

28 SEPT 2017

Top stories this week



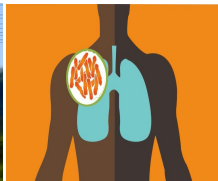
Youth development will not happen if we continue doing business as usual



NEPAD Agency celebrates Heritage Day



Steering committee and experts meeting on the Continental High Speed Rail



Digital mobile X-rays to strengthen TB service delivery in communities

Youth development will not happen if we continue doing business as usual

New York, September 20, 2017 - The NEPAD Agency hosted a high level forum on harnessing skills for rural transformation on the margins of the 72nd United Nations General Assembly. The event brought together a cross section of high profile leaders, champions and practitioners from both public and private institutions across the globe.

The forum created a platform to discuss and hear the experiences from various stakeholders on how issues of leadership, policies and investments can create opportunities for job creation and employment for youth in their home countries, particularly in rural areas. The forum also looked at NEPAD Programmes and that of UN Agencies and how they contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal 8- *to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all*. Below is what some of the delegates had to say:

"We need to constantly re-look at our policy design to adapt to current needs, otherwise we cant tackle development challenges"

"Government cannot ask youth to be entrepreneurs if governments themselves are not entrepreneurs"

On leadership: *"Nothing can be transformed if leadership is not present. Youth development needs good leadership & governance"*

Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, NEPAD Agency CEO

"If Africa has to move forward, we need to harness our rural spaces"

"The NEPAD Agency Policy Framework for Youth Development in Africa is implemented under the NEPAD Rural Futures Programmes"

Estherine Lisinge-Fotabong, NEPAD Agency Programmes Director

"At the heart of the issue of employment and rural development, it is necessary to implement labour policies."

"All the African countries are now talking about Emergence. But the real question is emerging with whom? This is why the question of skills is crucial"

H.E Mr Zacharie Perevet, Minister of Employment and Vocational Training, Cameroon

"Globally, 800 Million people are undernourished. In Africa, 243 million people are undernourished "

"To create employment for youth, we need to focus on the whole value chain of food"

Dr Jose Graziano da Silva, FAO Director-General

"Rural areas are losing young people rapidly. To keep them there, policies that provide them with a secure future are necessary"

Mr Gilbert Hougbo, President of IFAD

"Ideas travel quicker among the youth as they use the means of technology openly - they are agents of change"

"The future of the African economy of today is in the hands of African young people"

Bonga Masoka- Founder and Business Developer, G-Tech Holding

"OECD aims to respond to the youth employment challenge. There is the serious challenge of lack of adequate jobs. We need to evaluate the current policies and programmes to establish how they are equipping young Africans"

Federico Bonaglia, Deputy Director of the OECD Development Centre

"Its important to put in place structures to help Africans in the diaspora when they are looking for opportunities in Africa. It should be easy for them to be welcomed back"

Eddie Bergman, NEPAD Agency Goodwill Ambassador

NEPAD celebrates Heritage Day

Message from Dr Mayaki, CEO of the NEPAD Agency

As South Africa commemorates Heritage Day on 24 September, a day on which people are encouraged to celebrate their culture and their diversity, in the broader context of a nation that belongs to all its people, the NEPAD Agency is honoured to be hosted in this wonderful country. Indeed, the NEPAD Agency, with its footprint on 95% of the African continent, is itself comprised of staff from diverse nations and cultures, who always see value in celebrating Heritage Day.

In making strides towards attaining the vision of 'The Africa We Want,' the very ethos of African heritage calls for unity, as encapsulated in the adage, "If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." This is the reason why Aspiration 5 in the continent's fifty year vision for transformation calls for an ***Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, values and ethics.*** Priorities in this aspiration expressed by African citizens therefore focus on:

- Values and ideals of Pan Africanism
- Strong cultural values and African renaissance
- Cultural heritage, creative arts and businesses

Realising this aspiration calls for inculcating the spirit of Pan Africanism; tapping Africa's rich heritage and culture to ensure that the creative arts are major contributors to Africa's growth and transformation; restoring and preserving Africa's cultural heritage, including its languages. It is in this spirit that the continent celebrates Heritage Day with South Africa.

NEPAD staff in South Africa celebrated the day by learning about one another's cultures at a colourful event. Below are some of the pictures taken at the event:



Steering committee and experts meeting on the Continental High Speed Rail



Dakar, 25 September, 2017 - The first meeting of the steering committee and experts of the Continental High Speed Rail Network project opened on Monday 25 September in Dakar, with the aim of sharing the experiences of member countries while waiting for the feasibility study.

The two-day meeting of the coordination mechanism for this project is an initiative of the NEPAD Agency, in the framework of the African Union's Agenda 2063, which is the main continental strategy for regional integration through the provision of infrastructure.

"The Continental High Speed Rail Network project is backed by a long-term vision that has a draft action plan and an institutional framework, a general framework in which several actions have been carried out since 2015," remarked Louis Napo, Advisor on the High Speed Train project at the NEPAD Agency. An overall feasibility study of the project needs to be developed in order to proceed to the implementation phase.

"However, this initiative will not start from scratch as several countries are engaged in similar projects, wherein some are still in the planning phase," said Adama Deen, Senior Advisor to the CEO, and Project Manager, Continental High Speed Railway Project, at the NEPAD Agency.

The first session of the meeting was devoted to presentations on the experiences of Senegal, South Africa and Morocco, the latter two countries considered to be the most advanced in this field, which can inspire other countries on the continent.

The presentations by officials of railway companies in Senegal, South Africa and Morocco were followed by questions and comments, in order to inspire the best strategy possible for the project of the Continental High Speed Railway Network.

Adama Deen then went back on the actions taken before stressing the need to develop a study and a pilot project, which would involve taking charge of points relating to the cost of the project, its viability on how to deploy it through the continent and the choice of technology.

"The funding strategy is also a key success factor, of the project's business case. The Study would therefore be exploring the quantification of 3 key viability factors: the strategic equity and strategic debt required, as well as, the multiple revenue streams, to make the first 10-Year Implementation Plan, and the first country- regional pilot project viable, for implication by 2023," Mr Deen added.

"In essence, we have a target to reach 20% network development by 2023; hence, we will working with "willing and ready" countries, and their respective regional economic communities, to define the first set of regional HSR pilot projects, Mr Deen said.

"Starting in 2018, we can have a clearer idea of what we want," he added, "For which viable and solid decisions must be taken, allowing the project to move forward."

Digital mobile X-rays to strengthen TB service delivery in communities



The Ministry of Health in Lesotho has identified key milestones and timelines that set the roadmap for establishing the country as the recognised and accredited Centre of Excellence (CoE) on Community-based management of TB in Africa. The CoE will help Lesotho to increase TB diagnosis and treatment at community level, targeting the most vulnerable. Furthermore, the CoE will enable Lesotho to become the epicentre of information and knowledge on community-based management of TB for other countries to learn best practices and innovative approaches aimed at eliminating the scourge of TB.

One of the milestones identified is the purchase of digital mobile X-rays that will be useful in improving the delivery of TB diagnosis services in the communities where the people reside. The digital mobile X-rays will also play a critical role in delivering on the planned TB Prevalence Survey to estimate the number of people living with active TB in Lesotho in 2018. The digital mobile X-rays will move around the communities at regular intervals to increase coverage. It is expected that the digital mobile X-rays shall also include OMNI equipment for testing and confirming TB diagnosis. In addition, the digital mobile X-rays will initiate TB treatment and refer the patients to the local clinics and hospitals. This approach has been made possible by the Southern Africa Tuberculosis and Health Systems Support (SATBHSS) project funded by the World Bank (WB) at a total cost of USD 122 million.

The project is implemented in four countries; Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia with technical support provided by NEPAD Agency and East Central and Southern Africa Health Community (ECSA-HC). The aim of the SATBHSS project is to improve coverage and quality of key TB control and occupational lung disease services in targeted geographical areas of the participating countries and strengthen regional capacity to manage the burden of TB and occupational diseases in the Southern African Development Community.

In order to achieve this and implement innovative approaches, the Ministry of Health in Lesotho has drafted terms of reference and a concept note for engaging a local NGO that shall be closely supervised to implement the community TB approaches. In addition to managing the digital mobile X-rays at community level on a day-to-day basis, the local NGO will also be strategically engaged to accelerate education and community outreach activities.

These activities shall hugely involve the participation of local community structures and leaders i.e. chiefs, headmen, etc. A combined team from World Bank, NEPAD Agency and ECSA-HC undertook a country project support mission to Lesotho to review the TORs and concept note, as well as provide technical backstopping on the key milestones and timelines. The feedback will now be incorporated by the Ministry of Health as they finalize the documents.

The procurement process for the digital mobile X-rays has already commenced and operations are expected to start in 2018 after the local NGO has been engaged.

Grow Africa launches pineapple multi-stakeholder platform in Benin



Cotonou, 26 September, 2017 - In 2006, pineapple was among the crops selected by the government of Benin to potentially alleviate poverty by increasing private investment, yield and market access.

The Grow Africa team lead by Ibrahim Gourouza-Magagi, Head of West and Central Africa region and the inter-professional Association of Pineapple of Benin, teamed up to launch the first inclusive pineapple multi-stakeholder platform in Cotonou, Benin, on 26 September.

The aim of the multi stakeholder platform is to bring together producers, processors, the distribution, research institutions and financiers in a more structured organisation.

One of the objective of the platform is to generate business cases to match investment opportunities.

Attended by more than 50 people, the launch highlighted the need to make Benin's pineapple value chain a top priority for agriculture investors.

For Ms Francoise Assogba Komlan, Permanent Secretariat of the Ministry of Agriculture in Benin, "The Government of President Patrice Talon fully subscribes to the support provided by Grow Africa to increase production and improve the profitability of the pineapple entire value chain." She delivered the key note speech at the launch on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Benin

At the top of the agenda for the multi-stakeholder platform is:

- Drafting of a roadmap to achieving the transformation of the pineapple sector in Benin
- Drafting of an advocacy and promotion policy of the pineapple industry in Benin
- Promotion of research and technological innovation for the development of the pineapple sector in Benin
- Strengthening the capacities of the stakeholders of the pineapple value chain within the working groups of the platform.

President of the Pineapple Inter-professional Association Ms Marcos, remarked that "Presently Benin produces 400 000 t of pineapple per year. I am of the view that with a well-structured platform, we can double our production in the next three years."

Given the importance of this sector, the multi-stakeholder platform plans to substantially increase the production of quality pineapples and to improve the marketing of fresh fruit and its by-products in order to contribute to the diversification of exports. More specifically, it aims to increase pineapple production from the current level to promote the local processing of pineapples and to facilitate access to pineapple and its derivatives regional and international markets.





NEPAD WEEKLY

A weekly digest of NEPAD Agency news and information

Announcements

Africa Week
United Nations, New York, 16-20 October 2017

Integrated Prosperous People-centred Peaceful

#UNAfricaWeek

Disclaimer:

Material contained in the NEPAD Weekly digest is mainly based on internal content - as it is intended for informational purposes only. However, from time to time, the digest includes external content that would be useful if shared both internally and externally. Whilst every effort is made to ascertain the validity of this content, readers are advised to note that the content, irrespective of its source, may on some occasions not be accurate and/or up-to-date.

Disclaimer:

Material contained in the NEPAD Weekly digest is mainly based on internal content - as it is intended for informational purposes only. However, from time to time, the digest includes external content that would be useful if shared both internally and externally. Whilst every effort is made to ascertain the validity of this content, readers are advised to note that the content irrespective of its source, may on some occasions not be accurate and/or up-to-date.