

# HSRC International Brief

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*Several international groups and delegations visited the HSRC over the past couple of months and key members of our staff have been invited, or participated, in high-level meetings with these delegations. This International Brief outlines some of our international activities. We hope you enjoy this edition and we look forward to engaging with you soon.*

## UN General Assembly high-level meeting

*Two of the HSRC's leading HIV researchers, Professor Simbayi and Ms. Mpumi Zungu, represented the HSRC as part of the civil-society delegation to the 2011 UN General Assembly high-level meeting on AIDS.*



*Ms Mpumi Zungu and Professor Leickness Simbayi*

The meeting took place from the 8 - 10 June 2011 in New York, marking the 30 years of AIDS globally.

Current estimates is that AIDS has claimed more than 25 million lives, with more than 60 million people having been infected by the epidemic that has left no country in the world untouched.

This high-level meeting also marked the ten years since the landmark UN General Assembly special session on HIV/AIDS in 2001. In this session the world came together to review progress made since the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV / AIDS and the 2006

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## Social Aspects of HIV /AIDS conference boasts exceptional speakers

The executive director of the International AIDS Society, Mr Bertrand Audoin, is set to speak at the 6th SAHARA Conference 2011 at the end of November. With nearly 20 years in the HIV field, Mr Audoin first became involved in the response to the epidemic at grass- roots level in the early 1990s. He will address the social, political and economic landscape of HIV prevention and response.

SAHARA, which stands for the the Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS Research Alliance (SAHARA), is a network with a strong Africa focus that facilitates the sharing of research expertise and knowledge that could contribute to the prevention, care and mitigation

of the HIV/ epidemic. To this purpose SAHARA also conducts multi-site, multi country research projects to generate new social-science evidence on HIV/AIDS interventions.

The 6th SAHARA Conference goes beyond the biomedical deliberations to allow interaction between experts and people on the ground, leading to an exchange of principles and findings to be communicated in an understandable manner. These finding are not merely communicated:, but SAHARA ensures that there are outcomes which allow the research to be translated into action plans.



*Mr Bertrand Audoin*

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This unique trait of the conference presents an opportunity for the dissemination of findings in a different way; it captures innovations arising from practical experiences, research and programmes in different contexts.

A capacity- building component is included through skills- building workshops of emerging scientists during the conference, and activities after the conference in the hope of addressing deficiencies in the understanding of research finding, and building

bridges between research and practice.

*For more information, visit [www.sahara.org.za](http://www.sahara.org.za)*

## HSRC signs MOU with renowned US medical school

The HSRC has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM) in the US. At the signing, both HSRC CEO Dr Olive Shisana and MSM Dean Dr Sandra Harris-Hooker undertook not to allow this cooperation

agreement to "lie on a shelf", but to ensure that the relationship is active and fruitful.

The HSRC and MSM will look at collaborating in the fields of non-communicable diseases, primary health care and health-

care systems as well as HIV/AIDS and TB.

The envisaged collaboration will include capacity enhancement and training, research relative to HIV/AIDS, and exchange of students, faculty members and staff.



## UN General Assembly high-level meeting

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Political Declaration on HIV / AIDS. The meeting also charted the future course of the global AIDS response and ended with member states adopting a new declaration, reaffirming their current commitments and also pledging to take action to guide and sustain the global AIDS response going forward.

Civil society's role at the meeting was to ensure that issues affecting those at the coal face of HIV and AIDS were not left out

of the declaration. Activities included daily briefing meetings for civil society about the outcomes of debates and the resolutions that were taken at the different negotiation committees.

Members of the civil society organised marches on the opening and the closing day of the meeting to highlight issues affecting marginalised populations (i.e. men who have sex with men, commercial sex workers and injecting drug users) and

access to treatment. These members pushed for commitment to have 15 million people on ARV treatment by 2015.

Other issues of interest included the realisation that children born with HIV are now adults. Two delegates, a 28 year old woman and a 30 year old male parliamentarian, shared how they were infected as children and were living positively with HIV and AIDS all these years because of ARVs.

## Researcher exchange: HSRC and CASS

The HSRC hosted Dr Xinfeng Li a, a senior research fellow from the Institute of West Asian and African Studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS). The visit entailed working with researchers from the HSRC's research programme on Democracy Governance and Service Delivery on joint proposals on the role of China in South Africa and South Africa in China.

Discussions also focused on pursuing other possible comparative research areas.



*Prof. Joseph Teffo, Dr Xinfeng Li and Dr Olive Shisana*

## Exploring measuring science, technology and innovation with Georgia Institute of Technology

Dr Susan Cozzens, associate dean for Research and professor of Public Policy at the Georgia Institute of Technology, visited the HSRC as part of a broader visit to South Africa. Professor Cozzens, who is also the

director, of the institute's Technology Policy and Assessment Center, met with CEO Dr Olive Shisana and the director of International Liaison. Ms Bridgette Prince, and researchers to explore areas of common interest.

veloping science, technology and innovation indicators. At the HSRC this area is located in the Centre for Science Technology and Innovation Indicators, which is based in the HSRC's research programme on Population Health, Health Systems and Innovation.



*Mr Stewart Ngandu, Dr Susan Cozzens, Dr Olive Shisana and Prof. Hendrick Kanyane*

This engagement was as a result of a visit Dr Shisana and Ms Prince paid to the Institute last year in November.

During this recent meeting presentations focused on areas common interests between the two organisations, such as measuring and de-

Discussions included innovation in the informal sector; the need to benchmark and develop policy briefs on the impact in of R&D and innovation surveys on the knowledge-based economy; and the role of women in science and technology, since there is a dire need of skilled female researchers in areas such as mathematics and the engineering sciences.

## How Brazil deals with inequality and poverty



*The HSRC and the Institute for Applied Economic Research, (IPEA) based in Brazil, signed a MoU to facilitate and enable collaboration between the two institutions*

The HSRC and the Institute for Applied Economic Research, (IPEA) based in Brazil, signed a MoU to facilitate and enable collaboration between the two institutions.

As part of this agreement the HSRC invited Mr. Pedro Herculano G. Ferreira de Souza from IPEA to be a key note speaker on the topic of "Research methodologies in studying inequality and poverty in Brazil" at the biennial HSRC Research Conference..

Mr de Souza presented in the Plenary Session titled " *Tackling inequalities? Framing and investigating structural change, social policy and politics: structural and human challenges of inequality*".



## Visitors from abroad

The International Liaison office met with staff and students from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) on Monday, 20 June, at our offices in Cape Town. The students were especially interested in health-related matters in South Africa, as well as in government policies and issues related to HIV/AIDS.

Two members of the research programme

on HIV/AIDS, STIs and TB (HAST) gave the students an overview of their research and the projects they are currently running. This was followed by a discussion, which focused on the two publications that emanated from the last HIV/AIDS household survey.



## Study on new mathematics teachers



*Dr Vijay Reddy attended a research meeting in the US from 6 - 10 June, co-ordinated by Michigan State University, to explore the feasibility of undertaking a study on beginner math teachers from each of the participating countries. Dr Reddy also visited the National Science Foundation to discuss funding opportunities for research projects.*

### Key questions emerged from the meeting

1. How do new teachers, with with 1-5 years' experience compare with each other on their knowledge of mathematics content, mathematics pedagogy, pedagogy, mathematics-related beliefs and their views on enacted mathematics teaching

practice?

2. Fifteen countries participated and presented on the teacher education system, (China, India, South Africa, US, Mexico, Brazil, Honduras, Chile, Saudi Arabia, Italy, Germany, Poland, Korea, Thailand, Finland).
3. The next steps for the HSRC and South Africa will be to submit a proposal of a

teacher education study on Policy, Practice and Readiness to Teach Primary and Secondary Mathematics (TEDS-M). This will enable researchers to track final-year university students to understand their experiences in finding a job and the support offered to new math teachers in schools.

## Conference on comparative history of education



A conference by the Southern African Comparative and History of Education Society (SACHES), that took place from the 7 -12 August 2011, was attended by Professor Thobeka Mda, a former President of the society (2005-2009). Mda served as acting president from 2004-2005. This society is a member of the World Council of Comparative Education Societies (WCCES), which held its triennial congress in 2010.

The conference was held for the first time in Uganda, as the society is trying to reach beyond southern Africa, and also accommodate education comparativists and education historians in East Africa. The participants came from countries like Uganda, South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Kenya, USA and Greece.

## The HSRC participates in bilateral conference



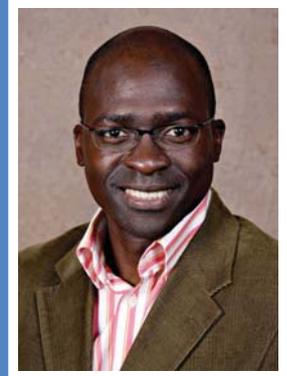
A bilateral cooperation agreement on science and technology between South Africa and Algeria was signed on 28 April 1998 in Algeria. Both countries are actively collaborating on joint projects in the fields of laser technology, space science, poverty alleviation, and nuclear research. The two countries have agreed to extend their cooperation in the following areas: materials science and nanotechnology; information and communications technology (ICT); medical science; human and social sciences; and indigenous knowledge systems (IKS).

The HSRC was requested to participate in discussions as the organisation could provide invaluable input in the area of human and social sciences. Dr Catherine Ndinda of the research programme on Population Health, Health Systems and Innovation, presented on the human and social science research activities in South Africa HSRC

## HSRC supports South Africa's Minister of Public Enterprises



*Dr Udesch Pillay, head of the HSRC's Democracy, Governance and Service Delivery programme, was invited by the Minister of Public Enterprises of South Africa, Mr Malusi Gigaba, to participate in the South African Executive Leadership Programme on rethinking the role of state-owned enterprises.*



The programme that took place from 11 - 15 July at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, England.

The Department of Public Enterprises is in the process of revising its approach to the governance of state-owned enterprises, (SOEs) and its shareholder management strategy. To underpin the development and design of policies to enhance the role of South African SOEs in generating growth and employment oriented multipliers, the department wished to engage with aca-

demics with relevant expertise in this regard. The Department together with the school of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) at the University of London hosted a short, one week course in London from 11 to 15 July 2011 to explore these challenges, through presentations on 'first principles' as well as on comparative experiences.

The content of the course ranged from conceptual frameworks to relevant comparative experiences from other countries, including in Asia, Latin America and

Europe. There is interest, among other issues, to expand knowledge and thinking on governance mechanisms and institution that could improve productivity; the role of infrastructure in generating competitiveness, growth, foreign exchange earnings and decent employment; and the scope for and mechanisms by which SOEs can leverage finance for infrastructure and supply chain development and on the use of procurement policies and practices to leverage industrial development.

## WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS AND MEETINGS



### **The CEO participates in essential public health services consultation in Bellagio**

Dr Olive Shisana., CEO of the HSRC, visited the Italian town of Bellagio from the 22-24 August on the invitation of the International Association of National Public Health Institutes (IANPHI) and the World Health Organisation. Dr Shisana participated in a consultation on Essential Public Health Services for the 21st Century. The aim of the meeting was to develop a set of essential public health functions for countries so that they can improve their public health capacity.

The consultation, which was attended by leading global public health experts, produced a draft of new set of public health core functions to guide policy makers. They also reviewed the attributes of national public health institutions that will make them successful in undertaking their mandates. Out of this consultation a monograph will be compiled.

#### **The meeting achieved the following:**

1. Revisions to the IANPHI Framework for essential public health functions for national Public Health Institutions
2. Recommendations on the value of NPHIS in national public health systems, their interactions with other government and private sector initiatives and their role in national efforts including emergencies
3. Recommendations on the future role of IANSPHI in national and international arena.

# WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS AND MEETINGS



## Macroeconomic development

Mr Stewart Ngandu from the Economic Performance and Development research programme attended a training seminar on macroeconomic development for developing countries. The seminar was hosted by the Academy of Macroeconomic Research, funded by the National Development and Reform Commission and co-ordinated by the Chinese Embassy in South Africa.

It was attended by participants from 33 countries and gave a detailed introduction to China's achievements in macroeconomic management since the reform and opening up of the economy that begun in the 1970s.

The seminar provided in-depth discussions about some of the common concerns of developing countries, offering experience and reference in the area of macroeconomic management which will be helpful for improving their economic management capacity.

One of the objectives of the training was to give developing countries a basis for formulating better economic and social development policies that could ensure they make the right decisions with respect to the coordination of development for all kinds of economic activities. It also looked at some of the policies and macroeconomic changes that had occurred in China as a result of the global financial crisis and its efforts at promoting economic recovery.

This provided the opportunity to explore ways in which participating countries can forge mutually beneficial forms of cooperation with China in areas of investment, international economics and trade. This would not only help developing countries explore emerging markets, it would also consolidate the friendship among different countries with the people of China.



## Assessing family policies

Zita Mokomane from the Population Health, Health Systems and Innovation research programme presented two papers at a United Nations Expert Group Meeting on "Assessing family policies: Confronting family poverty and social exclusion & ensuring work-family balance". The meeting formed part of the preparations for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Year of the Family and brought experts from a range of American and international organisations together.



## Commonwealth regional consultation

Professor Leickness Simbayi, who heads up the HAST programme, attended the Commonwealth Regional Consultation on the social and economic dimensions of access to HIV and AIDS treatment, prevention, care and support, in Gaborone, Botswana on 20 and 21 June 2011.

The consultation had two main aims, namely to assist countries in putting into operation their political commitments to address the social and economic aspects of HIV; and to address the key messages from the recent 2011 United Nations General Assembly high-level meeting on AIDS.

The consultation was co-organised by the British Commonwealth Secretariat, the UNAIDS Regional Support Team for East and Southern Africa (RST-ESA), the SADC HIV/AIDS Unit and the HSRC.

Professor Simbayi presented one of the expert papers, entitled, "Barriers to accessing treatment and prevention" and also served as an expert resource and a rapporteur.

The participants included managers of national AIDS programmes of Ministries of Health, directors of National AIDS Commissions or Agencies, civil society groups and people living with HIV/AIDS from Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Botswana, Zambia, Swaziland, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia and South Africa.

Apart from continuing with the HSRC's longstanding collaboration through the bilateral relationship with the Commonwealth and tripartite relationships with UNAIDS RST-ESA and SADC, it also presented the opportunity to meet participants from the other countries.