



**ORGANIZATION OF
AFRICAN UNITY**

Secretariat
P. O. Box 3243

منظمة الوحدة الافريقية
السكرتاريه
ص. ب. ٣٢٤٣

**ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE
AFICAINE**

Secretariat
B. P. 3243

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COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Twenty-Eighth Ordinary Session

Lome, -Togo, 21-28 February, 1977

CM/796(XXVIII) Add.1

APPLICATION FOR SUBVENTION SUBMITTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF DOCUMENTATION,
LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES IN AFRICA

CM/796(XXVIII) Add.1

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT
OF DOCUMENTATION, LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES IN AFRICA
A.I.D.B.A.

Founded on 13 September 1957

EXECUTIVE BUREAU

P.O. Box 375 - DAKAR (Senegal)

Reference No. 366/BE

Dakar, 31 December, 1976

Head of Administration of the Organization
of African Unity (O.A.U.)

P.O. Box 3243

Addis Ababa

Ethiopia

Sir,

I thank you for your letter AD/FIN/15 dated 29 November, 1976 which was received a month later.

I am forwarding herewith, in French and English, the accounts for the two financial years (1974/1975 and 1975/1976) as well as the progress report covering the period between 1972 and 1976.

Other copies of these documents shall be forwarded under separate cover for distribution to the members of the OAU Advisory Committee on Budgetary and Financial Matters.

I hope to attend, together with the Treasurer General of the AIDBA, the Budget Session of the OAU Council of Ministers in Lome from 21 to 28 February, 1977.

I hope to see you soon.

Yours faithfully,

Kwaku E. W. DADZIE
Secretary General

A. I. D. B. A.

Reference No. 55/BE

Dakar, 31 December, 1975

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR 1974-1975

I. INCOME (1974 - 1975)

- Organization of African Unity	\$37,426,50
- Government of Senegal	\$12,000,00
- Government of Ivory Coast	\$ 6,000,00
- Government of Togo	\$ 200,00
- Denmark's contribution to the 2nd Afro-Scandinavian Conference on Libraries	<u>\$ 788,23</u>
	\$56,414,73

II. EXPENDITURE (1974 - 1975)

- Permanent Staff	\$20,522,22
- Equipment and Furniture	\$ 2,277,88
- Office supplies	\$ 1,400,00
- Rental of premises (Secretariat, Archives, Library and Documentation)	\$ 4,500,00
- Publications	\$ 3,211,24
- Social Security	\$ 2,666,67
- Assistance to national documentation and institutions of member countries	\$ 4,444,44
- Training of documentation experts	\$ 5,432,22
- Second Afro-Scandinavian Conference on Libraries	<u>\$11,960,06</u>
	<u>\$56,414,73</u>

The total amount of this budget is fifty-six thousand four hundred and fourteen dollars and seventy-three cents.

For the Executive Bureau

Kwaku E.W. DADZIE
Secretary General

A. I. D. B. A.

Reference No. 56/BE

Dakar, 31 December 1976

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR 1975-1976I. INCOME (1975 - 1976)

- Organization of African Unity	\$35,000.00
- Government of Ivory Coast	\$ 6,000.00
- Government of Senegal	\$ 2,000.00
- Contributions from National Documentation Associations and Institutions	<u>\$ 120.00</u>
	\$43,120.00

II. EXPENDITURE (1975 - 1976)

- Permanent Staff	\$16,720.00
- Equipment and Furniture	\$ 500.00
- Office Supplies	\$ 1,400.00
- Rental of Premises (Secretariat, Archives, Library and Documentation)	\$ 4,500.00
- Publications	\$10,000.00
- Training of Librarians	\$ 2,000.00
- International Conferences (OAU and others), 7th General Congress and Conference on the Development of documentation systems in Africa	<u>\$ 8,000.00</u>
	<u>\$43,120.00</u>

Drawn up in the sum of forty-three thousand one hundred and twenty US dollars.

For the Executive Bureau

Kwaku E.W. DADZIE
Secretary General

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF DOCUMENTATION,
LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES IN AFRICA (A.I.D.B.A.)
(Founded on 13 September, 1957)

EXECUTIVE BUREAU, P.O. Box 375, DAKAR - Tel.341-39 (Permanent Secretariat)
General Secretariat

No. 36/B.E

Lome, 13 September, 1976

REPORT COVERING THE PERIOD 1972 - 1976

1. INTRODUCTION

Since the sixth Congress held in Abidjan in September 1972 and the Extraordinary Congress held in Dakar in April 1975, the A.I.D.B.A. has made substantial progress.

It succeeded in obtaining OAU observer status; moreover, the financial assistance from that organization and from the Governments of Ivory Coast, Senegal and Togo made it possible for the Executive Committee and the Central Committee to intensify their activities for the attainment of the A.I.D.B.A.'s objectives. This is how we were able to establish or secure membership of several national associations, documentation institutions and individual members from several English-speaking, Arabic speaking, French speaking and Portuguese-speaking African countries.

This is all the more significant that documentation on information must first be developed at national level before it is developed at sub-regional and international levels.

We contributed to the planning, integration and growth of documentation institutions and training of specialized staff needed for information networks.

A.I.D.B.A.'s future is promising. However, it is important that all people of good-will cooperate and participate effectively in the efforts to make it essentially a continental association capable of directing and channelling harmoniously the development of information in the whole of Africa.

II. DEVELOPMENT OF THE A.I.D.B.A.

II. a) ESTABLISHMENT AND ORIENTATION OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

The A.I.D.B.A. is an African International Association. At the moment, thirty-two of the forty-eight member States of the OAU are members. However, only eighteen national associations have taken out membership.

In 1973 only seven French-speaking national associations were members. These were from Congo, Ivory Coast, Mauritania, Senegal, Togo, Upper Volta, and Zaire. From 1975, English-speaking as well as other French-speaking associations started joining our organization (Benin, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Nigeria, Sierra-Leone, Sudan, Uganda and Zambia).

A number of associations (Ghana, Liberia, Tanzania, Tunisia) are still reluctant or slow in joining our association. Since the A.I.D.B.A. has individual members in several States, these members should promote the establishment of national associations and urge them to join the A.I.D.B.A. It should be noted that some of the associations which have not yet joined the A.I.D.B.A. are members of non-African international associations, namely, ICA, IFLA, IFD and ICOM.

The fact that within one year, a large number of associations, institutions and individual members from the above-mentioned English-speaking countries and two Portuguese-speaking countries (Cape Verde and Guinea Bissau) have joined our Association was the result of the numerous contacts made by the members of the Central Committee through a mission by Mr. S.A. KOTTEI, Vice-President General for West Africa to Gambia, Sierra-Leone and Liberia in 1974, and a tour undertaken in July/August, 1974 by Dr. Samba Nd. GUEYE and Mr. K.E.W. DADZIE Treasurer General and Secretary General respectively, to Benin, Cameroon, Congo, Gambia, Ghana, Gabon, Liberia, Nigeria, Niger, Mali, Togo, Upper Volta and Zaire. The mission continued in June/July 1976 to Kenya and Mauritius. If our financial resources permit, similar missions are envisaged for 1976/77 so that by 1980 we would have covered the whole Africa. We also took the opportunity offered by conferences organized by the A.I.D.B.A., UNESCO, IFLA and IFD to make further contacts. These missions and contacts

made it possible to set up or stimulate national associations and to secure their membership as well as that of documentation institutions and individual members and thereby gradually expand the AIDBA circle.

II. b) OAU Observer Status

Steps initiated some years ago by the AIDBA led to the latter obtaining subventions for the years 1972-1973, 1974-1975 and 1975-1976.

The subvention was not renewed for 1976-1977 since according to the new criteria, one must first obtain OAU Observer Status. The executive Bureau introduced a request to the General Secretariat and the OAU Council of Ministers to that effect.

Consideration of the request was successively postponed from February 1975 in Addis Ababa to June 1975 in Kampala, then to February 1976 in Addis Ababa and finally to June 1976 in Mauritius. ON AIDBA delegation composed of the Secretary-General and the Treasurer General went to Kampala in June 1975 to defend the application before the Council of Ministers. The same delegation, joined by our Vice-President General for the Indian Ocean Islands and the Secretary General of the Mauritian Library Association, attended the 27th Session of the Council of Ministers. Thanks to their very dynamic action with the various delegations, the members of the delegation succeeded in having the Council approved the granting of Observer Status to the AIDBA on 29 June 1976 at 4:00 p.m. In this connexion, we must pay a tribute and express our gratitude to H.E. Mr. Latyr Kamara, Ambassador of Senegal, our main sponsor, to Mr. Kodjo Medeiros, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Togo and to His Excellency Mr. Arsere Usher Assouan whose positive and effective interventions led the Council to take the final decision. For, in February 1976, the AIDBA had been denied Observer Status following a misunderstanding which gave the impression that the Republic of South Africa was member of our association; this is impossible so long as that state practises racism and apartheid and does not recognize the rights of the black majority.

Our thanks also go to His Excellency Mr. Theophile Obenga, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Congo, His Excellency Mr. Ndugu I. Kaduna, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tanzania, Her Excellency Mrs. Shirley Gbujama, Ambassador of Sierra Leone to East Africa and to the OAU, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Ghana, Nigeria and Zaire who advised us during our talks with them.

Special mention should be made in honour of those delegations which had spoken in favour of the granting of OAU Observer Status to the AIDBA during the 26th Session of February 1976 in Addis Ababa (Senegal, Mauritania, Libya, Guinea Bissau, Gabon, Tunisia, Botswana, Sierra Leone, Etc...).

We also thank the delegations of Tanzania, Mozambique, Liberia and Angola which had opposed the granting of Observer Status because of the misunderstanding in respect of South Africa and one dissident of the MPLA former member of the AIDBA. After the misunderstanding was cleared up, these countries associated themselves with the majority which led to the granting of observer status to the AIDBA.

The members of our association thank them all most sincerely.

However, observer status is not an end in itself. We did not request it solely for the purpose of obtaining subventions from the OAU. What we want most is the moral support of an Organization which realizes the urgent need for Africa to unite in all spheres, to defend itself and to work for its rapid development so as to ensure the well-being of its people.

The AIDBA must not betray the mission which OAU had entrusted to it by granting it recognition. The AIDBA must henceforth consider itself as a sort of specialised institution of the OAU. It is entrusted with the task of enlightening this continental organization on all problems concerning the development of libraries, documentation, archives and museums in Africa and contribute effectively to the rapid growth of these information agencies.

II. c) UNESCO Consultative Status

Papers were submitted to UNESCO with a view to obtaining consultative status. These documents are to be supplemented and brought up to date before the 1977 May Session of the Executive Council.

In view of the co-operation which has existed in the past between the AIDBA and UNESCO, we felt that our Association could apply for observer status category B, which has been granted to such international associations as the ICA, IFLA, IFD and ICOM (International Council of Museums).

II. d) Co-operation with Other International Associations

We feel that AIDBA should co-operate with the ICA, IFLA, IFD and ICOM.

These four international organizations created separately before the AIDBA, shared among themselves the activities in the field of information and documentation. But they have gradually come to realize that they all have the same aim: information on documentation, irrespective of the source (archives, books, magazines, newspapers, tapes, museum objects, etc.).

The first three (ICA, IFLA and IFD) have started organizing meetings to co-ordinate their activities.

The fourth participates in certain professional activities of the first three and all of them take part in one another's activities.

In short, the ICA, IFLA, IFD and ICOM recognize the need to co-ordinate their efforts to ensure greater effectiveness of their action.

These four associations could each have constituted a specialized branch of one and the same organization like the working committees of the AIDBA.

While recognizing the need to co-ordinate their efforts, the ICA, IFLA and IFD are each endeavouring to establish branches in Africa.

To avoid separate action by these associations, the AIDBA should integrate their African branches into its working committees. Each one of the AIDBA Committees could join the corresponding organization of ICA, IFLA, IFD and ICOM. The AIDBA Library Committee is already member of the IFLA. At the

7th Congress, we hope to ratify this membership and seek authorization for the Committees on Archives, Documentation and Museums to join the ICA, IFD and ICOM respectively.

In that way, the action of the non-Africa international organizations whose imperialism escapes no one, can be controlled and co-ordinated.

We would, at the same time, help to democratise and universalize these organizations which are controlled mainly by westerners.

It should be possible for the ICA, IFLA, IFD and ICOM to be administered soon by persons elected on the basis of equitable geographical distribution (from Africa, America, Asia, Europe and Oceania) as in the United Nations and the various specialized agencies. However, we will only be able to impose our will if we are united, organized and methodical and if some of our fellow countrymen do not play the imperialists' game.

We should ourselves elect our officials and representatives to the International Organizations.

We recommend that all the national associations members of AIDBA and of other international organizations undertake action with those organizations to ensure that they are democratized and universalized.

The national member associations should in future, submit a single candidature on behalf of the whole Africa, for vacant posts in international organizations. Our success in the international organizations depends on this.

II. e) Doctrine, Organization and Operation

- Doctrine: The AIDBA firmly believes in the effectiveness of an integrated system of documentation, information services comprising libraries, documentation centres, archives and museums.

This network should be organized in urban and rural communities (towns) at national, sub-regional (continental) and international levels.

Co-operation, co-ordination and the integration of information on documentation should constitute the basic principles of action by AIDBA members (documentation, associations and institutions and individual members).

Such integration however, allows for material autonomy of the various documentation units which make up the networks of library, documentation, archive and museum services.

As in the case of French-speaking West and Central Africa, to start with archives, libraries, documentation centres and museums could constitute sections of the same department (IFAN and local centres) as is the case in a few countries like Mauritius where the Mauritius Institute comprises the national library and national museum.

As they expand, these two documentation units will become materially and administratively autonomous within the national information network.

- Operation

To study all the problems posed by the gradual organization and development of the different documentation institutions, the various working committees will organize themselves and set up their structures.

1) - Committee on Constitution, Operation, Methodology, Finance and Information.

2) - Library Committee

This Committee could comprise the following sub-committees:

- National Libraries
- University Libraries
- School Libraries
- Public libraries with a children's section
- Cataloguing
- Bibliography
- Automation, etc.

3) - Committee on Archives comprising:

- public libraries (Ministries, central departments, regions, municipalities, etc.)
- private archives
- protection and restoration
- recovery of archives sent overseas.

- 4) Committee on Documentation.
 - national documentation centres
 - specialized documentation centres and scientific and technical information services
 - automation

- 5) Committee on Museums
 - national museums
 - regional and municipal museums
 - protection of national museographic heritage and recovery of objects of art sent overseas
 - restoration

- 6) Committee on Professional Training, Status and Trade Unions of Archivists, Librarians, documentalists and museologists.
 - general training
 - programmes
 - special status
 - trade union organization, etc.

- 7) Committee on Cultural and Educational Environment, Archives, Museums and Documentation.
 - culture and information on documentation
 - education and training
 - training and education of information users.

- 8) Committee on Constitution, Operation, Methodology, Finance and Information
 - general constitution of AIDBA and constitution of member associations
 - doctrine, operation and method of work
 - finance
 - information

All these committees should be organized and should function under the responsibility of dynamic chairmen and secretaries.

The Committees shall then be active during the congresses and in between sessions as in other organizations.

Method of Work

The work of the committees like that of the other bodies of the Central Committee (Executive Bureau and sub-regional Bureaux) should be planned, distributed among the various members and carried out by stages. A report on the activities should be drawn up periodically and sent to the General Secretariat in charge of co-ordinating the association's activities.

II. f/ Structural Reform on the AIDBA

The structures of the Association were last revised in 1972. The constitution was slightly amended in 1976 in order to fulfil the requirements for OAU observer status.

In fact we shall have to take into account the new criteria during the current reform.

This reform bears mainly on the Central Committee so as to render it more operational. This committee could be organized as follows:

A) Executive Bureau

1. Honorary President
2. President General (responsible for general orientation and arbitration)
3. Secretary General (Technical and scientific orientation)
4. Executive Secretary (Implementation of decisions and coordination of activities)
5. Treasurer general (Management of funds income and expenditure)
6. Auditor (Audit of accounts)
7. Editor
8. Legal adviser

B) Chairmen of Committees

9. Committee on Constitution, Operation, Methodology, Finance and Information.
10. Library Committee
11. Documentation Committee
12. Committee on Archives
13. Committee on Museums
14. Committee on professional training, status and trade union matters
15. Committee on cultural and educational environment and information on documentation.

C) Regional Offices (for regional activities and coordination)

SOUTHERN AFRICA

16. Chairman
17. Secretary
18. Treasurer

CENTRAL AFRICA

19. Chairman
20. Secretary
21. Treasurer

WEST AFRICA

22. Chairman
23. Secretary
24. Treasurer

EAST AFRICA

25. Chairman
26. Secretary
27. Treasurer

NORTH AFRICA

28. Chairman
29. Secretary
30. Treasurer

Each of the five regions shall comprise the following countries according to the division adopted by the OAU at the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Council of Ministers and the Thirteen Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in June/July 1976 in Mauritius:

1. SOUTHERN REGION

1. Botswana
2. Lesotho
3. Malawi
4. Mozambique
5. Swaziland
6. Zambia

2. CENTRAL REGION

1. Chad
2. Cameroon
3. Central African Republic
4. Congo
5. Equatorial Guinea
6. Gabon
7. São Tomé et Príncipe
8. Zaire
9. Angola
10. Burundi
11. Rwanda

3. WESTERN REGION

1. Benin
2. Cape Verde
3. Gambia
4. Ghana
5. Guinea
6. Guinea Bissau
7. Ivory Coast
8. Liberia
9. Mali
10. Niger

11. Nigeria
12. Togo
13. Senegal
14. Sierra Leone
15. Mauritania
16. Upper Volta

4. EASTERN REGION

1. Comoro
2. Ethiopia
3. Kenya
4. Mauritius
5. Madagascar
6. Seychelles
7. Somalia
8. Tanzania
9. Uganda

5. NORTHERN REGION

1. Algeria
2. Libya
3. Egypt
4. Morocco
5. Tunisia
6. Sudan

II. Re-election of the Central Committee

The Central Committee which was elected in Abidjan in 1972 was enlarged in 1973 in Brazzaville and in 1975 in Dakar. Its term of office expired and should have been renewed in Accra one year ago, but this was not possible owing to the lack of quorum. We are intending to hold elections in September 1976 in Lome although we have not yet received candidatures for all the posts.

The distribution of posts is based on the qualifications of candidates, their place of residence and geographical distribution.

a) 8th Congress and Subsequent Congresses:

Most of the AIDBA's activities have so far taken place in West and Central Africa. We recommend that the 1979 Congress be held in East Africa, the 9th Congress (1982) in north Africa, the 10th Congress (1985) in southern Africa, the 11th (1987) in Central Africa and the 12th (1990) in West Africa.

With regard to the 8th Congress, we are requesting national associations which want their country to host it, to inform us before the end of the current congress.

If no invitation is received, the Seventh Congress will designate a country.

N.B. We could adopt a system of rotation of the heads of the association.

The president general and/or the Secretary General could be a national of the country or the host region of the Congress. However, these will be the problem of the Association's headquarters. The difficulty could be circumvented by setting up an executive secretariat at the permanent headquarters with paid staff.

III. PLANNING AND ORGANIZATION OF NETWORKS OF LIBRARIES, DOCUMENTATION, ARCHIVES AND MUSEUMS.

a) Integrated Networks

We are convinced that in order to attain its objectives, the AIDBA should promote rapidly the planning and gradual organization of integrated networks of library, documentation, archive and museum services at the national, regional, continental and international levels.

The activities of the Association from 1972 to 1976 included technical conferences, co-operation for the development of documentation institutions and continued staff training.

b) Technical Conferences

The AIDBA organized technical conferences on planning and integration of networks of documentation, library, archive and museum services in September 1972 in Abidjan for West African States and in September 1973 in Brazzaville for Central African States.

These two regional conferences prepared a major African conference which will be held in December 1977 or February 1978 under the auspices of the OAU.

Furthermore, the AIDBA has been indirectly the promoter of the Inter-governmental Conference on the Planning of National Documentation, Library and Archives Infrastructures held at UNESCO, Paris in September 1974.

It is the AIDBA which caused the meeting of experts on the planning of documentation, and library services Africa to be organized from 5 to 10 July 1976.

It is because of that meeting and the "Conference on the Future of Library systems in Africa" organized by the Ghana Library Board in September 1975 that the AIDBA had postponed its plan to hold the major African Conference.

We must make serious preparations for this conference which would be held in one of the five African regions (in Kinshasa, Addis Ababa, Rabat, Lagos, Luanda or any other city). The selection will be made by the 7th Congress and preparations will be initiated immediately.

The AIDBA Secretary-General took part in other meetings to ensure the triumph of the Association's ideal in the field of information on documentation:

- Conferences of editors of library magazines;
- documentation and archives, at UNESCO, Paris, 1972;
- Conference on Documentation in East Africa, Nairobi 1973;
- Conference on Bibliographic control and IFLA Council in Grenoble, August 1973; and seminar on automated documentation at UNESCO, Paris, September 1973;
- National Council of the IFLA in Washington in September 1974, in Oslo in August 1975 and in Lausanne from 23 to 28 August 1976. One of the reasons for AIDBA's participation is to study the structural reform of the IFLA so that AIDBA can benefit from the experience.

With the same aim in view, the Secretary General will be going to the international congress of Archives in Washington from 27 September to 1 October 1976.

During such missions, the Secretary-General establishes contact with the African participants to make them join the AIDBA and strengthen the movement for the integration of archives, libraries, documentation centres and museums in Africa.

- The 2nd Afro-Scandinavian Conference of Libraries was organized by the AIDBA in Dakar in April 1975. It brought together representatives from the five scandinavian countries and several African countries.

It studied the problems of planning and organization of libraries and sought means of cooperating with a view to developing libraries in the African countries in particular.

It was decided to organize the 3rd Afro-Scandinavian Conference in Helsinki, Finland in 1978.

- To ensure better organization of this conference, the Secretary-General attended an international conference on the construction of library buildings held in Helsinki in July 1975.

c) Cooperation for the development of documentation institutions

Senegal. Apart from its normal activities for the development of documentation in general, the AIDBA in collaboration with the Senegal branch contributed to making the Government of Senegal pass on 1 April 1976:

- a law on libraries
- a law on copyright
- a decree establishing a Library Board and a national library.
- a decree establishing a network of urban and rural public reading rooms.

This is the result of the approaches made to the Senegalese authorities since the 1960s since the initial draft bills on libraries submitted to the Governments of the French-speaking countries was adopted in 1962 by Mauritania alone. Although it took a long time to materialize, the outcome has been very fruitful. The new legislation will make possible the development of

libraries and other documentation institutions. The formulation of the projects and the continued action of the AIDBA and ASDBAM have also led to the establishment of a National Centre for scientific and technical documentation in respect of which legislation was being prepared by a National Committee on which the AIDBA is represented by its Secretary General.

This will be followed by legislation on Archives and Museums.

We should recall that our action between 1962 and 1969 had already led to the adoption of a special category regarding libraries, archives and documentation thus guaranteeing the profession of librarian, archivist and documentalist in Senegal.

The example of Senegal is very significant. Because it will serve as a model for the majority of the French-speaking African countries in the same way as the Ghanaian law served as basis for most legislation in the development of libraries in the English-speaking States. This is why all the said legislation and decrees will be published in the next issue of the AIDBA bulletin since the Secretariat could not publish several copies due to lack of time. The appointment of an editor is envisaged in the Association's new structure.

Gabon Assistance was given to the National University of Gabon for the recruitment of qualified librarians needed for the reorganization and development of the University Library.

A special seminar was organized in 1974 for five candidates (two curators, two librarians and one assistant librarian). Furthermore, the candidature of one consultant with many years of experience in the running of University Libraries was recommended. Unfortunately, there has been no concrete action taken on our proposal so far. The candidates who were trained are still available and ready to take up their posts at any time.

d) Continued training of documentary information experts

AIDBA considers that development of documentation bodies is linked with the existence of a corps of highly qualified librarians, documentalists, archivists, museologists and museographers.

This is why, since 1964 and from 1974 in particular, we have been organizing orientation introduction and refresher courses in Dakar.

Candidates are selected and oriented towards:

- 1). Higher level: Higher Diploma in Librarianship, Paris, and Lyon; Diploma awarded by the National Institute of Documentation, Paris; "Stage technique international d'archives" and "Ecole des Chartes" in Paris; "Ecole des arts et Metiers et Instituts du Louvre" in Paris.
- 2) Middle Level: (S.T.I.A.) School for training of Librarians, archivists and documentalists, Dakar, Certificate for Aptitude in librarianship, issued in Paris by "Ecole de JOS".
3. Elementary level: Preliminary training, on-the-job training in Librarianship).

Through the direct and indirect action of our Association several experts have been trained at the three levels. Every year about 30 candidates at the three levels attend the three month course organized in Dakar and are introduced to the techniques of documentation. They are provided with a brief but appropriate training enabling them to organize and run a small documentation unit. They are made to understand, during the course that they should pursue further courses. They are then oriented towards the higher or intermediate level schools or towards auxiliary jobs.

They are even advised to pursue their general studies up to the baccal aureat or masters so that they can be more efficient and occupy a higher post in the profession.

AIDBA action was centred above all on the French-speaking countries which lack qualified technicians. But as soon as this gap between the two groups of countries is filled, training will be generalized to cover the whole of Africa. Already, Mr. OGUNDIPE, Chairman of the Committee on Professional training, status and trade union affairs, has concrete proposals to make in this connexion.

During its term of office, the Executive Bureau granted financial assistance to the EBAD students and AIDBA trainees. It awarded a full scholarship for advanced studies (from December, 1974 to July, 1975) in Dakar, to the librarian of the lycee Kpodzi at Palime (Togo), and a full scholarship for a course leading to Higher Diploma, to the Librarian-Documentalist at the National livestock and animal industry laboratory of Dakar. The two trainees have successfully completed their studies. The first passed the end-of-course examination and the second obtained the Higher Diploma in Librarianship with credit.

We believe we would not be able to award scholarships for 1976/77 since there was no subvention from the OAU. The next scholarships will therefore be granted for the 1977/78 academic year.

Candidatures from the AIDBA member countries should be sent to the Secretariat before March 1977 through the national associations or the Governments. Criteria for the award of scholarships will be studied by the congress.

Conclusions

The AIDBA has expanded gradually and increased its action with regard to documentary information on African states from 1972 to 1976.

It obtained OAU observer status on 29 June 1976 at the Twenty-seventh Session of the Council of Ministers in Mauritius. This recognition will enable us strengthen our action and effectiveness at continental and internal international level.

What remains is to obtain category "B" or "C" of UNESCO consultative status. The AIDBA must work so as to play its role fully in the world of documentation.

Hence it will be possible to remove imperialism from the field of documentation through the democratization of all the associations and the geographical distribution of senior posts.

We must first organize ourselves better, establish national associations in all member states and make them dynamic members of the AIDBA.

The AIDBA is the concern of all Africans who wish to take part in the development of information in Africa. Our association is open to all those of good will.

The National Associations of Librarians, documentalists and Archivists and/or Museographers are members with voting rights within the AIDBA. We can grant temporary voting rights to a national committee composed of libraries documentation Centres, Archives, museums; individual members should form national associations as soon as possible.

In this way, the AIDBA will gradually become stronger and more democratic and become a continental association.

If all of us, on leaving this Congress, could make a resolution to be a faithful militant and make the AIDBA triumph in our countries, we would have made a great stride towards progress in Africa because information is the source of life from which man draws a reason to live and hope for a better future.

Kwaku E.W. DADZIE
for the Executive Bureau

The Secretary General

AFRICAN UNION UNION AFRICAINE

African Union Common Repository

<http://archives.au.int>

Organs

Council of Ministers & Executive Council Collection

1977-02

Application for Subvention by the International Association for the Development of Documentation, Libraries and Archives in Africa

Organization of African Unity

Organization of African Unity

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