



AMDIN UPDATE REPORT TO THIRD MINISTERIAL BUREAU MEETING TO BE HELD ON MARCH 2007 IN JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

INTRODUCTION

1. This update report covers the activities undertaken by AMDIN since the Ministers' Meeting at the end of February 2007.
2. It was requested that the report should focus on actions that have been taken since the February meeting. AMDIN presents the following progress report to the third Ministerial Bureau meeting.

PROGRESS UPDATE

Executive Council

3. No progress to report regarding outstanding representatives from the AU and Algeria. The Deputy Minister of Public Service, Egypt offered to organise that Egypt nominate a person to serve as the second representative of North Africa. A letter to facilitate this process has been drafted.

Committee on Programmes

4. The programmes committee was convened for the first time on 9 and 10 March 2007. The Administrative Staff College of Nigeria (ASCON) and its Director General, Prof. Sheikh Abdullah offered most graciously to host the event and spared no trouble to create an environment conducive to a highly productive meeting. It was particularly beneficial to move the meeting outside of South Africa to strengthen the image of AMDIN as a truly African wide network. It also offered the opportunity for Committee members to gain first hand knowledge of the situation on site of one of the counterparts. To this effect Prof. Abdullah organised a tour and orientation session of the facilities and programmes of ASCON and introduced AMDIN to his staff and course participants who were on site at the time.

6. The Committee dealt with the **urgent issues** of:

- (a) the first biennial AMDIN Conference, scheduled for August 2007;
- (b) formulating the brief for the first research project of AMDIN that is to lead to developing a collective African policy perspective on the role of MDIs in capacity building in Africa; and

(c) Engaged with and gave feedback on the programme and direction of the CAPAM Ghana event in November 2007, which will be hosted in association with AMDIN.

7. It then turned its attention to the **medium term**, working on a plan and fundraising proposal for the period 2007 to 2010. This is in the process of being fine-tuned and will be submitted to the May Executive Council meeting for approval. The Programmes Committee will recommend to the AMDIN Executive Council that AMDIN focuses its programmatic interventions over the next three years on the following areas:

- Strengthening management and leadership capabilities of those at the strategic level of MDIs and providing support regarding the development of management systems;
- Contributing to raising the standards of curriculum, teaching materials and the facilitation of courses run by MDIs across the continent in a number of subject areas that affects public sector capacity and performance;
- Establishing network arrangements among MDIs and between MDIs and other relevant organizations to facilitate information exchange and develop the necessary information content to support such networks;
- Embarking on an advocacy and communications programme to identify and raise policy problems that affect MDIs collectively as well as to find solutions to these, while improving on the prevailing reputation of MDIs;
- Organising a programme of Annual conferences; meetings of AMDIN governance structures and other events, supported by appropriate research and other outputs which collectively will constitute a joint platform for African MDIs

Training of the Trainers Programme

8. The first cohort of 23 Trainers under this programme has successfully completed their course during the period 12 to 23 March. Two trainers of each of the following MDIs participated and successfully completed the 10 day course:

- The Ethiopian Civil Service College
- The Tanzania Public Service College
- The Uganda Management Development Institute (UMI)
- The Malawi Institute of Management (MIM)
- The Zimbabwe Institute of Public Administration & Management (ZIPAM)
- The Swaziland Institute of Public Management & Administration (SIMPA)
- The South African Management Development Institute (SAMDI)
- The Administrative Staff College of Nigeria (ASCON)
- The Liberia Institute of Public Administration (LIPA)

- The Ghana Institute of Management & Public Administration (GIMPA)

In addition JICA-Ghana sponsored 3 senior officials from the Ghana Ministry of Public Service Reform making an overall of 23 participants on the programme.

9. A graduation ceremony took place on the evening of 22 March where the President of AMDIN, Prof. Calistus Ndlovu came from Zimbabwe to address the graduates. All indications are that the participants found the course beneficial and relevant. Participants specifically voiced they were highly stimulated by the regional representation and interaction amongst this group drawn from across three of the African regions. Negative feedback has been received from participants regarding the venue, which was an inner-city Pretoria hotel. The complete evaluation by the service programme team is due by mid-April at which point AMDIN will fully engage with feedback and decide how to incorporate this during the 2nd and further training groups.

10. The relationship with the donor, JICA, was strengthened during the period January to March, and confidence was restored in the 5 year training of trainers programme.

AGM and Biennial Conference

11. As reported above the Programme Committee spent time on planning this event.

12. The theme of the conference will be “*MDIs: Building public sector capacity for Africa’s 21st Century needs*”. The actual conference will be limited to two days (30 – 31 August). It will be preceded by a day of pre-conference Capacity Building Workshops (29 August). On the 29th a Heads of Institutions Forum will be organised focussing specifically on the needs of the strategic leadership level of the MDIs. The AGM is scheduled to take place late afternoon of the first conference day (30 August).

13. Foyer activities and product exhibitions will be organised with a view to strengthening the financial basis for the conference.

14. We have engaged the services of an events organiser in order to assist with locating a suitable venue at a relatively late stage. The conference is likely to take place in Gauteng in order to save on transport expenditure. A local organising committee is in the process of being finalised. The necessary pre-conference publicity material has been produced and will be distributed within the next week.

15. A fundraising document for the event has been prepared and funds are now being sought, since it was the opinion of the Programmes Committee that substantial subsidising of the conference and side events

will have to be secured. Registration fees have been proposed at US\$300. We aim to attract about 150 registered participants to the conference.

AMDIN Website

16. The www.amdin.org domain has been successfully re-patriated and SITA has been contracted to host the site. This process slightly delayed the web-site from being ready, but we believe that after Easter the web page should be up and running, in time to support the membership recruitment drive as well as publicity and on-line registration for the August conference.

Other activities:

17. Publicity material has been developed for a membership recruitment drive as well the conference. Distribution to those on the database should be completed by Easter. The first newsletter is in production and will be distributed during the first half of April.

18. Work is continuing on strengthening the Dbase of MDIs as well as individual experts. We calculate that we now have clean and accurate information of around 100 MDIs to form the core for communications in this round.

19. French and English questionnaires have been distributed. Return is slow and requires inordinate perseverance re follow up. This will be treated as a low key, but ongoing priority until the organising of the May council meeting and the August conference is in hand.

CONCLUSION

20. A number of the early successes have been consolidated since November 2006 and we have now entered a period of less dramatic, but equally important growth and maintenance work in order to ensure that there are fruits to pick in the second half of this year.

21. The financial situation of AMDIN is extremely precarious with SAMDI carrying the largest part of the expense at this stage, and Nigeria coming to the table by hosting the Programme Meeting. The unblocking of the EU/NEPAD funding to support AMDIN is of critical importance. The planned AMDIN Executive Council meeting for May must take place in order to put the different building blocks in place for the AGM in August. Unless the EU-NEPAD funding stream has been unblocked in terms of the organisational requirements of AMDIN it is going to be difficult to pull a council meeting off for May.

22. We would once again like to thank the Ministers of Public Service and Administration on the African continent for the continued interest they show in the strengthening of AMDIN as a role-player in addressing the capacity and human resource constraints of our African public services. We want to

assure you of our unwavering commitment to build up this Network to the benefit of the entire continent.