

# UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS

## Project: Service Sector Development



# Financial Bid

- The University of Mauritius (UoM) submitted a technical and financial bid, to host the services sector development thematic research, to TIPS in September 2008.
- In April 2009, TIPS and UoM formally entered into an agreement and the contract was signed.

# Terms of Reference

- Firstly, to call for proposals from African researchers and research institutions with the aim of conducting policy-relevant researches in their own countries.
- Secondly, to build capacity of people from selected African countries in order to enhance capabilities in conducting services policies that will enhance growth and thereby reduce poverty.
- The third objective is to network with policy makers in the region.

# Desirable features of proposals

- The proposals should address issues that are relevant to policymakers with the goal of producing concrete policy implications and recommendations. Potential issues which proposals could address include the following:
- Universal Access to Essential Services and its impact on poverty reduction; Better Infrastructure and Logistics to enhance development; Increasing exports of Services through movement of Natural Persons among others

# Details research studies

This project therefore consisted of the following:

- To fund studies, a maximum of five, conducted by senior researchers and their teams and that would be of relevance to policy makers – ZAR 40,000 each (Group 1)
- To fund studies, a maximum of five, that are conducted by policy makers themselves and which could be of relevance to the region – ZAR 10,000 each (Group 2)
- To fund studies, a maximum of five, conducted by junior researchers, under the supervision of senior researchers - ZAR 10,000 each (Group 3)
- To construct a database of researchers in the ESA region

# Call for Proposals

- Call for proposals was initiated during the month of April and May, and potential proposals were selected in the month of May by a technical committee (a sub-committee of the organizing committee).
- The researchers were accordingly informed and formal contracts were sent to them. The details of the successful candidates were as follows:

## Group 1

Name	Institution	email address	Tel	Title of Research
Charles Augustine Abuka	BANK OF Uganda	<a href="mailto:cabuka@bou.or.ug">cabuka@bou.or.ug</a>	256 772 344078	SERVICES SECTOR DEVELOPMENT IN : AN ANALYSIS OF THE ROLE OF THE FINANCIAL SERVICES SECTOR
Johnson Tsoro Maiketso	Botswana Institute for Development Policy Analysis	<a href="mailto:maiketso@bidpa.bw">maiketso@bidpa.bw</a>	267 715 62709	Prospects for the Establishment of an Educational Hub: The Case of Botswana
Jacob Nyambe	THE NAMIBIAN ECONOMIC POLICY RESEARCH UNIT	<a href="mailto:Jacob.Nyambe@nepru.org.na">Jacob.Nyambe@nepru.org.na</a>	264 813 555 452	Does Railway Sub-Sector Contribute to Poverty Alleviation in Namibia?
Tandrayen-Ragoobur Verena		<a href="mailto:v.tandrayen@uom.ac.mu">v.tandrayen@uom.ac.mu</a>	230 787 1282	Services Sector Development: A Key to Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Development in Mauritius
Mills Soko	Mthente Research and Consulting Services,	<a href="mailto:mills@mthente.co.za">mills@mthente.co.za</a>	074 148 7438	Positioning South Africa as a Knowledge and Innovation Hub: The Case of the Western Cape Province

## Group 2

Makochekanwa Albert	Ministry of Trade and Industry	<a href="mailto:almac772002@yahoo.co.uk">almac772002@yahoo.co.uk</a>	251 (0) 910 125 641	Increasing exports of services through temporary movement of natural persons in the SADC region: What should be done?
Manisha Dookhony	Econexis Ltd,	<a href="mailto:manisha.dookhony@gmail.com">manisha.dookhony@gmail.com</a>	230 7689696	Policy Paper On Fostering Talent Movement in the SADC and ESA Region
Yusuf Atiku Abdalla	Research Department, Bank of	<a href="mailto:yabdalla@bou.or.ug">yabdalla@bou.or.ug</a>	(256) 782 006042/757 006042	AN EVALUATION OF THE PERFORMANCE OF TRADE IN SERVICES IN UGANDA: EVIDENCE AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS FOR UGANDA'S NON-FINANCIAL SERVICES SUB-SECTOR

## Group 3

Kwaramba Marko		<a href="mailto:mkwaxs@yahoo.co.uk">mkwaxs@yahoo.co.uk</a>		Internationalization of higher education in southern Africa with SA as the major exporter
Mengesha Yayo Negasi		<a href="mailto:mengeshayayo@yahoo.com">mengeshayayo@yahoo.com</a>	251-0912 070248	TRADE EFFECTS OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION IN AFRICA USING DISAGGREGATED DATA: The Case of Southern African Development Community (SADC)
Zainah R. POOLOO	UTM	<a href="mailto:zainahpooloo@yahoo.com">zainahpooloo@yahoo.com</a>	256 4748	On the Role of Public Infrastructure in Helping Growth: A case Study of Mauritius

# Inception Workshop

- In the month of June, an inception workshop was held at La Pirogue Hotel, Mauritius, both to review and discuss the respective proposals and for capacity building as well.
- During this workshop all team leaders for proposals selected were invited to present their proposals and to receive constructive comments from Dr M Kalaba, the SADRN coordinator, Dr Tabitha Kiriti from University of Nairobi, expert in the field of services sector development and the UoM project coordinating team, including policy makers.



# Final Workshop

- In November 2009 (16<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>), UoM in collaboration with the Southern African Development Research Network (SADRN), Trade and Industrial Policy Strategies (TIPS) and the Botswana Institute for Development Policy Analysis (BIDPA) hosted a joint workshop as a platform for the researchers to present their research outcomes and receive final comments.
- Also UoM, as part of a capacity building exercise, organised a 1-day methodological workshop conducted by Professor Muller, professor in the field of poverty alleviation measurement

# Post-Pretoria Workshop

- Following the Pretoria workshop, the technical Committee wrote to the researchers and urged them to take into account the comments from the resource persons and the participants of the workshop. A tentative deadline of 15<sup>th</sup> December was set for the final version. The final versions of the studies were received on time and sent for final review by the original resource person/policy makers assigned to them in the first workshop.
- Meanwhile the first draft of African Researchers' Database was presented to the organizing committee for perusal and discussion and some more names were suggested by members. The final database was made available soon after.

# Remarks

- Post-project monitoring to ensure that recommendations suggested in the research/policy papers actually result in evidenced-based policies .
- Collaboration and support from policy makers and experienced researchers.
- Access to data, particularly in Africa.
- More capacity building and methodology workshops/courses.
- Research generally not of publishable quality and need assistance

# Remarks

- More of coordination between thematic work groups and sharing of experiences.
- Encourage more research from policy makers in collaboration with academics/experienced researchers to nurture greater receptiveness
- More of dissemination initiatives (workshops, round tables among others, depending on Budget) with policy makers in general.

# Remarks

- Research data created for collaborative research in the field of services development and poverty
- NTM assignment for the WB in selected African countries.
- Ongoing collaboration with policy makers
- RMCE (Regional Multidisciplinary Centre of Excellences) and UoM joint project.