Assié-Lumumba Elected to CIES Leadership*

Professor N'Dri Assié-Lumumba, a member of the Scientific Committee of CODESRIA, was recently elected Vice President of the Comparative and International Education Society (CIES) for 2013 – 14 and will assume the society's presidency in 2015 – 16.

Assié-Lumumba is a Professor of African and Diaspora Education at the Africana Studies and Research Center, Cornell University, Ithaca, United States. Her research areas cover comparative and international education, social institutions, African social history and the study of gender. She came to Cornell in 1991 as a Fulbright Senior Research Fellow and Ford Foundation/Africana Studies Fellow.

The new Vice President says she is particularly humbled by the fact that she is the first Cornell faculty and African scholar to be elected to the highly exalted leadership position of CIES.

N'Dri Assié-Lumumba is an author and editor of several books, including *Cyberspace, Distance Learning, and Higher Education in Developing Countries: Old and Emergent Issues of Access, Pedagogy and Knowledge Production*, *Higher Education in Africa: Crises, Reforms and Transformation* and *Women and Higher Education in Africa: Reconceptualizing Gender-Based Human Capabilities and Upgrading Human Rights to Knowledge*.

Founded in 1956, CIES is the premier professional organization for scholars in the field of comparative and international education. It fosters cross-cultural understanding, scholarship, academic achievement and societal development through the international study of educational ideas, systems and practices. Its membership includes nearly 2,500 academics, practitioners and students from around the world, and about 1,000 institutional members, primarily academic libraries and international organizations.

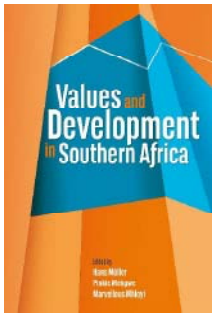
The election results were presented March 15 to the CIES membership at the society's 2013 annual conference in New Orleans.

CODESRIA congratulates Professor N'Dri Assié-Lumumba on this election which we llok forward to as yet a springboard to more honours and recognition.

Note

* This is an edited version of an article which was first published in *Cornell Chronicle*, April 17, 2013.

Values and Development in Southern Africa



Edited by Hans Müller, Pinkie Mekgwe & Marvellous Mhloyi

Development has been on Africa's agenda for a long time but progress has been both varied and limited, partly due to the diverse levelsof the discussionsonthe challenges and the interventions for tackling them. Africa's greatest challenge is the uneven development within and between its countries, and the pressing issues ofextreme poverty in southern Africa, and the continent as a whole. Poverty causes its victims to suffer social exclusion and political repression. In addition, societies that experience poverty are also mostlyunder continuous threat of ecological disasters and diseases. All poor people are therefore plagued by loss of freedom and dignity, and are often unable to participate effectively in the political, economic, legal and social processes of their countries.

This book focuses on the social and cultural dimensions of development dynamics and, in particular, the role of values in shaping development. Values are at the core of the hopes and aspirations of individuals, communities and societies. The booktherefore explainsthe values that motivate and inform African communities and societies, with a view to facilitating a dialogue about sustainable development in Africa among academics, intellectuals, policy and decisionmakers, and the communities. It also investigatesthe social and cultural dynamics of development in Africa, as a better alternative to earlier studies that blame African culture for poverty and exclude the people of Africa in their definition of developments in the continent.