**Message from the CEO**

**Greetings!**

Welcome to the first edition of the new NEPAD Newsletter, INDABA. Indaba is a word in the Bantu dialect, which is spoken in most parts of east, central and southern Africa. It means news or fresh information, and also refers to a council at which indigenous people meet to discuss important issues.

With this in mind, our monthly newsletter aims to bring the latest NEPAD news, stories and developments to our readers.

You will find this edition enlightening, informative and relevant. In this publication, we focus on the 19th African Union Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, as well as highlight NEPAD’s key engagements prior to the Summit. We also showcase the impact of our programmes and share some rich traditional aspects of Africa.

Kind regards,
Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki

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**Postcard from Addis by Maureen Nkandu**

It was a cold windy evening when the pilot’s voice broke through the still of the cabin to make an announcement.

“Ladies and Gentleman we will soon be landing at Addis Ababa’s Bole International Airport. Fasten your seat belts, and put your seats in an upright ….”

This marked the end of my five hour flight from Johannesburg and the start of yet another exciting few days in the Ethiopian Capital, renowned for its ancient buildings, fragrant coffee, Emperor Haile Selassie and beautiful people.

NEPAD had a packed agenda prior to the 19th African Union Summit. The Executive Council meeting, the Steering Committee Meeting of Foreign Ministers and Diplomats; signing of Spanish Grant Agreement with the West African Grouping ECOWAS, for the empowerment or rural women entrepreneurs; the Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) meeting on NEPAD, and of course the climax where African leaders where to vote on the chairperson of the AU Commission.

Addis is always good at these big conferences. They are second nature; owing to the fact that the City has always successfully hosted big events. The smoothness with which we went through immigration told it all, until off course it came to collecting our luggage. Our bags only came out after waiting for nearly two hours. I was just too glad to collect them, and head for the hotel without finding out the cause for the delay.

Addis is the source of pride for the Pan-African movement, what with the new towering African Union headquarters, built and donated to the Continent by China. And it was in the corridors and brand new conference halls of the building that key decisions on NEPAD and the Africa were being discussed.

The Executive Council made up of ministers designated by member states was the first to sit. The Council takes decisions on Africa’s
policy issues and is responsible to the AU Assembly. One of its key mandates at the Summit was to assess and monitor the implementation of NEPAD, and discuss its proposed new operational structure.

The following day, it was foreign ministers, locked up in a room at the Steering Committee meeting to discuss how NEPAD had fared in the last six months since its last meeting, and how best its implementation would go henceforth.

For NEPAD, the Meeting of Heads of State and Government was a crucial occasion where Chief Executive Officer Ibrahim Assane Mayaki presented a progress report on the work of the Agency from January until June. He also gave a report back on Africa’s participation in the Busan Global partnership meeting on aid effectiveness and the G20 meeting, where leaders committed to support growth and foster development in Africa.

Dr Mayaki also emphasized NEPAD’s critical partnership with development agencies such United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and UNAIDS and highlighted planned strategies for resource mobilization.

The HSGOC summit, graced by Ghana’s former president Jerry Rawlings, was chaired by newly elected Senegalese President Macky Sall, who said that there was need to hasten the implementation of the NEPAD programme, as the Agency goes into its second decade. President Sall said NEPAD had inadequate financial means to fulfill its mandate, calling on the need for domestic resource mobilisation.

Then came July 15, the day of the 19th Ordinary Session of heads of state and government of the African Union who met under the theme “Boosting Intra-African Trade”. African leaders old and new, gave one speech after another, all calling for unity and the need for the Continent to stand up and be counted.

“Well, that’s nothing new,” said one delegate seated next to me. “We hear this every year. One day, maybe one day, Africa will be a continent to reckon with,” he said; with a sinister smile on his face.

And the climax of it all, the vote for the Chairperson of AU Commission. The lobby halls of the AU building filled with hundreds of delegates huddled into small groups each assessing what the outcome of the vote might be in the race between Jean Ping and South Africa’s Home Affairs Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma.

“Oh, I’m sure both will back off this time to give way to a compromise candidate, said one delegate...to a group that had as divisive views as the attire they were wearing.

And minute by minute, hours after hour, the heads of state voted on who should lead the Commission for the next few years. Bits of information trickled out of the supposedly information tight voting hall, where all were barred.

Suddenly there was commotion and journalists started running into one direction. Was there an announcement to be made? Yes, word had got out even before the official announcement; Dr Dlamini-Zuma had been elected the Chairperson of the AU, after four rounds of voting.

“That’s it,” said some delegates, now that we know, it’s time to go home, and it’s getting late after all. The time was racing towards midnight. There were celebrations in some camps, and not so much in others.

I was due to jump on the plane that morning and I thought, the meetings have been held, reports presented, the voting done, what next? Oh yes, in addition to electing other commissioners that morning, the very important general NEPAD Report was to be presented to the heads of state for consideration.

With that, I took off my shoes, pushed back my plane seat and immediately fell asleep as my flight took off on my journey back to Johannesburg.
CEO’s quick bits on the AU Summit

Q \textit{In a nutshell, what is your assessment of the recent African Union Summit in Addis Ababa?}

A decisive meeting for the future of the institution; electing a new Chairperson of the Commission will definitely bring an end to uncertainty and re-motivate troops.

Q \textit{If you were to assume, what will the Heads of State say about NEPAD in their home countries?}

Progress is being made but still a lot needs to be done.

Q \textit{The NEPAD Agency and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) signed a One Million Euro Grant - Agreement provided by the Spanish Fund for the empowerment of rural women in West Africa. How will this grant boost rural women in West Africa?}

By empowering rural women, we empower the rural areas where the majority of Africans live. By providing them with capacities, we unlock their potential.

Q \textit{If you were to comment on the average length of the speech of an African Heads of delegation, how long would it be?}

Maximum 15 minutes, you can say anything in 15 minutes.

Q \textit{Eleven years after the adoption of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development, NEPAD is claiming Africa’s Decade of Change. What is your assessment of this?}

The decade set the continent on the road of a growth pole.

Q \textit{Going into the next decade, what do you think are NEPAD’s priorities and challenges?}

The priorities will be centred on the Regional Economic Communities, working with them in agriculture and infrastructure.

Q \textit{Please share with us one memorable moment at the AU Summit.}

The inaugural speeches of President Macky Sall of Senegal and Prime Minister Motsoahae Thomas Thabane of Lesotho and the effusive handshakes of Minister Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and Dr Jean Ping.

Q \textit{Could you please share with us a nice African proverb?}

“Even when an Elephant goes very far away, he always comes back home...”

PIDA needs public-private sectors to succeed

Infrastructure still remains a major constraint to modernising African countries and boosting business on the continent. Experts believe if African governments were to invest adequately in it, the Continent would experience unprecedented economic growth. It was for this reason that the African Union (AU) endorsed the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) to channel resources to deal with the deficit at the January 2012 summit of heads of state in Addis Ababa.

PIDA is a joint initiative by the AU, the NEPAD Agency and the African Development Bank (AfDB) to tackle the problem. Its main goal is to accelerate the delivery of regional and continental projects in transport, energy, trans-boundary waterways, and information and communications technology (ICT). An estimated $360 billion would be required to implement basic regional projects on the continent by 2040, Ralph Olaye, head of the NEPAD Division at the AfDB, said at a recent infrastructure conference in Johannesburg.

According to projections, PIDA hopes to develop a web of 37,200 kilometres of highways, 30,200 km of railways and 16,500 km of interconnected power lines by 2040. It also plans to add 54,150 megawatts of hydroelectric power and an extra 1.3 billion tons of capacity at the ports. The impact on Africa would be huge, helping to unleash its potentials in areas such as trade, agriculture and ICT.

“One of the areas that Africa could leapfrog in infrastructure is the ICT sector, said Lynette Chen, Chief Executive Officer of the NEPAD Business Foundation, a Johannesburg-based private-sector partner of the NEPAD Agency.

Also, the agricultural sector which provides employment for the majority of Africans stands to benefit from improved infrastructure as it relies heavily on the roads, ports and rails for adequate food production and distribution, she said. For example, only 30 per cent of African rural farmers have access to roads, according to statistics presented at the forum.

While much of the responsibility for the provision of infrastructure lies with governments, the buy-in of the private sector is pivotal because only businesses have the financial muscle to transform the public sector’s dreams to reality, Mr Deen said.
Rio+20 was ”great” for NEPAD Agency – Estherine Fotabong

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, or Rio+20, may be over, but the benefits for the NEPAD Agency will reverberate for some time, according to Estherine Fotabong, Director for Programme Implementation and Coordination, who led the four-person delegation.

It’s worthy of note that NEPAD was mentioned in the outcome document called “The future we want”. “It puts us at the centre of follow-up actions on sustainable development. For us, that was a major success story. It recognizes NEPAD as the framework for Africa’s development and encourages all our development partners to continue to support NEPAD,” said Mrs Fotabong.

“That’s not all, components of our Environment Action Plan which is being revised and updated, were also fully captured in the outcome report. The international community still sees the relevance of climate change, coastal and marine environment, management of forest resources and other issues that affect our continent and gave a commitment to continue supporting work in these initiatives,” she said.

On June 18, a seminar on NEPAD and sustainable development in Africa. Among dignitaries present were African Union Commissioner for Agriculture Rhoda Peace Tumisiime, Republic of Congo’s Minister of Sustainable Development and Environment, Henri Djombo, Sari Soderstrom of the World Bank’s Environment Department, and UN Environment Programme’s Regional Director Mounkaila Goumandakoye.

Among NEPAD programmes showcased was TerrAfrica, which focusses on sustainable land and water management. Project Coordinator Ousmane Djibo updated delegates on the implementation of the SLVWM’s Great Green Wall initiative which is aimed at environmental regeneration.

It was not all talk though. The Agency’s presence enabled it to conclude some agreements with some of its partners. “For example, we had an agreement on Green Economy with the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), we finalized the review of the Environment Action Plan with UNEP, and we agreed to cooperate on a new fisheries programme with the Commonwealth Secretariat,” said Mrs Fotabong.

Rise of Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma to the AU throne

The NEPAD CEO Dr Mayaki, senior management and staff would like to congratulate Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, on her election as Chairperson of the African Union Commission.

“Dr Dlamini-Zuma is known for her competent management skills and stern personality, ensuring effective delivery and success.

Dlamini-Zuma was the SADC’s region’s candidate for the top AUC post. It is the first time that a Southern African occupies this position in the AU’s 49 years of existence.

It’s also a first for a woman to lead the Continental body. The AU declared this decade as a decade for women, perhaps a fitting tribute that it has bestowed such an honour to a woman.
The NEPAD Agency’s Chief Executive Officer Dr Ibrahim Mayaki has acknowledged the contributions of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) to the growth of the Agency, saying it has helped to put it on a strong foundation. He made the remarks in his bi-annual report to African Heads of State and Governments during the recent African Union Summit in Addis Ababa. Dr Mayaki commended Mr Abdoulaye Janneh, the outgoing Executive Secretary of the Commission, who leaves office at the end of August, for helping to nurture the NEPAD from its formative years.

It was during Mr Janneh’s tenure that the Commission established the Economic Development and NEPAD Division to help coordinate all NEPAD activities and UNECA’s assistance to the Agency. It was also under Mr Janneh that the ECA spearheaded the establishment of the nine clusters jointly coordinated by UN Agencies and the AU Commission to address all matters concerning AU and NEPAD.

In March this year, the Commission gave tremendous support to the organizing of NEPAD’s 10th anniversary and colloquium held in the Ethiopian capital. It gave material, financial and logistical support for the production of the 10th anniversary video documentary and a handbook on how the media can better cover NEPAD. In recognition of his support, Mr Janneh was given the first Most Valued Partner (MVP) Award during the Agency’s 10 anniversary celebrations on March 28.

“Mr Janneh has been a firm believer in NEPAD and a pillar of strong support for the implementation of NEPAD. The Agency is most grateful to the Executive Secretary for his sound and strategic guidance and committed support for NEPAD implementation. We wish him the best in his future endeavours,” said Dr Mayaki.
Rural women in West Africa receive a boost from a NEPAD-ECOWAS empowerment Fund

It is often said that agricultural development in Africa cannot thrive if women who make up the bulk of subsistence farmers are not empowered. On the one hand, women’s contribution to the production, processing and distribution of food is enormous. On the other hand, their poor access to land, agricultural technology, and income is of great concern. It is against this backdrop that the NEPAD Agency has joined forces with the Economic Community of West African States ECOWAS, to manage funds for the empowerment of rural women in West Africa.

Through a financial agreement of One million Euro, provided by the Spanish Government, and signed by NEPAD Chief Executive Officer Dr Ibrahim Mayaki and President of the ECOWAS Commission, Mr Kadré Désiré Ouédraogo in Addis Ababa in July, the Grant will provide resources for the Business Incubator for African Women Entrepreneurs (BIAWE) Project, which nurtures the business ventures of rural African women operating primarily in agriculture.

Speaking at the signing ceremony which was also attended by Miguel Fernandez-Palacios Spain’s Ambassador to the African Union, Dr Mayaki thanked the Spanish Government for respecting the priorities of Africa. He said the funds would support key NEPAD programmes which address the needs of women in agriculture.

Known as the initiative to Empower Women in Agriculture (EWA), the BIAWE Project will focus on three main areas; advocacy directed at African national donors and the private sector with a view to mobilizing resources and support; supporting the participation of women in value-adding activities in the agricultural supply chain; and selecting a core set of indicators for collecting data to assess performance and constraints to gender equality in African agriculture.

The NEPAD CEO stated that the reverse of a top-down process has enabled a bottom up process, which now highlights a redefinition of new priorities in developmental policies. He said Africa cannot transform agriculture without involving women. NEPAD’s contribution to EWA will be through its African framework for developing agriculture – the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme – CAADP. Several African heads of states have made comprehensive commitments to CAADP and through it, EWA will draw support for measures that will benefit women directly or indirectly.

EWA is championed by African Heads of States with a record of service for promoting women’s empowerment and agriculture and by key private sector patrons from the Continent. Liberian President Ellen-Johnson Sirleaf and President Paul Kagame of Rwanda are already champions of the initiative as co-Chairs, and preparations are on-going to get more African leaders on board.

**Quick facts**

- The New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) is a socio-economic flagship programme of the African Union (AU). Created by Africans, for Africans and implemented by Africans.

- The NEPAD Agency is a technical body and development vehicle of the AU that advocates for NEPAD.

- Before February 2010, the NEPAD Agency was the NEPAD Secretariat. Following the integration of NEPAD into the AU, it has now been transformed into the AU’s development vehicle.

- The Chairperson of the African Union Commission has a supervisory role over the NEPAD Agency.

- Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma is the first woman ever elected to be elected as Chairperson of the AU Commission.

- NEPAD is the only framework that is fully endorsed by all AU member states.

- African leaders make up the membership of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC), which provides leadership to the NEPAD process and sets policies, priorities and the programmes of action.

- The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), formed in 2003, is a nation self-assessing voluntarily membership committee made up of Heads of State.

- The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) has pushed 30 African governments to allocate 10% of their national budgets to agriculture.

- In July 2010, African leaders established a High Level Sub-Committee on Infrastructure, the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative, which is tasked with prioritising and consolidating infrastructure projects for high impact results, such as the Nigeria-Algeria gas pipeline.

Two key women behind the initiative are Dr Frannie Leautier, Executive Director of the Africa Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) and Dr Lethoya Awori of GIMCA - the Gender is My Agenda Campaign network. Dr Leautier said the partnership with NEPAD is very important one because of the specific attention and opportunities women will be exposed to.

“When an African Woman grows food, she grows what her pot will look like, not mono-cropping, but integrated farming,” she said.
NEPAD Agency listens as Africa’s young people speak

“We need youth to champion development initiatives like NEPAD, youth that can influence other youth,” - Nokuthula Vilakazi, a PHD student at the University of Pretoria.

In recent months, NEPAD has held discussion forums with youth in various African countries on issues such as agriculture, infrastructure, aid effectiveness and development. And as is common with the youth, they spoke their minds.

In commemoration of the Youth Day in South Africa on June 16, the NEPAD Agency played host to another set of youth from University of Pretoria and Makerere University in Kampala. The event gave them a platform to voice their thoughts on subjects ranging from local awareness of the Agency’s role, to poverty reduction and development. Apart from gaining a better understanding of how NEPAD works, the youth left with a pledge to become actively involved in advocating the Agency’s important mandate.

NEPAD welcomes this pledge.

One occasion was a visit early in May to the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology in Nairobi by Martin Bwalya, head of NEPAD’s Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). Despite concern that the topic of agriculture might not be “sexy” enough for young men and women to debate, student turnout was high, and they challenged CAADP to come up with strategies to popularize its programmes in Africa. They also noted that a lack of adequate market outlets for farm produce was hindering trade, adding that agricultural research needed to benefit African farmers and not pander to the wishes of donors.

Also in the same month, International Relations students from the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg paid a visit to the Agency’s Midrand office. Presentations were made on NEPAD’s Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) and on CAADP. At the end of the tour, one of the students declared: “NEPAD is not just about managing poverty; it’s about growth and development.”

“NEPAD’s vision and objectives for Africa’s development are noble, promising to rebuild the Continent into a force to reckon with in the international arena. However, youth-driven initiatives to ensure sustainable development in Africa, is an area that has been paid a lot of lip service in the past. If we are to achieve inclusive and sustainable growth, it is essential for NEPAD to directly include youth in its programmes. The importance of the youth in Africa’s development should be beyond rhetoric; it has to be put into actual practice. Our involvement in development issues today will ensure solid and positive sustainable development tomorrow. Africa’s future rests in the hands of the youths.”

From Tongai Maodzwa, International Relations and Industrial Sociology student of the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, following a recent visit to the NEPAD Agency.
Upcoming events

5 - 7 September 2012: Establishment of Science, Technology and Innovation indicators in the ECOWAS region (national & regional level), Togo

17 - 20 September 2012: FP7 EVAL-Health Consortium Project Meeting, Durban, South Africa

1 - 5 October 2012: AU/NEPAD Science & Technology Policy Workshop, Nairobi, Kenya

16 October 2012: NEPAD Briefing at the UN General Assembly

See also online at: www.nepad.org/events

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The NEPAD Agency acknowledges the support of GIZ, the German Development Agency in the production of this newsletter.