

HSRC International Brief

Vol. 2 No. 2 April, May, June 2008

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EUROPEAN UNION PRESENTS ON THE 7th FRAMEWORK



Mme Dewandre and Dr Christa van Zyl

The Business Development unit of the HSRC hosted a visit by Mme Nicole Dewandre, who made a presentation on Socio-Economic Sciences and Humanities in the 7th RTD Framework. Her presentation centred on FP7, which she referred to as a universal programme.

"The EU is keen to increase international co-operation", she said. However, it is vital for the researchers to find a partner in the EU. Mme Dewandre encouraged the HSRC to be proactive in submitting proposals given the fact that the HSRC is "a natural through its multi-disciplinary approach in research". To this end, the HSRC has received two separate grants from the EU in spite of stiff competition.

Celebrating diplomatic relations with Beijing

An HSRC delegation participated in the 10th Anniversary Celebration of Diplomatic Relations between South Africa and China, held in Beijing at the end of April 2008. The HSRC was presented by executive directors Dr Kwandiwe Kondlo and Professor Leickness Simbayi, Dr Lungisile Ntsebeza, a chief research specialist, and Ms Bridgette Prince, International Liaison. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Industry spoke on behalf of the South African delegation, and this was followed by a panel discussion dedicated to NEPAD and China - A Development Partnership in the Making. The special advisor to the CEO of the NEPAD Secretariat spoke on the underlying principles of NEPAD, current developments in NEPAD and the priority sectors and projects for Chinese involvement.

The celebrations also included a seminar, co-organised by the Bureau for International Cooperation of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), and the Institute of West Asian and African



Studies of CASS. At this event Dr Kondlo delivered a paper on People-centred Ideology and Strategy in Africa's Development.

During the visit the HSRC also met with a delegation from CASS to review the five-year old memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the two organisations. Both sides discussed their expectations of the MoU and re-committed themselves to making the agreement work. Following the meeting a proposal will be drawn up outlining the exact areas of collaboration between the two institutions.

AFRICA FOCUS: Growing the ANSA-Africa Network

The Affiliated Network for Social Accountability in Africa (ANSA-Africa), a joint initiative between the HSRC and the World Bank, held a successful stakeholder conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 19-20 May 2008. More than 120 delegates from 36 African countries attended the conference which focused on the use of social accountability in fragile and post-conflict states. Other topics were the practical use of social accountability methods, and decentralisation and revenue generation as a component of social accountability.

A key aspect of the conference was facilitating network activities between the large array of stakeholders, to name but a few, community organisations, NGOs, government agencies, academic institutions, unions, professional organisations, researchers, and journalists. The success of the conference is reflected in the Francophone delegates developing a support group in strengthening social accountability in their region.

"ANSA-Africa is committed to bringing about cross-country collaboration and

capacity building on social accountability," said Craig Schwabe of the HSRC and head of the ANSA-Africa Secretariat.



World Bank trains for impact evaluation

An Impact Evaluation workshop, presented by the World Bank at the HSRC in Pretoria, was well attended by HSRC staff members and stakeholders, most notably from the Department of Social Development. This was part of an agreement between the two organisations to train researchers and HSRC stakeholders in the area of impact

evaluation. The training included an introduction to impact evaluation, experimental methods and non-experimental methods. It concluded with a practical session on applying these concepts in practise. The training has been extended to include more sessions over the coming months.

DFID presents new research strategy

The International Liaison unit of the HSRC invited Mr Peter O'Neil, special adviser to the Head of the Central Research Department of DFID London, to present its new Research Strategy.



Mr O'Neil outlined the new research strategy and focussed on how it will be implemented. He responded to several questions on the role of DFID'S own research department versus the researchers in the countries they will be working in. This is part of an ongoing initiative to invite development partners and donors to address staff on new strategic priorities and opportunities for collaboration and funding.

Mr O'Neil

MEETING WITH CANADIAN VISITOR

In a meeting between the HSRC and Ms Donica Pottie, director of Human Security Policy Division in the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and Mr. Marc Labrom from the Political Section of the Canadian High Commission in Pretoria,



Dr Kondlo, Ms Pottie and Mr Labrom

areas of possible collaboration and areas of synergy were discussed. It was agreed that opportunities will be shared as they arise and taken forward by the relevant research programme in the HSRC. The HSRC delegation consisted of CEO Dr Olive Shisana, executive director Dr Kwandiwe Kondlo, and Ms Bridgette Prince.

Agreement with Family Health International (FHI)

A MoU between the HSRC and Family Health International (FHI) aims to increase the organisations' individual impact through an alliance that focuses on conducting coordinated, high-quality research in South Africa. The value of this alliance lies in combining the complementary strengths of the two organisations and building on their mutually reinforcing comparative advantages and strengths.

The two organisations propose to:

- facilitate joint research on public health and development challenges, and other areas of mutual interest; and
- promote research results to provide the best available scientific evidence for programmes.

In pursuit of their shared goals, HSRC and FHI will draw upon one another's broad experience and scientific skills in South Africa and globally to conduct research and collaborate in the following areas, *inter alia*:

- health care economics and health care financing;
- health services research;
- behavioural and social sciences in health;
- training in biostatistics and data management;
- impact assessments of programs and policies;
- evaluation research and health monitoring; and
- site identification and development.

AFRICA FOCUS:

Third SA HIV survey commences

The 3rd South African National HIV, Behaviour and Health Survey was launched in May 2008. The survey is undertaken by a consortium of research institutions led by the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) and will reach about 28 000 people in 15 000 randomly selected households from all parts of the country over a period of about 4-5 months.

The survey involves analysing anonymous blood samples for HIV infection and the completion of questionnaires on behavioural aspects that contributes to HIV transmission. Many high-profile individuals in South Africa gave their support to this important study and have agreed to promote participation in the survey. These include local actress Hlubi Mboya, radio and television personality Gareth Cliff, and Olympic swimmer Natalie du Toit.

The survey is supported by two international organisations, namely the USA's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).



Information from the survey will bring policy makers up to date with the progress of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in South Africa. The data collected will be used for the monitoring and evaluation of the South African National HIV and AIDS and STI Strategic Plan for 2007-2011 and will inform HIV prevention campaigns.

HSRC researcher contributes to Japanese policy for Africa



Dr Omano Edigheji

The Japanese government, under the auspices of the Institute for International Cooperation of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), invited Dr Omano Edigheji, a research director in the Policy Analysis Unit of the HSRC, as one of four African scholars and senior policy-makers to its workshop on the Role of Government in Promoting Sustained and Accelerated Growth in Africa and Lessons from the Asian Experiences in February 2008 in Tokyo, Japan.

The three other Africans were Dr Thandika Mkandawire, Director, UN Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), Mr Nasir El-Rufai, former minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, Nigeria; and Mr William Kalema, former chair of the Ugandan Investment Authority.

The workshop formed part of stocktaking work conducted by JICA and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC). This resulted in the production of research-based policy recommendations, presented to African heads of states at the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV), which took place in May 2008. The output of TICAD IV was accepted as the Japanese policy for Africa in the next five years.

African Union

A meeting to explore building a relationship between the HSRC and the Social Affairs Department of the AU took place between Professor Michael Kahn, executive director (HSRC), Ms Bridgette Prince (HSRC), Ms Katrina Liswani (acting director of Social Affairs), Ms Cisse Mariamma Mohamed, (secretary/coordinator of the AU), and Professor Lloyd Sachikonye, a consultant to the AU

The work of the two parties was discussion and both agreed to further the relationship. The AU representatives requested information in the area of children generated by the HSRC through its Child Youth and Family Social Development research programme.

CODESRIA leads project on African citation and indexation



Transcending the stumbling blocks African scholars experience in terms of language, race and gender, and also in areas where certain disciplines are a minority, was discussed at an CODESRIA meeting on establishing an African Citation and Indexation Project. The meeting, from 19 - 20 May 2008 in Dakar, Senegal, was attended by Ms Nomusa Zimu from the HSRC's Information Services.

Professor Adebayo Olukoshi, CODESRIA's Executive Secretary, summarised the objectives of the project as follows:

- to transcend scientific research barriers, including linguistic, gender, racial and regional;
- to promote academic freedom to produce science; and
- to strengthen the voices of African scholars who are in a minority in

certain research fields, such as Engineering.

An extensive discussion regarding the scope and coverage of the proposed collaborative project led to some key recommendations. These include the following:

- CODESRIA will set up a steering committee.
- A consortium consisting of the partners will implement the project.
- The consortium will submit an implementation proposal.
- A forum will be established where information could be shared and exchanged.

The next step would be for CODESRIA to draft a funding proposal for the project. A final report will be sent to all relevant partners.

Cooperation with National Science Foundation (NSF)

The HSRC and NSF have finalised the areas of collaboration which will be contained in a MoU to be finalised by the end of July. The organisations agreed on the following areas of cooperation: the facilitating and sharing of information, expertise and instruments between staff members; arranging of study visits to provide for closer interaction; developing research and programmatic proposals and plans of action; and identifying common interests in the field of

humanities and social science research. The initial priority areas they will focus on are:

- mathematics and science;
- education quality; and
- social and historical studies of science and technology (particularly gender, race, disability and policy).



Challenges in creating a developmental state



Dr Olive Shisana and Mr Derek Hanekom

as well as being able to engender social inclusiveness.

The concept of the developmental state has received considerable attention among South African academics, the ANC, government and the media, yet there remains a lack of clarity and common understanding about its meaning, policy orientation and institutional characteristics. These factors are likely to constrain the ability of South Africa to construct a state that is developmental and democratic,

These insights served as background to a high-profile conference on the potential for - and challenge of - constructing a democratic developmental state in South Africa. The conference was hosted by the Policy Analysis Unit (PAU) of the HSRC, in collaboration with the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) from 4 - 6 June 2008.

The conference had four main objectives, namely:

- to contribute to theoretical insights on a developmental state;
- to contextualise the developmental state to meet the needs of South Africa;
- to highlight how a democratic developmental state can address the challenges of the second economy (in other words, the challenge of poverty); and
- to highlight those areas where a developmental state and a knowledge-based economy complement each other.

The conference was opened by the deputy minister of Science and Technology, Mr. Derek Hanekom, followed by two keynote presentations by Professor Peter Evans of the University of California, Berkeley, USA, and Dr Thandika Mkandawire, director of the UN Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), Geneva.

Professor Peter Evans



The HSRC intends to publish policy recommendations and a book flowing from the conference. A number of research and policy issues arose that will receive greater attention in the work of PAU in the coming years. In this process PAU will be collaborating with international and local academics, government and other stakeholders in the South Africa society.

Connecting with other social science data managers



Ms Van Wyk

Ms Marie-Louise van Wyk and Dr Lucia Lötter of the IT unit at the HSRC presented a paper titled, Planning Against Failure - it's not all about Technology, at the International Association for Social Science Information Services & Technology (IASSIST) on 27 to 30 May 2008 at Stanford University, California. Ms Faye Reagon, head of Information Services, participated in a panel discussion on data curation activities in emerging economies at the same conference.

IASSIST is an international organisation of professionals working in and with data services to support research and teaching in the social sciences. Its membership is made up of a variety of workplaces including research organisations, data archives, statistical agencies, libraries, government departments, academic departments and non-profit organisations.

This event provided an opportunity to network with organisations in different regions and to discuss the possibility of forming a pan-African federation of data organisations in the social sciences. The HSRC, as one of the biggest generators of social science data, will be one of the drivers in establishing the federation.

Dr Lötter



Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) roundtable

In an information-sharing meeting between the HSRC and ECA in Addis Ababa on 20 May, requested by the HSRC, it was agreed that although this was a preliminary discussion, the two institutions have much in common in terms research areas. The two organisations also concurred that it would be mutually beneficial to look into formalising the relationship in a bilateral agreement.

This meeting will be followed by a meeting between ECA staff and key HSRC executive managers to identify projects and identifying areas of collaboration and partnership. In the meantime, the organisations will keep each other informed of important meetings, workshops and conferences and mutually send invitations, where relevant.

Ugandan publishing workshop

Uganda was once home to a thriving publishing industry, which was largely destroyed during the 1970's. Today the sense of pride in what Ugandan publishing was, remains alongside a genuine desire to leapfrog into the 21st century and take what they consider to be their rightful place in East African and global publishing.

As part of its programme to revitalise the industry, the National Book Trust of Uganda (NABOTU) invited Garry Rosenberg of the HSRC Press to run a two-day workshop on open access publishing in Kampala on 27 and 28 May 2008. The event was sponsored by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and attracted approximately 40 participants from 14 organisations: including local universities, NGO's, commercial publishers and state owned media. Projects emerging out of the event and will be further developed and nurtured by NABOTU in its efforts to reclaim their rightful place in global publishing.