

## TRIENNIAL REPORT – SIDA

*Period: January 2003 – December 2005*

### CLACSO'S SOUTH-SOUTH PROGRAM

CLACSO's South-South Program offers an interregional academic framework to promote discussions of historical and contemporary social *problématiques* of common interest to Asia, Africa and Latin America. The objective is to foster the development of critical social science approaches, based on specific perspectives proper to the South, able to both provide better understanding of its realities and stimulate fruitful intellectual exchange with social scientists in the North.

The program promotes the following activities:

- Regional academic events in cooperation with other institutions, to build up common spaces to nurture joint reflection on shared problems;
- Discussions between scholarship holders, researchers and specialists of regional networks (librarians, publishers and coordinators of electronic communication networks) in order to enhance the possibilities of joint scholarly undertakings;
- Detecting groups with projects that may lead to comparative studies;
- Publication of the results of comparative research.

This Program exists since 1990, with continued support from international institutions such as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the International Development Research Center of Canada (IDRC), and more recently from the Swedish International Development Agency/Department for Research Cooperation (Sida/SAREC).

From the outset, the objective of this initiative was to strengthen academic cooperation between Latin American and African scholars, thus consolidating a first stage of South/South cooperation. In 2005 SIDA/SAREC approved a triennial project, bringing together in this way the efforts of African, Asian and Latin American researchers. The project is already underway.

#### **Partner Institutions**

The Program strengthened CLACSO's South-South institutional network of decentralized cooperation, based specially on the collaboration of the member centers and the academic advice of some of their specialists. In this respect, it is proper to point up the participation of the following centers in Latin America:

### ***Argentina***

- Program on African Studies / Program on the Middle East Studies, Center for Higher Studies (CEA), National University of Cordoba. Directed by Dr. Dora Celton, with Diego Buffa's coordination, and the assistance of María José Becerra and Juanjo Vagni.
- East Asian Studies Group (GEEA), Gino Germani Research Institute, School of Social Sciences, University of Buenos Aires. Director: Carolina Mera.
- Social Sciences Institute, National University of Villa Maria. Secretary of Research and Extramural Studies: Gustavo Adolfo Luque.

### ***Brazil***

- Afro-Asiatic Studies Center of the Candido Mendes University (CEAA-UCAM), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Direction: Professor Beluce Belucci.
- South-Atlantic Program, State University of Bahia (UNEB). Under the direction of José Gonçalves.
- University Research Institute of Rio de Janeiro (IUPERJ). Director: José Mauricio Domingues.

### ***Colombia***

- GEA, Center of Researches and Special Projects – CIPE, School of Finance, Government and International Relations, Day Student University of Colombia. Coordination in the charge of Madeleine Andebeng Labeu Alingué.

### ***Venezuela***

- Central University of Venezuela. Professors: Edgardo Lander and Margarita Lopez Maya.

### ***Cuba***

- Center for Studies on Africa and the Middle East (CEAMO), in Havana, Cuba, directed by Dr. Clara Margarita Pulido Escandell, with the participation of David González and Silvio Baró.

### ***Mexico***

- Center for Studies on Asia and Africa of the College of Mexico (CEAA-ColMx). Director: Juan José Ramírez Bonilla, with the collaboration of Celma Agüero, Hilda Varela, Hernán Taboada, Saurabh Dube and Ishita Banerjee.
- Latin American Association of Afro-Asiatic Studies (ALADAA). ALADAA's General Secretariat in the charge of María Walburga Wiesheu Forster.

## **Centers in Africa and Asia**

Likewise, is it necessary to stand out the agreements of interregional cooperation that CLACSO's South-South Program has established with associations of Africa and Asia:

- African Association of Political Science (AAPS). Agreement initiated with its former Executive Secretary Dr. Kwame Ninsin. Due to political conflicts in Zimbabwe, the AAPS was translated to South Africa.
- Arab and African Research Center (AARC), with headquarters in Cairo, Egypt, under the presidency of Samir Amin and the direction of Helmi Sharawi.
- Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), with headquarters in Dakar, Senegal, under the direction of Dr. Adebayo Olukoshi.
- Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA), with headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Executive Secretary: Dr. Alfred G. Nhema.
- Asian Political and International Studies Association (APISA). Asia's association with headquarters in Selangor, Malaysia. Executive Secretary: Dr. Hari Singh.
- Southeast Asian Conflict Studies Network (SEACSN), organization of Southeast Asia with headquarters in Penang, Malaysia, coordinated by Dr. Askandar Kamarulzaman.

## **CLACSO'S SOUTH-SOUTH PROGRAM**

In the general framework of CLACSO's South-South Program, there exist two subprograms: the Cooperation Program between Latin America and Africa and The Africa/Asia/Latin America Scholarly Collaborative Program.

### **A. THE COOPERATION PROGRAM BETWEEN LATIN AMERICA AND AFRICA**

This Program promotes South-South scholarly exchanges between Latin American and African specialists through collaborative research activities and projects, international meetings, joint publications and electronic networking.

Its basic philosophy reasserts the importance and fruitfulness of dialogue among academic scholars on both sides of the Atlantic, despite the enormous difficulties that it entails, on account of cultural, linguistic, financial and of infrastructure constraints.

#### **Aims**

To strengthen African studies in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean through the promotion of scholarly exchanges between Africa, the Arab countries and Latin America, providing a unique opportunity for stimulating cross-cultural, interregional teaching, research and debates through:

- Increasing mutual knowledge of scholarly social science production in both regions;

- Generating new academic networks between scholars on both sides of the Atlantic;
- Helping Latin American and African scholars get in contact with each other and discuss common problems.

### **Activities of the Program**

- To provide travel grants for field research to master and doctoral students, as well as for university professors, whose research themes require brief stays in Latin American, African and Arab countries.
- To provide travel grants to attend cross-regional academic meetings for Latin American/Caribbean and African/Arab scholars.
- To link up through networking groups from CLACSO, CODESRIA, OSSREA, AAPS, AARC, etc.
- To publish a selection of papers and books produced by diverse interregional activities.
- To translate into English, French, Spanish and Portuguese, and publish, outstanding academic works for the discussion of common problems of the regions concerned.

### **Thematic Areas**

On the basis of CLACSO's experience, promoting furthering work with African scholars and institutions is of utmost importance: on the one hand, because it provides significant support for our scholars' work in the Caribbean and Brazil, regions with a strong African cultural heritage. On the other hand, due to the fact that many of today's problems facing Latin America are quite similar to those of Africa, sharing knowledge and research experiences could mean stronger inputs for policy debates in favor of a different development path for both regions.

There are many areas or related themes with extraordinary potential for exchange, such as:

- Structural adjustment and social policies;
- Neoliberal economies and the process of globalization;
- Democratic governance and political stability;
- The role of the university and higher education;
- National cultures *vis-à-vis* globalization;
- Public policies for gender equity; among others.

## Activities

### 1. At CLACSO's Executive Secretariat

a) During 2005, the web site of the South-South Program was updated, adding to it an English version. Likewise, a more complete page has been elaborated, which will be incorporated into the Web as soon as CLACSO's general page is reorganized.

b) The "South-South Program's Virtual Library" was developed as a service within the web page of the Program, in which searches of bibliography by title, author or topic can be done. The "South-South Program's Virtual Library" offers links to complete texts and database of interests in order to promote the collaborative research among the three regions.

(See: <http://www.clacso.org/wwwclacso/espanol/html/biblioteca/fbiblioteca.html>)

c) An informative brochure of the South-South Program in English was also elaborated.

d) The Institute of Economic Research of the Autonomous National University of Mexico and CLACSO's South-South Program organized in the Council's headquarters the Seminar "*Del Sur hacia el Norte: economía política del orden económico internacional emergente*" (From South to North: political economy of the emerging international economic order), September 20 and 21, 2005.

e) The South-South Program co-organized together with the Department of Politics and International Economy of the Cultural Center for Cooperation, the Gino Germani Research Institute, the Center for Higher Studies of the National University of Cordoba and the School of Social Sciences of the University of Buenos Aires, the Seminar "El Este Asiático: reflexiones desde América Latina" (The East-Asian: reflections from Latin America), held in Buenos Aires, on Monday, December 12, 2005.

### 2. Seminars and workshops held in Latin America, Africa, Asia and Europe with the participation or support of CLACSO

#### 2.1. In Latin America

a) First International Congress "Diálogo entre Civilizaciones: Iberoamérica y el Mundo Islámico" ("Dialogue between Civilizations: Ibero-America and the Islamic World"), held in Bogota, September 22 to 27, 2003.

b) Assembly of the Latin American Council of Social Sciences and Latin American Conference of Social Sciences (CLACSO), October 27-31, 2003, Havana.

c) Workshop "Cooperación Interregional Sur-Sur en Ciencias Sociales. Renovando el diálogo" ("South-South Interregional Cooperation in Social Sciences. Africa, Asia and Latin America. Renewing the Dialogue"), carried out between October 28 and 31, 2003, in the framework of CLACSO's Latin American Conference, held in Cuba. The workshop had the participation of researchers of several member centers of CLACSO and of representatives of CODESRIA, AAPS, OSSREA, APISA, SEACSN and

observers of Sida and the UNESCO. The presentations were published in two books, one in Spanish and the other one in English.

d) XI International Congress of the Latin American Association of Afro-Asiatic Studies (ALADAA), organized by the College of Mexico, Mexico FD, November 12 to 15, 2003, under the topic “Integración y DiverSidad: Asia y Africa en Transformación” (“Integration and Diversity: Asia and Africa in Transformation”). It relied on the financial assistance of CLACSO in order to assure the presence of guests from Africa and from CLACSO’s member centers: the GEA (African Studies Group, Day Student University of Colombia), CEA (Center for Afro-Asiatic Studies of the Candido Mendes University of Rio de Janeiro), CEAMO (Center for Asia and the Middle East Studies of Havana) and ColMex (College of Mexico).

Dr. Gladys Lechini attended the Congress as the representative of CLACSO’s Executive Secretariat, the South-South Program and expounded on “Las relaciones de Argentina y Brasil con Sudáfrica con el fin del Apartheid. Un análisis de la década del noventa” (“The relations of Argentina and Brazil with South Africa with the end of the Apartheid. An analysis of the decade of the nineties”). With the support of CLACSO, Jerónimo Delgado, of the GEA, Day Student University of Colombia, presented the report “Petróleo y política en Africa subsahariana” (“Oil and Politics in sub-Saharan Africa”). Moreover, Dominique Babini, Coordinator of CLACSO’s Information Area, worked out a proposal for the meeting of SLAIDAA, which was held in the framework of the Congress of the ALADAA.

With the support of CLACSO, Jerónimo Delgado, also presented a “Report of the state of the system of information and documentation on Africa and Asia in the Day Student University of Colombia, Bogota.” Its web site is an important source of virtual information on Africa.

The University’s public catalogue can be consulted online through the page in Internet of the library at: <http://catalogo.uexternado.edu.co/uhtbin/webcat>. Furthermore, the rights of utilization of INFOTRAC and VIEWSWIRE (The Economist), two of the most important databases on international relations, have been acquired. The subjects on Asia are articulated by the recently created Center of Asian Studies of the Day Student University of Colombia. At present, in the School of Finance, Government and International Relations, courses on Asia in general, Japan, China, Korea, India, Asian thought, Middle East and the Islamic world, are given. Moreover, carries out an intense activity on behalf of a better sociocultural comprehension of Islamic and Arabic thought.

e) ICSEP 2004 Meeting, Valparaiso. Ofelia Ramírez Aramburo, responsible for the publications of the Center for Studies on Asia and Africa of the College of Mexico, attended in the name of the South-South Program the workshop on Electronic Methodology in the Production of Scientific Reviews, January 14, 2004.

f) Editors’ Meeting, Viña del Mar, Chile. The South-South Program awarded a scholarship to Ofelia Ramírez Aramburo, responsible for the publications of the Center for Studies on Asia and Africa of the College of Mexico, to take part of the First Meeting of Editors of CLACSO’s Network of Member Centers, Viña del Mar, Chile, January 15, 2004.

g) II Encounter of Afro-Descendant Parliamentarians of the Americas and the Caribbean, organized by the Ministry of the Interior and Justice, House of Representatives and Day Student University of Colombia, Colombia, Bogota, May 19 to 21, 2004. Diego Buffa, of the Center of Higher Studies, National University of Cordoba, Argentina, took part of it.

h) Course on “Current Problems in Africa and the Middle East,” organized by the African Studies Group of the Center of Higher Studies of the National University of Cordoba, Argentina, August and September 2004. Flavio Saraiva of the University of Brasilia and Gladys Lechini representing CLACSO attended the course.

i) XII International Electronic Symposium “The Changing Balance of Power in Asia: Powers, Conflicts, Alliances and Coalitions,” organized by the International Studies for Development Center (CEID), Buenos Aires, September 2004, with the participation of Idalmis Brooks Beltrán and Jaile Maleta, researchers of the Center for Studies on Africa and the Middle East (CEAMO), Cuba, and of Juan José Ramírez Bonilla, Director of the CEAA-College of Mexico, backed by CLACSO’s South-South Cooperation Program.

j) II International Symposium “Peace Processes in Africa. An Experience for Colombia,” organized in Bogota by the African Studies Group of the Day Student University of Colombia, November 8 and 9, 2004.

k) “Current Problems in Africa and the Middle East,” organized by the Center for Studies on Africa and the Middle East (CEAMO) in Havana, Cuba, November 2004. Celma Agüero of the CEAA, College of Mexico, and Diego Bufa and María José Becerra, of the Center of Higher Studies (CEA) of the National University of Cordoba, Argentina, took part of the event.

l) National Congress of ALADAA-Brazil “Brasil-África-Asia: Dimensoes de Uma Nova Aproximação,” University of Brasilia – Campus, November 24 to 26, 2004, Brasilia.

m) Gladys Lechini attended the International Seminar “Ensinando estudos etnicos, afroamericanos e africanos na America Latina,” organized by the Federal University of Bahia and held in S.S. Bahia, Brazil, December 19 and 20, 2005.

## ***2.2 In Africa***

a) Under the motto “New visions of the development in Africa,” the African Association of Political Science (AAPS) called for its Biennial Congress in Durban, June 26-28, 2003. Forty one round tables and panels were carried out, with the active participation of a delegation of specialists of CLACSO’s member centers: Celma Agüero of the Center for Studies on Asia and Africa of the College of Mexico and Edgardo Lander of FACES of the Central University of Venezuela, and Gladys Lechini, of CLACSO and the CERIR, National University of Rosario, Argentina.

b) South-South Cooperation: Academic Networks’ Exploratory Meeting. Tropicana Hotel, Durban, June 28, 2003. Ramses Amer (SIDA), Celma Agüero (CEAA, College of Mexico and CLACSO), Edgardo Lander (FACES-C.U. of Venezuela and CLACSO), Gladys Lechini (CERIR-N.U. of Rosario and CLACSO), Margarita Lopez Maya (CUV

and CLACSO), Alfred Nhema (OSSREA, Ethiopia), Adebayo Olukoshi (CODESRIA, Senegal), Mwesiga Baregu (University of Dar es Salaam/AAPS), Kwame Ninsin (University of Legon/AAPS), Luc Sindjoun (AAPS) and Musa Abutudu (AAPS) were present.

c) International Political Science Association (IPSA) Congress, Durban, June 29 to July 4, 2003. More than 300 seminars and round tables were made.

d) Conference on the 30<sup>o</sup> Anniversary of CODESRIA, December 8-11, 2003, Dakar.

e) In order to celebrate its 30<sup>o</sup> Anniversary, CODESRIA called for a big meeting under the motto “Intellectuals, Nationalism and the Pan-African Ideal,” in Dakar, Senegal, between December 10 and 12, 2003, after carrying out various regional meetings during the same year.

The following ones were invited to expound in different panels:

- Madeleine Andeberg Alingué (GEA, Day Student University of Colombia), “Afrolatinité: Nouvelles perspectives pour la Renaissance Africaine;”
- Beluce Belluci (CEAA, Candido Mendes University, Rio de Janeiro), “Problèmes de Développement en Amérique Latine et en Afrique;”
- Gladys Lechini (CLACSO), “The Argentine Crisis of the 1990s: The failure of the neoliberal model”.

f) “South Africa: Ten Years after Apartheid,” Pretoria, March 24 to 26, 2004, organized by the African Institute of South Africa (AISA, member of AAPS). In 2004 South Africa celebrated the ten years of its multiracial democracy (Post-Apartheid). For this reason, Eddy Maloka, director of the AISA, with headquarters in Pretoria, called for all the regional associations on social sciences that take part in the South-South Program, to sponsor panels focused on the African continent and its Diaspora. Taking into account the significance of South Africa’s recent experience as regards social transformation and the rich potential for comparative approaches with Latin America’s experiences, CLACSO organized on March 26, 2004, a panel in the framework of the above mentioned International Conference.

The panel was coordinated by Dr. Gladys Lechini of CLACSO. Under the title “Latin American Perspectives concerning the South African Transition,” the panel gathered the presentations of:

- José Flavio Sombra Saraiva (University of Brasilia, Brazil), “Brasil y Sudáfrica: Política exterior y democracia: un análisis comparativo” (Brazil and South Africa: Foreign Policy and Democracy: a Comparative Analysis;”
- Gladys Lechini (CLACSO, Argentina), “Las relaciones de Argentina y Brasil con Sudáfrica en la era post-apartheid” (“The Relations of Argentina and Brazil with South Africa in the Post-Apartheid Era”);
- Madeleine Andeberg Alingué (Colombia), “Las luchas contra la discriminación racial en Colombia” (“The Struggles against Racial Discrimination in Colombia”);
- David González López (Cuba), “La cooperación cubana en África y las relaciones con Sudáfrica post-apartheid” (“The Cuban Cooperation in Africa and the relations with Post-Apartheid South Africa”).

A summary of the discussions could probably be synthesized in professor Ali Mazrui's words, when he described the situation of South Africa with the image of the four V. South Africa was a Victim, during the Apartheid. Went out Victorious in its fight on having conquered democracy, it is today in the vanguard of the defense of the continent through policies as the NEPAD (New Association for African Development) and the African Union, but there exists the dread that it may turn into a Villain, if forgets its regional and continental commitments in defense of its exclusive national interests.

g) International Conference on African Conflicts: Management, Resolution, Post-Conflict Recovery and Development, organized by OSSREA, Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, November 29 to December 1, 2004. Catalina Saugy and Gladys Lechini of CLACSO and Madeleine Andebeng Alingué of the GEA/Day Student University of Colombia took part of the event.

h) Hugo Aboites, of the Autonomous Metropolitan University, Xochimilco, attended the Conference on Higher Education, invited by CODESRIA and held in Abuja, Nigeria, March 22 to 29, 2005.

i) Trip to Luanda, Angola, by María José Becerra, Coordinator of the Program on African Studies, National University of Cordoba, between April 28 and May 5, 2005. The fieldwork carried out consisted of the accomplishment of interviews with local researchers specialized in the analysis of the peace process that the country carried forward and with actors of the mentioned process.

j) Luena Nascimento Nunes Pereira (African Studies Center of the USP) traveled to Luanda, Angola, chosen by the Afro-Asiatic Studies Center of the Candido Mendes University of Rio de Janeiro, between June 19 and July 17, 2005, with the aim of carrying out a field research in the areas of the periphery of the city about the rituals and representations on fetishism.

It is worth mentioning that both researchers had as aim, besides advancing in their respective researches, to attend the International Colloquium on the Lusophonia in Africa, organized by CODESRIA, planned for April 28/30, 2005, but which was finally suspended due to epidemic problems in Luanda.

k) "Comparative dimensions of globalization: The case of Latin America," meeting co-organized by CLACSO and the African Arab Research Center with headquarters in Cairo, Egypt, June 28 and 29, 2005. Atilio Boron (Executive Secretariat), Andrea Vlahusic (Institutional and Legal Affairs) and Gladys Lechini (South-South Program), Marco Gandásegui (University of Panama/CELA), Nildo Ouriques (Federal University of Santa Catalina, Brazil), Arturo Anguiano (Autonomous Metropolitan University, Xochimilco, Mexico) and Margarita Lopez Maya (Central University of Venezuela) attended representing Latin America.

### **2.3 In Asia**

a) World Social Forum, Mumbai, India. CLACSO is actively connected to the net of the World Social Forum, from its beginnings. In 2004 the Forum took place out of Brazil for the first time. It was held in Mumbai, India, from January 16 to 21, under the motto "Another World is Possible – Another India is Possible." Catalina Saugy attended it in

name of the South-South Program. Several researchers linked to CLACSO such as Samir Amin and Sam Moyo from Africa, Laura Tavares from Brazil, and member of the Working Group linked to topics on Poverty among others, were present. As Immanuel Wallerstein pointed out, in five years the World Social Forum has turned into an important actor in the world stage, as it combines the massive protest and the intellectual analysis.

b) Gladys Lechini attended the General Assembly of APISA in Hong Kong, November 14 to 16, 2005.

## **2.4 In Europe**

a) Presentation of the paper “The Latin American Tour of Mohammed VI: an Approach in key of the Sahara,” in the Congress of the FIMAM, Barcelona, Spain, March 17 to 19, 2005. Exponent: Juan José Vagni -Master’s Degree student in International Relations, Center for Higher Studies (CEA), National University of Cordoba-, Coordinator of the Program on the Middle East Studies (CEA-UNC) / CLACSO.

b) Gladys Lechini attended the launching of the Swedish Network of Peace, Conflict and Development Research, due to her condition as a Member of the Advisory Board of this Network and representing CLACSO’s South-South Program, held in Upssala, October 19 to 21, 2005.

## **3. Publications**

a) The Center for Studies on Africa and the Middle East (CEAMO) of Cuba, with the backing of CLACSO’s South-South Program, published “*Problemas actuales de África y Medio Oriente. Una visión desde Cuba*” (Current Problems of Africa and the Middle East. A View from Cuba), CEAMO/CLACSO, Havana, 2003.

b) Boron, Atilio and Lechini, Gladys (Editors) “*Politics and Social Movements in an Hegemonic World. Lessons from Africa, Asia and Latin America,*” Clacso, Buenos Aires, 2005 (English version of the papers presented at the South-South Workshop, which was held in Cuba).

## **In its final stage**

a) Boron, Atilio and Lechini, Gladys (Comp.) “*Políticas y movimientos sociales en un mundo hegemónico. Lecciones desde África, Asia y América Latina*” (Spanish version of the papers presented at the South-South Workshop, held in Cuba).

## **Forthcoming publications of the South-South project**

a) “*África en las Agendas Externas de Argentina y Brasil*” (Africa in the External Agendas of Argentina and Brazil). Gladys Lechini. Ph.D. thesis defended at the University of Sao Paulo in 2003.

b) *“En los intersticios de la democracia y el autoritarismo. Algunos casos de Asia, África y América Latina”* (In the Interstices of Democracy and Authoritarianism. Some Cases in Asia, Africa and Latin America), Romer Cornejo B. (Comp.), of the CEAA-College of Mexico.

c) Translation into Spanish and publication of the work *“Reclaiming the Land: The Resurgence of Rural Movements in Africa, Asia and Latin America,”* edited by Sam Moyo and Paris Yeros.

c) *“Valoração Econômica da Água No Médio Uruguay (Argentina, Brasil, Uruguay) e Baixo Cunene (Angola)”* (Economic Valuation of Water on the Middle Uruguay River [Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay] and Lower Cuneme [Angola]), José Gonçalves, Ph.D. thesis in economics, Rural Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRRJ).

### **South -South Program’s contribution for publications**

The South-South Program is supporting the publication of a new scholarly magazine: *“Contrarelatos. Apuntes de Africa y Medio Oriente,”* edited by the Center for Higher Studies, National University of Cordoba, and of which first number was published in December 2005.

## **B. THE AFRICA/ASIA/LATIN AMERICA SCHOLARLY COLLABORATIVE PROGRAM**

### **Planning Process**

In September, 2002, CLACSO organized a conference to which attended academicians of Africa, Asia and Latin America, summoned under the motto of *“New Challenges in Peace and Conflict Studies: What role for the Third World?,”* starting point of the planning process of the program of academic collaboration.

In June 2003, during the Congress on *“New Views for the Development in Africa,”* held in Durban, South Africa, different scholars were invited to take part of the forum of discussion aimed at attaining specific proposals from a regional view. Later, in October 2003, in CLACSO’s General Assembly carried out in Havana, Cuba, a meeting to define the outlines of collaboration was organized.

Through the use of the methodology of the internal retreat, the coordinators and representatives of the regional organizations -CLACSO, CODESRIA, AAPS, OSSREA, APISA, SEACSN- moved forward in the definition of the common themes to tackle in the future in a comparative way.

During 2004, the coordination of the regional organizations of Asia, Africa and Latin America developed an intense activity under the general coordination of CLACSO, in accordance with the strategy planned and agreed on at the meeting held in Cuba, in October 2003. Each regional organization had to draw up documents on the following concepts:

- The project's overall proposal;
- The research project that each organization committed itself to coordinate;
- Comments on the proposals of the other participating organizations.

In this phase, two meetings were organized, namely, a workshop in Buenos Aires and a meeting in Stockholm, Sweden.

### **Special workshop in Buenos Aires**

This meeting was held in Buenos Aires between June 12 and 15, 2004, with the coordination of the regional associations and networks from Africa, Asia and Latin America. The final proposal was drawn up for a new interregional project entitled "Collaborative Program among Asia, Africa and Latin America."

The workshop was organized around the documents presented by all the institutions participating in the network, broaching an agenda that began with the discussion of the concept papers that were to guide the future academic cooperation project and ended with the approval of the working methodology to be followed in the networking process and the writing of the final project that was to be submitted to diverse donor agencies.

The conceptual discussions encompassed six main cores:

- Comparison of Transitions of Governability and Democracy.
- Rethinking Development.
- Regional Integration and Government: The Case of the South.
- The Third World's Outlook on Human Security.
- International Institutions: Geopolitics.
- Democracy and Conflict, the Construction of Peace and Reconciliation Processes.

Representatives of each of the institutions involved took part of it:

- APISA (Dr. Hari Singh)
- SEACSN (Dr. Suwit Laohasiriwong from Vietnam)
- AAPS (Dr. Musa Abutudu)
- CODESRIA (Dr. Adebayo Olukoshi and Dr. Ebrima Sall of the Executive Secretariat of CODESRIA, Dakar, Senegal, and Dr. Samson Moyo of the African Institute of Agrarian Studies, AIAS, Zimbabwe)
- OSSREA (Dr. Alfred Nhema)
- CLACSO (Dr. Atilio Boron, Dr. Gladys Lechini and Catalina Saugy, of the Executive Secretariat, Dr. Flavio Sombra Saraiva of the University of Brasilia, José Mauricio Domingues of the IUPERJ, Rio de Janeiro, Dr. Clara Pulido, of the CEAMO, Havana)

## **Meeting in Stockholm**

A meeting took place at Sida headquarters in Sweden, August 2004, with the representatives of the leading organizations (CLACSO, CODESRIA and APISA) to analyze the basic framework of the interregional academic cooperation program.

Present at the meeting were APISA (Hari Singh), CLACSO (Atilio Boron), CODESRIA (Adebayo Olukoshi), Sida (Beritt Olson and Anders Gerdin) and participants specially invited by Sida.

## **The results**

The Scholarly Collaborated Program submitted to Sida is a three year period initiative that aims to strengthen the existing cooperation via the discussion of paradigms of alternative development and the implementation of comparative research projects on common *problématiques*. This Agreement of interregional South-South cooperation was approved by Sida on May 12, 2005, with the N° of contribution: 7500033601 and under the name of:

## **The Africa/Asia/Latin America Scholarly Collaborative Program**

The Africa/Asia/Latin America Scholarly Collaborative Program has been organized through the framework of the leading social sciences research networks in Africa, Asia and Latin America, including: the Latin American Council of Social Sciences (CLACSO), the Council for Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), the African Association of Political Sciences (AAPS), the Organization for Social Sciences Research in East and Southern Africa (OSSREA), the Asian Political and International Studies Association (APISA) and the Southeast Asian Conflict Studies Network (SEACSN).

The project aims to:

- Develop academic comparative cooperation among the involved institutions, extending the spectrum to new partners;
- Enhance the production of knowledge suitable for fostering the development of alternative paradigms regarding development, democratic governance and peace building;
- Build a Southern-networked perspective on these critical issues, with the aim of feeding these into global debates in the social sciences.

## **Activities of the Program**

- Organization of nine comparative International Research Conferences (three per year, one in each region);

- Development of three summer institutes (one each year);
- Publication in English, French and Spanish of the Conference proceedings in books and special issues of international journals.

### **Thematic Areas**

From the assumption that common problems exist in the three regions, and considering the necessity to promote the use of new theoretical schemes and strategies of research for the accomplishment of rigorous comparative studies on a comparative basis, the thematic areas to be debated in the three regions are:

- Democracy, Social Movements and Governance in the South;
- Rethinking Development;
- International Hegemony and the Countries of the South.

### **Activities**

The activities originally planned for the year 2005 have only begun during the second semester of this, due to the fact that the Project was finally approved in 2005, the Agreement signed by mid-May and the first disbursement sent in June. This is the reason why some of the originally planned activities for the first year will take place this year. Yet, despite this delayed start the Project Management Committee decided to go ahead and organize the first Summer Institute and one Workshop during 2005, leaving for this year two workshops and the publication of the results.

#### **1. Steering Committee Meeting in Paris**

To begin with the implementation of the Trilateral South Project, the first meeting of the Steering Committee was organized in Paris on June 22 and 23, to agree on the future activities and compromises of each regional organization. The selection of the city was done after a careful examination of alternatives and taking advantage of the fact that, for a variety of reasons, Paris was at the crossroads of the trips already committed by the members of the Steering Committee.

Adebayo Olukoshi and Ebrima Sall of CODESRIA, Hari Sing of APISA and Atilio Boron and Gladys Lechini of CLACSO attended the meeting.

In the meeting it was agreed that Olukoshi would prepare a *Memorandum of Understanding* between the three institutions. This memorandum would synthesize the agreements reached in the Paris meeting, including substantial issues as well as some procedural matters.

Regarding the academic activities it was agreed that for the year 2005:

- CLACSO would assume the responsibility of organizing the 2005 Summer Institute having as a central theme *International Hegemony and the Countries of the South*. Despite the very short time, the huge workload caused by a project like this, and the lack of previous experience in the handling of a tricontinental

program of this sort, the other regional organizations asked CLACSO to take the lead in this matter.

- APISA, on the other hand, would organize a workshop in Kuala Lumpur on *Democracy and Domestic Politics*, in preparation of its General Assembly, held in Hong Kong on November 14-16.

## **2- Summer Institute in Havana**

Given that one Summer Institute ought to be implemented each year to systematically train younger scholars on diverse Southern perspectives and to expose them to varied continental contexts, the first Summer Institute was organized by CLACSO in Havana, Cuba, from November 7 to December 2, 2005. In accordance with one of the three major research themes of the Scholarly Collaborative Program, the general theme of the Summer Institute was “International Hegemony and the South: A Tricontinental Perspective.”

The candidates were selected among several applications received by the three regional institutions. APISA selected 9 laureates from Asia, 7 of which were able to go to Cuba. CODESRIA presented 12 students from Africa although 4 of them were not able to travel. For Latin America, CLACSO selected and sent 11 scholars.

The Professors invited to deliver the lectures were Guillermo Castro from Panama, Prabhat Patnaik from India, Abubakar Momoh from Nigeria, and Teothonio Dos Santos from Brazil.

Dr. Atilio Boron, CLACSO’s Executive Secretary, closed the Summer Institute at a ceremony symbolically held in the Cuban Organization for Solidarity with the Peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America (OSAPAAAL).

## **3- International Workshops**

In the framework of this collaborative program, international workshops and conferences have been considered the appropriate forums to discuss research findings, to develop theoretical approaches, and to promote academic exchanges. Accordingly, three international workshops, one in each continent, were to be convened in 2005. However, due to unavoidable circumstances, only one workshop was convened for the year 2005.

### **Workshop in Kuala Lumpur**

The first workshop (and inaugural activity of the South-South Collaboration Program) was held in Kuala Lumpur from November 11 to 12, 2005. It was organized around the theme of “Democracy and Domestic Politics: Comparing Africa, Asia and Latin America.” The Workshop was an expression of the intellectual agenda established beforehand that had identified “Democracy, Social Movements and Governance in the South” as one of the three major research themes.

The highlight of the workshop was the interest developed in democratic experiences in the three continents, especially in terms of similarities and differences. The discussions that followed the presentations were particularly useful for the processes of paper revision.

It was emphasized at the closing session of the workshop that it is incumbent on the participants to work towards the final version of their papers. In this regard a two-pronged strategy was suggested. First, the presented papers would be polished up and published in the *South Papers* series. Secondly, these papers would be continuously revised and eventually published as a book.

#### **Workshops corresponding to 2005 and to be accomplished in the first semester of 2006**

Two workshops, originally scheduled for 2005, will be held during the first half of 2006:

a) From June 8 to 9, CLACSO will organize an International Workshop in S. S. Bahia, Brazil, on: “The Impact of the Washington Consensus on Democratic Stability. Perspectives from the South.”

b) From July 6 to 9, a South-South Comparative Research Seminar, organized by CODESRIA, will be convened in Pretoria, South Africa, where AAPS has its headquarters. The theme will be “Re-thinking the International Development Architecture: Perspectives from the South.” The call for applications has been already made public. The deadline for the receipt of applications is May 15, 2006.

Given that the seminars have been brought forward from last year, publications, especially in book form, would be necessarily delayed.

#### **4. Planning activities**

##### *a) Summer Institute*

It was agreed that the 2006 Summer Institute would be hosted by CODESRIA in conjunction with AAPS. The theme would be “Rethinking Development in the South: A Tricontinental Perspective.” The Institute will be held in Dakar, from May 15 to June 9. CODESRIA will prepare and circulate a proposed budget for the Institute. The selection process will be made by the three lead regional organizations. The deadline for the receipt of applications is March 31.

##### *b) Workshops*

Three international workshops, one in each continent, were also convened for 2006:

- CODESRIA will convene the workshop on “Feasibility Developmental States in the South,” in Kampala, Uganda, from October 20 to 22.
- CLACSO will convene a workshop on “Democratic Performances in the South,” in San José, Costa Rica, from November 16 to 18.
- APISA will convene a workshop on “Global and Regional Hegemons,” in Bangkok, Thailand, from December 4 to 6.

##### *c) Publications*

It was agreed on the publication of “South/South Occasional Papers,” both in digital and print versions, bearing the South-South logo which is in process of being designed.

It was also agreed on the publication of a newsletter to reflect the progress in the collaborative project and to constitute a common space of communication between all the African, Asian and Latin American institutions involved.