

International Seminar
on
India and Africa: Partnership for Capacity Building and Human Resource Development
on 9-10 February, 2010

Report

This conference was focused on the central theme- ‘India and Africa: Partnership for Capacity Building and Human Resource Development’. Among several areas of cooperation between India and Africa, one important sector is capacity building and human resource development. It was a key component in India -Africa cooperation. India emerged as a third largest skilled human resource in the world due to substantial public investment in establishing academic and professional institutions. Therefore, India is a suitable partner to contribute in the capacity building and development of human resource. Taking into account the comprehensive nature of capacity building and human resource development, various scholars touched upon the different dimensions and aspects. The papers presented in the seminar were giving light on the partnership between India and Africa for the development of human resource and capacity building.

In the inaugural session, Chairman of African Studies Association of India, Mr. Shashank while introducing ASA India, stressed on the significance of the track II, i.e. people to people, partnership in developing mutual relationship and efforts between India and Africa in the realm of capacity building. Dr. Karan Singh, President ICCR and MP, shared Mr. Shashank’s views in so far as avenues of cooperation and collaboration between India and Africa is concerned. Remembering India’s deep involvement in the struggle against apartheid regime, Dr. Singh underlined the common challenges faced by both the regions. Outlining various efforts made to develop deep engagement between India and Africa, he hailed the significance of India-Africa summit 2008. He also stressed how ICCR has been at the forefront in establishing and enhancing relations between India and Africa by giving the examples of the cultural centres set up by ICCR in the African countries. He concluded by saying that this partnership between India and Africa in the field of human resource and capacity building will open new vistas of cooperation between India and Africa.

As India’s capabilities and resource base has grown in these areas it has broadened the scope of cooperation activities in capacity building with Africa. Not only the public sectors but India’s private sectors are now encouraged to build partnerships for capacity building and human resource development. The first session presented many ideas, views and suggestions on **India-Africa Partnership for Developing Human and Social Resources** and papers were presented on capacity building and human resource development strategies, science and technology etc. Dr. Andre Kraak presented the picture of the development of South Africa’s human resources, especially in educational sector and also pointed out some major constraints to human resource development in South Africa, like poor quality educational outcome, high drop out rate, HIV/AIDS, income inequalities etc. Focusing on the human and social resource development of Nigeria, Prof. Osita C. Eze suggested that India should go beyond the petroleum engagement

with Nigeria and should provide its experience and knowledge, particularly in the sector of science, technology and pharmaceuticals to Nigeria. Dr. Suresh Kumar, in his paper, attempted to repudiate the concept of new scramble of Africa, especially by India. He argued that engagement in Africa is multi-sectoral and it is not only in petroleum or mineral resources, but also in climate conservation, agriculture development of Africa, mutual ocean security efforts and Pan-Africa e-network. CODESRIA's contribution in human resource development by facilitating the research in the social sciences in all over the continent was pointed out by Dr. Carlos Cardoso. Dr. Bijay Pratihari emphasized on the requirement of developing the human resources, as the under-developed people can upset the growth of over-all infrastructure. It was suggested that India can help the African counties in various areas of human resource development like education, health, sanitation, poverty eradication with its experience, knowledge, and strategies like the right to education bill, mid-day meal scheme, drug manufacturing, etc.

Good governance and an empowered civil society are essential development imperatives. India is partnering with Africa to build its indigenous capacity in these areas. The key focus areas in this partnership include enhancing public and private participation in local and central government, establishing platforms to enable civil societies to play a vibrant role in promoting institutions of local self governance and establishing relevant governance training institutions in Africa. In the second session, which focused on **India-Africa Cooperation for Democratizing Development**, many points and ideas emerged for the India-Africa partnership on governance and the development of democracy in both sides. As is known that South-South cooperation does not mean just economic or trade co-operation, Prof. Sanjukta Bhattacharya pointed out that this partnership can be flourished through the exchange of the experience on governance and the development of civil societies. Prof. Chris de Wet delved into the negative aspects of development projects in Africa and India like the displacement of people due to the construction of dams, mining projects and he suggested the need of a training course for resettlement officers in both Africa and India, which can be established as a logical area for co-operation between India and African researchers and Non-governmental Organisations (NGO's). Recognizing the problems of common people in both regions, Dr. J. M. Moosa emphasized that the benefits of development should reach to the grass root level and the common people. In his paper, he explored the possibilities for development through capacity building for effective monitoring through participatory governance at the grass root level. Prof. Herbert Muyinda examined the process of capacity building programmes in war-torn Northern Uganda to address effects of war among the people with disabilities. In addition to this, the characteristics of the linguistic structure of Sudan were outlined by Prof. Al- Amin Abu Manga. He reviewed the language policies in colonial and post colonial period and their negative impact on management of linguistic diversity in Sudan. For maintaining regional peace and security, effective policing, peacekeeping operations, and disaster management are areas where India could partner with Africa for capacity building. In this background, Ms. Ruchita Beri focused on the India-Africa partnership in security sector, including the internal and external security. Africa, which is facing various obstacles to the collective security, like terrorism, arms proliferation, poverty, HIV/AIDS and India is helping Africa with its human and financial resources to tackle these obstacles like the military training, establishment of defence academy and major contribution in peace keeping mission in various areas of the continent and Prof. Chit Dukhira, spoke about the society and politics of Mauritius and dealt with the development of local democracy in Mauritius.

The second day started with the third session which was on **India Africa: Collaboration in Delivering Development**. Partnership in this area aims at building capacity to promote development and growth. It includes capacity building in trade negotiations, dispute settlement, enhancement of competitiveness in world economy and establishing training programmes for entrepreneurship and skill development. Ms. Neuma's paper strongly argued that aid alone will not solve Africa's critical challenges, rather the appropriate use of aid in combination with sustainable business practices located in an enabling investment environment, is the most effective way to move Africa towards a sustainable growth path. The historical relationship between India and Egypt was traced in Prof. Mahmoud Abdul Enein's paper. He emphasized how on one hand India is promoting technical cooperation through its ITEC program and how on the other hand Egypt is promoting it through numerous Egyptian funds. The two declarations signed during the India Africa summit in 2008, Delhi Declaration and Africa- India Framework for Cooperation were given importance in light of Africa's immense potential for investment and India's increasing commitment to expanding its trade and investment ties with the African region, by Prof Aparajita in her paper. Prof S. N. Malakar's paper focused on the historicity of pre and post colonial period, changing nature of production patterns, strength of agricultural capacity building and the potentials and opportunities involved in the process of cooperation. The identification of the scope and options for strategic agri-business partnerships between India and North African countries through established backward and forward linkages by using the expertise and experience India gained in agri-business sector, was brought out in Prof. C.S. Sundaresan's paper and Ms. Mausumi had highlighted the bilateral relations between India and North Africa and analysed their trade trends in detail thus, bringing out the problems and prospects. Other sectors that were identified for cooperation include capacity building on policy and regulatory frameworks in the financial sector, tourism development and policy planning in agricultural sector.

India- Africa partnership in the area of Diaspora and cultural resources would allow both sides to mutually gain from each other. It includes sharing experiences in harnessing Diasporic resources through building Diasporic networks and formulating engagement policies, strengthen people-to-people contacts through cultural exchange programmes and by effecting cooperation for capacity building in areas of sports. In this background the fourth and the last session focused on **India Africa: Partnership for Harnessing Diaspora and Cultural Resources**. The paper by Prof. Chandrashekhar Bhat argued that development and Diaspora go together as most of the Diasporas are involved in building economies of their countries of domicile. How can these countries employ the Diaspora in the developmental context is a matter left to their policy orientation and politics. However, he emphasized that Education is the key towards human resource development. Prof. B. J. Phiri's paper has examined the political establishment of Fort Jameson (Chipata) and the impact the colonial town had on the economic development of the town itself and the surrounding areas. It also examined the response of the local African population to the establishment of a settlement that African were used to in the pre-colonial times or on the eve of colonization. The policy of India and Africa both to pro-actively engage their Diaspora for increasing their sphere of influence and building effective partnerships for their socio-economic development was discussed by Dr. Nivedita in her paper. She explained how India and Africa see their Diaspora as a strategic resource available to contribute to their

country's development. On the other hand the role of Indian Diaspora was traced since colonial times and its role in promoting the partnership between India and Africa was analysed in Dr. Rajneesh's paper. The last paper by Ms. Seraphina covered the African Union's policy to engage its Diaspora in the development of Africa and how some countries like Ghana, Nigeria and South Africa have taken up initiatives to link its Diaspora in areas of knowledge and investment with their countries.

The cooperation between India and Africa is historical and its strong focus remains empowerment of people and institutions of the African countries through capacity building and human resource development to effect rapid development. The seminar on the whole was a successful initiative taken up by African Studies Association of India in collaboration with the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and India International Centre (IIC). There were various possibilities and outcomes which were discussed on India and Africa partnerships in developing human and social resources, in democratizing the process of development, in delivering development and in harnessing the cultural and Diaspora resources. Thus, the seminar was focused on the point of partnership between these two continents on these issues. The whole idea of human resource and capacity building through collaboration and cooperation was brought forth in the discussions by various scholars from Africa as well as India, in the seminar.

Programme

9 February, 2010

Registration	9:00 AM
Inaugural Session	9:15-10:15 AM
Chair	Prof. M.G.K. Menon IIC President
Welcome	Mr. Shashank, Former Foreign Secretary GOI & Chairman ASA India
Inaugural	Hon'ble Dr. Karan Singh Member of Parliament and President ICCR
Vote of Thanks	Shri Virendra Gupta DG, ICCR

Tea Break- 10:15 AM- 10:30 AM

Session I 10:30 AM- 1:15 PM	India-Africa: Partnership for Developing Human and Social Resources
Chair	Mr. A. Parasuraman Country Director, UNESCO
Dr. Andre Kraak Public Administration Leadership and Management Academy (PALAMA) South Africa	<i>A Critical Review of South Africa's National Human Resources Development Strategies</i>
Prof. Osita C. Eze Nigerian Institute of International Affairs, Lagos, Nigeria	<i>Developing Human and Social Resource: Science Education, Science and Technology in Nigeria/India Strategic Partnership</i>
Dr. Suresh Kumar Department of African Studies, Delhi University	<i>India's Role in Developing Human and Social Resources in Africa</i>
Dr. Carlos Cardoso CODESRIA, Senegal	<i>CODESRIA's Pan-African Experiences on Capacity Building and Human Resources Development</i>
Dr. Alister Munthali Centre for Social Research, University of Malawi	<i>India-Malawi Bilateral Relations: Strengthening Technical Cooperation Within the Context of the Wider India-Africa Relations</i>
Dr. Bijay Pratihari Programme Coordinator ASA India Academy of Third World Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia	<i>Developing Human and Social Resources: Emerging Areas</i>

Discussant	Dr. A.S. Yaruigam Department of African Studies, Delhi University & Dr. S.S. Deora Centre for International Politics, Organisation & Disarmament (CIPOD) JNU
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Lunch- 1:15 PM- 2:00 PM

Session II- 2:00 PM- 5:00 PM	India-Africa: Cooperation for Democratising Development
Chair	Dr. Kavita Sharma Director, IIC
Prof. Sanjukta Bhattacharya Regional Coordinator ASA India, Department of International Relations, Jadhavpur University	<i>Civil Society and Governance as Areas of Partnership in India-Africa Relations</i>
Prof. Chris de Wet Rhodes University, South Africa	<i>Achieving Better Resettlement Outcomes Through Capacitating Effective and Responsible Resettlement Officers: An Opportunity for Indian-African Synergy</i>
Dr. J. M. Moosa Vice President ASA India, Academy of Third World Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia	<i>Building Capacity: Participatory Governance and Grassroots Development</i>
Prof. Herbert Muyinda Makerere Institute of Social Research, Uganda	<i>Inclusion and Exclusion of Difference: Socio-Political Aspects of Selective Capacity Building among People with Disabilities in Northern Uganda</i>
Dr. Al- Amin Abu-Manga Institute of Africa and Asian Studies, University of Khartoum	<i>Challenges to Management of Linguistic Diversity in the Sudan</i>
Ruchita Beri Vice President ASA India, Institute for Defense and Strategic Analyses	<i>India and Africa: Partnership in Peace and Security</i>
Mr. Chit Dukhira Eminent Scholar, Mauritius	<i>Decentralisation and the Marginalised: The Mauritian Experiment</i>
Discussant	Dr. Bashabi Gupta ASA India Member Assistant Professor, Miranda House

10 February, 2010

Session III- 10:00 AM- 1:00 PM	India Africa: Collaboration in Delivering Development
Chair	Prof Chris de Wet
Ms. Neuma Grobbelaar South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA), Johannesburg	<i>Challenges of Capacity-Building in the 21st Century: A Role for the Private Sector in India-Africa Cooperation?</i>
Prof. Mahmoud Abul Enein Dean, Institute of African Research and Studies Cairo University	<i>The Possibility of Developing Technical Cooperation With Africa in the Framework of the Indo-Egyptian Partnership</i>
Prof. Aparajita Biswas Vice President ASA India, Centre for African Studies, University of Mumbai	<i>India's Growing Trade and Investment in Africa: Opportunities and Challenges</i>
Prof. S.N.Malakar Vice President ASA India, Centre for African Studies, JNU	<i>India-Africa Agricultural Cooperation: Potentials and Opportunities</i>
Prof. C. S. Sundaresan School of Management, KIIT University, Orissa	<i>India-North Africa Strategic Partnership in Agriculture: Agenda for Capacity Building & Sustainable Development</i>
Ms. Mausumi Galvankar Member ASA India, Centre for African Studies, University of Mumbai	<i>India and North Africa: Trade and Economic Relations</i>
Discussant	Dr. Vanita Ray Former Professor of African Studies, Academy of Third World Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia

Lunch- 1:00 PM- 2:00 PM

Session IV- 2:00 PM- 4:15 PM	India-Africa: Partnership for Harnessing Diaspora and Cultural Resources
Chair	Prof. Ajay Dubey General Secretary & Chair (Programme Committee) ASA India, and Director, UGC Area Studies Program
Prof. Chandra Shekhar Bhat Department of Sociology, Tezpur University	<i>Indian Diaspora and Development: The Indo-African Context</i>
Prof. B.J. Phiri Department of History,	<i>From Fort Jameson to Chipata: The Contribution of Indians to the Social and</i>

University of Zambia	<i>Economic Development of the Eastern Province, 1899-2010</i>
Dr. Nivedita Ray Joint Secretary ASA India, and Ford Foundation Fellow, Centre for African Studies, JNU	<i>Diaspora as a Strategic Resource Between India and Africa</i>
Dr. Rajneesh Gupta Member ASA India, and Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi	<i>Indian Diaspora: Role in Promoting Indo-African Partnership</i>
Ms. Seraphina Kamei Research Scholar, Centre for African Studies, JNU	<i>Diaspora as a Resource: African Union Policy to Pro-Actively Engage its Diaspora</i>
Discussant	Dr. Sadanand Sahoo School of Interdisciplinary & Transdisciplinary Studies, IGNOU

Valedictory Session	4:15 PM- 5:00 PM
Welcome	Prof. Harish Narang Immediate past President ASA
Chair	Ms. Sangeeta Bahadur DDG, ICCR
Rapporteurs Report	Ms. Jaya and Ms. Sushmita Member ASA India, and Research Scholars, Centre for African Studies, JNU
Valedictory Address	Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan IIC trustee and Member of Parliament

High Tea- 5:00 PM

Concept Note

India and Africa have historical and multidimensional relationship. In the recently held India-Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi (8-9 April 2008), a framework for cooperation between Africa and India was spelt out. It emphasized the rich history of Africa-India relationship and the existing close and multi-layered ties between the two sides. Among several areas of cooperation one important sector is capacity building and human resource development. It was a key component in India -Africa cooperation. Even when India itself was not strong during 1960s, it lent a helping hand to Africa in capacity building and human resource development. Indian teachers, scientists, doctors, technical and military experts trained an entire generation of Africans. India made a major contribution to the development of Africa's skill base. Africans are familiar with Indian capabilities and its support to education, agriculture, small scale industries, computer software, trade and training in defense sector. India provided educational support to the newly independent countries of Africa by sending teachers, giving large number scholarships and admission to African students in state run Indian academic institutions. Many African students who studied in India came to occupy important positions in their respective countries on their return. Many of those who came from countries like Mauritius, Seychelles and East Africa also belonged to the Indian Diasporic community.

India has developed a sizeable skilled and educated manpower. It emerged as a third largest skilled human resource in the world due to substantial public investment in establishing academic and professional institutions. Indian government policy led to liberal university education and the subsequent rapid development of the educational research and training. These experiences are relevant for African countries. Therefore, India is a suitable partner to contribute in the capacity building and development of human resource in Africa. As it is Africa is rich in natural resources. It needs skilled human resources and technology to accelerate its economic growth. The partnership in capacity building and human resource development has following areas to be focused:

Human and Social Resources Development: As India's capabilities and resource base has grown in these areas it has broadened the scope of cooperation activities in capacity building with

Africa. Not only the public sectors but India's private sectors are now encouraged to build partnerships for capacity building and human resource development. The focus areas include capacity building for educational policy planning and administration, establishing programmes for entrepreneurship for youth and opening distance education programmes. In addition to there cooperating in capacity building for devising policy frameworks to establish partnership to develop 'Information and Communication Technology' tools and to develop areas like e-education, e-commerce and e-health etc will be very useful. Other areas include building capacity for health professionals and healthcare system, strengthening the indigenous manufacturing capacities of essential medicines and enhancing training for media professionals.

Governance and Civil Society: Good governance and an empowered civil society are essential development imperatives. India is partnering with Africa to build its indigenous capacity in these areas. The key focus areas in this partnership include enhancing public and private participation in local and central government, establishing platforms to enable civil societies to play a vibrant role in promoting institutions of local self governance and establishing relevant governance training institutions in Africa. Cross-fertilization of ideas and sharing of experiences on public service reforms, conduct of elections, and management of ethnic diversity are other identified areas. For maintaining regional peace and security, effective policing, peacekeeping operations, and disaster management are areas where India could partner with Africa for capacity building. Besides them, mainstreaming gender in governance is another sphere where India's experience at local self government could be shared. Partnering with India's civil society organizations and NGOs engaged in capacity building in India could help in addressing the special needs of women and self help groups in Africa. Partnering with Indian media for capacity building would enable the media in Africa to play an effective role in promoting development, democratic practices and good governance.

Agriculture, Trade and Development: Partnership in this area aims at building capacity to promote development and growth. It includes capacity building in trade negotiations, dispute settlement, enhancement of competitiveness in world economy and establishing training programmes for entrepreneurship and skill development. Building cooperation for sharing

experiences and expertise in the areas of Small and Medium scale enterprises (SMEs) is another important area of engagement. Other sectors identified include capacity building on policy and regulatory frameworks in the financial sector, tourism development and policy planning in agricultural sector.

Diasporic and Cultural Resources: India- Africa partnership in this area would allow both sides to mutually gain from each other. It includes sharing experiences in harnessing Diasporic resources through building Diasporic networks and formulating engagement policies, strengthen people-to people contacts through cultural exchange programmes and by effecting cooperation for capacity building in areas of sports.

The cooperation between India and Africa is historical and its strong focus remains empowerment of people and institutions of the African countries through capacity building and human resource development to effect rapid development. This Conference would like to address issues related to India and Africa partnership for capacity building and human resource development under the following sub-themes but not confining to them.

1. **Developing Human and Social Resources** covering areas like education, training and focusing on science and technology, e-education, media, health, water and sanitation.
2. **Democratizing Development** including areas like governance and civil society, peace and security, media and communication.
3. **Delivering Development** covering areas of mass involvement like Agriculture, Trade, Small and Medium-Scale Enterprises (SMEs), Finance and Tourism.
4. **Harnessing Diasporic and Cultural Resources** including diasporic networks & resources and developing cultural and soft power