Science, Parliaments and Africa

Tuesday 3rd November 2009, 4pm to 7pm
The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House, Houses of Parliament

Parliaments across the world are expected to deal with a vast array of policy matters relating to science. In Africa, topical science policy issues range from malaria and climate change adaptation to nuclear safety and ICT infrastructure. To conduct effective scrutiny of government, parliamentarians need some understanding of the scientific information with which they are constantly bombarded. However, few African parliamentarians are educated to tertiary level in science and technology. Moreover, while UK parliamentarians can obtain advice on scientific topics from a variety of specialist staff, many parliaments in Africa do not have staff with relevant training.

This seminar will bring together Members and staff from the UK and other European parliaments, civil servants, researchers, development practitioners and funders to focus on science in African parliaments. We will discuss why parliamentarians need access to research information and explore some of the challenges in bridging the gap between researchers and parliamentarians. We will also highlight some of the capacity building activities which POST, the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP) and other partners have been carrying out.

Please email post@parliament.uk to reserve a place at this event.
Programme

4.00pm Welcome by Chair Tom Clarke MP

4.05pm Presentations

Speakers include Prof. Moses Bockarie (Director of the Centre for Neglected Tropical Diseases at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine); David Dickson (Director, Scidev.net); Dr Chandrika Nath (Adviser, POST); and Dr Julius T Mugwagwa (Visiting scholar, Open University).

5.00pm Panel Discussion

5.45pm Drinks reception