Ghana’s Economy at the Half Century

July 18-20, 2004
Accra, Ghana

Call for Papers

Ghana will soon achieve its first half century as an independent nation. The early promise of democracy combined with economic and social development that hailed the new era in 1957 led to disappointments in the 1960’s, 1970’s and 1980’s. While democracy has now been restored, with the peaceful transfer of one civilian administration to another in 2001, and while there has been recovery from the economic collapse of two decades ago, the challenge of economic and social development looms large. The ability of the economy to generate employment has not been strengthened after two decades of economic reforms in which private investments have hardly been significant. The perception that social conditions have not improved significantly in twenty years is quite pervasive.

Research and policy analysis on Ghana is widespread. It is conducted by scholars within and outside Ghana. Yet, while there is exchange of information and ideas within sub-groups, and Ghana’s political transformation has meant increasing openness in the discussion of economic policy matters, there continues to be a significant disconnect between research on Ghana and policy making in Ghana.

It is against this background that an international conference is being planned by ISSER and Cornell University to introduce as much as possible of the relevant research that could influence the policy debate to a larger audience. The Accra conference seeks to bring together researchers and policy makers from inside and outside Ghana, to take stock of where Ghana has come in its first half century, and to look to the policy challenges ahead.

The Accra conference will also launch the new Network on the Economy of Ghana (NEG). The network should help link up all people interested in economic management in Ghana, whether based inside or outside the country.

The conference organizers are Professor Ernest Aryeetey of ISSER and Professor Ravi Kanbur of Cornell University.
Submissions of extended abstracts (3-5 pages) or completed papers are invited. The papers should be analytical, and shed light on the understanding of development issues and policy in Ghana, whether macroeconomic or microeconomic.

The submission deadline is January 15, 2004.

Submissions should be sent electronically to ISSER at negconf@isser.ug.edu.gh

Decisions on selection will be communicated by March 15, 2004,

Papers selected for the conference will initially be published as ISSER Discussion Papers. They will also be considered for publication in a high quality academic press volume, edited by Professors Aryeetey and Kanbur.

The conference has limited funds to support the travel of young participants from developing countries.