



NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency  
Agence de Planification et de Coordination du NEPAD

## ASTII workshop ends in Addis

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (PANA) - The three-day African Science Technology and Innovation Indicators (ASTII) Initiative workshop has ended in Addis Ababa, with participants stressing the need to sustain the successes recorded and build upon them.

"We need to look forward, I think the milestone that we have seen will be meaningless if we do not take it to our country, to be made available for people who will utilise them," Critical Mwansa from Zambia said at the closing ceremony.

"We should localise and ensure our governments buy into it and use it to improve the lots of the people. It is also important to ensure budget and necessary resources are made available. Since we have committed our ourselves to cost-sharing, timing and capacity building, it is important to sustain the initiative," he added.

During the workshop, papers were presented in different aspects of enhancing the continent's capacity in Science Technology and Innovation (STI).

The release of the 2010 African Innovation Outlook during the workshop was also seen by participants as a major achievement.

"The workshop has achieved its objectives. We have done a road-map on how we are going to collect some indicators that will assist in policy formulation and implementation in the field of STI. With that, we can better our lives, create more jobs and launch ourselves into the path of development," according to Acting Statistician-General of Nigeria, Mr. Rasak Sanusi.

More African countries have shown interest in participating in the second phase of the ASTII initiative, while many participants said the experience they gathered would be taking back home to improve the sector.

"What I am taking away is that the result we got we are going to work on it, we are going to own it. We are going to call a stakeholders meeting, including all policy makers, so that we officially accept the data," another participants from Tanzania, Rogers Alfaye, told PANA.

"We shall also improve on our advocacy and information, because we discovered during the survey that most people don't know the benefit that could accrue from it," he said.

Participants from 21 African countries, including permanent secretaries responsible for science and technology, heads of National Statistical offices, development partners, donor agencies and the media attended the event.

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