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REGIONAL CENTRE FOR TRAINING IN AEROSPACE SURVEYS (RECTAS)

BRIEF REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 2003-2005 TO CODI-IV



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This report gives a summary of RECTAS' activities between CODI-III (2003) and CODI-IV (2005).

1. Education and Training

1.1 Diploma Courses

In line with one of the mandates of the Centre, diploma programmes in Geoinformation Production and Management are run at three levels: Technician (18 months), Technologist (18 months) and Postgraduate (12 months). All the courses are run in English and French. See <http://www.rectas.org> or <http://www.uneca.org/rectas> for details.

The following table gives the number of candidates trained at the three levels *with sponsorship from the Centre's regular budget* within the period of this report. The Technician and Technologist trainees are admitted in odd-numbered years, graduating in even-numbered years.

Graduated Students during the period 2003-2005

Courses	ANGLO		FRANCO	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
Technician	-	4	-	5
Technologist	-	12	-	25
Post Graduate	12	9	9	10
TOTAL	12	25	9	40
	37		49	

Current (2005) registered candidates

COURSE	ANGLO	FRANCO
Technician	4	8
Technologist	5	10
Post Graduate	8	7
TOTAL	17	25

1.2 Joint MSc Courses

(i) Joint RECTAS – ITC MSc in Geoinformatics

The ITC-RECTAS joint education programme is one of the active nodes of the International Capacity Building Network on Geo-information Science and Earth Observation code-named 'GI-NET' involving some 43 partner-tertiary institutions and initiated/piloted by ITC. The ITC-RECTAS node of the GI-NET focuses on education and training in geoinformatics at the MSc and Postgraduate Diploma levels including refresher courses of duration of one to four weeks. Under this partnership, the joint MSc programme commenced in September 2004, two refresher courses each of two weeks duration had been run to date and some academic staff members of RECTAS have undergone (or still undergoing) postgraduate and short courses at ITC. The joint ITC-RECTAS education programme consists of the following levels:

- (a) Master of Science course with a duration of 18 months (8 months at RECTAS and 10 months at ITC with RECTAS gradually taking over more modules until the entire programme will be run at RECTAS as

- from 2008), the degree will be awarded by ITC accompanied by a joint logo (ITC and RECTAS) course record;
- (b) Post-Graduate diploma course with duration of 12 months to be awarded by RECTAS accompanied by a joint logo course record. Although RECTAS has been running its own independent PGD for the past 20 years, the PGD is now part of the joint programmes from September 2004 because 9 of the modules of the RECTAS PGD are now ITC MSc modules; and
- (c) Short term refresher courses taking advantage of the modular design of RECTAS and ITC courses.

The following table gives the planned payable course fee for the joint MSc course*. In the first four years (2004 – 2007) of the partnership, funding has been provided for the best five candidates that meet all the admission criteria to participate in the course. The five positions are however reserved for the candidates of RECTAS' member states who will be selected from among the PG diploma students of RECTAS. Private and other students have to source for their own funding.

Period	Tuition Fee (Euro)	Additional (Costs) (Euro)	Allowance and Accommodation (Euro)	Total Cost (Euro)
Phase 1 (2004 & 2005) 8 months in RECTAS, 10 months in ITC	8,275	5,400	9,925	23,600
Phase 2 (2006 & 2007) M. Sc. Defence in ITC	7,650	4,300	7,925	19,875
Phase 2 (2006 & 2007) M. Sc. Defence in RECTAS	7,300	4,125	6,350	17,775

* ITC and RECTAS reserve the right to vary these fees depending on unforeseen external factors.

Under this arrangement, the best 5 students in the first 10 modules (8 months) of the current RECTAS PGD have been selected and they will proceed to ITC in May for the remaining 10 months as the first beneficiaries of the programme. The 5 successful trainees comprise of 3 anglophones (one from Nigeria, two from Ghana) and 2 francophones (one from Burkina Faso, the second from Benin). The two francophone candidates are currently going through further lessons in English at RECTAS to enhance their performance at ITC.

(ii) RECTAS – Obafemi Awolowo University collaborative programme on MSc in Remote Sensing/GIS

RECTAS also collaborates with the Geography Department of the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria to run Professional Masters (12 months) and MSc. (18 months) programmes in Remote sensing/GIS. The programme took off in 2003 with the first set of 12 students. The second set of 14 students commenced their own programme in 2004.

1.3 Short term Courses

Short term and customised courses ranging between 3 weeks and 16 weeks were also organised at different times for a total of 50 serving officers from various Government agencies (including a serving Deputy Governor). The courses are on different aspects of Geoinformatics as well as GIS applications. The organisations include the Presidency, States' Departments of Lands and Surveys, National Centre for Remote Sensing, Universities, Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority, Lake Chad Basin Commission, Geological Survey of Nigeria, National Space Research and Development Agency and African Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education – English

2. Consultancy and Advisory Services

Some of the consultancy and advisory services undertaken (or on-going) are:

- Consultant for the out-sourced conversion of the national 1:50,000 topographic maps to digital by Federal Surveys of Nigeria.
- Installation of GIS equipment and on-the-job training for Ondo State's Survey department.
- Digital Mapping of Ondo State, Nigeria on Scale 1/25,000 and Six Local Government Areas on Scale 1/5000.

- Mapping of Federal University of Technology Campus, Akure, Ondo State, Nigeria.
- Non-metric digital aerial photography and production of space image of Osun Oshogbo Groove and Oshogbo Township for Osun State Government of Nigeria.
- Consultancy (and active participant) on the implementation of the national geospatial data infrastructure (NGDI) in Nigeria.
- Production of digital 1:25000 scale base maps of parts of Ebonyi State of Nigeria for Eboyni State Government of Nigeria.
- Soil Degradation Assessment for the Kano River Irrigation Project.
- Validation of NigeriaSat-1 images for Land Cover/Land Use mapping, preparation of administrative maps, urban growth monitoring and fire scar mapping/monitoring for NASRDA
- Instrument maintenance for IGB.

3. Regional and International Activities

- Regional membership of ISPRS (Chair of ISPRS WG VII/7 and Regional Coordinator of ISPRS WG VI/3)
- Regional member of ICA and member of WG on MAFA
- Regional member of GSDI
- Regional member of AARSE and Secretariat of AARSE (from October 2004)
- Regional member of EIS-Africa
- Member of CODI-Geo EWG and Chair of WG on Capacity Building
- Regional adviser to UNESCO on the Application of Remote Sensing for the integrated management of water resources and ecosystem.
- Member of the Steering Committee on AFREF
- Collaboration with ECA on regional workshops on African Water Information Clearinghouse in Cameroon and Ghana

4. Some Upcoming/Planned Activities and Collaboration Programmes

- 5-day workshop on SDI for 17 West and Central African countries in October under the Technical Cooperation Fund of the Ministry of Cooperation and Integration in Africa, Nigeria.
- Short-term on-site course on SDI for IGB staff by ITC and RECTAS in the second or third quarter of 2005.
- Joint Postgraduate Diploma programme in Remote Sensing and GIS for Natural Resources Management with AGRHYMET Regional Centre, Niamey.

5. Funding and Future of the Centre

The ECA-sponsored regional centres are even more relevant now, taking into consideration the rapid advances in space and information technologies vis-à-vis the need for a critical mass of human and institutional capacities required to utilise the aforementioned technologies for the production, management, dissemination and use of development information (with geo-information as the bedrock) for sustainable development in Africa. However, to meet these challenges, the Centres need to be adequately funded. In the case of RECTAS, the 2003-2005 biennial budget provides that the Centre must generate 28% of the budget while the member states are to pay 72% as their assessed financial obligation. Management and staff of the Centre have been putting in a lot of effort to meet the target of 28%. The Centre is very grateful to the financially up to date member states (e.g. Senegal and Benin – fully paid up to 2004) and strongly appeals to others to fulfil their financial obligations. The continued support of the host country, Nigeria for the Centre's capital development (apart from the statutory assessed contribution paid up to 2003) is very much appreciated and goes to confirm the readiness of the country to continue to host the Centre. With adequate financial support, the Centre can and will surpass her present level of performance.

Dr Olajide Kufoniyi
Executive Director