

NOTES ON AFRICAN MDI ROUNDTABLE HOSTED DURING CAPAM CONFERENCE IN SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA, IN OCTOBER 2006

1. Background:

Advantage was taken of the presence of a number of African MDIs at the above conference to take the general agenda around the wellbeing of these institutions forward. Although the roundtable was not intended to be a formally constituted AMDIN meeting, the fact that it was hosted by the Deputy Chair of AMDIN, meant that AMDIN did feature heavily in the discussion.

2. Attendance:

Representatives from the following institutions took part in the roundtable discussion:

Administrative Staff College of Nigeria (ASCON);
Eastern and Southern African Management Institute (ESAMI);
Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA);
Lesotho Institute of Public Administration and Management (LIPAM);
Centre of Specialization in Public Administration and Management (CESPAM); and
South African Management Development Institute (SAMDI)

3. Key points of discussion centred around the following:

- a. The agenda that African MDIs would like to put forward for the 2nd meeting of MDIs under the auspices of CAPAM;
- b. Collaboration between CAPAM and AMDIN regarding the construction of an African Dbase of MDIs;
- c. Progress report with respect to AMDIN activities and a call to ensure that MDIs budget for membership fees as from 2007;
- d. The absence of interaction between AMDIN and its institutional base, as well as general tardiness to start functioning in terms of programmes, e.g. the JICA initiative and general networking, e.g. how can we be more helpful to one another as African MDIs
- e. Africa's knowledge of its own situation, e.g. institutional configurations and associated strengths and benefits for our context, as compared to international comparative examples that tend to dominate the discussion, e.g. INTAN, Malaysia, Canadian and British examples.
- f. Challenges: the great distance in some countries between MDIs and their governments. This translates into financial difficulties, as well as issues of relevance and interaction on a policy level.

4. Decisions:

- a. That the agenda of the CAPAM meeting of MDIs to be hosted in Ghana during 2007 should be reflective of the challenges of African MDIs and how to address such challenges;
- b. That the AMDIN collection of data on African MDIs will be shared with CAPAM;

- c. That the AMDIN Executive Council should use the presence of a large number of African MDIs during the AAPAM meeting in Arusha, Tanzania in December 2006 to have a more elaborate interaction with the institutional base of the organization;
- d. That similar roundtables should be conducted as often as feasible;
- e. That feedback must be given to the AMDIN secretariat regarding the views of the MDIs on its lack of performance.

Follow up secretariat:

Full representation of Ex Officio members:

Meeting of Exco: