



# NEPAD NEWS

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## NEPAD and the first TICAD Summit in Africa

**N**airobi - Heads of State and Government, delegations from Japan and 54 African countries got together with representatives of 52 other partner countries, 74 international and regional organisations, representatives of the private sector and civil society organisations from Africa, Japan and all over the world in Nairobi, Kenya, for the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI), on 27- 28 August.

This year's TICAD was the first time that the conference was held on African soil, with all five previous events hosted in Japan. TICAD is an initiative launched by the Japanese government in 1993 to bring the world's attention to Africa's development needs and promote high-level policy dialogue between African leaders and development partners. It is in this light that TICAD provides an open forum that generates innovative discussion, among various stakeholders, on African development.

The conference welcomed the economic and social advancement, as well as the progressing regional integration, through the African Union Commission, the New Partnership for Africa's Development Planning and Coordinating Agency (the NEPAD Agency) and the enhanced role of the Regional Economic Communities, including the African Peer Review Mechanism in Africa's development management. The adoption of Agenda 2063 and its First Ten-Year Implementation Plan, as well as its several flagship projects, which have articulated the continent's development vision, aspirations, goals and priorities were also recognised.

In order to advance Africa's sustainable development agenda through the TICAD partnership for which aims for prosperity, the TICAD VI Nairobi Declaration and Implementation Plan were adopted. The Nairobi Declaration recognises Africa as a dynamic continent that now hosts most of the fastest growing economies in the world. The continent is bestowed with rich natural resources and a fast growing population which is estimated to reach two billion in 2050. *-continues on page 2*



Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO of the NEPAD Agency at TICAD VI in Nairobi, Kenya

*“As long as Africa is not making significant progress on the implementation of regional infrastructure and integration of regional markets, industrialisation or economic diversification becomes a growing challenge”*

*- Dr Ibrahim Mayaki*

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The Nairobi Declaration identifies three priority areas in Africa's development: Promoting Structural Economic Transformation through Economic Diversification and Industrialisation; Promoting Resilient Health Systems for Quality of Life, and; Promoting Social Stability for Shared Prosperity.

The Nairobi Declaration affirms "the alignment of TICAD VI to Agenda 2063 and its First Ten Year Implementation Plan, relevant NEPAD programmes, regional and national development plans and strategic priorities." And the Implementation Plan mentions some of key NEPAD programs such as OSBP, PIDA, and CAADP. Japanese Prime Minister Mr. Shinzo Abe mentions collaboration with the NEPAD Agency in the area of nutrition (Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa) and industrialization (promotion of KAIZEN approach) in his opening speech to explain Japanese policy on their cooperation for African development.

The NEPAD Agency co-hosted or actively participated in some key events at TICADVI. Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, CEO of the NEPAD Agency, made the opening statement at the side event co-hosted by the NEPAD Agency on *Boosting Intra-African Trade: A Key for Regional Economic Integration and African Competitiveness*. At the event, Dr Mayaki launched the second edition of the One Stop Border Post (OSBP) Sourcebook.

He underscored the importance of boosting intra-African trade for industrialisation and regional integration in the context of Africa and explained two crucial tools for trade facilitation as:

- The One Stop Border Post - the legal and institutional framework, facilities, and associated procedures that enable goods, people, and vehicles to stop in a single facility at a border, and;
- The recently launched MoveAfrica Initiative to support the transformation of Africa's trade by addressing soft issues related to cross-border transport and logistics challenges.

He emphasised that "OSBP is a useful tool but we have to tackle three main challenges for development and operationalization of OSBPs: Political leadership, institutional building, and partnership/coordination." Then, he thanked all the institutions who contributed in the process of producing OSBP Sourcebook and stated that, "We need to work together to accelerate this important tool, and make full use of this invaluable guide of the Sourcebook towards the journey for free movement of people, goods and service on our continent".

During TICAD VI, Dr Mayaki moderated a high level panel discussion on the Role of Regional Economic Communities as drivers for Africa's economic growth in Japan-Africa Business Conference. The discussion addressed the role of regional integration in Africa's development, progress made so far in different aspects that enhance integration, and the roadmap for Africa in the next two decades. The TICAD summit also saw the launch of the Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa (IFNA) to boost nutrition in Africa. In his welcome remarks at the launching event of IFNA co-hosted by the NEPAD Agency,

Dr Mayaki stressed that, "It is unacceptable that in 2016, we have 53 million children that are stunted; 164 million children and women of reproductive age that are anaemic; 220 million people that are estimated to be calorie deficient."

IFNA therefore brings out the importance of several values which focus on facilitating people-centred and practical activities for attainable results. JICA's president Mr Shinichi Kitaoka stated that this is achievable through the empowerment of women, as well as action-oriented policy enhancement and emphasised that the time for action is now. IFNA therefore offers a platform for coordinated action among partners committed to improving food security and nutrition in Africa. The overall aim is to ensure that the goals of zero hunger, ending hunger and malnutrition become a reality.

In embracing the Japanese the practice of continuous improvement, known as Kaizen, the NEPAD Agency is also engaging with the Government of Japan through JICA to take Kaizen to the next level. Kaizen is a Japanese term meaning "improvement" and refers to a process of innovation in firms involving the entire workforce. Kaizen targets productivity enhancement at individual firm level through the implementation of a standard set of tools that are easily adaptable and scalable. The implementation of Kaizen began in Japan, shifting to Asia and is now being used across Africa, most prominently in Ethiopia.

In his closing remarks at the side event of "Industrial Development in Africa – KAIZEN and BEYOND" co-hosted by the NEPAD Agency, he pointed out that KAIZEN can be indeed adapted in the cultural context of Africa and emphasized political commitment at the highest level and sound industrial policies as key conditions for the successful promotion of KAIZEN in Africa. He further explained that NEPAD will take the lead in promoting KAIZEN in collaboration with JICA, while creating KAIZEN champion countries in Africa.

Finally, since the adoption of the Japan policy on international diplomacy in science, technology and innovation, the NEPAD Agency has had several engagements with Japan with the aim of building cooperation programmes in science, technology and innovation. Speaking on the event hosted by STS forum, Dr Mayaki said the NEPAD Agency, through the various networks of centres of excellence that have been established in all the regions of the continent, sees a lot of opportunities in various technical cooperation programmes that are run through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

"With continued improvement in the enabling environments in STI on the continent, we are convinced that the technical cooperation between Africa and Japan in STI will yield more value addition than ever before," Dr Mayaki said.



Visit by the AXIS Steering Committee to the Abuja IXP

Benefits of Internet eXchange Points (IXPs) range from cost-savings from intra-country connectivity which contribute to making Internet access more affordable; to employment opportunities that can open up for young entrepreneurs through local and localised online services, and; facilitating access to public services

## The African Internet eXchange System – making Internet access more affordable in Africa

**Abuja** - There are now many undersea cables passing along the African coast that bring the promise of competitive interconnection rates at the major global exchange points in Europe, Asia, and North America.

However, it would appear that, for the most part, African Internet users are not yet enjoying the cost reductions that were expected from this abundance of international bandwidth. This may be partly due to limited interconnection arrangements at national and regional levels. In the Internet business model, when Internet service provider (ISPs) sell access to the Internet, they are effectively selling access to other networks.

The African Internet eXchange System (AXIS) Project (part of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa), seeks to ensure that network and service providers in the region are interconnected through national Internet eXchange Points (IXPs) and that there is interconnection at regional level through regional IXPs.

An IXP is a critical piece of Internet infrastructure where ISPs cooperate to exchange traffic, much like the way airline companies exchange passengers at airports. In this way, traffic originating in and destined for the same country does not have to use expensive cross-border links. AXIS is implemented by the African Union Commission guided by a steering committee comprised of officials from the NEPAD Agency and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

As part of monitoring progress on the AXIS implementation across the continent, the Steering Committee visited the IXP in Abuja, Nigeria, on 29 July.

The work undertaken in the AXIS Project has so far seen best practice and community mobilisation workshops held in 30 African countries; technical training on IXP set up and operations in 27 countries with more than 500 participants trained, and; IXPs set up in 14 countries with direct support from AXIS.

Following the visit to the Abuja IXP, the NEPAD Agency through its Regional Integration, Infrastructure and Trade Programme will address the following aspects:

- Engage governments to subsidise or enter into public private partnerships for provision of interconnection between IXPs.
- Package messaging on the benefits of IXPs touching on the cost-savings from intra-country connectivity which contribute to making Internet access more affordable; the employment opportunities that can open up for young entrepreneurs through local and localised online services, and; facilitating access to government/public services
- Developing future ICT/infrastructure projects that focus on local hosting of local and localised online content and services to support development of local Internet economies

As the digital economy grows, so will the number and type of parties connecting to IXPs. The aggregation of traffic at IXPs may also positively influence international providers to connect to local exchanges, further reducing off-shore capital flows. These are trends to take note of, as IXPs have an important role in triggering and accelerating the local digital economy.

Even though an IXP initially requires some form of subsidy, if successful, it can generate sufficient volume of traffic to make it self-sustainable. Case studies in Kenya, Nigeria and Namibia have shown annual savings of over USD 1 million in international transit costs after the introduction of IXPs.



CEO of the NEPAD Agency meeting with Ms Ayanda Dlodlo, South Africa's Deputy Minister for Public Service and Administration

## Implementation of Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030 in Africa

**Johannesburg** - The NEPAD Agency and Government of South Africa are linking efforts on the Open Government Partnership (OGP) in fostering reforms at country-level towards making governments more open, transparent, accountable and responsive to their own citizens.

The Government of South Africa's Ministry of Public Service and Administration is current Co-chair of the OGP Steering Committee. The OGP is a multi-lateral initiative that aims to secure concrete commitments to strengthen governments in improving the quality of governance for effective service provision to citizens.

## TerrAfrica introduces knowledge on fire management in the grasslands and savannas of African Landscapes

### *The Africa Drylands Week and Drought Conference*

**Windhoek** - The NEPAD Sustainable Land and Water Management (SLWM) team through the TerrAfrica project together with the World Bank brought to light the concept of "bringing together the current knowledge about fire in the grasslands and savannas of Africa" at the 3rd Africa Drylands week in Windhoek, Namibia. The team also launched a short documentary-film titled "Africa, the Fire Continent."

The Third Africa Drylands Week and Drought Conference seeks to come up with an overarching strategic framework for Africa that will enhance resilience to the impact of drought events.

Approximately 43 percent of land area and 45 percent of the population in Africa fall within the drylands. Despite their high potential for agriculture and various development programs, African drylands are prone to several challenges such as land degradation, desertification and frequent and recurrent droughts as well as insecurity.



Both the Third Africa Drylands Week and Drought Conference will strengthen partnerships and cooperation to support the development of new and / or improvement of existing national policies and strategies on drought management. This is in addition to building more drought resilient societies based on the sustainable use and management of natural resources.

The outcomes of the conference will be brought to the attention of the African Union for the collective African heads of states and governments' endorsements in January 2017.

The event was jointly organised by the government of Namibia, the African Union, NEPAD Agency, the World Bank, the European Union and various UN agencies. NEPAD shared its work on Drylands, including the Climate Change, Biodiversity and Land Degradation (LDBA) flagship in addition to hosting an exhibition of its SLWM programme products.

# NEPAD receives feedback on compiled regional AMRH M&E preliminary results report

**Nairobi** - The NEPAD Agency successfully delivered preliminary results of the M&E pilot that was conducted in all six East African Community (EAC) Partner States and received valuable feedback from participating stakeholders. The feedback received shall be used to update the report before it is finalised and shared with the African Medicines Regulatory Harmonisation (AMRH) Advisory Committee for validation.

The main objective of the meeting in Kenya was to consult stakeholders on the EAC-MRH Project M&E pilot report, revise and update the Indicators Reference Manual and agree on mechanism of data collection in preparation for the expected expansion of this framework to other Regional Economic Communities (RECs). These objectives have been met and the reference documents will now be finalised to form part of the M&E roll out process to other RECs in Africa.

During the meeting, EAC-MRH Project Senior Health Officer, John Patrick Mwesigye presented proposed interventions for strengthening the EAC-MRH Project M&E. He outlined how EAC conducts systematic M&E through quarterly, semi-annual and annual reports from Partner States, meeting reports, as well as reports of project implementation support missions from World Bank (WB), World Health Organisation (WHO) and the NEPAD Agency. Mr Mwesigye also highlighted the need to have streamlined data and information collection from sources and to establish an automated indicator tool that can collect national level information to feed in to a consolidated regional outlook. He also emphasised the importance of knowledge and information sharing at regular intervals and the need for dedicated M&E focal persons to accelerate the implementation of these activities.

“There is need to have a designated personnel for M&E for the EAC -MRH Project at regional level and NMRA level with clear ToRs,” Mr Mwesigye emphasised.

Following this report from the EAC Secretariat and findings from the AMRH M&E pilot report, it became clear that M&E focal persons were quite critical in delivering a robust and effective M&E system. As a result, the meeting identified dedicated M&E focal persons and proposed terms of reference were developed for easy future collection of M&E data.

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) also made a presentation of their work plan that outlines the systematic steps towards implementing a version of the M&E system based on lessons learnt from the EAC region. SADC representative, Luther Gwaza highlighted the data protocols, quality assurance systems and evaluation processes that shall inform the SADC M&E roll out. The process is expected to kick start at the beginning of September, 2016 and a draft SADC MRH M&E framework has already been developed.

Fatuma Ibrahim Adan representing the InterGovernmental Authority



Participants at the meeting

on Development (IGAD) said that the NEPAD M&E system shall be inculcated to form part of the broader IGAD M&E plan and MRH Project assessment. She explained that IGAD already has a functional M&E coordinator on health and details of the M&E work will be streamlined under this unit to ensure coherence. Mrs Adan called on NEPAD Agency to expedite the roll out of the M&E framework to other IGAD Partner States not covered under the EAC region.

The M&E framework will help to accelerate AMRH project impact by identifying gaps in MRH Project implementation and crafting relevant interventions for improving medicines regulatory systems in Africa. The M&E framework is also critical in contributing towards enhancing knowledge management on regional MRH Projects and at national level, refining and guiding policy and regulatory reform interventions and shading light on regulatory capacity development. These three factors constitute the main areas of intervention of the AMRH programme. The presentation of preliminary results of the pilot M&E report was led by NEPAD Agency’s Nancy Ngum and the areas highlighted in the report included 9 categories comprising 31 indicators. The categories were:

- (1) National Medicines Regulatory Authorities (NMRAs) financing
- (2) Medicines evaluation and registration, and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) inspection systems
- (3) Functioning quality management systems
- (4) Partnerships and coordination
- (5) Policy and legal framework
- (6) NMRA governance
- (7) NMRA human resource capacity
- (8) Information management systems, and
- (9) Level of transparency.

The meeting was attended by the National Medicines Regulatory Authorities (NMRAs) of the EAC region, EAC Secretariat, WHO, WB, NEPAD Agency and SADC.

# SADC striving for food security, targets improved agricultural productivity

**Mbabane** - The food security situation in southern Africa has remained subdued over the past few years due to a variety of factors, hampering efforts to deepen integration and promote sustainable development.

According to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Early Warning and Vulnerability Assessment Systems, at least 27 million people – about nine percent of the population of the region – are food insecure this year as a result of the poor 2015/16 farming season.

The poor season has largely been due to low rainfall, mainly caused by the strongest El Niño weather phenomenon ever in southern Africa. The current El Niño-induced drought in SADC is the worst in 35 years.

So what is SADC doing to address its food security situation to ensure sustainable development?

The region has established a regional El-Niño response team to coordinate a regional response to the impacts of the 2015/16 El-Niño phenomenon on livelihoods in close collaboration with member states.

The SADC El Niño Response Team was set up in May following a directive issued by the SADC Council of Ministers that met in mid-March.

The team has so far prepared a regional drought appeal for assistance with the aim of mobilising resources to meet the needs of people requiring humanitarian support in the region.

SADC chairperson, President Seretse Khama Ian Khama of Botswana launched the regional appeal amounting to US\$2.7 billion. Significant resources have so far been realised since the appeal was launched in July.

“Following the launch of the appeal, the region has received assistance and pledges from a number of partners, including the European Union, the United States and Japan,” SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax said ahead of the two-day 36<sup>th</sup> SADC Summit, which opened on 30 August in Mbabane, the Kingdom of Swaziland.

In addition to this, SADC has also adopted a number of other measures to revolutionise the agricultural sector, which contributes between 4 and 27 percent of the regional gross domestic product and about 13 percent of the total export earnings.

The measures include promotion of investment in research and improved access to financial resources for smallholder farmers. Other strategies are measures to strengthen the capacity for the dissemination of research technologies to farmers, particularly smallholder farmers, who make up the majority of farmers in the region.

Access to such information is critical for planning purposes, especially when farmers want to diversify into new crops or livestock. With regard to water infrastructure development, SADC is investing in irrigation to enable farmers to grow crops all year round and not only depend on climatic conditions.

There is vast potential for irrigation in SADC as the region is endowed with large watercourses such as the Congo, Limpopo, and Zambezi rivers. The Water Sector Plan of the SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan (RIDMP) contains a total of 34 infrastructure projects aimed at improving access to water in the region.

The SADC region is implementing the **Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme**, which aims to boost food production in the continent.

At the national level, various SADC Member States are capacitating their farmers to embrace new technologies and ensure that they get increased productivity per unit area of land, rather than by increasing the area of cultivated land.

Individual countries are also improving their storage facilities to allow farmers to store their harvest for use in poor seasons. According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, post-harvest crop losses are estimated to be as high as 40 percent in southern Africa.

SADC has also finalised the Regional Agricultural Policy (PAP) that was adopted in 2014. The plan seeks to ensure long-term food security and the reduction of social and economic vulnerability of the region’s population by enhancing sustainable agricultural production in the changing socio-economic and climatic conditions.

The region is implementing the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), which aims to boost food production in the continent. Adopted by the African Union in 2003, the CAADP encourages countries to reach a higher path of economic growth through agriculture-led development by allocating at least 10 percent of their national budgets to the agricultural sector each year.

Ultimately, this ambitious and broad vision for agricultural reform in Africa aspires for an average annual growth rate of six percent in agriculture.

It should also be noted that the budgetary target does not only focus on the agricultural sector per se but also seeks to address inter-linkages between agriculture and other sectors. For example, investment in infrastructure development such as road and rail is critical to promoting the smooth movement of agricultural produce from one place to another.

In the same light, improvements in science and technology promotes development of appropriate innovations including fertilisers and other farming inputs such as seeds. Agriculture is an engine for socio-economic development in most countries in southern Africa. The 36<sup>th</sup> SADC Summit set for 30-31 August is expected to come up with more measures to consolidate the drive towards food security.

The theme for the 36<sup>th</sup> SADC Summit is “Resource Mobilisation for Investment in Sustainable Energy Infrastructure for an Inclusive SADC Industrialisation for the Prosperity of the Region.”

At the summit, King Mswati III of Swaziland will assume the rotating SADC Chair from President Seretse Khama Ian Khama of Botswana.

**Story submitted by Kizito Sikuka**

# The condition of women in Africa reveals the sorry state of the human condition on the continent

Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Chief Executive Officer of the Secretariat of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

This year, political leaders met in July in Kigali, Rwanda, at the annual African Union summit where a great deal of emphasis was placed on human rights, with a specific focus on women's issues. I would like to take this opportunity to say a few words. There are numerous examples in Africa's both ancient and recent history of remarkable women who have contributed and at times even altered the destiny of entire nations.

However, while we should celebrate these singular figures, we ought not do it at the expense of millions of women across the continent who collectively shape through their daily lives the economic, social, intellectual and spiritual structures of Africa.

What matters the most is that the condition of women in Africa highlights the broader issue of the human condition on the continent. Women often bear the brunt of underdevelopment and are disproportionate victims of weak governance, inadequate health care, infrastructure bottlenecks, and education. Women make up half of the African population and produce 61.9 percent of economic goods, but only account for 8.5 percent of wage-earning employees. But these bad conditions shackle Africa's growth as a whole. Ending discrimination would help us all. We can remedy how women are treated if we tackle some key underlying factors. For example, the way students are taken care of can greatly benefit women if applied without discrimination.

I am convinced that we would see a significant uptick in school completion rates among young girls should Member States initiate a monthly stipend to support female education. Having an educated woman in the household will go a long way toward discouraging the ongoing practice of 'offering' young girls for marriage at the tender age of 13.

In some cases, countries make the mistake of withdrawing their support to young girls who become pregnant. In addition to the present double-standards, whereby male children are more likely to receive academic support such as grants and scholarships, there is an unacceptable difference between the way the two parents responsible for the pregnancy are treated. Similarly, household chores greatly affect the studying time of both young and teenage girls.

Indeed, empirical research has shown that women in Africa hold the keys to the well-being of households, particularly in rural areas that lack access to electricity and water. And invariably, a slew of onerous daily tasks such as collecting wood or water takes a toll on them.



It has been estimated that African women spend a staggering five and a half years of their lives to fetch water to satisfy the needs of their household.

It is important to recognise that the location and management of key health and welfare facilities are also strongly determined and affected by gender. The location of specific centres for young mothers and for child care is too often decided without consulting women first (requiring them to make a detour from their usual places of business).

Cities expect urban women to play sports while ignoring the fact that the administration offers no space where they would feel safe. Or even more cynically, some cities favour the use of the private car and pay no heed to the troubles experienced by the poorest women traveling on foot and by public transport. All of these issues contribute to the multi-faceted and unacknowledged discrimination against women endemic in Africa.

To this I see only one solution. Energy and logistics infrastructure are essential to all, just as the rules of good governance, equality in law, the quality of educational institutions or medical facilities of good standards. The quality of these policies will be measured by its impact on an undifferentiated population. Obviously, wherever discrimination exists against women, it must be fought radically and this fight is mainly political.

What worries me the most in the current frenzy about the purported role of women in Africa is that it may distract us from the true shared, universal and pan-African goal to offer each of our citizens the opportunity to fully realise their potential.

*"I am convinced that we would see a significant uptick in school completion rates among young girls should Member States initiate a monthly stipend to support female education. Having an educated woman in the household will go a long way toward discouraging the ongoing practice of 'offering' young girls for marriage at the tender age of 13," Dr Ibrahim Mayaki.*



Arhin Acheampong

## **N**EPAD bids farewell to MasterCard Foundation Scholars Programme interns

*Arhin Acheampong a Criminal Justice student at Michigan State University speaking during the farewell for interns funded by the MasterCard Foundation Scholars Programme*

**Which Programme/ Unit were you in and what have you learnt?  
How will it impact on your future career / studies?**

I have had an invaluable experience working with the Communications Unit at the NEPAD Agency. I had a lot of expectations for my internship and one of them was to get a better understanding of the work the African Union Commission is doing through NEPAD on the continent and whether it fits my career goals and aspirations. Also, I was looking for an opportunity to contribute towards the mission of the AUC and the NEPAD Agency and this internship gave me exactly that opportunity. As a young African with many aspirations and zeal to help contribute to the development and transformation of my continent, I needed to understand how these organisations who are front runners in this regard work, and the diplomacy involved in achieving the shared vision of a transformed and integrated Africa. This experience will also give me an upper hand in my extra-curricular activity in school with the African Students Leadership Association (ASLA), where we participate in the Model African Union in Washington D.C. every

spring, as it has given me a more practical and hands-on experience, together with lots of information that will enrich my participation and contribution in formulating practical and implementable resolutions for the AUC.

**Memorable moment/s at NEPAD?**

There have been many memorable moments. My first and still most memorable moment was my first day at work. The reception I received and all the smiles that welcomed me are still fresh in memory. I cherish all the time I spent with the amazing people here at NEPAD, especially with my boss, Ricardo Dunn, and all the members of the communications team. Another moment for me was when my work was commended at the NEPAD Steering Committee meeting by the CEO, Dr Mayaki and members of the committee. It was a fulfilling moment for me and my team.

**Any afterthoughts?**

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the CEO Dr Mayaki, Prof Ambali and Prof Makinde for giving me the opportunity to intern with NEPAD and also for accepting to allow more scholars from the MasterCard Foundation to also get this opportunity in future. Finally, I would express my gratitude to the Communications team and all the amazing people working at the Agency to help transform the continent.

*Amal Matovu, an International Development student at Michigan State University had the following to say:*

**Which Programme/ Unit were you in and what have you learnt?  
How will it impact on your future career / studies?**

I worked within the Regional Integration, Infrastructure and Trade Programme. I've learnt not to underestimate myself. I did a lot of tasks that I thought were above me and I'm glad the team trusted me to succeed. I was exposed to versatile knowledge regarding different departments, engaged in a lot of research within the transport, energy and ICT and infrastructure realm, assisted to plan the logistics of conferences and together with my colleagues worked on final reports of RIITP's activities. Overall, my internship helped me frame my decision to pursue my Masters.

*- continues on the next page*



Prof. Diran Makinde bidding farewell to Amal Matovu

### **Memorable moment/s at NEPAD?**

My most memorable moment was at the team planning retreat where I introduced myself as the PIDA intern without giving out my name. I was so embarrassed but I laughed it off and it worked in my favour because the partners came afterwards to get my name and ask about my background so it was a great networking opportunity. When I completed a project I considered to be very hard and Symerre responded to the email with "very impressive, Amal!" The times I spent going for lunch with my colleagues and building that camaraderie with people outside my unit. I felt this everyday - everyone treated me like I knew exactly what I was doing, almost like an expert and not just an intern, and helped me out whenever necessary. It made me want to work harder to make them proud.

### **What can NEPAD improve on to make the internship experience more beneficial to yourselves as interns?**

Overall, I enjoyed the NEPAD experience. Every day was a learning experience. One thing NEPAD can do in addition to what it is already doing is allowing Interns (on short contracts) to go on at least one mission to understand protocol related to diplomacy and negotiation. This will give them the opportunity to see the joys and frustrations of working hard for our continent and possibly inspire them in their time at NEPAD.

## **Strengthening the capacities of women who produce 80 percent of Africa's food**

Niamey – "Africa will never develop without the empowerment of women," said Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, the NEPAD Agency's CEO at the Gender Climate Change and Agriculture Support Programme (GCCASP) Partnership Platform and Donor Meeting in Niamey, Niger.

Delivering his key note remarks during the opening session of the meeting, Dr Mayaki pointed out that the promotion of women is the most important aspect of all our public policies. He also emphasised that strengthening the capacities of women who produce 80 percent of the food consumed in Africa is of critical importance.

The Partnership Platform and Donor Meetings in Niger were held on 1 - 2 August as follow-up to the previous consultations that were undertaken within the GCCASP. The meetings were organised by the NEPAD Agency in collaboration with the Ministry of Women Promotion and Child Protection of the Republic of Niger, with support from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD). The meetings mark the commencement of the implementation phase of the programme in the country, with a focus on the Partnership Platform and continued engagements in resource mobilisation.

In her opening speech, Dr Amadou Aissata Issa Maiga, Minister of Women Promotion and Child Protection highlighted the fact that women in Niger are at the centre of food crises. Hence it is very important that women are capacitated in Niger and also to ensure that the agriculture value chain is improved.

The Minister also lauded the inception of the GCCASP and thanked the NEPAD Agency and NORAD for the financial support of the programme in Niger. She reiterated the need for recommitment of development partners for the support of women smallholder farmers within the GCCASP context.

The opening session of the Partnership Platform culminated in the signing of the memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of Women Promotion and Child Protection of the Republic of Niger and the NEPAD Agency for GCCASP. It will enable the Ministry of Women Promotion and Child Protection to take further actions formally with regards to the way forward in the implementation of the programme. Dr Mayaki called on all stakeholders and development partners to take action to ensure that adequate resources and support are made available and that requisite synergies among different actors are forged for the enhanced implementation of the GCCASP. This will ensure that the programme achieves its objectives.

The meeting in Niamey brought together representatives of national and regional government agencies (including the Gender Council of the Prime Minister), private sector, development and donor partners, key United Nations agencies, embassies and civil society.

## Upcoming Events

**08 - 10 Sep 2016: 2nd Africa Rural Development Forum, Yaoundé, Cameroon**

**13 Sep 2016: Launch: NEPAD PARDEE Zero Hunger Report “Ending Hunger in Africa – Conditions for Success,” Pretoria, South Africa**

**20-22 Sep 2016: Regional Animal Sector Expert’s Orientation Workshop on the CAADP Process, Lomé, Togo**

**20-24 Sep 2016: 71<sup>st</sup> United Nations General Assembly, New York, USA**

**11 to 13 Oct 2016: 2<sup>nd</sup> Africa Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance - Annual Forum, Nairobi, Kenya**

**26 - 28 Oct 2016: 7<sup>th</sup> Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security, Accra, Ghana**

**14 - 18 Nov 2016: PIDA Week, Abidjan, Ivory Coast**

**21 - 23 Nov 2016: IS4D 2 Completion Workshop, Sandton, South Africa**

See also: [www.nepad.org/events](http://www.nepad.org/events)

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## Proverb

“A hunter who moves stealthily does not alarm his prey”

Meaning: A wise person stays calm



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