UNESCO/ACALAN meeting “Joining forces for preserving Africa’s linguistic diversity”
Bamako, 23 – 25 March 2006

- Agenda -

(The working languages of the meeting will be English and French. Translation will be provided in both languages.)

Thursday 23 March

Opening

9:30 Welcome addresses by:
- UNESCO Office Bamako
- UNESCO Paris
- ACALAN (plus Presentation) : President ACALAN
- Opening speech of the Representative of the Government of Mali

10:45-11:15 Coffee break

Session 1 African Universities Sharing Experiences
Facilitator: Neville ALEXANDER
Rapporteurs: Herman BATIBO (English), Saliou DIALLO (French)

11:15 Three examples
Presentation of MAPAL: Pr Neville ALEXANDER and Pr Maurice TADADJEU
Presentation of ANACLAC: Pr Maurice TADADJEU
Presentation of Nufu Project (University of Mali): Pr Drissa DIAKITE

13:00-15:00 Lunch

15:00-16:00 Two more examples
Presentation of research on endangered languages at the University of Addis Ababa – Pr Baye Yimam MEKONNEN
Presentation of WALA: joint research project on West African Languages (University of Abidjan, University of Uyo) – Pr Eno URUA

16:00-16:15 Coffee break

16:15-18:00 Discussion: needs assessment of universities and other institutions

Friday 24 March
Session 2  ACALAN leading the way towards cooperation  
Facilitators: Adama SAMASSEKOU/ Rieks SMEETS/ Neville ALEXANDER  
Rapporteurs: Francis EGBOKHARE (English), Eugène-André OSSETE (French)

9:30-10:45  Open Debate: Research on (endangered) African languages: needs and solutions  
short introduction by Neville ALEXANDER (10min)

10:45-11:15  Coffee

11:15-12:30  Open Debate: Teaching African languages at universities  
short introduction by Kweku OSAM (10min)

12:30-14:30  Lunch

14:30-15:45  Raising awareness among authorities  
short introduction by Rieks SMEETS (10 min)

15:45-16:15  Coffee break

16:15-17:30  Availability of equipment, publications, etc. and raising funds  
short introduction (on the basis of the UNESCO survey) by Sabine KUBE (10 min)

17:30-18:00  Summarizing the debates of the day

Saturday 25 March

Session 3  Safeguarding Oral Expressions and Traditions  
Facilitators: Rieks SMEETS/ Mamadou Banni DIALLO  
Rapporteurs: Naomi SHITEMI (English), Carl EBOBISSE (French)

9:30-11:00  Presentation and discussion of the UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (Rieks SMEETS)  
Debate, exchange of experiences

11:00-11:15  Coffee

11:15-13:00  Final debate, adoption recommendations

General rapporteurs: Emmanuel SAGARA (ACALAN), Sabine KUBE (UNESCO)