



UNU-MERIT bids farewell to Banji Oyeyinka



Banji Oyeyinka (pictured left) and Lynn Mytelka

Prof. Banji Oyeyinka joined the former UNU-INTECH in February 2001 after working the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) as a senior economic affairs officer coordinating the ten-yearly review of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). As a senior colleague at the institute, he has been instrumental in the design and implementation of several important training and capacity building programs, including the institute's policy training program on Design and Evaluation of Innovation Policy (DEIP) and the UNU-INTECH Internship Program. Prof. Oyeyinka was part of the team that conceptualized the

DEIP program with the former director of the institute, Lynn Mytelka. He also later took over as its coordinator from January 2005 until December 2006. His leadership qualities and initiatives were instrumental in making the program a great success over the past two years and also in transforming the DEIP into an international institution. In 2006, three national DEIPS were held by UNU-MERIT in Nigeria, Mauritius and Argentina respectively.

He has also helped further the mandate of the institute through his elaborate networks with scholars working on issues of innovation and development, particularly in Africa, such as the African Technology Policy Studies (ATPS) and the NEPAD, apart from the Asia-Europe Institute (Malaysia) and several other national organizations.



His research focused on comparative institutional analysis of systems of innovation in developing countries. He has published extensively in accomplished journals and also written several books on issues of innovation and development during

his time at the institute. His most recent books include Learning to Compete in African Industry: Institutions and Technology for Development (Ashgate, 2006), SMEs and New Technologies (ed, with Kaushalesh Lal, Palgrave, 2006) and Industrial Clusters and Innovation Systems in Africa: Institutions, Market and Policy (ed, with Dorothy McCormick, UNU Press, 2007). Some other books to which he has contributed include Putting the last First: The Making of African Innovation Systems, (Aalborg Press, 2003) and Africa dot edu: IT Opportunities and Higher Education in Africa, (McGraw Hill, 2003).



Football world cup 2006

Those of us, who had the privilege of knowing him and working with him, value him for his relentless support and commitment to issues of development. His friendliness, compassion and warmth for colleagues and students alike was most endearing. He will be resuming as Director of Research, in UN-HABITAT, Nairobi from 04 January 2007 onwards. He will be greatly missed at the institute. We wish him all the best for his new job, with the



hope that he continues to be an integral part of the network on innovation and development.