

UTAFITI NOTES

This year, the Department of Education has been involved in heavy groundwork in preparation for the fundamental changes in the course structure to accommodate a four-year training programme in education which was to start at the beginning of the Academic Year 1980/81. The programme is designed to be a qualitative improvement over the old three year programme which has been in operation since the Department was established in the 1960's. The four-year programme is intended to pay attention and do justice to the profession, to the educationists-to-be, to the disciplines to be taught, as well as to the growing demand for better-read, better-trained, and better-qualified personnel, not only in the teaching profession, but also in areas of educational research, planning and administration, guidance and counselling and project planning, execution and evaluation. Plans to create a full Faculty of Education are already at advanced stages, and the question now is not whether there should be a Faculty of Education, but how it can be established with minimum costs and without undue delay.

From the 15th and 16th February, the Department of Foreign Languages and Linguistics sponsored a seminar intended to stimulate critical thought on the impact on the University of the expected change of the medium of instruction in Tanzanian Secondary Schools and Colleges from English to Swahili. It was attended by people from the Ministry of National Education, the Ministry of National Culture and Youth, and from various Departments on the Campus.

The Communication Skills programme has registered success after a year of initial organisational hurdles and efforts. The course is now being offered as an examinable course in the Faculties of Arts and Social Sciences, and Science. The Faculties of Law, Engineering and Agriculture are still considering entering this scheme which is intended to improve students' language proficiency.

The Economics Department has been involved in a number of research activities. A study on fish consumption patterns in Dar es Salaam has been undertaken for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism.

The Department has engaged in a study sponsored by the Bank of Tanzania on the financing of economic development in Tanzania. A regional transport plan for Arusha has been drawn up as a consultancy for D.A.I. Inc. Research investigations concerned with the construction of Input-Output Tables of the Tanzanian economy for the year 1976 have been carried out and finally research has been conducted on the pan-territorial pricing policy of maize and rice in Tanzania.

In October, BRALUP underwent a review of its operations and output for the preceding eight years. A booklet entitled 'BRALUP 1967-1979' was produced evaluating BRALUP's effectiveness as a research organization and suggesting areas for improvement. The implementation of the review team's suggestions are still under the Director's consideration. Meanwhile, research undertaken in BRALUP has been concentrated in the areas of remote sensing, water development, agricultural systems, vegetation and soil analysis, small-scale industries, medical sociology and women's studies.

The History Staff Research Seminar Programme is one of the oldest and most well-established in the Faculty. On account of its inter-disciplinary character, the Programme attracts participants not only from History but also from other fields in the Arts and the Social Sciences, including law.

The year 1979/80 was an extremely active one. A total of twenty one seminar papers were presented for discussion. Apart from the papers presented by members of the History Department, there were also significant contributions by outsiders, from such fields as Law, Sociology, Education, Geography and BRALUP. Visiting scholars from overseas Universities greatly enriched the contents of our programme as well. Five overseas scholars who were in the Department as either Research Associates or Visiting Lecturers presented papers on their respective areas of research interest.

The following are some of the papers presented.
From the Department of History

- J. Mbwiliza: A Political Economy of the Heru Kingdom;
F.J. Kaijage: Tanzanian Rural Industrialisation in Historical
 Perspective;

- B. Swai: The 'Men of the Spot' and the 'Turbulent Frontier':
The Unmasking of a Myth in Malabar History;
- D.O. 'Meara: 1948 and the Coming to Power of the Herenidge
Nationalist Party in South Africa.

Among the contributions from outside the Department were:

- P. Gibbon (Sociology) Imperialism and the National Question: the
Irish Case;
- D. Bryceson (BRALUP) Redefining the Relationship between Theory
and Practice;
- B.C. Nindi (Sociology) Colonial Agricultural Policy in Tanganyika;
- N. Westcott (Cambridge University) British Imperialism in Africa:
Closer Union and the Future of East Africa,
1938-48;
- P. Schmidt (Brown University, USA) Advanced Iron Technology in
Tanzania;
- W. Freund (Warwick University, U.K.) Social Protest and Theft
Among the Nigerian Tin Miners.