

ANNEX 5**Narrative Progress Report****Report period** Jan-June 2007**Contract Ref. No.** GR/5062/4-12/08**Organisation** ISSER**Contact Tel. No.** 512506**Report Date** 31 July 2007 _____**Report Prepared by** Prof Clement Ahiadeke
Signature & date**Report Approved by** Prof. Ernest Aryeetey
Signature & date

70714

*Please do not write in green coloured sections; refer to notes at last page for explanations***1. National pro-poor policies****What do you think were the most important changes in pro-poor government policies in the last six months? What were the main causes? What contribution did your organisation make to any of these changes?**

Two items that stand out clearly as changes in pro-poor government policies are the (1) national youth employment programme and (2) the entry into force of the compact for the Millennium Challenge Account. The youth employment programme is a consequence of the growing unemployment in the towns and villages of Ghana resulting in major migration to Accra and other large centres. It has been obvious that the human capital formation goals of the Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy would not be achieved if there was no major effort to create employment opportunities for young people.

On the Millennium Challenge Account, the focus on the modernization of agriculture by making it more businesslike has been a major aspect of the government's pursuit of the private sector as the engine of growth. The MCA has been designed to complement the GPRS by offering an opportunity to transform the lives of 60,000 farmers in 23 districts.

ISSER has been involved directly in the evolution of the MCA interventions and will be involved in the design and implementation of the monitoring and evaluation component of the programme. ISSER researchers took part in the analysis of the rates of return on various planned interventions. The Director of ISSER was a member of the Technical Committee at the initial stages that made first proposals for the use of MCA funds. ISSER is currently working with Ghana Statistical Service in assembling data for monitoring and impact assessment.

2. Public image**How has the credibility and legitimacy of RAOs changed in the eyes of GoG and the Ghana public? What is your interpretation? Is there a reference to this evidence of change?**

The way RAOs are viewed by the government is something that continues to evolve and varies extensively by RAO. The Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning is showing greater awareness of the role of RAOs and this is reflected by the invitations to attend the Consultative Group meetings with development partners. The list of participating RAOs is growing year after year. While this may be happening, it is still not clear how the views of the RAOs influence both GoG and the development partners.

The public sometimes tends to be wary of the role of RAOs in development. They associate RAOs with endless workshops that do not necessarily lead to policy changes, but this perception also varies by the different publics that RAOs interact with. There are RAOs that are perceived to be very active in public debates and others that are less so. There are some that are seen to be influential and others that are not.

ISSER's image in the public eye has been enhanced by its winning of a Gold Award at the Golden Jubilee Business and Financial Services Excellence Awards event held under the auspices of the Ministry of Trade, Industry, Private Sector and President's Special Initiatives. The award was presented to ISSER at an awards night event held at the International Conference Centre on 30 July 2007, and it is the most public expression of the high regard that the public has for the institution and an acknowledgement of its contribution to national development.

3. Collaboration, coalitions and networking

Using the format below, list the most important organisations you collaborated with over the period, under each of the sectors listed below. For each organisation, give an indication of the issues or themes you worked on, its status and the outcomes.

	Organisation or coalition	Policy issue / theme / nature Starting / ongoing / ending	Outcome
Government - executive - judiciary - legislature	National Development Planning Commission	Preparation of the Long Term Development Plan; on-going	Draft documents are being discussed with different stakeholders
	Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning	National budget 2008; on-going	Memorandum submitted by ISSER
	Ministry of Trade, Industry, Private Sector and PSI	National Industrial Policy; on-going	Participation in national consultations
	Land Administration Project	Organization of Regional Land Forum for land reforms; on-going	10 regional consultations facilitated by ISSER
	Lands Commission	Land Tenure and Land Policy Reform; completed	Joint organization of dissemination workshops
	Bank of Ghana	Support for small enterprise development; completed	Preparation of report on the financing of small enterprises
	Energy Commission	National consultation on Electric System Planning; on-going	Participation by ISSER researchers
	PURC	Resource Centre for Energy Economics and Regulation; on-going	Collaboration between ISSER researchers and PURC and other energy sector agencies
Coalition, network			

RAO, NGO, I-NGO	CDD	Seminars and workshops	ISSER staff attended 4 seminars
	IDEG	Seminars and workshops	ISSER staff attended 1 workshop
	IFPRI	Collaboration on econometric model building; on-going	3 ISSER researchers completed draft reports
	Ford Foundation	Study of sexuality in West Africa; on-going	Draft reports completed
	ACBF	Support for Economy of Ghana Network	Website in place; e-discussions
	AERC	Institutional support grant for conference participation and short courses by young researchers	2 young researchers have attended short courses abroad
Donor institution	DFID	Project on Social Exclusion; on-going	4 researchers are working on a report
	World Bank	Country Economic Memorandum; on-going	ISSER researchers were made discussants on three documents
	GTZ	Survey of Energy Demand and Use in the Wood Industry; completed	Research report
	UNDP	National and District Human Development; on-going	Draft reports submitted
	FES	Think-tank on decentralization; on-going	MOU signed for collaboration
	UNAIDS	Study of national expenditures on AIDS programmes; completed	Report submitted
	USAID	Land tenure and land policy reform; on-going	20 research reports completed
CBO/DA (please indicate district)	Awutu-Efutu Senya DA, Ga West DA, Ashiedu Keteke Sub-Metro Assembly	Study areas for graduate work in development studies	24 graduate dissertations have been completed
Other	Merchant Bank Ghana Ltd	ISSER-Merchant Bank Development Seminars	12 seminars held between January and June 2007

4. Outputs on research and advocacy products and/or services delivered

List the outputs as you have presented in the Workplan submitted to G-RAP.

Make sure that you:

- Indicate estimated levels of completion per output
- Indicate target groups that used / received the output delivered
- Attach copy of concept paper per output
- Attach copy of product output

1. Staff salaries enhanced with bridging support	50% complete
2. Development costs at library	30% complete
3. Printing, design and photocopying	50% complete
4. Advertising, publicity and recruitment	50% complete
5. Publications and training materials	50% complete (SGER to be launched in September, copy of cover of technical pub. attached)

5. Organisation: evidence of significant progress / change

What are major changes in the organisation's circumstances that are likely to have impacted your outputs over the period?

- Organisational structure / board / management team
- Strategy / planning / decision making / knowledge management
- Human resource issues
- Marketing / communication / public relations

1. There was no change in the organizational structure in the first half of the year. The Deputy Director took a one-year sabbatical leave and was replaced by the Head of the Social Division. This is unlikely to affect the institution. The Head of the Economics Division also took a sabbatical leave and was replaced by a senior research fellow. Again this is unlikely to affect the institute.

2. There has been no major change in strategy. Decision-making continues to be very decentralized and participatory with the internal management team

3. There was no recruitment of new staff in the period. Six persons are still outside pursuing Ph.D programmes.

4. The publication of the annual report and a newsletter (both expected to be out in August) has been the major marketing activity in the first half of 2007. The advertisement of the bi-weekly development seminars in the national dailies projected the image of ISSER immeasurably.

The main evidence of significant progress at ISSER remains the number of publications in print (20), and the number of regular and development seminars delivered (23).

6. Grant and report related issues

6.1 What issues you wish to raise relating to the Grant or to G-RAP management?

None

6.2 What parts of the report are confidential or cannot be shared without prior consent?

None