

News from the Commission

First ever world economic analysis meeting held in Africa

Leading world economists gathered in Addis Ababa for an economic analysis conference, the first time such a meeting has been held in Africa. The 9th annual conference on Global Economic Analysis was attended by economists and researchers from the Global Trade Analysis Project (GTAP) consortium, which includes ECA's African Trade Policy Centre (ATPC), the ADB, UNDP, and the World Bank. Opening the conference, ECA's Executive Secretary Abdoulie Janneh, called for bold measures aimed at boosting Africa's market access. He expressed concern that international trade negotiations since the launch of the Doha Round had not yet resulted in concrete proposals to increase access. [click here for conference details: <https://www.gtap.agecon.purdue.edu/events/Conferences/2006/default.asp>]

Poverty analysts discuss impact of policies

Poverty researchers held discussions at ECA headquarters to assess the impact of poverty reduction measures. The Poverty and Economic Policy Research Network (PEP Network), is an organization funded by the International Development Research Centre-Canada. It assists countries to build their research capacity in order to reduce poverty through better macroeconomic policies and micro-level interventions. ECA, through its African Centre for Gender and Development (ACGD), has been collaborating with PEP since 2004 to evaluate gender-based impacts of policies on poverty reduction. [click here for more information: www.pep-net.org]

ECA urged to continue with trade support

African trade experts urged ECA to continue providing much needed technical assistance to help member states mainstream trade in their national development plans. The call came at the end of an ad-hoc experts group held in Casablanca. The meeting explored how to strengthen African countries' capacity to formulate effective trade policies and integrate them into national strategies. [click here for more information & individual presentations: http://www.uneca.org/atpc/mainstreaming_trade.asp]

Workshop to boost efficiency of capital markets

Participants from some 20 francophone countries in central and west Africa met in the Burundi capital Bujumbura for a three-day workshop aimed at boosting the efficiency of capital markets operators and regulators. This was the fourth in a series of training workshops organized by ECA. "Regulation is a crucial link in the development of efficient capital markets," said ECA economic affairs officer Adam Elhiraika. He added

that this series of workshops was an important step in ensuring coherence in the regulatory models and operational systems applied by specialists in Africa. The intention is to facilitate efficient capital market regulation and harmonize regulations across countries. [click here: http://www.uneca.org/eca_programmes/policy_analysis/news/060706espd_dna.htm]

African trade experts need to increase capacities

According to ECA, issues such as globalization mean that African trade and environment policymakers have to boost their knowledge and negotiating capacities. Josue Dione, director of ECA's Sustainable Development Division was speaking at the opening of a workshop for policymakers. He listed other emerging issues affecting policy-making, such as multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and environmental standards imposed on African countries by the industrialized world. Organizers said the workshop would equip decision makers with the necessary tools to build coherent policies. [click here: <http://www.uneca.org/sdd/news/06052006dna.htm>]

New Publication

New stories on ECA MDGs webmag:



Do the MDGs cater for refugees? <http://www.uneca.org/mdgs/Story20June06.asp>

Can pan-African broadcasting change the continent's image? <http://www.uneca.org/mdgs/Story15June06.asp>

Information technology: a poverty reduction tool? <http://www.uneca.org/mdgs/Story14June06.asp>

Sport – Untapped potential to help meet the MDGs <http://www.uneca.org/mdgs/Story9June06.asp>

Development Briefs

AU summit opens in Banjul

The 7th AU summit opened in the Gambian capital Banjul, around the theme of regional integration. Participants also discussed pressing African issues including Sudan, Somalia and Ivory Coast, as well as the upcoming trial of former Liberian leader Charles Taylor. In a speech, ECA Executive Secretary Abdoulie Janneh told the gathering that there had been progress in the pledged cooperation with the AU and ADB, and that the three African institutions had held a number of joint meetings. He called for further boosting this partnership in the months and years to come. [click here for janneh speech: http://www.uneca.org/eca_resources/Speeches/Janneh/2006/280606_speech_Abdoulie_Janneh.htm and here for summit details: <http://www.africa-union.org/root/au/Conferences/Past/2006/July/summit/summit.htm>]

Gap between policies and practices in Africa, says ADB chief

In an interview with AllAfrica.com, ADB president Donald Kaberuka said there was a gap between policies and practices, making it difficult to attract investors to Africa. He also called for combating corruption and ushering in good governance, saying the anti-corruption agenda should not be seen just as a donor agenda. He said the ADB was addressing the key bottlenecks that had to be broken in

order to improve the investment climate. "Africa is in transition - economic and political transition," he stated. "We are rich in natural resources, and we are finally largely at peace... We have 53 countries and 800 languages... We have to find a way to build consensus across those divides. And we have to have leadership to get our political institutions and economic management right."

Africa should help itself, say delegates at World Economic Forum

Participants at the World Economic Forum, which took place in Cape Town, said Africa should not just rely on foreign aid but should itself tackle issues such as poverty and unemployment. The theme of this year's summit, "Going for Growth", looked at ways of boosting and sustaining growth on the continent. Speaking at the meeting, South African President Thabo Mbeki said improving political and economic conditions, removing barriers to business and improving regional trade, were some of the key issues to ensure that higher economic growth in Africa could be achieved. Participants called for investing in education and human resources to sustain growth over the coming years.

Click on www.uneca.org for more information on these stories.

Blair sets up panel to track aid pledges

British Prime Minister Tony Blair announced the formation a new international panel aimed at tracking aid promises made to Africa. It will be chaired by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and includes personalities such as Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo. According to Blair, the initiative will ensure that promises made at the G8 summit at Gleneagles last year are kept. "We have made good progress but it is going to take an enormous amount of work in years to come to alleviate poverty in Africa and tackle climate change," he said.

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International migration - good and bad for the MDGs

A paper on international migration and the MDGs, presented by ECA, shows that it has had some positive effect on development in Africa. While there is much talk about the brain drain from the continent, the paper points out that the estimated 3.6 million Africans in the Diaspora are directly or indirectly contributing to achieving the Goals. This can be in the form of remittances, investment, transfer of knowledge and skills, and transnationalism which integrates African countries into the global economy. However, for Africa to prosper it is essential to effectively harness remittances into development programmes. The paper also notes the critical need to retain professionals such as doctors and teachers so that the continent can prosper. [click here to read paper: http://www.uneca.org/eca_programmes/sdd/documents/P04_ECA.pdf]

Upcoming Events

- 9 July – International day of world's indigenous people [New York]
- 11 July – World Population Day (UNFPA)
- 20 July – Launch of Least Developed Countries Report 2006 (UNCTAD)