

HSRC International Brief

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HSRC International Liaison
 bprince@hsrc.ac.za
 www.hsrc.ac.za

Study on the effective use of energy in the offing



Prof. Toshihiko Nakata from Tohoku University in Japan

The Kyoto protocol is placing pressure on countries to rethink their energy strategies. This is a particular problem South Africa where cheap, but poor quality coal is the predominant source of energy for producing electricity, a solution needs to be found.

This issue came under discussion in a recent meeting between Professor Toshihiko Nakata, Department of Management Science and Technology, Tohoku University, Japan, Professor John Seager, of the development, environment

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HSRC hosts Iranian delegation



The Iranian delegation with Prof. Adam Habib

The HSRC signed a memorandum of understanding with the Shahid Beheshti University in Tehran Iran in 2004. The MOU outlines cooperation in social science research in areas covered by both institutions, exchange of academics and researchers, the exchange of research outputs, exchange of information and organisation of seminars and collaborative social scientific projects.

In accordance with this agreement, the HSRC hosted a delegation from the University from 5 to 9 February 2007.

The following members of the university were invited to visit the HSRC:

- * Prof Faramarz Rafipoor: Professor of

- Sociology, Methodology, Rural Sociology, Revolution and Social Problems
- * Dr Mohammad Ali Mazaheri-Tehrani: Associate Professor, Family Research Institute
- * Dr Akbar Haji-Ebrahim-Zargar: School of architecture and urban planning
- * Dr Hamid Pouretamad: Family Research Institute, Assistant to the Dean Center for Training and Rehabilitation of Children with Pervasive Developmental Disorders
- * Dr. Fatemeh Javaheri: Research advisor, "Survey of Female Faculty Members Problems in Iran", Ministry of Science, Research and Technology, Office For Social Planning and Cultural Studies.

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Australian MP visit focuses on education and human rights

Mr Peter Slipper, a Member of the Australian Parliament, met with members of the HSRC on Thursday 19 April. The meeting focussed on education and human rights, Mr Slipper's areas of interests. His wife, Ms Inge-Jane Hall and the Senior Research Officer from the Australian High Commission, Mr Will Butler, were also present.

The HSRC team consisted of Dr Anil Kanjee from the National Education Quality Initiative, Dr Vijay Reddy from

the Education Science and Skills Development research programme, Dr Margie Schneider of CYFSD, Ms Carla Pheiffer from Business Development, Ms Bridgette Prince from International Liaison, and Dr. Mcebisi Ndletyana from the Democracy and Governance research programme.

Dr Anil Kanjee, the Hon Mr Peter Slipper, Mr Will Butler from the Australian High Commission and Ms Inge-Jane Hall



Study on the effective use of energy in the offing

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and tourism unit in the Urban, Rural and Economic Development research programme at the HSRC, and Paul Harris and Chris Hazard of Integrated Energy Solutions (Pty) Ltd.

The meeting in Cape Town, which was facilitated between the South African Embassy in Japan, the Graduate School of Engineering, Tohoku University, and South African researchers, explored common research interests and opportunities for collaboration.

In the discussion, Prof. Nakata explained his interest in modelling a total energy system for Japan which goes beyond the current policy that primarily relies on imported energy in the form of oil, coal or gas, and Japan still has a lot to do in meeting the Kyoto protocols. Resource constraints call for system optimisation and although wealthy nations can afford to buy what they need, considerations of environmental and social impacts mean that innovative solutions need to be found, especially in rural settings.

Chris Hazard and Paul Harris outlined a model which has been developed in collaboration with the Dept for International Development (DFID, UK). This model,

known as 'EnPower', takes a fresh look at energy provision at the local level. It considers all energy options for an area and through a rational decision-making process arrives at mixed energy solutions.

A benefit of the mixed energy model is that it can combine centralised energy distribution (i.e. grid electricity) for lighting, with micro-level distribution, such as bottled liquid petroleum gas (LPG) for thermal energy.

Professor John Seager said the HSRC was well placed to assess the acceptability of alternative energy solutions, the economic factors and impacts on quality of life and health outcomes.

On future collaboration, the meeting agreed that there is a need to promote investment in systems which have the potential for wider impact at population on a national level. A proposal should be developed that could be submitted to the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), with the South African and Japanese science and technology representatives, that could eventually be tested in countries in the Southern African Development Community. Ultimately, the proposal should show the Japanese government how it may increase the impact of its development aid.



Prof. John Seager of the HSRC

The parties present agreed to share some key literature and to continue the discussion and to meet again in three-month time.

As a outcome of the collaboration, Tohoku University is providing 10 million yen for two years to promote cooperation with the HSRC on research into energy access improvement and its socio-economic impacts in rural areas of South Africa and India.

HSRC hosts World AIDS Campaign from 1 March 2007

The World AIDS Campaign (WAC) aims to ensure that AIDS leaders and decision makers keep their promises on AIDS. Driven by a range of global AIDS networks, the campaign focus on AIDS both locally and internationally. The campaign brings together faith, labour, youth, women, positive networks, NGOs, academia and

other constituencies within common advocacy and mobilisation efforts. The World AIDS Campaign works independently of any government or UN agency to strengthen global and local civil society actions through a variety of advocacy and mobilisation efforts. Locally led, and rooted within a number of

constituency-based networks, the campaign focuses on one of the most important AIDS policy commitments of our time. Together, all the groups within the World AIDS Campaign pressurise governments, international agencies and others to deliver Universal Access to AIDS Treatment, Care and Prevention services by 2010.

The WAC has an international remit, with a small support staff group based in Amsterdam. Its partners range from large international organisations to small NGOs. The HSRC, as a partner organisation, agreed to host their operations in southern Africa in our offices in Cape Town. The WAC recognised the vital role academia plays in the fight against HIV and AIDS and will continue to collaborate with the HSRC throughout 2007, linking efforts on a national and international level.



From left to right are: Mr Marcel van Soest, Ms Felicity Hikuam and Mr Thomas Scalway

HSRC hosts Iranian delegation

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The delegation presented information on the following themes: *Needs assessment and needs structure in rural areas, Psycho-social interventions with survivors of the Bam earthquake, Rural housing reconstruction after disaster: lessons learned and the HIV/AIDS status in Iran*

AIDS Impact Scientific Board Meeting: 12 - 15 March

Bridgette Prince, international liaison for the HSRC, attended the International Scientific Board (ISB) meeting in Marseilles France from 12 to 15 March. Dr Olive Shisana, CEO and president of the HSRC, is also a member of the ISB. The meeting served as the marathon meeting for the 8th AIDS Impact Conference that will be held in Marseilles France from the 1 to 4 July 2007. Dr Shisana will give the keynote address at the opening of the conference. The HSRC will also host a satellite session, an exhibition booth, and will participate in oral and poster presentations.

Technical assistance on disability at international level

An involvement in efforts to develop internationally comparable measures for disability statistics has provided Margie Schneider from CFYSD with opportunities to work with countries on their national disability surveys. The two countries involved are Qatar and Tanzania.

These two countries are quite different in their approaches to defining and measuring disability, says Ms Schneider. In Qatar the approach is heavily influenced by the teachings of the Q'oran, which states that disabled people must be cared for and their responsibilities reduced. In Tanzania, the approach is one of inclusion of disabled people in all aspects of life - as advocated by the organisations of disabled people active in Tanzania.

The main focus of the internationally comparable measures of disability is the move away from asking about 'disabilities' to asking about 'difficulties' that people have in doing a series of activities such as seeing, hearing, walking, concentrating and remembering, self care, and communicating. The shift is also away from a yes/no response mode to one with four response options - 'no difficulty', 'some difficulty', 'a lot of difficulty' and 'unable to do'. The outcome is generally an increase in the number of people who are willing to report having difficulties compared to those who are willing to report being disabled.

Technical assistance provides an opportunity to contribute to developing internationally comparable measures of disability, build capacity in the countries not only to collect the data but also to use these effectively in their policy development and planning.

The OVC closeout workshop a resounding success

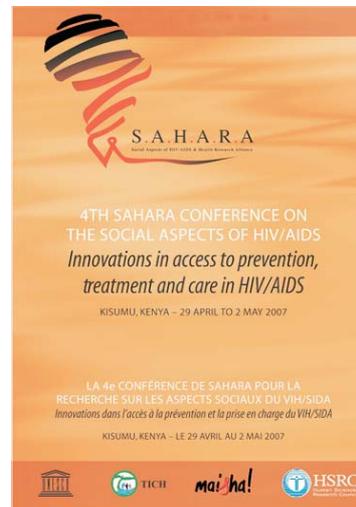
Adern Nkandela (Programmes Manager, NMCF), Bernard Likalimba (Programme Manager, WK Kellogg Foundation), Prof. Leickness Simbayi (OVC Project Director, SAHA), Mthetho Tshemese (Researcher in the Knowledge Management Unit, NMCF)

The closeout workshop took place from 8 to 9 February at the HSRC in Pretoria. It was attended by the funder, the WK Kellogg Foundation (WKKF) and all the partners, The HSRC, the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund, Masiela Trust Fund in Botswana and the Family AIDS Caring Trust in Zimbabwe. The aim of the scientific writing workshop was to build the capacity of project partners in preparing papers for publications. Several papers and joint authorships were finalised at this workshop.

In the session on good practice OVC interventions, project partners shared

4th SAHARA conference: 29 April - 2 May

The 4th African Conference on the Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS will take place from 29 April to 2 May 2007 in Kisumu, Kenya and will be hosted by the Tropical Institute of Community Health (TICH) at the Great Lakes University.



SAHARA is an Africa-wide network of researchers, sharing information, best practices and innovations in the field of the social and behavioural aspects of HIV and AIDS.

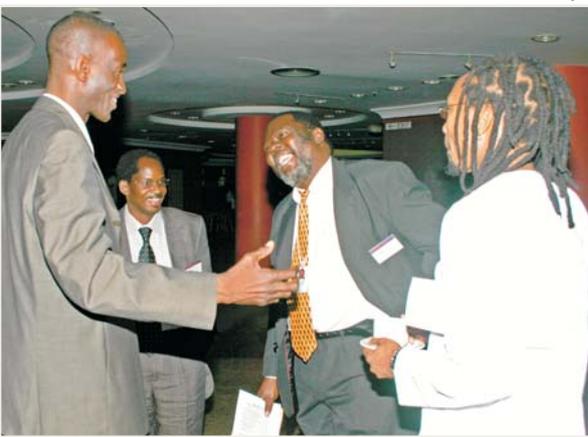
The first conference took place in Pretoria South Africa in 2002, followed by a conference in Cape Town, South Africa, Dakar in Senegal and this particular one in Kisumu.

The theme of the conference is Innovations in Access to Prevention, Treatment and Care in HIV/AIDS. It aims to share information, best practices and innovations in order to find a range of robust, home-grown HIV/AIDS-related interventions for Africa and has attracted abstracts from all over Africa.

their experiences in implementing OVC interventions and research in the three countries. About 17 projects made oral and/or poster presentations and received feedback from partners on how to improve the implementation of the project. Some HSRC experts on OVC research and interventions also evaluated each project to determine whether they were best, good, promising or poor practice interventions

The closing dinner offered project directors and managers an opportunity to reflect on their experiences with a multi-country project that integrated research, monitoring and evaluation with project

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HSRC staff out and about

The President and CEO, **Dr Olive Shisana**, attended the 105th session of the Executive Committee of the International Social Science Council (ISSC) in Paris on 10-11 April 2007.



Dr Olive Shisana

Dr Glenda Kruss, a research director in the Education, Science and Skills Development research programme travelled to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, in January, to present the HSRC led proposal, Knowledge for development: University-firm interactions in Sub-Saharan Africa. The proposal was selected for the Africa Regional Award in the International Development Research Centre's Research on Knowledge Systems (RoKS) 2006 Competition.

Under the theme of 'Developmental Universities: A changing role for universities in the South', the workshop was attended by winners of the African, Asian and Latin American regional and individual awards, previous RoKS-award winners from Thailand and the Phillipines, and members of the UniDev network, acting as critical resource persons.

UniDev is a network conducting cognate research on the evolving roles of universities in economic growth in 14



Dr Glenda Kruss

countries, including nine universities in developing countries, and based in the Research Policy Institute, Lund University, Sweden.

The objective of the workshop was to discuss the research methodology, policy impacts and communications strategy of the six proposals that had been selected for funding. Excellent links between the RoKS researchers and the UniDev researchers were forged in the intense first two days of the workshop.

Each award winner presented their proposal in a two hour slot, with two respondents and extensive, rich discussion from the floor. The second two days allowed the regional award winners to work together to deepen their proposed collaboration and enhance synergy between the projects in the three regions. The workshop was impressive in terms of the extent to which the funder was directly involved with establishing research networks and enhancing the intellectual quality of the proposed research.

Judith Streak, a senior research manager in the Child Youth Family and Social Development (CYFSD) programme at the HSRC attended a regional workshop on



Ms Judith Streak

cash-transfer programmes for vulnerable children in Mombassa, Kenya, during 26-28 February 2007. The workshop was hosted by the World Bank and the Kenyan Government (Ministry of Children's Services).

This was a follow-up meeting to the 3rd International Conference on Conditional Cash Transfers convened by the World Bank in Istanbul, Turkey in June 2006.

The meeting was attended by government representatives working on income and service-support programmes for vulnerable children from a range of African countries,

The OVC closeout workshop a resounding success

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implementation. It also offered project partners and the funder an opportunity to create networks for future collaborations.

Although the project has come to an official end, new smaller collaborations are being developed among project partners to ensure sustainability of the momentum created by the HSRC and WK Kellogg Foundation in addressing problems faced by orphans and vulnerable children.



Prof. Linda Richter

including Tanzania, Zambia, Malawi, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe and Uganda. Researchers and international development agency representatives who focus on government support for vulnerable children, including UNICEF and DFID, were also present.

The meeting was convened for representatives from Africa working on delivery of services and cash transfers for vulnerable children to share information about their experience of successes and challenges in child cash-transfer programmes. One rationale for conducting the meeting in Kenya was that the Kenyan government, with support from international consultants and the World Bank, has recently established a pilot cash-transfer programme for orphans and vulnerable children. The pilot programme aims in part to test the relative cost effectiveness of a conditional - versus unconditional cash-transfer programme in promoting child-poverty reduction and human-capital development.

The HSRC presented on achievements and challenges in the delivery of cash transfers to poor children in South Africa through the unconditional child support grant as well as an introduction to the HSRC Going to Scale Project being led by **Professor Richter**.