

## Staff bid Amoako farewell



**E**xecutive Secretary K.Y. Amoako said farewell to his staff Thursday September 29, bringing to a close ten years at the helm of ECA.

“My work at ECA has been the most professionally rewarding of my career,” Amoako said. “I’m proud of what we have achieved.”

In a warm and affectionate address to staff, he praised colleagues for working as a family. “Whatever we have accomplished, we did it all together. It is not just me, it is the management team, it is the staff at large,” he said at a reception hosted by the staff association the day before his departure.

Although there were difficulties along the way, he said, “we were all bonded by

this belief that we are here to serve Africa better, that this institution can be made more relevant and can contribute very effectively to the development challenges facing Africa.”

Introducing his successor, Mr Abdoulie Janneh, to staff, he said he was leaving ECA “in a brother’s hands.” He told Mr Janneh: “You bring to this job tremendous experience, a strong commitment to the cause of Africa’s development, a deep knowledge of the UN, of African institutions, of heads of state, development partners, and a whole network of people on this continent. So, under your leadership, I am very convinced that what we started here will be strengthened and even will be pushed to further heights.”

**Press release:** [http://www.uneca.org/eca\\_resources/Press\\_Releases/2005\\_pressreleases/pressrelease1605.asp](http://www.uneca.org/eca_resources/Press_Releases/2005_pressreleases/pressrelease1605.asp)

**More information:** [http://www.uneca.org/about\\_eca/es/biography.htm](http://www.uneca.org/about_eca/es/biography.htm)

## Looking Ahead: UNDP’s Janneh Joins ECA

**E**CA’s new Executive Secretary is Abdoulie Janneh of Gambia, previously Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa in New York.

Since 2000, Abdoulie Janneh has managed UNDP activities in 45 countries in sub-Saharan Africa with a complement of over 1,500 staff.

He also played a key role in developing UNDP policies and strategy, and championed institutional change and development in the organization.

Speaking in Addis as he began his tenure, Mr Janneh said he was looking forward to working with a team that had “done great things for Africa over the past ten years.”

He praised the leadership of his predecessor, K.Y. Amoako, adding, “I want to give him the assurance that we will continue to follow commitment, the hard work, and his dedication to African priorities, as defined by Africans and their institutions, particularly the AU, to really make sure that this decade belongs to Africa.”

Mr Janneh has long experience working with core elements of the ECA work programme, notably the promotion of good governance, economic reform, the fight against HIV/AIDS, fair trade, crisis prevention and poverty eradication.

He is particularly interested in the institutional transformation of the African Union and the successful implementation of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), including the Africa Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), as initiatives critical to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Before his recent position at the head of UNDP’s Africa Bureau, Mr Janneh served as UNDP’s Resident Representative in Ghana (1996-1999) and also in Niger (1993- 1996).

He was previously the Deputy Executive Secretary for the United Nations Capital Development Fund (1990-1993). Before that he was the Deputy Resident Representative in Guinea (1984-1986) and later in Sierra Leone (1987-1989).

## News from the Commission

### ECA issues new publication tracking MDG progress in Africa

**T**o coincide with the World Summit in New York, ECA issued its publication ‘The Millennium Development Goals in Africa: Progress and Challenges’ which tracks MDG progress on the continent. The document notes that while some sub-Saharan countries are on track to meet the Goals by the 2015 target date, many are way off course. But at a press conference to launch the publication, the director of ECA’s Economic and Social Policy Division (ESPD) Augustin Fosu noted that the target date was less important than the fact that the MDGs serve as guidelines and benchmarks for national development policies.

He also stressed that countries lagging behind could also learn valuable lessons



from states on course to meet particular Goals. Report at: <http://www.uneca.org/mdgs/Story7September05.asp>

ECA also launched a webmagazine containing in-house articles on various aspects of the MDGs, as well as external links to useful sites. Check it out at: <http://www.uneca.org/mdgs/>.

## African Trade experts meet on EPAs

The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) organized an Africa-wide meeting of trade experts, 22 – 24 September, in Mombasa, Kenya to discuss the on-going Economic Partnership Agreement (EPAs) negotiations taking place with the European Union (EU). The meeting was jointly organized with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), The Kenyan Ministry of Trade and Industry, the African Union (AU) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). For the meeting's outcome, visit: [http://www.uneca.org/eca\\_resources/news/092905trid\\_dna.htm](http://www.uneca.org/eca_resources/news/092905trid_dna.htm)

## ECA media awards for best use of ICTs

ECA's African Information Society Initiative (AISI) and its partners presented awards to a number of African journalists who had made the best efforts in promoting the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) on the continent. The awards were presented at the largest annual gathering of African journalists, known as the Highway Africa Conference, in Grahamstown, South Africa. The awards aim to create greater awareness of the value of ICTs for development, and for the African media.

For more details visit: <http://www.uneca.org/aisi> [http://www.uneca.org/eca\\_resources/Press\\_Releases/2005\\_press-releases/pressrelease1505.asp](http://www.uneca.org/eca_resources/Press_Releases/2005_press-releases/pressrelease1505.asp).

## Importance of capital flows debated

Some 60 policymakers and researchers met in Accra, Ghana, September 21-22, for an ECA workshop to discuss capital flows and the sustainability of African current accounts. Discussions focused on direct foreign investment (FDI) and its relationship to current accounts.

Participants called on Africa's governments to strengthen institutions in order to attract more sustained flows of FDI and thus improve capacity to balance import spending and export earnings.

Noting South Africa's success at attracting FDI, Johannes Fedderke, Professor of Economics, at the University of Cape Town, said, "reducing political risk, ensuring property rights, most importantly bolstering growth in market size, as well as wage moderation, lowering corporate tax rates, and ensuring full integration of the South African economy into the world economy all follow as policy prescriptions from our empirical findings."

[http://www.uneca.org/eca\\_resources/news/092605espd\\_dna.htm](http://www.uneca.org/eca_resources/news/092605espd_dna.htm)

## Development Briefs

### FDI value queried

A new UNCTAD report suggests that putting heavy emphasis on attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) may not be the best way to shape development policy in Africa, and in some cases FDI could distort long-term growth potential. <http://www.unctad.org/Templates/WebFlyer.asp?intlItemID=3490&lang=1>

### Growth slowdown predicted for 2005

The IMF's *World Economic Outlook* estimated that economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa slowed to 4.8 percent in 2005 after a 5.4 percent expansion in 2004, but was expected to increase again in 2006. Details at <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2005/02/pdf/chapter1.pdf>.

### Low score on wealth

A new World Bank report, *Where is the Wealth of Nations?* makes new estimates of total national wealth and shows that, globally, sub-Saharan African countries rank lowest. Ethiopia has the lowest ranking, closely followed by Madagascar, Chad, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, Niger and Burundi. Switzerland heads the list of the top-10 performers. Details at: <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:20648103~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html>

## Upcoming Events

**8 October** – UN-sponsored concert in Geneva to draw attention to MDGs

**12 October** – Launch of 2005 State of the World Population Report – UNFPA

**12-16 October** – ECA Committee on Women and Development, Dakar, Senegal. (Contact Emelang Leteane, +251 11 5443403)

**17 October** – International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

**24-28 October** – ECA Expert group meeting on the Sustainable Development Report on Africa (SDRA) and Fourth meeting of the Committee on Sustainable Development (CSD-IV), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. (Contact Yinka Adeyemi, +251 11 544 3537)

**31 October - 02 November** – ECA Workshop on economic and corporate governance and accountability in Southern Africa, Lusaka, Zambia. (Contact: Doreen Kibuka Musoke +260 1 228502/5)