

# **AERC Announcement**

## **Strengthening Publication Incentives**

The AERC Thematic Research Programme seeks to build capacity for conducting research that informs policy. To achieve this goal, it focuses on policy-relevant research of high quality. Projects are recommended for advancement based on whether the researcher shows adequate progress in posing a clear, important and novel research question and addressing it credibly using appropriate methodological tools. These are basically the same criteria employed by strong academic journals in economics, but with the added relevance for policy.

Following the external review of the AERC Thematic Research Programme, and in line with the approved AERC 2015-2020 Strategic Plan, a number of reforms were recommended by the review team and subsequently adopted by the AERC Board. Among these reforms is strengthening the thematic research publication incentives; standardization of language for acknowledgement of AERC support in all published thematic projects and systematic tracking of the publication status of all sponsored thematic research, and make information on all publications available on the website. These reforms are aimed at improving the quality of the research reports done under thematic research and to achieve a wider reach for final reports. AERC will implement these reforms with the desire that the reforms will enhance the quality of research and enable the research findings reach a wider audience.

Thus, African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) wishes to announce thematic research incentives as outlined below including a standardized way of acknowledging AERC support in all published thematic research reports and track all published articles which will be displayed on the AERC Website.

### **Strengthening Thematic Research Publication Incentives**

In the economics profession at large, publication in a refereed journal plays a central role in incentive systems (e.g., university promotion). This is designed to stimulate achievement within the economics discipline, and it is also a key measure of success. In the past few years, a \$500 prize for publication of a Thematic Research project in an internationally refereed journal was on the books, but not implemented in practice. This has now changed. AERC hereby formally introduces the journal publication prize as a way of strengthening publication incentives to thematic programme researchers, and to encourage self-reporting of the same.

With effect from 1 April 2015, the AERC is implementing a two-tier prize system with a substantial prize for publication in a refereed international journal and a lower but substantial prize for publication in other respected journals or refereed book volumes. The later incentive is deemed appropriate provided that it can be certified that the publication is subject to credible peer review with a significant prospect of rejection. The prize will be implemented as shown in Table 1 below:

**Table1: Implementation of the Publication Incentives**

Price level	Internationally Refereed Journal/Book Chapter	Prize
Upper level prize	Publication in a journal appearing in the journal rankings such as Scimago Institutions journal ranking; Keele economics journal ranking; IDEAS/RePEc Simple Impact Factor - Journals Rankings in respective fields of economics, among others	US\$ 1000
Lower level Price	Publication in other referred journals not included in the international rankings and a chapter in a refereed book volume. Evidence of peer review required	US\$ 500

The prize is per publication. To access the prize, the author(s) of the article will notify AERC of the journal article by providing the following information.

- ✓ The title of the article, the publishing journal including volume, and issue number (or pages).
- ✓ Forward to AERC the published journal article for displaying on its website.
- ✓ On receiving this information, AERC will process the payment and notify the researcher(s) and
- ✓ Upload the journal article/book chapter on the AERC website

### **Standardization of Language for Acknowledgement of AERC**

Previously published thematic research articles have not used a standardized language in acknowledging AERC support. Below is the acknowledgement template to be used in all AERC supported research. When using the acknowledgement template adjust the words highlighted in yellow to suit your text.

**I/We** wish to express my deep appreciation to African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) for the financial support to carry out this research. **I am/We are** also grateful to the resource persons and members of AERC's thematic group **XX** for various comments and suggestions that helped the evolution of this study from its inception to completion. **I am/We are** indebted to the anonymous referees who reviewed the paper and provided comments and suggestions that helped in shaping and improving the overall quality of the paper. The findings made and opinions expressed in this paper are exclusively those of the author(s). The authors are also solely responsible for content and any errors.

### **Systematic Tracking of Publication Status of AERC Sponsored Research**

Based on the information provided by the researchers on the publications, AERC will systematically track the publications of AERC funded thematic research and upload them on the website, thus providing a public record of all thematic research publications.