

Editorial

We welcome readers to Volume 3 of the journal and thank all those readers who sent us comments on Volume 2. In this volume of the journal, there are interesting articles and other materials of importance to the African statistical community. The articles range from institutional cooperation in statistical development to improving data collection using the Core Welfare Indicators Questionnaire (CWIQ) technology; using small-area estimation techniques and Geographical Information System (GIS) technology; validation solutions and correcting survey data for non-response; assessment of the 2000 censuses and use of statistical information to monitor and measure progress towards national and international development goals. These articles have been written by experts with different backgrounds – statisticians, demographers, development analysts and IT experts. This is what makes this a knowledge rich journal. We would like to thank the authors for choosing to publish their articles in the journal and the referees for their assistance.

In the second and third quarters of the year, a number of things took place that will, in a profound manner, influence the course of statistical development in Africa. The Board of Directors of the African Development Bank (ADB) upgraded the Statistics Division into a full Department of Statistics. At the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), a decision was made to create an African Centre for Statistics. As part of the restructuring process in the mid-1990s, the Statistics Division at ECA had been scrapped. Among other things, these laudable actions have not only raised the profile of statistics in the respective organizations but have also provided the right institutional framework for assisting African countries with statistical development. We would like to commend the leaderships of the two regional institutions for these actions.

Also during the period covered by the two quarters, the AfDB conducted four sub-regional workshops for countries in the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), English speaking countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), countries in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and member states of the Observatoire Economique et Statistique d'Afrique Subsaharienne (Afristat). The purpose of the workshops was three-fold i.e. to officially launch the AfDB assistance to regional member countries to design or update their National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS), empower key actors in national statistical systems with knowledge about the NSDS processes and how to go about them, and to facilitate sharing of experience among countries. These workshops placed special emphasis on integrating sectoral issues and concerns in the design of the NSDS. Following the COMESA and ECOWAS workshops, an e-Discussion platform was established to exchange and share knowledge, experience and information on sectoral statistics.

Finally in September 2006, the statistical community and development partners in statistical development in Eastern Africa converged on Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, to celebrate 40 years of service to the region by the Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre (EASCT).

Over these years, the Centre has trained many professionals some of whom have risen to head their national statistical offices and others are now in key positions in international organizations. We would like to congratulate the Centre on this exemplary service to the sub-region and the African region in general.

Dr. Charles Leyeka Lufumpa
Co-Chair

Prof. Ben Kiregyera
Co-Chair