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Membership

Membership in AFSAAP is open to anyone, other than members of the foreign diplomatic and consular corps, interested in the development of African studies in the Australia and Pacific region.

Current rates:  Regular member in region A$10
               Regular member outside region A$12
               Student member A$ 2

Cheques should be made payable to 'African Studies Association of Australia and the Pacific' and posted to:

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AFRICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION
OF AUSTRALIA AND THE PACIFIC
NEWSLETTER

Volume VI Number 2 July 1984

The AFSAAP Newsletter appears three times a year, in March, July and November. Suggestions, short contributions, correspondence, and items for the News and Notes section are invited. Contributions on Africa-related research and teaching are particularly welcome. Material received by the first day of a month of publication will appear in that month’s issue. Contributions should be sent to Dr James H. Polhemus, School of Social Sciences, Deakin University, Victoria, Australia, 3217. Correspondence on address changes and corrections should go to the same address.

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1984 AFSAAP ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 30 AUGUST - 1 SEPTEMBER 1984, MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY
1984 ANNUAL MEETING

Another reminder of the forthcoming AFSAAP Conference and Annual General Meeting at Trinity College, University of Melbourne, from 30 August to 1 September. If you have not yet sent in your conference form, do so!

Wednesday, August 29th

ACCOMMODATIONS: Those who arrive before 5 p.m. and who have booked into Trinity College for the evening of August 29, can collect their room keys from the Dean's Secretary (Mrs Susan More) in the Leeper Building, Trinity College.

Those who arrive after 5 p.m. and are booked in for the night of August 29, can collect keys, etc., at the eve of conference Registration Desk in the Junior Common Room, Trinity College.

REGISTRATION: An eve of conference Registration Desk will be available in the Junior Common Room, Trinity College, from 5.00 to 7.30. where you will be able to collect your conference packet of papers and final programme.

7.30 - 8.30, EVE OF CONFERENCE Wine and Cheese "Ice-breaker" An informal get-together for the early arrivals and any conference participants who wish to come along.

6.30 - 7.30, eve of conference Executive Committee Meeting (to reconvene at 8.30 if necessary...)

Thursday, August 30th

8.00 to 9.00 a.m.  Breakfast at Trinity College Dining Hall
8.30 to 9.30 a.m.  Registration in the Junior Common Room (Stragglers can register during the morning coffee break)
9.00 to 10.30 a.m.  Junior Common Room  Dr Norman Etherington (Adelaide) "Zulu Medicine and Missionaries"
Music Room  Dr John Perry (Deakin) "Constitutional Castles: Staking Claims in the Durban City Hall, 1982"  10.30 - 11.00 a.m.  Morning Coffee in Junior Common Room

11.00 - 12.30
Junior Common Room

Mr J. Hugambwa (ANU) "Treating or scrapes of paper - the legal status of colonial agreements with emphasis on Buganda"

Dr R.W.S. Droogleever (Roppers Crossing) "The white advisor on African monarchs: exploitation or protection? A case study on Theophilus Shepstone Junior in Swaziland 1886-1895"

Ms Mira Ivic (Melbourne) "The Soviet and Cuban Involvement in the Horn of Africa since 1974"

Samuel Makinda (ANU) "The Roles of the Superpowers in the 1977 Ogaden War"

12.30 - 1.30
Music Room

Lunch

There will be a lunch time performance by the noted Ewe master drummer, Koboe Ladekpo (UCLA and California Institute of the Arts), accompanied by the La Trobe University African Ensemble.

1.30 - 3.00
Junior Common Room

Plenary Panel on Australian Aid in Africa Chaired by Dr Cherry Gertzel (Flinders) composed of representatives from various government and non-government agencies;

Russell Rollason, Executive Director Australian Council for Overseas Aid, (ACFUA)

Douglas S. Campbell, Director of Pacific, Asian and African Program, Australian Development Assistance Bureau, (ADAB)

Rex Benn, (ADAB)

Dr Gabrielle Persley, Program Co-ordinator for Africa, Australian Centre for Agricultural Research, (ACIAR)

Dr Bob Mc Cowen, Division of Tropical Crops and Pastures, CSIRO
Dr Roger Jones, CSIRO
Dr Michael Toole, Community Aid Abroad, (CAA)
Ms Kaye Bysouth, (CAA)
Mr Neil O'Sullivan, (CAA)
Dr John Janes, Muresk Agricultural College (WAAT)
Australian achievement and activities in Africa and the implication of the Jackson Report
3.00 - 3.30  Afternoon Tea in the Junior Common Room
3.30 - 5.00  Junior Common room
Dr John Lea and Mr Kwabena Donkor (Sydney)
"Self-Reliance and Indigenous Building Industry in Ghana"
Music Room
Dr Kenneth Good (Zambia)
"The Reproduction of Weakness in the State and Agriculture in Africa"
Dr Clever Mungingwe (Zimbabwe)
"Some selected aspects of the Problematic of Transition to agrarian socialism in Zimbabwe"
5.15 - 6.00  Junior Common Room
Special Screening of a series of films produced by the Central African Film Unit. Presented by Dr Rosaleen Smyth (Dept of Aboriginal Affairs)
Luwaka Calling (colour, sound, 20 min.)
The film publicises the Saucepan Special, a dry battery radio which was introduced into Northern Rhodesia in 1949 in an attempt to make broadcasting a medium of mass communications.
Nvono Gets a Letter (colour, silent, 10 min.)
Film advertising a mass literacy program introduced into Northern Rhodesia in 1945 and based on the method of "each one teach one".
6.00 - 6.45  6.30 - 7.30  Junior Common Room
Dinner
Continuation of Special Screening by Dr Rosaleen Smyth films by the Colonial Film Unit.
Cattle Thieves (Tanganyika, 1950, B/W, sound, 20 min.)
Set amongst the Masa, the film publicises the work of the Tanganyika police force, through the story of cattle theft, murder and a police chase.
Amengu's Child (Gold Coast Film Unit, 1954, B/W, sound, 37 minutes)
The film uses the traditional story-telling idiom of the Gold Coast to show how Gold Coast villagers learn the importance of health facilities and child care, as opposed to traditional practices.
7.30 on
Junior Common Room
FREE PUBLIC FILM SHOW featuring the work of writer, director and producer, Sembene Ousmane of Senegal.
Taw (colour, 26 min., French with English sub-titles)
Taw, a twenty-year old unemployed youth in Senegal's capital city, Dakar, is the subject of this penetrating study of Africa's new generation. Taw focuses on the anomic and despair caused by Senegal's high rate of unemployment and the generational clash, in which the old still cling to Islam, polygamy and patriarchal dictatorship, while the young listen to rock music, steal without guilt and grapple with male-female relationships in a rapidly changing society.
Ceddo (colour, 120 min., French and Wolof with English sub-titles)
Set in a village in the Senegambia the film's central theme is the attempt by a cadre of Muslim converts to impose their faith on the villagers. Having converted the royal family or Bur, they are now attempting to force the Ceddo or peasant to accept Islam. The film details the attempts by the Ceddo to maintain their traditional religion.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 - 9:00</td>
<td>Breakfast at Trinity College Dining Hall</td>
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<td>9:00 - 10:30</td>
<td>Junior Common Room&lt;br&gt;Dr Jane Parpart (Zimbabwe)&lt;br&gt;&quot;Class and Gender on the Copperbelt: Women in the Northern Rhodesian Copper Mines, 1920-1964&quot;&lt;br&gt;Dr Enolzool Dady (Department of Aboriginal Affairs)&lt;br&gt;&quot;How War Propaganda 'Untidied the Natives' in Northern Rhodesia During the Second World War&quot;</td>
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<td>10:30 - 11:00</td>
<td>Music Room&lt;br&gt;Mr D. Pal Abluwalla (Flinders)&lt;br&gt;&quot;The Kikuyu Succession&quot;&lt;br&gt;Dr Atena Oduomo (Nairobi)&lt;br&gt;&quot;Nationalism and Nationalities in Kenya&quot;</td>
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<td>11:00 - 12:30</td>
<td>Junior Common Room&lt;br&gt;Politics and Literature Panel&lt;br&gt;Chaired by Dr Andrew Fook (Tasmania)&lt;br&gt;Dr Geoffrey Rooves (WIT)&lt;br&gt;&quot;Popular Literature and Politics in Kenya and Tanzania&quot;&lt;br&gt;Dr Martin Chisock (La Trobe)&lt;br&gt;&quot;Crime Created and Wrong Experienced: Perspectives on the Social History of Crime in Colonial Central Africa&quot;</td>
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<td>12:30 - 1:30</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>1:30 - 3:00</td>
<td>Music Room&lt;br&gt;Dr Jim Gale (Salisbury)&lt;br&gt;&quot;Nananda&quot;&lt;br&gt;Politics and Literature Panel (cont.)&lt;br&gt;Ms Eina Leuenenborg (Melbourne)&lt;br&gt;&quot;Gender, Politics and Identity in Gordimer's Burgers Daughter&quot;&lt;br&gt;Dr G.O. Dara (Ife)&lt;br&gt;&quot;Literature and Politics in Nigeria&quot;</td>
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<td>3:00 - 3:30</td>
<td>Afternoon Tea in the Junior Common Room</td>
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<td>3:30 - 5:00</td>
<td>Junior Common Room&lt;br&gt;Professor Timothy Shaw (Zimbabwe)&lt;br&gt;&quot;Alternative African directions, interests and ideologies in current debates&quot;</td>
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<td>7:30</td>
<td>Pre-dinner drinks in the Junior Common Room for CONFERENCE DINNER at 8.00 p.m. in TRINITY COLLEGE DINING HALL&lt;br&gt;followed by Annual General Meeting of APFRAAP</td>
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<td>Saturday, September 1st</td>
<td>Breakfast in Trinity College Dining Hall</td>
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<td>8:00 - 9:00</td>
<td>Junior Common Room&lt;br&gt;Dr Eric Tan Bas (WA)&lt;br&gt;&quot;The Arrival of the Alepwea; A Cushitic Intrusion in a Khoisan Culture&quot;</td>
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<td>9:00 - 10:30</td>
<td>Music Room&lt;br&gt;Professor Jeffrey Steeves (Saskatchewan)&lt;br&gt;details of paper title not finalised</td>
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<td>10:30 - 11:00</td>
<td>Junior Common Room&lt;br&gt;Politics and Literature Panel&lt;br&gt;Panel on &quot;Current Strategies for Liberation and Control in Southern Africa&quot;, chaired by Dr Jim Gale (Salisbury) and including Mr Robi Salimani and Mr Eddie Fumble (ABC, Sydney)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 - 12:30</td>
<td>Music Room&lt;br&gt;Dr Kenneth Louis (Porthcawl)&lt;br&gt;&quot;Structure of the Nigerian Military Government; Conflict and Consensus&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>It is suggested that we gather at one of the R.V.G. ethnic restaurants on nearby Lygon Street for a break-up lunch.</td>
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David Dorward<br>Conference Organiser<br>APFRAAP 1984<br>History Department<br>La Trobe University<br>Randovra, Victoria, 3083<br>AUSTRALIA
CONSTITUTION
AFRICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA AND THE PACIFIC

As ratified by the Annual General Meeting, 15 November 1979.

1. The title of the Association shall be the African Studies Association of Australia and the Pacific (AFSAAP).

2. The purposes of the Association shall be: to promote research and teaching of African Studies in Australia and the Pacific; to facilitate contact among scholars and students in the field of African Studies through conferences, regional meetings, and publications; to coordinate African Studies programs and the acquisition of African materials by Australian and Pacific libraries; to contribute towards an understanding of Africa in the community at large; to serve as the professional body representing Africanists' interests to government and the community; and to establish contact with African universities and scholars, other overseas scholars and African Studies associations, and to promote interchanges with them.

3. Membership of the Association shall be open to all individuals, other than members of the foreign Diplomatic and Consular corps, interested in African Studies. There shall be two categories of members: full members and student members (the subscription for whom shall be lower than for full members). Members of the Association shall pay an annual subscription at a rate to be determined by the General Meeting.

4. The Officers of the Association shall be a President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. Those elected will normally reside in the host city for the next General Meeting and Conference.

5. The Executive Committee shall conduct all the business of the Association between General Meetings. It shall consist of the Officers and not more than ten other paid-up members of the Association, the exact number to be decided at the General Meeting. The members of the Executive Committee shall be nominated and elected at the General Meeting and shall include adequate regional representation. Three members of the Executive Committee, including at least one officer, shall constitute a quorum.

6. A General Meeting of the Association shall meet at the time of the Conference to discuss the affairs of the Association, all resolutions to be by a majority of members present and voting, and to be binding on the Officers and Executive Committee of the Association. The General Meeting shall also set the time and place of the next General Meeting and Conference, normally held annually but not less than biennially; nominate and elect the Officers and Executive Committee members to serve until the next General Meeting and Conference; and set the membership fees until the next General Meeting.

7. A bank account in the name of the Association shall be established, all cheques drawn by the Association to be signed by any Officer singly. The accounts of the Association shall be open for inspection to all members at the General Meeting.

8. This constitution may be amended by a majority vote of those members present and voting at the General Meeting or by a majority of all members in a postal ballot, three weeks notice of the proposed amendment having been sent to all members.
THE AFRICA CONNECTION FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Early in June Mr Gordon Jackson presented the Report of the Committee to Review the Australian Overseas Aid Program - the Jackson Report. In this report his Committee recommended that Australia should focus its aid on its near neighbours in Papua New Guinea and the small states of the Pacific and Indian Oceans in particular, on south east Asia and the smaller states of southern Asia, and in a more selective way on China, India and Bangladesh. African countries were grouped into a fourth category of lower priority.

Over the past year the Australian Centre for Agricultural Research (ACIAR) has appeared to have moved in a different direction. This young statutory body, which was established under the Minister for Foreign Affairs only two years ago, is now embarking on research projects in Africa worth some $4.5 million over the next three years.

Despite appearances, ACIAR's activities dovetail well with the thrust of the Jackson Report. Although Africa now receives 60 per cent of Australian food aid, the Committee found that Australia can contribute only a very small percentage of the total global aid effort to Africa. Therefore it should 'concentrate on making that effort effective if it is to avoid tokenism'. The Committee commented that providing aid for bilateral projects (project aid) in Africa 'is simply beyond Australia's capability' because the administrative costs are so high. Instead Australia should continue to provide food aid at present levels, but should concentrate its other forms of aid on selected areas where it has special skills.

In practice, this would mean concentrating on training, research and technical assistance, and the Committee provided the examples of dryland (non-irrigated) farming and forestry as areas where Australian specialists are in demand. ACIAR's research programs concentrate on just these topics.

The Role of ACIAR

Not all readers of AFSAAP Newsletter will be aware of the history and role of ACIAR. The Centre was established by an Act of Parliament in June 1982. ACIAR's establishment constituted a significant innovation for Australia's foreign aid program since it is the first organization devoted entirely to mobilizing Australia's agricultural research capacity for the benefit of developing countries. Professor J.R. McWilliam, its first Director, was appointed during September 1983.

It is important to distinguish between the roles of ACIAR and the Australian Development Assistance Bureau (ADAB). ACIAR commissions collaborative agricultural research while ADAB is concerned primarily with development. The two institutions co-operate to minimise overlap. Both agencies have an interest in training scientists in developing countries, however only ADAB grants formal training fellowships. ACIAR sees its role as providing experience to scientists from developing countries by giving them the opportunity to work alongside Australians in laboratory and field research.

Australia is unique in that it is a developed country with a community of first rate agricultural research scientists who work in a range of environments similar to many found in developing countries. Thus, unlike their counterparts in Canada, Britain or even the U.S., agricultural researchers in northern tropical Australia work with infertile soils and seasonal monsoonal climates similar to those found in a number of countries of sub-Saharan Africa.

ACIAR operates by commissioning collaborative research on priority agricultural problems by Australian institutions such as state and university agriculture and forestry departments, or CSIRO, in partnership with research groups in developing countries. The research is carried out both in Australia and in the developing countries. The emphasis is on partnership, and the Centre's small staff goes to considerable lengths to ensure that the projects fit in with the priorities of the developing countries rather than with priorities determined from Australia.

The Centre achieves this aim by organising Consultations (meetings and workshops) in countries that may be interested in collaborating before research projects are negotiated. At these Consultations, which are attended by government officials and research workers, the developing country representatives are asked to state the research needs of their countries as a set of priorities. Attempts are then made to match these research priorities to Australian expertise. ACIAR considers these research projects that are in areas of high priority for the countries concerned, and in which Australia has considerable research experience.

ACIAR's African Program

In the case of Africa, two workshops have taken place - in Nairobi, Kenya during July 1983, and in Zaria, Nigeria last November. These consultations have led to four research projects involving collaboration in Nigeria, Kenya, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Burundi, and probably at future dates in other countries in eastern and western Africa.

To date ACIAR has committed only about one sixth of its research budget to these projects in Africa. It does not believe that it should be commissioning more than a limited proportion of its research there - despite the facts that the continent contains two thirds of the world's poorest nations, and sub-Saharan Africa is the only region of the developing world where food production per head of population has declined consistently since 1970. The main focus for ACIAR's research activities are its near neighbours in southeast Asia, the South Pacific and Papua New Guinea. This thinking is in line with that espoused by the Jackson Committee for Australia's foreign aid effort in general.
ACIAR Director Professor McWilliam justifies the African research projects on the grounds that the environmental similarities found in parts of both Australia and Africa, particularly in the semi-arid tropics, mean that agricultural activities in both continents face a number of similar problems. Consequently Australian agricultural scientists have special skills and experience to offer. However, because very different social and economic conditions apply in the two continents, little Australian agricultural technology can be transferred directly across the Indian Ocean. Rather the Australian experience can yield principles that may be converted into technology of practical value in Africa.

Similarities between Africa and Australia

Southern Australia has a Mediterranean climate corresponding to the climates of the countries of the Mediterranean Sea and to the southern part of South Africa. Most of Australia between latitudes 30° and 20° South is desert, not unlike the Sahara. Australia's subtropics are similar to parts of Mozambique and Botswana. Northern Australia has a tropical climate with a long dry season similar to that found in a zone that stretches from Guinea in western Africa across northern Nigeria to the Sudan. The climate is similar also in coastal and subcoastal areas of eastern Australia. However, climates occurring in Australia along the extensive midlands of Africa occur only in two small areas - near Dalby on the Darling Downs and on the Atherton Tableland in Queensland.

Not a great deal of detailed information is available for comparing the characteristics of African and Australian soils. However, the literature suggests that African soils do have much in common with those of northern Australia. In both continents many have a light to medium texture and they are prone to serious erosion under cultivation or heavy grazing. It seems also that many problems of low soil fertility in semi-arid northern Australia parallel those in African soils. Thus it would appear that African soils lack any of the plant nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorus, sulphur, zinc, potassium copper and molybdenum, which are the main constraints to plant growth on the more productive soils of northern Australia.

Relevant Australian Experience

The research areas in which Australia appears to have the most relevant experience include:

- domestication of plants (many from Africa) for use in tropical pastures, and adaptation of crop and horticultural plants for use in the semi-arid tropics
- management and improvement of soils, crops, pastures and livestock in savanna regions
- understanding of the effects of poor nutrition from low quality pastures on cattle production in particular
- studies of animal health problems caused by ticks in particular, but also by other disease agents
- use of fast-growing Australian hardwood tree species for fuelwood and agroforestry.

Currently approved ACIAR projects in Africa use these areas of experience. The four projects involve investigation of: the improvement of dryland (non-irrigated) crop and forage production in the African semi-arid tropics, the ecology and epidemiology of ticks on African livestock, the use of Australian hardwoods for fuelwood and agroforestry (combining farming with growing trees), and the management of nitrogen fixation by Casuarina trees used for fuelwood and agroforestry. A further short-term project that compiled available information about species in general other than Eucalyptus is nearing completion. This project will result in a guide for those engaged in silvicultural research and land use planning in developing countries.

Although these projects involve collaboration with research groups only in Africa, the results will be relevant to many developing countries in other regions. Also while to date CSIRO has provided leaders to the African projects, this situation does not apply in other regions where State and university agriculture and forestry departments also provide the leadership for many projects.

Increasing Production of Crops and Animal Feed

By far the largest ACIAR project in Africa involves improving the production of non-irrigated crops and animal forage in semi-arid tropical regions. At present government research institutes and universities in Kenya and Nigeria are collaborating with the CSIRO Division of Tropical Crops and Pastures, but other countries may become involved at a later stage.

For the past half century, Australian farmers in southern parts of the continent with a Mediterranean-type of climate have successfully used a rotating system of growing cereals and then grazing sheep on pastures consisting of grass and leguminous plants such as subterranean clover and various types of medic. These 'legume leys' as they are known have been the key to the success of the farming system because they fix nitrogen from the atmosphere into the soil for use by succeeding cereal crops. They also improve the value of the herbage for livestock during the pasture phase of the rotation.

In recent years researchers at the CSIRO Division of Tropical Crops and Pastures in particular have expended a great deal of effort on developing such ley farming techniques for Australia's semi-arid tropics. Most of their trials have been carried out at the Division's research station at Katherine in the Northern Territory, where the climate is similar to much of Africa's semi-arid tropical regions. Their results are encouraging, although much more research needs to be done. It should be possible to adapt some of the ideas developed by the researchers for incorporation into African agriculture.
Forestry research

The two remaining ACIAR projects involve use of Australian trees. More than 90 per cent of people living south of the Sahara depend for cooking, warmth, and thus for their survival, on wood used either directly as fuel or as charcoal. Great shortages are predicted before the end of the century, and in parts of many African countries the situation is already becoming critical. In semi-arid regions of Tanzania for example each family devotes up to 300 man days per year collecting firewood because of over-exploitation of local natural forests. Planting small community forests or woodlots may provide one solution, but the fuelwood plantations must consist of quick-growing tree species that produce wood that provides adequate amounts of heat.

Australian trees, particularly eucalypts, already form part of the rural landscape in many parts of semi-arid Africa. They are planted for industrial purposes and for fuelwood in many countries. In many parts of the world local naturally occurring species at any particular site are smaller and slower-growing than their Australian counterparts in similar sites. In addition, the potentially larger and faster-growing Australian species tend to thrive on poor soils, and to grow particularly well away from the array of insect and fungal pests that attack them in Australia.

In the past some 150 species of Australian trees have been introduced into eastern Africa, mainly at first as fast-growing trees to meet demands of railway fuelwood. However, there are some 300 species of eucalypts, and at least 50 of the 700 species of Australian Acacias (wattle) are relatively large trees, most of which have yet to be screened for silvicultural use. At least 15 species of Casurina and closely related Allocasuarina merit attention, while only three are commonly seen in cultivation. Other Australian genera may also have potential. The purpose of the ACIAR project on using Australian hardwoods for fuelwood production and agroforestry (wood production combined with other forms of agriculture) is to search systematically for additional species suitable for cultivation, and to establish their characteristics when cultivated. It will also provide the amounts of seed or material propagated by other methods needed for the species to be properly tested in other countries. Mr Alan Brown of the CSIRO Division of Forest Research will carry out the project in collaboration with the Queensland Department of Forestry, other research groups in Australia, the Zimbabwe Forest Commission and the Kenyan Forest Research Department.

The Acacias are legumes, and like clover and other legumes they can fix nitrogen from the atmosphere. This ability to fix nitrogen makes it unnecessary to apply nitrogen fertiliser to obtain rapid growth. The actual process of nitrogen fixation is carried out by Rhizobium bacteria located in nodules in the roots. Australian casuarina trees, which produce excellent firewood and grow well in a range of climatic regions in Australia, can also fix nitrogen directly from the air through their relationship with a fungus living in the soil called Frankia.

Studies on ticks

The study of the ecology and epidemiology of African ticks is built around the accumulated experience of oncomologists and animal health researchers at the CSIRO Long Pocket Laboratories in Brisbane, who are collaborating with government research laboratories and individuals in Zimbabwe, Kenya, Zambia and Burundi. Ticks and the diseases they carry are the main constraint to improving domestic animals in Africa, and pose a threat to the productive use of land cleared of tsetse fly and the tsetse-borne disease trypanosomiasis. Ticks can be controlled by weekly treatment with chemicals used in dips. However, the treatment is comparatively expensive, demands very efficient management, and the chemicals have to be bought using precious foreign exchange.

Very little research has been done outside Australia on the ecology of ticks. During the past 10 years Dr Robert Sutherland and his colleagues at the Long Pocket Laboratories have developed computer models which can simulate the way populations of any species of tick found infesting domestic animals anywhere in the world will behave, provided information on the climate and certain biological features can be obtained. Already the models have contributed considerably to understanding the ecology of ticks in other countries, particularly in Africa, and they have been used in Australia to design management strategies for tick control. When combined with models on the epidemiology of tick fever developed at the same laboratories by Dr David Mahoney, these models have provided the basis for understanding tick-borne diseases in general.

Australian domestic animals suffer from the attention of only two tick species (both of Asian origin). However, these two ticks are representative of the types of ticks that cause almost all of the serious tick and tick-borne disease problems in developing countries. It should, therefore be possible to develop biologically based strategies for tick control that at least substantially cut down on the quantities of chemicals required, even if their use cannot be totally eliminated.

In the ACIAR project Dr Robert McCown and Dr Roger Jones from the CSIRO Division of Tropical Crops and Pastures are collaborating with the government and university researchers in Kenya and Nigeria. Jones will shortly establish an office in Nairobi from which he will oversee research in the Kenya midlands near Machakos, and in the lowland savanna region of northern Nigeria. The project will attempt to develop, inexpensive, but viable technology which relies on energy-conserving practices found in traditional farming systems rather than energy-intensive high technology farming. Borrowing on their Australian experience, McCown, Jones and their collaborators in Africa will investigate such techniques as using mulches with minimal tillage (to prevent exposing the soil to tropical downpours), relying on legumes to minimise the need for nitrogen fertilisers, growing mixtures of crops rather than single types, and integrating the production of crops and livestock.
In Australia in particular, agricultural scientists have selected the strains of Rhizobium that fix the most nitrogen in specific conditions, and have developed techniques for inoculating these into seeds of legume pasture plants. In the ACIAR project on the management of nitrogen fixation by Casuarina species to be used for fuelwood and agroforestry, CSIRO scientist Dr Glyn Howden and his collaborators in the Queensland Department of Forestry and in research groups in Africa and Asia will be attempting to do the same thing by selecting the most efficient Frankia strains and developing appropriate seed inoculation techniques. In this way it should become possible to ensure that the Casuarinas planted anywhere in the world produce the maximum possible growth.

ACIAR’s Program in Perspective

These are the ACIAR projects currently approved for Africa. Others are still under consideration, but in line with the recommendations of the Jackson Committee the Centre will continue to devote only a relatively small proportion of its research program to Africa. All of these programs are new, so it will be some years before they yield useful results.

Nevertheless, they provide examples of how Australia can use its particular areas of expertise to assist developing countries at relatively little cost.

During the financial year of 1982-83 the total Australian aid budget for all countries stood at $840 million. Of this, about $50 million went to countries in sub-Saharan Africa. 0.005 per cent of the $10,400 million of aid reaching the region from all donor countries. The one sixth of its research budget that ACIAR is spending in sub-Saharan Africa represents a mere 0.5 per cent of the total Australian aid budget, yet these projects should provide large pay-offs.

Brian Lee
Communications Co-ordinator
ACIAR

MAKERERE 1984: THE PROBLEMS OF RECONSTRUCTION

Earlier this year I spent the best part of a month at Makerere, the longest of three visits I have made since Makerere was liberated from the Amin military regime in April, 1979. As on my earlier visits I felt almost overwhelmed by the kindness and friendliness of Makerere staff, and their generosity to the visitor at a time when they themselves are in great need. As before I also came away with great respect for the tenacity with which they seek under extremely difficult conditions not merely to survive but also to restore Makerere to its former preeminence as a teaching and research institution respected as one of Africa’s foremost centres of academic and intellectual excellence. It would do them a disservice to gloss over the decline that has occurred, or to pretend that morale has not suffered over the past few years; for that would be to minimise the difficulties with which they grapple. It is all the more important therefore to be aware of the many positive activities that are also part of the university scene, such as the NRMABAM Workshop held while I was there, or the efforts of the Uganda Federation of University Women to reestablish their bursary scheme for schoolgirls’ education. Staff are realistic about the situation, and they do not evade their own responsibility for Makerere’s rehabilitation. Teaching continues - staff are not simply sitting around waiting for others to resolve their problems. There are however serious limitations to what they can achieve without external assistance. Makerere’s experience demonstrates with great clarity the constraints imposed upon university development in Africa by economic crisis and institutional neglect. In Makerere’s case the neglect and decline derive in the first place directly from the particular nature of Amin’s rule. But they are also part of the complex process of development that faces every African state. The significance of Makerere’s experience thus goes beyond Uganda, for it presents in extreme form many of the problems of other African universities as well. It raises questions also about the appropriate assistance that the international academic community may still be able to offer to these universities in the 1980s.

Makerere was a major casualty of the economic decline and breakdown of civil order that took place in Uganda under Amin from 1971 to 1979. The physical facilities suffered from nearly ten years of neglect, as decreasing funds and then the lack of foreign exchange meant that neither maintenance nor construction was possible. Although student numbers increased 50% during the seventies no new buildings went up and pressures on accommodation contributed in turn to further decline. Equipment could not be maintained or replaced. Halls of Residence were by the late seventies without water and proper kitchen equipment; by 1979 virtually all the cooking was being done on charcoal stoves, and sanitation presented serious problems since there is a limit to the number of pit latrines that can be dug on the hill! The library became increasingly unable to purchase books or keep its periodicals collection up to date. Nor was it only the physical plant that suffered. The arbitrary rule of the military regime spilled over into the university and staff and students alike were victims of the terrible insecurity that increasingly characterised those years.
Many staff, and a significant number of students, had to flee for their lives. Between 1972 and 1979 Makerere had six successive Vice-Chancellors, three University secretaries, and for six years no substantive Bursar. By 1979 there was an acute shortage of staff at all levels, although the gap was filled, in part by the increased employment of teaching assistants, who assumed a heavy load. Research virtually came to a halt. The regime's disregard for intellectual and academic values challenged the integrity of the university itself. Makerere became isolated from the wider East African and International community and from academic institutions abroad. Morale suffered deeply, reflecting the malaise that encompassed Uganda as a whole.

The University was not seriously damaged during the liberation war, and was also saved for the most part from the looting that occurred in the wake of the war throughout most of the country. (Due not least to the courageous manner in which the then Vice-Chancellor handled the situation). The years of institutional neglect had never left their mark and in 1979 Makerere's material and staff needs were enormous. The estimate of capital needs given in the Seere Report in 1979 was 800 million shillings, and to the Bellagio Conference in 1970 1,000 million shillings, which at the then exchange rate was £62,500.00.2 Virtually every building on the campus required major repair if not reconstruction. Makerere's collections had huge gaps for the seventies, the students had few text books, and the bookshop did not have the foreign exchange to buy them. In March, 1979 there were 207 staff in situ (two thirds of them expatriates) out of an establishment for 1978/79 of 617. These gaps could be expected to become more serious in the years to come, and it would be surprising if there had not been some deterioration in the quality of teaching over these years.

The five years since then have seen some recovery, and it was good last February to see some of the signs. There was once again running water on the hill (although the supply was subject to interruptions). Some repair and reconstruction has been managed and at least the front of the Main Building has had a coat of paint! The Kampala City Council's inability to restore its refuse collection services means there is still a major uncollected garbage, but it is now under control. The acute shortages of basic office supplies, such as stationery, and office equipment, have been eliminated but they have eased (although stationery and office equipment remain higher than they were five years ago). There have been additions to the library stock, and I was delighted to see that the late Dame Margery Perham's books, which she left to Makerere, had arrived, and been catalogued and shelved in a special section. The collection was officially handed over to the University by the British High Commissioner at the end of last year, and the Politics Department guards the small stock of books it has built up as a departmental library in an effort to overcome the pressures on library resources, as I am sure other departments do as well. The bookshop does have some stock. Indeed while I was there they closed their doors for a week while they dealt with a large newly arrived consignment.


The staffing position has also eased a little. Wherein in 1979 some departments had no more than a third of their staff, and a 50% establishment was considered an achievement, now 60% to 65% of the posts are filled. A number of former Ugandan staff (although by no means all) have returned to Makerere. A number of Staff Development Assistants (who contributed a great deal to teaching in the difficult period of the late seventies) have been sent abroad for graduate studies (including to Australia, which provided thirty very welcome development scholarships and a liberation) and now have by now returned to take up posts. The university is beginning therefore to fill in its depleted ranks, from the bottom up. A succession of visiting academics who have gone out for short or longer periods, often during their own university vacation, has made it possible to no small number of our colleagues or to maintain a number of courses which would otherwise not have been mounted. Liaison with other academic institutions has been resumed and although the impact of isolation has not yet been overcome, isolation itself has been greatly reduced.

Nevertheless, there is a great deal to be done before the University can function properly, and take its full role in development. There are still two hundred unfilled posts, half of them in the Medical School, which creates a serious bottleneck. Graduate studies has scarcely revived. There are still Staff Development Assistants for whom graduate training cannot be provided, because there are no funds to go abroad and Makerere cannot accept yet in most fields provide the training at home; some indeed have left the University to look for other jobs. There is still the need to rebuild morale among staff who were isolated for years and who need to bring themselves up to date with the developments in their discipline. The cutting edge of intellectual endeavour needs to be honed fine again. The day to day workings of the university continues to suffer from the lack of a steady range of supplies, as well as low morale that results from the situation itself. Finally, five years after liberation there is still the mammoth task of the physical rehabilitation of the university.

The present constraints upon staff and students are not simply those of dilapidated buildings and inadequate books. In the past indeed the limitations of buildings and books did not stop Makerere from reaping the heights. The University operates today under circumstances that would retard even a country struggling for economic recovery, in circumstances which impose severe pressures upon virtually all Ugandans in their everyday life. The first two years after liberation were years of acute shortage of even the most basic commodities, in a rampant magindo (blackmarket) economy in which inflation was rampant, the British High Commissioner in Uganda and many lost its value of course last year or so supplies have greatly improved and basic commodities (as well as luxury items whose availability at this stage is somewhat surprising) are much more readily available. The market is full again, of fruit and vegetables and meat, and petrol is in ready supply. While inflation may have come down, the open market ensures that prices remain very high, at a time when wages and salaries have not moved to keep pace. (A bunch of potatoes in February, I was told, fetched 1,360/-, which was then the minimum monthly wage for an unskilled worker). The result is that no-one on a low income in Uganda at the beginning of 1984 could live on his or her salary, and
Makerere staff were no exception. Lecturers' salaries were quite simply not enough to live on, so that all staff, professors included, had a second source of income or supplies apart from their salary. Some have been more enterprising than others. A good deal more food is also grown in Makerere's gardens now than was the case twenty years ago, and chickens, and in one case cows, provide some families with the necessary additional income. The problems of daily survival add enormously however to the demands upon the individual and to the pressures on working time, and most often it is research that has had to give. The fact that the recent June Budget finally made significant increases in civil service and academic salaries suggests that the problem had finally to be recognised.

It is not only the economic difficulties that frustrate the University. Makerere is subject like everyone else to the habit of violence in the country at large that continues to threaten all Ugandans, and which results in a pervading insecurity of life and property that presents the most fundamental constraint to the whole country's recovery. The university is also directly affected by the deep political cleavages that continue to plague Uganda five years after liberation, and which reflect Ugandans' inability to achieve a political consensus. Party politics have intruded into campus life since 1959 and this remains so. National political cleavages continue to challenge the university's independence and integrity and to threaten its ability to restore a community spirit, among students and staff alike. Events surrounding this year's student Guild elections demonstrated.

Students also have to function under difficult conditions. A Task Force set up in 1982 by the Minister for Education and the University Council to assess university facilities and recommend levels of admission acknowledged clearly the overcrowded halls of residence with leaking roofs, and faulty plumbing, and lacking proper kitchens and sewerage system. Such conditions of overcrowding, poor food, lack of study facilities, had earlier been seen by staff as a contributory factor that led to student strike action in 1980 and to subsequent upsets and troubles in the Guild. Nevertheless the external pressures upon the university to increase its admission increases. There is also talk of a second university.

All these continuing difficulties impose severe pressures upon staff and students. Some respond better than others. The capacity for renewal that exists was brought home to me forcibly during my recent visit by the Mawazo Workshops which I was invited to attend. Mawazo is the Journal of the Schools of Humanities and Social Sciences, begun in the early sixties, but brought to a halt in the hard days of the mid-seventies. Last year, 1983, Makerere staff brought out the first issue in eight years. The Mawazo Board, led by the editors, have also, with financial assistance from the Canadian International Research and Development Council (IRDC) initiated a series of Workshops to explore major issues facing contemporary Ugandan and East African society, planning also to use a selection of papers presented at the basis for an issue of the Journal. The first Workshop was held last year, Agrarian Change in Africa, took place in February while I was there.

The Workshop was immensely successful. There was a small number of participants from the two universities in Dar es Salam and in Nairobi, and a few from further afield as well. There were twenty or more papers presented, from Makerere students, as well as staff and academics from other institutions. Attendance was not restricted to those presenting papers, and there was a large student audience at most sessions. The meeting was held in Makerere Main Hall, and at the peak there must have been nearly four hundred people present. Although the undergraduates made a good showing, the staff and other social science researchers, the occasion was for me reminiscent of the East African Social Science conference, especially at the height of the intellectual debate about development that enlivened the East African universities in the early seventies. There was a distinct ideological tone to much of the debate, and academically both papers and discussion were uneven. What is important however is that the Workshop took place, in spite of considerable difficulties (limited administrative resources, secretarial assistance and duplicating facilities to mention only three). It showed what can be done, if the funds are available, and how a comparatively small amount of external assistance can facilitate a genuine staff endeavour. A third Workshop is planned for October, 1984, on A hundred years after the Berlin Conference: Perspectives on Africa's Liberation.

The Mawazo Workshops are not the first such conferences that Makerere staff have organised, and to which they have invited participants as staff at the events surrounding this year's student Guild elections demonstrated.

This was essentially the Vice Chancellor's point when I talked to him before I left about Makerere's continuing problems and needs. Makerere reflects in microcosm the problems of reconstruction that face Uganda as a whole, and of which she is part. Economic recovery may have started, but it has yet to be won, and finance and foreign exchange remain severe constraints. The country's recovery programme puts Makerere back on the national agenda, but it also gives priority to the productive sectors of the economy, and at this stage only the most urgent needs of education can be dealt with, at the tertiary as well as at other levels.

External assistance is thus essential, and Makerere has not since 1979 lacked supporters and donors. But as the Vice Chancellor put it, the magnitude of the capital investment required for rehabilitation is daunting. Major physical reconstruction will need
major donors and will inevitably take time. Nevertheless there is much that can be done if the reconstruction programme can be broken up into small, manageable projects, and he sees a number of areas where there is scope for assistance of a more modest nature, which would make a world of difference not only to morale but also to performance. At one level, given the effect of current financial constraints on supplies, a gift of six months' stationery to a department, or three typewriters, could make a world of difference. At a different level, external assistance for the restoration of teaching and research continues to remain vital. First, there is a continued need for support for Staff Development training. On the one hand this means scholarships to enable young staff to study abroad; on the other hand, it means assistance to restore Makerere's own capacity for graduate training, all the more important given the problems sometimes encountered of persuading graduate students to return from abroad. Second, short and longer term fellowships in other universities to enable staff to counteract the effects of years of isolation, would make a significant contribution to the restoration of the university's teaching and research capacities. Third, the Vice Chancellor would welcome senior expatriate academics on short term secondments to assist both in teaching and in departmental development. Finally, the library remains very much in need.

Makerere people remain appreciative of the assistance Australia gave them in the immediate aftermath of liberation in 1979, including office equipment as well as scholarships. They are sad however that the Australian contact seems now to have been lost. Although ADAB's training programme still includes Uganda along with other African states, AIDF is precluded, as members of the Association will know, from spending any money on activities in Africa. Ironically, the Book Appeal for Third World Universities, which was established by ACPAD (the Australian Committee for Publications Acquired for Development), largely as a result of inquiries from Makerere's Vice Chancellor, has not yet benefited Makerere, since the committee administering the fund decided that initially its efforts should be directed towards developing universities in Southeast Asia, PNG and the South Pacific.

Nevertheless Makerere remembers with gratitude the manner in which Australia gave assistance during the crisis of 1979 and is modest and realistic in their suggestions as to how we might help further. Recognising that an Australian contribution will of necessity be small, they nevertheless, suggested five categories of possible assistance: First, some additional scholarships to enable Staff Development Assistants to do graduate studies abroad; second, some short-term fellowships to enable teaching staff to have a period of intellectual renewal abroad; third, short-term secondment to Makerere of senior academics to assist teaching and departmental development; fourth, basic office equipment, such as Australia gave in 1979; fifth, books and journals, to help plug the library's gaps.

I would add, as a personal feeling, how good it would be if more direct links with individuals could be created by those of us with past associations and common interests with Makerere staff.

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Makerere more than almost any other Commonwealth University inspired great affection and loyalty in those who worked there, as former Makerere staff now in Australia demonstrated in their response to Makerere's need in 1979. Yet it is not only those of us who have a Makerere connection who should be concerned. At one level Makerere's present needs reflect the national crisis in Uganda of which she is an integral part. At a second level, however, they symbolise, albeit in extreme form, the problems that today face a significant number of African universities. Political crisis has challenged both institutional and individual academic freedom, and in turn affected the capacity of the universities to participate in the development process. Economic crisis has resulted for many of them in rundown equipment, cramped accommodation, the rundown of libraries especially their periodicals, and staff shortages. If however African manpower and human resource needs are to be met, the Universities must play a central role. All of us therefore with a concern for the future of Africa, and of its universities, need to consider the questions Makerere's problems of reconstruction raise.
BY TAZARA RAIL: NEW KAPIRI MPSHE TO DAR ES SALAAM

In spite of general scepticism, amounting in some cases to disbelief, I persisted in my plan to travel on the Tazara Rail, as part of my study leave trip in Africa in November and December, 1983. This railway line, which carries both freight and passengers on the 1162 miles from New Kapiri Mposhe in Zambia to Dar Es Salaam in Tanzania, was begun in 1970 and completed in 1976. It has been variously known as the great Shuru railway, the Chinese railway, the Tzasa railway and even the 'white elephant' but is now officially called the Tazara Rail. The line was built with an interest-free loan from the Chinese government and with the help of 15,000 Chinese technicians. Although some 6,000 Zambians and Tanzanians now work on the railway, some Chinese technicians can still be seen along the line or in railway workshops.

The line, which was built essentially to link the Zambian copper belt with the port of Dar Es Salaam, was officially handed over to the Tanzanian-Zambian Railway Authority in July, 1976. The repayments to China were due to begin in 1983 when it was hoped that two million tonnes of freight would be reaching Dar Es Salaam annually and the railway would be paying its way. The line was closed by floods in 1979 and by Rhodesian air attacks which cut bridges in October, 1979, and by 1980 was reported to be losing money (African Diary, Sept. 16-22, 1980, p. 10198). However recent agreements mean that Zambian mines have pledged to route 40,000 tonnes of copper through Dar Es Salaam every month, most of it by rail. This means that some 80% of Zambia's production of copper, zinc and cobalt will be exported in this direction (Africa Diary, Sept. 10-16, 1983, p. 11589). Fourteen new locomotives have recently arrived from the Federal Republic of Germany to help pull these loads (Africa Diary, Sept. 17-23, 1983, p. 11596).

We arranged our flight from Perth to Rome via Harare, Lusaka, Dar Es Salaam, Nairobi and Addis Ababa so that we were able to fly from Zambia to Tanzania if it proved impossible to go by the Tazara rail. Our travel agent set about making enquiries concerning the train trip and back came a letter from the Tazara Office in Lusaka confirming our first class bookings on the train for December 14, payment for which would have to be made in Lusaka, in Kwacha, the Tanzanian currency. We were given details about the address of the ticket office and the cost of the fares which were:

- K 88.70 first class (single)
- K 59.60 second class
- K 24.60 third class

Our second surprise came when we presented ourselves at the ticket office in Lusaka, where we were taken by Dr Kon Good, Lecturer in African politics at the University of Zambia. The obliging young woman behind the counter, who worked in an office not much larger than a telephone box, was expecting our arrival and provided our tickets. The important thing now was to arrange to catch a bus going to New Kapiri Mposhe some 120 km north of Lusaka in order to catch the train from this terminal. This involved a long wait in a queue and some sense of insecurity about the likelihood of actually being able to get on the bus at 10.00 a.m. the following morning.

There was one other problem. We were only permitted to take 10 kg of luggage on the bus and therefore had to consign some of our luggage as air freight to Dar Es Salaam. This proved to be an expensive and time consuming business even though we had our air tickets between the two cities. We were reluctant to part with our luggage which was in fact pilfered before we were able to retrieve it. The consignment note indicated that it was sent on to Dar Es Salaam immediately but it took us a week from the date of consignment to get it back. The inefficient practices with freight at some African Airports are difficult to credit unless one has experienced them and they are made more difficult by the astronomical costs of taxi fares, especially in Dar Es Salaam. In comparison the efficiency of Tazara Rail was astonishing.

We joined the bus passengers the next morning, some time before the announced departure time, and waited for the bus which was one half an hour late. By this time there were two quite separate queues forming and we were uncertain as to their purpose. When the bus arrived, the situation soon became clear. The right hand queue consisted of people who had tickets and who were all given seats. The left hand queue consisted of those who hoped to be allowed on the bus without a previously purchased ticket. There was only one spare seat and that went to a young woman carrying twin children who were soon taken over by many helping hands. Apparent chaos concealed unexpected order.

The bus was destined for Kitwe, passing through the copper mining town of Kabwe. At about 1 p.m. we arrived at Kapiri Mposhe a township consisting essentially of a few African shops on the side of the road, surrounded by open-spaces and ill-defined blocks of African housing. We looked about uncertainly for the station which was some two Kilometres distant. At this point a boy of about twelve appeared in front of us and offered to carry our luggage. We started to explain that we wanted to go to the station. Yes, he knew that. The politeness of the African people allowed us to forget how invisible we were in that society and also how predictable. They made no fuss about it but they steered us in the right direction.

The station at New Kapiri Mposhe proved to be a vast open hall where we found hundreds of people waiting for the train to leave, which it did on time, more or less, at 4.15 p.m. There were few first class passengers, including three European couples and some Indians, were directed to their carriage first - the one at the end of the train which was beyond the platform. This was our punishment! Most of the passengers were in the third class carriages sitting up on rows of seats. Our first class carriages were designed for four people to lie down. They were comparatively clean, blankets were provided for a fee and food was available in a cafeteria car.
Many of the Africans were travelling for relatively short distances and the train stopped frequently at small stations to put passengers down and to collect new ones. At each stop food could be bought from people selling mangoes, bananas, dried fish and a variety of African delicacies. There were also warm canned drinks for sale both from people on the platform and on the train, which, until the last day, also provided African beer. The train was a magnet drawing people from long distances with a variety of goods to sell; and everywhere people walked. We seldom saw a vehicle of any kind from the train.

On the Zambian side of the border the countryside is generally wooded savanna and apparently not heavily populated. The occasional African hut and patches of hoe agriculture indicated that the people who live in this region are still engaged in subsistence agriculture of the simplest kind. There were almost no oxen being used for ploughing, perhaps because of the tsetse fly infestation, and patches of "slash and burn" agriculture could be seen from the train. It was explained by educated Africans on the train that, although there is no shortage of land, men tend to despise agricultural pursuits and go to the mines for employment. It seemed likely to us that this explanation did not take enough account of the comparative rewards from the two occupations. But, in any case, Zambia is now unable to feed herself and the government is offering inducements to farmers who will produce grains for the market. The people looked generally very poor and appeared to be wearing the cast-off clothes of the Western world. The women everywhere were carrying babies on their backs as well as heavy loads. Occasionally we saw a settlement where people lived in a village and appeared to have a school attached. But education is not yet compulsory in Zambia and many of the children do not attend school at all.

Before boarding the Tanzanian train at the border we encountered some hostility from the Tanzanian officials who suspected us of having come from South Africa. They seemed unconvinced by our explanations for our presence on the train and wanted to know why we had new passports. At one level this was an extension of much of the inefficiency and harassment commonplace at border crossings in other parts of Africa, designed often to solicit a bribe. But we were informed by other travellers that some of the tunnels on the railway line had been blown up in recent times, perhaps exacerbating existing suspicions.

The trip into Tanzania in late afternoon is superb. The train follows an escarpment for several hours and one looks out over well cultivated fields and prosperous villages, with beautiful mountains providing a backdrop in the distance. The alluvial plains here, the result of soils derived from volcanic rock, are the most productive and most heavily settled in Tanzania. The area around Mbeys at the north end of Lake Malawi is excellent coffee growing country and also produces rice, maize and tea.
Economic Crises

Underlying the debate on SADCC's priorities was concern about the global economic crisis and its implications for the SADCC states. Real incomes throughout the region have fallen and several countries, including the host nation Zambia, face chronic shortages in foreign exchange.

Delegates to the Conference were counting the number of days they would be in Lusaka as they learnt that there was less than ten days supply of chlorination chemicals for the Lusaka water supply system. Shortages in a wide range of imported items such as this are common in several nations in the region due to the lack of foreign exchange.

Zambia's crisis is the result of falling copper prices and rising import prices. Zambia depends on copper for 95% of its foreign exchange earnings yet a tonne of copper in 1978 bought less than half the imports it bought in 1974 and by 1982 less than a third.

The world economic recession, together with rising oil prices, have brought several of the SADCC member countries close to economic ruin.

Drought

To these world-wide problems has been added the scourge of drought. Zimbabwe and Swaziland last year had only a third of the 1980/81 maize harvest. Botswana and Lesotho were even less. There is desperate hunger in southern Mozambique and Angola. Rains have come in some areas breaking the drought but the much needed late wet season rains, so necessary for development of the maize heads, have failed.

On the eve of the conference a cyclone hit southern Mozambique and Swaziland causing severe flooding, loss of life and widespread loss of cattle and crops. A cruel end to a bitter drought.

Destabilisation

In his address to the Conference Commonwealth Secretary-General Ramphas told delegates that "we deceive ourselves in believing that assistance to SADCC countries contributes to the alleviation of human suffering among its member states if at the same time we tolerate South Africa's policy which constantly enlarges that suffering".

He went on to refer to the statement from the recent New Delhi Commonwealth leaders meeting which spoke "of repeated violations by South Africa of the territorial integrity of neighbouring states; acts of aggression intended to destabilise neighbours, ground and air strikes, attacks on refugee concentrations in Lesotho and Mozambique, the occupation of part of southern Angola, as well as economic sabotage and blackmail. A total disregard by the leaders for the norms of civilised conduct between sovereign States".

Four Years

Formed in 1980, SADCC is a unique exercise in co-operation and regional development co-ordination by nine states in Southern Africa - Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The principal goal of these nine states is to reduce their economic dependence on South Africa. At its 1980 meeting in Lusaka, the SADCC states identified nine priority sectors for development and allocated a sector to each member state for action. The priority areas are:
- Transport and Communication - Mozambique
- Agriculture and Food Security - Zimbabwe
- Agricultural Research And Animal Disease Control - Botswana
- Fisheries, Wildlife and Forestry - Malawi
- Soil and Water Conservation and Land Utilisation - Lesotho
- Manpower Development - Swaziland
- Industrial Development - Tanzania
- Energy Security and Conservation - Angola
- Mining - Zambia

Extensive documents reporting on the work of each of the co-ordinating groups were presented to the Conference, together with a list of projects having regional importance and requiring urgent funding. The projects range from rehabilitation and upgrading key rail lines in the region to upgrading port facilities, improving grain storage and handling facilities, co-ordinating technical training in the region, reforestation and addressing the firewood needs of the people in the region.
In the week leading up to SADCC IV South African agents were again at work in western Zambia cutting power lines in broad daylight.

One SADCC project being undertaken by Australia - a feasibility study on upgrading the Harare/Beira road - is unable to proceed because of the likelihood of South African attacks on the road.

**Australia and SADCC**

A four-member Australian delegation headed by the Chairman of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence, the Hon. W. Morrison, M.P., attended the SADCC meeting. In his statement to the plenary session Mr Morrison reaffirmed Australian support for "the SADCC concept of strengthening the economic position of member states, their independence from South Africa and to achieve these aims through regional co-operation".

Mr Morrison said the degree of accord that has been achieved by SADCC in its first three years was impressive. To date, however, Australia's support for SADCC has been very modest, totalling only Aust $1.77 m for two civil aviation projects and two feasibility studies - for upgrading the Beira/Machapinda road and for stabilising land slips on the Dar Es Salaam/Lusaka rail line.

At the Lusaka meeting Australia announced the finalisation with Zimbabwe of Australian support for the SADCC food security administrative unit based in Harare. On a bilateral basis in 1983/84, Australia will provide Aust $15.9 m in food aid assistance to Mozambique, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Zambia - food much needed in the wake of the current drought.

Yet Australia has the potential to make a unique and valuable contribution to the development of Southern Africa. Australia is the only developed country with experience in dry land farming in semi-arid tropical areas. Much of Southern Africa, through Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana, is very similar in climate, soil, topography and vegetation to the top end of the Northern Territory and to north Queensland. Australia is in a unique position to make a substantial practical contribution to the development of agricultural production across Southern Africa.

**Satisfactory Outcome**

Speaking at the final press conference SADCC Executive Secretary, Mr Arthur Blumert, said the response from donor countries to SADCC projects far exceeded expectations. "All agricultural projects received either pledges or indications of interest", he said and expressed confidence that ultimately SADCC will receive the food aid it requires.

In the week prior to the SADCC meeting, representatives from 34 non-government aid and development organisations (NGOs) from 17 countries, including Australia, met to consider NGO relations with SADCC. As a result of their meeting, the NGOs have agreed to undertake an international campaign to inform the community of the goals and objectives of SADCC and to encourage increased support from donor nations.

SADCC Chairman and Vice-President of Botswana, the Hon. P. Mmusi, described SADCC as a process of overcoming dependence. In its four year life, SADCC has enabled the politically diverse countries of the region to co-operate in a concrete way to achieve independence from the dominating South African economy. Australia's strong stand against Apartheid should be matched by similar strong support for SADCC and its member countries.

Russell Rollason
Executive Director Australian Council for Overseas Aid
The new edition of the AFSAAP Directory has now been prepared. The directory provides an annotated listing of 123 individuals in Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea with an interest in African studies, including academics, teachers, diplomats, aid officials, librarians and research workers. It is intended to provide a portrait of our association, to facilitate contact among Africanists; and to act as a resource for media organisations, government, and community groups wishing to locate specialist knowledge about Africa.

Copies of the Directory will be distributed to all registrants at the forthcoming annual conference. Financial members of the association who are unable to attend the conference will receive a copy through the mail at a later date. Copies will be also sent to libraries, government departments and media organisations. Enquiries to David Goldsworthy, Department of Politics, Monash University, Clayton, Victoria, 3168.

Jackson Committee Report

The Report of the Committee to Review the Australian Overseas Aid Program (the Jackson Committee) places Africa in the lowest priority for Australian aid. According to the Executive Summary of the Report, "humanitarian concerns, developing country needs, Australia's capacity to assist, the regional responsibilities of Australia and other donors, and Australia's strategic and economic interests were the criteria used to determine" four categories:

I. Papua New Guinea and the small island states of the Pacific and Indian Oceans
II. South-East Asia and the smaller states of South Asia (Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka)
III. China, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh
IV. Other developing countries

The Summary notes, however, that "the fourth category includes a large number of the very poorest countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Their plight cannot be ignored". It goes on to say "restructuring of the Australian aid program does not mean a withdrawal of Australian aid from Africa, or a reduction of the Australian commitment to helping the world's poorest people. Australia is a small aid donor and it has to make its aid delivery effective. It is evident from the experience of the last decade that Australia cannot undertake projects effectively in a large number of distant countries. Other forms of aid should be used to ensure that Australia's concern for the very poor countries, particularly those of the Commonwealth, is put into practice". Food aid, technical assistance and training are to be the principal forms of assistance to Africa. It is proposed that "co-financing should be used to fulfil current obligations" for project aid. The Report proposes that all countries should continue to be eligible for Head of Mission discretionary aid funds, food aid, education, research and technical assistance funding and that refugee and disaster aid be provided on the basis of need regardless of location.

African visitors

Bishop Desmond Tutu, General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches, visited Australia as a guest of the federal government in May this year. At the invitation of the Department of Foreign Affairs, several AFSAAP members met Bishop Tutu for an off-the-record discussion while he was in Melbourne.

Another federal government guest in May was the Hon. Mrs Phoebe Asilo, the only elected woman member of the Kenyan Parliament. Mrs Asilo is a member of the Kenyan planning committee for the 1985 U.N. Conference on Women to be held in Nairobi. She is the leading woman's spokesperson in Kenya and was co-ordinator of the Year of the Child in her country. She is the Kenyan delegate to the U.N. on social issues.
Eritrean Relief Committee

The Eritrean Relief Committee invites donations for war and drought relief in Eritrea. The Committee publishes a newsletter (annual subscription $3.00), makes available for a modest rental, videos, films and slides on Eritrean concerns, and distributes information on the publications of the US-based Research and Information Centre on Eritrea. The ERC has branches in Victoria, South Australia, New South Wales, and Queensland. Contact address: Eritrean Relief Committee, P.O. Box C168, Clarence Street, Sydney, NSW 2000.

Overseas Service Bureau

The Overseas Service Bureau (OSB) is an independent organisation involved in programs and issues related to world development with particular emphasis on encouraging Australians to work in the developing countries of Asia, Africa and the Pacific.

Through the Australian Volunteers Abroad (AVA) Program Australians are enabled to have a living and working experience in a different country for a minimum of two years, assisting the host country, on local wages and conditions.

The OSB recruits Australians for positions in a wide variety of professions and trades, for example:

Administration
Agriculture
Architecture
Communications
Education
Environmental Sciences

Skilled Trades
Social Sciences
Commerce
Economics
Engineering
Health

Applicants must have at least two years full time work experience in their field post graduation.

For further information contact the OSB, 71-75 Argyle Street (P.O. Box 350), Fitzroy 3065, Victoria. Phone (03) 4191788.

Australian NGO Preparatory Seminar of ICARA II

On 2 May 1984 twenty-five representatives from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, Australian Development Assistance Bureau and eleven non-government organisations attended a seminar in Sydney on the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa (ICARA II) in Geneva in July 1984. The seminar was sponsored by UNHCR in consultation with the Australian Council for Overseas Aid, the Refugee Council of Australia, and AUSTcare. Roy Pateman, who attended for AFSAAP, reports:

The conference was arranged by Jack Landau, the Regional Representative of the United Nations High Commission on Refugees and the keynote address given by H.E. Dr Jason M. Msula the High Commissioner for Zambia who rejoined the conference for the afternoon round table discussion. The UNHCR distributed a great deal of publicity material to representatives of most of the major agencies.

One of the most positive features of the conference was a contribution by Dr Mike Toole from Community Aid Abroad on the Somali Health Care Program. This evolved from the severe problems associated with the massive influx of refugees during 1979-81. The Refugee Resettlement Unit was set up largely through the initiative of Somali doctors and featured a high level of involvement of refugees. Infant mortality dropped from 250 per 1000 at the start of the programme to 80 per 1000 in 1983 - the latter level comparable to Brazil. Non Governmental Organisations trained many community health workers and upgraded district hospitals, facilities which will be used by local people when the refugees eventually return. Another success story is the WHO immunisation campaign; by 1982 80% of children had been vaccinated fully. Because of the success of the campaign, the Somali government declared Primary Health Care to be one of its main development and planning priorities and are moving away from 'passive dependency'.

During the afternoon session it was apparent that the participants differed on approaches to a solution to the refugee crisis. The UN and Australian government representatives were concerned primarily to depoliticise the issue; to work closely with nations who are the source of the flood of refugees - such as Ethiopia; to damp down 'forest fires' of refugees and look at the political causes of refugees in a much longer term perspective. On the other hand, many of the NGO representatives were prepared to face difficult political issues head on.

A loose form of consensus resulted in a broad motion being drafted by Mike Toole and Russell Rasson of ACPOA to go to ACPOA and then on to ICARA II in Geneva. It was along the following lines:

It is agreed that for a durable solution to be found for the many million African refugees we must address ourselves to the political causes which make people flee their homes for another country or become 'internal' refugees within their own country. Non governmental agencies should be concerned with the following matters:

1. Very careful attention must be given to the appropriate form of assistance and developmental aid with the aim of changing the status of refugees from that of food and aid recipients to food producers. Projects should also assist the host country.

2. There is a growing role for NGOs in areas of the world inadequately funded by Government aid. Here the case of Eritrea received strong support. When 50% of the area of Eritrea is acknowledged by the Australian government to be beyond the control of the Ethiopian government assistance should be via the Eritrean Relief Association which today works closely with the EPLF, de facto government of Eritrea. The aid can go through the NGOs and bypass the difficulties of non diplomatic recognition.
3. There should be an end to the exploitation of refugees. Not only should the forced recruitment of refugees into military units be halted but the bombing of refugee camps be made illegal. Also host governments should be encouraged to grant citizenship to refugees (as is the case in Zambia) and give them the same treatment with regard to employment, schooling and health as indigenous treatment.

4. The evils of *refoulement* should be recognised and dealt with fully in international forums. The well documented cases between Djibouti and Ethiopia were acknowledged.

**Australian Development Studies Network**

During 1983 the Development Studies Centre of the Australian National University convened a workshop on "Australian Universities Relations with Developing Countries" which was attended by members of staff from most Australian universities as well as several government bodies. The session concluded that a "Development Studies Network" should be established in Australia and that this should include a newsletter and periodic meetings on development studies. The first issue of the newsletter appeared in April 1984 and a symposium on "Aid and Development" was arranged during the 54th ANZAAS Conference in Canberra in May. Those interested in future activities of the Development Studies Network are invited to send their name and address to Professor Helen Hughes, Development Studies Centre, Australian National University, GPO Box 4, Canberra, ACT 2601.