Research Fellow (Chairperson), Dr Flora Musonda, Senior Research Fellow (Member), Ms Tonga Margaret George, Publications & Publicity Manager (Member), and Mr Graham Hobbs, Assistant Research Fellow (Member).

The terms of reference (TOR) for the Committee are:

- 1 to work out procedures and working modalities which can assure high quality of output at the Foundation.
- 2 to organise for quality assurance of the main outputs of the Foundation including research, consultancy, publications and training.
- 3 to liaise with the Executive Director on the above and any other matters pertaining to quality assurance at the Foundation.

VISITORS

Dr Francis Teal from the Centre for the Study of African Economies (CSAE) at Oxford University led a team of researchers to conduct a manufacturing survey of Tanzania. The team was made up of researchers from CSAE and ESRF. Research work for the survey started at the beginning of November 1999 and it is expected to be

completed in January 2000. The survey covers Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Kilimanjaro, Morogoro, Mwanza and Tanga regions. This survey is built from three waves of similar surveys that were conducted in the country by the World Bank and Helsinki University from the early 1990s up to 1995.

SECOND ESRF STAFF RETREAT

For the second time in its life history, ESRF held a staff retreat, this time at Chwaka Beach Resort in Zanzibar, from 30 to 31 July 1999. Unlike the first retreat, the second one involved the entire staff, regular as well as short-term ones. Once again, the session focused on issues pertaining to the management and development of the Foundation. One significant issue was a discussion on staff employment and benefits, at the end of which a sub-committee of three staff members was appointed to study the situation and present its recommendations to Management.

STAFF LEAVE/ NEW STAFF

Ms Aisha Mwapachu, who had been working at ESRF as a Research Assistant for one year, left the Foundation at the end of August 1999, to join a petroleum company, BP Tanzania Limited, as a Management Trainee. Though she had worked for a relatively short period, Aisha had made a significant contribution to the Foundation's work: she provided secretarial support to the National Development

Vision 2025 and to other projects such as medium and small enterprises (MSEs) and Globalisation. She also assisted the ESRF Executive Director in his daily activities. At a farewell gathering for her, the Executive Director described Aisha as a pleasant, hard-working young lady and expressed his confidence that she would do ESRF proud wherever she goes.



The Foundation's Workshop Co-ordinator, **Ms Deborah Timasi**, left on 19 December 1999 for further studies in the United States. Deborah, who holds a Diploma in International Relations and Diplomacy from the Centre for Foreign Relations in Dar Es Salaam, is currently undertaking a BA degree course in International Studies at the University of Wisconsin. She has been replaced by **Ms Hellen Meshack**, who has a Diploma in International Relations and Diplomacy from the Centre for Foreign Relations in Dar Es Salaam, and a BA degree in Sociology from the University of Madras in India. This is Hellen's first appointment.

To subscribe or for more information, please contact:

The Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF)
51 Uporoto Street
Ursino Estates
P. O. Box 31226
Dar es Salaam
Tanzania
Tel: (255-51)760260/760758
Fax: (255-811) 324508, (255-51) 760062
Email: esrf@esrf.or.tz
Website: www.esrf.or.tz