

ACTS Science and Technology Policy Institute

Course Announcement

Research into Use

Dates: March 15-17, 2010

Introduction and Course Rationale

As is now well known the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) arose out of the United Nations Millennium Summit in 2000. Many of these goals have been broken down into specific “targets”, achievement of which by 2015 has given a quantitative aspect to the resolution of the main issues of international underdevelopment. In order to help progress the UN Secretary General commissioned the UN Millennium Project, a series of Task Forces charged with addressing sectorial and thematic areas. Executive courses at the ACTS Science and Technology Policy Institute focus on one of these --Task Force 10 (TF10), whose remit has been to explore how best to mobilise technological innovation in the service of achieving all the MDGs. This course will focus on the issue of “research into use” (RIU) and in particular the RIU Programme funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID).

The RIU programme began in July 2006 as a follow-up to DFID’s £220m investment in the Renewable Natural Resources Research Strategy (RNRRS). The final evaluation of RNRRS suggested that while it had generated good scientific research, its development impact had been modest. Hence RIU was conceived as an activity that would link together the many agents involved in innovation – policymakers, researchers, suppliers and end users – and enable a system which uses research to benefit the poor. One component of this programme is that of “Best Bets”, technologies that show promise of being rolled out sustainably with strong backing from private sector interests. The course will explore “research into use” as a learning experience using specific cases as suggestive material presented by international experts. These explore the role of other bodies such as NGOs, the private sector and trade associations. They also look at overseas aid and how it can best be deployed. Participants will be asked to split into participatory groups and reflect on the following generic issues:

1. What types of linkages appear to be most valuable for technological change in client sectors? (2)
2. How should scientific organisations best build an innovation perspective into their project planning and execution? (2)
3. What implications are there for S/T governance? (1)
4. What implications does this changed perspective have for wider management considerations, such as project selection procedures and personnel appraisal? (2)
5. What implications are there for higher education policy? (1)
6. How should public policy address the contrasting roles of national R&D policy and foreign technical assistance? (1)
7. What other insights does the perspective provide? (2)

Towards the end of the course participant groups will be asked to form themselves into a task force charged with the reformulation of science and technology policy in an unspecified African country. In the light of what they have learned they should give advice to the country's government on a range of necessary reforms. During the course participants will be given appropriate resource materials including written-up versions of case studies.

NB:

- a) Send your applications to Andrew Adwera [a.adwera@acts.or.ke].
- b) Application deadline is February 2, 2010

2. Programme

Monday 15th March

- 09:00-09:30 *Registration*
- 09:30-10:00 *Introduction and Welcome to Participants (JW/NC)*
- 10.00-10.45 *Policy Research and Analysis: The case of Higher Education (NC)*
- 10:30-11:00 *Tea/Coffee*
- 11:00-11:45 *Science, Technology and the MDGs (JS)*
- 11:45-12:45 *RIU as a Research Issue (AH)*
- 12:45-14:00 *Lunch*
- 14:00-15:15 *Stamp out Sleeping Sickness (CW)*
- 15:15-15:30 *Tea/Coffee*
- 15:30–17:00 *MINTRACS: An institutional innovation (JDK)*

Tuesday 16th March, 2010

- 09:00-10:30 *Other RIU Projects (Invited speakers)*
- 10:30-10:45 *Coffee*
- 10:45-12:45 *Panel Session*
- 12:45-14:00 *Lunch*
- 14:00-15:30 *Breakout groups*

15:30-15:45 *Tea/Coffee*

15:45–17:00 *Breakout groups*

Wednesday 17th March

All day devoted to presentation and discussion of draft policy briefs, followed by drinks and presentation of certificates.

For more details on course requirements and admission visit the links below;

http://www.acts.or.ke/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=39&Itemid=53

http://www.acts.or.ke/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=20&Itemid=56