



## **AABS Newsletter # 6**

**August 2007 - February 2008**

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## **1. Message from Incoming chairperson: Erasmus Kaijage**

I first of all ask all members of AABS to join hands with me in thanking our founding Chairperson, Prof. Nick Binedell, and the Director of Gordon Institute for Business Sciences for steering AABS for the first two years of its existence. Nick has put up a solid ground for the Association to take off; he has worked hard to ensure AABS is recognised internationally and indeed Nick has made the role of African Business Schools to be more visible all over the world. In the process, he has sacrificed a lot in terms of his time and resources, and we feel proud of him. He has gone a mile further and offered free facilities to AABS' initial and continuing secretarial operations. Nick demonstrates a real live example of the type of leadership of Business Schools that other Deans and Directors should all emulate. The last time I was with Nick, I told him he was leaving behind a big shoe for me to fit in. Since I was elected the incoming Chairperson, I am still imagining how I will be able to fit into this big shoe he has left behind for me. I keep hoping that I and my incoming Governing Board will fit into the shoe. I am delighted and thank Nick for committing himself to continue working closely together with me and the incoming Governing Board in advancing the course of AABS. On behalf of the Governing Board, I wish Nick all the best in his endeavours.

For most of the African countries conditions are quite conducive for economic take-off with a missing link being good and effective management. AABS commits itself to continue encouraging, and where possible, facilitating and enabling Business Schools in Africa to take a leading role in developing the African economies. This will be done by setting standards for Business Schools to produce graduates who will be internationally competitive, who will be problem solvers and who will be responsive to the managerial and economic problems facing our continent. We shall make Business Schools become even more visible here in Africa and elsewhere in the world. The role that Business Schools can play should not be underestimated.

AABS will therefore embark on an aggressive awareness campaign of making universities, governments and other stake holders appreciate the central role the Business Schools should play. Most of the visions and long term plans of African countries articulate that private sectors will be on the driving seat of the African economies. This will however remain rhetoric unless this articulation is translated into strategies that will empower Business Schools to produce high quality managers who will in turn steer the economies. With the above in the background AABS will, amongst other things:-

- Devote its efforts in strengthening Business Schools in Africa.
- Continue raising standards for its member and prospective member schools for them to be able to produce better quality managers;
- Facilitate national and international networking amongst business schools on one side and between business schools and industry;
- Encourage business schools in Africa to continue learning from and emulating strong business schools leadership in the world;
- Encourage dialogue and mutual working relations between governments, business sectors and business schools;
- Build strong links with Africans in the Diaspora and with all other well wishers in the development of Africa.

AABS will this year undertake the following specific activities:-

- Organise a trip for MBA Directors of member schools to visit and learn from international business schools in other continents;
- Offer the Teaching the Practice of Management 4 to all interested Business Schools in Africa, regardless of their membership status to AABS;
- Organise a workshop for Deans/Directors of member Business Schools;
- Have on AABS' website a data base of African cases and details of African faculty;
- Hold an annual members' meeting to deliberate on matters of the Association;
- Represent AABS at international forums that have similar objectives;
- Encourage membership of more Business Schools and revise membership criteria to ensure maintenance of high standards of business schools;
- Intensify fundraising efforts for sustainability of the Association's activities and for future development projects.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all the best of 2008, and let us all play our part to make it a successful year for AABS.

## **2. AABS General:**

### **2.1. AABS Board meeting February 2008**

The AABS Board is having their first meeting of 2008 on 23 February 2008 at the UCT Graduate School of business. Erasmus Kaijage will be taking over as chairperson from Nick Binedell. Juan Elegido from Lagos Business School and Frank Horwitz from UCT Graduate school of Business will be joining the board, along with current board members Franklyn Manu (GIMPA), Idrissa Mbengue (ISM), George Ngenga (Strathmore).

### **2.2. AABS Members meeting and Dean's workshop:**

The annual AABS members meeting will be taking place at USIU in Nairobi on the 17 May 2008 followed by a Dean's workshop on the 19 May 2008. For more information please contact [tinsleys@gibs.co.za](mailto:tinsleys@gibs.co.za)

### **2.3. AABS MBA Directors Study Visit March 2008**

Following on from the success of the AABS Deans trip last year to London, Paris, Boston and New York, it was decided to take the learnings from a trip such as this one to the next level by organising an MBA Directors trip. The MBA director's trip is taking place from the 2 - 12 March 2008. The itinerary will include London Business School, IESE and ESADE in Barcelona, Warsaw school of economics and Maastricht in Amsterdam. The purpose of the trip is to expose MBA directors of African business schools to best practice among global business schools, to gain insight from senior business school management, and to work together on identifying how best to develop

excellence in management education in Africa. We have 10 MBA directors from AABS schools attending the study visit. A full report on the trip will follow in the next newsletter.

#### **2.4. Faculty Development Initiatives: TPM 4**

Planning is well under way for the fourth annual Teaching the Practice of Management. This year's TPM will be taking place at USIU from 19 - 23 May 2008. For further information please contact [tpm@gibs.co.za](mailto:tpm@gibs.co.za).

#### **2.5. AABS Case competition**

AABS is putting together a competition for submission of African Business Cases. The competition opened on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2007 and the deadline has been extended to the **30 April 2008**. Cases will be judged by a committee comprising of a board member from AABS, an international member and chaired by the AABS chairman. Winner will be announced and prizes awarded at the 2008 May Members meeting. The prize will be \$1000 for the top three cases a certificate for the author of the case and the member school. More information can be found on the AABS website or contact [tinsleys@gibs.co.za](mailto:tinsleys@gibs.co.za)

#### **2.6. IESE International Faculty Development Programme:**

IESE in Barcelona gave AABS two full grants to their International Faculty Development Programme in June 2008. AABS members applied and IESE decided due to the quality and number of applicants to award three full grants. The grants have been awarded to:

- Prof. Jako Volschenk (University of Stellenbosch Business School)
- Prof. José Luis Sevilla (Strathmore University - Kenya)
- Prof. Samuel Adams (GIMPA-Ghana)

Congratulations to the three winners and thank you to IESE for this wonderful opportunity.

#### **3. Website**

The website is currently being revamped to be an open website; therefore registration on the site will be for those people who would like to subscribe to the AABS newsletter and to receive notification regarding AABS events. Therefore cases and the faculty database will be accessible to non AABS members.

#### **4. Members News: New Business school for Obafemi Awolowo**

Prof Lanre Nassar Obafemi Awolowo:

In order to enhance the capacity building for different professionals in various aspect of the national economy of Nigeria in both public and private sectors, the Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), Ile-Ife, Nigeria in partnership with the Intercontinental Bank, Plc will be setting up a Mega International Business School with global standard.

The Vice-Chancellor of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria, Professor Michael Faborode stated this while addressing the press in his office recently.

Professor Faborode lauded the gesture of Intercontinental Bank, Plc, and revealed that the project worth ₦1.2billion will be entirely financed by the Bank.

The Mega Business School which would be named ***Erastus Akingbola Business School, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife*** is situated on a 200-acre of land, 9 kilometers away from the main campus. It is designed to have decent accommodation with modern recreational facilities for both staff and students.

## **5. SADCnet report back and dates**

The first workshop for both Vice Chancellors, Deans & Directors of SADC Business Schools was hosted at the Gordon Institute of Business Science, Johannesburg, South Africa on the 28 and 29 November 2007. The workshop was designed to address issues around “The role of Business Schools in the economic development of Africa” and was attended by 38 Vice chancellors and Deans from eleven different African countries. The intention was to identify and share insights into what is entailed in creating or developing appropriate business schools offering effective management development in SADC countries

The SADC network (SADCnet) was established in 2007 as a joint initiative between the Gordon Institute of Business Science and the University of Botswana with funding from the Kellogg Foundation. It is part of a project to develop management education capacity in SADC Universities. The project was conceived and initiated by the School of Business at Georgetown University, Washington DC, as part of its role as a catalyst under its African Business School initiative.

The next SADCnet workshop will be held on 31 March and 1 April for further information please contact [sadcnet@gibs.co.za](mailto:sadcnet@gibs.co.za)

## **6. International Meetings:**

### **[EFMD 2008 Annual Conference](#)**

8-9-10 June 2008 (Oslo, Norway)

Theme: Does management education really matter?

Host: BI Norwegian School of Management

### **[AACSB: International Conference and Annual Meeting](#)**

April 13–15, 2008

Theme: The Expanding World of Management Education

### **[AMBA: International Conference for Deans and Directors:](#)**

28- 30 May

Theme: **Managing Complexity in Graduate Business Education.**

**Lisbon**

For further information on these and other conferences please visit the following links:

EFMD: [www.efmd.org](http://www.efmd.org)

AACSB: [www.aacsb.edu](http://www.aacsb.edu)

AMBA: [www.mbaworld.com](http://www.mbaworld.com)

## **7. SABSA:**

Please find information attached on the second South African Business Schools colloquium of 2008 to be held on 29 & 30 April 2008 at UNISA GSBL in Midrand, Johannesburg. Please distribute to your staff.

Details as below:

**Topic: International Business (IB)**

**Dates: Tuesday 29 & Wednesday 30 April 2008**

**Venue: UNISA Graduate School of Business Leadership**

**Fee: R1000**

**Registration due date: 09 April 2008**

**Contact: [sabsa@gibs.co.za](mailto:sabsa@gibs.co.za)**

**Description of the Colloquium:** This two day colloquium is offered as one of the benefits of being a member of the SABSA and is aimed at faculty who teach on MBA and similar programmes in Southern Africa. The intention is to provide a forum to discuss different methods in designing and teaching courses in International Business. The programme format will facilitate discussions on course design, teaching, methodologies, case development, research needs and contemporary concepts and debates in International Business.

**Module Aims:** The objective of this session is to enhance the standard of teaching and research in the area of International Business within all the institutions participating.

**Preparation :** The cases and readings have been carefully selected and represent seminal and relevant issues pertinent to teaching International Business in African business schools. Please ensure that you are familiar with the case studies and readings before attending the colloquium.

**Please note that a minimum of 10 participants is required to run the workshop, so we encourage you to register as soon as possible.**

Please complete the attached application form and return to [sabsa@gibs.co.za](mailto:sabsa@gibs.co.za) or fax 086 523 4593. Readings will be distributed upon registration. Please note that flights and accommodation will be for your own expense.

## **8. Other:**

### **2008 Africa Small Medium Micro Enterprises Awards:**

It is now very clear that the development of Africa depends on the growth of the SMME sector. This sector provides more than 95% of Africa's workforce. To acknowledge and appreciate the important role the sector plays in promoting wealth and prosperity in the continent, the Africagrowth Institute will be celebrating the achievements of Africa's Small

Medium Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) on Thursday the 23rd of October 2008 at Cape Town (South Africa) with a conference and Award Ceremony.

The 2008 Africa SMME Awards aim to recognise the success and vitality of the Africa SMME sector. This unique annual awards program has been established specifically to acknowledge, encourage and celebrate excellence amongst African SMMEs by giving them the opportunity to gain valuable exposure and well-deserved recognition for their global expansion ambitions. Winners of the Awards will feature prominently in the media. the Africagrowth Institute's goal is, therefore, to help the Africa SMME business sector grow and prosper, and to market Africa as an investment destination for the rest of the world.

This is an appeal for you to enter the 2008 Africa SMME Awards event and your enterprise might just be a category finalist and then eligible to win one of six 2008 Africa SMME of the Year category awards: (1) Industrial Sector Award; (2) Trade Sector Award; (3) Services Sector Award; (4) Best New Business Award; (5) Most Innovative Enterprise Award; and (6) Young Enterprise Award. All six category winners will become finalists for the overall African Union SMME of the Year Award.

The closing date for entries is 31 July 2008.

Please contact Dina Potgieter, Africagrowth Institute, Tel: (021) 946 1791, Fax: (021) 946 1652, Website: [www.africagrowth.com](http://www.africagrowth.com), E-Mail: [dina@afriagrowth.com](mailto:dina@afriagrowth.com) for entry criteria and entry form. Dina will attach these to her reply E-Mail for your submission.

Dina looks forward to submissions from all 53 countries of Africa.