



AABS Newsletter 1 August 2006

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1. Introduction

The African Association of Business Schools (AABS) supports graduate business schools through capacity building, collaboration and quality improvement programs. Its' programmes focus on developing the institutes' leadership and other managerial skills to improve the practice of management in African organisations and to enhance the relevance and contribution of business schools to policy debate on African development research and policy development.

As per the AABS Charter, the objectives of AABS are to pursue activities that deliver results and build momentum. In the near term, these will focus on research, teaching and best practices, developing curriculum standards, and building partnerships within the broader community. Longer term, the Association will pursue more in-depth objectives such as establishing and playing a larger role in African policy debate and promoting increased international recognition for African Business Schools and their programmes.

The Association is membership based and serves to promote the collective interests of member schools. It interfaces with other global and regional business school associations and advocates for management education and training needs across Africa.

The first AABS members meeting held at the Lekki Campus, Lagos in May was attended by business schools from East, West, South, Francophone and English-speaking Africa.



Lekki Campus, Lagos Business School



AABS Member School representatives

2. Funding from the IFC

The International Finance Corporation has agreed to donate funding in the amount of US\$141,000 for the future projects of the Association of African Business Schools. The first tranche has been received and will be used for a variety of projects as agreed between Association members in Lagos, Nigeria including assisting to fund:

1. Deans of AABS member schools to visit leading European and US Business Schools in 2007
 2. Ex-deans to visit leading African Business Schools
 3. Faculty Fellowships
 4. Faculty Development
 - a. Teaching the Practice of Management Workshops
 - b. Junior Faculty development programmes
 5. Infrastructure and Technology of Business Schools
- Further information on the above projects will be sent through shortly.

3. Website

The African Association Website is located at www.aabschools.com and will be updated and added to, as more information becomes widely available.

4. Registration of Association

AABS is in the formal process of legally registering as a non-profit and public benefit Association. It is anticipated that this process will be completed within the next three months.

5. Governing Board Meeting

The next governing board meeting is to be held in Nairobi, Kenya on 14 October 2006, and will be attended by the following members:

- Prof Nick Binedell (Chairman), Gordon Institute of Business Science, South Africa
- Prof Erasmus Kaijage, University of Dar es Salaam, Faculty of Commerce & Management, Tanzania
- Prof Franklyn Manu, Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration, Ghana
- Mr George Njenga, Strathmore University, Kenya
- Mr Idrissa Mgengue, Institut Supérieur de Management (ISM), Senegal

Discussions will take place around the activities planned for 2007, and other issues affecting AABS members across the continent. Should any member school wish to raise any issues, please do so by 30 September to wilsona@gibs.co.za

6. SABSA Faculty Teaching Colloquiums



The South African Business Schools Association (SABSA) holds regular workshops where faculty can share experiences, discuss different teaching methodologies, case teaching and cases pertinent to their field of expertise in an environment with other faculty members across the region. So far in 2006, workshops have been held in *Strategy, Writing for Scientific Publication, Information Management, Finance and Entrepreneurship*. A colloquium will be held on *Marketing* in Durban at the University of Kwa Zulu Natal 's Graduate School of Business, South Africa on 26 and 27 October. An invitation has been extended from SABSA to all AABS faculty members to attend. This colloquium will be followed by a workshop on *How to Supervise Research* at the University of Stellenbosch Business school in November, and will be presented by Arthur Money, to which all AABS members are also invited to attend. For further information please contact wilsona@gibs.co.za.

7. ICT Survey and Results

The results of the ICT survey have been distributed to participating schools for comment. Any further insights or opinions may be expressed to Dr Peter Tobin on tobinp@gibs.co.za.

8. Faculty Development Initiatives

- a. **Teaching the Practice of Management 3:** This workshop is an intensive five-day course which focuses particular attention on practice-based teaching and learning methods, involving classroom discussion of case studies. Participation is by invitation only. The TPM3 workshop is to be held from 20-25 May 2007 at the Gordon Institute of Business Science, Johannesburg, South Africa. Closing date for applications is 31 January 2007. The cost is US\$500 per participant which covers all accommodation, meals and workshop costs for the duration of the workshop. Schools will be expected to cover all travel costs to the workshop on behalf of their participating faculty. For more information contact wilsona@gibs.co.za.



b. Colloquium for Participant Centered Learning: CPCL - Harvard Business School, Boston, Massachusetts

The Colloquium on Participant-Centered Learning (CPCL) is a 10-day program, by invitation only, targeted at the top business schools in emerging economies that want to train their key faculty in interactive methods of teaching/learning. Participants are generally Deans, department chairs, and senior faculty (professors with five or more years of teaching experience). The course includes sessions on case writing to help schools develop their own field-based research. The program enables foreign academics to network with HBS faculty, which can lead to joint research opportunities. CPCL illustrates how HBS gives back to the regions in which they work throughout the world. Dates for 2007 to be released. For more information contact email: cpcl@hbs.edu

c. International Faculty Development Program (IFDP) IESE Business School - University of Navarra, Barcelona

This concentrates on teaching methodologies in management education, research and development of curricula. It is designed for faculty members of Business Schools worldwide. The overall aim of the program is to promote international cooperation and help improve the general quality of management education on a global level. The dates for 2007 are still to be released. For more information visit

<http://www.iese.edu/en/Programs/IFPD/InternationalFacultyManagement.asp>

d. Faculty Development Programme (FDP) Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad This programme is specially designed for teachers, researchers, and trainers in HRD, training colleges and industrial organizations for their management education requirements. Participants are provided an opportunity to refresh their knowledge related to management education and pedagogy with the latest academic practices in the field. Many participants develop insights into curriculum planning and academic administration. The next programme is running from October 31, 2006 to February 17, 2007. The dates of the following course are still to be released. For more information visit <http://www.iimahd.ernet.in/programmes/fdp.htm>

9. Who's Who Profiles

A number of faculty profiles have been gathered for loading onto the website which will be aimed at promoting the skills of faculty members across the continent. A further questionnaire will be sent out to remaining faculty members at member schools. Please ensure that these documents are completed and sent through to wilsona@gibs.co.za.

10. Up for Comment

a. Critical to Africa's economic growth problem are the managerial skills needed to grow successful firms. By providing firms with a stronger pool of trained managers, African business schools can help foster a healthy private sector. Donors must recognize that the continent's management schools represent a key capacity-building tool that can not only help the private sector, but can also encourage entrepreneurship, streamline healthcare delivery, improve corporate governance, and increase government effectiveness. What needs to be done to improve these schools? What lessons can be learned from the launch of management training programs in Latin American and Asia? How can information and communication technologies be used to improve the quality of current training? How do we ensure that these schools deliver relevant skills? What should the core curriculum of these schools be: hard technical skills or fostering entrepreneurship, creativity and social responsibility?

Results of this discussion can be viewed at

<http://rru.worldbank.org/Discussions/Discussion.aspx?id=71>

b. Experts say B-school professors are often particularly good at applying economic theory to real-world issues, which sets them apart from their counterparts in corporations or politics. Their interaction with students and industry professionals brings them out of the metaphorical "ivory tower." "Business school professors who teach economics are put in a world where their theoretical knowledge has to be applied, and in the process of doing that, they develop speaking skills and end up with extensive contact with businesses," says David Brady, deputy director of the Hoover Institution, a policy think tank on Stanford's campus. For more information go to:

http://www.businessweek.com/bschools/content/feb2006/bs2006021_3765_bs001.htm