

Capacity Building Partnerships

- **Joint Government of Kenya and AERC Capacity Building Project for Policy Analysis**

The Government of Kenya in partnership with the African Economic Research Consortium initiated a project titled *Capacity Building Project for Economic Policy Analysis: A Comprehensive Approach to Strengthening the Policy Analysis and Economic Management Capacities in the Treasury*. The project, which was initiated in March 2010 and became effective in January 2011, was informed by the need to strengthen economic policy analysis and financial management capabilities within the National Treasury, which is the leading institution in government responsible for economic analysis and management, as well as implementation of the country's various economic policies. To achieve the overall objective, the Government of Kenya under the National Treasury established a Capacity Building Endowment Fund over a period of six years to implement the following five modules: (a) *Institutionalization of Economic Policy Analysis*; (b) *Placement of Graduates and Contract Policy Analysts*; (c) *Building Treasury Macro Model for Research and Policy Analysis*; (d) *Training Programme for Masters and PhD*; and (e) *Establishing a Network of Annual Exchange of Policy research through Economic Conferences*.

So far, the project has been implemented over a period of ten years, with significant success being realized. A total of 188 (108 masters and 80 PhD) Kenyan students have been supported for their graduate studies in the participating universities under the CMAP, CMAAE and CPP. Sponsored masters and PhD graduates are required to serve a 3- and 5-years training bond period, respectively, at the National Treasury as graduate trainees, research/policy assistants and policy analysts, to enrich practical knowledge in economic research and policy analysis. As of 2021, a total of 74 masters graduates have been appointed graduate trainees, 36 of whom have successfully served their three years internship, with 25 of them being employed as economists by the National Treasury.

- **Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO/COFEB)**

The African Economic Research Consortium and The Central Bank of West African States are formalizing a long-term cooperation in scientific research in economics regarding the formulation and implementation of monetary and economic policies within the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU). The objective is to strengthen the research capacity of young researchers of the WAEMU. The AERC and BCEAO will exchange techniques and experience in the fields of economic, monetary and financial research. These exchanges can take place in the form of workshops on modelling, econometric methods and other recent quantitative techniques; meetings on specific topics defined by mutual agreement. Research and training exchange program will be organized. Joint modelling workshops aimed at proposing a new analytical framework or improving a pre-existing analytical framework are envisaged. These can relate to the modelling and development of macroeconomic and financial analysis tools for the BCEAO.