

AAAS-African Programs Under Way

IN its sub-Saharan African program AAAS fosters partnerships between U.S. and African scientific societies to strengthen individual and institutional resources in science and technology for development and sponsors the journal distribution program in which some 30 U.S. science and engineering societies are now participating.

■ PUST visit

From 28 March to 8 April the AAAS, with support from the Rockefeller Foundation, sponsored a visit to the United States by the president and secretary general of the new Panafrican Union of Science and Technology (PUST), Edward Ayensu and Levy Makany. The purpose of the visit was to familiarize PUST with the operations of scientific societies and the activities of relevant donors, both public and private, and to introduce these organizations to PUST.

Founded in June 1987 in Brazzaville, Congo, where the Secretariat is now headquartered, the Panafrican Union comprises, as members, all science and engineering societies, academies, and similar organizations on the continent. A 19-person Congress Committee, with interdisciplinary and international membership, is overseeing the writing of a constitution and bylaws and the formulation of the Union's work plan.

In addition to their AAAS visit, Amy Auerbacher Wilson, director of the Sub-Saharan African Program, arranged sessions in Washington, Chicago,

and New York, where the PUST officials met with representatives from several member societies of the Consortium of Affiliates for International Programs (CAIP): the American Chemical Society, the American Medical Association, the American Nuclear Society, the American Physical Society, the American Society for Microbiology, the American Sociological Association, and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. Ayensu and Makany also visited the National Academy of Sciences, the African Development Foundation, and the American Association of Engineering Societies. While in Chicago they met with Walter Massey, AAAS president, and vice president, University of Chicago.

■ Journal distribution program

As part of the sub-Saharan African activities, the AAAS Journal Distribution Program, funded by Carnegie Corporation of New York, provides current subscriptions to U.S. scientific and engineering journals to sub-Saharan African universities and research institutes. These journals, which number the most prestigious in the United States, are published by AAAS affiliates and are made available by the publishers at little, if any, cost (see *Science*, 6 November 1987, page 815).

In February–March of this year, Lisbeth Levey, program coordinator, traveled to Nigeria, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, and Senegal to meet with university representatives and government of-

ficials to discuss coordination of the program in each of these countries.

In tours of the library facilities and conversations with university administrators and faculty, it became apparent that the journal distribution program will be of great benefit to researchers and scholars who have been without access to recently published materials for several years. With few exceptions, journal subscriptions ceased in the early 1980's when foreign currency allocations began declining or were eliminated entirely. For example, the University of Ibadan, which was founded in 1948 as an affiliate of the University of London and upgraded to an independent university in 1962, is Nigeria's oldest university. The most recent science journals on display in the library's current periodicals section were over 2 years old.

One of the goals of the Journal Distribution Program is to establish partnerships with African institutions that can be sustained over the longer term. Relevant organizations in sub-Saharan Africa have been collaborators since the outset. Their recommendations will be invaluable in ensuring an optimal fit between African institutions and U.S. scientific materials. To supplement this, the AAAS recently established a small advisory group, chaired by David Wiley, director of the African Studies Center at Michigan State University. This committee is composed of specialists in African studies and scientists with familiarity about research conditions in the countries involved.

Nevertheless, allocating journals among competing institutions will be difficult, for only a finite number of each journal is available. For example, there are 26 federal and state universities in Nigeria alone, a country that constitutes 25 percent of the population of Africa. Typically societies donate between 10 and 90 subscriptions, depending on the size of the society and the breadth of interest in the particular discipline.

As the program grows, cost-

sharing by the recipients is expected to evolve gradually. Recipient institutions will be asked to pay in local currency a portion of the in-country expenses incurred. The funds thus generated will be used to finance activities in Africa in collaboration with the U.S. societies that publish the journals. These include meetings, publications, or hosting U.S. guest lecturers.

For further information on sub-Saharan African initiatives, contact the Office of International Science at the AAAS address.

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Forum to Focus on Science Teaching

The fourth annual AAAS Forum on School Science will take place in Washington, D.C., this fall.

During a 1½-day meeting, "Forum '88: Science Teaching" will examine factors affecting the teaching of science in kindergarten through high school (grades K to 12) throughout the country. Issues and topics to be discussed will include the science education of science teachers, quality science teaching and its importance to the scientific community, and the need for science literacy in shaping tomorrow's work force.

The Forum will be held on Friday and Saturday, 7 and 8 October 1988, at the Twin Bridges Marriott in Arlington, Virginia, just outside Washington.

In the past 3 years over 1000 people have attended the Forum meeting. Approximately one-third of these are scientists—including practicing scientists and scientists responsible for teaching science in postsecondary institutions. All AAAS members are encouraged to participate in the Forum project.

In addition to the annual meeting, the Forum project, supported in part by a grant from Carnegie Corporation of