Why does it sometimes take up to 21 months from the time of approval of an AfDB project to the start of actual implementation on the ground? Why are some AfDB projects and programmes not completed on time and within budget? There may be many answers, but capacity development is at the core of some of these reasons. This background informs the training activities under this theme which target RMCs and assist them in understanding the procedures, rules and regulations of the Bank Group. Beneficiaries of AfDB funds are guided in their activities to ensure the successful implementation of programmes and projects.

**Target Audience:** Project Implementation Unit (PIU) officials, project disbursement and financial management experts, project procurement experts, project managers, country disbursement and financial management supervisors, country procurement supervisors and any other interested persons involved in procurement, disbursement and financial management business at Ministries' levels.

**Qualifications:** Staff of Project Implementation Units and Officials in Ministries and parastatals who are directly involved in implementing AfDB-assisted projects, or carry our oversight and/or supervisory responsibilities on the projects.

**Course Description:** The Fiduciary Clinic workshops are in two categories as described below:

**Fiduciary Clinics Diagnostic Workshop (Stage One)**
- Discussion of issues related to the use of the AfDB’s procurement, financial management and disbursement policies, rules, procedures and practices;
- Discussion on the use of national regulatory and institutional systems and procedures;
- Examination of new developments and challenges faced in applying national procedures in the implementation of AfDB-financed projects; and
- Prioritization and proposal of a yearly tailor-made fiduciary clinic training programme.

**Fiduciary Clinic Workshop Implementation (FC Stage Two)**
- Presentation on Bank's key requirements and new development on policies and procedures;
- Presentation on specific rules and procedures regarding identified specific disbursement and financial management issues;
- Sharing experience on similar issues already faced by other projects;
- Concrete case studies and practical exercises on procedures and processes linked to identified training needs.
- Follow-up on implementation of procurement and disbursement plans and implementation of previous supervision missions' recommendations.
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<th>Region</th>
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<td>Tunisia</td>
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<td>Mali</td>
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<td>Benin</td>
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<td>Niger</td>
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<td>Democratic Republic of Congo</td>
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<td>Djibouti</td>
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<td>Morocco</td>
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<td>Kenya</td>
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<td>Ethiopia</td>
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<td>Gambia</td>
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<td>Ghana</td>
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<td>Nigeria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mozambique</td>
<td>4 - 6 November</td>
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**Target Audience:**
Project Implementation Unit officials; supervisory Ministries’ officials, Projects Task Managers in the ADB Field Offices and Headquarters. Participating Ministries’ officials will be of a senior level, not below the position of a Deputy Director or equivalent. The projects to be examined at the workshop are those which are in the categories of problematic or potentially problematic. The number of projects selected for investigation will not exceed six. The final list will eventually be jointly determined by EADI, Country Offices and Project Task Managers.

**Qualifications:** Staff of Project Implementation Units and Officials in Ministries and parastatals who are directly involved in implementing AfDB-assisted projects, or carry our oversight and/or supervisory responsibilities on the projects activities to address constraints facing their projects and plan the way forward for immediate results.

**Course Description:**
The four workshops will provide a platform for examining strategies to improve performances of problematic and potentially problematic projects. It will provide opportunities for all stakeholders in the project to meet and agree on time bound activities to address constraints facing their projects and plan the way forward for immediate results. The methodology is designed by the Institute to address the challenges of problems of nonperforming projects. It rallies stakeholders around agreed goals and priorities, short-term measurable targets, and a framework for tracking implementation progress. The methodology promotes large-scale change efforts through a series of results-producing and timely initiatives. Also it ensures that activities are linked to end results; and reduce hidden risks inherent in long-term strategies. By the close of the workshop, PIU officials and other stakeholders are expected to have undertaken an in-depth analysis of the problems of their projects, deliberated and agreed on short-term momentum building actions which will be monitored and eventually rolled over into the next phase of activities.

**PROJECT PERFORMANCE ENHANCEMENT TOOLS (PPET)**

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<td>English</td>
<td>Tanzania</td>
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<td>French</td>
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<td>Cameroon</td>
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Target audience:
This workshop services is aimed at professional level staff who are directly involved in the preparation and monitoring of CSPs. These include: Country Program Officers, Country Economists, Sector specialists, Evaluation Specialists, Policy Economists, Institutional Economists and Private Sector Specialists.

Course description:
The Country Strategy Paper (CSP) is the Bank’s principal programming instrument. It defines the focus and scope of the multi-year development program the Bank commits to support in each Regional Member Country (RMC) in line with its strategic priorities. The development of CSPs builds on country ownership and partnerships to define robust and focused country programs that deliver shared outcomes. Strategic analysis of the RMC context spans different dimensions.

Adequate capacity and better understanding on the part of Bank staff of the processes and issues involved in the RB-CSP preparation process is one of the key ingredients to produce high quality RB-CSPs. It is in this context that EADI wishes to conduct a Training program for Bank staff on the subject, especially in view of the major staffing changes that have taken place in the Bank during the last eight years.

Course Objectives:
The training will provide practical guidance to staff in formulating a CSP that will implement the objectives of the major changes in Bank orientations. It is a knowledge tool that will complement the recently revised CSP format and the soon-to-be issued Country Strategy Toolkit. Staff will have a better sense of the rationale of strategy and a deeper understanding of the linkages between the Bank's objectives and the types of operations it commonly undertakes. The training will also sharpen participants’ awareness of the Bank’s approach to planning its development engagements with the Regional Member Countries (RMCs).

It is expected that at the end of the workshop, staff participants will be better equipped to lead discussions with the Bank clients in the preparation of the Country Strategies.

| TRAINING ON CSP | Language: French |
| Venue: Côte d’ivoire | Date: 6-8 May |
| TRAINING ON CSP | Language: English |
| Venue: Kenya | Date: September |
While the public sector has delivered reasonably well in providing public goods in many Africa countries, the role of the private sector cannot be underestimated. But, what is appealing is that both the private and public sectors can synergize to deliver in specific areas where they both deliver more valuable outcomes than each sector in isolation. However, when African countries are faced with opportunities for PPP, the challenge is to get access to the right capabilities to translate plans into action. Under this theme, training will focus on PPP techniques and processes required for expert management in key infrastructure projects, including railways, roads, energy, telecommunications, water and sanitation.

The workshops on Bank Financial Products for RMCs will provide a platform for understanding the Bank Group’s different windows of financing for low income regional member countries, countries classified as blend as well as gap and graduating countries. There are various concessional loans, grants for projects and programs, partial and credit risk guarantees and support through technical assistance for studies and capacity building.

They also give an in-depth insight into the developments around the ADF-13 replenishment regarding how the ADF was operating under differentiated lending terms for ADF-eligible countries with loans extended to blend, gap and graduating countries for a different maturity periods. They also show what was done to stimulate additional private sector investments in low income countries, the ADF Partial Risk Guarantee (ADF PRG) instrument was introduced as part of ADF-12 to leverage resources from the private sector and other co-financiers for ADF countries, including fragile states. The ADF-PRG protects private lenders against well-defined political risks related to the failure of a government or a government-related entity to honor certain specified commitments and incentivize governments to undertake policy and fiscal reforms necessary to mitigate performance-related risks.

Guarantee (PCG) has been added to the suite of ADF instruments. The ADF PCG is an instrument designed to address the challenges faced by well performing ADF only countries and State Owned Enterprises (SOEs), in their quest to mobilize both domestic and external commercial financing for developmental purposes. The product will serve to partially guarantee debt service obligations of low income countries (LICs) and well performing SOEs in LICs. The ADF PCG is available only to; (1) ADF countries with low risk of debt distress (green light countries) and adequate debt management capacity; and (2) SOEs in ADF countries with low risk and moderate risk of debt distress (green and yellow light countries, respectively), subject to meeting certain defined eligibility criteria. Similar to the ADF PRG, the ADF PCG will enable well performing LICs and SOEs to catalyze larger volumes of development financing at more attractive terms.

Bank Financial products for RMCs

Language: French

Venue: Morocco
Date: 22 – 23 April
Course Description: Building on previous capacity development activities, the Institute will partner with the Bank’s Private Sector Operations in sponsoring and managing a Regional Africa PPP conference in French. The event will feature several international and regional players, government officials, the private sector and staff of the African Development Bank. As Coordinator of the Bank’s capacity building initiatives, the Institute will lead a pre-conference training that will help workshop participants better appreciate PPP project management essentials. This, and other sessions will highlight areas such as:

- Project selection for PPPs; the engagement of advisors; pre-feasibility and feasibility analysis; risk analysis; project administration/knowledge management and leadership
- Negotiation preparation, skills development, optimizing relationships with financiers and methods for win-win solutions

- Overview of the procurement process; transparent bid processes and developing best practices check lists
- Monitoring based on content vs. prevailing legislative and regulatory institutions; maintaining essential project data; and reporting requirements

REGIONAL AFRICA PPP CONFERENCE FOR REGIONAL MEMBER COUNTRIES

Language: English
Venue: Date:
South Africa 1-3 December
The Institute continues to offer appropriate training in macroeconomic policy modelling and forecasting with a view to equipping AfDB staff and policy analysts in the RMCs with the tools and skills for undertaking rigorous analysis of the critical economic challenges in Africa. Simulation and forecasting techniques enable the analyst to explore several policy options by looking at alternative policy scenarios and their likely impact on addressing an economic challenge, such as the recent resurge in double digit inflation and currency depreciation in some African countries.

Moreover, these workshops recognize that there are different modelling approaches, such that the policy analyst has to choose the appropriate modelling approach depending on the economic problem at hand. It is hoped that these workshops will help build networks for macroeconomic policy modelling and forecasting in Africa, involving AfDB staff, Central banks, Ministry of Finance officials, universities and the private sector. Some of the workshops in this theme will be implemented in collaboration with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) under the Joint Partnership for Africa agreement (JPA).

**Target Audience:** Country Data correspondents and officials, whose main responsibility is dissemination of national statistics.

**Qualifications:** Participants should have a degree in IT, economics, statistics, or the equivalent experience.

**Course Description:**

This one-week course, presented jointly by the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the IMF’s Statistics Department, introduces participants to the “Open-Data (ODP) for Africa” platform developed and provided by the AfDB. The course helps participants understand data management and dissemination through the ODP, by setting up datasets and creating rich content, such as charts, dashboards, and other visualizations. Participants learn how to use the ODP for the public dissemination of official data in accordance with their own dissemination policies. Instructors will provide guidance on identifying datasets to maintain as “private” datasets and those to disseminate to the general public. The course also provides hands-on experience using the ODP for data submission to the Fund, and for facilitating data sharing with other agencies in the country. The course is organized as a series of interactive case studies.

**INTERNATIONAL DATA STANDARDS IN COUNTRY OPEN-DATA PLATFORMS (IDS) (JPA)**

*Language:* English

**Venue:** South Africa

**Dates:** 23 – 27 February

**INTERNATIONAL DATA STANDARDS IN COUNTRY OPEN-DATA PLATFORMS (IDS) (JPA)**

*Language:* French

**Venue:** Senegal

**Dates:** 23 – 27 March
ENHANCING EFFECTIVENESS OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE IN POST-CONFLICT AND FRAGILE STATES

Target Audience: RMC officials from Ministries of Finance, Planning and Justice as well as African parliamentarians.

Qualifications: Bachelor's Degree

Course Description:
The course will facilitate learning and guided reflection on these critical issues. It will bring together mid-career, senior professionals and Bank staff for one week training in English. The participants will engage in a participatory learning experience that combines lectures with small group discussions and exercises. The course will cover the following sessions: (i) The Challenges of Fragility and the African Development Bank Engagement in Fragile States; (ii) Designing and Implementing Bank Projects in Fragile States; (iii) Conflict Analysis; (iv) Political Economy Overview; (v) Key Messages from the African Development Bank’s Engagement Strategy; (vi) Transforming Institutions: Moving towards institutional resilience; (vii) Legitimacy and its Discontents; and (viii) Governmental Capacity Building and Public Administration Reform.

Language: English
Venue: Senegal
Dates: 20 – 23 April

PUBLIC FINANCIAL GOVERNANCE & THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS

Target Audience: RMC officials from Ministries of Finance, Planning and Justice as well as African parliamentarians.

Qualifications: Bachelor’s Degree

Course Description:
Good Governance, accountability and transparency are recognized elements of the effort at promoting sound public financial management. Parliaments have a primary role to play in promoting good economic and financial governance through effective oversight of public budget and expenditure management. The African Development Bank (AfDB) recognizes this significant role of parliaments as an integrity institution whose oversight function can be leveraged for promoting good economic governance in Regional Member Countries (RMCs) and has, therefore, committed to supporting parliamentary work in this area.

Language: French
Venue: Malawi
Dates: 28 April – 2 May

It is in the AfDB's interest to do so to ensure that resources are effectively applied to reduce poverty and to promote proper accountability in the management of Bank-financed projects and programs in its RMCs. The course will discuss public financial management which is a critical component of economic governance. The strengthening of good governance is now universally recognized as of critical importance for development. Aid effectiveness depends largely on building institutional and administrative capacity in general and public financial management in particular. The role of parliamentarians in promoting good governance needs to be closely examined with its legislative and oversight functions over financial accountability and fiscal responsibility.
ADVANCED COURSE ON MONETARY AND FINANCIAL STATISTICS

Target Audience: Central Bank officials responsible for the compilation of monetary statistics.

Qualifications: Participants should have a degree in economics, statistics, or equivalent experience. Participation in a previous MFS course is advantageous.

Course Description: This two-week course, presented by the IMF’s Statistics Department, is designed to assist officials in the compilation of monetary and financial statistics, in accordance with international best practices, with a focus on other financial corporations (OFCs). The course material is based on the Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual and the Monetary and Financial Statistics: Compilation Guide and briefly summarizes the principles of economic sectorization, the characteristics and classification of financial instruments, valuation, and other accounting issues that are relevant to the compilation of analytical accounts for the entire financial sector. The course also covers some aspects of financial statistics, which comprise the financial flows and stocks of all sectors of the domestic economy and their interactions with the rest of the world, the balance sheet approach for vulnerability analysis, and the interrelationships between monetary, balance of payments, government finance, and national accounts statistics.

The course consists of lectures and case studies that familiarize participants with practical aspects of monetary statistics compilation for OFCs. Participants are expected to make a short presentation on monetary and financial statistics compilation issues and use of monetary data in their countries.

SAFEGUARDS ASSESSMENTS OF CENTRAL BANKS (SAC)

Target Audience: Senior central bank staff responsible for accounting, financial reporting, auditing, risk management, internal control, statistics, legal, or reserve management operations, or serving on a board or committee covering the oversight of audit, investment, or financial reporting activities.

Qualifications: Participants should have a university or post-graduate degree in one of the following disciplines: accounting, business, economics, finance, or law or have earned professional certifications in auditing (chartered or certified public accountants, internal auditors, or information systems auditors) or finance (certified financial analysts).

Course Description: This one-week course, presented by the IMF’s Finance Department, is designed to provide central bank officials with an interactive exposure to the IMF’s safeguards assessment methodology. In particular, the course highlights the importance of central bank governance, transparency, and accountability in improving financial safeguards. This course also provides a forum for central bank staff to exchange views on their experiences in strengthening safeguards frameworks, including emerging challenges and issues. The course provides interactive lectures and discussions, workshops, and case studies addressing key assessment areas, including the external and internal audit mechanisms, financial reporting framework, system of internal controls, management of international reserves, and reporting of monetary data to the Fund. The objective is to provide participants with the knowledge and skills required to assess the strengths and vulnerabilities of the financial safeguards in their central banks and to identify specific steps that can be taken to strengthen these safeguards. It also covers the methodology and procedures used to monitor the safeguards framework at central banks.
**Target Audience**: Officials at central banks and supervisory agencies for the financial sector who are involved in the collection, compilation, and analysis of financial soundness indicators.

**Qualifications**: Participants should have a degree in economics, statistics, or equivalent experience.

**Course Description**: This one-week course, presented by the IMF’s Statistics Department, covers concepts and definitions, data sources, and techniques for the compilation of Financial Soundness Indicators (FSIs) that serve to support macro-prudential analysis. It covers the fundamental aspects of the methodology for the construction of FSIs (such as coverage, aggregation, consolidation, valuation) as contained in the Financial Soundness Indicators Compilation Guide, including its 2007 amendments. The course introduces the FSI Template for use in the regular reporting of FSI data and metadata to the IMF and provides guidance in accessing and using the IMF’s database for FSI data and metadata. It also provides information on the use of FSIs in financial sector surveillance. The topics are covered through lectures and workshops (hands-on exercises on the compilation of FSIs).

**Target Audience**: Officials, primarily in ministries of finance, economy, and planning, or in central banks, who provide advice on macroeconomic and financial policies, or who are involved in policy implementation.

**Qualifications**: Participants are expected to have a degree in economics or equivalent experience, along with proficiency in the use of spreadsheets.

**Course Description**: The Financial Programming and Policies (FPP) course, presented by the IMF’s Institute for Capacity Development, aims at extending participants’ understanding of the design and implementation of macroeconomic and financial policies, drawing on the IMF’s experience in economic surveillance, the design of financial programs, and the provision of technical advice to member countries.

**FINANCIAL SOUNDNESS INDICATORS (FSI)**

- **Language**: English
- **Venue**: South Africa
- **Dates**: 7–11 September

**FINANCIAL PROGRAMMING & POLICIES**

- **Language**: French
- **Venue**: Senegal
- **Dates**: 7–18 September
MACROECONOMIC DIAGNOSTICS (MDS)

Target Audience: Mid to senior-level officials in central banks and ministries of finance or economy directly involved in diagnosing the state of the macroeconomy and making projections.

Qualifications: Participants should have an advanced degree in economics or equivalent experience, good quantitative skills, and proficiency in the use of computers to analyze data.

Course Description: This two-week course, presented by the IMF’s Institute for Capacity Development, is offered at IMF Headquarters and at the Institute’s regional training centres. This course aims to strengthen participants’ ability to assess a country’s macroeconomic situation, emphasizing practical tools for use in day-to-day macroeconomic analysis of developments in complex economies. The course draws heavily on actual country experiences, emphasizing diagnostic and analytic tools that typically are not well covered in macroeconomics textbooks or in university courses. The lectures and corresponding workshops cover three broad types of assessments:

1. **The current state of the macroeconomy**, including developments in aggregate productivity and demand, inflation, labor markets, asset markets, and the external sector;
2. **Fiscal and monetary policies from a positive (rather than normative) perspective**. Are these polices expansionary or contractionary? What impacts do these policies have on the macroeconomy and why?
3. **Medium-term prospects for the country**, including sustainability of public and external debt trajectories, potential misvaluation of the real exchange rate, and balance sheet vulnerabilities in a country’s financial sector, non-financial corporations, and public sector.

Participants are expected to actively participate in discussions throughout the course. For practical workshops that implement the diagnostic and analytical tools presented in the lectures, participants are divided into small groups, each directed by a counsellor.

GOVERNMENT FINANCE STATISTICS FOR MANAGERS (GFS)

Target Audience: Managerial level Officials whose main responsibility is the compilation rather than the analysis of public finance statistics.

Qualifications: Participants should have a degree in economics, statistics, or the equivalent.

Course Description: This one-week course, presented by the IMF’s Statistics Department, focuses on various aspects of preparing and disseminating government finance statistics (GFS). It assists senior officials from the central, state, and local finance ministries, public accounting offices, statistics office, and central bank, in understanding how existing fiscal source data can be utilized effectively. It provides guidance on improving source data so as to optimize the use of these data in fiscal analysis. The course also covers data on debt and balance sheets. It discusses the linkages of the GFS with the budget process, chart of accounts, financial statements, and various other data sets, such as the monetary and financial statistics, national accounts, and the balance of payments statistics. Issues related to data reporting to the IMF are also covered. Participants explore the collaboration among national data compilers, and the presenters explain good practices with regard to GFS dissemination, including the IMF’s special data dissemination standard.
Target Audience: Mid to senior-level officials in ministries of finance, treasuries, debt management offices, ministries of economy, or financial planning divisions in line ministries.

Qualifications: Participants should have significant experience in fiscal policy, macroeconomic, or budgeting positions.

Course Description:
This one-week course, presented by the IMF’s Fiscal Affairs Department, examines the role of fiscal institutions, such as medium-term fiscal frameworks, top-down budgeting, medium-term budgeting, cash and debt management, independent fiscal institutions and budget comprehensiveness, and their function in promoting fiscal discipline.

During the last ten years, commendable efforts have been made to deal with the acute infrastructure problems in Africa and to expand the key areas such as road transport and energy, especially where improvements in infrastructure facilities provide important mechanism for advancing regional integration. However, the financing of infrastructure and regional integration remains a key challenge for Africa. Two main innovations are being explored: one is to use the bond market, where bonds are used to raise the required funds; the other innovation is to use Islamic financing instruments, especially the Sukuk to mobilize the required funds. This workshop will focus on financing of infrastructure through the capital market, Islamic bonds (Sukuk), regional integration impact assessment, international contracts negotiation and revenue collection issues.

Target Audience: Expected at the training are policy formulators, facilitators and decision-makers, legislators, professionals, bankers, development practitioners, etc. from core Ministries of Finance, Economic Planning, Trade and Integration, Central Banks and Budget offices. Participants' profiles will be at the level of senior/middle managers, and senior technical government officials in the positions of manager or equivalent.

Qualifications: Bachelor’s/Master’s Degree in Economics and Statistics, Trade and Regional Integration, Finance, Development Economics or related fields.

Course Description:
Several authors have documented the infrastructure needs of Africa. Among them the AfDB (2010) notes, “Infrastructure investments in Africa have not kept pace with growth in demand, creating a huge deficit. Less than 40% of the continent’s population has access to electricity, about a third of the rural population has access to roads and only 5% of agriculture is under irrigation. The situation is no better for social infrastructure, with only 34% of the population having access to improved sanitation and a slightly better situation for clean water at about 65%.” With attainment of some of the MDGs hanging in the balance there is need to devise innovative ways of financing this infrastructure deficit.
Therefore this course exposes participants to the models of infrastructure finance and management and the rational of regional integration in Africa. Specifically it will deal with among others; challenges of financing infrastructure in Africa; best practices in project preparation for infrastructure investment; international best practices and models of infrastructure financing; Public Private Partnerships and regional integration: Lessons from Southern, West and East Africa; Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in infrastructure development; and policy and regulatory framework for creating an enabling environment for infrastructure investment.

The course will showcase the Maputo Corridor, the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor and (AZIBONA), and is expected to result in better understanding of the various models available for financing infrastructure and regional integration and also expected to create a pool of infrastructure finance practitioners who can share experiences.

**Target Audience:** Officials, primarily in ministries of finance, economy, and planning, or in central banks, who provide advice on macroeconomic and financial policies, or who are involved in policy implementation.

**Qualifications:** Participants are expected to have a degree in economics or equivalent experience, along with proficiency in the use of spreadsheets.

**Course Description:**

The Financial Programming and Policies (FFP) course, presented by the IMF’s Institute for Capacity Development, aims at extending participants’ understanding of the design and implementation of macroeconomic and financial policies, drawing on the IMF’s experience in economic surveillance, the design of financial programs, and the provision of technical advice to member countries.

**FINANCING INFRASTRUCTURE AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION**

Language: French – English (bilingual)

**Venue:**

**Dates:**

Senegal  
15 – 19 June
The youth population constitutes about 37 percent of the total labor force, a social category that is projected to expand more rapidly in Africa than anywhere else in the world. Unfortunately, this has not been matched by a corresponding growth in job creation. Despite an impressive growth rate of 5 percent in recent years and notable progress achieved in the area of education, Africa has been unable to expand employment opportunities for young people. Africa as a whole has an average youth unemployment rate of 19 percent which is above the rest of the world average, and with an ever increasing youth population growth rate which is much higher than the employment growth rate. Common beliefs are that an integrated and holistic approach to entrepreneurship capacity development can offer a viable solution to the chronic problem of youth unemployment. Suitable frameworks encompass entrepreneurship capacity assessment, entrepreneurship environment development and entrepreneurship capacity development, with the idea to engender a platform for engagement among government, industry and academia.

**Target Audience:** RMCs Officials, Private sector, NGOs and Academia.

**Qualification:** Bachelor’s Degree.

**Course Description:** The SME sector has grown to become the niche of youth employment in a number of African countries. Unfortunately in many of these countries, the SME sector remains constrained by inadequate demand, limited access and high cost of capital, relatively weak support and procurement programs from government. Dynamism in the sector can be assured if the problems of the sector are clearly identified and the most appropriate strategies worked out. This entails creating the awareness among SMEs associations through skills and knowledge development. This course is funded by Korea under the KOAFEC for RMCs.

**Venue:** Korea

**Audience:** RMCs Officials, Private sector, NGOs and Academia.

**Qualification:** Bachelor’s Degree.

**Course Description:** The SME sector has grown to become the niche of youth employment in a number of African countries. Unfortunately in many of these countries, the SME sector remains constrained by inadequate demand, limited access and high cost of capital, relatively weak support and procurement programs from government. Dynamism in the sector can be assured if the problems of the sector are clearly identified and the most appropriate strategies worked out. This entails creating the awareness among SMEs associations through skills and knowledge development. This course is funded by Korea under the KOAFEC for RMCs.

**Language:** English

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Target Audience: AFDB staff members and other invited guests.

Description:
The High-level Seminars are convened ahead of the official opening of the African Development Bank Annual Assembly. Each features a main theme with Four High Level Seminars.

Target Audience: This conference is open to development practitioners and/or researchers/academics, with an advanced academic degree and/or working experience in the social sciences, resources management, agriculture, public policy, development statistics, economics, agricultural economics, development studies or a related field. Participants from policy think-tanks working on capacity development are also to be considered.

Qualifications: Bachelor's/Master's Degree in Economics, Statistics and Demography, Gender, Social Development, Development Economics, Sustainable Development, Natural Resources Management, Agriculture, Public policy or related fields. Participants’ profiles will be at the level of senior/middle managers, and will include senior technical government officials in the positions of manager or its equivalent.

Description: In collaboration with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the African Development Institute (ADI) of the AfDB aim to hold this conference to take stock of issues, frameworks, methods, and lessons for transforming capacity as a key input to achieving sustainable African development.

The conference contributions will also highlight best practices and identify knowledge and action gaps in developing capacities for achieving sustainable development in Africa. Addressing these capacity limitations requires looking into various areas including: agriculture and food security, infrastructure development, regional integration, private sector development, skills, technology and job creation, gender and inclusive growth, fragility and socio-economic vulnerability, climate change, environmental sustainability and green growth, governance and accountability, and migration and human security. In the context of the above areas, the conference themes will be arranged in the following six thematic areas:

Theme 1: Conceptual issues and introduction to capacity development, including the key actors, history, and frameworks commonly used for sustainable development in African countries.

Theme 2: Available evidence on strengthening technological, resource management, and value-chain capacities and their contribution to sustainable development.

Theme 3: Institutional and organizational capacity for transforming African economies. The authors and discussants will bring out the lessons learned from past and current approaches to institutional and organizational capacity development.

Theme 4: Strengthening policy capacity at various levels.

Theme 5: Monitoring and evaluation issues in capacity development and identifying challenges and lessons in measuring, mapping, and monitoring capacity strengthening interventions. The final theme area will capture the way forward for the next 10 years: pulling together ten leading views from policymakers and practitioners.
It is expected that this conference will provide an avenue for the interaction and creation of a network of practitioners in the field of capacity development. It will also serve as a tool for policy dialogue on pertinent issues relating to capacity development while also serving as a knowledge sharing and management platform by consolidating all contributions made into a book. This will be based on papers presented in this conference.

GENDER, ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY & INCLUSIVE GROWTH

The fifth MDG focuses on maternal mortality and, since 2005, on universal access to reproductive health, whereas the third goal measures gender parity in education; the share of women in wage employment; and the proportion of seats held by women in national legislatures. Each of the underlying indicators is considered essential for the achievement of gender equality and women’s empowerment, but at substantial costs. Among other costs, there is a need to: i) strengthen the capacity of governments to deliver the targeted interventions; ii) strengthen national women’s machineries through increased budgetary allocations and staffing of ministries of women’s affairs and gender focal points in other ministries; iii) invest in data collection and monitoring activities to track gender outcomes. In short, achieving gender equality and empowering women requires technical expertise and knowledge of how to mainstream gender concerns into development policies and programmes. Under this theme, training will focus on gender asset gaps and economic opportunities for women in both the public and private sectors.

GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Target Audience: RMC senior officials in Ministries of Finance and Development Planning; Ministry of Statistics/National Statistical Agencies; and the Ministries of Gender and Social/Women Development/Women Affairs.

Qualifications: Bachelor’s/Master’s Degree in Economics, Statistics and Demography, Gender, Social Development or related fields. Participants’ profiles will be at the level of senior/middle managers, and will include senior technical government officials in the positions of manager or its equivalent.

Description: Due to increased focus on the need to attain the MDG on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment, the Office of the Special Envoy on Gender (SEOG) and ADI found it befitting to offer a course in gender and public financial management. This course will address gender issues in all aspects of economic development policy (economic analysis, policy analysis, poverty reduction, employment, unpaid care work, macroeconomics, trade, taxation, medium term expenditure framework and eventually narrow down to budgeting). The course will include training on policy analysis tools (e.g., gender-based analysis; gender indices) and intersectional approaches to conduct applied gender analysis of public financial management. This course is expected to result in well-articulated budgets incorporating gender disaggregated data for better policy making to address the peculiar gender issues in RMCs.

GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Language: English - French

Venue: Regional

Dates: Multiple
The African Development Bank Group (AfDB) holds that if the fight against poverty has to be won, there must be improvements in the quality and quantity of statistical data on all components of development. Reliable data is critical to setting goals and targets as well as evaluating project impact. Reliable data constitutes the single most convincing way of getting the people involved in what their leaders and institutions are doing. It also helps them to get involved in the development process, thus giving them a sense of ownership of the entire development process.

With a formidable team of researchers focusing on the production of statistical data on economic and social situations the AfDB also uses such data in flagship development publications. This effective development of the statistical capacity and systems is to trickle down to regional member countries for the provision of timely and reliable data for policy formulation, implementation and evaluation as well as the monitoring of progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Poverty Reduction Strategies.

Description: The quest for structural transformation in Africa will not be actualized without increasing financial access to the previously excluded households and firms. Therefore, innovative financing that fosters access for poor and that which creates opportunities for entrepreneurship, especially of small and medium scale enterprises, can have large transformational impact.

The main challenge is to design financial products that meet needs of low-income groups, including cost and risk mitigation whilst ensuring cost recovery and sustainability of financial providers. The existing model of financing whereby the poor rely chiefly on micro-lenders has tended to push them deeper into poverty, or met with high default rates, due to high cost. Thus, the promise that microfinance offered has not fully addressed concerns of access, inclusion and poverty reduction.

New models of financial inclusion for development are increasingly attracting attention and acceptability. These models, being experimented in some developing and emerging countries, seek to reshape our understanding of the market for finance and how needs of client can best be met. The toolkit to equip researchers, development practitioners, donors, and policy makers, can be designed to equip them with skills on best practices and the how to processes.

Target audience: Researchers, policy makers, development practitioners, donors

Program Objectives and Activities
A program on Financial Inclusion for Development should be designed with a view to achieve the following, among other elements:

i. Deepening understanding of financing needs for households and small firms

ii. Use tested models based on proven evidence to effectively design financial services and products for excluded segments of the financial markets

iii. Deepen analytical capacity for effective assessment of project financing proposals

iv. Increase understanding of existing opportunities and constraints in designing financial products

v. Develop an understanding of potential regulatory challenges for innovative products that meet financial access needs of the poor but do not fit in existing traditional regulatory frameworks.

Language: English

Venue: South Africa or Côte d’Ivoire

Dates: June - July
Target audience: Africa’s young scholar, researchers, policy makers, development practitioners

Program Objectives and Activities

Description: Promoting the structural transformation of African agriculture and the rural spaces within which most agricultural activities occur will be essential to advancing an inclusive growth agenda in Africa. Structural transformation requires, in particular, productivity growth, which itself depends on increased uptake of improved technologies and inputs that increase land and, especially, labor productivity. It also requires progress in remediying labor, land and financial market failures that impede not only technology adoption but also efficient resource allocation, investment and resilience in the face of seemingly-growing risks due to climate, market and political shocks. In this regard, the African Development Bank in collaboration with the World Bank, Cornell University, Partnership for Economic Policy and African Economic Research Consortium is developing a project on the role of agriculture to promote structural transformation in Africa.

The project with the theme “Agriculture for Structural Transformation in Africa (STAARS)” proposes to pursue an in-depth, rigorous, policy-oriented research on the causal determinants of productivity and income growth, asset accumulation, and effective risk management in African agriculture and rural spaces. In particular, the project is expected to enhance the capacity of a pool of young African scholars.

The main capacity development components of the project are as follows:

• Build the capacity of AfDB research staff and partner groups across the continent as well as a pool of other promising African scholars

• Invite a few competitively selected African researchers to a reputable university for a 2-4 week period each to work on a paper to later present at a research conference forum, like the African Economic Conference (AEC), semi-annual AERC conference, the triennial African Association of Agricultural Economists (AAAE) conference in 2016, or some stand-alone AfDB or other partner’s event.

• Present research findings at multiple highly visible conference(s), in Africa and elsewhere, where policy makers and other African researchers will be in attendance.

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Agriculture for Structural Transformation in Africa (STAARS)

Language: English - French

Venue: Dates:

TBC TBC

Housing Finance Training

Description: There is a general lack of university – level training on housing finance in Africa, especially for the francophone countries. Consequently, the industry lacks skilled and fully trained practitioners that could operate and expand the industry.

The topic is becoming increasingly important in the continent. Africa is currently experiencing the highest rate of urbanization in the world. UN Habitat reports that 46 African cities are now larger than one million people and every day for the coming fifteen years, Africa’s cities will have to accommodate an extra 40,000 people, indicating a rising urban pressure and serious capacity constraints. Providing adequate housing to the growing population settling in urban areas is essential as shelter is one of humanity’s most basic needs.

Therefore, it is essential to promote targeted training for African current and future practitioners on Housing Finance issues and dynamics which are specific to the African context. While there is housing finance training for Sub-Saharan Africa offered by the Graduate School of Business of the Cape Town University, the course is entirely in English, therefore not suitable to the Francophone due to location and language barriers. In a continent with 24 francophone countries out of the 54 existing countries, this is definitely a matter of concern and a pressing need.

The MFW4A Secretariat has already engaged in conversations with several partners regarding the possibility of developing a course targeted to the Francophone in the context of the approved Work Plan of the Housing Finance Donor Working Group (HF-DWG) that coordinates, so that it is in a unique position to partner with the AfDB on this initiative. Moreover, it has followed closely EDRE’s study, providing peer review to the EDRE study and facilitated initial contacts in the partnership EDRE/UN Habitat.
The current initiative will aim also to leveraging the results of the recent EDRE study "housing market dynamics in Africa" and provide an excellent opportunity for collaboration between the AfDB through EADI/EDRE and MFW4A and its extensive network of development partners for a collective response.

Target audience
Participants may be from Francophone private housing finance institutions, government housing and finance agencies, and academic and international development institutions from both emerging market and established economies.

Program objectives and activities
In response to the pressing need of having Francophone professionals to overcome the challenge of the rapid urbanization of the continent in a sustainable and affordable way, the Housing Finance training shall offer comprehensive overview of the key issues and concepts in housing finance with respect to the different contexts. While it will have a Panafri can vision, the focus shall be on key issues and concepts related to francophone countries.

The content shall be drawn from existing knowledge and findings of EDRE Housing Market dynamics in Africa and materials from the Sub Saharan Africa course of Cape Town University (Graduate School of Business), adapted to the Francophone context, and other materials provided by additional partners.

Trainers shall be identified in partnership with African think tank/universities and development partners.

Through its ex-ante outcome assessments, ADOA has also contributed to fostering a results-based culture within the Bank. Within the Bank, it is widely viewed as a useful screening tool that has been instrumental in the decision making process for both senior management and the Board of Directors. The training will help to foster learning, knowledge sharing and capacity development within the Bank so as to mainstream a results-based agenda for Bank’s operations. It will aim to sensitize and train Bank staff, Executive Directors and Management to better appreciate the ADOA tool and become more familiar with issues of economic and social development coupled with hands-on training on how to better define, measure, monitor, collect and report on development indicators.
The African Symposium on Statistical Development (ASSD) is an African-driven initiative coordinated by the AfDB, UNECA, AUC and Statistics South Africa, to foster statistical development across the continent. During the first six years since ASSD started, its work program focused on encouraging and supporting all African countries to participate in the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses (RPHC), covering the period 2004–2014. ASSD support has helped to significantly augment the participation of African countries in the 2010 round of the Population and Housing Censuses. For the first time in the history of census taking, Africa has recorded the highest participation rate ever by African countries in a census round. This augurs well for the continent’s efforts to generate the comprehensive data essential for assessing progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and for evidence-based policymaking in RMCs.

The ASSD has also increased the capacity of the region’s statistical practitioners to work together and embrace Afro-centric approaches. Additionally, the Symposium has also helped to create more space for young people, including women, to enter the profession of statistics. Its support should ensure the sustainability and inclusiveness of the profession, which is so critical for informed planning, and for monitoring and evaluation of the outcomes of socioeconomic development.

Through the ASSD network, it has been possible to provide technical support to countries that have newly emerged from conflict so that they may also undertake censuses. The fourth ASSD in Angola established an African Census Peer Support Mechanism, intended to guide and manage a pan-African framework of coordinated actions, with a particular emphasis on fragile states.

Target audience: Heads of National Statistical Office, Heads of Civil Registration Authorities, Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Experts, Development Partners Program Objectives and Activities

The Tenth ASSD will be held on the theme “A Decade of Statistical Development; Revolutionizing Censuses and Civil Registration and Vital Statistics towards Africa Agenda 2063”. The overall objective of the 10th ASSD is to rally member States around a united statistical program aimed at supporting the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Africa Agenda 2063 vision. The symposium will focus on four topical areas of statistics: data revolution, the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses, the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Censuses and Civil Registration and Vital Statistics. The symposium will also take steps to ensure continued mobilization of RMCs for the 2020 round of population and housing censuses.

The specific objectives include:

(i) To review progress made in the implementation of the African program of the 2010 round of population and housing censuses;
(ii) To develop an Africa approach to carry out the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Censuses in alignment with applicable United Nations Principles and Recommendations;
(iii) To review the progress made and challenges faced in the implementation of the APAI-CRVS at the regional and country level in past five years;
(iv) To review the proposed approach of WHO for improving mortality statistics through CRVS;
(v) To adopt an African data revolution framework in line with the recommendations of the International Expert Advisory Group on Data Revolution.
In all, over 300 participants are expected to attend.

Target audience: Ministers responsible for Civil Registration, Ministers of Health, Heads of National Statistical Office, Heads of Civil Registration Authorities, Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Experts, Development Partners

Program Objectives and Activities

The overall objective of the Third Ministerial Conference is to contextualize CRVS in the realm of governance and discuss ways in which a complete and efficient CRVS system can help countries to achieve 'good governance'. The conference is expected to mobilize countries in envisioning this important linkage and guide them in developing and implementing specific strategies and operational plans that will facilitate the realization of good governance as well as help mainstream a good governance approach in CRVS.

The conference will also take stock of the progress made in APAI-CRVS and provide policy guidance to address the various challenges experienced in the course of implementation of the program in last four years. The conference is expected to provide clear directions for establishment of sustainable CRVS systems on the continent and at the same time identify priority actions that will lead to concrete outcomes in the short-term.

The specific objectives of the Conference are to:
(a) Deliberate on strategies and programmatic measures that need to be taken in achieving the targets set in the MTP;
(b) Provide guidance for a sustainable capacity development program for improvement of CRVS in the region;
(c) Address financing mechanisms for CRVS country action plans;
(d) Provide policy guidance to countries on strategies for accelerated implementation of national CRVS plans;
(e) Provide a platform for countries to present some of the key achievements in the past four years in their endeavor to improve CRVS and also highlight some of the challenges they have faced.
(f) Review the progress made by countries against the commitments made in the past two Ministerial Conferences and also against the targets set in the APAI-CRVS medium-term plan;
(g) Deliberate on policy and programmatic actions for the next phase of implementation of the regional Medium Term Plan.
The Bank is currently undertaking data collection in the framework of the African Infrastructure Knowledge Program (AIKP) with an active participation of National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in Regional Member Countries. At national level, a designated AIKP team is composed of a focal point statistician based in NBS whose responsibility is to coordinate the data collection in the country, a fiscal expert, a utility expert and a transport expert. The AIKP team has collected data on various area on infrastructure and submitted this statistical information to the Bank over the past two years.

In this context, and to ensure a high quality data on infrastructure, the Bank is organizing a four-day workshop on AIKP data collection and validation which will put emphasis on the construction of a reliable, timely and up-to-date African database on infrastructure.

**Description:** The Workshop is a methodological seminar aimed to train a pool of African compilers of infrastructure statistics who will then train the experts in NSOs.

**Objectives:**

The main objective is to generate infrastructure indicators which are robust, reliable and internationally comparable. More specifically, it will: (i) set up a core indicators to disseminate through the Bank’s website; (ii) to define the methodological process to compute all the AIKP indicators and generate them consequently; (iii) to validate the results of computations and compare with other relevant sources (iv) upload the generated AIKP indicators for dissemination on the web portal;

**Target audience:** A pool of fifteen African experts who have advanced skills in the data processing and compilation chosen from AIKP team members and a group of international experts on infrastructure to act as trainers.

**Description:**

Data processing is an important step to generate useful indicators from raw data collected under the AIKP and usually takes place after data validation. These indicators are key to assess the economic impact of infrastructure development in RMCS. Data processing and compilation will be done following internationally accepted rules and standards and care must be exercised to ensure consistency results and comparability across countries.

**Objectives:**

The overall objective of the workshop is to improve the mechanism for data collection, data exchange and data validation at regional level. More specifically, it will: (i) introduce a new system to support the data submission process to the Bank, (ii) improve the data quality on infrastructure data using a standard and common methodology, and (iii) set up a 2015 benchmark of the African infrastructure database.

**Target audience:** National AIKP Country Teams, International experts on various area of infrastructure (Utility sector, Transport sector, ICT sector, Water and sanitation sector and Energy sector)
In response to the Data Collection and dissemination challenges, the AfDB launched the African Information Highway (AIH) initiative in November 2012 as part of its statistical capacity-building program. The overall objective is to significantly increase public access to official and other statistics across Africa, while at the same time supporting African countries to improve data quality, management, and dissemination. Under the AIH, Statistical Data Portals (DP) and Open Data Platforms (ODP) have been installed in National Statistical Offices in almost all African countries and in a number of sub-regional organisations and statistical training centres. Staff in these institutions have been trained on managing and maintaining these tools; and uploading and disseminating data on the portals.

Target audience: About fifty (100) participants will take part in the workshop representing most to all of the RMCs participating on the AIH initiative.

Objectives:

The workshop aims at engaging country Data Portal Focal Points and other key stakeholders on strategies for increasing the use of the DP and ODP in their countries. While user utilization of the systems and tools in some of the countries has been high, others have not done as well. The main objective of this workshop is to review the operations of these portals and platforms, share country experiences and to get concrete feedbacks on actions and interventions necessary to increase use of the system by various stakeholders and the public in general. The ODP is also being used as a tool by African countries for data submission to the Bank and the IMF. Some eighteen countries have been covered so far and the objective is to extend it to all African countries. The workshop will discuss a proper governance mechanism to manage the ODP at the national and regional level to facilitate its use as a tool for data submission to the Bank and other international organisations.

Target Audience:
Heads of National Statistics Offices (NSOs), their top-level managers, leaders from other producers of official statistics and important stakeholders.

Objective
The overarching objective is to build a strong community of innovative, visionary, and ethical leaders in official statistics who will be able to respond to the demands of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and develop innovative strategies for structural improvements of statistical offices and systems. Hence, the workshop will focus on enhancing the leadership and managerial skills of top managers and offering them a platform for exchanging best practices and innovations amongst their peers and discussing the latest developments to enhance the quality of national statistical systems.

Objective: The objective of the training of trainer’s workshop is to create a network of African Experts that will assist African countries to design, implement and evaluate the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDs) in Africa.

Target Audience:
There will be 3 participants from each country – the NSDS Coordinator (or someone from the Coordination Unit of the NSO) and two participants representing agriculture and one other sector.

Objective:
The overall objective of the workshops will be to improve official statistics through the NSDS framework that uses the sectoral approach. The participants will be trained on how to mainstream sectors into the NSDS and particularly how to design Sector Statistics Plans and then use them as building blocks to design the NSDS.

Venue:
South Africa 18–21 May

Language: English-French

DESIGN, UPDATE, IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION OF NSDS.

DESIGN, UPDATE, IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION OF NSDS.

Language: French

Venue: Dates: 
ECOWAS (Togo) 8 – 12 June

Language: English

Venue: Dates: 
COMESA (Uganda) 13 – 17 July

SADC (Maputo, Mozambique) 10-14 August

Target Audience: There will be 2 participants from each sector – the NSDS Coordinator (or someone from the Coordination Unit of the NSO).

Objective:
The overall objective of the workshops will be to improve official statistics through the NSDS framework that uses the sectoral approach. The participants will be trained on how to mainstream sectors into the NSDS and particularly how to design Sector Statistics Plans and then use them as building blocks to design the NSDS.

Venue:
Togo 22 – 26 June

Language: French

Venue: Dates: 
COMESA (Uganda) 13 – 17 July

Language: English

Venue: Dates: 
Ghana 17 - 21 July

Language: English
Target Audience: HCPI Statisticians responsible for compiling regional HCPIs using national HCPIs from the participating Regional Member Countries (RMCs) under their mandate.

Workshop material description:

The harmonization of inflation measurement with a view of computing internationally comparable Consumer Price Indices (CPIs) is a topical subject that builds upon the existing national CPIs. The process recognizes and observes that the national CPIs are meant for specific country purposes yet the HCPIs are designed with the international comparison of inflation in mind. This is a function that is not necessarily fulfilled by the national CPIs that were primarily designed as compensation indices. It follows that the national CPIs are as much as possible supposed to be produced and published together with the HCPIs as the methods and uses are not necessarily the same. However, it is important to note that the two set of indices use the same infrastructure as much as possible and it is given that some differences are inevitable.

The workshop will amplify the theoretical basis of the national HCPIs, their similarities with the national CPIs and the differences.

The aggregation of the national HCPIs to compute the regional HCPIs is one of the major activities that the SROs do, the data requirements and the procedures will be brought to the fore during the same workshop using real data.

One of the statistical requirements that is gathering momentum is interrelating the national CPIs, HCPIs and PPPs data needs as much as possible but recognizing that the specification of product/items, the computations and uses differ. The workshop should also amplify the related micro foundations and practical considerations.

The workshop will also be characterized by the deliberate use of practical examples to assist the HCPI Statisticians appreciate how to operationalize the HCPI requirements within their organizations from time to time.

It is expected that the participants will be able to distinguish between the national CPIs and HCPIs where they exist and relate the same with the PPPs in particular given the integration requirements. Not only should the interrelations be viewed from the data collection point of view but also from the computation side.

Target Audience: Heads of Statistical Training Schools (STCs) and Trainers.

Workshop material description:

As an addition to the collaboration with the 54 Regional Member Countries (RMCs) the African Development Bank (AfDB) also works closely with the selected STCs in Africa with a view of creating a critical mass of skilled Statisticians in Africa. This is to ensure that the mandate of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in the context of international norms and standards is maintained. The process is also meant to enable the national Statisticians in the RMCs undertake routine statistical initiatives like the conduct of Household Budget Surveys (HBS), establishment Surveys and the Population Census among other activities without too much dependency on consultants. The analysis of the country data and collaboration between the NSOs and STCs is also supposed to be enhanced with the passage of time.

The workshop will elaborate on the CONCEPT NOTE meant to guide and operationalize statistical capacity building initiatives of STCs including the scope and mechanism to monitor the same.

It is expected that the participants will be able to share their activity plans for this year and identify areas of collaboration going forward. The requirement that the role of STCs is just limited to staff in the NSOs will be reinforced. The process of measuring outcomes and impact is going to be discussed and agreed upon including the evaluation of the entire exercise with a view of improving the same with the passage of time.
Target Audience: ALL LEVELS

Purpose of the ASJ:

The Journal’s mission since its inception remains the same: namely, to serve as a forum and common platform, to share ideas on statistical development issues in Africa and to stimulate discussion and dialogue on key emerging issues. In this role, we reach out not only to statisticians both inside and outside the continent, but to all those other stakeholders who are working to secure a prosperous, equitable and sustainable future for African nations.

As part of continuously promoting the visibility of the ASJ we intend to take advantage of relevant platforms like other workshops and supervision missions to Statistical Training Schools (STCs) as well to create awareness and mobilize contributors and reviewers to support the entire process.

It is expected that this initiative will in the long run sustain the continuous production and placement of the ASJ in public domain in a predictable manner with quality articles.

Target Audience: The workshops will bring together national experts on agriculture statistics from RMCs, and representatives from UNECA, FAO, AUC, CAADP, BMGF, and EU.

Workshop material description:

The Action Plan for Africa (2011-2017) for Improving Statistics of Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture, and Rural Development is being implemented by AfDB in collaboration with UNECA and FAO as regional development institutions in Africa. The Bank takes leadership on technical assistance and governance implementation arrangements at Regional level.

The main objective of the workshops is to review the implementation of the Action Plan, with a view of taking corrective measures when necessary, and compile countries technical assistance needs. Specifically the workshops will: (i) review the progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan; (ii) training on instruments and data validation of the 2015 Light Country Assessment process; and (v) Identify specific Technical Assistance needs.

Target Audience: The participants would be from the FAO, ECA, AUC, ACBF, DFID, Bill Melinda Gates Foundation, United States Department of Agriculture, 5 RMCs, as well as a representative each from the African Committee on Agriculture Statistics, the Statistical Training Centers in Africa, Ministry of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Institute, will attend the RSTC meeting.

Workshop material description:

The functions of the Regional Steering Committee are to review and approve the annual work plans and associated budgets. The work plans constitute both regional and demand-driven country activities (national implementation plans), prioritized and aligned to the national strategy for the development of statistics (NSDS) in the agriculture sector. The Steering Committee allocates resources to prioritized activities in accordance with the available resource envelope.

The main objective of the 4th RSTC meeting would be to review the progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan for Africa, particularly the Country Assessment reports and the Regional Work Plan and Budget and (iii) the regional coordination arrangements for the Action Plan going forward.
Target Audience: Key stakeholders implementing the Africa Weekly Food Prices Collection Project.

Workshop material description:

The Africa Weekly Food Price Collection Project (AFPCP) is collecting timely and weekly food price data for informing policy makers, economists and data analysts dealing with food regulations and agriculture policies. Similar initiatives, especially agriculture market information exist in some countries. The AfDB in collaboration with Joint Research Centre of European Commission organize workshop holders for the implementation status of the Project.

The objective of the workshop is to conduct a quick assessment that would give a snapshot of what pertains in countries in order to streamline the AFPCP and perhaps leverage on the existing arrangement to avoid duplication of efforts bearing in the scarcity of resources.

Target Audience: National accounts Statisticians responsible for compiling and computation of the Gross Domestic product in their National statistical offices.

Workshop material description:

The System of National Accounts (SNA) is a framework – published jointly by the United Nations, the Commission of the European Communities, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the World Bank – that sets the international statistical standard for the measure of market economies. The SNA is the most comprehensive of all existing statistical frameworks. It produces indicators such as the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Gross National Income (GNI) which are also widely used in many socio-economic development indicators.

The SNA serves as a framework for not only annual accounts statistics to assess economic performance over the medium and long-run but also quarterly accounts statistics to monitor short-term development. The main objective of the workshop is to follow-up on the various recommendations as formulated and agreed during the joint UNSD, UNECA and AfDB meeting held in 2012 and the AGNA Meeting in February 2014. The other objective is to give support to SADC countries in preparing their country implementation plans using the self-assessment tools and diagnostic frameworks.

To be reviewed also will be the six pillars agreed upon at the last AGNA meeting held in Addis. Two sub-regional workshops will be organized in 2015 (May and September) bringing together representatives to from SADC and COMESA countries in the first workshop and UMA and ECOWAS countries in the second.

It is expected that the participants will be able to share present their current compilation practices of SNA 2008 implementation and be assisted with national implementation plans for the 2008 SNA. The meetings will be organized in the form of a working session dealing with each of the draft agenda items, as well as with other relevant questions brought by member countries to the attention of the secretariat. Each agenda item will be introduced by the person chairing he session followed presentations either by resource persons or participants. Participants are expected to make brief presentations about the general situation in the area of GDP compilation in general and the state of the implementation of the 2008 SNA by identifying concrete problems and possible solutions. The workshop will also offer the opportunity to exchange experiences, discuss challenges and propose best practice approaches to countries in these fields.
Target Audience: Business register experts and economic statisticians in National Statistical Offices.

Workshop material description:

During SCB III, Guidelines on statistical business registers were developed after an expert group meeting in October 2012. A number of technical assistance missions were conducted mainly in the SADC region to assist countries design functional SBRs. A generic SBR has since been developed using Statistics Mauritius as a model. This model will be rolled out in the RMCs during the implementation of SCB IV. Various training workshops will be conducted to train business register compilers in the design and implementation of the guidelines.

Two workshops will be organized in 2015 (August and October) bringing together representatives from SADC and COMESA countries in the first workshop and UMA and ECOWAS countries in the second.

It is expected that the participants will be able to share present their current compilation practices of SBR design and development and come up with an implementation plan of setting up a fully functional SBR.

Language: English
Venue: Port Louis, Mauritius
Dates: June-october

LABOUR FORCE FORCE STATISTICS AND LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION SYSTEMS- IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2013 ICLS RESOLUTIONS.

Target Audience: Labour statisticians and labour market specialists in National Statistical Offices and Ministries of Labour.

Workshop material description:

During SCB III, two sub-regional workshops were conducted for Anglophone and Francophone countries on labour force data analysis based on the guidebook produced by ESTA in 2013. However, the guidebook was developed before the 2013 ICLS. During the implementation of SCB IV, the manual will be revised by taking into account the new resolutions. The main objective of the two training workshops will be assist countries in developing implementation plans for the 2013 ICLS.

Two workshops will be organized in 2015 (July and November) bringing together representatives from SADC and COMESA countries in the first workshop and UMA and ECOWAS countries in the second.

Language: French
Venue: Morocco-Tanzania
Dates: July- November
**Target Audience:** Prices and National Accounts Experts in RMCs National Statistical Offices.

**Workshop material description:**
Prices data collected on prices and National account requires a set of tools to fine tune and prepare PPP computation. As per the previous Rounds, the program uses developed material to review and validate the data. Among a number of technical tools were the ICP Nomenclature and Catalogues, Data quality assessment, Guidelines for ICP-Africa price data validation methodology (Semper, Validation Book), process consistencies (Timelines), and Sub-regional validation (Quaranta Tables). This ICP-2015 round capitalized on the previous 2005, 2009, and 2011 Rounds. Various training workshops will be conducted to train Participating Countries on data review, validation and processing, and PPP computations. The 2015 interim Round is being implemented to scale up progressively and reinforcing previous phases ICP 2005 during 2005-2008, ICP 2009 under the SCB-2 over 2009-2011; and SCB-3 over 2012-2013.

Workshops will be organized from June to December 2015, bringing together representatives to from the 54 Regional Member Countries, Sub-Regional Organizations (SADC, ECOWAS, ECCAS/CEMAC, COMESA, and UMA. The main objective of these workshop aims to contribute towards developing more effective statistical systems that respond to the need for quality data for national development in RMCs, as well as facilitate greater effectiveness of Bank operations in RMCs. The workshop will provide technical support to all 54 Regional Member Countries (RMCs), 10 Regional Economic Communities & 6 Statistical Training Centers (STCs) aimed at strengthening their respective and joint capacity to provide price and National accounts statistics for poverty monitoring & results measurement (M&E).

It is expected that participating countries and SROs will be able to share their best practices of Prices and National accounts.

**THE 2015 ICP INTERIM ROUND**

**Language:** English/French

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<th>Venue</th>
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<tr>
<td>Senegal</td>
<td>11 -15 June</td>
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