

# Editorial

The current volume of the Journal covers mainly topics on the International Comparison Program for Africa (ICP-Africa). It includes a key methodological paper on the aggregation of purchasing power parities and related comparative indicators as well as papers on ICP data collection and related quality issues, data analysis and modeling. There is also a paper on monitoring and reporting on development progress especially on poverty reduction strategies and towards achieving the MDGs. Another paper focuses on the use of geographical information systems in national statistical systems in Africa. We would like to thank all the authors and reviewers for their hard work and significant contribution to the realization of this edition of the Journal.

A development in the African Development Bank's (AfDB's) Statistical Capacity Building program is that the 2005 Round of the ICP will be coming to a close next December although countries are encouraged to continue ICP activities at the country level. By all standards, the program can be described as having been successful. Besides the ICP activities, it made a major contribution to statistical planning and capacity building by supporting the design of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) in a number of African countries and to the development of economic statistics, in particular, price statistics and GDP estimation. Besides coordination of activities in the region, AfDB provided the bulk of the resources needed to implement the program. We wish to thank AfDB for its support to the implementation of the ICP-Africa program in particular and to statistical development in general.

The new African Center for Statistics at the UN Economic Commission for Africa is starting a quarterly African Statistical Newsletter to complement the efforts of the journal in sharing information on methodological issues and best practices in statistical development in Africa. We would like to congratulate the Centre and ECA for taking this initiative.

We would also like to recognize the recent establishment of the African Statistical Coordination Committee whose members include: The African Union Commission, the African Capacity Building Foundation, the African Development Bank and the UN Economic Commission for Africa. This Committee is expected to harmonize and catalyze statistical develop-

ment in Africa in close collaboration with partners and in the framework of the Reference Regional Strategic Framework for Statistical Development in Africa (RRSF) whose objective is to support African countries in their efforts to meet the data challenges for MDGs and the results agenda. The Editorial Board wishes to extend its congratulations to the four regional institutions. We expect that this spirit of coordination will resonate throughout all statistical capacity building initiatives in Africa.

Dr. Charles Leyeka Lufumpa  
Co-Chair, Editorial Board  
Director, Statistics Department  
African Development Bank Group  
Tunis, Tunisia  
Email: c.lufumpa@afdb.org

Professor Ben Kiregyera  
Co-Chair, Editorial Board  
Director, African Center for Statistics  
Economic Commission for Africa  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Email: bkiregyera@uneca.org