

INVITATION to PUBLIC LECTURES

7th and 8th September 2010

The systems of innovation approach to economic analysis and planning is increasingly being recognised as a more suitable, adaptable and useful approaches to development planning. Africa however has a marked lack of expertise in this critical competency, both within universities and those public sector organs which are directly involved in the formulation and implementation of processes which directly affect the evolution of national systems of innovation. Unless redressed, the lack of widespread capabilities with high-level capacities will significantly reduce the ability of individual countries to design coherent and effective development plans and for the region to move towards the goal of economic integration, development and growth.

The Institute for Economic Research of Innovation (IERI) of Tshwane University of Technology and the Maastricht Economic Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT) of the United Nations University and Maastricht University are working in partnership to address the need for more relevant and useful empirical competencies in both the public sector and the higher education sector. They are currently promoting and managing doctoral research grants and institutional research projects that focus on science, technology and innovation (STI) indicators across a number of countries in Southern Africa and Senegal as a means of addressing a pivotal aspect of innovation theory and its relevance to the development process.

As part of this international multilateral cooperation which is supported by a grant from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), IERI and UNU-MERIT will be hosting a training workshop between the 7th and 9th of September 2010. The facilitators for the week include: Professors Martin Bell, Fred Gault, Mike Kahn, Rasigan Maharajh, Mammo Muchie, Mario Scerri and Watu Wamae. We are especially excited to be able to extend an invitation to you to join us for two public lectures with the following details:

	Tuesday, 7 th September 2010	Wednesday, 8 th September 2010
17h00	Registration	
17h15 Public Lectures	The Role of Design and Engineering in African Innovation Systems-building	The OECD Innovation Strategy and its Relevance to Development
	Professor Martin Bell	Professor Fred Gault
18h15	Reception & Food by 18 th Avenue Artisan Bakery and Café	
18h45	Adjournment	
Venue	IERI, Ground Floor, Metro Skinner Campus 159 Skinner Street, Pretoria CBD, 0001, City of Tshwane, Gauteng.	

Répondez S'il Vous Plaît or Please Respond to this invitation by Friday, 3rd September 2010 to secure your place at the public lectures. For more details, please contact: Ms Elsa Lourens, @ Telephone: 012 382 3073, Facsimile: 012 382 3071, Mobile: 083 414 2087 and email: ierisecretary@tut.ac.za.

Additional information is also available at www.ieri.org.za.

Brief Biographical Notes

Martin Bell

Martin Bell is Emeritus Professor at SPRU - Science and Technology Policy, University of Sussex. He was originally trained as an historian and economist, and joined SPRU in 1968, working originally on technical change in the UK engineering industry. Subsequently his research and consultancy interests have been concerned with the development of scientific and technological capabilities in Asia, Latin America and Africa - addressing such issues as: the emergence of sectoral and national innovation systems; the evolution of cluster knowledge systems; the management of technology in firms, especially in relation to imported technology; and the technological role of MNEs in host economies. He has published widely on these issues and is currently one of the Editors of the journal *Research Policy*. He has contributed extensively to SPRU MSc and DPhil teaching, and was the SPRU Director of Graduate Studies from 1997 to 2003.

He has undertaken numerous consultancy and advisory projects for international agencies and national governments. The former have included the World Bank, The European Commission, The US National Academy of Sciences, The International Development Research Centre of Canada, UNIDO, UNCTAD and the OECD. The latter have included Brazil, Indonesia, Malaysia, South Africa and Thailand. Many of these projects have been concerned with aspects of the development of innovation systems, and his current interests centre on the long-term evolution of innovation systems in developing countries and its implications for the structural diversification of their economies. Together with Eric Arnold, he was the author of the (2007) *Review of South Africa's National Innovation System*, Report for OECD, Technopolis, Brighton.

Fred Gault

Fred Gault is a Professor Extraordinaire at the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) in South Africa and a member of the TUT Institute for Economic Research on Innovation (IERI). Since July 2009 he has been is a Professorial Fellow at UNU-MERIT in the Netherlands. Fred was previously a Visiting Fellow at the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Ottawa and also worked on the OECD Innovation Strategy, released in May 2010. Until April 2008, he was at Statistics Canada as the Director of the division responsible for the development of statistics on all aspects of research, development, invention, innovation and the diffusion of technologies, as well as on related human resources. He was responsible for the development of statistics on telecommunications and broadcasting, Internet use, and electronic commerce. He was Chair of the OECD Working Party of National Experts on Science and Technology Indicators (NESTI) (2002 – 2008) and of the Working Party on Indicators for the Information Society (WPIIS) (1997 – 2002).

His principal interest over the last twenty-five years has been the development and the use of statistical indicators in support of the policy process, particularly in the area of innovation. More recently, he has contributed to the innovation and R&D survey work co-ordinated by the Office of Science and Technology of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). At UNU MERIT, Prof Gault co-ordinates case studies work on innovation in a selection of African countries. His most recent book, *Innovation Strategies for the Global Economy*, was published jointly by Edward Elgar and the IDRC in 2010



Innovation Strategies for a Global Economy

Development, Implementation, Measurement and Management

Fred Gault, Professorial Fellow, UNU MERIT, The Netherlands, Professor Extraordinaire and Member of the TUT Institute for Economic Research on Innovation (IERI), Tshwane University of Technology (TUT), South Africa

Innovation provides a path to sustainable growth but a strategy for innovation in a global economy is no longer national. Countries must attract people and investment from abroad and participate in world markets and institutions. This book starts with the language and system framework used to discuss innovation, and the statistical indicators needed to describe the activity. It then looks at innovation strategies, their components and their management before proposing directions for new work in developed and developing countries.

July 2010 c 256 pp Hardback 978 1 84980 036 5 c £69.95

A co-publication with Canada's International Development Research Centre (www.idrc.ca)



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Innovation and the Development Agenda

Edited by Erika Kraemer-Mbula and Watu Wamae

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Innovation drives long-term economic growth. It has a crucial role to play as global economies recover from the current financial crisis. This book examines the role of innovation in developing countries, with a focus on Africa. It investigates innovation systems and their application; the key role of knowledge in innovation for development; and the importance of comparable country studies and official statistics on innovation. It stresses the need for innovation to become part of a comprehensive development agenda, and makes recommendations for promoting activities in both the formal and informal sectors, with the aim of transforming agriculture into a knowledge-based industry capable of stimulating economic growth.

Innovation and the Development Agenda is an important component of the overall OECD Innovation Strategy, which seeks to create stronger and more sustainable growth, while addressing the key global challenges of the 21st century. It is also part of the Innovation, Technology, and Society programme of IDRC. For more information about the OECD Innovation Strategy, see

www.oecd.org/innovation/strategy. For more information on IDRC programmes see www.idrc.ca.

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OECD *Innovation Strategy*

