

Inaugural seminar focuses on economic reform, governance, and capacity building

The inaugural seminar of the Joint Africa Institute (JAI), which was established by the African Development Bank (AfDB), the IMF, and the World Bank, was held on November 2–3 in Abidjan (see IMF Survey, May 10, page 144). The seminar focused on economic reform, governance, and capacity building in Africa. Participants included ministers and governors, senior government officials, academics, directors of regional training institutes, staff of multilateral institutions, and journalists. There was widespread praise for the establishment of the JAI.

In his opening remarks, Omar Kabbaj, President of the AfDB, welcomed the increased collaboration on training in Africa between the three founding institutions. IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus, in his address delivered via videotape, highlighted the IMF's increased emphasis on poverty alleviation and high-quality growth, and referred to the JAI as "a new milestone in the enhancement of economic and financial training opportunities in Africa." Vinod Thomas, Director of the World Bank Institute, who spoke on behalf of World Bank President James Wolfensohn, stressed the complementarities that the three institu-

tions would bring to capacity building in Africa through the JAI. The inaugural ceremony was presided over by Côte d'Ivoire's Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan, who underscored his country's commitment to capacity building and his support for the JAI.

Role of the state and stabilization

The first session, chaired by Côte d'Ivoire's Minister of Planning Tidjane Thiam, reviewed the changing role of the African state. The speakers (Henock Kifléoff of the AfDB, George Abed of the IMF's Fiscal Affairs Department, and Vinod Thomas), emphasized that the state's new role must include ensuring peace and macroeconomic stability, providing and enforcing political



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News Briefs

- 99/75: IMF Completes Review and Approves \$30 Million Credit Tranche for Ghana
- 99/76: IMF Announces Conclusion of Staff Negotiations with Turkey
- 99/77: IMF Completes Brazil Review and Approves Next Credit Tranche
- 99/79: Features and Conditions of Use of the IMF's Y2K Facility
- 99/80: IMF Appoints External Audit Firm, Names New External Audit Committee
- 99/82: IMF Completes PRGF Review for Honduras and Approves \$22.5 Million Disbursement

Public Information Notices (PINs)

- 99/106: Antigua and Barbuda, November 23
- 99/107: Palau, November 24
- 99/109: Lao P.D.R., December 2
- 99/110: Rwanda, December 6
- 99/111: Ghana, December 7

Letters of Intent and Memorandums of Economic and Financial Policies

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|------------------------|---------------------|
| Rwanda, November 2 | Brazil, November 12 |
| Ghana, November 3 | Korea, November 24 |
| The Gambia, November 8 | |

Policy Framework Papers

- Rwanda, November 4
- The Gambia, November 8
- Concluding Remarks for Article IV Consultations**
- Switzerland, November 14
- Canada, November 16
- United Kingdom, November 24

Notes: PINs are IMF Executive Board assessments of members' economic prospects and policies. They are issued following Article IV consultations—with the consent of the member—with background on the members' economies and following policy discussions in the Executive Board at the decision of the Board.

Letters of Intent and Memorandums of Economic and Financial Policies are prepared by member countries and describe the policies that the country intends to implement in the context of its request for financial support from the IMF.

Policy Framework Papers are prepared by the member country in collaboration with the staffs of the IMF and the World Bank. These documents, which are updated annually, describe the authorities' economic objectives and macroeconomic and structural policies for three-year adjustment programs supported by Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility resources.

Concluding Remarks for Article IV Consultations. At the conclusion of annual Article IV discussions with the authorities, and prior to the preparation of the staff report to the Executive Board, IMF missions often provide the authorities with a statement of their preliminary findings.