



NEPAD NEWS

A monthly publication of the New Partnership for Africa's Development Agency

May 2017

African-led innovation in medicines will improve delivery of healthcare

Durban – The M-PESA innovation has transformed Kenya into a global leader in mobile phone payments. According to the President of the Republic of Mauritius, HE Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, “Such innovations have to be sustained and mainstreamed in other sectors, including the health sector to improve delivery of healthcare in Africa.”

President Ameenah Gurib-Fakim was speaking during the official opening of the Innovation Effect event on the margins of the World Economic Forum (WEF) on Africa on 2 May 2017.

“African-led innovations will help to create African solutions to effectively address African problems. Investing in Science, Technology and Innovation will ensure that Africa owns her development agenda,” President Gurib-Fakim said.

South African Minister of Science and Technology, Hon Grace Naledi Pandor emphasised the need for public-private partnerships and South-South collaboration to enhance investment in research and innovation in Africa. She said that local health innovation in Africa will help to make the continent less reliant on foreign investments.

“The Department of Science and Technology and the Department of Health in South Africa are currently working together to develop our own pharmaceuticals, diagnostics and medical devices. This will make South Africa less reliant on imports,” Hon Pandor stated.

NEPAD Agency CEO, Dr Ibrahim Mayaki brought to the attention of the audience the need for inclusive growth in a multi-sectoral approach to effectively tackle the challenges of STI in Africa. - *continues on page 2*

African-led innovations will help to create solutions to effectively address African problems -

President of the Republic of Mauritius, HE Ameenah Gurib-Fakim

In this Issue

- Arts education vital for Africa's broader social cohesion
- The Gambia: Strengthening collaborative leadership and dialogue for nation building
- Towards 'Zero Malaria by 2030': Biological control of mosquitoes
- Launch of the Skills Initiative for Africa programme in Kenya
- Connecting markets, people, goods and services in Africa
- Unleashing business opportunities for sustainable landscapes
- Showcasing African innovations to commemorate Africa Day
- Africa's commitment to *Zero Hunger* through IFNA
- AFC infrastructure summit presents \$12bn projects
- Tracking and measuring impact of Africa's Science Technology and Innovation Strategy
- Promoting Africa's air transportation, aviation infrastructure and safety
- Driving entrepreneurship through value chain development
- African trade and migration shaping globalisation



President of the Republic of Mauritius, HE Ameenah Gurib-Fakim exchanging ideas with NEPAD Agency CEO, Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki at the World Economic Forum on Africa

- continued from previous page

“Innovation is not about centralising policies, to the contrary, it is about empowering local communities for the transformation of the African continent,” Dr Mayaki said.

During the meeting, President and CEO of PATH, Steve Davis stated that entrepreneurship and research capacity in Africa is starting to move in the right direction and this will lead to innovation that will have an impact in the lives of the ordinary people in Africa.

“African led innovation has the potential to move beyond addressing local problems with local solutions to becoming a global public good,” Mr Davis remarked. African led innovation must be inclusive and bring the public and private sector together to deliberate on the future of innovation. Other African leaders also have to come on-board to increase the political will and commitment to investing in locally driven innovation.

Arts education vital for Africa’s broader social cohesion

Cairo – Minister of Education and Technical Education of Egypt, Dr Tarek Shawki has urged African countries to support Arts Education as a universal human right with a vital role in the broader social cohesion on the continent. Dr Shawki was speaking at Africa’s 2nd ever regional Arts Education Conference for the Northern and Eastern countries which took place in Cairo, Egypt from 23 – 25 May 2017.

“Arts Education plays an active and essential role in developing and heightening a sense for knowledge, respect and appreciation, cultural diversity and instilling a sense for creativity and imagination”, Dr Shawki emphasised.

During his opening remarks, Dr Shawki highlighted the need to support the development of a clear conceptual framework and plan of action for Arts Education in Africa that can be implemented by all African Union Member States. Arts Education in Africa has largely remained on the periphery of formal education and continues to be neglected by institutions of learning. Hence, these key instruments shall help to address these challenges through the development of the necessary human capacity, improving the quality of education, promoting understanding of cultural diversity, and supporting teachers with modern teaching methods.



Africa art exhibition at the Conference in Cairo

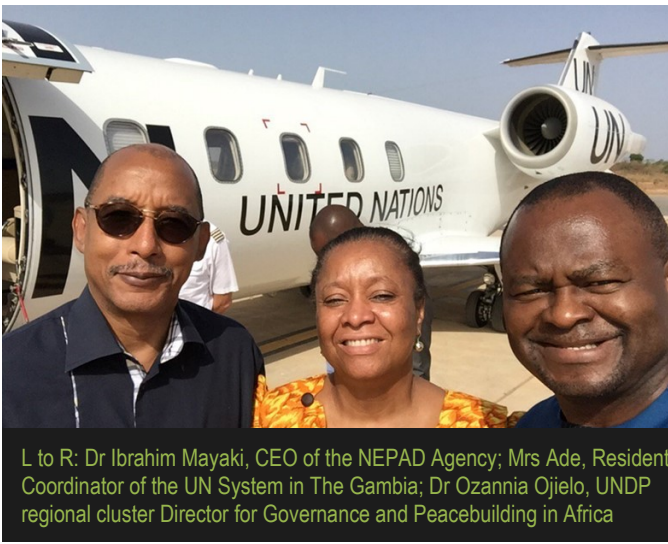
Speaking on behalf of the NEPAD Agency’s CEO, Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, Prof Tandeka Nkiwane said that Arts Education has the potential to influence and contribute to the creation of cohesive societies in the various regions of the African continent, ultimately contributing to regional integration. Prof Tandeka further said that Africa must review the curriculum and educational systems in order to strategically and systematically address Arts Education.

“In order for educational reform to succeed, there is need to improve teacher training and development on Arts Education and elevate it high on the agenda of continental and regional cooperation that aim to make it part of the curriculum,” Prof Nkiwane said.

Prof Nkiwane called for synergy between formal and non-formal Arts Education as both are critical and can contribute to the socio-economic development of the continent.



School children from Egypt also participated in the conference and displayed their art work



L to R: Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO of the NEPAD Agency; Mrs Ade, Resident Coordinator of the UN System in The Gambia; Dr Ozannia Ojelo, UNDP regional cluster Director for Governance and Peacebuilding in Africa

The Gambia: Strengthening collaborative leadership and dialogue for nation building

Banjul – The Gambia is now at a critical crossroads - the nation, with about two million people has the world’s eyes focused on it. The goodwill of the international community, best wishes and support from the continental and regional entities continue to be visibly demonstrated through various dialogues, with proposed commitments of strategic and sustained assistance to the country.

Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO of the NEPAD Agency, attended a retreat of the Gambian Ministers of Cabinet, held in The Gambia’s capital, Banjul, between 4 -7 May 2017. Addressing HE Adama Barrow, President of the Republic of The Gambia, HE Fatoumata Tambajang, Minister for Women’s Affairs overseeing the Vice President’s Office and various other ministers, senior government and United Nations officials, Dr Mayaki reiterated that high expectations from both within and outside of The Gambia have been raised.

The expectations are raised from the country’s new era, which has enormous opportunities to both forge ahead and join African countries that have significantly transformed their economies and are set to become emerging markets.

During the retreat, Dr Mayaki also made the call for every African government to endeavour to work for the social and economic development of its people.

The African continent has shown that citizens who are confident,

content and have high hopes for their future, are from those countries whose governments engage with their communities and citizens in nation building, responding to the needs of their people in public service delivery, and providing opportunities for gainful employment and skills.

Good governance exists where space is created that allows people to participate freely in the processes of governance, and accord them the space to demand that they be governed well.

It was emphasised at the retreat that developing countries must endeavour to build ‘intelligent-partnerships.’ The Gambia’s national interests need to be protected and guarded more, in ensuring that intelligent-partnerships are based on a “win-win” outcome for the country itself and its bilateral and global partners. The principles guiding intelligent-partnerships are anchored on:

- Joint programme planning, capacity development and skills transfers;
- Mutual knowledge exchange and mutual accountability;
- Alignment and coordination of project implementation.

Some of the key deliberations at the retreat of the Gambian Ministers of Cabinet centred on building trust and collaboration at community level; the skills needed to strengthen leadership, and innovations for co-creating that the country as envisioned by its people.

Focus at the retreat was also on a roadmap with a short to medium scope that has to be developed for implementation. The roadmap should ideally stipulate key sector focus that could be on infrastructure-energy, fisheries and good governance. In this vein, public sector capacity as well as capacity for private sector development has to be supported and strengthened at all levels. Moreover, the Gambian private sector will also have to be supported in ways that allow it to grow, provide the goods and services needed and jobs for the growing labour force.

The size of the country itself does not matter, as many examples of ‘small’ countries that are major players in the global arena exist. It was concluded that through strategic reforms, which put people first by ensuring that a national development agenda is citizen-centred, The Gambia is well on its way to joining other emerging African countries on the sustainable development path.

Dr Mayaki indicated that the NEPAD Agency stands ready to support The Gambia in its roadmap development.



L to R: Mr Mar Dieye, Head of Africa Bureau/UNDP; Dr Ibrahim Mayaki; President of The Gambia, H.E. Adama Barrow; Dr Ibn Chambas Head of the UN Office for West Africa and Ms Fatima Denton, UNECA



The gene drive work places Burkina Faso, Mali and Uganda at the forefront of some of the innovative ways of vector control taking place in Africa today, turning the dream of 'zero malaria by 2030' into reality.

Towards 'Zero Malaria by 2030': Biological control of mosquitoes

Globally, malaria is one of the most severe public health problems and still remains the leading cause of death in many developing countries. Children and pregnant women are the most affected. It is a disease that feeds the vicious cycle of poverty and deprivation due to the nature of its social and economic toll on the communities. The social and economic costs of malaria are estimated to reach over \$12 billion annually.¹

Current control methods such as insecticide-treated mosquito nets, indoor spraying of insecticides, and artemisinin-based drug treatments have saved millions of lives, but in many countries, weak health systems and gaps in access to effective interventions continue to impede efforts to control and eliminate malaria.² Rising insecticide and drug resistance also pose risks even for maintaining current levels of control. Other vector-borne diseases, such as yellow fever and dengue also impose high human and socio-economic costs. Moreover, they have not been completely eradicated.

Given this complex scenario, African leaders came together in 2016 to support efforts to combat and ultimately eradicate malaria by endorsing the Catalyst Framework to End HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Eliminate Malaria by 2030. NEPAD Agency, is leading the implementation of this commitment together with its partners by promoting the use of gene drives. Gene drive systems change the way that certain genes (and therefore traits) are inherited - or passed down through generations by promoting the inheritance of a particular gene to increase its prevalence in a population, popularly termed 'biased inheritance.' This approach is used in controlling or altering organisms that affect humans such as dengue, malaria, Chagas and Lyme disease.

"New technologies allow very specific gene editing in mosquitoes, and the validation of genes that are expected to be essential in malaria control, such as reproductive capacity, mate-seeking behaviour, immunity against parasites and sex determination,"

says Prof Diran Makinde, Senior Advisor in the NEPAD Industrialisation, Science, Technology and Innovation Hub.

The potential of gene drive systems to reduce the number of target species of mosquitoes, such as the *Anopheles gambiae*, and modify the genes of mosquitoes to make them incapable of transmitting malaria is very critical in attaining the 2030 vision to eliminate malaria. In addition, population suppression approaches allow for distortion of the sex ratio, which ultimately leads to blocking of disease transmission. NEPAD Agency is using a combination of these approaches.

Gene drive systems have a number of advantages when it comes to the eradication of malaria.

"To begin with, they are safe for humans and the environment and can be applied widely, including in hard-to-reach populations," explains Prof Makinde.

In addition, their benefits are long-lasting and they are relatively inexpensive to deploy. Moreover, gene drive systems do not require behavioural changes in order for the public to be protected from malaria. Gene drive vector control has the potential to be deployed in all of Africa. Currently, the NEPAD Agency and partners are working in three countries, Burkina Faso, Mali and Uganda, where research facilities are being upgraded, and research team members and regulators are being trained on potential risks and management.

The gene drive work places Burkina Faso, Mali and Uganda at the forefront of some of the innovative ways of vector control taking place in Africa today, turning the dream of 'zero malaria by 2030' into reality.

¹ Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (2016) Impact of Malaria https://www.cdc.gov/malaria/malaria_worldwide/impact.html

² WHO (2016) A new malaria framework for Africa <http://www.who.int/malaria/news/2016/new-malaria-framework-for-africa/en/>



Participants at the launch of the Skills Initiative for Africa programme in Kenya

Kenya supports the Skills Initiative for Africa programme's contribution towards its National Development Plan

Launch of the Skills Initiative for Africa programme in Kenya

Nairobi - The Skills Initiative for Africa Programme was launched in Nairobi, Kenya on 5 May. The event was officiated by Dr Meshack Opwora, from Kenya's State Department of Vocational and Technical Training in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.

In his remarks, Dr Opwora commended the NEPAD Agency for its efforts in promoting inclusive socio-economic development on the continent. Dr Opwora pledged Kenyan government support towards the success of the programme in the country, and maintained that the Skills Initiative for Africa programme will contribute to honing the required skills sets for the realisation of Kenya's National Development Plan (Vision 2013).

"A lot has been done on the continent to offer opportunities to youths and enhance their employability. However, it will be very challenging for Africa to reach its transformation goals across all sectors, without fully harnessing the demographic dividend through investments in youth," Mrs Estherine Lisinge-Fotabong, Director of Programme Coordination and Implementation at the NEPAD Agency stated. Mrs Fotabong affirmed the NEPAD Agency's commitment towards Kenya's transformation efforts, in partnership with other development partners.

Also speaking at the launch, Dr Hildegard Lingnau, from the German Embassy in Kenya said, "The Skills Initiative for Africa programme should be implemented through a collective and harmonised approach, in order for it to achieve its goal of reducing unemployment in the country."

It will be very challenging for Africa to reach its transformation goals across all sectors, without fully harnessing the demographic dividend through investments in youth

The meeting was attended by various stakeholders from both private and public sectors, including; representatives from the German Embassy in Kenya, members of the diplomatic corps, women's organisations, civil society organisations and the media.

The meeting concluded with a call for the initiative to support policy development, as well as the development of frameworks for information generation and sharing, to inform policies and the labour market.





If infrastructure development projects such as the Traffic Light System, One Stop Border Posts and PIDA Priority Projects are well coordinated by key stakeholders in infrastructure, the movement of people, goods and services among African countries will be eased

Discussions with the President of Senegal H.E Macky Sall, at the MoveAfrica event during the World Economic Forum on Africa

Connecting markets, people, goods and services in Africa

'Postcard' from the World Economic Forum on Africa

Durban - *"The Durban weather is showing off today. Moving from uncomfortably cold to extremely hot in a matter of minutes,"* I think to myself as I walk into the MoveAfrica Community session held at the Hilton Hotel in Durban, South Africa. Strange, because Kwa-ZuluNatal in May is usually hot in the afternoons with average high temperatures reaching up to 24 Degrees Celsius. But today is an exception.

I watch with interest as guests from various public and private sector institutions fill the room. The MoveAfrica Community session, organised by the NEPAD Agency in partnership with Barclays Africa, Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), GIZ, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the World Economic Forum, promises to be an interactive session in which the issue of transport and trade corridor development will be discussed.

I reflect on the many MoveAfrica meetings I have attended in the past. The meetings in which I got to understand what the initiative is. In simple terms, the MoveAfrica initiative was launched to tackle the challenges and obstacles facing the transport and logistics sector in Africa.

My mind drifts back to the session I am currently in, just in time to hear a colleague tell me, as I move to find my seat: *"Today's community session will focus on the NEPAD developed Traffic Light System, a project aimed at eradicating transport and logistics challenges which hamper the movement of people, goods and services in Africa."*

The session begins and the President of the Republic of Senegal and Chairperson of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee, H.E Macky Sall takes the opportunity to remind guests that development corridors will help propel Africa's

development, growth and regional integration.

President Sall also reminds investors that Africa has shown significant improvement and has created an investment friendly climate, therefore, now is an opportune time to invest.

"As a continent, we need to think about programmes that will produce sustainable and quality growth. Africa should contribute much more to global wealth growth, but we cannot do so if we do not focus on crucial issues such as regional integration, industrialisation and corridor development," the President states.

As the session progresses, I am "transported" into a world envisioned by the various experts in the room. An Africa in which the movement of people, goods and services is simplified, with few challenges! A continent in which intra-African and intra-regional trade is not hampered by transport infrastructure and logistical challenges. An industrialised Africa with enhanced cross-border investments. An Africa with highly effective and efficient One-Stop Border Posts. "The Traffic Light System, among other crucial interventions, can make this vision a reality", they say.

As I listen attentively to the various interventions made by speakers and guests alike, I begin to reflect on the NEPAD Agency CEO, Dr Mayaki's opening remarks in which he spoke about NEPAD's various intervention areas in infrastructure development.

"When investors want to invest in infrastructure in Africa, they face challenges on issues related to land, power and logistics. These are some of the reasons that have encouraged us to develop the MoveAfrica initiative," he says.

- continues on the next page



"It all makes sense" I start thinking. If infrastructure development projects such as the Traffic Light System, One Stop Border Posts and PIDA Priority Projects are well coordinated jointly by all the key stakeholders in Infrastructure, the movement of people, goods and services between African countries will surely be simplified!

My optimism levels are increased even more as I continue to listen to the feedback from the different groups who had been assigned to address different themes, namely, *movement of people, enhancing services, the movement of goods and the prerequisites for corridors.*

Having attended so many NEPAD working sessions, I have grown to understand the importance of sharing best practices and experiences among different organisations and countries. This session is no different. Hiroshi Kato, Vice-President of JICA informs the guests that effective government policies, infrastructure development and human resource development are the three focus areas which have led to economic growth in the Asiatic countries.

The discussions continue for another hour.

In closing the session, the NEPAD Agency Head of Regional Integration, Infrastructure and Trade Programme, Symerre Grey-Johnson reiterates NEPAD's commitment to the implementation of the MoveAfrica initiative, including the One Stop Border Post and Traffic Light System.

As I close my laptop I reflect on an extract in the MoveAfrica brochure: *"There's no doubt that regional integration is key to narrowing the gap between Africa's promise and its reality. MoveAfrica is long-term rather than a quick fix looking ahead to the development needs of the continent as envisaged in the African Union's Agenda 2063."*

A perfect quote to ending a fruitful, promising session.

By Millicent Kgeledi, NEPAD Agency's Communications representative at the World Economic Forum

U nleashing business opportunities for sustainable landscapes

Kigali – Investing in forest and landscape restoration as well as ensuring their sustainability will improve livelihoods of African people, experts declared at the two-day Forest and Landscape Investment Forum (FLIF) held in Kigali, Rwanda.

The forum commenced with a high level event in which experts called for investments to make green cover of more than 100 million hectares of degraded forests and land on the continent possible.

On behalf of the NEPAD Agency, team Leader for Sustainable Land and Water Management Programme, Mamadou Moussa Diakhité said, "Restoring land and forest in Africa has multiple benefits, including economic value, ability to combat desertification and drought and negative impact of climate change and loss of biodiversity."

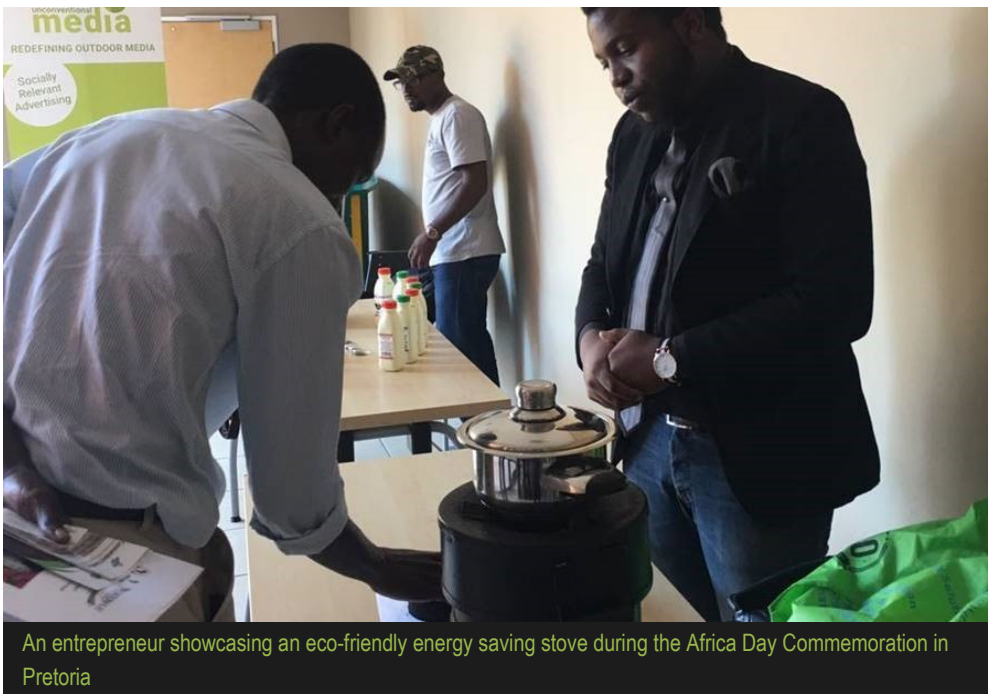
The forum convened more than 250 businessmen, bank representatives, public officials, and representatives of agribusiness cooperatives from Africa. The Forest and Landscape Investment Forum focuses on showcasing business opportunities in forest and landscapes, including those in agroforestry and forestry value chains (wood and non-wood forest products), such as coffee, tea, timber, macadamia, silk, and cassava. Ultimately, it creates a marketplace for effective forest and landscape project design and increased investment opportunities.

"Through the AFR100 Initiative, USD\$1.5 billion has been pledged for country-led efforts, to restore 100 million hectares of degraded landscapes across Africa by 2030," Diakhité said.

The AFR100 Initiative will host its second Regional Conference in Niger on September 25 to 29, 2017.



Cassava mash: Cassava is one of the crops that provides business opportunities in Africa



An entrepreneur showcasing an eco-friendly energy saving stove during the Africa Day Commemoration in Pretoria

Young African innovators provide solutions in the areas of bioeconomy (including agro-processing and health), climate change adaptive innovations and smart industries (ICTs and advanced manufacturing), to name but a few

Showing African innovations to commemorate Africa Day

Pretoria – “The best way to believe in the future for Africa, is to believe in our innovations *and* in our innovators,” Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO of the NEPAD Agency stated in his keynote address at an event held to showcase African innovations.

Dr Mayaki was speaking at an event organised by the NEPAD Agency and The Innovation Hub to mark Africa Day, on 24 May in Pretoria, South Africa, as a time for reflection, celebrating the progress made by Africans, while also reflecting on the common challenges and solutions the continent needs in a global environment.

As part of the commemorations for Africa Day which falls on 25 May, this year the NEPAD Agency also celebrated the innovations that entrepreneurs on the continent are developing, under the African Union theme for 2017, *Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth*.

“There is no better way to celebrate Africa Day than through innovations,” remarked Ms Teresiah Simelane, General Manager for Enterprise Development at The Innovation Hub in Pretoria, South Africa.

Africa has the youngest population in the world, and it is this population that will supply the much needed human capital and innovations in the years to come, even as the continent becomes more industrialised. Even as the continent faces the challenges of integration and industrialisation, many are the innovations that young enterprising Africans are developing to redress development challenges.

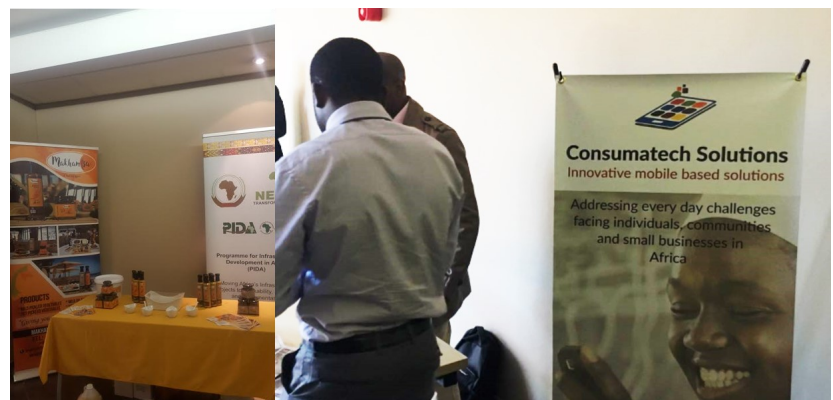
The exhibition by entrepreneurs at the event in Pretoria, made the case for the myriad of innovations which exist on the continent

and need to be up-scaled in providing concrete solutions to some of Africa’s challenges. The young entrepreneurs’ innovations provide solutions in the areas of bioeconomy (including agro-processing and health), climate change adaptive innovations and smart industries (ICTs and advanced manufacturing), to name but a few.

Participants at the event heard from entrepreneurs who showcased innovations from injectable bone graft substitute, to devices that help deaf communities and various other innovations in the health, medical, food, beauty, pharmaceutical and manufacturing industries.

“We need innovations to trigger technological developments and other advancements in the framework of Agenda 2063, Africa’s vision for transformation,” Dr Mayaki said. He added that, “The skills of entrepreneurs need to be shaped in such a way that even as they grow, African economies can also grow, with the drive from the continent’s own innovative solutions.”

Dr Mayaki also stated that the commemoration of Africa Day with The Innovation Hub marks the first step towards strengthening collaboration with the NEPAD Agency.



Exhibitions at the Africa Day Commemoration



L to R: Mr Martin Bwalya, NEPAD Agency's Senior Advisor on Programme Development; H.E Sacko Josefa Leonel Correa, AUC –DREA Commissioner; Dr Belaynesh Yifru, Nutrition Specialist, Mother, New-born, Child Health and Nutrition, Ministry of Health, Ethiopia; Mr Hiroshi Kato, Senior Vice President of JICA

Africa's commitment to *Zero Hunger* through IFNA

Addis Ababa - Africa is the only continent where the number of undernourished people is increasing and has reached over 230 million, or one out of five does not have an adequate amount of food. Organised by the NEPAD Agency and JICA, the first Partners Meeting of the Initiative for Food Security and Nutrition in Africa (IFNA) was held from May 18 to 19, 2017, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Guided by the principles of African ownership and knowledge, IFNA is an international initiative which intends to accelerate nutrition actions and enhance policies and programmes, aimed at scaling up interventions to address the multiple challenges posed by malnutrition in all its forms in Africa.

IFNA's 1st Partners Meeting displayed collaboration among partners in exploring and identifying possible solutions through the initiative, with a view to achieving food and nutrition security in Africa. The event provided an opportunity to share good practice, challenges and lessons among partners based on a common understanding of IFNA's goals. The meeting was attended by 150 participants from IFNA partners, African country representatives and non-state actors.

In his opening statement, State Minister in Ethiopia's Ministry of Health, Dr Kebede Worku said "Reinforcing nutrition in national plans and policies is key for improved nutrition outcomes."

"Stronger implementation plans are critical to fight stunting, which affects the learning of children," Dr Worku added.

Dignitaries present at the opening ceremony included H.E Mr Belay Begashaw, Director General of the Sustainable Development Goals Centre for Africa; H.E Mr Shinichi Saïda,

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Ethiopia, and the African Union and the Commissioner of the Rural Economy and Agriculture Directorate of the African Union Commission, Ms Sacko Josefa Leonel Correa.

Delivering the speech on behalf of the NEPAD Agency, Martin Bwalya, Senior Advisor on Programme Development, maintained that, "The goal of 'Zero hunger by 2023' is non-negotiable. Zero hunger by 2023 is not an emotional outburst, but a demonstration of the resolve, determination and commitment to stop and reverse the trends on hunger and malnutrition."

H.E Sacko Josefa Leonel Correa underscored the importance of monitoring priority indicators as stipulated in the Malabo/CAADP Results Framework and the preparedness of the biennial report by African countries.

At the same event, guest speaker, Yvonne Chaka Chaka, emphasised the importance of 'walking the talk' to fight stunting by promoting exclusive breastfeeding and commitment on children's first 1000 days as a window of opportunity for obtaining optimal maternal, health and nutrition outcomes.

Recognising the presence of strategic partners, one of the key messages at the meeting was the rising interest and commitment of development partners which should be leveraged on, by firm political will and financial commitments from governments. In addition, the prominence of multi-sectoral coordination among short and long term interventions was also emphasised.

The initiative will build upon past experiences and achievements, scaling up action on nutrition by linking the comparative advantages of each partner, with the aim of ending hunger and improving the nutritional situation in Africa in line with the Malabo Declaration, Agenda 2063, the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the UN Decade of Action for Nutrition and other relevant initiatives.

IFNA was launched in Nairobi in August 2016 during the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) in order to help African governments accelerate the implementation of their nutrition policies.

AFC infrastructure summit presents \$12bn projects

Abuja - The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) presented 12 projects which require US\$12 billion investment in 9 countries across the African continent.

NEPAD, in collaboration with GIZ, the German Development Agency, Black Lion Holdings, the London-based strategic advisory firm, and Petroleum Group, revealed that the projects are located in Benin Republic, Burundi, Congo DRC, Kenya, Niger, Rwanda, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The investors showcased the projects during the first day of AFCLive2017, Africa's premier infrastructure summit that opened on 15 May 2017, in Abuja, Nigeria.

Hosted by the African Finance Corporation (AFC), the Summit stressed during the first day that partnerships are crucial to increasing deal flow to Africa in order to unlock critical infrastructure investments in the continent.

Andrew Alli, President and CEO of AFC, said that the international investment-grade multilateral finance institution whose mission it is to help bridge Africa's significant infrastructure gap, organises the annual summit to harness the institution's expertise, knowledge and experience in infrastructure financing to drive infrastructure investment in the continent.

"In 2017, as we celebrate 10 years of activity, we will focus on deal-making, with a view to leveraging public-private partnerships for continental infrastructure transformation," Alli said in a news release.

Deloitte, the global consultancy and advisory firm, said in its publication, 'Addressing Africa's Infrastructure Challenges, that without infrastructure, Africa will not achieve the growth levels expected. The foremost advisers said that Infrastructure planning and investment are critical if Africa's huge economic and developmental potential are to be realised. It added that sub-Saharan Africa alone needs up to US\$93 billion annual investment in infrastructure over the next ten years to overhaul the regions infrastructure.

"About two-thirds or \$60-billion of that is needed for entirely new infrastructure and \$30-billion for the maintenance of existing infrastructure. Only about \$25-billion annually is being spent on capital expenditure, leaving a substantial shortfall that has to be financed," Deloitte said.

AFC has invested approximately US\$4bn in projects across Africa. One of the objectives of the Summit is to develop new solutions to increase deal flow and fast track commercial projects in Africa. A recent UN report said that of the total US\$2 trillion raised globally for infrastructure projects, only US\$59bn was received in Africa, representing 3%. By bringing financiers and investors alongside project developers and fund managers, AFC wants to ensure that more capital, both African and international, can be deployed towards addressing Africa's pressing infrastructure needs.

Source: *Business Day*

Tracking and measuring impact of Africa's Science Technology and Innovation Strategy

Windhoek – African countries have urged the African Union and NEPAD Agency to lead the development of a unique set of high-level indicators that can be used to track the implementation, and measure the impact of the Science Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA) in 2024. This came to light during the NEPAD Agency Science Technology and Innovation (STI) Continental data validation workshop in Windhoek, Namibia held from 24 – 26 May.

STISA High-Level Indicators shall be a standard framework allowing countries to report on their STI work at national level and also make it possible for Regional Economic Communities to synthesise and consolidate STI reports at regional level. This will be a Continental Framework to galvanise the impact of STISA using a set of high-level indicators that can easily be reported upon and credit apportioned where it is due.

African Union Commission Director of the African Observatory for STI, Dr Phillippe Kuhutama Mawoko said the workshop provides the necessary tools to better contribute to solving African problems using quality STI data. He said it is only quality data that will give credibility to our results and help decision makers to make informed decisions. Hence, it is important to provide relevant information and use STI data to create employment for the many unemployed youths on the continent.

Representing Southern African Development Community (SADC), Senior Technical Advisor on STI, Anneline Morgan stated that the journey of African Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators (ASTII) started with only 19 countries but the number has now risen to 40 countries in Africa. She echoed Dr Mawoko's words in stating that "we have come a long way to reach this stage," but also emphasised that the real work still lies ahead.

NEPAD Agency representatives, Dr Tichaona Mangwende and Martin Bwalya stressed the role of NEPAD Agency in the African development equation. Dr Mangwende said, "We have to attach importance and relevance to the collected data to make it more meaningful." He added that data has to be delivered to the right people in a strategic and timely manner to ensure maximum impact.

Mr Bwalya reminded delegates that the role of NEPAD Agency is to create and manage knowledge and bring this knowledge to the development equation. "Therefore, during and after this workshop we must continuously ask ourselves one important question – how will this data contribute to the development of Africa and particularly the unique vision of the Agenda 2063," he said.

The workshop was officially opened by Loide Uahengo, Senior Programme Officer at the National Commission on Research Science and Technology of Namibia. Development partners were also represented by Dr Ellie Osir from International Development Research Centre (IDRC). Dr Osir re-affirmed IDRC's commitment to supporting the work of the NEPAD Agency on STI in Africa.



Some of the major challenges in air transport connectivity and logistics will be addressed by the NEPAD Agency's initiatives, working collectively with ICAO and the other aviation agencies and institutions

Promoting Africa's air transportation, aviation infrastructure and safety

Midrand – “Some of the major challenges in air transport connectivity and logistics will be addressed by the NEPAD Agency's initiatives, working collectively with ICAO and the other aviation agencies and institutions,” declared Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO of the NEPAD Agency on 26 May in Midrand, South Africa.

Dr Mayaki made the statement at a meeting with Senator Hadi Sirika, Minister of State for Aviation, Federal Republic of Nigeria and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), a UN specialised agency.

While Africa contributes to only 1% of global air cargo, this also accounts for 35% of the value of goods transported to the continent. “Moreover, 85% of Africa's tourism market depends on air transport

Senator Hadi Sirika said that he was humbled by the NEPAD Agency's support, affirming commitment to the collaboration with the NEPAD Agency in air transportation, aviation infrastructure and safety on the continent.

Mr Boubacar Djibo, ICAO Air Transport Bureau's Director, underscored the importance of air transportation and stated that while Africa contributes to only 1% of global air cargo, this also accounts for 35% of the value of goods transported to the continent. “Moreover, 85% of Africa's tourism market depends on air transport,” he said.



Dr Ibrahim Mayaki with Senator Hadi Sirika, Minister of State for Aviation, Federal Republic of Nigeria

The meeting was held to cover the precepts of the memorandum of understanding between the African Union and ICAO, whose annex specifically covers areas of cooperation between the NEPAD Agency and ICAO.

Deliberations also saw the planning for the forthcoming Third ICAO Aviation Forum (IWAF/3), that will focus on aviation infrastructure development and financing. The Forum will be held in Abuja, Nigeria from 27 - 29 November 2017. This is the first time that the Forum will be held on African soil.



Diving entrepreneurship through value chain development

Yaoundé - Huddled around a table at the esplanade of the Yaounde Sports Complex, a group of men sip away at their coffee cups. It is coffee tasting day. But what they are drinking is no ordinary coffee. It is the latest innovation of Cameroonian entrepreneur, Selamo Dorothy Binla, trade-marked **NextCoffee**.

"NextCoffee is a food drink that has the particularity that we have added to roasted coffee. We have added other aromatic and medicinal plants like ginger and celery that remove caffeine's effects in ordinary coffee," Binla explains.

"The idea actually came from my six-year old daughter. She complained that the coffee we were drinking was too bitter, and that we should mix it with some spices. We tried it and this is the result," Binla smiles, taking a sip from a can of coffee drink.

Binla's latest innovation adds to a line of others that have been giving Cameroonian products "a longer shelf life."

The biggest product Binla adds value to is cassava, one of the largest consumed foodstuffs in Africa.

"We thought that we should give value to cassava and put it on the market," she says. "We have made noodles with cassava, we have made drinks out of cassava that we call "Garilight", we have made flour that you can use for pastries and we have cassava spaghetti."

She has also come up with Gari-Plus, a fast food now widely sold in schools for children's nutritional programs. The motivation here derives from Binla's school-going days. Growing up, she frequently had to eat tapioca which contained mostly starch. Gari-Plus uses the same tapioca, but it is enriched with fruits and vegetables "to make it a complete and balanced meal."

"I try to mix tapioca with several different vegetables and fruits to establish such a balance," she explains.

"I use 100% Cameroonian products. Products that come from our own soil," she says.

"There is cassava, plantains, cocoyams, cocoa, potatoes.. There is so much food that can feed us," she beams.

Despite difficulties in accessing finance, Binla has already invested about USD \$5000 in her business.

With at least 80% of Cameroonians relying on the agricultural sector for their livelihoods, and rising demand for food in neighbouring Nigeria and the CEMAC zone, Binla believes her investment is worth the while.

She said she makes at least a profit of 120% on her investment, and looks to expanding her enterprise to mass production.

Authorities in Cameroon have hailed her innovation as a good example in entrepreneurship that is key to unlocking Cameroon's economic growth.

"We cannot just keep exporting raw materials," the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Henri Eyebe Ayissi says.

"We need to transform to add value to our products. This will not only increase our market share, it will also put more money in the pockets of farmers as well as reduce food losses in our country."

Such initiatives fall in line with the larger objectives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, NEPAD.

History shows that agribusiness and agro-industries like that of Binla Dorothy could form the central piece of growth in Africa.

The Director of Programmes at the NEPAD Agency, Estherine Fotabong says empowering women will be particularly critical to improving Africa's entrepreneurial share in agribusiness.

"It has been shown that women do very well along the value chain. So we need to support actions towards strengthening their participation not only on on-farm activities but also on off-farm activities," she says.

Fotabong says she was not comfortable with the fact that the growth of women's entrepreneurship is frequently cited on an anecdotal basis, despite their big influence in job-creation.

"By 2018, an estimated 9.72 million small business-related jobs will be created and female entrepreneurs will contribute more than 50 per cent in this job creation space," Fotabong adds.

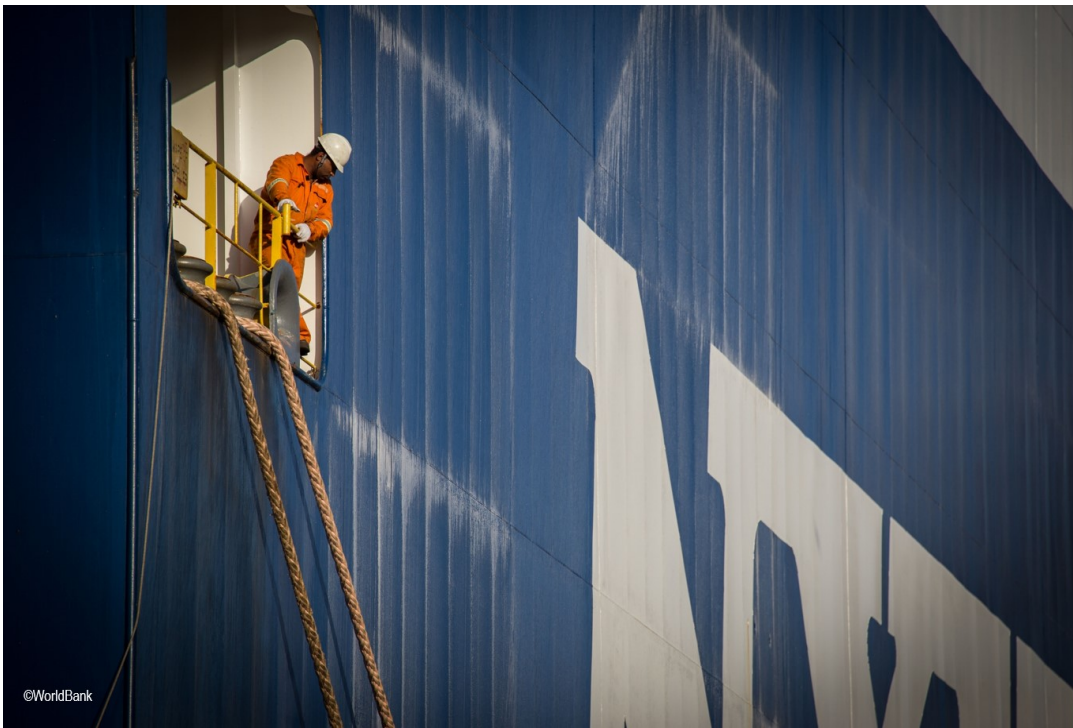
"Women starting up in business tend to provide a more immediate contribution to the economy: Around one in five women come into self-employment from unemployment compared with around one in fifteen for men," she says.

With at least 80% of Cameroonians relying on the agricultural sector for their livelihoods, and rising demand for food in neighbouring Nigeria and the CEMAC zone, Binla believes her investment is worth the while.

Boosting women's involvement in agribusiness means governments need to set up stable, evidence-based systems and invest in infrastructure, health and water resources. It also means coming up with clear, simple and implementable policies, facing up to traditional institutions that tend to hold women back.

Initiatives to give agricultural products a longer shelf life such as Binla's become even more necessary, given the growing need for food in Africa and the world.

Story submitted by Ngala Killian Chimtom, CAJNews



©WorldBank

Can we redefine migration dynamics away from the binary brain drain / brain gain debate into one of holistic continental development?

African trade and migration shaping globalisation

Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO, NEPAD Agency

Globalisation is not simply a process that started in the last two decades or even the last two centuries. It has a history that stretches thousands of years and Africa has been at the heart of international trade for far longer than we imagine. From the trans-Saharan caravans and the triangular trade, from the colonial counters to the Coltan of the Kivu, the continent has lived at the pace of the different periods of globalisation, without always being in a position to influence or control, let alone take advantage of, global transactions.

Whether one thinks globalisation is a good thing or not, it is an essential element of the economic history of mankind. According to Amartya Sen, Nobel-Prize winning economist, globalisation “has enriched the world scientifically and culturally, and benefited many people economically as well”.

Those more skeptical about globalisation associate it uniquely with free market policies and an increase in inequality levels. It is true that Africa, particularly sub-Saharan Africa, has lagged behind other regions in the spread of the global economy, and the overwhelming majority of Africans have not benefited from the purported promises of global prosperity.

But globalisation also encompasses the exchange of commerce, culture, ideas, information, people. Global networks have created opportunities for nations and communities to operate on a much larger scale worldwide. Previously disparate locations on the globe are now linked into extensive systems of communication, migration, trade and interconnections. This very phenomenon also makes it possible for emerging countries to strengthen their local and independent identities while working to be part of larger transnational alliances.

In this context, what are the questions that Africa needs to ask in order to propel itself to a more proactive actor in globalisation?

Trade deals need to show that nations are open for business by putting people’s interests, not just corporate interests, at their heart. What must we put in place to resolve the tensions between democracy, the nation state and global economic integration?

A key feature of globalisation is connectivity, as illustrated by the expansion of marine and terrestrial fibre optic cables. This offers unprecedented broadband infrastructure and opportunities to master the digital revolution. How will technologies, central to Africa’s economic and social lives, empower African populations?

Africa has the potential to develop a particular model of globalisation. This model is the more pertinent in a world context coloured by the British vote to exit the European Union and the result of the recent US presidential election. The latter events are a symptom of popular disenchantment with globalisation and a desire for the reactionary raising of national barriers. On the other hand, Africans continue to be outward-looking.

In this context, the phenomenon of south-south migration constitutes important capital for the continent. Can we redefine migration dynamics away from the binary brain drain / brain gain debate into one of holistic continental development?

Globalisation is not a zero-sum game. It is a two-way traffic involving a historical process of border crossings and hybridisation. Everyone should benefit from it. There is space yet for Africa, through a particular and renewed set of global transactions, to positively influence the direction that globalisation will take in the future.

Upcoming Events

- 31 May - 2 Jun 2017: *13th CAADP Partnership Platform*, Kampala, Uganda
- 13 - 15 June 2017: *Sustainability Week 2017*, Pretoria, South Africa
- 7 Jul - 8 Jul 2017: *G20 Summit*, Hamburg, Germany
- 30 Oct - 1 Nov 2017: *Commemoration of the 8th Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security with Continental Symposium on Food Systems*, Kigali, Rwanda
- 31 Oct 2017: *The Continental Business Network (CBN) Meeting*, Durban South Africa
- 31 Oct 2017: *OneAfrica Network Campaign Meeting*, Durban, South Africa
- 1 - 3 Nov 2017: *PIDA Week*, Durban, South Africa
- 27 - 29 Nov 2017: *Third ICAO Aviation Forum (IWAF/3)*, Abuja, Nigeria

See also: www.nepad.org/events

Contact Us

NEPAD Communications

Tel: +27 (0) 11 256 3600

Email: info@nepad.org

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/nepad.page

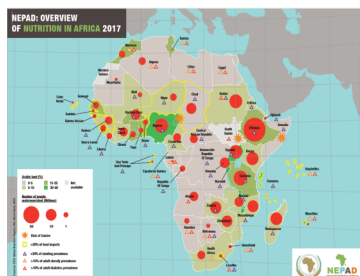
Twitter:

www.twitter.com/nepad_agency

www.nepad.org

Proverb

“Wherever a man goes to dwell, his character goes with him”



The Overview of Nutrition in Africa is available at:

www.nepad.org/resource/nepad-overview-nutrition-africa-2017

Copyright © NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA)

All content of the NEPAD Newsletter is the exclusive property of the NEPAD Agency. No part of the material may be quoted, photocopied or reproduced without prior permission from the NEPAD Agency, 230 15th Road, Randjespark, Midrand, South Africa

