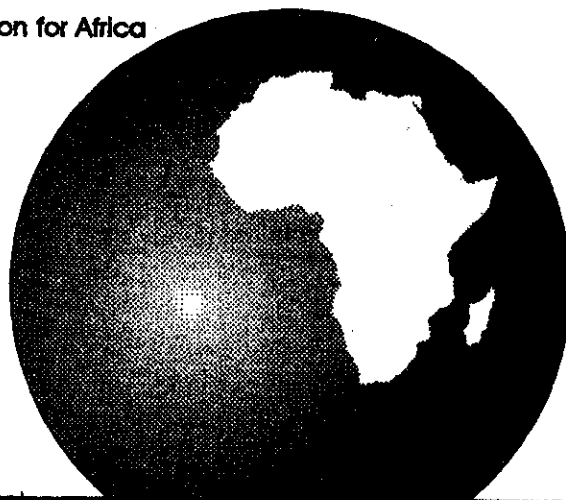




United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa



Multidisciplinary
Regional Advisory Group

**BACK-TO-OFFICE REPORT
ON
MISSION TO NEW DELHI, INDIA**

**PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCE ON
UNDERSTANDING CONTEMPORARY AFRICA:
INDIA AND SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION**

**By
S.K.B. ASANTE
SENIOR REGIONAL ADVISER
UNECA-MRAG**

ECA
330.2:330.4
B1265

c.2

**ADDIS ABABA
FEBRUARY 1996**

BACK TO OFFICE REPORT
ON
MISSION TO NEW DELHI, INDIA,
PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCE ON
UNDERSTANDING CONTEMPORARY AFRICA:
INDIA AND SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

By:

S.K.B. Asante,
Senior Regional Adviser
UNECA-MRAG

Addis Ababa
February 1996

**REPORT ON MISSION TO NEW DELHI, INDIA,
TO PARTICIPATE IN A CONFERENCE ON UNDERSTANDING
CONTEMPORARY AFRICA: INDIA AND SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION**

I. PURPOSE OF MISSION

1. The Executive Secretary of ECA was invited by the Director of India International Centre in New Delhi through the Embassy of India in Ethiopia to participate in a three-day International Conference on Understanding Contemporary Africa: India and South-South Cooperation from February 15 to 17, 1996. In view of the Executive Secretary's previous commitments, S.K.B. Asante, Senior Regional Adviser in Economic Cooperation and Integration, ECA-MRAG, was requested to represent the Commission.
2. The Conference was jointly organised by the India International Centre and the Department of African Studies, University of Delhi, in collaboration with the India Ministry of External Affairs. The purpose of the Conference was to promote South-South Cooperation with particular reference to enhancing cooperation between India and Africa and the extent to which they can share each other's experiences and embark on extensive cooperation initiatives. Specifically, the Conference aimed at underscoring India-Africa cooperation as an important element of mutual benefit for both the African region and the Indian subcontinent, and in particular for fostering the economic recovery and development of Africa.
3. Conference participants comprised such eminent personalities as H.E. Julius K. Nyerere, former President of Tanzania and Chairman of the South-Centre and Mr. Paul Barenger, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International and Regional Cooperation of Mauritius; senior Government officials, leading policy makers, researchers, academics and managers from Kenya, South Africa, Zambia, Nigeria, Ghana, Algeria, Libya, Senegal and representatives of

COMESA, SADC, ECA, OAU and UN Environmental Programme. It was also attended by African Heads of Mission accredited to India. The list of participants from Africa is herewith attached as appendix I, while that of those who contributed papers for the conference is enclosed as appendix II.

II. MISSION PREPARATION

4. Prior to the mission, the ECA delegate critically reviewed the report of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) held in Tokyo in October 1993 and the Tokyo Declaration on African Development titled "Towards the 21st Century"; the conclusions and recommendations of the Asia-Africa Forum held in Bandung, Indonesia, from 12-16 December 1994; and the report of the Regional Workshop for Eastern and Southern Africa on the Operationalization of the Tokyo Declaration held in Harare, Zimbabwe, from July 26-27, 1995. The delegate also reviewed the two major publications of the South Centre: (i) The Report of the South Commission titled The Challenge to the South; and (ii) Facing the Challenge, Responses to the Report of the South Commission. Other sources examined for the preparation of the mission were first, the report of the OAU/ECA/ADB seminar on the subject held at the ECA Headquarters in September 1993; and subsequently, the series of the South Centre monographs and newsletters such as the South Letter.

5. Besides, as requested by the organizers of the conference, the ECA delegate prepared and dispatched well in advance for circulation to conference participants a paper titled "Regional Economic Integration and Africa's Development: Between Standstill and Progress?"

III. SUMMARY OF THE OUTCOME OF THE CONFERENCE

6. The programme of the conference was divided into the following sessions:

- Inaugural session on February 15, 1996
- Thematic Workshops, February 16 and 17, 1996
- Preliminary Session, February 17, 1996
- Closing Valedictory Session, 17 February 1996
- Special Session with Indian Government dignitaries, business leaders and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), 17 February 1996
- Follow-up Action.

A. Inaugural Session

7. The delegates to the conference were welcomed by first, Dr. Karan Singh, President of the India International Centre, who chaired the session, and subsequently by Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Minister of External Affairs of India, who was the Chief Guest. The keynote address was delivered by H.E. Dr. Julius K. Nyerere, Chairman of the South Centre, who highlighted the relations between India and Africa over the years, traced the history of the non-alignment movement since 1955 and stressed the importance of promoting South-South Cooperation in order for the South to meet the socio-economic challenges of the twenty-first century.

8. Immediately after the inaugural session, the President of the India International Centre and the India Minister of External Affairs invited a few senior officials, including the ECA delegate, to a close meeting for briefing on the aims and objectives of our respective organizations, including their activities relating to South-South Cooperation.

B Thematic Workshops

9. A total of 64 papers were presented at the following three thematic workshops:

(i) Socio-Political Dimensions

10. The three sessions held on this theme were chaired respectively by Mr. Ahmed Haggag, Assistant Secretary General of the OAU, Dr. Dennis Venter, Executive Director of African Institute of South Africa and Prof. K.R. Singh, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Discussions focused attention on the analytical overview of different systems of governance in Africa, in comparison with Indian experience especially in the context of governing pluralistic societies in terms of ethnicity, religious beliefs, economic disparities, regionalism, social discrimination, gender discrimination, etc.; historical perspective on the role of the Asian Community in African development; and conflict prevention and resolution in Africa.

(ii) Economic Dimensions

11. The sessions held under this theme were chaired by the ECA delegate. This workshop critically examined the potential for mutually beneficial trade and economic linkages among African countries and between India and Africa; Indian experiences in Africa's economic development; regional initiatives for economic cooperation and development; regional groupings as a vehicle for South-South cooperation; opportunities for India to enhance trade and investment cooperation with African regional bodies; advantages of regional economic linkages as a means of increasing bargaining leverage with the North; relationship between environment, population growth and development; role of non-governmental organizations in enhancing South-South cooperation. Special attention was focused on the politics of structural adjustment programmes in Africa and the extent to which they have accentuated economic hardship and increased dependency on external aid; the impact of SAPs on African regionalism; and assessment of the African Alternative Framework for Socio-Economic Recovery and Transformation adopted by

the OAU Summit in 1989. Much was said on the shortcomings of South-South cooperation stressing, among other things, weak organization and lack of institutionalized technical support, both at the international level and within most countries; insufficient attention given to the need to improve information flows within the South in order to enlighten public opinion about conditions in the South.

(iii) Academic Dimensions

12. The workshop was chaired by Prof. E.H. Amonoo Neizor, Vice Chancellor of the University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana. The main discussions were centred on institutional linkages with particular reference to promotion of African Studies in India and Indian Studies in Africa; exchange of books and publications as vehicle for greater information exchanges; assessment of the value of Indian educational courses in development of human resources in Africa; utility of scholarship schemes and scope for increase in educational exchanges.

C. Plenary Session

13. The plenary session reviewed the reports of the thematic workshops and adopted the series of recommendations and conclusions summarized below:

14. On Socio-political Dimensions, the conference made recommendations, particularly on governance in Africa, stressing, among other things, that:

- (i) African countries should put into practice good governance including transparency, accountability, flexibility and pragmatism, which are important elements of a stable environment for development;

- (ii) efforts should be made to ensure that individuals are protected against arbitrary actions against their property, person, employment or savings, and that they have redress in cases of abuse;
- (iii) new pattern of governance should be anchored in the traditions and values of the African peoples.

15. Recommendations made on democracy and participation highlighted the need for African countries to:

- (i) encourage democratic participation in order to promote sustainable development;
- (ii) strengthen and support both the political culture and the institutional bases to sustain democracy; and
- (iii) develop effective channels of communication and information which are necessary for popular participation and to encourage greater communication between governments and businesses, communities, and interest groups as a means of developing a state/society partnership in support of sustainable development.

Economic Dimensions

16. Noting that a great deal of intellectual, political and organizational energy has been invested in South-South cooperation but so far not much has been achieved, the conference recommended that:

- (i) more pragmatic approaches should now be followed, through the process of economic cooperation, to overcome difficulties in building bridges within the South;
- (ii) improvement of communications within the South - in particular. India and Africa -, in order that buyers may become more familiar with the productive capacities and competitiveness of Southern suppliers;
- (iii) Africa, India and the rest of the Southern countries must close ranks in order to meet the challenges posed by the large existing, and the emerging world of trading blocs in the North and to deal with the efforts by powerful developed countries to strengthen their spheres of influence in the South;
- (iv) African countries should strengthen their strategy of regional economic cooperation and integration in order to attract foreign direct investment especially from India and other Asian countries;
- (v) areas of cooperation between Africa and India identified should include, but not limited to:
 - agriculture with special emphasis on informal sector, mechanization, irrigation, processing industries, value addition to basic commodities;
 - private sector development;
 - textile industries;
 - science and technology to the specific needs and conditions in the South, particularly for the purpose of expanding food output to keep pace with population growth.

17. On Academic Dimensions, the conference recommended the following:

- (i) the need for institutional linkages between Africa and India;
- (ii) promotion of African Studies in India and Indian Studies in Africa;
- (iii) cooperation in publishing and printing activities, especially in printing of university text books;
- (iv) organization of book fairs;
- (v) increase in scope for educational exchanges.

D. Closing Session

18. The valedictory address was delivered by His Excellency Mr. Paul Berenger, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, International and Regional Cooperation of Mauritius.

E. Special Session with Indian Government Dignatories, Business Executives and the Federation of India Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FCCI)

19. A special high level session was organized for the Conference delegates on 17 February 1996 to meet senior officials of the Government of India, including a few Ministers, leading business executives of India, academics and experts on Africa and Heads of the African Mission in India. It was chaired by the Senior Vice-President of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Mr. A.S. Kasliwal, who welcomed the delegation and made a wide ranging opening observations. The Secretary of Federation, Dr. Amit Mitra, addressed the meeting on the subject of "Economic Liberalization in India" underscoring India's persistent

efforts in putting into practical expression over the years the principles of self-reliance and self-sustainment.

20. The ECA delegate, who was chosen as leader of the African delegation, addressed the meeting on the following four themes:

- Africa's development problematic: the present and the future;
- ECA, its chief mandate and role in Africa's development over the years;
- ECA's interest in African-Asian cooperation as reflected in the Commission's participation in the two previous conferences on this subject: the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), October 1993; and the Asia-African Forum held in Bandung, Indonesia, in 1994; as well as ECA's substantive programmes on South-South cooperation;
- ECA's current renewal exercise for far better service to Africa to enable the continent to meet the challenges of the new world of the twenty-first century; the strategic directions, including the enhancement of South-South cooperation with special reference to collaboration with ESCAP and ECLAC in organising forums for business executives in Asia, Latin America and Africa.

F. Follow-up Action

21. The participants pledged to take, in their respective spheres of responsibility, measures aimed at advancing the spirit of the conclusions and recommendations through effective policies and actions. Towards this end, the India International Centre agreed to establish a small core expert group comprising representatives from the ECA, OAU, India International Centre, African Studies Department of Delhi University, India Ministry of External Affairs and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

22. The Group would be entrusted with the responsibility of:

- (i) Evaluating and reviewing progress made towards the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations;
- (ii) Articulating policy areas and programmes that could form the basis of in-depth and more specific exchanges between Africa, India and other Asian countries; and
- (iii) Identifying and articulating an operational programme of activities for India-Africa cooperation.

23. At the request of the India International Centre, the ECA delegate proposed the following modality for facilitation of collaborative activities between India and Africa, with ECA serving as facilitator:

- exchange of information and experiences through organization of a volunteer expert exchange programme between India and African countries on such sectors as education, health, agriculture, tourism, private sector development, etc.;
- secondment of Indian officials in both public and private sectors to selected agencies and institutions in Africa, and vice-versa;
- strengthening ties with chambers of commerce and industry between India and African countries;
- organization of India-Africa trade fairs;
- India and other Asian countries to support TCDC activities through financial trilateral arrangements.

Concluding Remarks

24. On the whole, the three-day international conference, which was very well organized and publicised throughout India, was quite successful. The proceedings recieved wide coverage in the press and media. It provided the much-needed opportunity for a lively debate on the challenges of the South at the dawn of the twenty-first century focusing special attention on the urgent need for formulating South-South strategy to meet the interlocking challenges of globalization. Above all, participation was at a high level, involving top Indian economists and developmentalists, business executives, politicians and academics.

25. The ECA actively contributed to the discussions of all the substantive sessions, particularly the thematic workshops, making references to ECA activities regarding for example, economic cooperation and integration, South-South cooperation, Africa's structural adjustment programmes and human resource development. At the request of the ECA delegate, the conference papers would be mailed to the ECA Secretariat, through the India Embassy in Ethiopia. This would no doubt serve as source material for research on South-South Cooperation.

Appendix I
List of African Participants

Mr. Julius Kandie
P.O. Box 39551
Nairobi, Kenya

Mrs. Sally Kosgei
P.O. Box 39551
Nairobi Kenya

Dr. George Obiozor
Director General
Nigerian Institute of
International Affairs
15 Kofo Abayomi Street
Victoria Island, Lagos
Nigeria
Tel: 614309

Dr. Hamdy Abdel Rahman Hassan
Department of Political Science
Faculty of Economics
Cairo University, Cairo
Egypt
Tel: 5728116

KI Doulaye Corentin
01 P.O. Box 1288
Ouagadougou 01
Burkina Faso
Tel: 226-317360

Duncan H. Mbazima
Zambia National
Broadcasting Corporation
P.O. Box 50015
Lusaka, Zambia
Tel: 260-1-254989

Ben Mohamed Mouloud
20 Rue de la Liberte
Algiers
Tel: 00-213-2-736954

Robert Okoth
Nation Newspapers
Nation Centre
P.O. Box 49010
Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: 221222/337710/225270

Gamal Nkrumah
Al-Ahram Weekly
Galaa Street,
Cairo, Egypt
Tel: 339-1074

Prof. Oliver Saasa
Institute for African Studies
University of Zambia
P.O. Box 30900
Lusaka, Zambia
Tel: 294291/294131

Dr. Greg Mills
Director of Studies
Soith African Institute of International
Affairs
Johannesburg, South Africa

Capt. K.A. Butah
Former Chief of Ports Authority
of Ghana and Consultant
Accra, Ghana

Ambassador Ahmed Haggag
Assistant Secretary-General, OAU
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
P.O. Box 2343
Tel: (2511) 51-11-64

Dr. Jakkie Cilliers
Executive Director
Africa Institute of South Africa
Pretoria, South Africa
Tel: (0027)(11) 3157096
Fax: 7099

Prof. E.H. Amonoo Neizer
Vice Chancellor
University of Science and Technology
Kumasi, Ghana

Prof. Atukwei Okai
Sr. Research Fellow
Institute of African Studies
University of Ghana, Legon

Dr. M.A. Muntasser
Director
International Energy Foundation
Tripoli, Libya

Hugo Sada
Radio France International (RFI)
Paris, France

J.J. Cornish
Diplomatic Editor
Pretoria News, Pretoria
South Africa

Dr. Denis Venter
Executive Director
Head of Academic Programmer
African Institute of South Africa
Pretoria, South Africa

Dr. Prega Ramasamy
COMESA Secretariat,
P.O. Box 30051
Lusaka, Zambia
Tel: 260-1-252740/260-1-221009

Prof. S.K.B. Asante
Senior Regional Advisor
United Nations Economic
Commission for Africa
P.O. Box 3001
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
tel: 251-1-51-66-67

Mandla M.Z. Madonsela
Southern African Development
Community
P.B. 0095,
Gaborone, Botswana
Tel: (267) 351863

Jean Marc Poche
Journalist
"Le Mauricien"
Port Louis Mauritius

Appendix II
List of those who contributed Papers for the Conference

- | | |
|--|--|
| PROF. E.H. AMONOO-NEIZER
Vice Chancellor
University of Science
and Technology
Kumasi, Ghana | PROF. NEERA CHANDOK
Delhi University |
| PROF. D.S. ARORA
Indian Institute of Foreign Trade
New Delhi | MR. H.S. CHHABRA
Editor, 'World Focus' |
| PROF. S.K.B. ASANTE
Senior Regional Adviser
United Nations Economic
Commission for Africa
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia | DR. J.K. CILERS
Executive Director
Institute for Defence Policy
South Africa |
| MR. ALIOUNE BLONDIN BEYE
United Nations Secretary General's
Representative in Angola | MRS. P.P. D'SOUZA
Former Ambassador and Editor
New Delhi, Digest, Pune |
| DR. T.P. BHAT
Advospr, International Affairs
ASSOCHAM | MR. K.L. DALAL
Former Ambassador of India |
| PROF. GEORGE BENNEH
Vice-Chancellor
Legon University, Ghana | MR. SUKUMAR DASS
UBSPD
New Delhi |
| PROF. B. BHATTACHARYYA
Dean, Indian Institute of Foreign
Trade, New Delhi | DR. S.S. DEORA
Delhi University |
| DR. (MRS.) APARAJITA
BISWAS
Bombay University | DR. R.K. KHAWAN
Federation of Indian Export
Organisations |
| | DR. AJAY DUBEY
Jawaharlal Nehru University
New Delhi |
| | HON. MR. HAGE GEINGOB
Prime Minister of Namibia |
| | PROF. ANIRUDDHA GUPTA
Jawaharlal Nehru University
New Delhi |

PROF. VIJAY GUPTA
Jawaharlal Nehru University
New Delhi

PROF. ALY ELDIN HELAL
Dean,
School of Economics and
Political Science
Cairo University

MR. AHMED HAGGAG
Assistant Secretary General
Organisation of African Unity

MR. JAGDISH HIREMATH
Former Ambassador and Special
Envoy of the Prime
Minister for Africa Fund

MR. OMAR KABBAJ
President
African Development Bank

DR. SALLY KOSGEI
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Government of Kenya

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR
Publisher

DR. SUBODH MALAKAR
Jamia Millia Islamia
New Delhi

MR. M. MADONSELA
Southern African
Development community

PROF. K. MATHEWS
Department of African Studies
Delhi University

PROF. SIMON MBILINYI
Minister of Finance
Government of Tanzania

DR. S.C. MEHTA
Department of African Studies
Delhi University

DR. GREG MILLS
Director of Studies
South African Institute
of International Affairs

DR. M.A. MUNTASSER
President, International Energy
Foundation
Tripoli

MS. C.B. MUTHAMMA
Former Ambassador

PROF. H.C. NARANG
Jawaharlal Nehru University
New Delhi

DR. GEORGE A. OBIOZOR
Director General
Nigerian Institute of International
Affairs

PROF. ATUKWEI OKAI
Secretary General
Pan African Writers Association

PROF. ABDEL MALIK OUDA
Former Dean, School of Economics
and Political Science
Cairo University

MR. DEEPAK PAHWA
Chairman
International Trade and
Investment Committee for
Indian Ocean Rim Countries,
PHD Chamber of Commerce
and Industry

PROF. KAMALAKANT PANDA
Director
Parliamentary Research Foundation
New Delhi

MR. ROHIT PANDIT
Assistant Secretary
PHD Chamber of
Commerce and Industry
New Delhi

PROF. SHRI PRAKASH
Jamia Millia Islamia
New Delhi

PROF. R.R. RAMCHANDANI
Formerly of Bombay University
Bombay

MR. P. RAMSAMY
Actomg Dorectpr (DF & TC)
Common Market for Eastern
and Southern Africa

DR. VANITA RAY
Academy of Third World Studies
Jamia Millia Islamia
New Delhi

DR. P.L. SANJEEV REDDY
Director General
Indian Institute of Foreign Trade
New Delhi

PROF. OLIVER S. SAASA
Director
Institute of African Studies
University of Zambia

PROF. M.S. SACHDEVA
Indian Institute of Foreign Trade
New Delhi

PROF. A.B. SAVANT
Bombay University

DR.S.C. SAXENA
Department of African Studies
Delhi University

PROF. A.K. SENGUPTA
Dean
Indian Institute of Foreign Trade
New Delhi

PROF. A.S. SHAHID
Zakir Hussain College
New Delhi

DR. JAGDISH P. SHARMA
department of History
Shyamlal College
New Delhi

DR. VEEBA SGARNA
In-charge
Swahili Service
All India Radio

DR. V.S. SHETH
Bombay University

ECA/MRAG/96/29/MR

Annex II

Page 4

PROF. HARJINDER SINGH

Delhi University

PROF. DALEEP SINGH

Formerly of Delhi University

DR. ABHAY SHRIVASTAVA

Acade,y of Third World Studies

Jamia Millia Islamia

DR. R.R. SUBRAMANIAN

Institute of Defence Studies

and Analysis

New Delhi

DR. MOSTAFA KAMAL TOLBA

Former Director General

United Nations

Environmental Programme

PROF. K.K. VIRMANI

Delhi University

DR. DENIS VENTER

Executive Director

Africa Institute of South Africa

MR. R.K. WADHWA

Indian Institute of Foreign Trade

New Delhi

PROF. FRANCIS WILSON

Visiting Professor

Department of African Studies

Jawaharlal Nehru University

New Delhi