

RAPPORTEURS' REPORT

By

Patrick O. Alila,  
Institute for Development Studies  
and

G.C. Macoloo,  
Department of Geography,  
University of Nairobi

OPENING SESSION

I WELCOME ADDRESSES

Dr. Charles O. Okidi - Organizer/Secretary of the Workshop

Expressed gratitude to those from within and outside Kenya who took time and energy to prepare for as well as attend the Workshop on Development and the Environment in the Management of International Drainage Basins in Africa. He stressed that the workshop occurred after detailed case studies of specific programmes of management of such basins in Africa had been made. The Senegal, Niger and Kagera River basins had been studied over the past three years. In the end, three papers reflecting the findings on these three case studies had been prepared and distributed to the participants.

It was the findings in the papers that had necessitated the workshop. But the workshop was not to focus on the papers. Instead, the participants were to use the issues and contents reflected in the papers as a point of departure to reflect on the current problems of management of international drainage basins in Africa.

For these reasons, the discussions were to be guided by the written commentaries prepared by the participants. At the end the participants will offer recommendations based on the background papers

and the written commentaries as well as on the discussions.

Dr. Okidi pointed out that the workshop was organized under the auspices of the Institute for Development Studies (IDS) at the University of Nairobi, Dr. Njuguna Ngethe, as the Acting Director, would address the participants and then invite the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration and Finance) to perform the formal opening.

Dr. Njuguna Ngethe - Acting Director, Institute for Development Studies (IDS), University of Nairobi:

Dr. Ngethe welcomed the participants to the workshop. He then gave a brief background of IDS. First, he noted that IDS was established in 1965 and can therefore be viewed to be older than the University of Nairobi which was set up in 1970.

Secondly, in terms of research, IDS carries out wide-ranging research in social sciences. These areas of research are spelled out in the IDS Research Priorities Paper. He emphasized that Dr. Okidi's research, which forms the basis of discussion at this workshop, falls within these IDS priorities. The broad focus of the research Dr. Okidi has undertaken for the last ten years or so has been on resource management and environmental issues.

Dr. Ngethe then welcomed Professor Shem O. Wandiga, The Deputy Vice Chancellor, Administration and Finance, University of Nairobi to open the Workshop.