

**One Day Conference at Carleton University (Ottawa, Canada):
“The Legacies of Nyerere: Economies, Politics, and Solidarities in Tanzania and Beyond”
Friday March 4, 2011**

Julius Nyerere, leader of Tanzania from its independence in 1961 to his retirement in 1985, has been one of the most influential political figures from Africa. “Mwalimu,” or “teacher” as Nyerere was popularly known, struck an independent path for Tanzania, was a major influence in continental and regional organizations and in anti-colonial movements, and his policies and practices continue to reverberate and be the object of critical reflection.

Canadian government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and academics played an active role in Tanzania under Nyerere and they and since the 1990s, Canadian companies, continue to be active in Tanzania. Building on Carleton University’s over thirty year ties to the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) and a number of its professors whose research and teaching occurred in Tanzania during Mwalimu’s time and continue to this day and the strong links to Tanzania many current and former Canadian government and NGO officials based in Ottawa, Carleton’s new Institute of African Studies is organizing a one day conference in March 2011 to commemorate the more than ten years since Mwalimu’s passing by critically examining the legacies of Nyerere in terms of economic policies and markets, international politics, and solidarities generated nationally, continentally and internationally.

Nyerere’s economic policies of “African socialism” strongly shaped the national economy and development of Tanzania as well as influencing those of other African countries. They also generated strong criticism and reconsideration as market liberalization replaced various forms of collective policies after Nyerere retired while also becoming the main economic policy throughout Africa. Canadian government officials, non-governmental organizations and companies have played roles in both periods in Tanzania. This conference will offer a critical appraisal of these economic policies and their consequences in various sectors in Tanzania and beyond, thinking through development models promoted under Nyerere’s rule and since.

Nyerere was a highly influential leader domestically and on the international stage. He forged the union of Zanzibar and Tanganyika to form Tanzania and he instituted one-party rule. At the same time, he is praised for his own modest lifestyle and for handing power over to a successor within the ruling party. He was instrumental in the formation of the Organization of African Union and played a major role in it as well as the non-aligned movement and the various liberation movements operating to decolonize southern African nations from the 1960s to 1994. Up until his passing, he also played a strong role in peace-building efforts in the region. This conference will provide a critical appraisal of national, regional and continental political institutions and international relations in Africa.

Nyerere strongly promoted egalitarianism in Tanzania, placing it as part of the roots of African ways of living. At the same time, he aimed to forge a national identity through his language, education and development policies, seeking to craft bonds of solidarity between its citizens beyond ethnic, religious or other affiliations. Nyerere's policies also attracted many international organizations and individuals, including to the University of Dar es Salaam. His policies and actions helped to forge transnational ties and practices that continue to have influence today.

Tanzania remains one of the priority countries of CIDA and Canadian NGOs continue to partner with many Tanzanian organizations and government agencies. The Canadian and Tanzanian government are negotiating a Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection agreement. This conference will critically examine these partnerships between Canada and Africa and policies of modernization seeking to establish national unity and stability in Tanzania and elsewhere. In short, this conference will use the many legacies of Julius Nyerere as a way to provide a forum to examine important issues about economic development, international politics, nationalism, and Canadian-African relations; issues that were pressing under Mwalimu's long rule and continue to be so today in Tanzania and Africa. As Nyerere wrote in *Uhuru na Maendeleo (Freedom and Development)* in 1973: "intellectuals have a special contribution to make to the development of our nation, and to Africa. And I am asking that their knowledge, and the greater understanding that they should possess, should be used for the benefit of the society of which we are all members."

Our conference brings together leading Canadian and Tanzanian academics and officials to critically assess Nyerere's legacies to Tanzania and the world at large. It will take place on Friday March 4, 2011. We are delighted that the Honourable Abdulrahman Kinana, former speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly and Tanzanian minister, will deliver the key-note address. There will be a video link between Dar es Salaam's Tanzania Global Development Centre and Carleton University which will enable us to have a speaker based in Dar es Salaam as well as having students from UDSM actively participate in the conference. The Hon. Mr. Kinana is also speaking to the President's office in Tanzania to see if it is possible for President Kikwete to say a few opening words via video-link or to have them read out at the conference.