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June 2022 Newsletter



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Installation and Deployment of 50Kw Solar Pv Generation Technology at Njala University, Sierra Leone



The challenge of access to energy has been recognised at the level of the African Union Agenda 2063 the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Goal 7 of the SDGs aims at achieving universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy by 2030, while Agenda 2063 Goals 1, 7 and 10 have targets for an increase of 50% in electricity generation, 50% distribution and 70% of Africans having access to electricity by 2023.

Furthermore, low levels of resilience to the threats such as COVID-19 in institutions of learning is a persistent challenge across Africa. Key among the causes of vulnerability of institutions across the continent is low productive capacity, especially a lack of access to key production drivers such as energy. Immediate resilience building interventions to respond to COVID-19 externalities are urgently required to cushion institutions of learning and rural households from anticipated severe short to long-term impacts. An effective response to the COVID-19 shock calls for simple, yet impactful, quick turn-around interventions that mitigate impacts in the short-term while building resilience in the long term.

It is in this context that this renewable energy project is an AUDA-NEPAD led

response to the recommendation of the African Union High Level Panel on Emerging Technologies (APET), specially as part of the outcomes of the Dakar Policy Dialogue, to mitigate COVID-19 pandemic externalities.

Njala, in Sierra Leone, is a farming community with over 10,000 thousand inhabitants in which the Njala University campus was established in year 1964 with presently over 10 000 students and 220 staff devoid of basic amenities such as electricity and access to clean water. This puts pressure on the institution in terms of teaching, research development and to the women and youth of the entire community to meet up their domestic needs, including livestock production.

The university campus consists of the secretariat, students' quarters and academic lecture auditoriums. The administrative secretariat provides essential educational services against severe capacity limitation due to lack of electricity. The campus has since been powered by a thermal generator of which the cost of operation is too high for the institution, hence the rationing of power which inhibits adequate hours of learning, thereby impacting negatively on quality of learning..

Consequent to the 100Kw energy system

already delivered to Njala university in year 2021 to support access to digital health delivery services to university students, women, youth and the community of Njala at large, this additional deployment of 50Kw solar Pv energy generation aims to increase access to electricity supply. It will drive accelerated educational service delivery and institutional strengthening to Njala university in the fight against the current pandemic and beyond, while lifting academic productivity, living standards and livelihoods of the entire Njala community.

Project implementation

This 50Kw Solar PV energy generation system was awarded to Aptech Africa Limited as the executing firm in December 2021 through the Renewable Energy Unit of the Environmental Sustainability division of AUDA-NEPAD, with Mr Benjamin Akobundu as the Project Manager. It was fully completed in May 2022.

The implementation of this project was also monitored by University of Njala Project Monitoring Committee in conjunction with the Government of Sierra Leone through the Ministry of Energy. The project has also received the full acceptance of Inspection and Receiving Committee of AUDA-NEPAD.

AUDA-NEPAD and JICA Launch the 3rd Edition OSBP Sourcebook

The African Union development Agency-NEPAD (AUDA-NEPAD) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) have launched the 3rd edition of the One-Stop Border Post Sourcebook on the margins of the Pre-TICAD event hosted at the Wanderers Club in Johannesburg, South Africa. .

The OSBP Sourcebook is a key resource that elaborates the One-Stop Border Post concept and provides guidelines on OSBP operations. The 3rd edition has been prepared in alignment with Agenda 2063 as Africa moves towards a single customs union through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Speaking at the launch, on behalf of the CEO of AUDA-NEPAD, Ms Nardos Bekele-Thomas, the Head of Economic Integration, Dr Towela Nyirenda-Jere said that the 3rd edition comes at a significant time where the Continent is on the one hand dealing with the impacts of COVID-19 on cross-border movements and on the other, considering the role of border posts in the operationalisation of the AfCFTA.

“Another focus is the need to incorporate lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has affected trade and cross-border traffic, and it has required implementation of strict protocols and

the setting up of social infrastructure to prevent the transmission of the virus.”, she said.

The Sourcebook was launched on the margins of the pre-TICAD event themed “Towards TICAD8: Advancing Africa’s Economic Integration in the Post-Crisis era”.

Click on the link to access the Sourcebook in [English English 3rd Edition OSBP](#) and [French French 3rd Edition OSBP](#) Sourcebook

The Ambassador of Japan to South Africa, H.E Norio Maruyama reminded guests that ownership and partnerships are fundamental pillars for the comprehensive development of Africa. In this regard, Japan clarified its policy on supporting NEPAD in 2003 and has continued to partner with AUDA-NEPAD through strengthened cooperation mainly in the fields of regional integration, industrial development, nutrition, private sector support and research. This cooperation is contribution to the development of the continent through African ownership initiatives.

The Panel discussants moderated by Ms Jennifer Susan Chiriga, AUDA-NEPAD Chief of Staff, highlighted the need to think about the future of the Continent and the

need to strengthening African institutions, Infrastructure Development and an overall focus on ‘smart partnerships’.

When asked what their key takeaways would be from this session, the Resident Representative of UNDP South Africa, Mr Ayodele Odusola said : “ We must ensure that whatever we do , we put the people at the center of the development process” .

Mr George Kararach, Lead Economist at the African Development Bank highlighted in his ‘take-away’ that AfDB views AfCFTA as more than just infrastructure . ‘ We see AfCFTA as food security, as Capacity Building, health etc.”, said Kararach.

“We want to see a stable and peaceful Africa”, said the Senior Vice President of JICA, Mr Toshiyuki Nakamura.

The conversations on Africa’s response to crisis, such as COVID-19 will surely continue at the 8th Tokyo International Conference on African Development in August 2022. The conference brings together African Nations, International organisations, private sector and civil society to deliberate on the common goal of the development of Africa.



Up, Close and Personal with a Member of the AUDA-NEPAD Agenda 2063 Journalists Network



Name: Byron Adonis Mutingwende
Media House: Spiked Online Media
Country: Zimbabwe

The AUDA-NEPAD Communication team, held a one-on-one conversation on youth development, with Byron.

This is what he had to say :

What are your hopes for Africa?

As a continent with vast natural resources, Africa should strive to increase its production capacity. That means that there is need for an improvement in the extractive capabilities.

It is sad that the continent exports its minerals and other products like timber as raw materials. There is a need to embrace value addition and convert the raw materials into finished products.

If Africa exports finished products, it will earn the much-needed foreign currency so that the individual nations improve their economies.

There are also hopes for Africa to unite to fight wars that are an impediment to peace and stability.

If the continent is peaceful, there is room for citizens to pursue education, embrace science and technology and forge alliances for trade and business

that can result in the birth of competitive economies, and strong regional-global interaction.

A study by the JICA Research Institute contends that if such current challenges are addressed, by 2050, Africa's per capita incomes will grow six-fold, moving from one quarter of the global average to one half.

According to this report, the number of poor people will be reduced ten-fold to fewer than 50 million. The majority of Africans would join the middle class. Africa's share of global GDP will triple to 9 percent. This is a vision of what could be!

What role should the youth of this continent play in transforming the continent?

With a largely youthful population, Africa should harness the youth demographic dividend. The African youth population is projected to represent over 40 per cent of the world's young people, in less than three generations, according to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) report that predicts that by 2050, the teeming numbers of young Africans are forecast to form over a quarter of the world's labour force.

If more youths are employed globally, the young people can send back remittances to Africa, a move that has the potential to improve African economies.

Youth can also play an important role in the transfer of technologies from developed countries to Africa, thereby closing the skills gap and potentially increasing the continent's production capabilities.

To harness the potential of African youths, there is a need to address inequalities and foster inclusive communities by extending programmes and initiatives to alienated and marginalized communities.

By spearheading entrepreneurship initiatives, young people should create jobs for themselves so that they play a key role in addressing the high rates of

unemployment on the African continent.

If youths create jobs for themselves, they increase their access to public resources and quality social services.

In turn, young people will be critical actors in the promotion of healthy lives and livelihoods.

Young people should increase their access to education and participation in policy formulation and programme design by participation in politics and taking up influential positions in critical sectors like business, science and technology, engineering, and agriculture, among others.

Youths should advocate for and influence their respective governments and other key actors to put in place policies and measures that ensure that no one and no place is left behind in terms of development as espoused by Africa's Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable development Goals.

What is the role of a journalist in Africa? What should they do to drive the agenda of transformation?

A journalist plays a critical role in the transformation of the African continent. In essence, a strong media provides accurate, timely and objective reporting to foster development and encourage humanitarian work for sustainability.

Journalists are at the centre of promoting the common interest of improving the wellbeing of the people.

Africa is at the centre of a plethora of development and humanitarian challenges arising out of climate change and weak economies. The people who are affected by development programmes ought to have their voice heard, ought to be consulted, and have ownership in whatever is being designed for them to ensure success.

A good starting point is to empower people with information particularly in the rural areas: information that



highlights innovation, information that will help the public monitor and evaluate national development programmes and policies; information that enables stakeholders to determine whether public pronouncements are translated into public actions, information that provides stakeholders with a sense of cause and effect, and information that makes it possible for the public to participate meaningfully in discussions and debates on development issues.

Journalists should increase reportage on the Agenda 2063 vision with emphasis on development, job creation, poverty eradication, equity, and attainment of a balance in economic transformation across the various sectors and regions of the African continent.

In the midst of emerging vulnerabilities and lingering challenges like COVID-19 and climate change-induced disasters, journalists should report on issues and initiatives that foster economic recovery and resilience issues.

Can our leaders do things differently? If so, what must they do differently?

It is incumbent upon African leaders to embrace economic policies and programmes that address poverty and growing inequalities on the continent.

Africa is resource-rich but due to capital

flight through illicit financial flows (IFFs) the continent remains poor. Thus our African leaders should take steps and collaborate among various states to curb the IFFs.

There is a need to address the resource curse on Africa. There is a danger of terrorism and ethnic wars on the continent. African leaders should embrace democratic governance and strive to distribute resources equitably among all provinces and regions so as to guard against conflict and promote peace.

According to Dr. Jean de la Croix Nkurayija in his research paper titled "The Requirements for the African Continent's Development: "Linking Peace, Governance, Economic Growth and Global Interdependence" the development challenges of Africa are deeper than low income, falling trade shares, low savings, and slow growth.

In addition, they include high inequality, uneven access to resources, social exclusion, insecurity, environmental degradation, HIV/AIDS pandemic, among others.

The above are some of the challenges that African leaders must address in partnership with development partners and the international community at large.

Lastly, what do you think AUDA-NEPAD should do to further drive the agenda of the empowerment of youth?

AUDA-NEPAD should take steps to influence governments, policymakers, and stakeholders to take necessary steps to harness the youth demographic dividend.

This entails crafting STEM courses for the youth (18-35 years); academic fellowships for various sectors; assisting skills development through vocational courses training opportunities; and entrepreneurship programmes.

There should be courses on natural resource governance and the extractive sector as well as data and investigative journalism courses on a revolving basis.

Efforts must also be done to have media representatives from Africa's various regional economic communities like SADC and ECOWAS to attend African Union meetings, Conference of Parties (COPs) on climate change, and the United Nations General Assembly. Participants to these should be fully-funded by AUDA-NEPAD.

AUDA-NEPAD Home Grown Solutions Accelerator for Pandemic Resilience's Support Phase is Ongoing

The HGS Accelerator for Pandemic Resilience is an initiative that aims to accelerate the growth of African healthcare companies to strengthen the continent's pandemic resilience, in line with the African Union's Agenda 2063 aspirations. This is achieved through offering hands-on and tailored support to growth and mature stage healthcare businesses. AUDA-NEPAD founded the accelerator initiative in 2020 in partnership with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and with support from the Boston Consulting Group (BCG), a global management consulting firm, and Villgro Africa, an experienced Pan-African Accelerator.

As a reminder, on March 24th, 14 African healthcare ventures were selected to be a part of the Home-Grown-Solutions and form the second cohort to receive support by the initiative.

As a formal kick-off to the initiative, on the 13th of April we conducted a plenary session where the HGS could meet the operational core team as well as their peers. The event was successful with the HGS manifesting high excitement for the program.

During the month of April our 7 Portfolio Managers, each managing two HGS, continued to assess and tailor the acceleration plan with the ventures based on our current offering of context specific advisory, investment readiness support and matching to strategic partners.

Below is an overview of our Portfolio Managers for this year and overview of acceleration areas.

Yannick Diogo: Consultant at BCG Nairobi, supporting Sinapi and Polyclinique Pasteur
Background in Economics & Business, from Angola

Terry Otinga: Consultant at BCG Nairobi, supporting Dawa and Rology
Background in Actuarial Science and Finance, from Kenya

Moses Waweru: Senior Portfolio Manager at Villgro Africa, supporting Streamline and DataPathology
Background in Global Health and Business Administration, from Kenya

Snider Mugese: Senior Portfolio Manager at Villgro Africa, supporting Simbona and Doctoora
Background in Financial Engineering, from Kenya

Edwin Osora: Portfolio Manager at Villgro Africa, supporting OCLIYA and Doctor on Call
Background in Actuarial Science, from Kenya

Kay Smith: Consultant at BCG Lagos, supporting Africa Health Holdings and MDaaS Global
Background in Business Administration, from Nigeria

Immanuel Momanyi: Senior Portfolio Manager at Villgro Africa, supporting Appy Saúde and WiiQare
Background in Actuarial Science, from Kenya

Acceleration support
We have a tailor-made support for each venture based on their needs

Accelerator offering: Context-specific advisory, Matching to strategic partners, Investment readiness support

Region	Venture	Business Description	Support Focus
North Africa	ROLOGY	AI-assisted tele-radiology platform	Series A financials preparation and TOM for geo expansion
	DataPathology	Remote pathological diagnostics platform	Regulatory clarification, GTM partners & inv. readiness
	DOC	Platform allowing doctor home visits	Business model validation, strategy & inv. readiness
West Africa	MDaaS Global	International network of modernizing providers	Target operating model and synergy realization
	Referral hospital	Referral hospital & pillar of local health	Vision and growth plan for in- and beyond Mali
	MDaaS Global	Diagnostic clinics in underserved areas	Ideate & pilot hub-spoke-spike growth
	Novel pre-paid scheme	Novel pre-paid scheme for uninsured patients	Business model review, biz dev & inv. readiness
East Africa	Pharmaceuticals firm	Pharmaceuticals firm with pan-African sales	Initiative prioritization and decisions for regional strategy
	Stre@mlina	EMR and community insurance scheme	Strategy dev into Seed raise and scaling to 15 hospitals
	Manufacturer of UV sterilization machines	Manufacturer of UV sterilization machines	Manufacturing plan, GTM partners & inv. readiness
	WiiQare	E-wallet type health financing scheme	Business modeling, GTM partners & inv. readiness
South Africa	Medical device designer and manufacturer	Medical device designer and manufacturer	Global growth strategy and investment readiness
	Pharmaceuticals B2B and B2B2C platform	Pharmaceuticals B2B and B2B2C platform	Monetizing business model, scaling & invest. readiness
	Local telehealth and home visit platform	Local telehealth and home visit platform	Business model basics & start with investment readiness
	OCLIYA	Local telehealth and home visit platform	Business model basics & start with investment readiness

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We've also been keeping a close touch with our alumni as Revital Healthcare launched a new respiratory kit device on May 20th. The device, a high-quality infant CPAP system delivers blended oxygen to new-borns without the use of electricity, compressed or manual power, driving impact in low-resource settings.



Revital packing of CPAP device



Revital cargo of CPAP device

To conclude, on the week of May 30 members of our core team, Bernice Mclean, George Murumba and Kossi Toulassi, part of AUDA-NEPAD recently conducted a field mission in Kenya where they visited Dawa, a pharmaceuticals firm with pan African sales as part of our current cohort, and Access Afya, our alumni which builds and operates Primary healthcare clinics in low-income neighborhoods.



Bernice, George and Kossi at an Access Afya facility



Bernice, George, Kossi and Terry (Dawa's Portfolio manager) at Dawa's facility

AU Year of Nutrition: A Year of Action on Transforming Africa's Food Systems



THE YEAR OF NUTRITION
Strengthening Resilience in
Nutrition & Food Security
on the African continent:
Strengthening Agro-Food Systems, Health & Social
Protection Systems for the Acceleration of Human,
Social & Economic Capital Development

In 2020, the World Food Programme (WFP) estimated that an additional 130 million people would face acute hunger due to the COVID-19 crisis, nearly doubling the 135 million people already facing acute hunger. In 2021, the supply chain disruption due to COVID-19 impacted the world economies and caused inflation in agricultural commodities and basic foodstuffs. In 2022, the Russia-Ukraine crisis, which is already impacting food prices and availability globally, is also likely to widen the hunger and malnutrition gap across Africa, considering the role of the two conflicting parties in the supply chain of fertilizer, wheat, staple crops, and crude oil. This has exacerbated the number of vulnerable communities affected by a lack of nutritious meals per day and food necessities for improving food security and ultimately for healthy and well-nourished citizens.

Against this backdrop, the year 2022 has been declared by the African Union as the Year of Nutrition themed- “Strengthening Resilience in Nutrition and Food Security on The African Continent: Strengthening Agro-Food Systems, Health and Social Protection Systems for the Acceleration of Human, Social and Economic Capital

Development’. The emphasis on this critical sector for this year highlights the significant role of nutritional and food systems in facilitating access, affordability, and availability of healthy and nutritious food for all Africans across the continent, where most of them are still facing extreme hunger. In fact, according to the projection by United Nations, Africa will be unable to feed 60 percent of its population by 2025

In this context, the focus on nutrition this year is expected to result in robust investment and secure meaningful political pledges among the Member States that will boost nutrition investments for socio-economic and human capital development in Africa. Most importantly, it results in long-term solutions that can help build resilience against internal and external shocks and reorganise Africa’s food systems and Food and Nutrition Security early warning systems.

The urgency of choosing this year to focus on nutrition should not only end with policy and political advocacy engagements among the Member States but result in full commitment and action on the ground. This includes the

implementation of strategic frameworks such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), particularly the Malabo Nutrition Declaration and Agenda 2063 Goals and Priorities on boosting agricultural productivity and production. Moreover, Member States’ renewal of commitments in the Malabo Declaration to put into action the previous CAADP call on allocating at least 10 percent of their budget towards food and agriculture transformation will be paramount in addressing the hunger and malnutrition crisis plaguing the continent.

Finally, the Africa Common Position on Food Systems is in place to raise awareness, generate consensus on a shared vision, and galvanise crucial individual and collective actions, such as policy alignment and increased investments, to construct and sustain resilient, sustainable, and inclusive food systems. As a result, bringing these steps to fruition will be a burden that all Member States will have to carry if we are to eradicate hunger and malnutrition once and for all across Africa.

First DataCipation Programme Country Consultation Held in Kampala



The African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) together with Uganda’s National Planning Authority (NPA) held the first country consultative meeting for the DataCipation program.

The meetings took place from 25th to 27th May, 2022 in Kampala, Uganda.

The DataCipation programme aims to facilitate effective citizens participation in policy making processes at all levels of government through the creation of mechanisms and spaces (digital and non-digital) that support stakeholder engagement.

One of the key issues discussed was the African Union Handbook on citizens engagement. A proposal was made that the handbook should provide an effective and efficient mechanism for information dissemination and citizen feedback. Also proposed, was the need for peace building and conflict management to be fully embedded in the processes of stakeholder engagement.

Another key area deliberated upon was the African Union Citizen Engagement Platform. This is a platform currently being developed to provide digital technologies and tools for the provision of comprehensive interactive information platforms for citizens and citizens groups. One of the recommendations was the customisation of the platform to meet national, regional and continental needs of Africans. The need for mass sensitisation about the platform and how best it can be used to serve the interests of nationals for the attainment of Agenda 2063 was also discussed.

The consultation team was led by staff from AUDA-NEPAD. They conducted the consultations jointly with representatives from the pilot countries of the Data Cipation Program for peer learning and experience sharing as well as staff from the National Planning Authority which was responsible for the hosting and coordination of the consultation process.

The key stakeholders during the consultations were members of Parliament, Permanent Secretaries, Heads of government Agencies and Departments, Local Governments, Civil Society, Strategic Development partners, Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs), Private Sector, research institutions, Faith Based Organisations, youth, women and political groups.

A press briefing was also held with Ugandan media to introduce the DataCipation programme .

The country consultation was supported by GIZ.

Strengthening Research Capacities and Capabilities for the Achievement of Agenda 2063 Aspirations



There is a growing recognition that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Africa's Agenda 2063 will necessitate extensive technical expertise and deep research capacities. To achieve the SDGs and Agenda 2063 in Africa, universities must increase their focus on research that can contribute to sustainable development goals while also meeting international quality standards.

Following the technical advisory offered by AUDA-NEPAD and these insights guided AUDA-NEPAD's meeting with the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Free State, represented by Dr Molapo Qhobela, Vice-Rector: Institutional Change, Strategic Partnerships, and Societal Impact. The meeting was opened by Dr Molapo Qhobela, who welcomed the AUDA-NEPAD team. He was optimistic that these discussions would spark useful discussions about collaborations between the University of Free State, AUDA-NEPAD, and the African Union in a broader context of education, science, technology, and innovation, as well as Africa's socio-economic development.

Ms Fati N'zi-Hassane, Head of Human Capital & Institutions Development, also made an opening statement, introducing herself and her division's role in implementing Agenda 2063. She emphasized the various units in her division and how they contribute to the overall AUDA-NEPAD mandate.

Dr Justina Dugbazah thanked the UFS team for the warm welcome. She introduced the audience to AUDA-NEPAD, the Education Division, APET, and the Calestous Juma Executive Dialogue, as well as the importance of harnessing innovation

and emerging technology for socio-economic development in Africa. She emphasized that AUDA-NEPAD serves as Africa's technical interface, facilitating development and collaboration with partners. She also stated that the findings show a gap at the national level in implementing education, science, and technology initiatives. She is hopeful that these discussions will support the necessary discussions in African universities.

During discussions, it was discovered that South Africa's current national development plan is in line with international, continental, and regional commitments and that it mutually reinforces sustainable development with primary areas of research. Furthermore, the plan emphasizes research as a means of accelerating economic growth. Inadequate human and institutional capacity, on the other hand, will be a significant impediment to successfully achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 goals. In many cases, implementation agencies, sectors, and ministries lack sufficient people with the necessary skills to achieve the desired results. Public resources allocated to capacity building are also frequently insufficient, unpredictable, and irrational.

Furthermore, universities should invest in postgraduate training by establishing specialized training centres that focus on teaching general competencies and skills to students and employees of their institutions. If universities and governments want innovation to play a significant role in the implementation of Agenda 2063, they must prioritize high-quality education and research. [READ MORE](#)

APET Engages The Youth In Bloemfontein On Agenda 2063 In Commemoration Of Calestous Juma's Birthday



In commemorating the birthday of the late Prof. Calestous Juma, the African Union High-Level Panel on Emerging Technologies (APET) organised a youth Dialogue at the University of Free State in Bloemfontein, South Africa. The dialogue was held at the Ukubizana Hall of the University of Free State's South campus through the Calestous Juma Executive Dialogue on Emerging Technologies (CJED). The CJED convenes policy and decision makers, executives, youth and relevant stakeholders to deliberate on harnessing appropriate innovations and emerging technologies for Africa's socio-economic development.

APET has prioritised and recommended enhanced youth engagements on continental policies and frameworks towards harnessing innovations and emerging technology for Africa's socio-economic development. Thus, this dialogue was to kickstart university engagements across the continent. The dialogue also marked the celebration of Youth Month in South Africa with planned activities.

In her opening remarks, Ms Barbara Glover, Programme Officer of APET, introduced the audience to the African

Union, AUDA-NEPAD and Agenda 2063. She engaged interactively with the youth present by soliciting their views on the African Union and Agenda 2063 through anonymous polls.

Earlier in the day, following a meeting with the MEC of the Free State province, the AUDA-NEPAD delegation was invited to participate in a youth dialogue organised by the Premier of Free State Province, Premier Sisi SH Ntombela. The dialogue was organised for young engineers in the province as part of the launch of Youth Month to dialogue with the premier on innovative approaches to addressing unemployment and youth development in the province. During the dialogue, Dr Justina Dugbazah, coordinator of the APET-CJED programme, was invited to speak to the young engineers. In her remarks, she encouraged the youth to expand their horizon when looking at job opportunities and consider sharing their skills for the benefit of other African countries. She believed Africa has the requisite skills for development, and one step in regional integration is the harnessing and utilisation of the inherent skills rather than importing engineers for major projects across the continent.

Following discussions at both dialogues, the engaged youth offered the following recommendations:

There's a need for structured student engagements with other universities across the continent on Agenda 2063 and contributions to policy development. This could be structured like mini-African union general assembly sessions focused on youth development and outcomes submitted for consideration during continental deliberations. Inter-university dialogues on innovative solutions to Africa's socio-economic challenges can also be held.

There's a need for intensified domestication of agenda 2063 among the youth on the continent, as even at the university level, most of them are unaware of the continental Agenda. There's a further need to start advocating for Agenda 2063 among young students from basic school levels through extracurricular activities, for instance

As young people, it's important to rethink "What are we doing as youth to address continental challenges". We need to move from continuous debates to solutions as youth through innovative approaches.

[**READ MORE**](#)

World Environment Day

By Ms Nardos Bekele-Thomas, AUDA-NEPAD Chief Executive Officer



The African Union Development Agency-NEPAD (AUDA-NEPAD) is using up the world's resources faster than they can naturally recover. At the same time, the effects of climate change – lower crop yields, erratic rainfall, prolonged droughts – are making life harder for millions of people. World Environment Day, on 5 June, is a global event to celebrate and encourage action on the climate crisis. The day is described as “a global platform for inspiring positive change.” For all these reasons and more, I am adding my voice to encourage everyone, everywhere, to live sustainably and act on the climate crisis.

The central role that the environment plays as a guarantor and central pillar of sustainable development cannot be overemphasised. Indeed, the AUDA-NEPAD founding document and Environment Action Plan recognise a sustainable environment as a pre-requisite for attaining NEPAD's overall goal of sustainable growth and development.

Today, as we look at the present and a future of heatwaves, droughts, floods, wildfires, pandemics, polluted air and plastic ridden oceans and geopolitical tensions in action, it is more than apparent that we are running against the clock. African leaders also recognise that the degradation of 65% of the continent's agricultural land threatens economic and environmental ruin for millions of communities.

This year's World Environment Day is commemorated at a time when our home, the Earth, is facing multiple environmental challenges that pose existential threats to livelihoods and our very survival. The 2022 World Economic Forum's Global Risks Perception Survey indicates that the top three most severe global threats over the next decade will be related to climate change with climate action failure at the top, followed by extreme weather events and biodiversity loss.

For us in Africa, we feel the impact of the triple challenges of environmental degradation, biodiversity loss and climate change which are predicted to negatively impact our development aspirations and affect, primarily, millions of poor and vulnerable populations on the continent. As these crises have become more acute, World Environment Day's message has gotten more urgent and imperative.

This year is a watershed moment for global environmental governance. We have just come from the 15th United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP15) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification held in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire with a firm call to ensure that land, the lifeline on this planet, continues to benefit present and future generations.

As the Continent's development agency, we are committed to supporting countries and institutions in domesticating and implementing the Multilateral Environmental Agreements and continental environmental frameworks, such as the NEPAD Action Plan. We shall also continue to support the environmental sustainability priorities of the continent as captured in Agenda 2063. We aim to strengthen the capacity of African Union Member States and Regional Economic Communities to integrate climate change and sustainable development responses into national development processes through the provision of capacity building, and financial and technical support for sustainable environmental management.

I would like to end this message by emphasising that we are running out of time to save our planet- using up the equivalent of 1.6 earths to maintain our current way of life. Nature simply cannot keep up with our demands. Let us all act now to save planet earth.

Senegalese Parliament Adopts Revised National Law on Biosafety



The National Assembly of Senegal unanimously adopted the National Revised Law on Biosafety on 3 June 2022. Abdou Karim Sall, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development defended the bill before the parliament, highlighting its relevance in the current context. In their deliberations, MPs commended in particular, the inclusive approach that prevailed during the drafting of the revised bill that allowed openness and information sharing with all the stakeholders concerned, including parliamentarians, at all stages of the process.

Senegal ratified the Cartagena Protocol in 2003 and adopted the first national law on biosafety in 2009. However, this 2009 law had strict liability clauses that proved not conducive to the development and safe use of modern biotechnologies in the country.

The revision process of the law started in 2015 with the technical support of AUDA-NEPAD African Biosafety Network of Expertise. It was a participatory and inclusive approach involving honourable Deputies, members of the Economic, Social and Environmental Council and the High Council of Local Authorities, media professionals, producers, representatives of civil society, and public sector agents.

According to Agence nationale de biosécurité of Senegal, the advantages of the new law include the correction of some incompatibilities of the 2009 law with the objectives of the Cartagena Protocol and the Convention on Biological Diversity; the integration of key aspects of the Nagoya Kuala Lumpur Additional Protocol on Liability and Redress; and the incorporation of key points drawn from in the recently approved ECOWAS biosafety guidelines.

With this new law, Senegal will be able to operationalise its biosafety framework and safely harness modern biotechnologies for its development. In its 10-year development plan called “Plan Senegal Emergent,” structural transformation of the economy and growth is among the three top priorities. Creating an enabling environment for the use of technologies will definitely help the country oil the wheels for increased productivity and socio-economic development.

AUDA-NEPAD in Pictures:



The newly appointed first female CEO of the African Union Development Agency–NEPAD Ms Nardos Bekele-Thomas paid a courtesy call on H.E President Sahle-Work Zewde who congratulated her and expressed confidence in her leadership at this time of many global challenges and crises.



The AUDA-NEPAD CEO Ms Nardos Bekele-Thomas met H.E Mr Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda and Chairperson of NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee. The HSGOC provides the highest political leadership to the Agency and strategic guidance on Agenda2063 priorities. The meeting focussed on regional efforts towards economic integration.



In his capacity of chairman of the PRC sub-committee on NEPAD, H.E. Ambassador Elhamdi Salah received H.E. Ms Nardos Bekele-Thomas during her visit to Addis Ababa. They discussed implementation of Agenda 2063, AU decisions, economic integration and upcoming key events.

Did you know?

Navigation

Numerous prehistoric societies in Africa constructed a wide range of watercraft, including tiny reed-based craft, sailboats, and larger vessels with numerous rooms and even cooking facilities. Boats that were 100 feet long and 13 feet broad that could carry up to 80 tons were made by the Mali and Songhai. From this region of West Africa, currents in the Atlantic Ocean go to South America. Small numbers of West Africans may have gone to the east coast of South America and settled there, according to genetic evidence from plants, descriptions from the time, and artwork. Modern researchers have successfully navigated the Atlantic Ocean by reconstructing these ancient ships and their fishing equipment. These ancient people traveled to South America in the 13th century at about the same time as they traveled to China and back while transporting elephants.

The old, wealthy, and intricate cultures of which people of African origin are descendants have produced a vast array of technology.

HABARI

African Union Development Agency- NEPAD
230 15th Road, Randjespark, Midrand- South Africa
+27 11 256 3600 | comms@nepad.org | www.nepad.org

