

ECA-SA Launches Library Project for Southern African Universities

By Mr. Alfred Latigo, Senior Economic Affairs Officer

ECA-SA launched a library project in which it will establish dedicated exhibition points for ECA publications in universities in Southern African countries. It is envisaged that this would include ECA providing computer workstations that would link ECA main Library with the university libraries in the region; book shelves and other items of furniture; posters and other visual aids; as well as introduction of ICT-mediated ECA related information services.

Accompanied by the ECA Chief Librarian, Mr. Abraham Azubuike; Mr. Ian Filakati Research Assistant and Mr. Frazer Mwape IT Assistant, Mr. Alfred Latigo addressing the Library staff of the University of Zambia in Lusaka on 25th February 2009, explained that ECA as a knowledge-based institution wishes universities in Africa to be a depository for its publications. He said that that ECA's mission is to promote the economic and social development of Africa through technical cooperation and advisory services to Member States in their efforts to formulate and implement policies and programmes for national and regional economic and social transformation. He went on to say that these efforts involve extensive research on wide ranging development issues, which in turn result in publications and other forms of documentation that need to be widely disseminated to for the Stakeholders to benefit from ECA's analytical and research work. He explained that it is within the mandate of ECA to establish an effective partnership with institutions of learning including the universities and research centres in Africa, to ensure that its outputs are made easily available to students, researchers and the wider public as a way of propagating knowledge generated by the Commission. Mr. Latigo held a similar meeting on 4th March 2009 with staff of the Eduardo Mondlane University, Mozambique.

Speaking at the same occasion, Mr. Azubuike assured the University of Zambia that ECA will provide it with among other things: electronic and hardcopy documentations; training to UNZA library staff on how to process and access UN documentations; posters and leaflets; access to ECA's bibliographic databases to interested researchers; access to ECA's knowledge management portal; and one PC for accessing electronic versions of UN and ECA documentation.

ECA-SA has so far provided and delivered a set of over 250 publications to both the University of Zambia and Eduardo Mondlane University. More publications will be despatched to various universities in the subregion in April and subsequent months.