

African

Studies

Review

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Akilagpa Sawyerr
Challenges Facing African
Universities: Selected Issues

William Saint
Comments on "Challenges
Facing African Universities"

Joel Samoff and Bidemi Carrol
The Promise of Partnership and
Continuities of Dependence:
External Support to Higher
Education in Africa

David Court
Comments on "The Promise of
Partnership and Continuities of
Dependence"

Review Essay

Book Reviews

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From the Editors

This issue of the *ASR* brings to the members of the African Studies Association two key documents that lie at the heart of our association's Higher Education Initiative. In 2001, the Rockefeller Foundation funded the planning stages of our association's project to examine closely the state of higher education in Africa. This initiative had two objectives. First, the ASA wanted to stimulate new intellectual research and debate on this issue of global importance, and second, the ASA aimed to take practical steps toward improved academic partnerships in which African scholars and practitioners set the agenda and foreign scholars and researchers work with them to meet new education challenges in both Africa and the U.S.

The Rockefeller grant stimulated a number of initiatives, and the ASA commissioned two major reports that were presented in December 2002 at the ASA's annual meeting in Washington. We are pleased to see them published in the *ASR*. The first paper, by Dr. Akilagpa Sawyerr, former Rector of the University of Ghana at Legon and Research Director of the Association of African Universities, examines the contexts, challenges, and crises within which modern African universities have developed after independence. The second report, crafted by Joel Samoff and Bidemi Carrol of Stanford University, details the nature and extent of emergent external support for African higher education and the kinds of partnerships that have engaged African tertiary institutions recently. Each paper is followed by a commentary that was presented at the 2002 ASA annual meeting.

As the number of manuscripts submitted to the *ASR* continues to climb and as the number of book reviews has likewise increased, the *ASR* has grown by thirty-two pages. We are very grateful that the ASA's Executive Board has approved this expansion. We will now be able to publish more and timely book reviews and essays of interest to the ASA membership. We invite more manuscript submissions and we want to thank all those members of the ASA who write the reviews of manuscripts we send them. This vibrant peer review system not only sustains the quality of our journal, it is also indispensable for the growth of good scholarship well beyond the *ASR*, for even when we do not accept a manuscript for publication, we send its author all the reviews we have received.

Ralph Faulkingham
Mitzi Goheen
Amherst, Massachusetts

African Studies Review

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