

## **WAIFEM signs phase III Capacity Building Grant Agreement with African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF)**

In furtherance of WAIFEM's effort at building and sustaining capacity in Anglophone West Africa, the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) has given a US\$3,000,000 grant to the West African Institute for Financial and Economic Management. The grant will cover the period January 2012 to December 31, 2015 under a phase III agreement.

It should be recalled that WAIFEM and ACBF has collaborated for several years in phase I and II, in building capacity of public sector officials in West Africa.

The phase III grant agreement was signed on December 9, 2011 at WAIFEM's headquarters in Lagos Nigeria by , Dr. Frannie Léautier the Executive Secretary of the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) and Professor Akpan H. Ekpo the Director General of WAIFEM.

The project III is unique considering that it is result based, and has explicitly addressed the issue of gender participation at WAIFEM's training programmes. In addition it is designed to upscale the skills and participation of post-conflict countries in the sub-region as well as undertake research in macroeconomic issues, among others.

WAIFEM III project document is organized along four main components:

- i. Debt management
- ii. Financial sector management
- iii. Macroeconomics management
- iv. Intensive assistance to post-conflict countries

In her remarks at the signing ceremony of the grant, Dr. Frannie Léautier, the Executive Secretary of ACBF said that the Foundation support for WAIFEM III was informed by the perception that WAIFEM belongs squarely into the category of Institutions envisaged in ACBF's strategic plan as credible and worthy of partnership. In addition, the core areas of competencies of WAIFEM (namely Debt, Financial Sector and Macroeconomic Management) are relevant to the target beneficiaries of WAIFEM's programme which is consistent with ACBF's mandate and programme selection. Furthermore, ACBF considers WAIFEM not only as grant recipient, but a worthy partner for the Foundation's knowledge generation and dissemination programme.

The Director General of WAIFEM Prof. Akpan H. Ekpo thanked the ACBF for the financial and technical support the Institute has received over the years. He averred that the recently concluded bi-annual regional conference on post-crisis economy would have not been held but for the financial and moral support of ACBF.

Professor Ekpo also expresses the hope that project III will strengthen the e-learning and video conferencing delivery methodology of WAIFEM thus diversifying the delivery methodology of WAIFEM's training programmes.

He pledged that WAIFEM would deliver the programmes outlined in the phase III at the cutting edge of best practices.