

ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES

Research and Publication on

The African Experience with Higher Education

Grant Number: GA A1 9220

Final Narrative Report

This study was commissioned to mark the 25th anniversary of the AAU and to review issues raised in the 1972 AAU forum that led to the publication of the now historic book Creating the African University.

It was designed to evaluate the African experience with higher education in relation to perception in Africa of the role and mission of higher education and to develop and review approaches to the future mission of the university in Africa. Its long term goal was to contribute to the process of revitalisation of higher education in Africa by increasing understanding of the role and mission of the African university and setting the issues in the context of African experience and needs.

The project was executed in three phases. In the first phase, the AAU identified three senior scholars Professors Ade Ajayi, Lameck Goma and Ampah Johnson who had all been Vice-Chancellors of universities in Nigeria, Zambia and Togo respectively. In addition, Professor Goma had been Minister for higher education in Zambia. Professor Ajayi, who had been appointed team leader, was requested to prepare a concept paper which was deliberated upon by the three researchers, the AAU's Secretary-General and other AAU staff and Dr. M.Y. El - Shal Hamed, Vice-President of Assiut University in Egypt who had been invited to share the experience of universities in North Africa. Dr. William Saint, Co-ordinator of a parallel Donors to African Education Task Force's Working Group on Higher Education (DAE/WGHE) study and the eight researchers selected to execute it were also invited to attend this inaugural meeting which took place immediately after the 8th General Conference of the AAU on 22nd and 23rd January 1993, in Accra. Subsequent to this meeting, the three researchers undertook visits to thirteen African countries (Congo Brazzaville, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mozambique, Nigeria (6 universities), Senegal, Sudan, Uganda and Zimbabwe). Those universities which could not be included on the researchers' itinerary were requested to write position papers which twelve of them did.

The researchers then reconvened in Accra in May 1993 to discuss the material they had individually collected and to finalise the publication's outline and allocate the drafting of different chapters to individual researchers. They reconvened again in January 1994 to review the drafted chapters and to modify them as necessary. The team leader was then assigned the task of finalising the publication which he did in September 1994. A copy of the work is attached as an appendix to this final narrative report. *being sent under separate cover*

In the course of the project's execution, the idea of a joint AAU/DAE-WGHE dissemination colloquium was mooted. The idea has now become reality: the joint colloquium is scheduled for January 16 to 21, 1995 at the National University of Lesotho. The publication, in conjunction with the eight DAE/WGHE publications will be deliberated upon by academics and high level policy makers with the view to publicising the findings of the two studies. The final version of the publication, in the form of a book will incorporate, suggestions made during the Colloquium.

The AAU appreciates the support given by the Rockefeller Foundation to this very significant work and looks forward to further collaboration.