



AMDIN UPDATE REPORT TO THE CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS OF PUBLIC AND CIVIL SERVICE TO BE HELD ON 26 FEBRUARY 2007 IN JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

INTRODUCTION

This update report covers the activities undertaken by AMDIN in the period November 2006 – early February 2007, following the second AMDIN Update Report made to the second Ministerial Bureau meeting held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 10 December 2006.

The AMDIN Executive Committee met on 3 February 2007 in Johannesburg, and much of this report has been informed by decisions taken and reports tabled at that meeting.

PROGRESS UPDATE

AMDIN presents the following progress report to the Conference of African Ministers of Public and Civil Service:

Organisational Matters

Executive Council

During the report to the 2nd Ministerial Bureau meeting the issue of incomplete representation on the Executive Council of AMDIN was highlighted as an outstanding organisation matter that poses certain challenges with respect to fully operationalising the organisation. The Ministerial Bureau suggested that Algeria should facilitate a process to identify the two representatives from North Africa, while the AU and NEPAD were urged to identify their representatives as a matter of urgency. After not having received any feedback after mid-January, the AMDIN Secretariat communicated in writing with the three parties. At the time of writing, NEPAD has appointed its representative in the person of their CEO, Prof. F. Mucavele. Unfortunately we have to report that the status with respect to North African and AU representation has not changed.

Registration of AMDIN as a voluntary organisation in terms of the Non Profit Organisation Act of South Africa and S21 Public Purpose Company Not for Gain

It is with much relief and a sense of achievement we can report to this meeting that AMDIN is now formally registered with the South African Department of Social Development under the Non-Profit Organisation Act. This registration opens the door to the organisation to operate a bank account at one of the recognised financial institutions, which in turn allows us to start inviting member organisations to formally join and pay their membership fees. Having been able to complete this process also facilitates engagement with the donor community in terms of a larger programmatic funding strategy, since the NPO Act serves as an assurance mechanism to the donor community regarding a minimum standard of organisational governance.

Having completed the NPO registration process, the way has also been clear to pursue registration as a Section 21 Company (public purpose company not for gain). This is a more appropriate organisational form than the voluntary association we currently are. This organisation form with its more stringent governance requirements than what the NPO Act requires from voluntary associations is more appropriate for an organisation such as AMDIN, i.e. large, continent-wide membership based, with potentially a substantial financial through-flow. Legal advice we obtained is that the donor community prefer S21 company status when they enter into agreements with NPOs. The AMDIN Exec Committee has therefore approved that steps be set in motion to prepare the necessary documentation for this registration.

It needs to be stressed that working towards S21 registration will not deter us from operating under the current organisational form and supported by our NPO registration. It is a concurrent process for which the necessary administrative steps are now being set in motion.

Executive Council and Standing Committees of AMDIN

The Executive Council of AMDIN is scheduled to meet on 10 and 11 May 2007. This meeting is scheduled to facilitate processes that need completing before the first AGM and Annual Conference scheduled to take place between 29 and 31 August 2007.

It will be recalled that Article 7 of the AMDIN Constitution provides for the establishment of two standing committees *The Committee on Finance and Administration* and the *Committee on Programmes*. A draft schedule of meetings for these have been approved by the Executive Committee, the first and most important being a two-day working meeting of the Committee on Programmes scheduled to take place during the first week of March. The Committee will be expected to develop certain key, prioritised programmes to the level of fully fledged funding proposals and to finalise detail thinking around the programme and content of the upcoming annual conference.

The Secretariat

Since the last report the Secretariat's numbers of grown by one more part-time (temporary appointment), made possible through the generous financial support of SAMDI. Ms Angelita Kithato, a Kenyan national, resident in South Africa, has joined as programmes officer.

AMDIN Operational Plan

During its meeting on 3 February, the AMDIN Executive Committee did a re-assessment of the PoA in terms of what is feasible to expect from a secretariat that is currently made up of two part time employees. Bearing in mind the most important levers for the organisation to grow strong quickly and to increase its footprint, the following priorities were agreed to be achieved during the remainder of the year:

KPA 1: Networked organisation

- First round data collected for Dbases (MDIs, Research Institutions & Experts & Donors) – publish on web page & hard copy directory to distribute at Conference
- 2 editions of 4 page newsletter & 1 full report to membership (June to June); Feb Report to Ministerial Conference;
- Continue building out collaboration efforts with AGI; CAPAM & UN → Further follow up: French & German Governments, World Bank; ADB; ACBF

KPA 2: Training

- Initial survey done (incl. training needs analysis)
- 1st and 2nd JICA ToT cohorts trained (= 40 trained)
- 2 further Training partnerships firmed up with programmes in funding cycles for roll-out early next Council's term

KPA 3: Curriculum Development & Review

- Collection of curriculums of MDIs started
- Process set in motion for standards generation
- Case Study writing programme developed and in funding cycle
- Some existing, African useful teaching cases pulled together and make available on-line

KPA 4: Assessment & quality support

- Open this discussion at Conference with some research input made available – both on issues of Africa specific public administration & measures of standards & quality
- Suggestions re process of taking this issue forward put to Conference/ AGM

KPA 5: Research

- Project designed, funded & commissioned for collective policy framework for MDIs
- DBase of Research Institutions & Experts in place

KPA 6: Support in Building Management & Consultancy/ OD Capacity in member MDIs

- Work towards supporting the Ghana conference
- Reconceptualise KPA 6 and present to Executive Council for approval

KPA 7: Staff Exchange Programmes

- A comprehensive programme for staff exchange designed & in funding cycle
- Logistical procedures agreed for staff exchange programmes across AMDIN members and guideline/ pro forma format of MoU & secretariat support available to member institutes who are setting up
- Dbase of experts in sub-disciplines within the various MDIs available

KPA 8: AMDIN governance & operations

- Legal registration for NPO status & step up to S21 started; own bank account; own Post Box
- Web page operational
- Aggressive membership drive completed
- AGM & and first AMDIN Conference run successfully
- EXCO, Council & Sub-Committees meeting as required & functioning properly
- Fully developed programme of activities for funding & planning purposes, budgets & beginnings of own financial & procurement systems in place

Progress on implementation of the Operational Plan

AMDIN Website

A service provider has been appointed for the above purpose and has started work. Funding for this activity has been finalised. A host agreement has been signed with the South African State Information Technology (SITA) to act as initial host of the webpage for an initial period of a year. Discussions have been had with the Development Policy Management Forum (DPMF) in Ethiopia to transfer the registered domain name www.amdin.org to SITA while they host the AMDIN web page. The target date for a fully functional web page remains March 2007.

Database

Work continues in order to strengthen and extend our preliminary database/ directory of African MDIs since this is the base document from which to grow out potential members, run a communications campaign and develop an understanding of the institutional landscape on the continent and establishing contact with potential members of AMDIN. The first survey, of limited scope, to supplement and improve on information for the Dbase/ directory has been distributed to all organisations on our existing Dbase. The survey has been translated in French for Francophone

countries. Follow up work to secure the return of completed questionnaires will commence at the end of February.

AMDIN has agreed to cooperate with NEPAD, CAPAM and AGI on the development of this DBase in order to ensure the minimum duplication of effort but at the same time to achieve the widest coverage of organisations that fall within the ambit of its work.

Training of the Trainers, AMDIN – JICA – SAMDI project

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Government of the Republic of South Africa, through the South African Management Development Institute (SAMDI) on behalf of the African Management Development Institutes Network (AMDIN) has been finalized and the contract will be signed between the Minister for Public Service and Administration in South Africa and JICA. The project is intended to role out a Training of Trainers programme for at least 200 trainers from all regions of the Africa continent, to facilitate key development areas identified through AMDIN, while considering NEPAD objectives regarding public sector capacity development.

The first training cohort of 20 (+2) participants has been selected from Anglophone Eastern, Western and Southern Africa, their logistical arrangements made, the content of the course has been finalized and their training will take place as from 12 to 23 March. The second cohort's training is scheduled for September 2007. We will ensure that the way start getting paved for a Francophone course during the second training course by inviting "critical commentators" from Francophone institutions to attend the course.

Strengthening Relations with Potential Partners

AGI

Since the report to the 2nd Bureau meeting, the AGI held a three day meeting in Dakar to finalise their launch and initial organisational structures. AMDIN was invited to this event and represented by its Deputy Chairperson, Prof. Sheikh Abdullah. At the meeting advice was offered during the meeting and moral support was pledged. AMDIN is looking forward to identifying a first joint project that it can run together with the AGI as soon as the AGI has completed its launch procedures. Sound channels of communication have been established between the AMDIN secretariat and the organiser of the AGI.

CAPAM

Collaboration between AMDIN and CAPAM continues in preparation of the CAPAM workshop for Commonwealth Country Management Institutes, scheduled to take place in November 2007 in Ghana. The AMDIN Executive

Committee was requested to engage with the proposed programme and thematic expressions to ensure that the needs of African MDIs would be met. CAPAM has agreed that the workshop will be formally done “in association with AMDIN”. The modalities of this arrangement are currently worked out.

UNPAN

The United Nations Online Network in Public Administration & Finance has recognised the potential of AMDIN as a potential partner or UNPAN Online Regional Centre. AMDIN was requested to consider this proposition and complete the Preparatory Survey of UNDESA for this purpose. Should this relationship come to fruition AMDIN will join AAPAM; OFA, CAFRAD, the CPSI as well as two UN structures IDEP and ECA, as regional centres on the African continent. The AMDIN EXCO approved the exploration of this relation, but with the proviso that the MoU proposed between the UN and AMDIN will have to be adjusted in order to accommodate concerns regarding ownership and copyright of material.

NEPAD

AMDIN has indirectly participated in the NEPAD process for formulating a strategic framework for capacity development on the African continent through the presence of the Deputy Chairperson, Prof. Sheikh Abdullah in his capacity as head of ASCON, and the Acting CEO of AMDIN in her capacity as Special Advisor to the Minister for Public Service and Administration in South Africa. The cooperation will continue, and also with respect to the building up of a dBase of Capacity Building organisations, AMDIN will contribute its Dbases of MDIs and research and teaching experts.

Annual Conference

The Executive Committee Meeting of 3 February approved the hosting of the first Annual Conference of AMDIN under the theme “MDIs building public sector capacity for Africa’s 21st Century needs”, with 4 sub-themes that will explore the Public Sector capacity needs of the continent. The conference will take place over two days, 30/31 August, and will be preceded by a day of pre-conference skills building workshops. The conference will be partially financed through registration fees, but it is an imperative to find donors/sponsors to make-up the anticipated shortfall. The Programme Committee meeting in March will finalise the content detail regarding the programme.

CONCLUSION

The Executive Committee of AMDIN believes the organisation has negotiated the first few corners of ensuring its survival successfully and that it has entered a period in which some of the first value-add initiatives will be implemented, and the processes for the next round of gains will be firmly set

into motion through preparing funding and project proposals. We believe we would not have survived if it was not for the personal interest and support of the Chairperson of the Conference and Minister for Public Service and Administration of South Africa, Hon. GJ Fraser-Moleketi. We also want to recognise the growing interest and support of a range of other actors, both from the continent and elsewhere that are emerging and that will give further impetus to the planned activities.