

November 2015

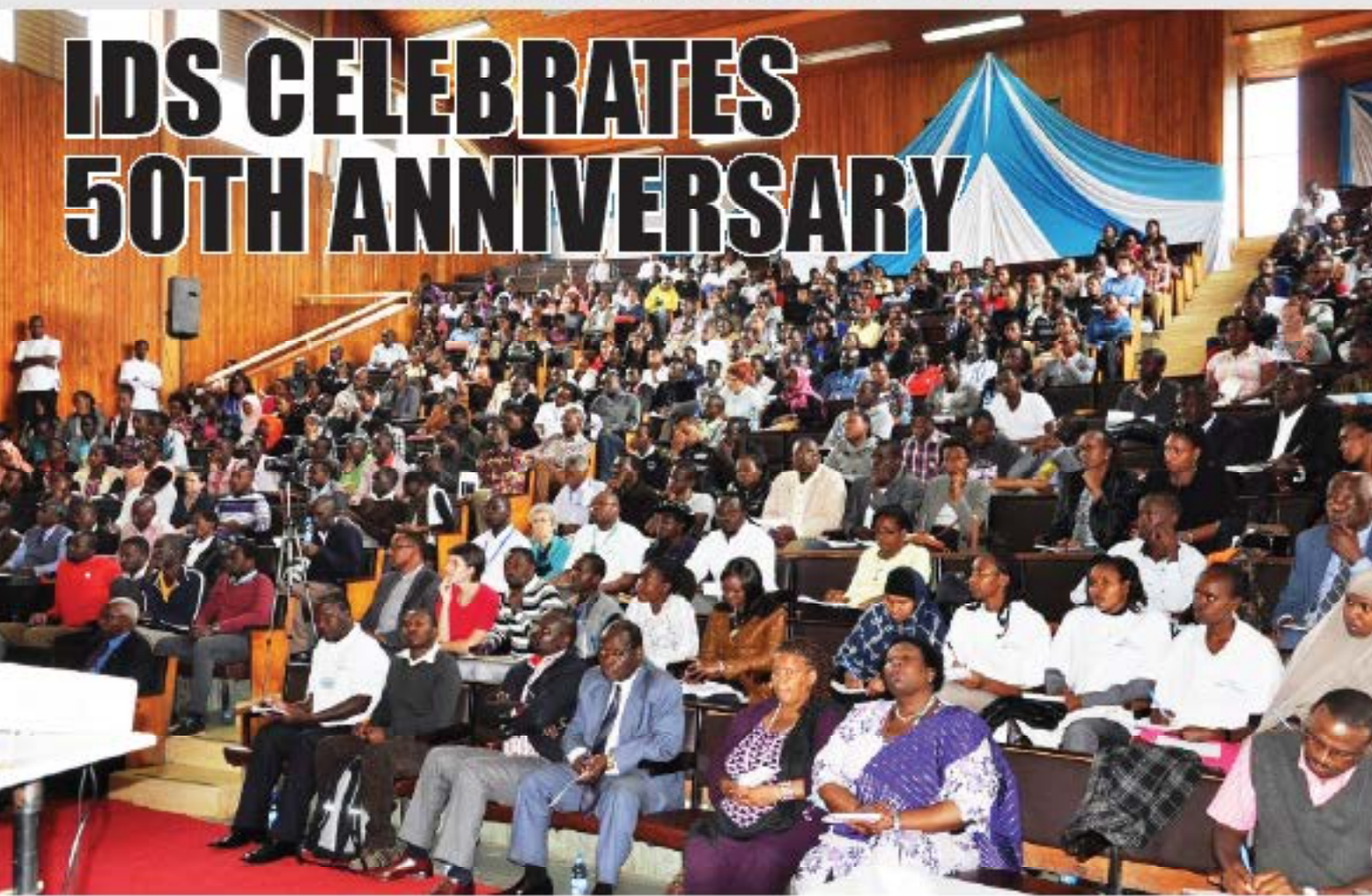


UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI
INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

IDS @50

Commemorating Golden Jubilee (1965 ~ 2015)

IDS CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY





**University of Nairobi
Institute for Development Studies**

Vision

To be the leading centre of excellence for development research, teaching, training, consultancy and advisory services on issues of policy, practical and academic concerns in the public and private domains.

Mission

To generate development knowledge, promote debate and encourage the utilization of research findings in postgraduate teaching and training and in shaping the growth of development thinking, theory and practice with particular focus on Africa.

Core Values

- Professional integrity and productivity
- Exemplary work ethics and team spirit
- Equity and social justice
- Primacy of community knowledge
- Leadership and responsiveness
- Collaboration and networking



Messages: Pg 5 - Pg 7

We Celebrate a Flagship in Research - Pg 5

Main Story

The Birth and Voyages of IDS - Pg 9 - Pg 13



Researchers' Perspectives - Pg 14 - Pg 18

It's Been Exciting Scholarly Journey at IDS - Pg 14

Administration Staff Perspective

I Gained More than Working Experience at IDS - Pg 19



Students' Views- Pg 19 - Pg 23

I have Received More than Expected - Pg 19

Alumni Reflections- Pg 24 - Pg 26

It's Time to Celebrate and Change as Well - Pg 24



IDS Directors - Pg 28

Former Directors Memories - Pg 29 - Pg 31

Directors' Profile - Pg 32 - Pg 35

Goodwill Messages - Pg 36 - Pg 39

Commentary - Pg 40 - Pg 42



Published by

The Office of the IDS Director
Publications Editor Unit
P.O Box 30197-00100, Nairobi
Tel 254-020-3318262
Mobile: 0772114655
Email: director-ids@uonbi.ac.ke
www.uonbi.ac.ke/faculties/ids
<http://ids.uonbi.ac.ke>

Editor

Otuma Ongalo

Editorial Committee

Prof Winnie Mitullah - Director
Prof Karuti Kanyinga – Associate Director
Dr Godwin Murunga – Chair
Mr Otuma Ongalo - Member
Prof Dorothy McCormick- Member
Dr Mary Kinyanjui – Member
Prof Rosemary Atieno – Member
Mr Edward Sibota- Member

Typesetter

Judith M. Ndirangu

Designed and Printed By:

Laskom Enterprises
info@laskomenterprises.com
frontcom09@gmail.com
+254 711 940 900 | 723 324 798

It's time to cheer, and rightly so

It is 50 years since the inception of the Institute for Development Studies (IDS), University of Nairobi, and what a phenomenal journey it has been!

We celebrate a Golden Anniversary of initiatives and triumphs that have not only changed individual lives but also influenced monumental policy issues nationally, continentally and globally.

It is a great privilege to look back in time and assess the milestones, successes and challenges that have been part and parcel of the tremendous journey that IDS has travelled so far to claim its undisputable spot in history as a premier research institution in development issues. We celebrate a unique history of achievements that have forever put us in limelight in this University, this nation, this continent and, indeed, this world as the bridge between theory and practice.

As we turn 50, it is time for reflections on the premier institution. This reflection is captured in a variety of ways in this commemorative issue. It is captured by the University of Nairobi Vice Chancellor Prof Peter Mbiithi, who observes that the Institute is home to research, postgraduate teaching and linkage to policy and practice focusing on all aspects of Africa's changing economies and demography.

It is retold by the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research, Extension and Production, Prof Lucy Irungu, who points out that Over the years, IDS has fulfilled the UON goal of promoting research, production, and extension work.

It is echoed by the Principal of the college of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof Enos Njeru, who

asserts that the Institute leads in research, postgraduate training and engagement with policymakers, practitioners and scholars at national, regional and global levels.

The IDS Director Prof Winnie Mitullah crowns it all with the observation that the Institute boasts of almost half of its staff with PhD in Development Studies, and many Masters of Development Studies released in the market to service other higher learning institutions.

Century Journey

These are not empty rhetoric. They are carefully thought observations that are a clear testimony that IDS has carved a special niche for itself since its inception in 1965. This half century journey has not been in vain. The journey continues into a bright future in tandem with our vision: To be the leading centre of excellence for development research, teaching, training, consultancy and advisory services on issues of policy, practical and academic concerns in the public and private domains.

This commemorative issue of the IDS@50 Magazine partially highlights some of the institutional dreams that have become a reality. They are only partially covered because the full history of IDS in 50 years deserves acres of space.

We capture an overview of the institution that has immensely contributed to University of Nairobi's vision to be a world class university committed to scholarly excellence. IDS stand as a strong pillar of the University mission to provide quality university education and training and to embody the aspirations of the Kenyan people and the global community through

creation, preservation, integration, transmission, and utilization of knowledge.

This issue captures the sentiments of many individuals and institutions that have been part and parcel of the IDS history.

The executives have spoken. The researchers have spoken. The former associates have spoken. The former directors have spoken. The partners have spoken. The students and former students have spoken. So many others have spoken. In short, we provide a rainbow of views.

We pay glowing tribute to so many individuals and institutions that have been part and parcel of the historic journey that IDS has traversed so far. Some of these partners are featured in this commemorative issue in different sections. Many others have not spoken but their immense contributions forever remain embedded in the history of IDS.

As we celebrate 50 years, we celebrate successes but well aware that the destination still remains miles away.

There are many evolving challenges that must be addressed through our core business – research. We do not just celebrate successes but also keep our eye focused on emerging issues. IDS recently revised its curriculum to keep abreast with such issues.

This commemorative issue is a new gem in our journey. It is fodder for a history that future generations will learn. Enjoy the history.

Otuma Ongalo
Editor

ongalootuma@uonbi.ac.ke



We Unite in Celebrating a Flagship in Research

It gives me a great pleasure to write a message in IDS@50 Special Magazine in celebration of the IDS Golden Anniversary, as the world prepares to embrace the post 2015 development goals. IDS is not only a global pioneer of development studies but also a front runner of the premier higher learning institution in Africa, the University of Nairobi.

Over the years, IDS has engaged with development issues and made a name for itself, to an extent that those not conversant with the organizational structure of the University of Nairobi assume that the Institute is an

autonomous entity, and not part of the University. This assumption is a demonstration of the University of Nairobi's strength in building institutions of excellence and promoting knowledge generation and learning in almost every sector and area of development.

IDS is one of our flagships in the area of development research, with national, regional and global outreach and networks. The Institute has collaborated with scholars, policymakers, practitioners and development actors across the globe.

A pioneer landmark contribution of IDS is worth mentioning as the Institute turns 50 years – the 1972 ILO study on Employment and Incomes which made the concept of Informal Sector, originally coined by Keith Hurt in his study of Ghana, popular and a global concept, was done in collaboration with IDS.

Since then, the Institute has continued to be the destination of all those interested in research and getting information on this sector, and other sectors of development.

The Institute is home to research, postgraduate teaching and linkage to policy and practice focusing on all aspects of Africa's changing economies and demography, including youth and employment, gender, innovation, informal sector, climate change and environment; data revolution and the overarching African issues of mobility, access and urbanization; institutions and governance; as well as democracy and peace building.

The diversity of IDS research focus is enabled by the multidisciplinary nature of the Institute and its structure, which allow IDS to work not only with other faculties of the University of Nairobi, but also with external organizations and individuals as collaborators and associates of the Institute.

I welcome all sectors of industry and development to interact and partner with IDS, and other faculties, schools, institutes and centres of the University of Nairobi in generating knowledge for building local, regional and global economies.

Prof Peter M.F. Mbithi
Vice-Chancellor
University of Nairobi



IDS Has Fulfilled University Goal of Promoting Research

The Institute for Development Studies (IDS) is the University of Nairobi's premier and world renowned institute that connects the University of Nairobi to development research and practice and realities of everyday lives of ordinary citizens. Indeed, the name "Institute for Development Studies", rather than Institute of Development Studies, as some would want to call it, could not have been more appropriate.

Our mission as the country's leading university is to translate the knowledge we generate into practice by informing policy making and the development of legislation and related processes.

As IDS celebrates 50th anniversary, we at the University of Nairobi appreciate the Institute's

role in pioneering the path for development research and practice at national, regional and global levels.

Established in 1965 when most African states were coming out of colonial bondage, with no local universities, IDS was able to walk with many of the states as they emerged from their nascent post-colonial development circumstances. In Kenya, IDS was the think tank for the Ministry of Planning; actively researching and engaging with policy makers and practitioners in a task that the institute embraced with enthusiasm in order to build a new Kenya. These early efforts have become pillars which continue to attract scholars, policy makers, and practitioners from across the globe because they consider IDS the point of reference for development research and practice.

Over the years, IDS has fulfilled the UON goal of promoting research, production, and extension work. Indeed, the UON research outputs are recognized in the region for their relevance and impact. One of the functions of the Research, Production and Extension (RPE) Division is to nurture partnerships with industry and other institutions so as to maximize the benefits of research outcomes. I would like to applaud the remarkable contribution of IDS in this area as has also been acknowledged by other partners of the institute in this magazine.

I am also filled with pride to see the impact IDS continues to make within the University of Nairobi and our society in general. Of particular significance among the achievements of IDS is the development of social research skills in young scholars who are the backbone of research and

practice and the future of our nation.

The IDS@50 celebration should not be seen as an end in itself. To the research fraternity at the University of Nairobi, the celebration heralds a new chapter of intensified development research and engagement.

Certainly, the activities to mark the 50-year journey of IDS could not have come at a better time than the dawn of a new global development agenda under the banner of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

I am confident that IDS will provide the required guidance and leadership as the University seeks to mainstream the SDGs in research programmes.

Research has the potential to change the world if we have effective partnerships in place. In this regard, the RPE Division will support the collaboration of IDS with other partners in strengthening development research, and in particular research on the devolved system of governance which Kenya has embraced, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the African Union Agenda 2063.

Overall, development research remains the undisputed route to addressing the human development challenges facing the globe. IDS has made tremendous contribution to development policy and the improvement of lives during the five decades of its existence.

Congratulations IDS at 50!

Prof Lucy W. Irungu
DVC, Research, Production & Extension (RPE)

Institute Has Achieved Rare Feats



The Institute for Development Studies (IDS) is part of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, the largest college of the University of Nairobi.

As observed by the Vice Chancellor in this IDS@50 commemorative Magazine, the institute is the mother of the College and occupies a special space in the history of the College.

Besides being mother of the College, IDS is mother of the Institute of Anthropology Gender and African Studies (IAGAS) and of the College's most recent but very important entity, the Centre for Advanced Studies in Environmental Law and Policy (CASELAP). I am glad that throughout my many years at UoN and now as the head of the College, IDS has lived to the expectation of what a mother should do. The Institute leads in research, postgraduate training and engagement with policymakers, practitioners and

scholars at national, regional and global levels.

IDS leadership is demonstrated by its research, the postgraduate studies, and partners and collaborators who are spread across the globe. Over the years, the Institute has attracted enormous resources and partnerships due to its multidisciplinary nature and research capacity. To mention a few, IDS is home to the Afrobarometer surveys in Africa covering 35 countries.

The Institute coordinates the entire Eastern Africa region, Egypt, and the Republic of Sudan. Secondly, IDS is part of the VOLVO Research and Educational Foundations (VREF) supported, African Centre of Excellence for Studies in Public and Non Motorised Transport (ACET). Thirdly, IDS houses the African Clothing and Footwear Research Network (ACFRN), and fourth, IDS is home to the annual World Economic Forum study on Kenya's Global Competiveness Report.

Besides its IDS regional and global outreach, the Institute is a household name to many industries and sectors in Kenya.

Academics from the Institute have been members of many government and nongovernmental committees, taskforces, commissions and expert teams assisting to shape policy and practice for effective development.

The engagement of the Institute goes beyond these forums to engagement with public discourses in the media, where members of IDS analyse pertinent development issues and shape public opinion. The College puts high premium on these efforts, which indeed deconstruct the myth that academicians are talking to themselves at the higher institutions of learning.

CHSS leads in outreach and connecting UoN to the world of work and development. Our postgraduate students from IDS and other schools, faculties, institutes and centres are literally in every sector of development, ranging from supporting citizens in community and business development, mitigating climate change, counseling, legal advice, foreign language translation to high end policy advice and practice.

These areas of development remain crucial as we leap into post 2015 sustainable development era. I am, therefore, confident that IDS and all other knowledge production units of the College, in collaboration and partnership with other development actors, are capable of moving Kenya and the entire region and globe towards achieving sustainable development goals.

Prof. Enos Njeru
Principal, CHSS



The IDS Prosperity is Not by Default

It is a great pleasure to write a foreword for the IDS@50 special Magazine after working at the IDS for over 27 years. During these years my predecessor directors, Prof Kabiru Kinyanjui, who hired me; Prof Njuguna Ng'ethe, who nurtured my research skills; Prof Patrick Alila, who taught me the art of public policy in political science and ensured I felt at home at IDS; and Prof Dorothy McCormick and Prof Mohamud Jama, who I consider as peers as far as entry into IDS is concerned, provided the academic environment that has kept IDS intact.

In this era of globalization and search for better opportunities, it is remarkable that all my predecessors, except Prof Kabiru Kinyanjui, are still at IDS. Prof Kinyanjui remains close to the Institute as he contributes to higher education sector in different platforms.

IDS is not what it is, as highlighted by both the Vice Chancellor and the Principal, by default. Having researchers of excellence remain in an institute for decades has been a deliberate policy of the University of Nairobi and the Institute. At the University level, the staff development policy produced more than half of IDS staff, including myself. Over the years we have come to realize that those produced through this policy have unlimited attachment to UoN and the Institute. They are dedicated to serving the Institute and even in cases where they take a few years sabbatical they come back with development practice experience which feed into, and give our theories of development a new lease of life.

UoN policy

Besides the UoN policy, the Institute has embedded postgraduate training in research. This has provided opportunities for our postgraduate students to pursue knowledge and higher learning through project support. This strategy, in combination with the UoN policy, has seen IDS produce development studies scholars as opposed to the conventional practice of scholars from other disciplines teaching Development Studies.

Currently, the Institute boasts of having almost half of its staff with PhD in development studies, and many Masters of Development Studies released in the market to service other higher learning institutions. Our alumni are found in most

of other young Development Studies departments, which to a large extent the scholars from IDS have nurtured by supporting the development of curriculums.

As the world begins to embrace the post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals and the African Union's Agenda 2063, which prioritizes unity, prosperity and peace, the IDS@50 celebration allows the Institute to look back and learn from past lessons. This is a tall order which no single institution can undertake on its own. It is what justified the Institute's decision to organize a celebration around the theme of Rethinking Development and Development Studies in the Post-2015 Era.

This framework enables local, regional and international stakeholders to speak directly to the need to rethink development, a need which has convergence of almost all stakeholders. The IDS@50 special Magazine provides a glimpse of the Institute's engagement with development over the last 50 years. It further affirms IDS dedication to continue learning through research, imparting knowledge, and engaging all stakeholders in development and practice.

Together we can re-conceptualize development theory and practice for effective development – read the bumper IDS@50 Magazine as you make your contribution to development in your area of strength.

Prof. Winnie V. Mitullah
Director, IDS

The Birth and Voyages of IDS



By Prof Patrick Alila
Research Professor, IDS

The background origins of the Institute for Development Studies (IDS), University of Nairobi, founded 1965, are intertwined with three historically momentous landmark occurrences in the early 1960s. The first was the attainment of independence by Tanganyika, Uganda and Kenya, all within a short span of only three consecutive years: 1961, 1962 and 1963 respectively. The spirit of independence was reigning supreme and the establishment of the new institutions such as IDS, to serve the national interest in the post colonial era, was definitely a welcome idea.

Secondly, the national leaders of the newly independent African countries faced the formidable challenge of lack of highly trained manpower to manage the affairs of the state. It is this crisis of trained manpower that was the rationale for setting up a regional institution of higher learning, University of East Africa. Its constituent colleges were Nairobi, Dar es Salaam and Makerere.

Nairobi was previously a Royal Technical College (1956), whose leading diploma programmes were Engineering Science and Commerce. Dar es Salaam was started with the express purpose of having a university level Law

School in the region. Makerere, the oldest of the three, had also in its programmes the study and research in the social sciences.

It is from Makerere that the pioneer American scholar credited with laying the foundation of the IDS, Professor James S. Coleman and a few of his colleagues, came through.

Thirdly, the emergence of African Studies programmes/centres across North America in early 1960s had direct consequences for IDS Nairobi coming into being and the content as well as methodology of its research programme. The centres on Africa, designated by the US Department of Education, housed African continent research specialists, employed inter disciplinary approach and mounted teaching programmes. The scholars at these centres were mainly responsible for the establishment of the IDS Nairobi and similar institutions elsewhere, especially in West Africa.

These scholars also embarked on mentoring young African graduates who were enrolled in PhD programmes in the home universities where their centres were based.

Thus the influence on the young graduates hired by IDS, especially in the 1970s, was through direct interaction with the qualified scholars during field work and undertaking a PhD study by coursework and thesis. An important component of the study was African studies as a minor field. This was to impart skills and knowledge to use the interdisciplinary approach to study Africa.

These centres are now world renown. They include UCLA (University of California, Los Angeles centre, now James S. Coleman African Studies Centre); ASC Boston, Harvard; Wisconsin, Macson,

Indiana, Bloomington; Northwestern University; Michigan State University, etc.

It is in the same view that a committee of African Studies was launched in 1963 in Makerere to provide a multidisciplinary graduate course. The programme had academic activities varying from regular colloquia to public lectures as well as the annual East African Social Science Conference that rotated between the three universities up to the 1970s.

Structure And Research

IDS Sussex in England was established in 1966, a year after IDS Nairobi. The two institutions share a common British tradition of postgraduate studies devoid of rigorous coursework, particularly for PhD degrees. These institutions were therefore not surprisingly modelled the same way in terms of structure and research. They did not undertake to run teaching programmes in-house immediately upon establishment. However, more important is the fact that the two institutions have had scholarly exchange and flow over the years on a regular basis. IDS Nairobi, being the venue of a 3-way interaction between American-British scholars, gave those in Nairobi a unique opportunity of balanced exposure during cold war years to current development issues and ideas as well as analysis of ongoing development practice.

Housing and Location

The acceptance by Nairobi University College to house IDS in 1965 marked its birth and this has remained the home of IDS ever since. The Institute was initially accommodated in Mahatma Gandhi building on the 5th floor. As IDS undertook more activities, and especially more staff joining the

institute, there was no more space. This necessitated hiring offices off campus in the downtown area; and to make matters worse in different buildings.

Funding was sought from the Rockefeller and Ford foundation to put up a prefab structure on campus. IDS operations came under one roof. Research staff particularly liked the location of the Institute at the far end of the campus because it provided a conducive research work atmosphere. The location created a common behaviour of working late and into weekends, which is a well known tradition of the IDS academic staff.

Staff Mobilization and Recruitment

The academic staff at the IDS, more so in the early years, were primarily researchers who were not hired on permanent terms. This is due to the fact IDS was set up essentially to provide a facility with a research environment for academic staff employed in the teaching departments, including visiting scholars and those coming for field research in East Africa.

They would keep abreast of ongoing IDS research activities and engage other scholars in IDS seminars, workshops, and conferences on a regular basis.

Those in lecturer positions were to take some leave off their teaching commitments and do research based at IDS for about a year or so. A substantial number of the university teaching staff in the 1960s and 70s were non-African, especially of European origin. They were therefore used to such an arrangement, which is an age old common practice study/sabbatical leave among universities.

The staff categories at the IDS around 1970 comprised (a) Director and Deputy Director, (b) Administrative and Operations non academic staff (c) Librarians and Documentalists, (d) Research

Associates, (e) Junior Research Fellows, (f) Project/Survey/Data Processing Research Assistants. The categories directly charged with IDS research initially were therefore Research Associates and Junior Research Fellows together with their Assistants.

University Employees

The director was responsible for planning and coordination of IDS work comprising affiliation of Research Associates, contractual engagement of Junior Research Fellows and recruitment in conjunction with the operations and production staff who actually remained university employees. A very important service the director's office rendered to Research Associates in particular was processing of a research permit, which was a requirement for affiliation and field research.

The composition of Research Associates granted affiliation to the IDS conformed to the aspect of the mandate of the institute to serve as "a centre of intellectual stimulus and productivity with which visiting scholars from all over the world can be associated and to which they can make their own contributions to an understanding of processes and problems of development, particularly as they relate to Kenya". These scholars comprised faculty/staff who are teaching specialists in their fields of socio economic, political and cultural studies coming mainly from North America and British Institutions as a group, but also individual scholars from the rest of the world notably, Scandinavian countries, Germany, Japan, China, New Zealand etc.

In addition, there were Research Associates who were young scholars freshly coming out of graduate school, especially in America. These Associates focused on carrying out field research for their PhD dissertation. However, they shared their work with IDS researchers

notably through presentation of a working paper of their preliminary findings at a regular IDS seminar.

The research funding for the Research Associates generally was individually solicited before coming to Kenya. The important sources of funds include; the Rockefeller Foundation, Ford Foundation, Social Science and Research Council, the Danish International Development Agency, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, The British Overseas Development Administration and the West German Friedrich Ebert Foundation. The researchers included in their budget an item of payment to the IDS towards defraying overhead costs.

In respect of Junior Research Fellows, the IDS mandate included "the provision of research opportunities, facilities and professional guidance to enable a rapidly expanding number of Kenyan scholars to study the problems of development as part of their preparation for academic and other careers in the service of the nation. Appointment to a JRF position was on a 2 year renewable contract with funding from Rockefeller Foundation, DANIDA and SIDA.

The first group of JRFs were Kenyans numbering less than 5 who had completed their PhD studies in the Social Sciences and had just returned back home. They only stayed briefly in IDS and moved to teaching departments on university permanent employment terms. They soon became heads of social science departments.

The second group were those recruited between 1970 and 1977, numbering over 10 and still working on their PhDs but at different stages of completion. It is when this group of JRFs were completing their studies, and showing interest in continuing to work at the IDS, that the Institute was faced with the challenge of absorbing its own trained personnel. The crux of the



IDS research assistants in the field

matter was that they could no longer be held in a training position and on contractual terms especially when their fellow Kenyans with similar qualifications in the same university were employed on permanent and pensionable terms.

IDS negotiated with the University of Nairobi to have establishment positions similar to teaching departments where IDS was also offering teaching services. The positions were granted resulting in transformative change in personnel employment policy at IDS. As of 1977/80 IDS had nearly 10 permanent positions at the levels of Research Fellow and Senior Research Fellow and still had 4 JRF on post.

This was indeed a quantum jump from having no such academic personnel on post only a few years earlier. The growth of IDS in terms of additional senior researchers did not however continue on an upward trend. In less than 5 years the number had dropped to 7 and no JRFs on post. As of 1990/1997 the situation improved but with an entirely different composition of 2 Associate Research Professors, 3 Senior Research Fellows 9 Research Fellows (4 on study leave) and 2 JRFs (1 on study leave). A significant development of the staff recruitment trend was that most Research Fellows and JRFs were actually on study leave undertaking PhD studies.

In contrast to IDS formative years of PhD studies in American Universities, they went to European countries. Also the Research Associates who had mostly come from the USA were less than 5.

The foregoing staff growth pattern and levels have not changed much in recent years except for internal promotions to include 2 Full Professors and 4 Associate Professors

and more recently hiring of 4 new staff at the Research Fellow level. The situation can be attributed first to the shift away from a strong support for education, training and field research by Western countries witnessed around the time of independence. Likewise the support from the national government for university education was reduced drastically and directed to teaching departments.

Secondly, it was of immediate consequence to the IDS that the development assistance agencies, particularly the World Bank, switched to support basic education, arguing that higher education was no longer a national development priority. In the 1990s, the World Bank had a very strong sway on Western donor countries resulting in their stand expectedly having a ripple effect.

Thirdly, due to budget cut within university, the preoccupation became increasing student numbers by way of offering popular marketable courses to justify more funding. This meant that those not having teaching programmes or simply not enrolling many students, such as IDS, were no longer in the good books of university management in the desperate efforts to save the institution from the financial crunch. IDS was directed to come up with an undergraduate

teaching programme to justify existence in the university.

This was a hotly contested proposition. However, reason prevailed and the argument of IDS that undergraduate student enrolment would undermine its research programme and hence credibility as a research institution was reluctantly accepted by the university. The acceptance was based on an understanding with the university that IDS starts a teaching programme at the postgraduate level which would not undermine but rather complement IDS research programme. This is the initial starting point to launching the MA in Development Studies at the IDS.

It was mainly due to not having a teaching programme in-house that the recruitment and upward mobility of IDS staff was in the 1990s abnormally slow. The problem emanated from the university formula of allocation of establishment positions based on student numbers. The MA student programme brought a phenomenal gain to IDS staff as it came with allocation of a good number of establishment positions. This led to accelerated staff promotions as from 2000, which is reflected in current academic staff showing nearly one-half the total number in senior professorial positions and the other half in the lower cadre.

Non Academic Support Staff

The non-academic staff were engaged to facilitate carrying out IDS research mandate. The main activities for them were data collection and analysis, research findings, report writing, report production and dissemination. The leading sizeable group were staff in the Typing Pool and Machine Room combined who were around one-half of the total number. They used the now nearly phased out type writers, cyclostyling and printing machines. It was a modest set up but the unsophisticated IDS papers product carried ideas far and wide to institutions across the globe.

The researchers had assistants working closely with them in carrying out fieldwork. This was subsequently followed by manual data entry in which Data Processing Assistants took charge. The use of main frame computer in Chiromo to analyse data started in the 1980s and was replaced by PCs in mid 1990s. The researchers then took responsibility of report writing and presentation of findings at seminars

have been on temporary terms when first recruited but were absorbed into establishment lower grade positions later on. It is in the case of research assistants especially those working in the field that payments were made from individual research projects for which they were recruited.

Research Programme

The research programme is designed to mirror the high priority social

and economic problems of development. The emphasis is on Kenya, but the broader problems of the African continent are also addressed. The research is concerned both with basic development problems and with more immediately pressing policy issues. This was the mandate given to IDS, a social science

The projects constituting the IDS Research programme were purposively and predominantly rural sector focused, especially from the 1970s onwards. The majority have been rural based, some addressing external factors, themes having strong bearing on rural sector population and others taking up issues of national development. As years progressed there has been a constant refinement of the original research focus to address emerging current issues of development. This has been necessitated by the unfolding dynamics of the development process since the 1960s modernization days that has resulted in drastic revision in the thinking and practice of development.

In overall terms the projects can be grouped in broad categories.

First is Rural Development and Agriculture category, which includes the landmark special rural development Programme, rural administration, district development planning, agricultural programme, rural administration, agricultural development administration, dairy industry, irrigation, maize and beans marketing.

Secondly, Kenyan Society category including population and development issues, women in rural development, ethnicity and rural development, clientelism, peasantry, rural stratification, etc.

Thirdly IDS has had projects on Environment and National Resources utilization, notably problems of Kenya's arid and semi arid areas, energy, tourism.

Fourth category is on Human Resource and Development, specifically projects on health, nutrition education and housing.

Fifth category on Industry and Trade consists projects such as Kenyanisation of industry, export performance of the sector, dualism, informal sector, micro, small and medium enterprises.



IDS students at UNEP public lecture to celebrate IDS @ 50.

and workshops. In cases of further refinement for publications, IDS employed a Publications Editor. The IDS publications were filed in both the IDS Library African section of the main University Library and overseas research institutions with which IDS had publication exchange agreement.

The management and supervision of support staff was entrusted to a senior Administrative Assistant later upgraded to Assistant Registrar when the MA programme started. The Administrator worked closely with the IDS Director whom she/he also gave support in the planning and coordination of the research programme for the Institute.

The University has all along been responsible for remuneration of IDS support staff putting them on the payroll. There are some who may

multidisciplinary institute, separated in 1965 from cultural division, headed by Prof. B.A. Ogot that later was renamed Institute of African Studies. The latter was to promote and conduct original research in the fields of African history and pre-history, ethnography and anthropology, religion, beliefs etc.

The IDS mandate was broad and included provision of research opportunities, facilities and professional guidance to facilitate accelerated Africanisation of university teaching materials based on analysis of Kenyan society and related to its development. The Institute was made an integral part of the University of Nairobi on par with the faculties. A board was instituted to ensure the IDS mandate is properly discharged.

The foregoing enumeration of IDS projects is only meant to be indicative of the research from the Institute over the years. The listing is far from exhaustive. A more complete picture can be gained from IDS Research and Publications listing put out regularly by the institute.

In terms of organization to undertake research projects, IDS researchers have worked in teams of two or more supported by a number of assistants depending on the size of the project. The few cases of individually executed projects have been mainly due to the type of funding and/or a specific client commissioning a study. In most of the projects, the methodology commonly used by the researchers has been the survey method to gather household data.

IDS has a long standing tradition of collaboration with other researchers and institutions. The leading example is work with the Ministry of Planning on development plans of the 1960s/70s and the Department of Central Bureau of statistics (CBS) on farm level primary data collection and analysis. The Institute has worked with UN agencies, including UNDP, ILO, World Bank, FAO, WHO etc. The work on informal sector and the annual launch of Human Development Report stand out in this collaboration.

IDS collaboration with other research institutes, study centres, teaching departments etc is extensive. This comprises work with African Studies Centres in North America, Centre for Development Research, Denmark, Institute of African Studies, Kenya, SID, IPAR, ICEG, KIPPRA etc. Several NGOs have worked with IDS such as NCKK, KFFHC, Rockefeller Foundation, Ford Foundation, DANIDA, SIDA, USAID, and KWFT.

Teaching Duties

Academic staff at IDS generally have had university teaching\ lecturing background as full fledged faculty

ranging from senior professorial level down to young scholars at the level of Teaching Assistant/Tutorial Fellows. The latter mostly would be working on their PhDs in readiness for climbing up the academic career ladder. However at the IDS because of research commitments that often necessitated staying out during fieldwork for extended periods of time, a disproportionately much less time was allocated to teaching. It was for years set at 3 hours of teaching timed to conform to research work schedule. It is in the social sciences teaching departments that IDS staff presence has been conspicuous, including Economics, Sociology and Department of Government later renamed Department of Political Science and Public Administration. The teaching of Economics was also done for Faculty of Commerce, which was burdened by high student enrolment. In addition, teaching has been done by the IDS in some other departments due to individual staff specialization, for example urban planning, agricultural economics and geology.

IDS staff have embraced teaching assignments, essentially as a professional obligation. However, the immediate purpose of the link up with the departments is to ensure that the results of the institution's research are incorporated into regular undergraduate and postgraduate teaching. This is definitely an avenue for Africanisation of teaching materials.

Research Equipment and Supplies

The IDS needed to be appropriately equipped for executing the research mandate especially the field work component. The reliance mainly on survey research method meant reaching out to interview households/

farmers mostly in the remote rural areas. The critical requirement for this has been all along transport suitable for poor and rough rural roads. A somewhat different kind of transport to carry researchers as a group to participate in research findings dissemination in seminars/ workshops/conferences is also necessary to have.

A transport unit with long distance rough road, travel worthy vehicles has been maintained at the IDS over the years even when transport system elsewhere in the university collapsed. In other words the research work has never stalled at the IDS due to lack of transport. The two main sources of vehicles were the Kenya Government (GOK) through the Ministry of Finance and Planning and earnings from IDS research projects as direct grants and/or fees charged.

The production and publication of the various types of IDS academic papers required equipment for typing, printing, copying and binding. This category of equipment mostly was acquired through research grants. In the case of consumables some were obtained through university funding using an equipment and supplies vote that every department/faculty in the university is entitled to.



IDS staff at UNEP public lecture



By Dr Rachel Musyoki
Senior Research Fellow, IDS

It's Been Exciting Scholarly Journey at IDS

Like most beneficiaries of the staff development policy of the University of Nairobi, IDS has been a second home to me. Within a year of engagement as a Graduate Research Assistant, I proceeded for postgraduate studies under the Junior Research Fellowship Programme. Upon completion of my PhD studies, I returned to IDS.

Perhaps, I should mention what attracted me to IDS in the first instance. As graduate students at the University of Nairobi, we had an opportunity to attend what I thought was classic and regular scholarly discourses that IDS organized. Such moments reminded me of similar events at Makerere University. A few years down the line, I was appointed the seminar coordinator at IDS for about two years during which time I witnessed overwhelming support of participants from within and without the university, cutting across the public and private sectors, NGOs and development partners. Postgraduate students

from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS) were active participants too. In some ways, however, the "Seminar" experience is markedly different from those early years – as such discourses are muted and somewhat inward.

The other and more fundamental attraction to IDS was the much publicized research outreach initiative, which some of you may recall –the Special Rural Development Programme, fondly referred to as SRDP. IDS was reported to have taken research to rural communities thereby demystifying the "ivory tower" mentality. Engaging with communities then was my "first love" in academia with the dream of changing lives. I had had a brief experience working with rural communities before proceeding for further studies.

Upon my return, I lost no opportunity in fostering deeper engagement especially with rural communities whose thirst for development was real. I crisscrossed virtually all districts in the country, undertaking research, training, evaluation and monitoring for public sector institutions as well as a variety of other stakeholders. By the time IDS launched the postgraduate teaching programme, I was ready to shift my energies to the classroom. This was an opportunity to transfer knowledge and mentor the next generation of scholars and development practitioners. Teaching experience, I must say, breathed new life in my academic career. Now I had a platform to promote scholarly discourse in the classroom and with student-centred approach, it has been a rewarding experience.

The teaching programme thrust new responsibilities to the staff. I was appointed Coordinator of Examinations, a task I performed with zeal for five years. Being a sensitive docket, I found it extremely challenging, for not once did I delegate. It is a period I scaled down field engagements,

but nevertheless gained deep insights into the management of examinations. I also had immense opportunities to engage with external examiners. I consider this assignment the most value-added task outside the classroom.

A few other tasks/engagements too have had enduring memories. Participation in national taskforces either as a member or chair presented enormous responsibility. The first of such tasks culminated in the formulation of Kenya's national population policy. A similar commitment followed, this time covering 15 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. As a member of the African Population Advisory Committee, we spearheaded an exemplary Kenyan study. I represented the Kenyan team in presenting the reports in Ghana, Botswana, the Philippines and Denmark.

The latest and perhaps most challenging is work with the Taskforce on Post-2015 Poverty Reduction Coordination Framework. Started in November 2014 by the Office of the Presidency, Ministry of Devolution and Planning, the taskforce is mandated to synergize aspirations in Kenya's Vision 2030, national and county governments' development strategies, in the context of post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The taskforce has since underscored the important role that research institutions are going to play in engendering the SDGs.

As part of the way forward, I call upon the IDS fraternity to re-think the role of research in transforming lives.

In a recent International Conference organized by IDS (November 2014), a renowned scholar challenged academicians to ask whose question they are answering in their research endeavors. In other words, scholars should be less preoccupied with donor funds if they are to address Africa's development challenges.

The Travails and Thrills of Research in Entrepreneurship



By Dr Mary Njeri Kinyanjui
Senior Research Fellow, IDS

Neoliberalism initiated a policy turn in development research. Development research funders demanded that researchers should carry out research that informed policy. They were supposed to study challenges and problems that hindered development so that they can be addressed by policy. As part of this policy oriented research, researchers were supposed to interview policy makers, and include them in research conceptualization and implementation and analysis. Researchers were also supposed to write policy briefs which the policy makers could read quickly.

My experience with policy informed research in entrepreneurship was difficult and sometimes frustrating. Policy makers were careful that they are not misconstrued as misrepresenting the views of their employer or revealing government secrets in responses. This meant that most often the information they gave was not very accurate. To surmount this problem I decided to turn to archival documents as sources of policy information. Archival documents provided the

real picture of issues regarding consensus, conflicts and contestations on policy issues. The historical experience shapes current policy and one can easily tell the direction policy on entrepreneurship was to take in future.

Policy was keen on stimulating and promoting western and oriental entrepreneurship without the understanding of African entrepreneurship among traders and artisans. Traders and artisans are regarded as part of the informal economy and were not considered entrepreneurial. They were imparted with ideas based on western form of entrepreneurship which stresses risk, secrecy, aggression, innovation and vision. On the basis of these tenets most studies on entrepreneurship often concluded that Africans were not entrepreneurs. They did not keep records, they did not take risks, and they had no vision since their businesses remained small. But they are the remnants of the African indigenous market.

Traders And Artisans

After two and half decades of studying micro and small businesses I got frustrated with the idea of lack of entrepreneurship among traders and artisans. I started wondering how individuals could repeatedly day in day out report to their businesses, invest time and money if they were not entrepreneurs. Informed by the cultural turn in geography, I decided to look into whether there could be a cultural explanation to the kind of entrepreneurship practiced by traders and artisans. This revealed to me that there are cultural variants in

entrepreneurship, such as oriental entrepreneurship practiced in the East and western ones found in Europe and North America. The African orientation of entrepreneurship however is under researched and is shrouded by the general perspective that African cultural attributes are traditional or primitive. Thus to be part of the global entrepreneurship models, Africans have to adapt to western tenets of entrepreneurship. They are to be changed through doses of entrepreneurship education.

Research methodology requires creation of research design that replicates the natural so that the research can be scientific and free of personal biases. The researcher is also supposed to be aware of the power difference between her and the research subject. It is difficult to do this in a research environment. The minute I would mention I was from the University, doing research that would inform policy change, the traders and artisans would get intimidated. They would have fear and surprise. Their experience with government was not always positive. I decided to use journaling of my every day experiences and case studies as strategies for gathering data.

Every day in my life I am involved in carrying out transactions that involve traders and artisans. I would observe, listen and chat with the individuals I encounter in my everyday life experience in normal settings. After transactions I would record the mood, the actions that lead me to the understanding of the nature of entrepreneurship. I realized the close connections and associations that existed between and among traders and artisans.

I observed a phenomenon which I refer to as solidarity entrepreneurship. I defined it so because of the group agency and individual initiatives in performing transactions.

Case studies were preceded by introductions by individuals I knew who were known to them. I also make regular visits to these places when I am not doing research. I was able to penetrate Uhuru market when I visited after a fire in 2010. I met a neighbour in my estate. He was very happy that I had come to empathize after the fire. He introduced me to the chairman and other people in the market. This incident formed a new relationship with traders and artisans in Uhuru Market. I invited the chairman and a few others to a seminar for textiles I was facilitating for Enabling Environment, and then the chairman invited me to one of their meeting where I explained to the members the importance of

research and why they should not treat researchers suspiciously.

I told them that we use the information for teaching purposes at the university.

They were surprised that University students would be taught about them. What they do not like being told is that they are going to be helped. They do not want to be seen as helpless. They do not trust that anybody is interested in them. They also do not like being seen as people with problems. This is the image most development and entrepreneurial discourse has perpetuated. That traders and artisans are people with problems without agency and have to be helped with interventions.

The research agenda would only be announced after a good rapport is established. I would make two or three visits to the case study to familiarize myself with the work they did. I would participate

in their activities, sometimes invite some officials to class to show them that though distance exists between the university and the jua kali, it is not mystery or magical. It is in this space where discussions and learning take place. Once they were comfortable with me. They would introduce me to case studies whom they knew would give me information freely.

With this new approach to research, I have published two books and two journal articles. One book, *Women and the Informal Economy in Africa: From the Margins to the Centre* Zed, 2014 was selected by the Independent Women Website as the book of the month of June. Rochelle Burgess, lecturer London Metropolitan University in a book review observes that the book 'could be a landmark publication in changing perceptions of how development should be viewed'.



By Prof Rosemary Atieno
Research Associate Professor, IDS

Partnerships Have Led to Pioneering Work

Since joining IDS, I have been involved in research covering a wide range of development issues. The research, has largely involved collaborations with government, academic institutions, as well as local and international development partners.

I have been part of IDS researchers involved in some pioneering work in the area of development. A team of IDS researchers, which I led, were the first to produce the Kenya National Human Development Report using the UNDP developed human development indices. The Kenya National Human Development Report (2001), with the theme "addressing social and economic inequalities for human development", provided landmark results on the state of inequality in the country and empiricised the discussion on the relationship between growth, human development and inequality.

The HDR provided a major contribution to the use of the human development concepts and methodologies as developed and pre-tested through the Global Human Development Reports, to provide a systematic appraisal of the country's efforts in relation to human development. The Kenya National Human Development Report (2003), with the theme "Participatory Governance for Human Development" highlighted the relationship between governance and human development. I coordinated the team of IDS researchers in this project to its successful conclusion.

Together with other IDS researchers, we were at it again in making our contribution to the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). I, as the team leader, and Dr. Joseph Onjala conducted research and produced the report on the Socio-Economic Development

towards the NEPAD self-assessment programme. The report, together with the Plan of Action, provided a technical assessment and a framework of appraisal for tracking progress towards the attainment of the objectives of the Economic Recovery Strategy for Wealth and Employment Creation and the Millennium Development Goals. One of the objectives of the APRM was to improve the institutional effectiveness of critical public institutions, engendering effective policy design and adopting practices and standards that improve public governance.

At IDS I have collaborated on major research assignments with international organizations. I was part of a team of IDS researchers

who prepared an African ministerial working document on industry, the African Productive Capacity Initiative (APCI), commissioned by the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO). We had earlier prepared a report on the East African Productive Capacity Initiative (EAPCI).

The (APCI) was part of UNIDO's regional effort to provide African countries with technical assistance aimed at strengthening their industrialisation process. It is also part of the support for national poverty reduction strategy papers. The IDS researchers also provided background papers for the COMESA/UNIDO sub-regional conference on improving industrial performance and promoting

employment in COMESA region. The paper formed part of the background document for the ministerial conference held in Arusha later on.

My research at IDS has focused on various areas on development. These cover the research on business systems and enterprise development in Kenya, labour market dynamics, financial markets agro processing and agribusiness development. I am currently coordinating a team of IDS researchers who are concluding a collaborative research on youth unemployment in East Africa. Through this research, IDS researchers have interacted with academics, policymakers, and practitioners through various forums.

I Have Had fulfilling Academic Voyage



By Dr Joseph Onjala
Senior Research Fellow,
IDS

I joined the Institute for Development Studies in 1993 as Junior Research Fellow. Then, a young scholar, my journey as a scholar has been fulfilling. Over the years, I have gained wide research and teaching experience in development studies. Some of the memorable collaborative experiences have been as follows:

- Collaborating with the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) which has been critical

for providing resources for my research activities since the early 1990s to date. Research with AERC has inspired my interest in China-Africa Economic relations.

- Working with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the preparation of a number of Human Development Reports for Kenya. To date I continue serving in the technical committees for the preparation of the National Human Development Reports for Kenya.

- Capacity building activities in environment related projects with United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) at DADAAB refugee camp.

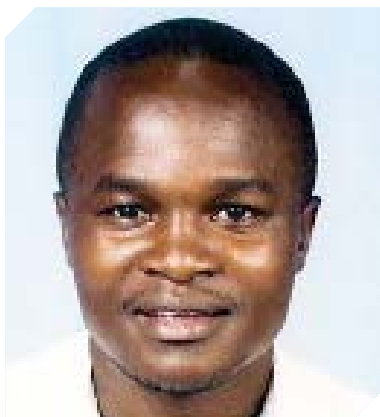
- Environmental studies with World Wide Fund (WWF) for Nature – Eastern African Regional Office, and International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

- Collaborating with International Labour

Organisation (ILO) - Somalia Programme in conducting Economic Evaluation of six roads projects named Hobyo, Golol, Umadda, Fooniyaha, Kaah and Rahma roads.

- Collaborating with the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) in Africa Peer Review Mechanism (APRM).

I hold PhD in Environmental Economics from Roskilde University (Denmark). Currently, I am the Coordinator of Master's Programme at the IDS. I teach postgraduate courses in Environment and Natural Resources Management, and Energy Policy and Planning Methods at IDS. I also teach PhD in Development Economics at the School of Economics (University of Nairobi). I am a visiting Development Economics Lecturer in Collaborative PhD Programme (CPP) at Joint Facility for Electives (JFE) organized by the African Economic Research Consortium.



By **Erik Oluoch Manga**
Junior Research Fellow, IDS

My Experience at IDS: A Trilogy

When I completed a postgraduate diploma course in Project Planning and Management at the Catholic University of East Africa in 2001, I immediately embarked on looking for a job even though I was still keen on pursuing further studies.

I needed resources to realise this dream. My first interview was with one of the leading development agencies to work in one of their projects in my home district (Nyatike, in Migori County). I never got the job after all. I equally lost interest in looking for another job and instead opted to focus more on continuing with studies.

My next concern, therefore, was what to study, where to study and how to secure funding. I first toyed with the idea of studying international relations in order to work in the humanitarian world. It was until I came across a

University of Nairobi academic calendar at a friend's (Mr David Omolo Bong'o who is also a former IDS student) place that I took note of the courses offered at the Institute for Development Studies.

I eventually joined the Institute in 2003 to pursue a Masters of Arts Degree in Development Studies. Since then, I have been at this one of the oldest development studies institute in the world in different capacities namely as a student, a project assistant and academic staff hence my choice of the term trilogy. Each aspect of my presence at the Institute has had a profound influence on career trajectory and general world view on development related issues. More so, my stay at the Institute enabled me to appreciate the complex or rather the multifaceted aspect of development both at the level of theory and practice.

As a student during the period 2003-2006, my most interesting subject was development management theory which enabled me to appreciate various theoretical and conceptual issues involving the subject. It was actually during this period that I started considering possibilities of pursuing doctoral studies in order to be involved in development related issues at a higher level.

My subsequent engagement at the Institute as a research assistant under donor proliferation and state capacity research project between 2006 and 2009 was equally fascinating. This project - which was undertaken by a team of researchers at the Institute under the leadership of Prof. Dorothy McCormick and Hubert Schmitz of IDS, Sussex, through the Centre for Future States - was a game changer. It exposed me to many opportunities. I attended three international workshops between 2006-2008 which Centre

for Future States at IDS, Sussex, convened annually to discuss research projects they supported across the globe. The Centre also organised annual capacity building workshops for young scholars, who were mainly from the South, working in these research projects. They mainly involved advanced training in scientific writing and research methods.

It was through these initiatives that I started interacting with scholars from different parts of the world learning more about developing research, building useful networks across the world and eventually winning a commonwealth scholarship through the Centre for the Future State to pursue my doctorate in development Studies at the IDS, Sussex, in 2009. It was also the same year that the University of Nairobi appointed me to the position of junior research fellow at IDS and granted me a study leave.

As I finalise my doctorate studies, I am happy to be back at IDS, University of Nairobi, to carry out research, teach and engage with practitioners out there. I am more than convinced that through constant engagement with diverse literature, networking with different scholars and practitioners within my areas of interest, and constant training, I will be able to engage in cutting edge research that goes a long way to make a difference in the development world.

Despite numerous challenges research institutions world over are going through, I am still strongly convinced that IDS is still one of development research institutes where I can advance my career ambitions in development research. I am happy to be part of the new generation of scholars eager to advance the Institute's core mandate in many years to come.

I Gained More than Working Experience



By Harriet Wang'ombe
Assistant Secretary, IDS

I remember vividly the moment I came to the Institute for Development Studies. It was in January, 1986, when I got the letter transferring me from Economics Department to IDS. I had never known where the Institute was based but after inquiring, I was told it was on the lower side of the Engineering Department.

It was located in a well done timber building. When I reported, I was welcomed by Samson Otieno, Beatrice Nzioka, (both deceased)

and Lillian Aduolat at the typing pool. It was time to adjust to a new working environment. While working in the office of the Chairman in the Economics Department, I operated in front-office but the typing pool was somehow secluded.

I worked in the typing pool for 10 years. Due to its location, it provided an atmosphere to talk less unlike in Economics where I would answer many phone calls and students' questions. During that time IDS was among the first units in the University to train its staff on how to use computers. It was a great opportunity for me. I enjoyed coming early to work to avoid traffic jam and also drop my children in school.

I started working in the Director's Office in 1996 and that is where I'm still based as I await retirement next month. My current grade is Assistant Secretary and I have been privileged to work under five directors, Associate Director and many acting directors. I was very fortunate to work at IDS as we were among the first unit in the University to have fax

machine and also direct telephone lines to communicate with the donors and research collaborators outside the country.

IDS has provided more than exciting working experience. In my 35 years at the University I married the late Dr Joseph Wang'ombe and we were blessed with three children who are all grown up and experts in reputable careers.

As I retire I want to register my appreciation to the University Management for giving me the chance to be part of the team. My children were naturally mentored. I did not need to make a special trip to a university with them to encourage them to work hard to acquire higher education.

I am proud to be part of the IDS@50 celebration just a month to my retirement. I feel good for having retained retirement age and mostly thank Yahweh for my health. Be blessed IDS colleagues and the entire University community as we celebrate IDS@50.

Phd Student View



By Sebastian Gatimu
PhD student, IDS

After Reaping from IDS, I'm Back for More

Growing up on the slopes of Mt Kenya, the hopes for future seemed not promising. Having come from a humble background, it was difficult to comprehend how tomorrow would be.

It was after joining University of Nairobi in 1996 that I started seeing some light. After graduating in 2000, I left the university and went back to the rural areas armed with knowledge and skills, at least to give back to the society. As a Human Resources and Public Relations Manager at a local cooperative, life seemed to have halted and dreams to progress looked minimal. How long was this to take?

After few months of working with the cooperative, I left to find my niche in research, working with an international research organisation.

In the field of research, I asked myself so many questions as I found that life in the rural areas was more a routine with little knowledge being passed on in terms of evidence based research. Researchers would come from the city, collect information and go back, never to return. This is where I developed the interest to go back to school and learn more about research and the link to development in rural areas. But where was the best place for this dream? Institute for Development Studies (IDS), University of Nairobi.

I joined IDS in 2001 to pursue for Master of Arts in Development Studies programme. To my surprise, my expectations were increasingly exceeded as classes went on and on. With a mix of theory and practice, IDS was in a position to offer the best nexus between research and development. My two years in IDS were full of field research work, moving from communities to communities in Kenya in search of information that could help shape lives. Internship to students was another strength that IDS emphasized. Several students were placed as interns in various organisations with support from IDS, and in most cases they became employees after school, as no organisation would afford to lose such skills just like that.

The institute blended very well field research, classes and professional workshops and conferences where students were supported to attend. It was during the workshops that I was able to network and learn a lot in terms of what others are doing out there. This gave me the willpower to pursue my career as I continued to enjoy the cordial relationship with Researchers.

I completed my MA in the year 2003. Armed with my MA Development Studies degree, I joined Royal Netherlands Embassy

as an Intern where I used to research on human rights issues and governance in Kenya and the region. My entry into employment later was smooth, thanks to the molding that was done at IDS.

In the year 2005, I decided to live by my dream and give back to society again. This is the time when I joined NGO world and left to start my work in Embu County. Being a programme Facilitator with an International NGO, my entry into community development was made simple by my orientation while in IDS. Listening was an art that I learnt during my studies and fieldwork while in IDS, some of the skills that I had to employ while working with the communities. Thinking with and deciding together on the future with children and parents was a strength that many people in Embu admired.

Changed The Society

After two year of experience, I was promoted and transferred to Tharaka as Resource Mobilisation Coordinator, thanks to proposal writing skills that I learnt when at IDS. During my stay in Tharaka, I brought ideas that greatly changed the society. My love for participatory development approaches got me into training communities on proposal writing. This was the time when youth fund and women fund were introduced and I engaged funds managers to accept proposals written in vernacular.

With clear knowledge of development management theory and practice compounded with research skills, I was in a position to become a game changer in an organisation as well as the society where I worked. Issues of inclusion and democratic governance as a means to sustainable development were always on my cards, leading to the development of a concept on 'youth and governance' that brought in youth

focus as a resource for economic growth. I moved to manage the project, becoming the Youth and Governance Project Coordinator and later on Governance Programme Coordinator.

With my fundraising skills, report writing, proposal writing and M&E, I joined another International NGO working in four countries. My work revolved around quality assurance, fundraising, M&E, report writing and grants management. Most of these skills were as a result of IDS lectures, which bridged theory and practice.

But my passion to governance, human rights, social accountability, just and democratic programme development, implementation and management took me to work as an expatriate in Sudan and South Sudan. I took the role of Governance and Human Rights Programme Manager for the two countries. This was the height of utilizing my skills and knowledge from IDS. Being a post conflict country by then, conflict sensitivity and the art of putting the last first had to come in. Community engagement and capacity building was key on my agenda as I tried to ensure a locally owned programming that served the interest and aspirations of the locals. Much of this was experience borrowed from class and field research while in IDS. The strategy worked very well for me.

Today I am a Researcher in Governance Crime and Justice covering a number of African Countries. IDS has always been a source of my strength and a refuge for knowledge and skills. The institute really gave me a better starting point by molding me into whom I am today. Today I am back at IDS in search of more, working on my PhD. This to me is the institute of choice for anyone interested in development and changing the world to a better place for all.

I have Received More than Expected



By Elkanah Kimosop Kipserem

Second Year MA Student, IDS

It has been a year since I joined the Institute for Development

Studies. I must acknowledge that I was a blank slate when I joined IDS but so far I have received more than I expected.

The most fascinating thing is the seminar nature of the classes that has nurtured my presentation skills. Lecturers invite external speakers who share their experience regarding their research and work related matters. The lecturers have a listening ear and accommodate our perspective without any victimization.

Since the course is full time, it has made me to concentrate on my studies only. The courses offered are thorough and cover all aspects of development. The collaboration of IDS with other institutions has enabled me to attend various workshops and seminars hence networking with other epistemic communities.

As IDS celebrates its 50th anniversary, I wish all the staff and students a happy jubilee.
Hongera IDS



By Magdalene Mukami
First year MA student, IDS

I joined IDS recently but the experience thus far has been nothing short of exciting.

Exciting because my intellect has been challenged with every interaction with the staff, course facilitators and fellow students. Exciting because at IDS the opportunity to grow my knowledge of the world of development is immense, especially with a team of facilitators who are from diverse backgrounds ranging from political scientists, environmental experts to economists. The supporting staff at IDS are friendly and approachable and I am hardly short of options for people to consult when in need of help.

The lecturers are not only concerned with tests and exams but also how I present myself as a person. I talk

better and fluently than I did a few weeks ago. I think more critically about issues. The emphasis at IDS is on quality and not quantity. This is seen in the small classes that allow focused lecturer-student interaction. As a full time course, a student spends a lot of time reading and researching. Keeping a balance between work and school can be a tall order.

I appreciate the practical approach in which the course is designed as it allows one to apply immediately what they learn in class in contemporary society.

I anticipated this type of excitement when applying to join IDS but I can say reality is better than imagination. I look forward to an enriching and eye opening experience for the rest of my stay in IDS.

Congratulations IDS@50

**I'm
Privileged
to Tap from
Diverse
Pool of
Knowledge**



My journey through IDS

By **Easter Okello**
IDS MA Student, Second Year

On behalf of the 2013 class, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize with great appreciation all those who made our study at IDS both rewarding and transforming in the past two years. I cannot over-emphasize the fact that the experience presented in this piece reflects the spirit of co-operation and commitment of our instructors at the Institute who made our study meaningful through an interactive method.

Social Practices

The skills and knowledge gained from the Institute for Development Studies fit in well with my aspirations to deal creatively and effectively with development problems. The study has enabled me to expand my capabilities to question deep-seated assumptions and myths that surround most social

practices. Not only has the experience at IDS broadened my theoretical knowledge in key issues in the field of development, but I have also been equipped with the skills that will enable me to make meaningful contributions to the development of my country.

The masters' course in development studies has been provided through interactive units in development management theory and practice which provided me with deeper and broader insights into issues that cut across all areas of development, such as the social, political and economic challenges which have all been attributed to corruption, poor governance and impunity arising from unrepresentative political establishment.

The research skills were rendered through the interactive seminars organized by the course lecturers to provide an in-depth understanding of research foundations, technologies and computer application through training on scientific package for social sciences (SPSS). The seminars provided opportunities to the learners to be responsible team players by joining in discussions on development issues. I gained largely from the seminars and conferences that I attended as a student and it gave me an opportunity to interact with scholars from different fields. One such workshop remembered is 'The 2013 African Outlook Launch-

Macro Economics Prospects for 2013- 2014, Organized by UNDP held at Intercontinental Hotel. There were numerous paper presentations by guest speakers and development scholars that helped to demystify issues of development studies from the social, economic and political aspects.

Development Worker

The peak of the training programme at IDS was in the field experience; that provided a practical experience of research. From the guidance of my supervisors Dr Mary Kinyanjui and Dr. Rachel Musyoki, I have grown in the area of research because of the opportunity to interact with the producers in the informal footwear industry. As a development worker I would utilize the knowledge obtained to bring about meaningful change especially to the groups in the society who contribute to industrial development yet their effort is hardly recognized.

Other packages to prepare one for the future are studies in the issues that relate to international development, technology and natural resource management, human resource development. An opportunity was always provided to learn from the experts in the field of development studies, share experiences, exchange ideas and views with peers from different fields of development. Thank you all.



Choosing IDS is Best Decision Ever

By Flaciah Wanjiku Munyua

Second year MA student, IDS

Choosing IDS as the place to undertake my M.A in Development Studies has been one of the best and the most rewarding decisions I have taken. The seminar approach to teaching has really empowered me as a student as it involves and engages students in the learning process.

I have had the opportunity to put into practice some of the knowledge and skills acquired in the Research Methods class by working with senior researchers at the Institute in some of the research projects that IDS is involved in.

Courtesy of the collaboration between IDS, the African Leadership Centre and King's College London, I was privileged to get the opportunity to study abroad. I participated in a three weeks programme at the King's College London Summer School in the United Kingdom, where I studied a module on Modern Espionage and Intelligence. The course introduced me to intelligence studies and led me to appreciate the role of intelligence in security.

Being a student at IDS has expanded my horizon in all spheres of my life.

I Look Forward to Realizing Full Potential



By Vincent Mugo

First Year MA Student, IDS

One of the most influential social scientist and thinkers of the 19th century, Karl Marx, posited that

'philosophers have interpreted the world, in various ways; the point, however, is to change it.' Indeed, it is imperative for the crème of the society to strive to change the world to be a better place. This can only be achieved through development.

The incubation centre for such transformers is epitomized better at the University of Nairobi's Institute for Development Studies.

My brief interaction with the Institute has proven invaluable to my academic ambitions.

The Institute's history in both scholarship and development practice can only be attested to

by the names of scholars who have graced its corridors and the development practitioners it has produced. The administrators have created a collegiate environment and by virtue of having a small class, the lecturers work closely with students, therefore, enhancing their strengths and addressing difficulties.

The curriculum is eclectic and accommodates development enthusiasts from various disciplines. The classes are taught in an interactive mode allowing students to build experience by learning from classmates and lecturers. I believe it's a privilege being at IDS and this remarkable opportunity will inevitably impact me and my classmates. It has surpassed my expectations and increased my enthusiasm for intellectual growth.

It is in the background of this that I look forward to realizing my full potential and joining the esteemed alumni of the Institute for Development Study.



It's Time to Celebrate and Change as Well

By Njeri Muhoro
Editor, University of Nairobi Press

Despite Milestones, Challenges Still Abound
 I first applied to IDS for the inaugural MA programme of 1999. I am a communicator by training and inclination, so my interest in joining the Institute was to bridge the gap between communication and development.

As an adult learner, the programme was tough, and the instruction fast paced. The programme was run in the seminar fashion where readings were handed out and you were expected to contribute with *mwaliimu* coming in to intervene or clear up an idea, otherwise, one did not expect to write notes from a lecture or receive a handout. I use the word *mwaliimu* loosely because the styles varied, but were tied up to student initiative.

IDS had an interesting

framework or outline of units for specialization. I mixed up some of the units to specialize in development and change in African societies but I borrowed units from human resource i.e. nutrition, education and women in development.

Once I commenced on my studies at IDS I noted that one of the important disciplines "missing" in discussions about development is communication. I was concerned that there is need to provide some understanding of the role of communication in development, obstacles to achieving this role, and the need for research and policy enactment. Indeed, I suggested that development communication should be an important part of the development studies curriculum.

The first crop of writers on rural development elaborated on this theme. The works of Joseph Ashcroft, Fred Chege, Niels Rolings and Joseph Mbindyo, on the diffusion of innovation are still widely quoted by communication students. There is clear interface between communication and development.

As I went into the field I was convinced that students of communication have tended to analyse media's contribution in science, the environment, advertising and women, political coverage, sports, national image and interest. They, therefore, have not attempted to analyse the role of the media in the political dispensation of democracy and liberalisation.

At the level of research, therefore, there is need to systematically analyse the relationship between media, in a liberalized context, and the media's ability/intention to facilitate development participation, through education and information.

One of the preoccupations of development studies, as a discipline, is that of liberalization, privatisation and the "rolling back" of the state from the "development space". There is a case then for development studies to appreciate my sentiment that while liberalisation has been admirable, few people are doing anything constructive with the many new media avenues available. In the past, scholars in development focused on agriculture and of late industrialization, as the prime movers of development in the 3rd World. They have tended to ignore the important role played by the media in communicating these ideas.

Consequently also, they have ignored the important interaction between policy makers and policy recipients in disseminating ideas that will propel development much faster. Hence, the role of communication in development has totally been ignored in the past.

Informed Citizenry

I wish to appreciate IDS for some lessons realised, and to challenge IDS, as you celebrate 50 years, to address the view of communication as the prime mover of a people-centred development agenda.

As we seek to strengthen a democratic society, let us also study how the existence of an informed citizenry can foster development and further freedoms of expression and information. The right to communicate must, therefore, underlie all regulatory and policy proposals for the society in general and the media in particular.

Happy 50th Birthday IDS.

IDS Training has Enabled Me to Serve the Nation



By Valerie Okumu
Senior Programme Officer, CIC

I remain grateful to the Institute for Development Studies for moulding me and subsequently launching me into the world of research and understanding of issues of policy and reforms in public and private sphere through its esteemed Master of Development Studies programme.

The programme prepared me in gaining experience in research, governance and implementation

of constitutional and legal reforms. I specialize in public policy development and analysis, public service reform, legislative and administrative procedures drafting and review and governance.

I have been the Senior Programme officer in the devolved government thematic Area at Commission for the Implementation of the Constitution (CIC) since inception and currently doubles up as the technical person in facilitation, and coordination with specific thematic teams, on Constitutional issues in the Chairperson's office.

Before joining CIC, I served as a Research Assistant at the Taskforce on Devolved Government, which availed an opportunity to serve this country in the crucial process of implementation of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 and specifically being part of the process that proposed implementation mechanisms for the devolved system of government.

In the last six years, I have, among other assignments, satisfactorily provided leadership at the technical level in matters concerning the

system of devolved government at CIC through undertaking studies and making proposal for effective implementation of the devolution structures consistent with spirit and letter of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010; reviewed and drafted the devolution related laws; developed and kept inventory of reports, advisories and publications on the system of devolved government discourses, policy and legislation consultations and review; and developed and facilitated monitoring and evaluation frameworks on the system of devolved government.

I have also facilitated and oversaw the process of transition to devolved government; carried out personnel training and induction on the working of the system of devolved government; facilitated workshops and conferences on the system of devolution; developed reports, concept notes and magazine articles on the devolved system of governance.

IDS has really made me what I'm today. Happy Golden Jubilee Anniversary.

I launched my Development Career at Institute



By Tom Onyango
Regional Programme Manager, DFAT

I graduated with a Master of Arts in Development Studies in May 2004. I have had quite an interesting and rich career journey since leaving IDS.

I'm currently the Regional Programme Manager, Extractives Industry Governance at the Australian Department for Foreign

Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Office in Nairobi, Kenya.

I lead DFAT's partnerships with governments, private sector and civil society agencies in East Africa (i.e. Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, South Sudan and Uganda) on extractives programming.

My programme portfolio encompasses extractives skills development, community and enterprise development as well as

strategic extractives policy and legislative technical assistance. I also lead on the analytical pieces on extractives industry in the region and Australia's engagement.

Prior to joining DFAT, I worked for Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD) in different roles and regions. I was the Regional Programme Manager in Mano River Region, West Africa, where I managed governance, conflict transformation, livelihoods

and humanitarian programmes for Sierra Leone, Liberia and Ivory Coast. I previously developed and managed the regional Justice and Peace programme for CAFOD in the Horn of Africa and East Africa.

I launched my development career through an internship programme that IDS initiated with Trocaire East Africa Regional Office, an Irish International NGO. I led in setting up the Programme Monitoring and Evaluation system

for Trocaire that ensured high quality programming.

Courtesy of my training at IDS, I have gained vast experience in governance, peace building, livelihoods, humanitarian and conflict-sensitive aid programming. I have developed strong expertise in programme planning, management, monitoring, evaluation and learning across various programme themes.

Profile



Meet Pioneer IDS PhD Graduate

By **Otuma Ongalo**
Publications Editor, IDS

As IDS celebrates 50 years of existence, one of its milestones is the introduction of a PhD programme in 2003 to build human capacity in Development Studies. Dr Paul Kamau enrolled in the PhD programme in 2004 and completed in a record time of three and half years; dispelling

the myth that one cannot graduate in time in the University of Nairobi.

Dr Kamau, popularly known as PK, is a man of many firsts and an achiever who has travelled many academic ridges to reach his present standing. He is currently a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute and the only IDS (Nairobi) PhD alumni. He joined IDS in 2001 as a Research Fellow. He graduated with a first class BA degree in Economics from the University of Nairobi in 1995, having been in the pioneer 8:4:4 group.

Due to his sterling performance, he was awarded a prestigious scholarship by the African Economics Research Consortium (AERC) to study MSc. in Economics in the University of Zimbabwe between 1996 and 1997. Upon completion, he was employed in Moi University in the Department of Quantitative Skills, where he taught for four years (1998-2001).

Dr Kamau teaches Entrepreneurship, Trade, Industrial Development, Human Resource & Development,

Development Management Theory and Research Methods. He has also been involved in teaching International Economics, Economic Statistics, Monetary Economics and Macroeconomics in the School of Economics. These courses are quite related to his PhD thesis entitled 'Upgrading and Technical Efficiency in Kenyan Garment Firms: Does Insertion in Global Value Chains Matter?' and supervised by two renowned Development Economists: Prof Dorothy McCormick and Prof Peter Kimuyu. Since graduating, Dr Kamau has supervised many MA project papers and currently has four PhD students at various levels of their studies.

In research, Dr Kamau has demonstrated exemplary performance. He has participated in many research projects within IDS and abroad, which have honed his research skills. "I have been involved in several studies on Clothing and Textiles in Africa; Value Chains, Ascendancy of China and other Asian Drivers, Youth Unemployment; Fish Trade in the Lake Victoria Value Chains; Micro and Small Enterprises

and Informal Trade, Implications of HIV/AIDS on Women Land Rights, Child Labour, and Governance - all in relation to development," PK told IDS @50 Newsletter.

His most recent research projects are in Afrobarometer R6, where he is the East African Regional Deputy Director deputizing Prof Winnie Mitullah; and Successful African Firms and Intuition Change (SAFIC) in Africa where he is the Deputy Country Coordinator. He is the team leader in the ICT Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Employment Creation in African project and a team member of the Political Settlement, inclusive growth and Employment Schemes in Agriculture and Agro-processing Sectors in Africa; Dutch Multinationals

and employment in Kenya and Nigeria.

He has also been coordinating the Kenya's Executive Opinion Survey for the World Economic Forum (WEF) – Global Competitiveness Annual Report since 2004. Through research and consultancies, Dr Kamau has fundraised substantial resources for the University of Nairobi. Dr. Kamau is widely published with three (3) books, eleven (11) book chapters and 15 refereed journal articles. He is the current Examination Coordinator in IDS and prior to this he was the Seminar Coordinator for three years.

"Working in IDS is very exciting and fulfilling; one is encouraged to intellectually explore broad and specific issues relating to development. Being a

multidisciplinary institute, an issue is critically analysed from a wider perspective. Colleagues in IDS are very supportive especially to upcoming scholars. It is just the right place to grow academically," the scholar observes.

He, however, acknowledges that there are challenges that one faces while in IDS, one being the high expectations in research delivery from stakeholders due to the expectations that many hold for IDS and of course the many demands for research projects.

"All in all, I am humbled and truly privileged to work among refined and well articulated development thinkers and scholars in IDS, says PK. He confesses having gained immensely and feels empowered enough to go even to greater heights as a development scholar.

Home of Nobel Laureates and Heroes

The Institute has been home to several Nobel Laureates and world-renowned scholars. These include **James Tobin**, winner of Nobel Prize in Economics (1981); **Joseph Stiglitz**, winner of Nobel Prize in Economics (2000); Michael Todaro, the development economist who authored the Todaro Migration Model; and James Coleman, a world-renowned sociologist.

Prof. Charles Okidi is among the local prominent scholars still at IDS. He is

founder and Pioneer Director, Centre for Advanced Studies in Environmental Law and Policy (CASELAP, University of Nairobi) and the first African recipient of the Elizabeth Haub Prize in Environmental law (1984),



Prof. Charles Okidi

the highest Global award in environmental law. He was listed in the 1997 *Who is Who and Does What in Environment and Conservation* (Polunin and Lynn M. Cunne); and in 2007, was the first African scholar to be honoured by the Centre for Legal Studies, Office of the Attorney General, Government of Brazil. His recent accolade is Senior Education Award by the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law 2015 Distinguished Environmental Law Education Awards.

The Pillars of the Great Institute

Since the journey that began 50 years ago, IDS has been steered by directors who have contributed immensely to its growth as premier research institution. The Directors who led the institute from 1965 to 1970 were: Prof. B. F. Massell, Prof. E. R. Rado, Prof. J. S. Coleman, and Prof. Dharam P. Ghai, in that order. However, during that time, only Prof Coleman, and Prof. Dharam P. Ghai served as substantive directors. The other two served on acting capacity basis. In the 1960s, the IDS research, which was informed by the prevailing socio-economic forces of the time, mainly focused on issues surrounding agriculture and rural development, education, industry and urban development, population studies, as well as tourism.

This did not change very much in the 1970s. However, there were slight variations in emphasis, informed by the changes in development thinking that were taking place at the global level. This necessitated the changing of the research areas. For example, industrialization, employment, trade/commerce, health, nutrition, and population issues became research areas in themselves. At the same time, the Institute was very much involved in assisting the government with development planning and evaluation. The Directors that led the Institute from 1970 to 1980 are: Prof. Dharam P. Ghai, Dr. J. M. Gachuhi, Dr. Peter Hopcraft, and Prof W. M. Senga in that order. During this time, Dr. Gachuhi and Dr. Hopcraft served on acting capacity basis.

The 1970s are particularly fondly remembered at IDS because of the leading role the Institute played in producing the celebrated ILO publication on "Employment, Incomes, and Inequality" in 1972.

The 1980s also witnessed a slight variation in the research themes at IDS in that, though rural and agricultural development remained a core research theme, new areas, like the management of natural resources and issues to do with the environment, human resource development, and housing were incorporated into the research priorities of the Institute. This is a clear indication that IDS kept pace with, and at times also set the pace for development thinking in the region. The Directors that led the institute from 1980 to 1990 are: Prof. Senga, Prof. C.O. Okidi, Prof. Shem. E. Migot-Adholla, Prof. Kabiru Kinyanjui, and Prof. Njuguna Ng'ethe in that order. During that time, both Prof. C.O. Okidi and Prof. Shem E. Migot-Adholla served on acting capacity basis.

In the 1990s, the Institute's research focus somewhat changed to reflect what was happening at the global level. Thus, areas such as commerce & industry, management of natural resources, and human resource development gained recognition as research areas within the Institute. Two directors steered the Institute in the 1990s. These were Prof. Njuguna Ng'ethe and Prof. Patrick O. Alila. The year 1999 provides a major turning point in the history of the Institute. It is the year that the Institute's curriculum for Master

of Arts in Development Studies degree programme was passed by the University of Nairobi's Senate. Thus the Institute admitted its first group of postgraduate students in Development Studies in the 2000/2001 academic year.

In the same token, the Institute registered its first PhD student in 2004. Three directors have led the Institute since the year 2000 to the present. These are Prof. Patrick O. Alila, Prof. Dorothy McCormick, Prof. Mohamud A. Jama and Prof Winnie Mitullah. Prof Karuti Kanyinga was appointed Associate Director in 2013

IDS Directors through time:-

- Prof. James Smooth Coleman (1968 to 1970)
- Prof. William Manundu Senga (1978 to 1982)
- Prof. Dharam P. Ghai (1971 to 1974)
- Prof. Kabiru Kinyanjui (1983 to 1985)
- Prof. Ng'ethe Njuguna (1986 to 1989)
- Prof. Patrick Odera Alila (1990 to 2001)
- Prof. McCormick Dorothy (2001 to 2007)
- Prof. Jama Mohamud Abdi (2007 to 2012)
- Prof. Mitullah Winnie, (2013- To Date)

I Oversaw an Era of Three Markers of New Institute



By Professor Dorothy McCormick
IDS Director,
(2001-2007)

When I became IDS Director in February 2001, the new millennium was still in its infancy, and IDS itself was experiencing

new life in different ways. As I look back over those years, I see three markers of the 'new' Institute: teaching, team building, and new forms of development communication and engagement.

Teaching: In the late 1990s, under the leadership of Prof. Alila, IDS developed the MA in Development Studies and presented it to the University for approval. In October 2001 the first students arrived, eager to learn. With these young scholars on our corridors, life changed. We adapted to a new rhythm of class preparation, lectures, seminars, exams, and project paper supervision. It was a challenge, but by the end of 2002, we had our first graduate – our firstborn – and new classes were coming. Life had changed! While most of us agreed that the change was for the better, we sometimes struggled with balancing our new responsibilities with the demands of our research agenda.

Team Building: From the late 1990s into the early 2000s young researchers who had benefited from staff development and others recruited to teach in the new MA programme arrived to take up places in the IDS academic staff. This increase in young staff presented an opportunity for IDS to rebuild or re-launch itself. During a process of evaluation and strategic planning lasting well over a year, members of staff examined the past and present, developed the Institute's vision and mission, and reiterated its core values. This process – at first called 'Relaunch' and later 'Strategic Planning' – formed basic working groups and contributed to a renewed team spirit in the Institute.

New Forms of Development

Communication and Engagement: This period also witnessed a shift in the methods of communicating about our research and engaging with those affected by it. Research became not only policy oriented, but also action oriented. Projects such as the Street Vendors engaged the researched – the vendors themselves – in devising solutions to their own problems. Such projects often had outputs written in Kiswahili and illustrated to make them accessible to a wider audience. Forums, including a wide range of stakeholders' became a standard form of both data collection and dissemination of findings. We added Policy Briefs, the IDS Newsletter, and a website to our communications media. As electronic communication became commonplace, we established research networks consisting of scholars in different countries and often on different continents. We were challenged by the growing tendency for academic papers to be more often presented in international conferences or workshops organized by collaborating institutions than in the traditional IDS Seminar.

As I reflect on my six years as Director of IDS – and my 27+ years as a member of staff in the Institute – I experience a heartfelt gratitude for my colleagues, collaborators, new and old friends. Together we have made IDS what it is today. It is now up to the next generation to make their mark on the field of Development Studies.

Selected Milestones

2001-2007

Relaunch activities => Strategic Planning

Inauguration of IDS Newsletter - early 2001

First full professorship for IDS – Prof. Patrick Alila - 2002

Celebration of IDS@41 – 2006

Staff Retreats – planning and team building

Beginnings of MA programme

PhD programme – 1st IDS PhD enrolled; Prof. Alila as PhD Coordinator

Return of Prof. Okidi and Formation of Caselap

Conclusion of very fruitful 13-year CDR-IDS collaboration

- PhDs – Roskilde University: Onjala 2002, Kanyinga 1998
- Business Systems – research continued; book published in 2007

Efforts to develop our own research proposals – some success, some disappointments.

Major research programmes:

- Chronic Poverty
- African Clothing and Footwear Research Network

- Street Vendors – research and action
- Child Labour
- Higher education research
- First Transport research – Road Safety sponsored by FIA 2004-2006
- Donor Proliferation and Coordination: Effects on State Capacity – 2006 -

Collaborations

- UNDP - Kenya Human Development Reports
- University of Leipzig
- The Johns Hopkins University – Non-Profit Sector
- Beginnings of Afrobarometer
- Beginnings of World Economic Forum data collection

The Growth of IDS in my Time

By Prof Patrick Alila
IDS Director (1996-2002)

Strategic Achievements

i. Intensified Regional and International Collaboration

In the period 1996 to 2000, IDS developed proposals and obtained funding to increase networks amongst researchers regionally and internationally. At international level, collaborators were brought in from World Bank Economic Institute, the Centre for Development Research of Copenhagen and other institutions from Britain. At regional level, IDS funded researchers based in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. Within Kenya, research funding was awarded to budding researchers from University of Nairobi, Egerton University, Moi University, Baraton and Kenyatta University. All the budding

researchers who benefited from these funding are now luminaries in their countries to the level of Vice Chancellors, DVCs, and Principals etc

ii. Institutional Development

IDS itself experienced an exponential growth in resource mobilization that enabled it to sponsor Junior Research Fellows to pursue their doctoral studies in world leading universities. In addition, the institution increased its fleet of transport which benefitted the wider University of Nairobi as many departments would rent IDS vehicles at nominal rates. The institution undertook facelift of the Gandhi wing offices by improving furnishing and painting. This later became a model that was applied at the university level.

iii. Increased Rate of Publications

Research activities increased as measured by the frequency of release of seminar and occasional papers. It is in this period that IDS introduced quality printing of its publications with new cover design. The publications distributed widely across the country and overseas were well received and boosted immensely the IDS research and publications image.

iv. Newsletter

The first newsletter to be produced at the University of Nairobi was that of IDS in 1998. It was the concerted effort of the Director's office with the facilitation of technical editor from university central administration.

v. Advanced Training

IDS launched its Master's

programme in 1998 and doctoral programme in 2000. The Master's programme was launched with inaugural scholarship funding of two students each year by the IDS/CD R collaboration ENRECA programme.

vi. Internal Capacity Building

The institution enhanced the staff strength from 14 to 22. This was partly due to the demand for leadership in emerging thematic teaching areas and partly due to faith the public had developed in the institution. The institution remarkably became an attraction for scholars.

vii Dissemination of Research

IDS made a mark in the international community by organizing a record 17 conferences and workshops a good number of which were international.

2001

- Organised in coordination with UNDP personnel, the Launching of Global Human Development Report
- Organised an International Planning workshop for Clothing and Footwear Project.
- Coordinated an international conference for WIEGO Women Street Vendors Research in Africa, bringing together participant from six different countries. This was preceded by 3 Regional and National Planning Workshops.

1998/1997

Research Monitoring and Evaluation Forum Workshops. One specifically on Gender analysis.

1997

- National Workshop on Multi-Country Study of Private Enterprise Development in Africa. Preliminary research findings workshop
- Research Monitoring and Evaluation research techniques workshop
- Research Monitoring and Evaluation research framework workshop

in African Development and Industrialization. A proposal and project report workshop.

1995

Agricultural Sector Management Reform and Policy Analysis Workshop. A training workshop for District Agricultural Officers. The Role of Small and Intermediate-Sized Enterprises in African Development and Industrialization. A project proposal workshop.

The decade of 1990s to date remains outstanding in the growth of IDS as an institution,



Prof. Alila (right) at a public forum.

having survived imminent closure twice due to lack of research funding from the government and the university coupled with internal restructuring that saw the creation of schools out of former university departments/faculties: Law, Economics etc. The academic staff on post

- African Business System International conference: Institutionalising Industrialization in the era of Economic Reform
- The Role of Small and Intermediate-Sized Enterprises in African Development and Industrialization. A project report workshop

1996

- The Role of Small and Intermediate-Sized Enterprises

were very few because those in senior staff positions mostly went on leave of absence while JRFs went on study leave.

We owe it to the few who held the fort having worked so hard and accomplished so much. Also to the friends of IDS in time of need who provided hard to come by research funding viz CDR DFID ILO ICEG that literally gave the Institute a lifeline.



Prof Winnie V. Mitullah
IDS Director (2013--)

Prof Winnie V. Mitullah is the current IDS Director and Associate Research Professor .She has a PhD in Political Science and Public Administration from the University of York, UK. Her PhD thesis was on Urban Housing, with a major focus on policies relating to low income housing.

The director has researched, published, taught, supervised, consulted and collaborated with a number of Government ministries, UN, local and international agencies. The focus of her work has included provision and management of urban services, and related policies, institutions and governance. Some of her recent works include: 'Political engagement deficit in sustainable governance of cities in East Africa (2015); Media practitioners and Public Opinions on Interactive Shows in Kenya (2014); 'Pattern of Pedestrian Injuries in the City of Nairobi: Implications for Urban Safety Planning' (2013); and 'Development Ideals and Reality: Bridging the Kenya Gap Through Devolution (2012)'.

Specialisation: Institutions and governance with a focus on local development policies; urban services, issues and development.



Prof Karuti Kanyinga
IDS Associate Director

Prof Karuti Kanyinga is Associate Director as well as Associate Professor at the Institute for Development Studies. He holds a PhD in Social Sciences from Roskilde University, Denmark. He has wide knowledge and experience in governance and development in Kenya and Africa and has many years of teaching and research experience at IDS. He has published extensively on politics, development and governance.

Some of his published works include Kenya: Democracy and Political Participation. A Review by AfriMap, Open Society Initiative for Eastern Africa, and the Institute for Development Studies, Nairobi: Open Society Initiative for Eastern Africa, 2014; Co-ed with D. Okello. 'Tensions and Reversals in Democratic Transitions: the Kenya 2007 General Elections'. Nairobi: SID/IDS, 2010; and 'The Legacy of the White Highlands: land rights, ethnicity, and the post-2007 election violence in Kenya 'In the Journal of Contemporary African Studies, 27:3, 325-344, 2009.

The scholar is also a consultant on governance and has been monitoring implementation of key reforms under the Kenya National Dialogue and Reconciliation Monitoring Project following the post-2007 election violence in Kenya.



Prof Mohamud Jama
(2007-2012)

Prof Mohamud Jama was the Institute for Development Studies Director from 2007 to 2012. The Associate Professor of Research holds a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Nairobi, an MA in Economics and PhD in Agricultural Economics from Washington State University.

He is a specialist in resource economics with a passion on environmental issues. He teaches and carries out research in environmental economics and supervises masters and doctoral theses in commerce, trade, economics and development.

Prof Jama has served on various reputable boards both internationally and locally.

He served on the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) Board as well as a facilitator at the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). He is currently the Chair of Muranga University College Council.



Prof. Dorothy McCormick
IDS Director (2001-2007)

Prof Dorothy McCormick is a Research Professor at the Institute for Development Studies at the University of Nairobi. She joined IDS in 1988 as Research Fellow and rose through various academic ranks to become full professor in 2009. Prof McCormick served as Director of the Institute from 2001 to 2007.

She holds a BA Degree from Trinity College; an MBA from the University of Pennsylvania and an MA and PhD from The John Hopkins University.

Her research interests lie in business and development, particularly micro and small enterprise development, and key industries including textiles and clothing, food processing, and public transport.

Underlying her work are theories of enterprise clusters, value chains, entrepreneurship, and institutions. She currently leads a five-year project on Successful African Firms and Institutional Change (SAFIC) which investigates how and why African firms can succeed amid changing business and institutional environments.



Prof Njuguna Ng'ethe
IDS Director (1989-1999)

Prof Njuguna Ng'ethe is Associate Research Professor, Institute for Development Studies [IDS] University of Nairobi. He obtained his PhD from Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada, in 1979.

Between 1975 and 1977, Prof Ng'ethe served at IDS as a Junior Research Fellow. He rose through various academic and administrative ranks to become IDS director between 1989-1999. Prof Ng'ethe is the founding Director of the oldest Think Tank in East and Central Africa, the Institute of Policy Analysis and Research (IPAR) Kenya.

In the past 25 years, his research/consultancy and supervision interests have been guided by the need to generate data on how to include in the policy process, those groups and institutions outside the powerful central state institutions. His present research interests are in public policy analysis; transformation of higher education in Africa; governance and decentralized administration.



Prof Dharam Ghai
IDS Director (1967-1974)

Prof Dharam Ghai was born in Kenya and educated at Oxford and Yale Universities. In 1969 he was a Senior Economist on the staff of the Pearson Commission on International Development, prior to which he had been a lecturer in economics at Makerere University in Uganda (1961-1965) and Yale University (1965-66) and Research professor and then director of the University of Nairobi's Institute for Development Studies (1967-1974).

He joined the UN in 1973, initially with the ILO World Employment Programme. He retired as director of the UN Research Institute for Social Development (1987-1997) and became an advisor to ILO and to the International Institute of Labour Studies. He has served as consultant to UNCTAD, UNIDO, IFAD, FAO, and various governments.

His latest publications include Building Knowledge Organisations: Achieving Excellence; Social Development and Public Policies; Economic and Social Progress in Africa; and UN Contributions to Development Thinking and Practice.



Prof Kabiru Kinyanjui
IDS Director 1983 - 1985

Professor Kabiru Kinyanjui was educated at the University of East Africa, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, and at Harvard University, USA. He was the Chairman of the Kenya Public Universities Inspection Board between 2004 and 2007, which was instrumental in preparation

of policy report to guide the transformation of higher education in the country. Previously, he was Esau Distinguished Visiting Professor at Menno Simmons College, an affiliate of Winnipeg University, Canada and MUCIA Distinguished Visiting Professor, Michigan State University, USA.

Prof Kinyanjui worked as a researcher at the Institute for Development Studies at the University of Nairobi, Kenya, and was Director from 1983 to 1985

IDS Researchers at a Glance

Research Professors



Prof Patrick O. Alila

B.A. (University of East Africa), M.A. PhD (Indiana-Bloomington)

Specialisation: Professor in Local level Development—Rural Development Practice And Institutions ,Public Policy Analysis, Local Social Development, Human Security And Sustainable Development.



Prof Dorothy McCormick

B.A. (Trinity), MBA (Pennsylvania), MA, PhD (Johns Hopkins)

Specialisation: Theory and practice of entrepreneurship; micro and small enterprise development, industrialisation and development, with particular emphasis on textiles and clothing Aid and development

Associate Research Professors



Prof Njuguna Ng'ethe.

B.A. (Mackinac), M.A., PhD (Carlton)

Specialization: politics/ development of inclusion, training and higher education institutions.



Prof Mohamud Jama

B.A (Nairobi), BCom (Nairobi), M.A., PhD (Washington)

Specialisation: Resource economics with a passion on environmental issues. Teaches and carries out research in environmental economics.



Prof Winnie Mitullah

B.A. (Nairobi) M.A, PhD (York)

Specialisation: Researcher and consultant in provision and management of urban services and policies, institutions and governance and the role of stakeholders in development.



Prof Karuti Kanyinga

B.A., M.A (Nairobi) PhD (Roskilde)

Specialisation: Governance and development. Has done extensive research and publications on land rights in Kenya; civil society and development; ethnicity and development; and electoral politics and development.



Prof Rosemary Atieno

B.A., M.A. (Nairobi) PhD (Giessen)

Specialisation: Development Economics, focusing on labour markets ,agro-industry linkages and agribusiness development, microfinance and development, .

Senior Research Fellows**Dr Mary Kinyanjui**

B.Ed(UoN) M.A (Kenyatta) PhD (Cambridge)

Specialisation: Economic informality and urbanization, indigenous institutions, small scale farmers, women and gender in the context of social economic justice.

**Dr Rachel Musyoki**

B.A (Makerere) M.A (Nairobi) PhD (Florida)

Specialisation: Population policies and programme development, institutional capacity building and reforms in: education, health, water, co-operatives and poverty reduction

**Dr Joseph Onjala**

B.A. M.A (Nairobi) PhD (Roskilde)

Specialisation: Environment and Natural Resources Management; Energy Policy and Planning

**Dr. Paul Kamau**

B.A. (Nairobi), MSc. (Zimbabwe), PhD (Nairobi)

Specialisation: Trade & Industrial Development, Development Economics, and Political Economy of Development.

**Dr Godwin Murunga**

B.A., M.A. (Kenyatta), M.A., Ph.D. (Northwestern)

Specialisation: History of urbanization, the politics of knowledge production, higher education in Africa, democratization processes in Africa and masculinities in Africa..

**Research Fellows****Dr Michuki, George**

B.A., M.A., (Nairobi) PhD (Leipzig)



Specialisation: Livelihoods diversification; Governance; Drugs and Substance Abuse.

Dr Radha Upadhyaya

B. A (Cambridge), MSc (London), PhD (University of London)

Specialisation: Research methods, microeconomics, banking in developing countries, bank failures financial regulation, corporate governance, financial inclusion and entrepreneurship.

**Njeru, Geoffrey**

B.A., M.A (Nairobi)

Specialisation: Entrepreneurship; micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and development; conflict resolution/management; transformation and peace building.

**Njoka, John Murimi**

B.A., M.A (Nairobi)

Specialisation: Social protection and social development.

**Dr. Anne Kamau**

B.A (Nairobi), M.A. (Nairobi), DrPH (Bielefeld)

Specialisation: Research, Health and Development; Socio-cultural Dimensions of Health.

**Junior Research Fellow****Erik Oluoch Manga**

BPhil (Urbaniana), PGD (CUEA), MA (Nairobi)

Junior Research Fellow, IDS, UON

Specialisation: Governance (Education Governance, Citizen Engagement and Social Accountability), Aid and Development, Quantitative Research, Project Planning and Management

IDS Research Approach is Outstanding



By Dr David Ferrand
Director, FSD Kenya

I came to IDS 20 years ago to undertake research for my PhD looking to explore the so called 'missing middle' in Kenya's economic development. Much attention was being given by researchers, government and development agencies to the informal sector and the millions of microenterprises which continue to sustain the livelihood of so many Kenyans. The puzzle was why so few larger businesses had emerged from this hive of entrepreneurial activity.

Although graduation rates between scales of enterprise are rarely high anywhere in the world, the scale of Kenya's more formal small and medium enterprise (SME) segment still seemed relatively small. IDS had become the leading centre for research into enterprise development in Kenya and so I was delighted when Prof Dorothy McCormick agreed to be my supervisor during the period I was in Kenya. I was studying at the University of Durham in the UK and after what had seemed like a long period delving into the theory, I was more than ready to

grapple with the realities of the field.

Dorothy's work had been especially influential on my thinking, providing insights into a field which I had only seen up until then from the perspective of a banker during an earlier period I had spent in Nairobi. Her work, together with others at IDS, had been firmly grounded in extensive field research. A critical insight which was especially relevant to the line of work I was trying to pursue was the notion of enterprise formality as a continuum rather than a binary. This simple shift overcomes a simplification which continues to cloud the understanding of enterprise development.

A particularly attractive feature of IDS's research approach to me was its pragmatism. As a multi-disciplinary institution it was open to both quantitative and qualitative research method and eschewed the disciplinary chauvinism which seemed to me then and even more so today to retard rather than advance social science. If it seemed clear back then that a single theoretical paradigm was unlikely to offer much prospect of unravelling the complexities of economic and social development, the global economic crisis of 2007/08 has surely vindicated IDS's multi-disciplinary approach.

In recalling happy days spent as a research associate at IDS, I'm particularly struck by how extraordinarily welcoming people were at the Institute from the Director, then Prof Patrick Alila, to all the staff. Despite my rather slim qualifications for entry into

the Senior Common Room at the time, I was made to feel at home. The collegiality struck me and I soon found myself happily trespassing into multiple disciplines enjoying conversations with political economists and sociologists over – if my memory serves me correctly – particularly good mandazis which were served in the SCR. There was an openness in debate and generosity which was invigorating and enormously helpful as I tried to make sense of my own research. It was a time where funding of the public universities was under huge pressure and resources were scarce. Despite these pressures there was a good humour and determination to get on with IDS's purpose of pursuing the research needed to tackle Kenya's development challenges.

Policy-Making

Since completing my research I moved on to work in the praxis of development, first with DFID and in the last decade with Financial Sector Deepening (FSD) Kenya working on support for the development of inclusive financial markets. In thinking about IDS from this perspective, it occurs to me how important it is to Kenya. There is much talk about the importance of evidence based policy-making.

As I offer my congratulations to Prof Winnie Mitullah and all at IDS in celebrating 50 years. It is my sincere hope that the next 50 years will see IDS becoming yet more prominent in leading development research in Kenya and influencing the thinking of the next generation.



I Changed my Perspective on Issues

By Dr Edoardo Totolo
Research Economist, FSD Kenya

I am delighted to write a goodwill message for the 50th anniversary of the Institute for Development Studies. I spent almost three years as an associate at IDS and this contributed to my professional and human development and was key for the successful completion of my PhD.

I first stepped into IDS in May 2011. I had arrived in Kenya a few weeks earlier after completing the courses at the University of Trento and receiving approval on the research proposal. I got introduced to Dr Mary Njeri Kinyanjui who agreed to co-supervise my research. That day we began a collaboration that went far beyond my expectations. Soon thereafter I met other

faculty members such as Prof. Mitullah, Prof. McCormick, Dr Radha Uphadyaya and the administration personnel and I was impressed by their dedication, passion and willingness to help in every possible way. The support I received was both practical, such as settling down in Nairobi and obtaining all the necessary research permits, as well as academic. The faculty taught me to question the assumptions of my field of study, to adopt interdisciplinary approaches and to measure the impact my research not just in academic terms, but primarily for its relevance to the poor. I have realized that IDS prioritizes the study of economies to the study of economics. It teaches students to favour depth and insight instead of general economic laws.

Life Aspirations

I had not fully understood this until I began my fieldwork in Kariobangi and Korogocho. Spending over a year in Kariobangi was a life-changing experience, where I learned a lot about the potential of the local economy, the resilience of the entrepreneurs and great challenges that people face on a daily basis. What I previously saw as numbers that I could plug into my models, became people with their names, families and life aspirations. This entirely changed my perspective and made me realize the importance of research in development

studies. After a lot of work and many sleepless nights, I finally managed to submit my doctoral dissertation in 2015 and beginning to work as an economist at Financial Sector Deepening Kenya (FSD Kenya) even before defending my PhD.

I wish IDS to continue being a thought-leader in development studies and motivate students the way it has for the last 50 years:

"I wish IDS to continue being a thought-leader in development studies and motivate students the way it has for the last 50 years:"

always looking ahead rather than being stuck in the past. The demographic changes in the population, the environmental challenges and transformation of the global economic system will transform the field of development studies in ways that are difficult to predict. IDS will have to be at the centre if this transformation, playing an active role and continually evolve itself to be ahead of times.

I wish IDS, its faculty members, and students to keep the enthusiasm and dedication to research in the years to come.

IDS Supported me When it Counted



By Prof Richard Stren
Professor Emeritus of Political Science & Senior Fellow, Global Cities Institute, University of Toronto

Even now, in 2015, I have quite vivid memories of my first research visit to Kenya, during 1966-68. During that period, I lived and worked in Mombasa most of the time, since the subject of my research was housing policy and the urban poor in Mombasa. While Mombasa was culturally diverse and extremely engaging to a young researcher, it was not well connected to the international development or intellectual community. For those connections – and they were very

important – I cherished my ties to the IDS, which I visited whenever I came up to Nairobi.

The IDS supported my research when it counted, and encouraged me when I was feeling neglected. My first major article on African cities was an IDS discussion paper before it was officially published in a major journal. I fondly remember my ties and connections to IDS, particularly the warm support I received from James Coleman, the IDS director.

I Salute IDS's Multi-disciplinary Approach

By Takahiro Fukunishi, Ph.D.
Director, and Senior Research Fellow, Africa Studies Group Institute of Developing Economies

I would like to convey my warmest congratulations to the Institute for Development Studies, University of Nairobi, on its 50th anniversary. It is well known that IDS has made distinguished contribution on studies of African societies and economies since its establishment. I would like to mention that IDS has played an important role in development of African studies in Japan.

Our institute, Institute of Developing Economies, is a centre of research for developing countries with 55 years of history.

Its geographical focus has covered Africa since 1962 when Africa was geographically and psychologically distant place for most of people in Japan, and academic interests in Africa were mostly limited to the studies of anthropoid ape.

In 1967, our senior staff, Dr. Koji Hayashi, was accepted by IDS as a visiting research fellow, and studied the land reform policy that had been introduced in Kenya during two years of his stay. After Dr. Hayashi, three of our staffs stayed at IDS in the 1980s and 1990s, who are now leading African studies in Japan. Given weak historical relationship with the African academia in the colonial era, Japanese scholars lacked resource and networks for research despite their strong aspiration for African studies. IDS is one of the academic institutes that significantly contributed to development of African studies in Japan. I would like to note that more than 800 members are registered in the Japan Association of African Studies now.

The strength of IDS is its multi-disciplinary approach. Although true understandings across academic disciplines are quite difficult, I believe that serious discussions among scholars with different approaches are indispensable to understand critical issues in development that are often multi-dimensional. Our institute shares the same concept. An economist sits in his office next to an office

of a political scientist or an expert of conflict studies, and they chat, discuss, or loudly argue every day. Despite the trend of specialization in the academics, I wish that IDS will maintain its diversity and continue to shed lights on unattended but critical issues in development, provide appropriate guidance for policy makers and foster intellectual African scholars who will work for Africa.

The Institute is a Pioneer in Many Ways



By Ebrima Sall
Executive Secretary of
CODESRIA

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Institute for Development Studies (IDS) of the University of Nairobi, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate you, on behalf of the Executive Committee and staff of CODESRIA, and on my own behalf.

Fifty years of achievements that include the production of numerous publications of great value, the training of generations of researchers and production of many PhDs, and the holding of high level

convenings, is indeed worth celebrating. If the idea behind the building of the IDS was to produce knowledge that could inform scholarly, policy and public debates and guide development policy and practice, then IDS has fulfilled its mandate.

Being the first of its kind in Africa, IDS was in many respects a pioneer in our continent. It succeeded in establishing itself firmly in African soil, thus avoiding the risk of being a mere replica of other institutions established in different social, economic and historical contexts. This was no small achievement, given that the higher education and research institutions of our continent were, for a long time, extensions of European institutions.

Furthermore, IDS went the extra mile of joining other research institutes and centres of Africa to form CODESRIA. Indeed, IDS was at the founding

conference of CODESRIA in February 1973, and has remained an active member of our council ever since. So have many members of the academic and research staff of the institution, some of whom (including the programme Director for the IDS@50 conference, Dr Godwin Murunga,) were even elected to the Executive Committee, which made them join the select group of leaders of the African scholarly community.

I wish IDS many more years of ground-breaking research and knowledge production, and look forward to working very closely with you in the coming months and years to take the cooperation between CODESRIA and IDS to much higher levels. The African research community must lead the premier league of social research of the world by the time we celebrate the 100th anniversary of IDS.

Happy Anniversary to IDS!

Prospects for Sustainable Development Goals: What Role for the African Academic?



By Dr Godwin Murunga
Senior Research Fellow, IDS

The UN General Assembly adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These include 17 new post-MDG commitments. The SDGs are ambitious targets aimed at ending poverty, fighting inequality and injustice, and tackling climate change by 2030. A total of 193 UN Member States adopted this agenda at the annual jamboree that descends on Manhattan for the General Assembly.

As it sometimes happens, decisions at the UN tend to be carefully choreographed behind the scenes for particular outcomes and, depending on the hierarchies and power relations within the world community of nations, some countries are mobilised to sign onto those decisions without giving them due consideration and engaging their own local community of scholarship and policy to determine if the provisions are indeed relevant to local contexts. There is little evidence of any such engagements in Kenya and in

large segments of the region.

Yet, the coincidence of the adoption of the SDGs and the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Institute for Development Studies at the University of Nairobi is one propitious moment. A moment of 'celebration', to borrow Ayi Kwei Amah's word. It is a moment for celebration but also a moment that calls for serious reflection on the feasibility of SDGs as an agenda for fighting poverty and inequality in the world.

The Institute's 50th Anniversary conference on the theme: Rethinking Development and Development Studies in the post-2015 Era. It will take place at the University of Nairobi from 18th to 20th November 2015 and will include a host of activities, some of which are designed to exhibit the work of the Institute and its partners but others that involve deep reflection on the contemporary meanings of development and their implication for everyday practice. Several papers are lined up from academics from Cameroon, Nigeria, Ghana, Ethiopia, South Africa and of course Kenya. They will be spiced with panel reflections from a range of academics and policy actors.

When a group of academics decided in 1965 to found the IDS with support from Rockefeller Foundation, they would not have imagined the rare coincidence that a centre for the study of development would celebrate its 50th birthday when the world is adopting a 'new' development

blueprint. The coincidence is however very fitting and appropriate. Everything about the adoption of the SDGs invites all of us, academics and policy practitioners, civil society and ordinary people, to give meaning to these new commitments made by governments. The starting point, of course, must be the MDGs. When MDGs were launched in the last decade or so, they represented fresh commitment.

The failure to give them concrete meaning in the lives of ordinary people represented a major weakness, but one can argue that the weakness was either intended or a natural consequence of dynamics in global development thinking and planning. They were launched in a neo-liberal context. Therefore, their thrust was always being counterchecked by a neo-liberal ethos dominating international thinking at the time. The neo-liberal agenda had already inflicted major damage to Africa through the structural adjustment programmes of the 1980s-1990s. By locating MDGs in an anti-equity and anti-social justice framework, MDGs had to constantly survive in a hostile environment.

Politico-Economic

Though few would deny the contribution of MDGs, at least when judged from the skewed parameters on which they were based, we acknowledge that they did not fully attain their targets. Indeed, the key to their success rested in altering the logic and environment of development and

development thinking in significant ways. For a start, the overall politico-economic context was skewed with wealth concentrated in the global North. The arrangement of global relations was designed to continuously detain many in the global South in a poverty trap. This was a context where logical mechanisms of redistribution were impossible even if it meant multiplying the labour input of workers in the global South. This politico-economic context has ensured that rewards from labour and the labour process are also skewed in favour of the global North.

Global Poverty

Even more ominous are persisting debates on what poverty means and how to measure it. The politics of measuring poverty, the indices used (and repeatedly abused) and the control over the data sources that feeds into this measurement are an eyesore on what we are told poverty means. The fact that calculations of poverty levels are based on disputed thresholds has not helped matters; figures have been adjusted periodically to satisfy the agenda of Northern institutions and to give a false impression that poverty has reduced. But the monstrosity that is poverty persists even as the world is treated to a 'mainstream narrative about how global poverty is being dramatically reduced,' a narrative that 'distracts from the need to address its structural causes and defuses public outrage at what is, in reality, a worsening crisis of epic proportions – one that demands a far more urgent response from governments than the SDGs can deliver.'

For Africa, the environment for development has hardly been

conducive and the expectations put on African states to facilitate development are hardly realistic. Of course, there are internal impediments to development within Africa. Keen analysts of the continent have discussed this issue extensively and with illuminating conclusions that are often set aside or simply ignored. Perhaps the harshest conclusion was Claude Ake who opined that 'the assumption so readily made that there has been a failure of development is misleading. The problem is not so much that development has failed as that it was never really on the agenda in the first place.' Ake identified political conditions on the continent as 'the greatest impediment to development.'

But that is just one side of a complicated story, the other one indicts the rest of the world. On matters development, the rest of the world is as guilty, if not more guilty, of undermining prospects for an autonomous development agenda for Africa. For a start, Structural Adjustment Programmes were deliberately set to, among other things, undermine propositions contained in the Lagos Plan of Action. In turn, SAPs did not provide a favourable context within which to launch MDGs. Their neo-liberal context represented a system that asked Africans to go for development goals with their hands tied.

The very ideology of neo-liberalism doubted the capacity of the state to play their historic functions, adopted and recommended a minimalist role of the state. African states were reduced, in Thandika Mkandawire's words, into the role of a 'night watchman,' the role of simply providing enabling environment for markets to function. Ironically, the very

bitter adjustment pill that was forced down our throats are the same ones that President Barack Obama's administration repudiated when he encountered economic challenges upon assuming power. Where it had been argued that we needed limited state in managing market failures of the 1980s and 1990s, in the US, state intervention to stabilise the economy was embraced. Where austerity meant the end of key social welfare obligations in Africa, in Europe, social welfare programmes loom large in safeguarding citizens during hard times.

The logic of SGDs is also based on disputed thinking around the key anchors of development. The role of the state is disputed and remains the subject of contestations among analysts, even some who are wedded to misreading the nature and changing character of the African state. While the manner of wealth distribution globally indicates that African states might not be effective in addressing pervasive poverty even if our politicians were willing and capable, the *Financing for Development* discussions seemed to lump the onus to governments in the global South, urging them to take greater responsibility for mobilising finances domestically to fight poverty.

"Illicit Financial Flows,

With a weak financial base, a tiny and often predatory private sector, and a ravenous elite engaged in multiple illicit relationships with equally corrupt trans-national capital, one wonders how the domestic arena would finance Africa's poverty challenges. As Mukwana further points

out, in essence articulating the position of civil society on this issue, there are valid concerns about the limitations imposed on African governments by refusal in the global North to address “illicit financial flows, tackle tax avoidance or restructure external debts – measures that could mobilise many billions of dollars in additional revenue each year for low-income countries.”

Private Sector

Even more important, the world remains cagey about the state, especially in Africa, and has not resolved with any clarity how to conceptualise and manage the state - private sector relationship. What one reads is a crude retreat into a neo-patrimonial argument whenever this relationship is at issue, or an articulation of the assumption that the private sector is an alternative to the state, the bastion of development that will solve Africa's poverty.

More often than not, the state is dismissed off-hand as corrupt. The conceptual fuzziness about the state in Africa has persisted for long with the ideal notion of the state being confused with its concrete expression today. Is it any wonder then that a ‘tropicalized’ allusion to the state, to borrow Adebayo Olukoshi's word, persists, informed by the idea that ‘Africa works’ through ‘the instrumentalization of disorder’.

Conceptually distinguishing between the current concrete expressions of the state (including the distortions we are aware of) from the ideal state that citizens aspire for is important to reframing the governance dilemmas associated with the African state and its ability to resolve the challenge of poverty. Putting the

challenge of poverty eradication, and indeed of development, at the doors of an unproblematised state and expecting results is careless at best and deadly at worst.

As we begin the journey towards SDGs, the key role of African academics in redefining the agenda remains. African academics tend to wait to be consulted or involved and one repeatedly hears academic staff unions and senior academics regret that they are ignored by the state; or that they were not consulted on key issues affecting the country. Fact is that it is in the DNA of most African governments to ignore thinkers and promote mediocre policies especially if they come from external actors with limited understanding of the complexity of the domestic realities.

Furthermore, African academics too often raise uncomfortable questions, something that the ruling class does not accept. To counter this, it must be in the DNA of African academics to refuse to be ignored and to keep knocking at the door until some bureaucrat or politician takes note and listens. Where SDGs are involved, the occasion of the celebration of the 50th Anniversary is a good one to start knocking at the political and bureaucratic doors and to demand to be heard. Our policy practitioners and politicians must be prepared to listen and stop feigning ignorance on key development questions.

The choice of theme and of the keynote speaker for IDS@50 reflects our desire to engage these questions at this moment when shifts in development thinking are occurring. The panels are also organised with this objective in mind. Prof. Adebayo Olukoshi, who is the keynote speaker, will

commence the debates with a reflection on the overall context within which development thinking is being discussed. The institutional anchors of this thinking ought to be the subject of rigorous review.

An accomplished scholar and pan-Africanist, Prof. Olukoshi led a programme of research, publications and advocacy at the Nordic Africa Institute in Uppsala, Sweden titled The Political and Social Context of Structural Adjustment in Africa. The programme represented a powerful cog in the rebuttal key institutions of knowledge production generated against the evils of the Washington Consensus. The programme at NAI collaborated with many others in and outside Africa, including at CODESRIA, to generate a corpus of knowledge that effectively challenged the basis of adjustment programmes in Africa. Prof. Olukoshi subsequently led the premier social science organisation in Africa, CODESRIA, before becoming Director of the UN Africa Institute for Economic Development and Planning in Dakar. He is a fitting person to help navigate the transition to SDGs and localise it to our condition.

Leading Centre

In a nutshell, the potential for IDS to be a leading Centre for the study of the dilemmas of development in the era of SGD is there. The outline of the key thematic areas to be explored are contained in the concept note for the conference and the programme of activities. IDS wants to be a leading Centre for the study of development. But it also wants to ensure policy uptake and community engagement. The moment to realise this aspiration is here.



Institute for Development Studies
University of Nairobi
P.O. Box 30197-00100 Nairobi, Kenya
<http://ids.uonbi.ac.ke>