

IDS Newsletter

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Institute for Development Studies University of Nairobi

June 2003

IDS Proposes Establishment of a Chronic Poverty Research Centre

The Institute for Development Studies (IDS) has taken the lead towards the establishment of a poverty research centre in Kenya. The proposed Centre will track and monitor the nature, trends and manifestations of chronic poverty by providing adequate and consistent information. The policy-oriented research and advocacy centre would ensure that those sections of the population that remain chronically poor are identified, the social, economic and political conditions assessed and policies and programmes that would reduce vulnerability to poverty proposed.

It is proposed that the Chronic Poverty Research Centre in Kenya (CPRC-Kenya) will be a research network based at the Institute for Development Studies, University of Nairobi and will draw on research expertise already available in-house at IDS, nationally and regionally. CPRC-Kenya will have the status of a sub-centre of the Chronic Poverty Research Centre (CPRC) based at the Institute for Development Policy and Management (IDPM) at the University of Manchester in partnership with southern and northern research institutes and development advocacy organisations

According to Dr. Mary Omosa, the Senior Research Fellow who is overseeing the proposal, the funding for the centre is a certainty. "We are almost there – very soon - because IDS took the lead in recognising that a vacuum exists in the area of systematic data about poverty in Kenya", she said.

The other reason for the popularity of the idea of the centre to be housed at IDS is realisation that IDS has a long and reputable history of high priority research in area of poverty. "We have relied

on IDS experience and status as a centre of research excellence to get to where we are with the proposal," asserts Dr. Omosa.

The advantage for IDS is that it is an opportunity to re-visit existing data sets, collected in many years of research, for purposes of analysing them further and contribute to a deeper understanding of chronic poverty and the formulation of workable interventions.

The Centre would come into being at a critical time when about half of the Kenyan population lives below the poverty line due to, among others, high rates of unemployment and a non-performing economy.

The proposed Centre on chronic poverty in Kenya

will fill a definite gap in the general endeavour to explain why poverty has persisted in Kenya, despite seemingly overwhelming efforts to eliminate deprivation. The Centre will have the mandate to identify who the chronically poor are; what social, economic, political and cultural processes engender chronic poverty; what policies and programmes would reduce vulnerability to chronic poverty and; identify what researchers and advocacy organisations require to advocate for the chronically poor.

The CPRC-Kenya programme will be coordinated by Prof. Njuguna Ng'ethe, an Associate Research Professor and Dr. Mary Omosa, Senior Research Fellow. Collaborating Institutions will include – among

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Research Process: Dr. Mary Kinyanjui interviews a Jua Kali Artisan in Thika converting plastic waste to bicycle, wheelbarrow and motor vehicle products

Message from the Director

I am happy to report (again!) that the last few months have been busy ones at IDS. The first half of 2003 has been marked by staff changes, new and proposed research, and student accomplishments.

In December 2002 we welcomed back Prof. Charles Okidi, who returned to IDS after very productive years first at Moi University and then at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Prof. Okidi is already fully involved in IDS activities. In addition to the Fisheries Workshop reported on these pages, he is spearheading a collaborative effort between IDS and the Faculty of Law that is expected to result in a Centre for Law and the Environment. Prof. Okidi is also working closely with Prof. Mohamud Jama and Dr. Joseph Onjala to develop a full-fledged IDS research programme focusing on those environmental issues of greatest concern to Kenya and the rest of eastern Africa.

In mid-May, staff gathered to say farewell to two valued members of the IDS family. Mr. Samuel Muriithi Ndumuti retired after 30 years of service to the University, 27 of which were in IDS. With his newly developed computer skills and long standing love of the land, his retirement may prove to be as busy as his working life. The farewell party also honoured Mr. Hesbon Nyagowa, who had served IDS since 1995 as administrative assistant, senior administrative assistant, and finally assistant registrar. Transferred as part of a general University rotation, Mr. Nyagowa will be sorely missed. Joining IDS from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine is the new assistant registrar, Mr. Charles Njuguna.

The *Newsletter* reports on several ongoing research projects, but we don't say much about those in the planning stages. Partly this is because funding uncertainties mean that there could be delays in actually implementing these projects. Readers might, however, be interested to know about some of the research that is in the pipeline. A project to examine the Kenya government's policy of universal access to telecommunications is expected to be carried out in collaboration with the Communications Commission of Kenya and the Central Bureau of Statistics. Dr. Mary



Prof. Dorothy McCormick

Omosa will be the principal researcher. IDS is proposing to become a centre for the study of chronic poverty under a larger programme sponsored by the British government's Department for International Development. Prof. Njuguna Ng'ethe and Dr. Mary Omosa are heading this effort. Work is ready to begin on the 2003 Kenya National Human Development Report, which will focus on the interaction between industrialisation and human development. The IDS team for this report includes Prof. Peter Kimuyu, Dr. Joseph Onjala, Dr. Mary Kinyanjui, and Dr. Rachel Musyoki.

The second year of the IDS MA in Development Studies focuses on the project paper. While in their last semester of course work (third semester of the programme), students are encouraged to choose their research topic and begin refining their research questions. Early in the fourth semester, they present their proposals and move to fieldwork. The eight second-year students completed their proposal presentations in early May and most are now in the field.

Some students begin research even earlier. Stephen Otieno Okoth, who presented a paper at an international conference in Washington, DC, is one of those. I was on leave in Washington in late May and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to see this young scholar present his findings and field questions.

I hope that you enjoy reading the rest of this *IDS Newsletter*. We welcome your comments. Our contact information is in the box on this page. Please also let us know about others who would like to receive the Newsletter ■

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Forthcoming Publications

McCormick, Dorothy and Kaendi Munguti, 'Micro Finance and Behaviour Change Among Nairobi's Commercial Sex Workers', (forthcoming in *Small Enterprise Development*, June 2003.

Kinyanjui, Mary Njeri, 'Institutions and Value Chains in Nairobi: A Study of Small-Scale Garment Producers and Local Retailers', (forthcoming in *African Geographical Review*, Association of American Geographers).

McCormick, Dorothy, Winnie Mitullah and Mary Kinyanjui, 'How to Collaborate: Associations and Other Community Based Organisations Among Kenyan Micro and Small-Scale Entrepreneurs', (forthcoming IDS Occasional Paper).

Njeru, Geoffrey, 'Production and Marketing innovations in Smallholder Farming: Livelihood Diversification and Entrepreneurship in a Rural Kenyan District, Mbeere', (forthcoming IDS Working Paper).

Mitullah, Winnie; Okech, Benjamin and Atieno, Rosemary, 'Towards an Understanding of the Business Systems: A Study of the Metal Products Sub-sector in Kenya', (forthcoming IDS Working Paper).

Pride Africa and IDS Sign Memorandum of Understanding

The Institute for Development Studies (IDS) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Pride Africa and other organisations to undertake research. The MOU signed on 2nd January 2003 involves IDS, Pride Africa (PA), Nava Ashraf (PhD candidate) at Harvard University, and Dean Karlan, a professor at Princeton University, UK.

The MOU has the objective of collaborative research undertaking in providing information services to small farmers and micro-entrepreneurs. It will bring together economics professionals from IDS, Harvard University and the Princeton University. The collaboration project – DrumNet - will identify information needs of MSEs and smallholder farmers in Kenya and device commercially sustainable initiatives that help improve their access to information.

As an information exchange network, DrumNet

will document, monitor and evaluate needs and search for ICT-based solutions for the target groups. DrumNet will transact marketing, commercial and technical information.

The DrumNet research agenda is based on the fact that despite advances in technological development, there are no active and effective established mechanisms through which small holder farmers and MSEs can access information relevant to their needs. The approach combines action research and project evaluation techniques.

DrumNet will be housed at IDS with the director of IDS, Prof. Dorothy McCormick having the overall responsibility for the project. IDS will also produce the research project team leader, Dr. Walter Odhiambo to oversee the day-to-day management with a colleague from Pride

Africa. Other members of the project include an entrepreneurship expert from IDS and two ICT experts from the Institute of Computer Science, University of Nairobi.

The DrumNet project was initiated by Pride Africa and initially targeted agricultural markets and the food processing industry. It has already built points-of-presence across the country. "DrumNet opens an opportunity to organisations and companies that offer services and products across urban as well as rural Kenya to increase their outreach and reinforce marketing", said Mercel Werner, the DrumNet General Manager during a consultative meeting in March held in Nairobi.

"We have already agreed on the research programme and a pre-test of research instruments has already been done in Nairobi and Kirinyanga", says Dr. Odhiambo ■

Staff Embark on UNIDO Industrialisation Initiative

For many years, the United Nations Industrial Organisation (UNIDO) has been working with African countries providing advice and technical assistance aimed at hastening and strengthening their industrialisation processes. Two IDS staff members have contributed to one of UNIDO's recent efforts. Since November 2002, Prof. Dorothy McCormick, Associate Professor and Director, and Dr. Rosemary Atieno, Senior Research Fellow, have been preparing a report designed to serve as a reference and guide for the implementation of the Eastern Africa Productive Capacity Initiative.

The idea of the Initiative came from the Eastern Africa Chapter of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry (CAMI) when they met in October 2002. The Ministers present at that meeting recommended the establishment of a sub-regional capacity building initiative with special focus on three sub-sectors believed to be especially important for the development of African industry: agro-food processing, textiles and garments, and leather and leather products. UNIDO provided the support for the Initiative by identifying the consultants and giving them direction and resources.

The initiatives will consist of specific strategies aimed at strengthening industry in individual countries and the region as a whole. The report is essentially a manual to be used by technical staff in ministries throughout the region to develop their initiatives into documents that can be funded, either under the umbrella of the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) or elsewhere.

The report is designed around a framework

that combines value chain concepts with an institutional approach to development. It draws heavily on IDS's three-year ENRECA-funded research on *Business Systems in Africa*, but also touches on the ideas and emphases of NEPAD, especially public-private partnerships and peer review, and UNIDO's recent emphasis on innovation and learning. Preparatory work included a visit to UNIDO headquarters in Vienna, two days of interviews with Tanzanian officials in Dar es Salaam, and interviews with the Kenyan Director of Industries and his staff in Nairobi, as well as library research and extensive use of the Internet. The report was developed in close consultation with Dr. Ekoué Amaïzo of UNIDO's Strategic Research and Economics Branch. It is written in four parts. Part I lays out the concepts and methodology to be used in developing initiatives. Part II provides three sub-sectoral applications as examples of how the methodology can be applied. These fall into the priority areas of food processing, textiles and garments, and leather and leather products. Part III summarises the lessons, recommendations, and future directions, while Part IV addresses itself to how the initiative can be turned into a fund-raising proposal.

The report was submitted in April 2003, but Dr. Amaïzo is already thinking ahead to the continental CAMI meeting later in the year, and to further collaboration between UNIDO and IDS ■

Student Presents Paper at International Body



IDS students are continuously being engaged in international academic activities. A number of students

interviewed state that one of the advantages for pursuing post-graduate studies at the institute are the varied opportunities for academic travel.

Mr. Stephen Otieno Okoth (above pictured) a second year Master in Development Studies student, was in Washington, DC to attend an international conference on health and environment. The conference hosted by the Global Health Council (GHC) is the 30th such conference and was titled *Our Future on Common Ground: Health and the Environment*.

The conference was concerned with the way physical, economic and social environment exerts influence on health. Since the world's health disparities derive from underlying environmental conditions, the conference seeks to have a better understanding of how to bring about improvements in both health and the environment. Participants at the conference included health and environmental professionals, managers,

[Continue on Pg.6]

Okidi: The Quintessential Scholar Returns

Since his return to the Institute for Development Studies in December 2002, it has been as if he never left at all. On familiar grounds both physically and intellectually once again, an indefatigable Prof. Charles Odidi Okidi (pictured), has embarked on his duties as professor of environmental law and policy with confidence. He is executing professorial teaching and research responsibilities in environmental law while directing the establishment of a Centre for Advanced Research and Studies in Environmental Law and Policy.

A towering international figure having performed exceptionally as the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) Senior Legal Officer between 1995 and 2002, Prof. Okidi always the "projects" person, is now participating in the Kenya Government Team negotiating a treaty regime for Lake Victoria and Nile River Basins

At the UN, Prof. Okidi had the task of setting up a Project on Environmental Law in Africa. He would manage the development of national environmental laws, and the development and harmonization of environmental law at regional levels in seven African countries. His outstanding work – now replicated in Asia and Latin America – under a Steering Committee of UNEP, UNDP, World Bank, FAO and IUCN Commission on Environmental Law was adjudged very successful.

The professor's world of consultancy reads like a dictionary of international and regional agencies in the world. If the UN did not engage him, he would be doing work on a donor-funded research project in any one African country.

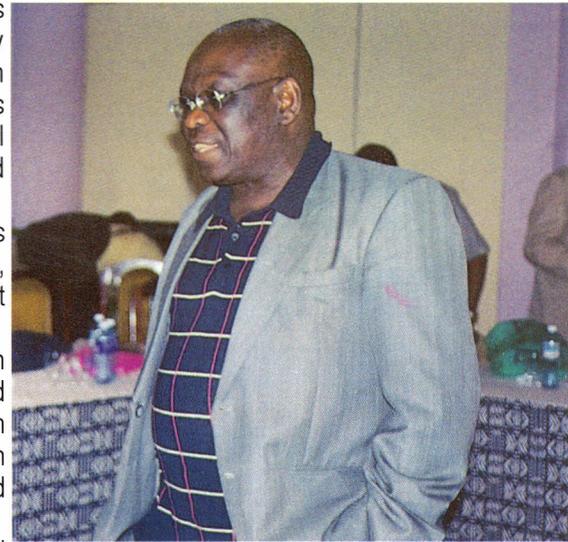
Prof. Okidi initially served at IDS as an Associate Research Professor between 1976 and 1988, making him one of the pioneer African researchers at the Institute. He had risen through the ranks from a Research Fellow. He joined Moi University, Eldoret, Kenya as a Professor of Environmental Law and by 1994 when he left, he had founded and established the School of Environmental Studies, as Dean. As a professor of Environmental Laws, Prof.

Dr. Atieno Earns Visiting Scholar Fellowship to Belgium

Dr. Rosemary Atieno, a Senior Research Fellow at the IDS, spent one month early in the year as a Visiting Scholar at the Institute for Development Policy and Management (IDPM), University of Antwerp, Belgium.

The visit was under the auspices of the "Special Chair" of the IDPM, which is a competitive position sponsored by the Province of Antwerp and the Council of Management of the University of Antwerp. The programme involved an inaugural lecture to an audience consisting of university academic staff, postgraduate students, and guests from government, the private sector and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).

During her stay at the institute, she was involved in conducting seminars with Masters students in the departments of Development Evaluation & Management, and Globalisation & Economic Development.



Okidi retains an active interest in international and comparative environmental policy, law and institutions; international water policy; Law of the Sea, Public International Law; and law and development. This interest is not by accident as it is attested to by his schooling. He obtained his Bachelor of Arts (BA, Magna Cum Laude) (Social Psychology and Political Science) in 1970 from the Alaska Methodist University (USA); Master of Arts (MA) in Law and Diplomacy in 1973, and the PH.D in 1975 from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy (USA).

For the MA thesis, he wrote about *The Law of the Sea in the Indian Ocean Area and the Question of Sharing Marine Resources through Preferential Arrangements* to be followed by *Legal and Institutional Arrangements for the Control of Pollution of the Sea*. He has continued to publish widely in his area of speciality. He has 11 book titles, 28 journal articles and book chapters and has authored 15 consultancy reports. While at UNEP, he had 30 in-house publications to his name. Some of his recent works include the books *Environmental Stress and Conflict in Africa*, and *Development and the Environment in Africa: Policy Initiatives*. He also has 30 unpublished papers spanning 1977 to date. On conference, seminar and workshop panels, Prof. Okidi has made no less than 30 major presentations.

Prof. Okidi's professional affiliations include membership of the American Society of International Law (ASIL), International Council of Environmental Law (ICEL), International Association of Water Law, Commission on Environmental Law (CEL),

Faculty Advisory Board (University of Amsterdam), University of Barcelona (Department of International Law and Economics) and Editorial Board Environmental Policy and Law (IUCN/CEL). He is a Fellow at the African Academy of Sciences.

Prof. Okidi, 60, is the quintessential scholar and diplomat, perhaps by virtue of training in and practice of diplomacy while at the UN.

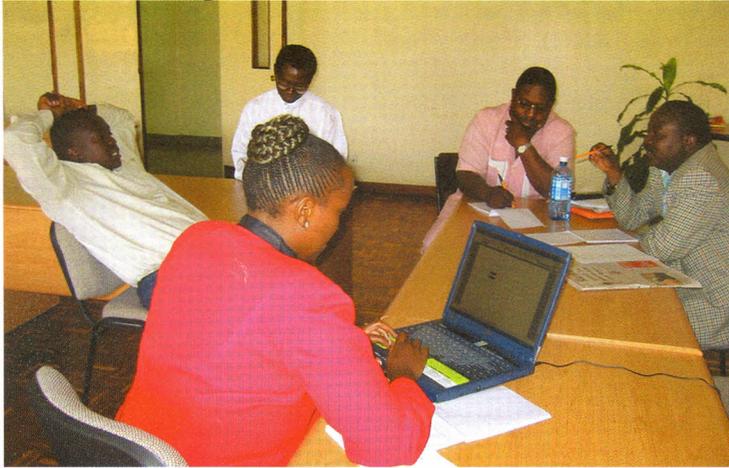
■ Kibisu-Kabatesi

IDS Releases New Publication Series

The IDS has added a new product to its stable of publications. *IDS Policy Briefs* is a monthly publication that disseminates key policy outputs of IDS research findings. Issue No. 1 on water management comes out in June 2003. *Issues in Surface and Ground Water Management in Kenya* by Dr. Joseph Onjala discusses policy imperatives in water management institutions. Issue No. 2 on mainstreaming chronic poverty in research comes out in July 2003. *Research Teaser: Mainstreaming Chronic Poverty* by Prof. Njuguna Ng'ethe and Dr. Mary Omosa tabulates the importance of addressing chronic poverty as a way of tracking poverty levels in Kenya.

The *IDS Policy Briefs* is aimed at informing and influencing policy formulation processes, serving policy consumers and development practitioners. *IDS Policy Briefs* edited by Mr. Kibisu-Kabatesi.

New Strategic Plan to Enhance IDS Research Agenda



IDS Members of Staff in one of the discussion groups session during the Strategic Planning Workshop at KCB Training Centre, Karen

Preparations for the re-launch of the Institute for Development Studies (IDS) later this year are at a critical advanced stage with the completion of a strategic plan. The plan is now due for presentation to the University for approval. Thereby it will be published in a booklet for distribution to collaborating organisations and partners.

The Strategic Plan 2003-2006 followed a two-day residential workshop by IDS staff in early February 2003 at the Kenya Commercial Bank Centre in Karen, Nairobi. The workshop was attended by the Principle of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS), Prof. Isaac M. Mbeche who congratulated the IDS for the foresight. Prof. Mbeche said that as a player in the global arena, IDS had to continue being relevant in its research agenda through planning. He said the University of Nairobi looked to IDS for advances in research planning.

The Strategic Plan, facilitated by Prof. Evans Aosa, Dean of the Faculty of Commerce, University of Nairobi has re-defined the IDS vision, mission and core governance values within the confines of the University mandate. It has, however, taken current and envisaged new challenges on board.

Taking stock of the past, present and the future, the Strategic Plan notes that having been at the centre of policy research for over four decades, the Institute is challenged to heighten the level of analysis and knowledge as an input into the evolution of the global development agenda.

The Strategic Plan notes that the centrepiece of IDS research has been and remains primary research. This has enabled IDS to carry alot of influence in the development of policies and the actual development practice for decades. Generation of local knowledge retains its primacy in the research agenda under the Strategic Plan with inbuilt strategies to expand into new audiences among them the NGO and private sectors.

The implementation will involve advocacy and is captured in the new action-oriented mission where IDS "will promote development knowledge and debate; encourage the use of research findings in development theory and practice". The IDS will incorporate dissemination forums that enhance scholarly debate, inform policy formulation and provide advisory services.

Buoyed by the progress the Institute has made over the decades and eager to exploit current opportunities in the global knowledge market, the Strategic Plan embarks on a number of initiatives that would lead to the implementation of an action programme.

The strategic issues it addresses include research programmes; resource mobilization and management; publication, dissemination and networking; teaching and training and; human resource, facilities and equipment. As a pointer to where it wants to be, the Institute has drawn comprehensive objectives for every strategy, to be implanted within given timeframes in the action plan. ■

[Continued from Pg. 3]

Student Presentation

policy makers, researchers and advocates from around the world.

Mr. Okoth was a panel presenter on May 27th at the conference. His paper, *Water Hyacinth: Its Constraints and Opportunities on Health* was selected from a competitive field of 500 abstract submissions for presentation. The paper is based on a study Mr. Okoth carried out in Kendu Bay community, Karachuonyo District, Nyanza.

According to the president and CEO, Nils Daulaire, GHC feels that Okoth had much to share with an international audience, and further, carried home valuable new information for sharing with colleagues.

The IDS Coordinator of the MA Programme at IDS, Dr. Kaendi Munguti, says that Okoth's recognition is symbolic of the esteem with which the IDS and its programmes are held. "It tells you that we at IDS can hold our heads high with the rest of the world. That we are indeed global in our research and students benefit immensely", she said.

On his part, Mr. Okoth, 27, says that his ability to compete has been nurtured at IDS. "The IDS has sharpened my pen. It has shown me the horizons of research" ■

[Continued from Pg. 1]

Poverty Centre

other CPRC Partners world-wide and other Researchers, Institutions and NGOs in the East African Region - the Institute for Development Studies, University of Nairobi (Kenya); IDPM, University of Manchester (UK); Overseas Development Institute (ODI) (UK); Kenya Oral Literature Association (KOLA) (Kenya); Central Bureau of Statistics, Government of Kenya (Kenya); Institute of Policy Analysis and Research (IPAR) (Kenya); Action Aid, Kenya; AMREF, Kenya; Kenya Institute of Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPR), Kenya; Centre for Governance and Development (CGD), Kenya; International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Kenya.

The Centre is set to begin its programmes in mid-2003 at IDS. ■

SAMUEL MURIITHI NDUMUTI: 'The Archive' Retires as Computer Nerd



Mr. Ndumuti speaks of his IDS days at a staff party in his honour

In jest, he is referred to as 'the Archive', because he has been in the business of records at the University of Nairobi (UoN) for over 30 uninterrupted years. The 'Archive' is the depository of both physical and legendary history of IDS where he has served for over 27 years. When Samuel Muriithi Ndumuti, 60, joined the UoN in the then Department of Education on March 16th, 1970, he actually wanted to join IDS. "I was interviewed to join Social Science Division (as IDS was known then) but one of the typists declined to be transferred to Education department to pave way for me. I was therefore, posted to Education", Muriithi recalls. Interestingly his new station was next door neighbour of IDS at the

visiting Professors. As IDS took command of policy research in the late 1970s, Muriithi interacted with all the big names in research. There was H.C.A. Somerset, M.P. Todaro, R. Kaplinsky, Gunter Schmidt, H.C.A. Somerset, A.. Bigsten and David Court.

The Kenyans included Prof. P.K. Kinyanjui, Prof. C.O. Okidi, Prof. J.M. Mbindyo, Prof. S.E. Migot-Adholla, Prof. J.N. Ng'ethe, Prof. A.O. Pala, Prof. G.M. Ruigu, Prof. P.O. Alila, Dr. Rachel N. Musyoki, Prof. O.N.N. Gakuru and Prof. S.B.O. Gutto.

Of the Directors, Muriithi remembers that between July, 1977 - June, 1983 the late Prof. W.M. Senga, an Economist was Director. Dr. Kabiru Kinyanjui, Prof. Njuguna Ng'ethe, Prof. Patrick O. Alila succeeded him; respectively before Prof. Dorothy McCormick, the current one.

Among the current IDS administrative staff that Muriithi has worked with over the years are Joshua Randiki-Accounts Assistant, Nahashon Nzambu and , D.K. Toso (Machine technicians), J.M. Mwai

(Stores Clerk) and James Muoria (Publications Sales Officer).

Muriithi who will be retiring on his sixtieth birthday on 9th June, 2003 says he is proud to have worked for 39 years, 33 of them at the UoN. And he has no grouse about retirement:

"I am happy to be retiring. Life in IDS has been very enjoyable. I have gained a lot of experience from so many

Gandhi Wing 5th floor, and thus the hiccup never dulled his desire to end up at IDS.

When Muriithi joined the University from St. Paul's United Theological College – Limuru where he had served as College clerk for six years, IDS occupied only one room next to the Child Development Unit. Today, IDS occupies half the same 5th Floor, and Muriithi has been witness its evolution.

The 1970s was one of the most productive decades for IDS research. How then was the Institute able to cope with such limited office space? The 'Archive' recalls that "IDS had some more offices at Uniafric House (Koinange Street). Then, the former IDS site (now housing Nuclear Science) next to Central Police Station was under construction together with the Education Building". Around 1971, the wooden extension would be completed and IDS moved there from Gandhi Wing.

Muriithi remembers, that "The lift (on Gandhi Wing) was working" and getting to 5th Floor was easy.

This is no longer the case as those who have climbed the stairs to Gandhi Wing's fifth floor, will agree. Climbing the five staircases is not easy. He must rue another detail; when on January 3rd to 5th, 1989 IDS relocated once again back to the 5th Floor of Gandhi Wing.

At the same time that IDS relocated, the Education Department had been upgraded to the Faculty of Education and moved to the newly completed Education Building. Muriithi found himself disoriented and distanced from his ambition to join IDS. But he never lost hope; he would get there through a round-about way:

"I started looking for promotion to another grade, either within or outside the Faculty. July 1973 I managed a transfer to the Registrar's Department in Academic Section". Three years later, Muriithi finally made it to IDS on July 1976. At that time, the head was a Prof. Coleman, the Administrative Assistant being Mrs Omumu who was succeeded by Mrs C. Chege", he recalls.

His nickname is not in vain. Muriithi is a minefield of data. Some of those he worked with made their name while researching at IDS and went on to become international high fliers. There was Dr. Peter Hopcraft as the Acting Director and; M. David and M. Latham



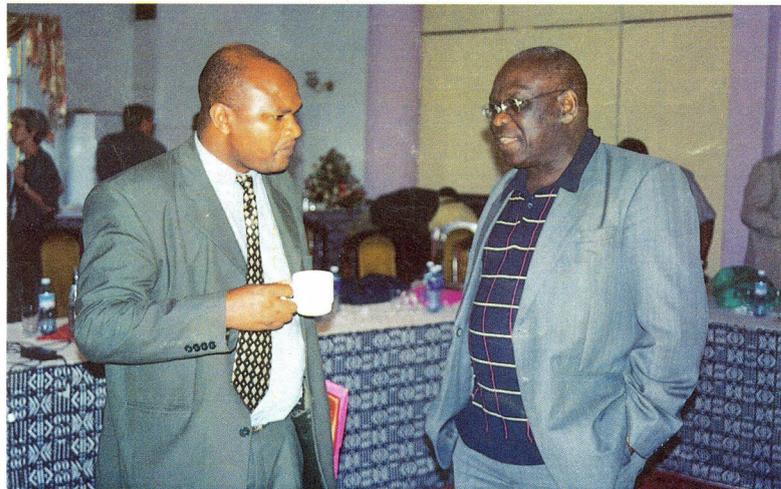
(Above): Mr. & Mrs Ndumuti at their Nyathuna Home. (Below): Mr. Ndumuti receives a fairwell gift from IDS Director, Prof D. McCormick (right) flanked by from left his Daughter Ms. Alice, wife Wambui and IDS Asst. Registrar Mr. Charles Njuguna.

highly educated people. They remain my good friends", he told colleagues at his retirement party on May 12, 2003.

What will he be doing in retirement? He is not retiring into oblivion but with new skills. "I cannot forget to thank IDS for paying for my computer lessons", smiles the 60 year-old computer nerd ■

Kibisu-Kabatesi

Development Workshop Sets Research Priorities for the Fisheries Industry in Collaboration with IDS



Prof. Charles Okidi (right) in a discussion with Dr. Stephen Mbithi, Chief Executive of the Kenya Fish Industry Association During a break in the workshop proceedings

The IDS in collaboration with the Fisheries Department and the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KEMFRI) held a joint workshop on 13th February 2003. The workshop aimed at promoting understanding of research relevant for fisheries development.

During the workshop held at the University of Nairobi, both KEMFRI and Fisheries Department gave overviews on how their research and activities contribute to the work of Fisheries Department, and eventually, to national development objectives. The workshop convener was Prof. Charles Okidi. It was one of his first major activities since rejoining IDS in December 2002.

The workshop resolved that policy-related research addressing the socio-economic conditions of communities in the catchments areas of the industry, was vital in addressing poverty. Although the fish sector contributes about Kshs.8 billion

sector. Policy research should, therefore, address the regulatory regime, the poverty chain, conservation and management of fish resources in the country.

The issue of sector efficiency emerged as the key factor in the development of the fisheries sector: Unlike the tea and coffee sectors, producers in fisheries remain poor due to lack of "mobilisation" mechanisms. For example, producers in the fisheries sector do not have effective cooperatives or accessible and organised banking facilities that would encourage sober utilisation of income. "Pay-on-delivery does not encourage savings hence the need for periodic payment channelled through cooperatives. The savings culture and investment need encouraging", said KEMFRI in a position paper on Lake Victoria.

The workshop was attended by, among others the Director of IDS, Prof. Dorothy

(US\$71.5million) in income, of which Kshs.5 billion (US\$11.5million) is in foreign exchange, it was revealed, the producers remain poor. Poverty among fishermen was attributed to, among others, lack of relevant development research in the

McCormick, Director of the Department of Fisheries in the Ministry of Agriculture, Ms. Nancy Gitonga and the KEMFRI Director Dr. Johnston Kazungu, and Dr Stephen Mbithi, the Chief Executive of the Kenya Fish Industry Association.

It was agreed that in order to tap the full potential of the sector for national development, policy research aspects to which IDS will collaborate include development of policy that links research, management and resource users, well-defined goals for the sector and a step-by-step road map to these goals. Other research areas due for collaboration include: A sound stock assessment survey and reliable data collection for planning of resource exploitation; research on environmental management aspects that could enhance production, control of environmentally deleterious factors; sector organization to enhance efficiency, cost effectiveness and benefits sharing in the Beach Management Units (BMUs); and feasibility of establishing BMUs as the fish marketing centres, fish markets in major urban centres, and rehabilitation and management of fish roads from the landing beaches to the markets; map out the suitability of various river beds/basins, and their cost-competitiveness, and assessment of our national capacity for aquaculture; and research into modalities of shortening the value-chain to add value and strengthen the structures in the fish industry that would enhance professional advice to investors in support of market promotion.



Mr. Njuguna

demands of his job, Mr. Njuguna is confident that he is able to surmount any handles:

"What I have learnt for the few months I have been here (IDS) is to keep ahead of requirements, be

New Registrar Takes Office, Promises Openness

Mr. Charles Karonjo Njuguna (pictured above) is the new IDS administrator. Mr. Njuguna, an Assistant Registrar took office in April 2003.

Mr. Njuguna, brings a wealth of administrative experience to IDS; he has ten years administrative experience within the University system. He comes to IDS after serving in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine for seven years. His administrative experience is boosted by the fact that he was a teacher.

Mr. Njuguna, 44, is a genial and soft-spoken, a personality that is necessary in coordinating complex research related demands of the Institute. About his preparedness in handling

responsive, fair and honest. I'm not a know-it-all type. I'll work together with colleagues", he says. On the responsibilities of his office, Mr. Njuguna agrees that they are heavy: "However, I'll not burden myself with work that can be done by others more efficiently. I'm not an egocentric. No such ego-trips for me. The idea is to delegate responsibilities vertically and also share them horizontally with colleagues", he asserts.

A graduate of the University of Nairobi, Mr. Njuguna holds a Bachelor of Arts (BA) Degree in political Science and Literature, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Education from Kenyatta University.