



## Graduate School of Development Policy and Practice

*Strategic leadership for Africa's public sector*

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### **Building Bridges Regional Workshop on Developing National Business Communities and Regional Integration**

**Tuesday 18 August, Best Western Coral Beach**

The East African Community records the highest levels of intra-regional trade on the continent. In the five years between 2005 and 2010, levels of intra-regional trade in the EAC increased by 16%.

While East Africa has been the continent's model for regional economic integration, the rest of the continent is still challenged by poor infrastructure, a lack of feasible transport networks and low technological connectivity. This has resulted in making the movement of goods and services costly and doing business across borders in Africa very expensive. As a result, investment and intra-African trade has been impeded and discouraged.

The Building Bridges programme at Graduate School of Development Policy and Practice, affiliated to the University of Cape Town, and in partnership with the UONGOZI Institute, is hosting a one-day seminar in Dar es Salaam that will bring together key thinkers to discuss African economic integration, in particular the role of national business communities in driving regional integration.

The meeting, taking place on **Tuesday 18 August 2015 at the Best Western Hotel: Coral Beach** in Dar es Salaam will feature inputs by the continent and region's top thinkers and practitioners on regional integration, including a

session on a new generation of business leaders and the role of technology in supporting the regional integration agenda.

The keynote address will be delivered by **Prof Thandika Mkandawire**, Visiting Professor and Senior Fellow at GSDPP. Prof Mkandawire is the first person to take on the Chair in African Development at the London School of Economics (LSE). Prof Mkandawire was formerly Director of the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Development Research in Copenhagen and has taught at the Universities of Stockholm and Zimbabwe. He has held the Olof Palme Professor for Peace with the Institute for Future Studies in Stockholm. His research interests are mostly in development theory, economic policy and development and social policy in developing countries and political economy of development in Africa.

The event is open to the media.

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