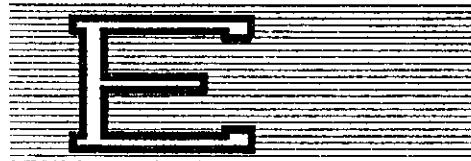




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Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
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PROGRESS REPORT ON PADIS ACTIVITIES SINCE THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE REGIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Progress in Programme Implementation

1. During the period under review, April 1989-April 1990, PADIS activities included the delivery of training, advisory services and other forms of technical co-operation for ECA member States, data base development, network building, user services, servicing of legislative and other meetings including expert groups, undertaking of studies and issuance of publications. Details of each of these areas follow.

Training Activities

2. Training activities included the holding of national level training courses for staff of PADIS national participating centres, subregional training courses in computerised documentation techniques, training courses in the management of documentation and information centres and internships.

3. In order to improve the ability of national centres (which grew to 34 during the period), to effectively participate in the PADIS network, PADIS held group training courses in PADIS methodologies for a number of these centres during the period. Training curriculum included utilization of computer programmes for bibliographic data base management as well as other aspects of PADIS tools and methodologies for bibliographic work. The following courses were organized during this period.

- (a) Training in PADIS methodologies for participants from information and documentation centres in the Eastern and Southern Africa subregion 20-24 June 1989, Gaborone, Botswana.
- (b) Training course for documentalists from English speaking countries covered by CIRDAFRICA, in PADIS methodologies, 23-28 October 1989, Nairobi, Kenya.
- (c) Training course for documentalists from French speaking countries covered by CIRDAFRICA, in PADIS methodologies, 6-11 November 1989, Brazzaville, Congo.
- (d) Training course in PADIS methodologies and the use of micro-CDS/ISIS software for staff of the Library Schools of Makerere University, University of Zambia, ESI, Rabat, Morocco, University of Dakar, University of Ghana, and one participant from the ECA Niamey-based MULPOC, 26 March-6 April 1990, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- (e) Training course in PADIS methodologies, MINISIS and micro-CDS/ISIS software, for staff of the University of Botswana Library, University of Dar-es-Salaam, and the Institute of Agricultural Research, Uganda, 14-25 May 1990, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- (f) Training course in PADIS methodologies for participants in a summer subregional workshop (Eastern and Southern Africa), organized by the University of Botswana, 4-8 June 1990, Gaborone, Botswana.
- (g) Training course in PADIS methodologies and the use of micro-CDS/ISIS software for members of the PADIS Standing Committee on Harmonization and Standardization, 19-23 November 1990, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- (h) Training course in desktop publishing techniques for participants from Malawi, Ghana, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Sudan, Zambia and Zimbabwe 26 November-5 December 1990, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

- (i) Training in PADIS methodologies and micro-CDS/ISIS for participants from, Ghana, Uganda and Lesotho, 15-26 October 1990, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
4. At the request of PADIS national co-ordinating centres, training in the production of National DEVINDEXES, the utilization of PADIS data bases and the use of micro-CDS/ISIS software for bibliographic data base management were organised by PADIS. During the period under review, the following training in this category took place:
- (a) Training staff in Zambia in the generation and production of DEVINDEX - Zambia, 22 July-6 August 1989, Lusaka, Zambia.
 - (b) Training staff in Swaziland in the use of micro-CDS/ISIS software, 25-28 July 1989, Mbabane, Swaziland.
 - (c) Training staff in Sudan in the use of micro-CDS/ISIS software, 26 March-4 April 1990, Khartoum Sudan.
 - (d) Training staff in Ghana in PADIS methodologies and the use of micro-CDS/ISIS software, 17-27 April 1990, Accra, Ghana.
 - (e) Training staff in Burkina Faso in PADIS methodologies and the use of micro-CDS/ISIS software 16-20 July 1990, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.
5. PADIS also organised two subregional training workshop for needs of documentation centres, in PADIS methodologies and the use of micro-CDS/ISIS software:
- (a) for countries covered by the West African MULPOC, 18-22 September 1991, Niamey, Niger.
 - (b) Training courses, one for English Speaking and another for French Speaking participants, in the use of micro-CDS/ISIS software and co-operative information system for member States of the Kagera Basin Organization (KBO), 14-23 May 1990.
6. The area of management of documentation and information centres is gaining much attention in Africa. PADIS' training for member States in this area included regional seminars, workshops and study tours. Specific activities in this area were:
- (a) Study tour to the Soviet Union on the Management of Scientific, Technological and socio-economic information, 15-27 October 1989.
 - (b) Regional seminar on the management of national and institutional documentation centres and services in Africa, Nairobi, Kenya, 11-15 December 1989.
 - (c) Regional workshop on "Human Resources Development for the management of information and documentation centres in Africa, Harare, 10-14 December 1990.
7. PADIS' training activities also included the operation of a fellowships programme for staff of national and institutional participating centres. During the period the following fellowships were awarded.
- (a) Attachment training at PADIS in PADIS methodologies for the documentalist from the West African Development Information System (WADIS), 8-27 January 1989.
 - (b) Attachment training at PADIS in PADIS methodologies for a documentalist from IGADD, 12-16 June 1989.
 - (c) Attachment training course on Documentation and Information Centre management, for one staff member from the Ethiopian Science and Technology Commis-

sion to the Egyptian National Scientific and Technological Information Network (ENSTINET) Cairo, Egypt, 26 September-31 October 1989.

- (d) Participation in a micro-CDS/ISIS course, by one staff member from the Ethiopian Commission for Central Planning, 17-29 September 1989, Berlin, Germany.
- (e) Participation in a micro-CDS/ISIS course by one staff member from Mauritius, 17-29 September 1989, Berlin, Germany.

Advisory Services

8. During the period under review, at the request of member States and institutional participating centres, PADIS delivered advisory services on a wide range of topics relating to development information management.

National level Advisory Services

- (a) To Algeria, on the establishment of a price data base for the National Economic Development Information Centre (CNIDE) and for the installation of the PADIS-STAT data base at the national statistical office, May 1989.
- (b) To Zambia, to assess national needs for development information infrastructure, 5-12 June 1989.
- (c) To Rwanda, on the development of statistical computing, June 1989.
- (d) To Swaziland, to assess national needs for development information infrastructure, 16-30 November 1989.
- (e) To Kagera Basin Organization (KBO), Kigali, Rwanda, to install computer equipment and provide training on software, 9-31 January 1990.
- (f) To Ghana, to assess national needs for development information infrastructure, 20-29 January 1990, Accra, Ghana.
- (g) To Uganda, to assess national needs for development information infrastructure, 7-11 May 1990.
- (h) To Lesotho, to assess national needs for development information infrastructure, 11-15 June 1990.
- (i) To Zimbabwe, to assess national needs for development information infrastructure, 10-14 September 1990.
- (j) To Cameroon, to assess national needs for development information infrastructure, 26 November-1 December 1990.
- (k) To Equatorial Guinea, to assess national needs for development information infrastructure, 14-19 January 1991.

Other Advisory Services

- (a) To the German Foundation for International Development (DSE), on the evaluation of information systems in Eastern and Southern Africa, Nairobi 24-28 April 1989.

- (b) To the African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development, Tripoli, 25-30 April 1989, on the development of an African social development data base.
- (c) To the Environmental Liaison Centre International, Nairobi, Kenya, on the development of a data base on women and the environment in Africa, 26-29 June 1989.
- (d) To the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) workshop, to share with them PADIS experiences in creating an information network in Africa, Lusaka, 27-29 November 1989.
- (e) To the Government of Uganda and the German Foundation for International Development, during their seminar on "Development of National Information and Documentation Network for Uganda, Kampala, Uganda, 1-9 March 1990.
- (f) To the Institute of Development Economics and Planning (IDEP) to assess institutional needs for development information management capabilities and its potential as a PADIS institutional participating centre, Dakar, 30 April-5 May 1990.
- (g) To the Eastern and Southern Africa Management Institute (ESAMI) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), during their Information Management Curriculum Development Workshop, 21-25 May 1990, Arusha, Tanzania.
- (h) To the Government of Kenya and the German Foundation for International Development (DSE) during their organised workshop on "the Development of a national information and documentation network, 30 October-9 November 1990, Nairobi, Kenya.
- (i) To the Standing Conference of East, Southern and Central African Librarians, on information for women and development, Kampala, Uganda, 21-22 June 1990.
- (j) To the International Energy Foundation, Tripoli, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on the establishment of an energy data bank, Library and information network, 26 August-1 September 1990.
- (k) To the African Regional Centre for Technology, on the utilization of microcomputers and appropriate software for information processing, Rabat, Morocco, 22-25 October 1990.
- (l) To the Third Session of the Advisory Committee of the Population Information Network for Africa, Accra, Ghana, 15-18 October 1990.

Data Base Development

9. Data base development expanded on several fronts. PAD-DEV, the PADIS bibliographic data base on economic and social, scientific and technological aspects African development literature to which national participating centres contribute, grew by nearly 12,000 entries. Of these, about 9,600 records were contributed by national centres.

10. The receipt of inputs to PADIS-COMP, the PADIS complementary files series (data bases acquired from United Nations organizations and other international bodies) increased. Several new data bases, including ILCADOC, from the International Livestock Centre for Africa; DUNDIS, the data base of development projects of the United Nations and its agencies from the Advisory Council on the Co-ordination of information Systems

(ACCIS); SESAME, reference data base on agricultural research and rural development, from the Ministry of Research and Technology (France); ERGS, that of the IDRC Energy Research Group; IDRIS, IDRC projects; data base; LILACS, CLAPLAN and DOCPAL - bibliographic databases of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the data base of African Scholarly journals, from the African Association of Science Editors, were acquired bringing PADIS-COMP to more than 200,000. These data bases, together with PAD-DEV, were used to generate the Selective Dissemination of information (SDI) service and for retrospective search services.

11. The data base on African experts grew by approximately 1600 entries during the reporting period. Contents of the data base were used for search services and for the preparation of the updated editions of the Directory of Experts.

12. Three new data bases were opened:

- a. data base on on-going research projects in East and Southern Africa countries (RESPRO); and,
- b. data base on African development institutions (RESINST).
- c. Directory of data bases and information systems in Africa Regional and Subregional Institutions. (PAD-DAB)

Presently, the first two contain about 1500, 165 references respectively. Data collection efforts on PAD-DAB are being stepped up. The data collection exercise for the RESPRO data base was conducted jointly with the Eastern and Southern African Universities Research Project (ESAURP), using national co-ordinators in fifteen countries. Members of the Standing Committee form the base of the RESINST data base.

13. Major developments in respect of the statistical data bank (PADIS-STAT) include: increase in the number of years covered by the data base from 21 to 26 years; possibilities of the transportability of the data bank from the Hewlett Packard computer and its operating system to IBM-compatible micro-computers and utilization of dBase data base management systems; and the preparation of guidelines for data base administrators and end users. Missions for installation and training in use of the data base were also undertaken to several countries of the region, as enumerated above.

14. PADIS continued to work with ACCIS, Geneva on the harmonization and standardization of information within the United Nations system, by attending, as ECA focal point, the Fifth Session of ACCIS, held in Geneva, 18-22 September 1989 and the Working Group on Data Base Access, also held in Geneva, from 5-8 December 1989.

Network building

15. PADIS' network consists of its national, subregional and institutional participating centres. Advances were made during this period in the establishment and strengthening of each of these areas.

16. During the period, the number of national participating centres increased from 25 to 34, an increase of over one-third during the period under review. Those countries which joined the network during the period were; Djibouti, Egypt, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Lesotho, Kenya, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Tunisia and Zimbabwe. Many of these national centres received advisory services from PADIS and started to contribute inputs to PADIS data bases.

17. Regarding the establishment of subregional centres, Zaire signed the host country agreement for the establishment of the Central African Development information System

(CADIS) in February 1990. Equipment was installed and staff trained at the offices of the Niamey Multinational Programming and Operational Centre (MULPOC), which is to house WADIS; heads of documentation systems from the subregion were trained in computerized documentation techniques; and the documentalist who was engaged to operate WADIS was given training in computerized documentation techniques at PADIS. Joint activities were undertaken with the Arab League Documentation Centre to promote the North African Development Information System (NADIS). In regard to the Eastern and Southern African Development Information System (ESADIS), the Government of Zambia recently agreed to start the implementation of ESADIS as per the earlier agreement signed with the Economic Commission for Africa. Equipment had already been installed in the Lusaka-MULPOC, and the process of recruiting suitable staff for ESADIS is underway. However, the status of the subregional centres has been called into question by the UNDP Evaluation Mission of PADIS, which completed its work in July 1990. The Evaluation Mission felt that developments in information technology have rendered the need for subregional centres as collection and processing nodes redundant. The question of their situations will be brought to the attention of the Subregional Technical Committees for PADIS, which will meet in the first and second quarters of 1991.

18. In order to increase the utilization of the network and increase the delivery speed of requests and responses, PADIS has initiated a project, with IDRC assistance, entitled "Computer Networking in Africa." The project will test many newly-developed forms of information technology which have not been introduced hitherto or only on a limited basis in Africa (these include CD-ROM, optical erasable disks, use of modems, scanners and facsimile transmission) for improved development information exchange. If these tests are successful, efforts would be made to introduce the technologies on a wide scale in an effort to alleviate some of the information availability problems the Africa region faces. Participants in this pilot project have been drawn from PADIS' national focal points, PADIS' institutional participating centres and from PADIS subregional centres.

User services

19. The project continued to deliver services to users in the form of: (a) published indexes to development literature; (b) SDI bulletins; (c) customized question/answer service; and (d) documents/microfiche delivery.

20. Growth was achieved in the number of individual and institutional subscribers to the SDI service, with the number now standing at 173 as opposed to 134 at the beginning of the period.

21. The number of requests for the customized question/answer service increased from 43 in the previous period to 197 in the present period.

22. Requests for information on African development experts, institutions and projects were negligible prior to 1989. However, 105 requests for such information were filled during 1989-1990. Nearly 950 documents, in hardcopy and microfiche format, were delivered to individuals and institutions during the period.

23. National and institutional participating centres also received magnetic tapes and diskettes containing references to development information from PADIS and PADIS COMP bibliographic, referral and statistical data bases.

24. Online services are being developed for worldwide utilization through the PADIS computer networking project. (See para 18 above)

Legislative meetings

25. PADIS serviced the Information Science Committee of the Sixth Session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers held in Addis Ababa (JCPSD) in January 1990 and the Follow-up Meeting of the North Africa Committee of Officials held in Tripoli, 14-15 May 1990. Technical reports were prepared for and considered by these meetings.

26. The Twenty-fourth session of the ECA Conference of Ministers meeting in Addis Ababa in 1989 passed resolution 658 on strengthening development information systems in Africa. By this resolution, PADIS' name was changed (from Pan African Documentation and Information System) to the Pan African Development Information System. Subsequently, the Twenty-fifth Session of the Conference of Ministers meeting in Tripoli passed resolution 679 (XXV) calling for improving information flows in the African region. Texts of this resolution is contained in annex to document ECA/PADIS/RTC/2.

Expert meeting

27. PADIS organized an Expert Group Meeting on the Establishment of a Data Bank on Women and Development, held in Addis Ababa from 15-19 May 1989.

28. Technical as well as background papers and reports were prepared and presented to the meeting.

Studies

29. In order to keep abreast of developments in information development in the region, PADIS undertook a number of studies during the period. These included:

- a. Study of women and development information needs and resources in Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt and Senegal;
- b. Study on the utilization of microcomputers by documentation and information centres in Africa (January 1990);
- c. Study on development information utilization problems and user needs in Francophone countries of Africa (December 1990).

Further studies are planned on the evaluation of PADIS products and services.

Publications

30. During the period, PADIS published eight issues, in English and in French and Arabic, of its quarterly *Newsletter*. It improved its format, utilizing desktop publishing techniques, and its circulation. The *Manual for PADIS Participating Centres* was also published. Four current awareness bulletins of *DEVINDEX-Africa* were published (1989, nos. 2-3, and 1990, nos. 1 and 2). A diskette utilizing computer graphics to explain PADIS operations was produced and distributed to the PADIS network.