

# HSRC International Brief

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We are pleased to reach you through this newsletter designed to keep you informed on a regular basis about the activities and developments at the HSRC. It will afford you a glance at the international research and engagements of our organization and staff.

We hope that you will enjoy our regular updates and should you wish to reach us, you can at [corpcom@hsrc.ac.za](mailto:corpcom@hsrc.ac.za)

There will be quarterly editions of the HSRC international brief available electronically.

## SAHARA hosts Canadian Intern

The Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS Research Alliance (SAHARA) successfully hosted an intern from Canada supported and funded by CIDA for the period August to December. This is part of the Memorandum of Understanding signed by Dr Shisana and the Atlantic Centre of Excellence for Women's Health based in Halifax Canada in 2005. The MOU stipulates that the HSRC through the SAHARA research programme, will work on women's health issues generally, recognize gender as a key component to prevention, treatment, care, support and mitigation in the area of HIV/AIDS and address the global, regional and national dimensions of HIV/AIDS with a focus on women and

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## Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) visits the HSRC

In an effort to strengthen the existing MOU between CASS and the HSRC, a CASS delegation led by Prof. Li Shenming, Vice President of CASS visited the HSRC on the 8th of December and met with Dr Olive Shisana, President & CEO, Mr Mike De Klerk, the Chief Operations Officer, Dr Temba Masilela, the Executive Director, Policy Analysis Unit and Ms Bridgette Prince, Head: International Liaison.



**Dr Olive Shisana, President and CEO of the HSRC exchanging gifts with Prof. Li Shenming, Vice President of CASS.**

The rest of the delegation included Prof. Sun Shihai, Deputy Director-general, Institute of Asian Pacific Studies, Prof. Zhang Hongming, Deputy Director-general, Institute of West Asian and African Studies, Associate Prof. Xie Lili, Director, Asian and African Division, International Cooperation Bureau, and Mr Li Bin, Program Officer, International Cooperation Bureau.

The main purpose of the meeting was to explore research projects that the two organisations can jointly undertake.

Collaboration for their consideration was HIV/AIDS and the economic development in the South including, India, Brazil, South Africa and China.

The head of the CASS delegation requested that the HSRC include culture studies, economic studies, social sciences and humanities as key focus areas.

It was recommended that researchers from both institutions explore cooperation in the areas of HIV

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## HSRC delegation visits US

Accompanying Dr Shisana were Dr Udesch Pillay, Dr Laetitia Rispel and Ms Bridgette Prince. The main purpose of

this visit was to meet with Social Science Councils, Research institutions, universities, foundations and

fundors to look at possible collaboration and partnerships and how best to access funding. The delegation therefore visited institutions in New York, Washington and Atlanta. The visit was supported by the South African Embassy in Washington and the Consul General In New York. The CEO and delegation met with and briefed the South African Ambassador Barbara Masekela and Consul General Fikile Magubane.

Several Institutions were visited most notably the following:

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# Strategic alliances

## CODESRIA linkage strengthened

The Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) is headquartered in Dakar Senegal. It was established in 1973 as an independent Pan-African research organisation with a primary focus on the social sciences, broadly defined. It is recognised not only as the pioneer African social research organisation but also as the apex non-governmental centre of social knowledge production on the continent. The HSRC is a contributing member of CODESRIA.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between CODESRIA and the HSRC was approved by both institutions and subsequently signed on the 29th of September 2006, the final day of the 2006 Social Sciences Conference held near Johannesburg, South Africa.

The MOU was signed by Dr Olive Shisana (HSRC CEO) and Dr Adebayo Olukoshi (CODESRIA Executive Secretary).

Areas of collaboration will focus on issues that face the continent as a whole, development of all-Africa networks, collaborative research projects, further extending all-Africa collaboration in research on the HIV/AIDS pandemic, building capacity through exchange programmes and active collaboration between the publishing houses of the respective organisations with the publication, translation and dissemination of materials. Proposals for collaborative research projects, one focusing on "South Africa's Role in Africa", and another for a possible DFID-funded



**Mr Enver Motala, Dr Olive Shisana, Dr Adebayo Olukoshi**

research programme consortium focusing on "power, politics and the state" have already been jointly prepared.

Dr Shisana led a delegation of HSRC staff members to Dakar in November for the first planning meeting.

## Other strategic alliances



**Professor Narend Bajjnath, vice-principal: Strategy, Planning and Partnerships of Unisa (left) shakes hands with Dr Olive Shisana, president and CEO of the HSRC, after the signing of the MOU**

\* The Education, Sciences and Skills

Development (ESSD) Research programme signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Eduardo Mondlane University.

- \* The HSRC formed a strategic alliance with the Foundation of Tertiary Institutions of the Northern Metropolis (FOTIM), a regional academic consortium of nine universities in Gauteng, North West and Limpopo, to promote collaboration and capacity development within higher education.
- \* The Policy Analysis Unit and UNISA signed a MOU to provide a framework for collaboration in the areas of research, development, administrative initiatives, staff, student supervision, facilities, and other resources.

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## CASS visits the HSRC

prevention and drug addiction from a socio-economic and cultural perspective as well as public health in China. Additionally, both CASS and the HSCR should explore the role of China in Africa, Africa in China and South Africa and China's role in the continent.

CASS proposed that a delegation from the HSRC visit China in 2007. Researchers from both organizations working in the areas identified for collaboration will meet before the proposed visit to ensure that the concrete aspects of the projects can be discussed.

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## HSRC delegation visits US

- Carnegie Corporation
- Social Science Research Council
- Columbia University
- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- OSISA
- United Nations Democracy Fund
- National Institute of Health (NIH)
- World Bank HIV/AIDS
- World Bank Institute
- Global AIDS Coordinator
- Centre for Global Development
- George Washington University
- National Science Foundation
- National Institute of Medicine
- National Academies

- Centre for Disease Control (CDC)
- Spelman College

Several opportunities for partnership, collaboration and future projects were discussed centering around capacity building, the SAHARA network, AIDS initiatives and fellowship programmes.

These possibilities shall be taken forward by the relevant Executive Directors and Directors.



**Dr Laetitia Rispel and Dr Udesh Pillay during the trip to the United States**

# Inside the HSRC

## Fulbright scholar at the HSRC



The HSRC welcomes Dr Geri Donenberg, an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry of the University of Illinois at Chicago, who will be spending this year on sabbatical in the research programme, Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS and Health (SAHA). She will be working primarily with the Behavioural and Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS and will also assist with capacity development of research

interns. However 20% of her time will be spent teaching in the Department of Psychology at the University of the Western Cape. Although based in SAHA, she also hopes to collaborate in research with researchers from Child, Youth, Family and Social Development.

Professor Donenberg is a licensed clinical psychologist, holding the position of Director, Healthy Youths Programme at the Department of Psychiatry, University of Illinois at Chicago since 2001. She is currently principal investigator of several studies funded by the National Institute for Mental Health in the research area of HIV/AIDS risk and prevention for youth and families and acts as consultant to several other federally funded research projects in the area of HIV/AIDS and mental health. She has published widely on HIV/AIDS related prevention and interventions for youth and families, adolescent sexuality, adolescent psychopathology and mental health, and parent child relationships.

## Presentation of 2005/06 Annual Report to Portfolio Committee

Dr Olive Shisana, president and CEO, presented the HSRC Annual Report to the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Science and Technology, highlighting the HSRC's achievements.

Dr Christa van Zyl, a member of the delegation, said members congratulated the HSRC on the quality of the report and the meaningful progress made in important areas. 'They also expressed their appreciation for examples of research impact, uptake, references to HSRC work in speeches, reports, media and concern for the staff well-being',

she said.

The Parliamentary Portfolio Committee stressed the need to receive information and reports that will help with the better understanding of issues.

*Corporate Communications has received positive feedback on the annual report from the Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature, which requested 100 additional copies, and from the Ministry of Education. The director general of Education thanked HSRC staff for their hard work and congratulated the organisation for its achievements.*

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## SAHARA hosts Canadian Intern

girls. This is a second intern hosted by SAHARA with a specific focus on assisting with Gender and HIV/AIDS at conferences and in research.

The intern Kristin Roe was based in the Cape Town office and assisted in the preparation of the Gender session that was held at the AIDS conference in Toronto.

She worked with a team from SAHARA in preparing the conference

report that will highlight SAHARA's sessions at the conference.

On her departure the SAHARA team in the Cape Town office held a lunch to say their goodbyes.



## Deputy minister Derek Hanekom walks the HSRC floors



**Minister Hanekom, Dr Laetitia Rispel, Dr Eric Udjo**

In an unusual but impressive gesture, Mr Derek Hanekom, deputy minister of Science and Technology, visited the HSRC to gain first-hand information by walking the floors and engaging in discussions with the research programmes.

His initial visit aimed at spending three hours with a few research programmes, but according to Mr Mike de Klerk, COO of the HSRC, he was so impressed with the achievements of the organisation and the strengths of the research programmes that he expressed a wish to visit all the research programmes. Two more visits are scheduled from 8 January 2007 onwards.

Minister Hanekom advised the HSRC to make an effort to raise its profile in the appropriate portfolio committees', even committing himself to the task.

