

Improving Governance & Enhancing Policymaking in Africa:

How can we enhance effective decision-making, policy formulation and implementation in government, business and humanitarian intervention in Africa?

6 & 7 June 2006
Clifford Chance,
10 Upper Bank Street, Canary Wharf, London

Conference Invitation

To register your interest please email events@thinkafrica.org



Operational Research Practice in Africa



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C H A N C E



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The Association of European
Operational Research Societies





Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to invite you to this unique high-level conference which focuses on a key question that is fundamental to Africa's development: *How can we enhance effective decision-making, policy formulation and implementation in government, business and humanitarian intervention in Africa?*

Background

The multifaceted challenges of reducing poverty, tackling underdevelopment, fostering economic growth and strengthening good governance in Africa have been the subject of much international debate in the past decade and more. In recent times, several African governments and regional institutions have also made concerted efforts to address these issues within the continent. While some success has been achieved in some areas of governance and economic performance, the benefits are not evenly spread and the majority of African countries still lag behind in making substantial progress. Poverty, humanitarian disasters, instability, poor governance and the by-products of all of the above, are still rife in several African countries and the lack of adequate infrastructure and capacity for the delivery of public goods and services further intensify the impact on the African people.

However, in the past few decades, over US\$ 500 billion has been spent on aid towards Africa to tackle the above stated problems. The international attention and multiplicity of processes and initiatives that catapulted Africa to the forefront of international debate in 2005 have resulted in greater financial and political commitments from G8 and EU countries to accelerate Africa's development. The United Nations has also launched its 2006 Humanitarian Appeal, which carries a record price tag of USD \$4.7 billion to help more than 31 million victims of war, famine and natural disaster, most of whom live in Africa. But, why so much spent on Africa with limited results?

Indeed, bearing in mind all the funding support given to African countries and regional institutions, the key question that still belabours the minds of stakeholders is why has this support not resulted in the kind of economic growth, social development, political stability and prosperity as would have been expected? Are the funds being effectively managed? Are the human resources within the continent being effectively deployed? Are issues and situations adequately researched and analysed? Does research substantially inform policy decisions and implementation? Are the governance and policymaking processes effectively geared to address the continent's problems or are they structurally flawed?

Reports on Africa's development challenges by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, the African Development Bank (ADB), the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the recent UK Commission for Africa Report all point to the issues of governance and policymaking as two crucial factors that merit urgent policy attention and improvement in the broader African development debate. There is a clear consensus, that without good governance and sound policymaking, Africa will remain incapable of effectively tackling its development challenges, irrespective of how much support it may receive from the international community. Therefore, a critical issue for all stakeholders in Africa's development to address is how to enhance effective decision-making, policy formulation and implementation in Africa in three critical sectors: in government; business; and in the humanitarian/development sector.

The Conference

The conference is jointly organised by **Operational Research Practice for Africa (ORPA)** and the **Centre for African Policy and Peace Strategy (CAPPS)** and sponsored by **Clifford Chance, KPMG UK** and the **Association of European Operational Research Societies (Euro)**. It will bring together notable policy



makers, strategy experts and key actors in the public, private and civil society sectors to reflect on these pressing issues. It aims to identify challenges and devise strategies on how to improve governance and enhance policy-making in Africa. The conference builds on an ORPA initiative which was successfully held in April 2005 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso and hosted by the country's Prime Minister, H. E. Dr Paramanga E. Yonli.

Conference Topics

Topics to be addressed during the conference include:

- Policy Strategies for Achieving the Millennium Development Goals
- The role of Science in Policy Development
- Enhancing Governance through Data-Centred Policymaking
- Bridging Policy and Research
- Enhancing Governance and Policymaking in Africa: Strengthening Africa's Public Service Institutions
- Enhancing Humanitarian Intervention and Development Policy in Africa
- Enhancing Corporate Governance in Africa: Business Development Strategies and Decision-making in the Private Sector

Conference Objectives

A key objective will be to devise practical strategies and policy options on how research-centred and evidence-based policy and decision-making can be employed as a tool for improving governance, enhancing policymaking and policy implementation. These strategies could be used to address the three areas which can bolster growth, stability and development on the continent: government, business and the humanitarian/ development sector. Recommendations

from this conference will inform an advocacy, capacity building, monitoring and implementation action plan. A series of follow-up capacity-building training programmes are envisaged as one of its practical outcomes that can make a tangible difference in Africa.

Benefits for Participants

The conference will provide an opportunity for stakeholders in the public, private and civil society sectors to gain extraordinarily insight into policy directions and key policy debates and approaches in governance, business and development issues in Africa. It also provides an opportunity for high-level networking with key actors and leaders in these three sectors. It will also facilitate the cross-fertilisation of knowledge and best practice whilst enabling organisations to gain insight into key issues, better informing their organisational policies and approach to these issues. The event is also an opportunity for organisations to identify opportunities through which they can contribute to follow-up capacity building programmes by lending their expertise and resources.

Logistics

This two-day high-level conference will take place on the **6th and 7th June 2006** at the state-of-the-art Clifford Chance Building in Canary Wharf, London. To **register your interest** in this event and to make payment, please contact Sunniva Taylor at CAPPs by sending an email to events@thinkafrica.org, or by calling +44 (0) 207 242 0780. **The conference fees are £250 for early bookings and £350 from May 30th 2006. This can be made by cheque to "CAPPs"**. To discuss other forms of payment please call CAPPs at the numbers provided above. Concessions are available for NGOs and charities. Please call CAPPs to discuss this. Spaces are limited, so we suggest bookings are made as early as possible. We will be sending out formal invitations, and more detailed information including programme and speaker details to all interested parties.

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