

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

New York, produces an annual publication which provides information on critical issues in school science. The 1988 Forum publication, *This Year in School Science*, will focus on topics and issues related to science teaching and will be published prior to the Forum meeting.

For more information about the meeting or *This Year in School Science*, please write AAAS Forum for School Science at the AAAS address or call 202-326-6629. Program information and registration forms will appear in the 2 September 1988 issue of *Science*.

Pacific Division Meets in Corvallis, 18 to 22 June

The deadline for preregistration at the annual Pacific Division meeting, which will be held this year on the campus of Oregon State University in Corvallis, is 1 June 1988.

The program symposia include those on stability and chaos in neural network learning, the politics of science, clarity of Crater Lake, endangered plant species of the Northwest, science and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, and volcanic soils.

Among the special lectures will be those by Robert I. Bowman on Darwin's finches revisited, Charles D. Laird on the applications of basic research to human biology, and the address by Division President Orrin E. Smith.

The national AAAS Office of Communications is sponsoring a 1-day workshop on communicating about science. Preregistration for this workshop is *required* and registration is limited. In addition, the meeting will feature a workshop on presenting evolution to the public.

A particular benefit of meeting in Corvallis can be noted in the field trips available; they include trips to the Willamette Valley and Columbia River Gorge, as well as trips to the slopes of the Cascade Mountain

range to observe wild flowers, volcanic landscape and soils, and vegetation.

For further information on the Pacific Division Annual Meeting, including registration information, contact Alan E. Leviton, Executive Director, AAAS Pacific Division, c/o California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, California 94118, or call 415-752-1554.

Call for Nominations

Submission of entries in the 1989 selection of the AAAS Award for Scientific Freedom and Responsibility is invited.

The AAAS Award recognizes scientists and engineers who have:

- Acted to protect the public's health, safety, or welfare; or
- Focused public attention on important potential impacts of science and technology on society by their responsible participation in public policy debates; or

- Established important new precedents in carrying out the social responsibilities or in defending the professional freedoms of scientists and engineers.

The award consists of a plaque and honorarium, which are presented to the recipient at the AAAS Annual Meeting. Nomination forms may be obtained from the Office of Scientific Freedom and Responsibility at the AAAS address. The deadline for nominations is 31 July 1988.

Reminder for Members

If you recently received a promotional mailing from the Association please accept our apologies.

Please keep in mind that the Membership Office does its best to screen current members from the mailing lists we use. However, if there is any variation in

name or address, duplications will not be caught during the computer merge/purge. If you received one of our mailings, please return it with a recent label from *Science*. Also, include a listing of any other addresses, names, or spellings of your name by which you may be listed elsewhere. Send this information to: Gwen Huddle, Membership Office, Room 1151, at the AAAS address. We will place your name on an additional suppression file so that you will not get future direct mail promotions.

This information is for internal use only.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Regional Seminar Focuses on Caribbean Science and Technology

Eighty scientists and engineers from 25 countries came together last December for the Caribbean Regional Seminar on the Role of Scientific and Engineering Societies in Development in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

As part of an ongoing process of mobilizing scientific and engineering societies worldwide in support of science and technology in development, the Seminar examined the current status of scientific and engineering societies and related institutions in the Caribbean; identified ways in which existing societies could be strengthened; considered ways in which those societies could apply their capabilities to address problems of development in the Caribbean; and developed plans for implementing recommendations related to pilot projects and other follow-on activities.

The Seminar offered the following recommendations.

- Existing scientific and engineering societies in the Caribbean should be strengthened and, where appropriate, new societies should be initiated.

Secretariats and staff can be of

special importance. They need to increase and broaden their memberships and to take part in the promotion of new national and regional societies, while acknowledging that meeting the specific needs of small islands is a particularly challenging task.

Nongovernmental Caribbean-wide organizations can be of great importance as well, especially for purposes of information exchange, networking, and science popularization. Convening an area-wide meeting to evaluate options in this regard was a recommended first step.

- Communications and information exchange should be improved among Caribbean scientific and engineering communities.

Scientific and engineering societies should take the lead in coordinating collaborative efforts to secure access to information and to enhance its flow while dealing with the distinctive geographical, linguistic, political, and cultural differences in the Caribbean region.

- Scientific and engineering societies should play a leading role in education and training for the Caribbean.

By establishing linkages societies can influence education and training by organizing short courses to increase the relevance of education and training to meet development needs, promoting a variety of out-of-school activities at a regional level; and popularizing science and technology by producing popular journals and programs for radio and television.

- Caribbean scientific and engineering societies should have as a priority the identification and documentation of the human and institutional resources of the region.

- Scientific and engineering societies within the region should identify, work with, and help support regional institutes of environmental sciences to solve the fundamental environmental challenges in the Caribbean.

Currently, some islands support sophisticated environmental science programs while oth-