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REPORT OF THE AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

I. SUMMARY OF IDEP'S ACTIVITIES DURING ACADEMIC YEAR 1986/87

The activities of IDEP during academic year 1986/87 can be grouped under two main categories. The first was related to institutional building and development while the second took the form of the Institute's regular activities in training, research, conferences and workshops.

The chronology of events in institution building may be identified as follows. First, the Institute played host to the Evaluation Mission composed of UNDP, African Governments and ECA representatives charged with assessing the performance of IDEP, its role and its future development prospects. The report of this Mission was the subject of an extraordinary meeting of IDEP's Governing Council which endorsed the main findings and recommendations. The extraordinary meeting's report was subsequently presented and formally adopted at the 13th meeting of ECA's Conference of Ministers. In line with the recommendations of the Evaluation Mission as approved by all partners concerned (UNDP, ECA, IDEP's Governing Council), the Institute developed a 5-Year Medium-Term Plan emphasizing research and advisory services as the focus of the Institute's new orientation and strategy. This was then followed by the preparation of a UNDP full-format Project Document that embodied this new orientation and strategy in a detailed 5-Year work plan and corresponding project budget covering UNDP contribution, African Governments' contribution as well as other regular and extra-budgetary resources.

1. Training Activities

IDEP's training activities consist of a two-year cycle of separate but integrated set of programmes leading to a Master of Arts degree. During the 1986/87 academic year the set of training activities was as follows:

- The Nine-Month Basic Programme
- Two Short-term Specialization Programmes
- The Six-Month Research Training Programme

The orientation of all training activities continued to emphasize the practical application, case study and group work approaches with very high degree of trainee involvement and participation.

1.1. The Nine-Month Basic Programme

The programme began on 10 November 1986 and ended on 30 June 1987. A total of 29 trainees from 12 different African countries enrolled in the programme. Of this number, 27 completed all course requirements including the final examination. The results show that 19 were successful and thus qualify for the award of IDEP's Diploma in Economic Development and Planning.

1.2. The Short-term Specialization Programmes

Four options are available, but only two were offered during this academic year.

(a) Industrial Development in Africa

This programme began on 10 November 1986 and was terminated on 13 February 1987. A total of 14 trainees from 8 different African countries enrolled in the programme. Out of the 14 candidates, 12 fulfilled all course requirements including the final examination. From this number, 9 were successful and thus qualified for IDEP's Certificate.

(b) Population and Human Resources Development

This programme was offered from 21 September to 13 November 1987.

A total of 23 trainees from 14 different African countries enrolled in the programme. 22 fulfilled all course requirements and took the final examination. Out of this number, 17 were successful and were awarded IDEP's Certificate.

1.3. The Six-Month Research Training Programme

This is the third and final component of the set of programmes constituting IDEP's M.A. degree cycle. During the year under review six trainees qualified and were admitted to write their M.A. theses. Two other trainees were admitted as research trainees after having been sponsored by their governments.

The programme formally opened on 16 February 1987 and was officially terminated on 31 July 1987. As of February 1988, two of the M.A. candidates had successfully defended their theses with two others expected by June 1988. The two candidates admitted as research trainees successfully presented their research reports and were awarded certificates of participation.

2. Research and Advisory Services

During the period under review research capacity at the Institute was limited to the Director and two full-time teaching/research staff. The Director completed work on the paper: Structural Adjustment and Growth in Africa - A Global Perspectives. This was the main working paper at a major international conference organized by the Institute as well as one of the contributions to a subsequent conference organized by ECA/OAU. The Institute made another contribution to the ECA/OAU conference in the form of a paper: Report on the International Conference on Growth and Structural Adjustment in Africa (Organized by IDEP).

The Institute's teaching/research staff also participated in some major international development research projects. A staff member completed the paper on: Trade and Development in sub-Saharan Africa - A Case-Study on Ghana's Trade Performance for a consultancy project on "Trade and Development in sub-Saharan Africa", co-financed by the Rockefeller Foundation and the Commonwealth Secretariat. Another staff member has initiated work in progress on a paper: Statistics and Planning - The African Experience for the "First Islamic Countries Conference on Statistical Science" to be held in Lahore, Pakistan, August 1988.

3. Conferences, Seminars, Workshops

During the year under review IDEP organized one major international conference and co-organized a workshop/symposium with the Arab Planning Institute (API). In addition, the Institute actively participated in one other major international conference as well as in a workshop organized as part of the project on "Trade and Development in sub-Saharan Africa".

(a) The International Conference on Growth and Structural Adjustment in Africa

This Conference was organized by the Institute as a forum for dialogue between high level African policy makers and their international counterparts and aid donors at both bilateral and multilateral levels. It was held in Dakar on 4-5 May 1987. There were altogether 35 participants and 13 observers. On the African side six African governments and four pan-African/sub-regional institutions were represented. Participants from the international side included the Deputy Managing Director of the IMF, Vice President of the World Bank as well as high level officials from EEC, FAO, French Cooperation, UNDP, USAID, among others.

(b) The International Conference on Africa: The Challenge of Economic Recovery and Accelerated Development

This Conference was organized by ECA in collaboration with OAU at Abuja, Nigeria, on 15-19 June 1987. It was meant as a follow-up to the UN Special Session on the African economic crisis in order to monitor progress so far made in mobilizing resources for the crisis after the signing of the UN-PAAERD. IDEP's participation took the form of the presentation of the two papers referred to in Section 2 above.

(c) Symposium on Joint IDEP/API Programmes in Training, Research, Consultancy and Support Activities

This workshop/symposium was held in the Arab Planning Institute (API), Kuwait on 3-4 March 1987 between representatives from both IDEP and API. IDEP had a delegation of four while API had seven, each led by

its Director. The workshop was organized to discuss the possibility of cooperation between the two institutions in training, research, consultancy and conferences. The meeting drew up a five-year cooperation programme for implementation subject to approval by the respective Governing Councils of the two institutions.

(d) Workshop on Trade and Development in
sub-Saharan Africa

This workshop was held in Nairobi, Kenya on April 15-17, 1987

as part of the consultancy project on "Trade and Development in sub-Saharan Africa". IDEP's contribution at the workshop was a presentation by a staff member on a research proposal: A Case-Study on Ghana's Trade Performance.

II. GOVERNING COUNCIL DECISIONS

The 28th Meeting of IDEP's Governing Council in January 1986 endorsed UNDP's proposal of an Evaluation Mission made up of UNDP, African Governments and ECA to evaluate the past performance and the future role and prospects of the Institute. The terms of reference of the Mission were subsequently reviewed and endorsed by the 29th Meeting of the Council in November 1986. The Mission started work on 15 January 1987 and completed its Report exactly two months later. This report was presented at an Extraordinary Meeting of Council in Addis Ababa on 14 April 1987.

In the discussion that followed presentation of the report, the Council agreed with the generally positive findings of the Mission with the following highlights, among others:

- There is a need to re-orient the activities of the Institute to make it respond more effectively to the needs of African governments, particularly in the implementation of APPER and UN-PAAERD, and their need for expert advisory services.

In this connection, extra assistance is required from the UNDP for the creation of the capacity for research and consultancy services to assist African governments and institutions as well as to provide the basis for income generation. The aim is to help the Institute become a think-tank, a centre of excellence for training and research on issues of African development planning.

- That UNDP assistance to core activities (training) be gradually phased out to be funded from governments' contributions and income generated by consultancy services provided by IDEP.

- That the direct involvement of the Governing Council in the recruitment of professional staff other than the Director and other staff of similar level be stopped in order to reduce delays in recruitment. In this connection the normal UN regulations as stipulated in the Institute's Statute should be followed.

- That the Administrative Instructions of the Institute should be reviewed with a view to delegating more authority to the Director of the Institute while still keeping it under the overall supervision and monitoring of ECA.

The Council welcomed UNDP's willingness to continue assistance to IDEP. It thought that in the present circumstances where Government contributions were inadequate, the Institute needed UNDP assistance. The Council recognized, however, that this assistance could not continue indefinitely and that African governments have to accept the full responsibility and be ready to face it when UNDP ultimately withdraws from support of IDEP's core activities.

The Council also noted that the Institute had been able to secure a positive position in the region with the help of UNDP.

There is a need to establish a centre of excellence for research and consultancy services to assist African governments and institutions as well as to provide the basis for income generation. The aim is to help the Institute become a think-tank, a centre of excellence for training and research on issues of African development planning.

III. IDEP'S WORK PROGRAMME FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 1988/89

3.1. Training

In addition to the regular two-year cycle of programmes outlined in Section I above the following are additional dimensions planned for the 1988/89 academic year:

(a) Joint IDEP/UNFPA Programme on Population and Human Resources Development in Africa

After intensive efforts and negotiations over the past two years a four-year project document has been drawn up and signed for a joint IDEP/UNFPA programme on "Population and Human Resources Development in Africa". Included in the project document are proposals for UNFPA funding of project personnel (chief technical advisor, consultants/teaching inputs, secretary), training materials, equipment and fellowships amounting to about US\$ 1.4 million over the four-year period. The activities envisaged include the three-month specialization programme, regional workshops and seminars as well as research and advisory services.

(b) Joint IDEP/EDI-World Bank Workshop on Public Expenditure Programming and Management

This two-week workshop is planned to be offered during the period 18-31 May 1988 in Dakar at IDEP. The medium of instruction will be English only and the workshop will be attended by 20-25 senior level public officials from seven anglophone sub-Saharan African countries. The Director of IDEP and teaching staff will provide about 50 per cent of the presentations while World Bank consultants provide the rest.

A future seminar on the same theme of public expenditure programming for French speaking sub-Saharan African countries is also planned for the end of 1988 or the beginning of 1989. This is also to be undertaken jointly with EDI-World Bank.

(c) Short-term Programme on Agriculture and Rural Development in Africa

Even though major efforts were made over the past three years to launch a specialization programme on "Agriculture and Rural Development" this could not materialize owing to unavailability of resources to finance teaching inputs, training materials and fellowships. To get around these difficulties a transitional measure has been adopted for offering the programme during the 1988/89 academic year.

Firstly, it is planned to convene an expert meeting with assistance from FAO and IFAD to discuss and develop a programme curricula and requisite training materials. This is to be followed by offering a reduced experimental programme for 6-8 weeks only during the 1988/89 academic year. In the light of the results of this initial step and further negotiations with co-sponsors and resource organizations, the programme would then be offered on a full-scale recurrent basis. Aside from the three major thrusts identified, other activities and advances related to training are also envisaged. A joint Afro/Arab regional training programme to be provided by IDEP and API (Arab Planning Institute, based in Kuwait) to be undertaken in Dakar is being negotiated for the 1988/89 academic year. Precise arrangements have, however, not yet been finalized.

In addition, efforts to develop and strengthen the regular 2-Year training programme cycle are continuing. A World Bank/UNDP project aimed at strengthening African training institutions has included IDEP as one of the prime institutions to benefit from the project's resources. IDEP is earmarked to serve as the centre of excellence and platform for the training of trainers. The specific training schemes and workshops are still under consideration.

3.2. Research and Advisory Services

A prominent feature of the future pattern of growth and diversification of the Institute's activities is the creation and progressive

expansion of research and advisory services. It is to be divided analytically into four interrelated sub-activities. These are: (1) conceptual and overall strategies studies, (2) sectoral policy (functional) studies, (3) country, sub-regional and regional studies, and (4) data and quantitative studies.

The first step towards the actual launching of the research and advisory services capacity is the identification, selection and appointment of new staff. This process is to begin immediately after the ratification of the UNDP project document. A consultant will first be hired to assist in the preparation of requisite systems and operations manuals, costing and accounting guidelines, and other basic references needed for the advisory services activity, in particular. Other complementary actions in the area of computer and library support services, including acquisition of softwares for operation of a data bank and data retrieval systems, would be undertaken.

In the meantime, and until the expanded research capacity is installed and reaches operational levels, a number of major research output is planned for the 1988/89 period. These include the finalization and publishing of two Conference Proceedings, the first issue of the Institute's "Annual Development Report", and the inauguration of a "Discussion Paper Series" dealing with various issues, problems and policies related to the economic development of Africa.

3.3. Conferences, Seminars and Workshops

Three seminar topics of interest to African countries and related to the Institute's overall research and advisory services activities are also planned as part of the 1988/89 programmes.

The first seminar is related to the Institute's efforts to outline a viable approach to growth and structural adjustment in Africa taking into consideration both internal and external conditions and constraints. The seminar will be based on country case studies which are aimed at serving as prototypes and models for other African countries. The plan

is to select 5-7 countries for the seminar at which high level policy makers from these countries and high level experts discuss specific strategies and policy options and recommendations.

The second seminar addresses itself to an important contemporary topical issue, namely, privatisation and deregulation. This seminar would also assemble high level experts in this area as well as African policy makers to discuss aspects of this policy orientation in the context of Africa. The papers and discussions of the seminar would focus on both conceptual issues and practical operational ones related to structural adjustment, growth and development planning in Africa.

The third seminar focuses on the economic and social dimensions of change in the Southern African sub-region. It aims at assessing the present economic order followed by an assessment of alternative scenarios for a transition to a post-apartheid economic order in Southern Africa.

Participants will be mainly research experts, academic intellectuals and political economists.

Conference Venue and Dates

Three seminar locations of interest to African countries and related to the initial, overall research and advisory services activities are also planned as part of the 1997-98 programme.

The first seminar is to be held in the Republic of South Africa in 1997. It is expected to provide an opportunity for African policy makers and researchers to discuss the current situation in Africa and to identify areas for research and advisory services. The second seminar is to be held in the Republic of South Africa in 1998. It is expected to provide an opportunity for African policy makers and researchers to discuss the current situation in Africa and to identify areas for research and advisory services. The third seminar is to be held in the Republic of South Africa in 1999. It is expected to provide an opportunity for African policy makers and researchers to discuss the current situation in Africa and to identify areas for research and advisory services.