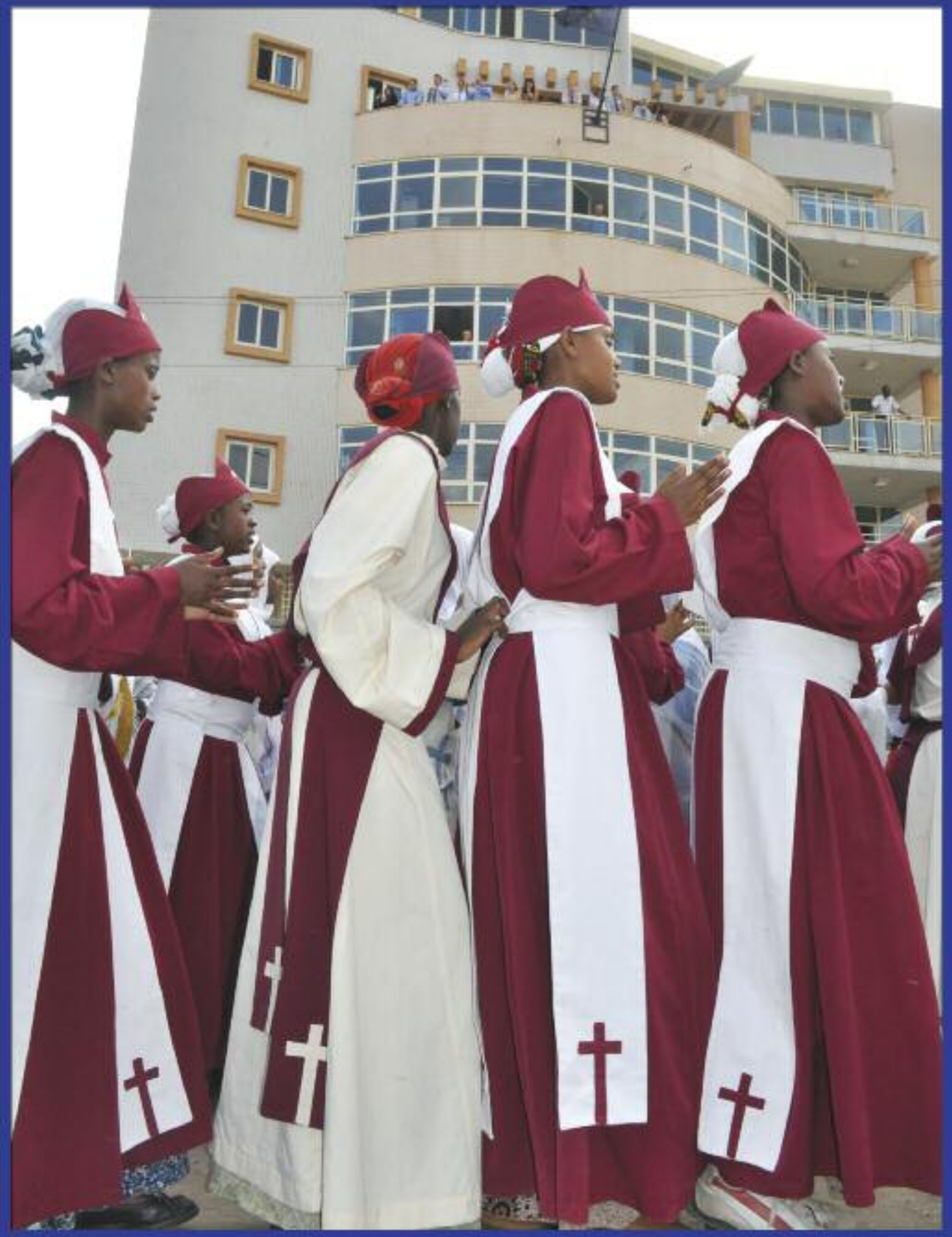


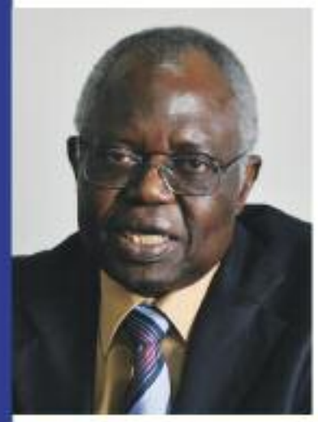
Church choir passing by the building of the Delegation of the European Union to the African Union during Ethiopian Epiphany

Newsletter Designed by: Cactus Communication

Delegation of the European Union to the African Union
Kirkos subcity, Kebele 10, House No: New P.O. Box 25223/1000, Addis Ababa christophe.boulierac@ext.ec.europa.eu

LINK!

INSIDE THE AFRICA - EUROPEAN UNION PARTNERSHIP



Newsletter of the Delegation of the European Union to the African Union

Contents

Addis Ababa, Jan. 2010
Issue 5

EDITORIAL

DEAR READER, CHER LECTEUR,

This first issue of **LINK!** in 2010 is dedicated to the subject of technology, including information and communication technologies (ICTS) in Africa, which are also the "special theme" of this current African Union summit at Addis. The different articles and interviews highlight the enormous potential of science and technology for development and demonstrate that science and technology are by no means a luxury for the African continent, in fact to the contrary. In the northern hemisphere 3% of our GDP is spent on research and development, this is unfortunately not the case in Africa and this lack of investment contributes to the already enormous scientific divide between the North and the African continent.

Nevertheless, the situation is gradually changing as you will see from the various articles. As a first contribution to the knowledge triangle, which refers to the interaction between research, education and innovation, Commissioner Jean-Pierre Ezin points to the AU's ambitious plan to create a pan-African University where excellence will prevail and students from all over the continent will encounter Africa's brightest minds. In his commentary the EU Commissioner Janez Potočnik stresses that the European Commission's approach to supporting research in Africa has moved from a spirit of "donorship" to one of partnership so that indigenous knowledge becomes part of the research.

Next, four excelling women scientists, who were awarded the African Union Women Scientists prize in September last year, explain their work that ranges from traditional medicine, genomics, waste composting and health in Africa. ICTs are the cornerstone of the Knowledge Society and the UNECA points out not only how ICT enhances regional integration, but also how ICTs should be tackled at regional level in order to create mass markets achieving lower end-user prices. Last, but by no means least, UNESCO accentuates how it acts, through its science programmes, as a catalyst to enable African countries to address the multi-dimensional aspects related to peace and poverty, while promoting a dialogue among different cultures and knowledge systems.

In this issue we could of course not omit touching upon the outcome of the Copenhagen climate change conference in December. Not with an exclamation of enthusiasm about the laboriously generated "Copenhagen accord" but better this agreement than no agreement at all! Other more ambitious steps will obviously have to follow. It will in fact be all the more important to further develop the cooperation between the EU and Africa in this field.

Sur le plan institutionnel enfin, et suite à l'entrée en vigueur du traité de Lisbonne le 1er décembre 2009, la délégation de l'UE auprès de l'Union Africaine a commencé à assumer formellement en ce début d'année, la représentation de l'Union Européenne pour ce qui est des relations avec l'UA. Cette transition s'est faite en très étroite coordination avec la présidence tournante locale espagnole. Je saisis cette occasion pour remercier sincèrement l'Ambassadeur d'Espagne M. Antonio Sanchez-Benedito Gaspar de son précieux soutien à cette démarche.

Beaucoup de travail très concret reste maintenant à accomplir - ensemble! - pour décliner dans la pratique le concept de délégation de l'UE.

Bonne lecture et - surtout et avant tout - une très bonne année 2010!

Koen Vervaeke
Chef de la Délégation de l'Union Européenne auprés de l'Union Africaine

SPAIN STARTS ITS EUROPEAN PRESIDENCY

On January 1, Spain has assumed, for the fourth time since it adhered the EU in 1986, the rotating Presidency of the European Union. It will be a very important responsibility in this time of change and global challenges. And a very special responsibility as well: with the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty a new chapter of the European integration process has begun.

Spain's main priority will be therefore the effective implementation of the new legal and institutional framework set up by the Lisbon Treaty, which should create a stronger, more cohesive and accountable EU that delivers and can speak with a single voice in the international arena.

Spanish Ambassador in Ethiopia, Antonio Sanchez-Benedito Gaspar
Photo: Spanish Embassy

Another particularity is that a joint program for the next 18 months has been coordinated with the Belgian and Hungarian incoming Presidencies, so that a longer term approach is ensured. During the first semester of 2010, the Spanish Government will also focus on laying sound foundations for a sustainable economic recovery and the creation of more and better jobs with the launching of a new EU Strategy on Growth and Employment; the emergence of a new European citizenship, with particular consideration to gender equality and the promotion of human rights; the fight against poverty and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; and the follow up of the Copenhagen Conference on climate change.

With regard to Africa, we are fully committed to the reinforcement of the EU-Africa partnership and the full operationalisation, visibility and ownership of the Joint Strategy. In this sense, we will work towards the adoption of a new Action Plan 2011-13 in the third Africa-EU Summit that should take place in Libya during the second semester of 2010.

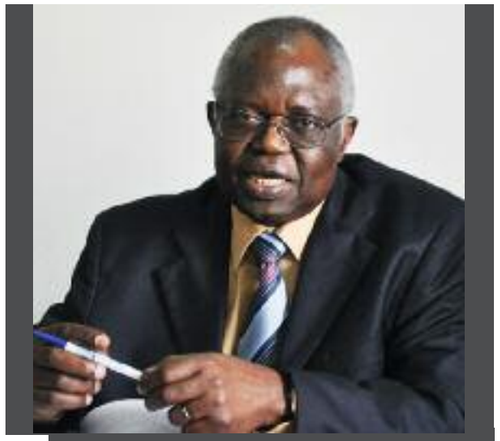
In a sense, ours will be a transitional Presidency, yet fully engaged and active. In Addis Ababa, and according to the Lisbon Treaty provisions, the tasks of representation, coordination and negotiation on behalf of the EU have already been attributed to the EU Delegations to Ethiopia and the AU, and the Spanish Embassy is ready to assist them in carrying out those functions.

Finalement je voudrais saisir l'occasion pour adresser mes salutations à tous les amis de Link! féliciter la Délégation de l'UE auprès de l'UA pour cette excellente et innovatrice initiative, et souhaiter à son équipe bonne chance dans l'exercice de leurs responsabilités accrues.

Bonne Année!

INTERVIEW
of the month

"Cinq domaines seront développés dans cinq institutions universitaires centrales réparties dans les cinq regions geographiques du continent african (Université panafricaine)"



Prof. Jean-Pierre EZIN,
Photo: EU to the AU, Addis Ababa

Interview avec

Prof. Jean-Pierre EZIN,

Commissaire de l'Union Africaine en charge des Ressources Humaines, de la Science et la Technologie

Pouvez-vous nous expliquer ce concept d'Université panafricaine ? De quoi s'agit-il?

Dans le cadre des initiatives de la Commission de l'Union africaine, visant à la revitalisation de l'enseignement supérieur, figure le programme intitulé "Université Pan Africaine" (UPA). Ce programme vise à:

- promouvoir la science et la technologie comme base de développement socio-économique de l'Afrique,
- doter l'Afrique d'institutions de recherche et d'enseignement supérieurs différentiés,
- permettre une plus grande mobilité des chercheurs et des étudiants,
- accélérer la formation d'une masse critique de chercheurs, d'ingénieurs et d'enseignants de haut niveau dans cinq domaines-clé à savoir :
- Sciences et technologies de l'espace ;
- Sciences de l'eau et de l'Energie et changement climatique;
- Sciences de base, technologie et innovation;
- Sciences de la vie et de la terre ;
- Sciences Sociales, Humanités et gouvernance.

Ces cinq domaines seront développés dans cinq institutions universitaires centrales reparties dans les cinq régions géographiques du continent : Afrique du Nord, Afrique de l'Ouest, Afrique de l'Est, Afrique Centrale, et Afrique Australe. Chacune de ces institutions centrales coordonnera des unités satellitaires (faculté, département, centre de recherche …) situées dans divers pays du continent.

Le concept de l'Université Pan Africaine (UPA) a quatre caractéristiques essentielles:

- Elle consiste en une mise en réseau de structures qui existent et fonctionnent déjà;
- Les structures constitutives de l'UPA doivent répondre aux normes de qualité les plus élevées, être performantes et pertinentes aux besoins de l'Afrique ;
- L'UPA sera une Université de troisième cycle (Master et Doctorat) ;
- L'UPA collaborera étroitement avec le secteur privée et la société civile

Il faut noter que le modèle architectural de l'UPA, est inspiré de celui de l'Université des Nations Unies.

Qu'attendez-vous de l'Union Européenne comme soutien à ce projet?

L'UPA repose sur trois piliers :

- la Commission de l'Union africaine, la région et le pays hôte d'un domaine thématique ;
- un partenaire privilégié qui, très tôt et sur le long terme, collabore intellectuellement et matériellement à l'édification d'un domaine thématique.
- la Diaspora africaine.

Les Etats membres de l'Union Européenne peuvent s'intégrer dans la structure en gestation de l'UPA en tant que " partenaires privilégiés". Les partenaires sont invités à considérer ce projet comme l'un des projets prioritaires des Pays membres de l'Union africaine, à contribuer techniquement et financièrement à sa réussite.

Quant à la Commission de l'Union Européenne, nous nous attendons qu'elle s'associe à nous pour approfondir nos réflexions sur le concept de l'UPA et ses structures régionales, pour mobiliser la diaspora africaine indispensable à la viabilité de l'UPA et qu'elle nous aide à inscrire ce projet comme une priorité dans le deuxième Plan de la Stratégie conjointe UE-Afrique.

Quel est le calendrier pour la mise en œuvre de ce projet d'université pan-africaine? Où en sommes-nous actuellement?

Pour la **première phase (2008-2009),** il s'agit de mettre en place une unité de pilotage du projet (comprenant le Comité de Haut Niveau (HLP)) et des structures administratives et de gouvernance de l'UPA;

La **seconde phase (2009-2010)** consiste en une mise en operation des 2 premières unités thématiques PA consacrées aux sciences de l'Espace et à celles de l'Eau et de l'Energie (y compris le changement climatique);

Puis viendra la **troisième phase (2011)**, au cours de laquelle sera mise en place la direction autonome de l'UPA (RECTORAT) et du Conseil d'administration;

Enfin, la **quatrieme phase (2011-2012)** consistera à mettre en opération les trois dernières unités thématiques.

En ce qui concerne l'état d'avancement du projet, pour faire face, de manière rationnelle, à toutes les étapes des phases ci-dessus identifiées, les activités suivantes ont été accomplies :

- La commission a organisé une série de réunions avec des experts africains et internationaux, les organismes et les partenaires internationaux ainsi que des Ambassadeurs près l'Union africaine à Addis-Abeba sur le concept du l'UPA. Celui-ci a été bien accueilli, a suscité beaucoup d'intérêt et a été enrichi.

- L'UNESCO a parrainé une étude de faisabilité de l'UPA, qui a été menée début 2009 puis exposée à la Conférence mondiale de l'UNESCO sur l'enseignement supérieur en juillet 2009 à Paris. La Commission de l'UA a alors effectué des missions pour évaluer la faisabilité du déploiement de la composante des sciences de l'espace et des sciences de l'eau et de l'énergie de l'UPA, respectivement, en Afrique Australe et en Afrique du Nord. Ces missions comprenaient notamment des entrevues avec les représentants des gouvernements et les principaux acteurs de l'enseignement supérieur des régions visitées.

- En octobre 2009, un Comité de Haut Niveau (HLP) composé d'éminentes personnalités de l'enseignement supérieur et de l'administration de l'éducation a été installé par le Président de la Commission de l'Union africaine, Monsieur Jean PING.

La mission de ce Comité est d'assister la Commission de l'Union africaine et principalement le Département des Ressources Humaines, de la Science et la Technologie dans la mise en œuvre de ce projet.

Enfin, je voudrais également mentionner la réunion, fin novembre 2009, de la Conférence des Ministres de l'Education Africains (COMEDAF IV) qui a entériné les cinq domaines thématiques de l'UPA et a ensuite recommandé d'élargir le dialogue politique avec les principaux intervenants dans les régions et les Etats pour l'attribution de ces domaines. Une mission a été dépêchée en décembre 2009 dans la région de l'Afrique du Nord à cette fin.

DOSSIER TECHNOLOGY

1. Science for Africa: a luxury? No, a solution!
2. Four excelling African women scientists explain their work.
3. Embracing ICT convergence through an enhanced regional integration in Africa.
4. UNESCO's role in promoting science, technology and innovation for sustainable development in Africa.

SCIENCE FOR AFRICA: A LUXURY? NO, A SOLUTION!

By Janez POTOČNIK, EU Commissioner for Science and Research

Africa is without doubt the continent with the greatest scientific gap. But some might ask: why should we develop space projects with Africa when so many Africans need clean water? Why should we train African physicists and mathematicians when so many Africans can't read? Indeed can't we just transfer our technology to Africa? After all, we already have cures for the diseases that cause two-thirds of deaths, we have drought resistant crop varieties, we have the technologies to purify water.

These questions were answered conclusively for me when I met African scientists in Kenya and Ethiopia recently. Quite simply Africa needs advanced science and technology because it gives her the tools and skills to attack poverty, drought, famine, water shortages and diseases. It is not enough to simply transfer the solutions that other have found; you can only successfully apply science if you master it.

Commissioner Potočnik accompanied by Prof. Crispus Kiamba and Dr. Eric Mwangi in Nairobi
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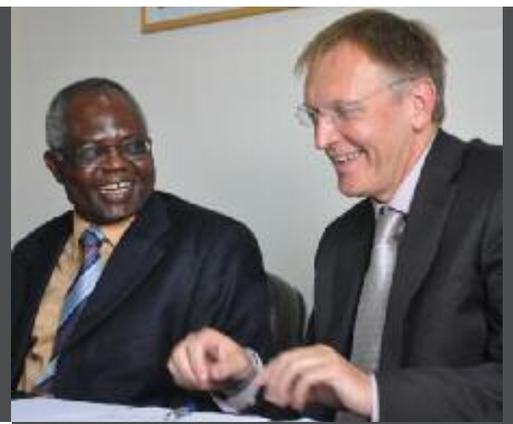


AU Commissioner EZIN and EU Commissioner Potočnik in Addis Ababa
Photo: EU to the AU

Africa has to master science for two reasons. Firstly, because there is no "short cut" to sustainable economic development, and Africa will need its own engineers and scientists to create wealth and wellbeing, just as the industrialising nations of the 19th and 20th Century did. Secondly because Africa must work with other continents on a series of new global challenges that face us all such as climate change, pandemics and environmental degradation; challenges which will have a particular impact on Africa.

Today, it must be Africans who themselves decide their own priorities and how to address them. And this must be done in a coordinated way. A comprehensive plan for science that the donor community can get behind and support in a spirit of partnership Africa is needed.

Such a plan now exists in the Science Partnership established between the African Union (AU) and the European Union (EU) in December 2007. This is a real breakthrough: a partnership between two continents and their supranational institutions, the European Commission and the African Union Commission. It also involves the 53 AU member states and the 27 EU member states, and it is really by structuring and coordinating the existing and new efforts of these 80 states that the partnership will have a real impact.

Expériences eco physiologiques dans des champs au BOSTWANA
Photo: SAYED AZAM ALI

The EU will support these efforts in a fresh way; not so much working for Africa but with Africa. That's a real step change. Let's remember that over the past few centuries, many foreigners have brought to the African continent their notions of science and technology to harness the African environment, resources and often also its people. More recently technology has been "transferred" to Africa as a means of generating economic and social development. But even this has often been a process directed by foreigners.

The partnership must be based on a set of common principles:

Firstly, it is essential that there is strong investment in building research capacity in Africa as a means of building local capacity, retaining local talent, and attracting African scientists living abroad to work.

Secondly, all partners, including the European and African states who already are involved in

uncoordinated bilateral cooperation, should work in the framework of the 19 priorities (including biotechnology, satellite monitoring, water management, sustainable forests, internet access and a virtual campus) identified in the Science Partnership to increase coherence and impact, and avoid duplication.

In a market in Bostwana
Photo: SAYED AZAM ALI

Thirdly, scientific knowledge must be married to local knowledge, which has often in the past been derided as the antithesis of science and technology. To be translated into impact on the ground scientists and researchers must work with the poor, with patients, with mothers, with ministers, with farmers and with fishermen.

The European Commission's approach to supporting research in Africa has changed in line with these principles. We have moved from a spirit of "donorship" to one of partnership.

We have been supporting science and research in Africa for some time. Between 2002 and 2006, we provided some 94 million Euros to more than 800 African institutions, particularly for work on environment, agriculture and health. And in the first two years of the current EU Framework Programme for research we already have 387 cases of African participation, related to some 53 million Euros of funding.

But the € 63 million "Africa Call" we have just launched under the 7th Framework Programme for Research (http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm) marks something new and different… "A fresh future for African Research". It is different because, this time the priority research areas in health, environment and food and agriculture (including water management) were identified by Africa. They are not only relevant to Africa's needs, but based on existing African capacity.

In launching this call we are showing that this partnership is not just a signature on an agreement; it is a process. For it to work, this process needs more than community funding. It will need the shared vision and commitment of all partners, particularly at the national level. European Union member states will need to better coordinate their support in the framework of the 19 areas identified by the African Union Commission. Coordination is needed not only between countries, but also within individual countries between overseas development ministries and research ministries. Science and research have been ignored for too long in development policy. Africa Union member states will need to better coordinate their scientific responses to their challenges, most of which are regional or continental and certainly not confined by national borders.

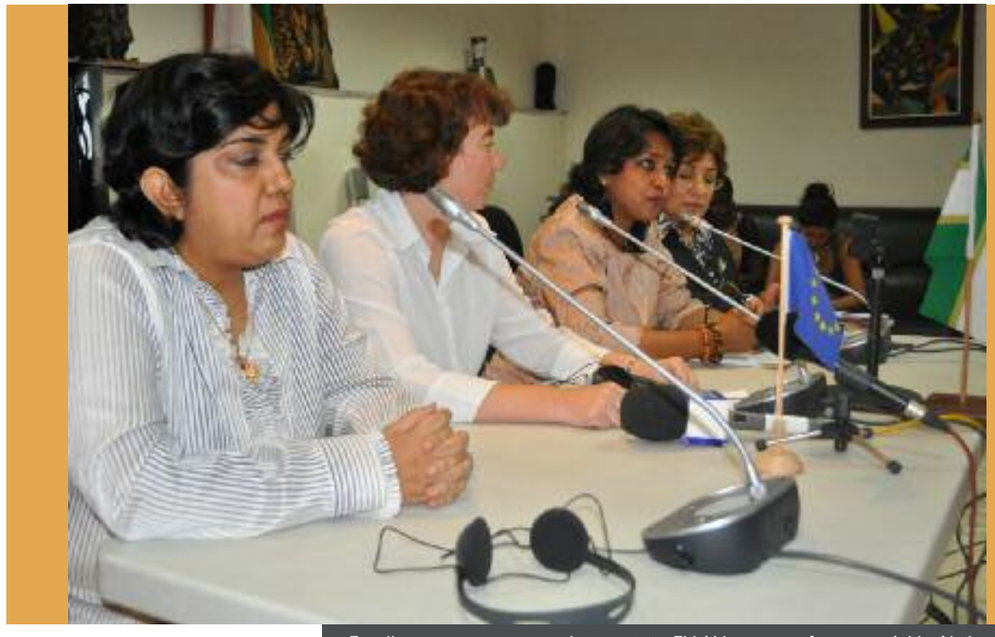
Essential to nurturing the next generation of African researchers will be an improvement of their status in society, in the resources for their research, and in the level of understanding of how science should be used in policy-making. A third of all African scientists live and work in developed countries according to the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC). For the immediate future it is essential for developed nations to invest in the rebuilding of African research capability. But my real hope, in the longer term, is that the next generation of African researchers will be able to apply for funding, not only to the European Research Framework Programme, but to an African Research Framework Programme.

FOUR EXCELLING WOMEN SCIENTISTS EXPLAIN THEIR WORK

On 8 September 2009, EU Commissioner POTOCNIK and African Union Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology, Jean-Pierre EZIN have presented the African Union Women Scientists Regional Awards to five African women researchers. This prestigious African Union Scientific awards program targets young researchers at African Union member state level, women at regional level and outstanding scientists at continental level.

For LINK!, four of them explain their work: **Prof. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, Dr. Brenda Diana Wingfield, Dr Romeela Mohee, Prof. Dr. Sanaa Botros.**

1. Traditional medicine and its impact on livelihood
2. Genomics in Africa
3. Waste composting: using science, technology and innovation for addressing community problems
4. Health in Africa: The importance of Science and Research and Development (R&D)

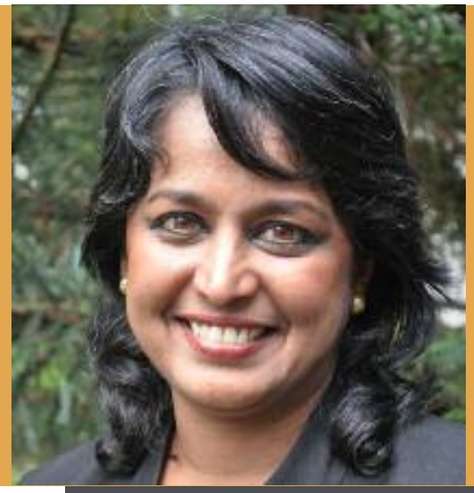


Excelling women scientists during a joint EU AU press conference in Addis Ababa
Photo: EU to the AU delegation

TRADITIONAL MEDICINE AND ITS IMPACT ON LIVELIHOODS

Prof. Ameenah GURIB-FAKIM, Mauritius

Plants were once a primary source of all the medicines in the world and continue to provide mankind with new remedies. To date, about 80% of people in the developing world still rely on traditional medicine, based largely on species of plants and animals, for their primary health care. Modern allopathic medicine also has



Prof. Ameenah GURIB-FAKIM (Mauritius)
Photo: EU to the AU

its roots in ancient medicine and it is likely that many important new remedies will be discovered and commercialised in the near future. As of date, natural products and their derivatives represent more than 50% of all the drugs in clinical use in the world. Whilst modern allopathic medicine usually aims to develop a patentable single compound or a 'magic bullet' to treat specific conditions, traditional medicine often aims to restore balance by using chemically complex plants, or by mixing together several different plants in order to maximise a synergistic effect or to improve the likelihood with a relevant molecular target. In most societies and increasingly in western societies, allopathic and traditional systems of medicine occur side by side in a complementary way. The former treats serious acute conditions while the latter is used for chronic illnesses, to reduce symptoms and improve the quality of life in a cost-effective way.

"African traditional medicine is the oldest and perhaps the most diverse of all medicine systems."

Africa is considered to be the cradle of Mankind with a rich biological and cultural diversity marked by regional differences in healing practices. Unfortunately, the systems of medicines are poorly recorded and remain so to date. Yet the documentation of medicinal uses of African plants is becoming increasingly urgent because of the rapid loss of the natural habitats of many of these unique plants whose potential still remains undiscovered.

The objectives of my work have been:

1. To document traditional practices with a view of creating the first ever database for Mauritius.
2. To validate traditional data on medicinal plant use with a view of developing cheaper alternatives to allopathic medicines as well as creating opportunities for cultivation and for a business line.
3. To promote the cultivation and sustainable practices of medicinal plants with the farming community.
4. To educate the younger generation on local medicinal plants through the creation of medicinal plant gardens and to promote awareness on issues of conservation.
5. Dissemination of information through layman's publication on the theme of flora in general.
6. To develop the African Herbal Pharmacopeia with a view of promoting African medicinal plants on the world market, through the Association of African Medicinal Plants Standards.

GENOMICS IN AFRICA

Professor Brenda Diana WINGFIELD, South Africa

Prof. Brenda Wingfield has just returned to South Africa after a six month sabbatical in the USA where she was furthering her goal of establishing a genome annotation platform at the University of Pretoria. The first genome which will be used to establish the genome platform is that of tree killing fungus, *Fusarium circinatum*. This virulent pathogen threatens pine plantations globally, causing a severe seedling disease and a disease known as pitch canker on mature trees.

Pro. Brenda WINGFIELD
(South Africa)

This is the first multi-cellular genome to be sequenced in Africa. The unfolding project encompasses fundamental DNA technology and has the potential to unlock practical applications for the South African forestry industry as well as intellectual property of global value.

"Understanding the genetics of both the pathogen and tree are bound to play a major role in the arm's race to stay ahead of this disease."

A complete cure is unlikely, but control is probable. Continuous research may also provide more sophisticated tools for tree breeders seeking resistance to this devastating pathogen.

Prof. Wingfield and a number of students started the sequencing study in 2008. The sequence was done by Inqaba Biotec, a South African genomics service company based in Sunnyside, Pretoria. Prof. Wingfield has now spent 6 months in the USA furthering her knowledge and collaborations in terms of genomes and their annotation. In the next six months she and a team of students and researchers will complete the project. The skills gained from this project will be used to pursue a higher level of academic and research training at the University of Pretoria.

The project is funded by the National Research Foundation (NRF) and the Department of Trade and Industry, while the Oppenheimer Foundation, NRF and the University of Pretoria have provided support for Prof. Wingfield to undertake her sabbatical research in the USA.

WASTE COMPOSTING: USING SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION TO ADDRESS COMMUNITY PROBLEMS.

Dr. Romeela MOHEE, Mauritius (with Ackmez Mudhoo, Geeta Unmar, Vijayalaxmi Jumnoodoo, Nafiisa Sobratee)

Communities, especially in developing countries are major generators of organic wastes in their daily activities, producing household wastes, crop residues, liquid wastes and/or mixed solid wastes. Many big cities such as Nairobi and Dar Es Salaam, have experienced a fast growing population and high levels of migration in the past years. These have led to high solid waste generation in urban areas that need to be properly managed. Proper sanitary landfills are lacking and the wastes are often just thrown in

Dr. Romeela MOHEE (Mauritius)
Photo: EU to the AU

heaps. Furthermore, farm households in rural communities generate a variety of organic wastes which can have significant value as fertiliser nutrients, but which remain unexploited as the wastes are often left to decay. Wastes, left in open dumps, are washed away by rains and eventually they can cause a high rate of contamination in natural watercourses.

Municipal waste management represents one of the major environmental challenges in all the countries in Africa, mainly due to the large levels of urbanization happening and the inability of the big cities to manage and dispose of the large amounts of wastes being generated. It is expected that by 2020, more than 50% of the population in Sub-Saharan Africa will be urban (World Resource Institute, 1998). The waste generation rate in urban regions in Africa can be as high as 1.0 kg/capita.day. The African Environment Outlook (AEO) reports that the Per capita solid waste generation averages 0.7 kg/day in Zimbabwe, while in Tanzania it is 1.0 kg/day with a large proportion of organics. Mauritius generates around 1.1kg/capita.day of mixed municipal solid wastes (MSW) which has witnessed a rapid increase from 0.8 kg/capita.day in 1997 (Fichtner, 2000). MSW from Accra, Ibadan, Dakar, Abidjan and Lusaka are in the range of per capita of 0.5-0.8 kg/capita with a putrescible organic content of 35-80% and plastics, glass and metals at less than 10% (UNEP, 2005). It is believed that due to higher standards in living and increased urbanization that the amount of wastes generated over the African cities will increase significantly in the coming years. Sanio et al. (1998) estimates that the wastes generated in urban areas will quadruple by 2025.

In the urban centres throughout the African region, less than half of the solid waste produced is collected, and 95% of that amount is neither contained nor collected (Drechsel and Kunze 2001). It is either indiscriminately thrown away at various dumping sites on the periphery of urban centres, or at a number of temporary sites. These open landfills often have serious environmental impacts that extend beyond their boundaries, polluting nearby water sources and serving as breeding grounds for disease-bearing rodents and insects. In Lesotho, only 7 per cent of urban households have garbage collection facilities while in Gaborone (Botswana) and Maputo (Mozambique) nearly all solid waste is disposed of in an open dump rather than a sanitary landfill (AEO). De Vreede (1998) reported that heaps of garbage pile up at street corners and are often dumped indiscriminately in Laos, Nigeria.

Farm households in rural communities generate solid organic wastes such as livestock manure, tree trimmings, grass clippings and crop residues. Organic wastes can amount to as much as 80% of the total solid wastes generated in any farm household (Karekezi et al. 1997; Mohee 2002).

Reducing the environmental threat linked to improper organic waste management and improving soil fertility

Composting can play an important role in both urban and rural communities by reducing the environmental threat linked to improper organic waste management and improving soil fertility, both of which can have immediate beneficial impact upon food productivity. Natural composting is an ancient process that has always been a part of the global ecosystem and which continues to take place given that all organic materials eventually decompose. However, a more recent approach has arisen in response to the need for continuous controlled and hygienic disposal processes that can accommodate the large amounts of organic wastes produced by communities.

The need to increase soil organic matter in some countries, for example, those in Africa is an important reason for recycling organic wastes and returning nutrients to the soil. Composting plays an important role in organic farming practices; it helps improve soil fertility. Among other benefits, the use of compost can improve access to food in rural communities with higher yields of vegetables and fruit that result from crops grown on more fertile soils. Farmers in the urban and rural communities in Africa have many reasons for joining a composting programme given that all the basic requirements of composting are immediately available, which are feedstock, air, water, land and labour (Mohee, 2007). The compost that results is a resource to the farmer and, where markets exist, it can be an additional source of revenue. The compost produced can be used on-farm or sold to other farmers and people in the community.

This chapter shows how scientific knowledge has been used to find technically simple and cost effective solutions that can be implemented by farmers as well as rural and local communities. Underlying scientific principles are explained so that the rationale behind the composting technologies used may be understood. Applied research projects have been done to advance the field of composting to find appropriate solutions and to enable composting operations to meet site-specific needs. Case studies and pilot projects conducted on composting in Africa are also presented as they are useful tools for demonstrating that composting has worked elsewhere, and can be successfully introduced.

LINK!

HEALTH IN AFRICA: THE IMPORTANCE OF SCIENCE AND RESEACH AND DEVELOPMENT. (R&D) AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

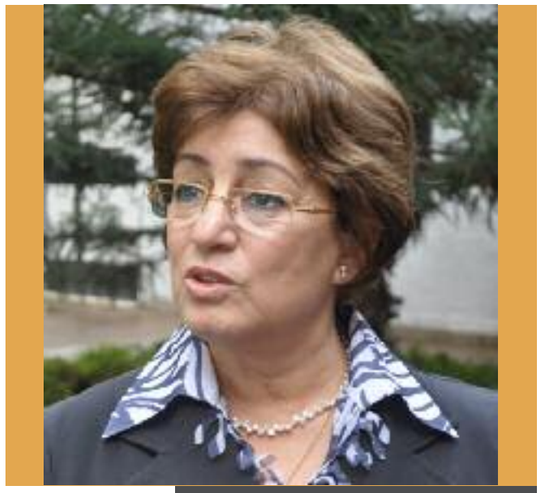
Professor Sanaa BOTROS, Egypt

Africa bears the greatest burden of disease in the world today. Actually with 15% of the global population, Africa accounts for 25% of global disease burden. This has been explained among others by lack of sufficient R&D aimed at addressing Africa's unmet health needs resulting in lack of sufficient therapies for many illnesses that almost exclusively affect the African continent and are out of scope of most research efforts conducted by the developed world.

Investing in health, research and development and national capacities is central to the promotion of economic development, and hence poverty reduction. Regional and international fora expressing their commitment to supporting research activities in Africa have echoed this need but to make it sustainable it should come from within. African scientists recognize the growing burden of diseases and conditions that disproportionately affect their people. We also feel the urgent need to promote R&D, access innovation and build up of a sustainable capacity and infrastructure.

The African Network for Drugs and Diagnostics Innovation: a unique initiative.

In Africa we have a critical mass of initiatives e.g. MMV (medicine for Malaria venture), DNDi (Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative) and FIND trying to address Africa health needs. The African Network for Drugs and Diagnostics Innovation (ANDI) is a unique initiative among others already running being African-based, African-led with an emphasis to create the mind-set of health product innovation and not on making available certain products or supporting certain steps along the R&D value chain. The idea of this network has been put forward by WHO/TDR, African institutions and Africans in Diaspora. It has been framed in the context of many international and regional reports and declarations, the last two of which are the Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Public Health Innovation and Intellectual property (GSPA) and the "leader's declaration in the 62nd World Health Assembly". All of these declarations are calling for empowerment of local research, development and ownership to improve health outcome and hence economic development. Because ANDI has been framed in the context of GSPA, it is positioned to act as a key African & external-interface partner for other organizations operating in Africa. ANDI concept launch was on October 2008, the business plan launch was October 2009 and the implementation will be by the beginning of 2010. At the concept launch and to know where we are it has been agreed to study the landscape of Africa for R&D and to constitute a task force with agreed terms of reference. The task force included African researchers in Africa and in Diaspora, with



Prof. Dr. Sanaa BOTROS (Egypt)
Photo: EU to the AU

representative and support from the EU Commission. A main term of reference has been the preparation of ANDI strategic business plan.

The vision is to create a sustainable platform for R&D innovation in Africa to address Africa's own health needs.

ANDI's mission is *"To promote and sustain African-led health product innovation to address African public health needs through efficient use of local knowledge, assembly of research networks, and building capacity to support economical development." The vision is to create a sustainable platform for R&D innovation in Africa to address Africa's own health needs.*

Given the challenges and trends and to drive ANDI's mission. ANDI will establish and coordinate the formation of collaborative projects, of African health product R&D networks. These projects will aim to develop products by progressing them from discovery, through clinical phases to manufacturing and by building capacity. To ensure the success of these network projects, ANDI's activities will cover the following:

i) support for activities through direct funding, project coordination and management, as well as intellectual property management;
ii) support of network structure via investments in shared research equipment and facilities, as well as provision of an IT platform for knowledge management; and
iii) brokerage of relationships with key stakeholders and funders through advocacy, and fostering partnerships with various public and private players in Africa and outside.

As an Africa initiative, ANDI's Secretariat will be based in Africa with a decentralized structure of hubs distributed in Africa's regions. A central office will help coordinate hub activities, manage network infrastructure, and house ANDI's core functional teams in advocacy, IP/technology transfer and R&D management. ANDI's hubs and central office will be hosted by African institutions. A small Secretariat will be led by an Executive Director (ED). The African Innovation Fund embedded within the financial structure of the ANDI host organization will collect, manage and account for finances i.e. funds applied for operations and network projects. The AIF will start as a collection fund then into an endowment fund capable of guaranteeing ANDI's independence and sustainability. Potential sources funding include traditional donor-based support and innovative health financing. Decisions relating to the management of funds in the AIF will be made by the ANDI Secretariat under the oversight of the ANDI Board. ANDI will be governed by the ANDI Board which is responsible for:

i) setting scientific priorities,
ii) and supporting implementation of the advocacy strategy, and
iii) overseeing ANDI's financial performance.

The Board will have strong African government and technical representation (~70% of members) as stakeholders such as relevant international or regional organizations, OECD, non-government agencies foundations and industry associations.

African researchers working in the field of health are determined to take the lead and decide what is best for Africans.

We need international funding agencies to direct finance to sustainable initiatives, and our governments to recognize health R& D spending as the best investment. ANDI is a role model of how African scientists in Africa and in the Diaspora can increase their collaboration and participation in science initiatives and research projects to address their local health needs, build up capacities and create the mind set for a sustainable health product innovation that can help the continent to chart a permanent path for sustainable development.

EMBRACING ICT CONVERGENCE THROUGH AN ENHANCED REGIONAL INTEGRATION IN AFRICA

Advances in information and communication technologies (ICTs) over the last decades brought a dramatic improvement and opportunities for Africa's participation in the information age. ICTs have created an alternative venue for knowledge-based socio-economic development.

As technologies become digital and start using similar networks, the transmission of hitherto different services (telephony, television, Internet) via the same digital network is creating convergence.

Convergence of telecom and IT is very important for Africa's socio-economic development and growth because it can shape the delivery of government services (including education and health), redefine the way businesses operate and provide individuals with as yet unimagined information and communication services. As much as African countries adapt to convergence, they ensure an expanded access to communications with reduced costs, which in turn stimulate economic growth. Adapting to convergence is also becoming a condition for full and effective participation in the global economy and information society which has been defined in the UN's World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) of 'bridging the digital divide by 2015'.

However, like many other developing countries, Africa faces a number of challenges to embrace convergence including infrastructure and institutional capacity, the regional integration and the regulatory framework.

Building the African ICT Infrastructure

Africa has a critically important need to develop its communication infrastructure and increase broadband access. ICT infrastructure is the foundation on which ICT services for commerce, government and society can flow. Moreover, this infrastructure is essential for African countries to achieve regional integration and to enable poor people to participate in the knowledge economy. Economic growth in Africa will depend upon widespread access to ICT services, which in turn provide access to local, national, regional, and global markets. Therefore, national and regional backbones, cross-border links, and rural connectivity need to be vastly expanded, in parallel with the deployment of applications to take advantage of connectivity for productive use.

As a key pillar of infrastructure, broadband is necessary in order to achieve the Information Society. Broadband-enabled services have the potential to create economic and empowerment opportunities and improve lives. Indeed, some of the applications that are having the greatest impact on people and businesses are closely linked to broadband penetration.

For a region like Africa, broadband should not be viewed as a luxury, but as a necessity in an increasingly information and knowledge-based society. Providing broadband access opens up a new door to a knowledge-based economy, which in turn will promote the region's social and economic development. Broadband can be harnessed to improve a number of key initiatives such as Community Access, Community Telecentres, Cyber Cafes, e-health, and e-learning.

Cost is the major challenge for broadband connectivity in Africa. Communication costs in Africa are currently up to hundreds of times higher than in Europe, Asia or North America. This particularly affects those with the most limited resources: students, researchers, doctors, scientists, and other public servants, as well as the general public, who are unable to take full advantage of the unprecedented access to knowledge the Internet provides. Cheaper bandwidth for African institutions, particularly governments, schools, universities, libraries and hospitals would provide widespread access to the wealth of information available online, facilitate African contributions to the global economy and increase the likelihood of successful solutions to African development problems.

Bandwidth has become the crucial ingredient of the knowledge society, but it is not adequately available where it is most needed – in the developing nations of Africa. Unless connectivity is improved, efforts to accelerate economic development in Africa are unlikely to bear fruit. Better connectivity offers the prospect for African countries to transform their economies from reliance on traditional activities, with low productivity and weak growth outlook, to more advanced activities that can sustain higher wages, create new employment and reap the other social benefits offered by new technologies.

Women in Darfur - Reporters/ Jimmy KETS

South Africa has managed to rollout and expand broadband and this should inspire other developing countries. The government heavily supports broadband rollout. Countries such as Algeria, Mauritius, Morocco, Egypt, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Malawi and others have also made significant strides in broadband rollout. According to an Internet article, in Malawi, ISP Africa Online offers a wireless broadband service in Lilongwe, the capital and second city Blantyre. Mauritius is benefiting a lot from its broadband roll out due to its ability to attract foreign investments in ICT Off-Shore Outsourcing business.

The rollout and expansion of broadband in Africa is taking shape, although at a snail's pace. Although broadband has arrived in Africa, it is still limited to a very small segment of the society. African Governments needs to do a lot of work to improve new media and ICTs technologies and infrastructures and rollout affordable broadband.

Reshaping the regulatory framework

Another area of concern for governments to address convergence is through the regulatory framework. The regulatory framework has to be redefined or new regulatory frameworks created in order to respond to convergence and guide future policy direction. Recent ECA study in Sierra Leone and Nigeria showed that although there is increasing transformation of the policy, legislative and regulatory frameworks to respond to convergence, Africa is lagging behind. To this end, a growing number of Governments and

regional institutions are embarking on the review of their frameworks to adequately respond to the challenges of convergence.

Enhancing Regional Integration

Africa needs to strengthen harmonization among national systems and build the relatively small market in order to maximize the opportunities for economies of scale and market integration.

Such opportunities include product and service procurement with a negotiating advantage; sub-

Photo: Reporters/AP/Tsvangirai Mukwazhi

regional and regional backbones that will eliminate the expensive routing of telecommunication and Internet traffic outside the continent; common tariffs that could facilitate telecommunication services and the establishment of roaming agreements on mobile networks, hence facilitating cross border communication; compatible standards for ICT products and services that would stimulate the private sector to invest in neighbouring countries; promoting Africa's voice in the global fora, which currently is limited because of the continent's difficulty to influence decision on internet and e-commerce related activities; and networks of regulators that would facilitate cross-border interaction and market enlargement. Recent ECA assessment on the African integration, though progress has been mixed, showing that some strides have been made in trade, transport, communication, energy, knowledge sharing, free movement of people, and peace and security.

In relation to communications, the global revolution in telecommunication technology and the growing commercialization and privatization of national services has boosted intercountry connectivity in communication. Some regional economic communities – the Arab Maghreb Union, COMESA, ECOWAS, and SADC – are more connected than others.

In knowledge sharing, successful cooperation occurs in early warning systems, agricultural research, and capacity building. SADC is served by the Southern African Centre for Cooperation in Agricultural Research and Training, and organizations such as the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture and the International Water Management Institute are helping regional economic communities exchange information on best practices.

Furthermore, there are a number of initiatives towards interconnecting the region such as the Eastern Africa Submarine Cable System (EASSy) Project which has been created to develop and implement a submarine cable system to provide fibre optic telecommunications facilities to the Eastern Coast of Africa and linking Northern and Southern Africa international gateways to the system.

Therefore, improved connectivity can help in addressing one of the key problems of Africa - lack of regional economic integration. The various economic groupings such as Regional Economic Communities (RECs) that have been created to help address regional integration are facing a crucial challenge because of the barriers between countries resulting from poor cross-border communications and other infrastructure. Better ICT infrastructure and communications links between countries in sub-regions are being seen as one of the key components in building regional markets and reducing the divisions between common cultures separated by borders.

Photo: Reporters/DPA/Daniel Karmann

Conclusion

Regional integration efforts in communication focus on policy convergence, physical facilities, connectivity, and exchange programs, particularly in broadcasting. The goals are to spur growth of trade and finance and to reduce production and service costs by enhancing the accessibility and affordability of information and by linking Africa regionally and with the rest of the world.

Efforts to promote the ICT infrastructure development need to emphasize the convergence of national policies and actions to strengthen connectivity and improve the quality of services. The United Nations Transport and Communications Decade for Africa shows that financing infrastructure networks require innovative approaches and appropriate policies for encouraging private participation. National budgets need to give priority to infrastructure, including appropriate allocation for their maintenance and rehabilitation.

It is expected that African Heads of States who will attend the upcoming African Union Heads of State Summit on challenges and prospects for development of ICTs in Africa, to be held 31 January - 2nd February 2010 in Addis Abeba-Ethiopia, will reaffirm their commitment and determination to join efforts in the development of efficient Information and Communication Technologies for Africa as a key factor for African integration, social and economic development and inclusion in the global knowledge economy.

UNESCO'S ROLE IN PROMOTING SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

The Constitution of the UNESCO states as its first objective, the contribution to maintaining *"…peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science and culture in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for human rights and fundamental freedoms".*

These universal values of human rights are at the heart of UNESCO's mandate and it is in this spirit that UNESCO views the advances of science and technology.

La reine, culture bénin Photo: Paolo BOTTONI) Les bronzes du Bénin nous rappellent les savoirs ancestraux en culture, art et métallurgie

Through its sciences programs UNESCO acts as a catalyst to enable Member States to address the multi dimensional aspects related to peace and poverty, while promoting a dialogue among different cultures and knowledge systems. UNESCO with its science mandate is the primary advocate within the UN systems for the transformative power of scientific knowledge in support of peace, poverty reduction and sustainable development by fostering dialogue collaboration, cooperation, networking, capacity building as well as knowledge sharing with the scientific community, decision makers and civil society, globally, regionally and at country level.

Convinced that science, technology and innovation are critical to the development and economic growth of the continent, in January 2007, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union endorsed the Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA) for Science and Technology in Africa and adopted the Addis Ababa Declaration on Scientific Research for Development. The CPA outlines programmes and specific policy issues and stressed the need for building the continent's capacities to harness, apply and develop science and technology in order to eradicate poverty, fight diseases, stem environmental degradation, and improve economic competitiveness. UNESCO has accompanied the AU in its efforts to put science and technology on the agenda for the economic development of the African continent. The AU Summit therefore specifically called upon UNESCO to assist in the implementation of the CPA.

UNESCO's universal mission is bolstered by its capacity to initiate actions that take account of the diversity of its Member States and the distinctive nature of differing geographical regions. Although not every country needs to be at the cutting edge of science, every country does need domestic capacity to identify technology's potential benefits and to adapt new technology to its needs and constraints. Governments increasingly need R&D capability to enable them to regulate the acquisition and absorption of technology and in order to improve their own activities. UNESCO's programs in science in Africa are aligned with the needs of the Member States and the CPA.

UNESCO's policies in key areas of development focus on diverse areas such as: freshwater and oceans; biodiversity, ecology, geosciences and natural energy resources. Understanding the changes in the complex and dynamic earth systems and their societal and environmental impacts is at the heart of UNESCO's science mandate. To foster sustainable development, UNESCO draws on its intergovernmental and international science programs and their networks at global, regional and national level.

UNESCO has a long tradition in assisting Member States in science policy reviews, which dates back to the early 1960s. These efforts culminated in a series of Ministerial meetings in Africa, known as CASTs (Conference of Ministers Responsible for the Application of Science and Technology to Development in Africa), including CASTAFRICA. Strengthening capacity in science for sustainable development, and harnessing the fruits of scientific discoveries, can only be achieved within a comprehensive framework of science and technology policy. Subsequently, national authorities have become increasingly aware of the importance of elaborating national policies and strategies in the area of science and technology, as a prerequisite for effective development policies. As a result, many African Member States have sought, and are still seeking UNESCO's support in formulating National science policies. The role of UNESCO in Science, Technology and Innovation policy is threefold: a think tank on policy development; a guide for national policy reforms; and a catalyst for regional and international cooperation.

Relief égyptien sur la pêche (culture et ressources naturelles)

UNESCO has launched the African Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Initiative (ASTIPI) to build capacities in policy review and reformulation and provide policy advice to African countries lacking a national policy. Mobilizing the necessary expertise and identification of national and international experts and defining the terms of reference based on Member States needs, is a joint initiative between the country representation to UNESCO and the relevant Ministries. Supporting Member States in the review and or reformulation of national Science, Technology and Innovation policies is considered a crucial step in their efforts to attain sustainable development. UNESCO is contributing to Africa's CPA as concerns improving policy conditions and building mechanisms for innovation. This is done by means of providing guidelines and methodologies, technical advice and guidance on formulation, implementation, monitoring, and a review of policies and plans concerning national Science, Technology and Innovation activities.

Prior to the launch of the ASTIPI, UNESCO assisted Lesotho, Mozambique and Namibia in reformulating their Science and Technology policies, by bringing to light policy options that harness effectively the Science, Technology and Innovation knowledge produced. During the 2008-2009 biennium, 20 Member States (Benin, Republic of Botswana, Burundi, Central African Republic, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, the Gambia, Republic of Madagascar, Republic of Malawi, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Republic of Niger, Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Republic of Zambia and Zimbabwe) have made formal requests through their governments to UNESCO to assist them carry out national science policy reviews or formulation. The various countries are in different phases of the policy review process. Recognizing that African countries need to respond with policies, programmes, institutions and partnerships which maximize their economic opportunities, UNESCO has prioritized science policy for the next biennium, 2010-2011.

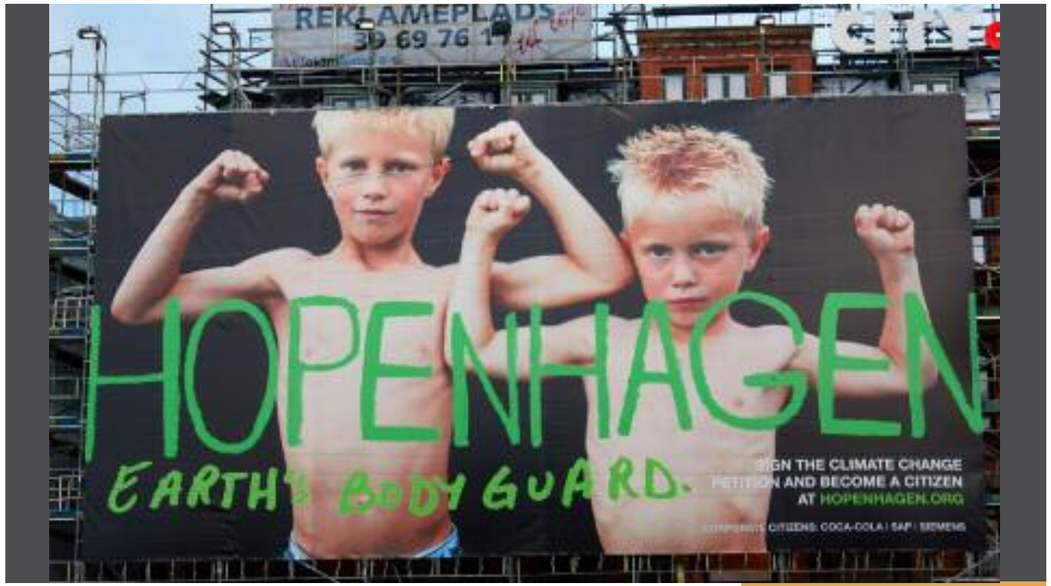
UNESCO is also playing its role as a team member in the context of "delivering as one." UNESCO was nominated by ECOSOC as the convener of the UN Science and Technology cluster in support of the implementation of the African Union CPA. At the regional level, UNESCO was nominated to sit on the Steering Committee of the African Ministerial Council on Science and Technology (AMCOST) on 2 May 2008. AMCOST defines the agenda for science and technology of the African Union within the framework of the CPA. UNESCO is the only UN agency to have been nominated to the AMCOST Steering Committee. The move comes in recognition of UNESCO's contribution over the past years to implementing the CPA.

The AU Commission for Human Resources, Science and Technology launched the African Cluster for Science and Technology (ACST) to improve pan-African coordination and thereby avoid duplication and wastage of resources. The African Cluster will pilot programmes responsible for implementing the CPA. UNESCO has played a key role in the establishment of the ACST and been elected Rapporteur of the African Cluster in July 2009.

LINK!

LATEST NEWS
About the Partnership

COPENHAGEN ACCORD: A FIRST STEP TOWARDS LEGALLY BINDING GLOBAL CLIMATE AGREEMENT WITH SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT FOR FINANCE FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES



Copenhagen summit.

The Copenhagen climate conference ended on 19 December by taking note of the 'Copenhagen Accord', which was supported by a large majority of parties, including the European Union, but opposed by a small number.

The conference also mandated the two ad hoc working groups on long-term cooperative action under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and on further commitments for developed countries under the Kyoto Protocol to complete their work at the next annual climate conference, to be held in Mexico City in November 2010.

Though disappointing, the Copenhagen outcome is however a step in the right direction.

These results fall well short of the European Union's goal of achieving maximum progress in Copenhagen towards the finalisation of an ambitious and legally binding global climate treaty to succeed the Kyoto Protocol in 2013. Though disappointing, the Copenhagen outcome is however a step in the right direction.

The EU secured key elements of the Copenhagen Accord, which was negotiated among some 30 parties – many of them represented by their heads of state or government – from all UN regional groups during the course of 18 December and into the early hours of 19 December. These parties collectively represent more than 80% of global emissions.

The accord received support from the vast majority of parties to the UNFCCC, but due to opposition from a handful of countries the closing plenary session of the conference took note of the accord without formally endorsing it.

"Especially important was the fact that we kept our commitment regarding the support to developing countries (…)"

EU President Barroso commented: "This accord is better than no accord." He expressed his disappointment at the limited outcome of the negotiations. "At the same time, it is also fair to say that this was the first time we could put, in an agreement at this level, the actions that have now been pledged by many other Parties," he said. "And we believe that the fact that the European Union has committed, and already has in its legislation, these kinds of actions was, in fact, a very important trigger for announcements that have been made on development and from developing countries. "Especially important was the fact that we kept our commitment regarding the support to developing countries. Our African partners and others very specifically thanked us for that, because not all have contributed to what we believe is a very important obligation, which is the need to support the poorest, the most vulnerable in their fight against climate change." Africa is directly suffering from the impact of climate change including food insecurity and a significant conflict risk; yet it is only responsible for 3% of global emissions. The EU and the African Union met in Copenhagen. At the Copenhagen High-Level Segment, Prime Minister Meles of Ethiopia speaking on behalf of the African Group proposed substantial funding to address urgent adaptation and mitigation, of which 40% was to be earmarked for Africa. President Barroso acknowledged in his speech that the proposals of Prime Minister Meles deserve great attention and recalled the European Council agreement to pledge €2.4 bn a year for 2010-2012 fast-start funding, as an initial step for more extensive finance to support an ambitious Copenhagen outcome.

The Accord contains many of the elements the European Union fought for.

The accord contains many of the elements the European Union fought for. It endorses for the first time at a global level the objective of keeping warming to less than 2°C above the pre-industrial temperature. Another positive element is that it requires developed countries to submit economy-wide emission reduction targets, and developing countries to submit their mitigation actions, by 31 January 2010 so that they can be listed as part of the document. The final accord lays the basis for a substantial 'fast start' finance package for developing countries approaching $30 billion for the period 2010-12, and medium-term financing of $100 billion annually by 2020. It also provides for a mechanism to accelerate technology cooperation. Funding for adaptation will be prioritised for the most vulnerable developing countries, such as the least developed countries, small island developing States and Africa.

However, the accord does not refer to the conclusion of a legally binding agreement, a key objective for the EU, or set the goal of at least halving global emissions by 2050 compared to 1990 levels in order to keep warming below 2°C. The EU will continue to push for these. World leaders have no alternative but to keep working together to meet their responsibilities to future generations.

We must now ensure that the Copenhagen Accord becomes operational and is explicitly endorsed by as many UNFCCC parties as possible within the 31 January deadline.

Copenhagen was a first step but we need many more steps in the future. The European goal is now to ensure that a legally binding treaty is agreed in December 2010 in Mexico City.

UN HISTORIEN ET DES AMBASSADEURS

Elikia M'bokolo, historien, directeur d'études à l'Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales de Paris (EHESS) a présenté le 4 décembre son dernier ouvrage "Médiations Africaines" devant un parterre d'ambassadeurs africains, européens et américains, réunis à la résidence du Chef de délégation de l'UE auprés de l'UA.

Invité pour l'occasion par la délégation, M. M'bokolo a largement dépassé le théme présenté dans son ouvrage. Il s'agissait également, pour ce normalien agrégé qui enseigne sur plusieurs continents, d'analyser le partenariat Afrique - Union Européenne, à la lumière notamment des processus différents qui ont prévalu à la naissance et à la constitution des deux organisations.

M. M'bokolo and the audience
Photo: EU to AU delegation

Elikia M'bokolo, historien
Photo: EU to AU delegation

Comme en témoignent ses nombreux travaux historiques, de l'Afrique précoloniale à l'actualité la plus récente, M. M'bokolo dispose d'une connaissance approfondie de l'Afrique qu'il a su faire partager avec passion à son auditoire, la soirée ayant duré bien plus longtemps qu'initialement prévue.

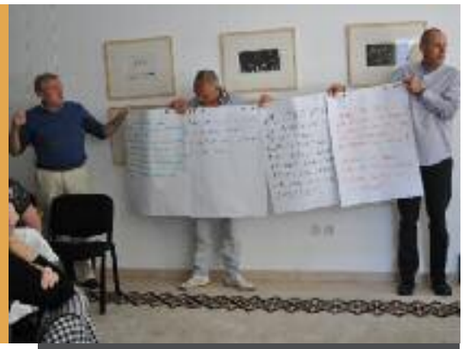
De telles invitations devraient pouvoir se poursuivre en 2010, permettant aux diplomates d'Addis d'écouter d'illustres voix africaines puis d'échanger leurs propres vues dans un cadre informel et convivial.

UNE JOURNÉE DE RÉFLEXION

Cela aurait pu être le credo, ce vendredi 15 janvier, de la délégation de l'Union européenne auprès de l'Union africaine, puisqu'une journée durant, ses membres ont analysé ensemble en ce début 2010 leurs rôles, leurs objectifs, leurs pratiques de travail.

A l'abri, l'espace d'une journée, du flot quotidien d'activités, chacun a ainsi pu réfléchir et s'exprimer au sujet des grands enjeux pour la délégation en 2010 mais aussi au sujet de son fonctionnement interne.

La rédaction plus affinée d'un "mission statement", l'identification mieux ciblée des objectifs de chacun, l'adaptation aux évolutions actuelles à la fois au sein de la délégation et chez nos partenaires africains furent quelques-uns des thèmes abordés lors de cette journée.



EU to AU delegation Retreat - 15 january 2010
Photo: Eu to AU

PERSONALIA

NEW EU DIPLOMATS

H.E. Mr Marek LIBŘICKÝ took up his post as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Czech Republic to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, as Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the African Union as well as Permanent representative of the Czech Republic to the United Nation Economic Commission for Africa.

H.E. Dr Gudrun GRAF took up her post as Ambassador of Austria to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, as Permanent Representative of Austria to the African Union and as Ambassador of Austria to Djibouti and to the Republic of Congo.

NINE NEW STAFF HAVE JOINED THE EUROPEAN UNION DELEGATION TO THE AFRICAN UNION

Thomas PEYKER, **Head of Peace and Security section**

John DOONE, **Mission Security Officer**

Timothy BAINES, **Advisor, Peace and Security**

Jorge GALLEGO LIZON - **Advisor, Political Section**

Nicola BELLOMO,-**Advisor, Political Section**

AMA ANNAN- **Advisor, Political Section**

Betelihem ARGAW- **Admin Assistant (HR)**

Meron FESSEHAYE, **Secretary/Receptionist**

Seblewongel BELAY - **Accountant (FCS)**

UPCOMING Events

February 2010

3/10 Meeting of the Joint Coordination Committee (Steering Committee of the African Peace Facility): EC AUC and high-level representatives of the RECs/RMs (Regional Mechanisms), Addis Ababa.

4/10 2010 Euro-Africa Cooperation Forum on ICT Research, Addis Ababa.

8-12/10 Workshop EU support to African training institutions, Nairobi.

9-11/10 Intensive training for officials of the African Union Commission, the Regional Economic Communities and specialized bodies on the harmonization of SPS (Sanitary and Phyto sanitary) measures – Dakar.

10/10 Closing meeting of the Joint AMIS audit exercise.

15-16/10 (date tbc): Meeting of the African Peace Facility Capacity Building Steering Committee: again EC/AUC/RECs/RMs meeting to discuss progress and future priorities of the APF-financed Capacity Building programmes, Addis Ababa.

22-26/10 Regional workshop for Central African countries on the harmonization of Food hygiena inspection and authorization of Food establishment throughout central Africa – Douala, Cameroon.