

# CERAPE NEWSLETTER

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Box 15031 Brazzaville Congo.

Head office: 542, Sounda Street, Plateau des 15 ans, Moungali, Brazzaville.

Tel: (242) 05 576 08 52 / 06 661 03 20 E-mail: [cerape\\_congo@yahoo.fr](mailto:cerape_congo@yahoo.fr)

## INTERVIEW ON THE CODESRIA'S BOOK BY Pr ELIKIA MBOKOLO "Rethinking the African Economies for development"

On Monday September 19, 2011, the internationally renowned historian of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Pr Elikia Mbokolo, was at the head office of CERAPE to conduct an interview with Dr. Jean-Christophe Bounou Bazika, co-editor of the book "*Rethinking the African Economies for Development*" and Executive Director of CERAPE. This interview was carried out within the framework of the very popular radio program "Memory of a continent" diffused each Saturday and Sunday by Radio France International (RFI). We reproduce below some principal ideas discussed during the interview.

**Q:** Can you present CERAPE briefly?

**A:** CERAPE is an association of about thirty researchers who have voluntarily come together to undertake research on economic and social issues. The aim is to produce and diffuse the research results to stakeholders so as to assist them to improve the performance of the policies in the public and private sectors. Indeed, young researchers at CERAPE and even younger people have agreed to share their experience and knowledge.

**Q:** Can you present us the book?

**A :** The book "Rethinking the African Economies for the Development" that I have edited with Naciri Bensaghir, Moroccan researcher of Casablanca University, is the outcome of the contributions submitted to the 11th General Assembly of CODESRIA held in Maputo (Mozambique) in 2005. This meeting is one of the most important assembly of CODESRIA and is organized once every 3 years. Near 400 researchers from Africa and the Diaspora took part at the conference. The papers developed in this book examine three fundamental questions: the role of the State in the development, the industrialization of Africa and the financing of the development of African economies.

**Q:** Many things have been said about the State and we think that the State has no more role to play. It's the private sector which should play an important role and contribute to development. What do you think about that?

**A:** On this question, the book shows that there are two essential actors in the development of African economies: the State and private enterprise. The State must create a conducive environment on the institutional and regulatory

levels, in the area of road infrastructures, the distribution network of water and electricity, in the field of human resources training, research and innovation. The enterprise is the principal force of creation of wealth. That is the main reason why the State must support national entrepreneurship and ensure them the adequate conditions for undertaking its mission.

**Q:** Is Regional integration still an important topic in Africa?

**A.** Absolutely, it is a question of taking account of African specificities and not transplanting mechanically the European experience in Africa. In the book, there is an interesting chapter written by A. Bwenge which treats the Economic Community of the *Great Lakes Countries* (ECGLC). The author shows that to advance economic integration in this area, it is necessary for the States to think about the mechanisms contributing to political stability of this area.



**Q:** You have mentioned the industrialization issue in Africa. What could you say about the APNI?

**A.** Industrial Association of Pointe-Noire (APNI) examined in one of the chapters of this book by J. Bigala is an innovating experience in Pointe-Noire in the Republic of Congo. If we look at the South-East Asian countries, we observe that the large and the small and medium enterprises (SME) have closed links. In Africa, the situation is the reverse. APNI tries to address this gap. Its goal is to create a

network between the large enterprise, the small and medium enterprise and the State in order to bring a support in the field of the management and the financing of the SME.

**Organization of six methodological workshops by CERAPE.** CERAPE organized in July 2011 at its head office, six methodological workshops in order to prepare the participation of the senior and young researchers in the various international activities of research.

Indeed, CODESRIA will organize in December 2011 its 13th General Assembly in Rabat (Morocco) on the topic relating to the challenges of development in Africa. As usually, CERAPE researchers have mobilized themselves in order to take part in this important scientific event of the African continent, which occurs once every three years bringing together hundreds of researchers coming from the African continent and the Diaspora.

TRUSTAFRICA, a Pan African institution of research recently launched a vast research program on the theme: Entrepreneurship and the business climate in Africa. CERAPE researchers have developed their strategic plan 2008-2012 that was adopted at the 6th General Assembly. Entrepreneurship is a main axis of research. Thus, more than one score of researchers were mobilized and took part in these various workshops.

They presented nearly 20 proposals of articles and 8 research proposals in the objective to receive the comments and the suggestions of the participants and increase the chances to be selected on a competitive basis.

**Meeting of the Steering committee of the program on the women contractors ACCESS of the ITC to Brazzaville.** The International Trade Centre (ITC), an institution of the United Nations based in Geneva supported an important training program for African women entrepreneurs. The steering committee of the training program ACCESS, which CERAPE is member met on Saturday June 25, 2011 at the office of the Forum of the Young Enterprises. Constant Makouezi, member of the CERAPE Secretariat took part to this training. The agenda of this steering committee concerned the organization of the first training for export of the Congolese women entrepreneurs.

**5th international days of microfinance in Brazzaville.** The Faculty of Economic Sciences, the High Institute of Management (Congo) in collaboration with the Universities of Orleans and Rouen (France) organized the 5th international days of microfinance in Brazzaville. Several papers of CERAPE researchers were presented to this activity. They are the following: "Micro credit and small entrepreneurship: an analysis by the game theory" (Boungou Bazika J.C. and Balongana CH.); "Microfinance of transfer and ITC" (Nkouika G., Miyouna R. and Bibila N.); "Governance and viability of the microfinance in Congo" (Balongana Ch.); "The institutional framework of the microfinance in the CEMAC area" (Miyouna R.). The meeting was opened by the Vice-chancellor of Marien

Nguouabi University. Researchers of Congo, Cameroon, France, DRC, took part in this activity.

### **CODESRIA Institute on Health, Politics and Society in Dakar**



One young CERAPE researcher, Appoline Manguengo, was a laureate at the Institute on Health, Politics and Society in Africa

organized in February 2011 in Dakar by CODESRIA. She presented a research proposal untitled "Stigmatization and discrimination of HIV and poverty in Congo Brazzaville: an analysis on the DHS data basis". There were participants from Cameroon, Kenya, DRC, etc.

### **Research seminar of BEAC in Douala (Cameroon).**

The Bank of the States of Central Africa (BEAC) organized from May 23 to 27 2011 in Douala (Cameroon) a seminar on the theme of the establishment of a framework of cooperation between the BEAC, the universities and the research centers of the CEMAC area. The seminar was opened by the Director of Research of the BEAC. Several papers relating to the organization of research were presented and followed by discussions. One noted the participation of most deans of the Faculties of Economics and the directors of the research centers from Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, RCA, Chad and Equatorial Guinea. Also, institutions like the BCEAO and the Cheick Anta Diop University attended to the seminar. During this seminar, Pr Herve Diata represented the Faculty of the Economics of Marien Nguouabi University and Dr. Jean-Christophe Boungou Bazika, represented CERAPE.

### **Publication of the report of AERC seminar on the natural resources management in Sub-Saharan Africa.**

CERAPE has just published a document on AERC senior seminar held in Maputo (Mozambique) in April 2011. This document is diffused massively to the ministries, the international institutions and the private sector and civil society.

**Nomination.** By presidential decret n° 2011-592 of September 21<sup>st</sup> 2011, Dr Jean-Christophe Boungou Bazika, executive director of CERAPE has been nominated Director of Centre of research on social and human sciences in the Ministry of Research in Congo. CERAPE researchers congratulated and wish him great success in his new job.

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