REPORT ON THE WORKSHOP OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EXPERTS FROM AACB MEMBER CENTRAL BANKS

(Dakar, October 13-14, 2003)

I. INTRODUCTION

The workshop of Information Technology Experts from the Association of African Central Banks (AACB) approved by the Assembly of Governors during its August 19, 2003 ordinary meeting in Kampala, was held in Dakar, Senegal, on October 13-14, 2003. The objective of the meeting was for the experts to facilitate ways and means for the operationalisation of the AACB's Website.

II. ATTENDANCE

The following Central Banks participated in the workshop:

- Banque des Etats de l'Afrique Centrale (BEAC);
- Banque Centrale des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (BCEAO);
- Central Bank of Kenya;
- Central Bank of Nigeria;
- Bank of Sierra Leone;
- Bank of Uganda.

The AACB Secretariat and "GENESIS Ingénierie" company[1] also participated in the workshop.

The Bank of Botswana, Central Bank of Egypt and South African Reserve Bank, did not attend the workshop.

The list of participants is attached to this report.

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[1] AACB website project manager

III. OPENING SESSION

At the request of the AACB Chairperson, the meeting was chaired by the Executive Secretary of the Association, on behalf of the Bank of Uganda.

In his welcome address, the acting Chairperson highlighted the importance of the workshop which he said was convened to map out strategies for the operationalisation of the AACB's website so as to develop synergy between member Central Banks and AACB sub-regions. He informed participants that the Board of Governors had agreed that the website should serve as a means for exchanging information between member Central Banks and also as a data base for statistical and descriptive information on the activities of member Central Banks and AACB sub-regions.

He therefore invited participants to agree on simple and practical proposals aimed at facilitating the setting up of the site.

IV. AGENDA

The workshop adopted the agenda as presented:

A. *OPENING SESSION*

1. *Welcoming address by the Executive Secretary of the AACB*
2. *Opening address by the Representative of the Bank of Uganda, Chairperson of the Session*

B. *ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA*

1. *Consideration of the content of the AACB's Website and setting up of the procedure of data transmission to the Secretariat.*

2. *Consideration of ways and means for the connection with the sites of AACB member Central Banks*

3. *Any other business*

C. *CLOSING SESSION*

V.   CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEMS

The workshop considered the content of the AACB's Website and the setting up of the procedure of data transmission to the Secretariat.

A.   CONTENT OF THE AACB's WEBSITE

The company "GENESIS Ingénierie" made a presentation of the proposed AACB website.

The meeting deliberated on the presentation and the following observations and recommendations were made:

1. Language and translation issues

The meeting observed that there are two websites on which information are not simultaneously published in the two official working languages (French and English).

It was therefore, proposed that Central Banks be urged to translate their articles into the second language as well. However, where necessary, the Secretariat should be empowered to translate the summary of some articles considered of particular interest to all Central Banks.

2. AACB Site address

The meeting noted that two domain names have been registered:

- www.aacb.int
- www.abca.int

The meeting further noted that the two addresses lead to two different homepages, one in French and the other in English.

The meeting therefore proposed that the two addresses should lead to the same homepage, which must use the two official working languages of the Association.

3. Archiving

The meeting observed that there is no facility for the archiving of articles.

It was proposed that a section for on-line archives should be created. Information should be archived for five years. However, it was noted that due to their nature, certain information should stay indefinitely on the site.

4. Information formatting:

The workshop noted that information provided by member Central Banks should be in pure text format. Therefore, information will not require any further processing by the Secretariat.

B. PROCEDURES FOR INFORMATION TRANSMISSION

1. Administration

Given the lean structure of the Secretariat, the workshop proposed that each Central Bank would have one Administrator (Local Administrator) while a General Administrator will be at the Secretariat.

2. Responsibilities

The General Administrator will be responsible for general site maintenance as well as updating the site with AACB information. Individual Central Banks will designate their respective (local) Administrators who will be responsible for the posting of information on the AACB's website according to the list of information approved by the Governors.

The Central Bank assuming the chairpersonship of the AACB sub-regional committee would be in charge of collecting information on convergence criteria as a follow up to the implementation of monetary co-operation programme and progress reports on the sub-region, in collaboration with sub-regional integration institutions. The homepage should include a disclaimer.

3. Frequency of Data

The experts agreed that for the operationalisation of the AACB's Website by early 2004, each Central Bank would have to provide the latest information in its possession according to agreed terms of reference of the Website. In this process, information should be provided on a monthly, quarterly, half-yearly and yearly basis.

4. Notification

The local Administrator should inform the Secretariat by e-mail as soon as the information is published. It was however proposed that, provision should eventually be made in the system for the automatic generation of e-mail to the General Administrator after publication of each article. As a control measure, it was proposed that information should be normally delayed for about three days to allow for eventual amendments or corrections before going on-line.

C. WAYS AND MEANS FOR THE CONNECTION WITH THE SITES OF AACB MEMBER CENTRAL BANKS

In connection with the proposals made in paragraph B above about the transmission of data from Central Banks to AACB Secretariat, the workshop did not consider it necessary to provide for connection to the sites of AACB member Central Banks.

Security

From the presentation, it is agreed that in order to update the website, Administrators will use a username and password on a secure protocol.

VI. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A. PROMOTION OF THE SITE

As there was no provision for the promotion of the site, the workshop proposed that it should be registered on Internet search engines and advertised in the print media and through mailing.

The website address should also be reflected on the official stationery of AACB.
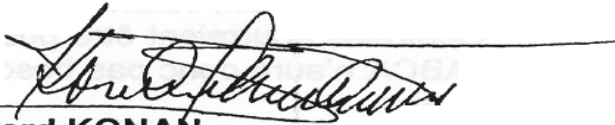
B. TRAINING

The meeting noted that in order to facilitate the implementation of the website by early 2004, there was an urgent need for the Secretariat to organise a training programme for Administrators and Editors before the end of the year 2003.

C. MAINTENANCE

The workshop proposed that maintenance of the website should be handled by the General Administrator.

Done in Dakar on October 28, 2003

Bernard KONAN
AACB Executive Secretary
Acting Chairperson of the workshop

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FROM AACB MEMBER CENTRAL BANKS**
(DAKAR, OCTOBER 13-14, 2003)

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1	Mr Sita Ouedraogo	BCEAO
2	Mr El Hadji Ndiogou DIOUF	BCEAO
3	M. Sambani FALL	BCEAO
4	M. Ngabo Seli MBOGO	BEAC
5	Mr Alain NGON	BEAC
6	Mr Walter ONYINO	Central Bank of Kenya
7	Mr. C. Miller	Central Bank of Nigeria
8	Mr. Y. A. BELLO	Central Bank of Nigeria
9	Ms. Fatima MANSARAY	Bank of Sierra Leone
10	Mr Sheikh R. KAMARA	Bank of Sierra Leone
11	Mr. R. F. MAYEBO	Central Bank of Uganda
12	Mr. Ali MARROUN	Genesis
13	Mr Bernard KONAN	AACB
14	Mr. Albert BAH	AACB
15	Mr Mamadou SEYE	AACB
16	Mrs. Kadidiatou BALDE	AACB