



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

Thematic Area: Human Development



Aims and goals

NEPAD's human development work is aimed at:

- enhancing access to essential, affordable medicines and vaccines;
- overcoming human resource shortages in the health, education and science and technology sectors;
- advocacy, monitoring and partnerships to ensure that Africa's health, education and sciences agenda is determined by and driven from within the continent;
- improving education to increase employment opportunities for Africa's citizens;
- promoting relevant frameworks and reports, survey results to guide country and regional development strategies; and
- encouraging partnerships to establish and strengthen regional networks of knowledge.

What is being done and what progress has been made so far?

Education

Stronger and better education is a key objective for human resource development. NEPAD is working towards Education for All (EFA) in Africa, a programme designed to fit within the framework of the AU Second Decade of Education for Africa (2006–2015) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). NEPAD also promotes teacher training, including nursing and midwifery education to promote maternal and infant well-being. NEPAD's list of achievements in the area of education and training are numerous and include the training of nurses and midwives project. The project promotes human resource development in the area of nursing and midwifery and a number of students have been able to complete master's degree programmes and acquire work experience in this field. The Chinese Government also pledged a sum of US\$1.5 million for further training of nurses at a master's degree level in three countries within the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). The project was also awarded the Spirit of Philanthropy Award from "Sigma Theta ta International" in the United States of America.



One of NEPAD's primary objectives is to work towards greater economic growth and poverty eradication on the African continent. This is achieved through linking together key areas of human development, including education, science and technology and health-care.

Health

NEPAD's work in the health sector is aimed at making positive interventions into healthcare to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Among its many achievements in the area of healthcare, NEPAD has published a strategic document aimed at boosting pharmaceutical innovation on the continent. The African Union's Extended Technical Committee on the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa meeting also took place in Pretoria in February 2010. Participants included leaders in policy, health research and science and technology from across Africa as well as global experts in the area of healthcare.

Science and Technology

In the area of science and technology NEPAD is working to establish and consolidate networks such as the Africa Mathematics Institutes Network (AMINet) and the African Bio-safety Network. NEPAD also conducts science and technology

surveys, publishes and disseminates frameworks and reports on science and technology, facilitates research on socio-economic issues and builds capacity in the area of science and technology.

ASTII

Science, technology and innovation (STI) indicators are critical in monitoring Africa's scientific and technological development. Indicators can also be used to monitor global technological trends, conduct foresight exercises, and determine specific areas of investment. At the first African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology (AMCOST I), countries committed themselves to developing and adopting a common sets of indicators. The general objective of NEPAD's work on ASTII is to build Africa's capacity to develop and use STI indicators. A number of key objectives have been achieved in these two projects:

- ASTII Project-1: The establishment of national focal points by ministerial or joint decrees;
- ASTII Project-1: Institutionalisation at country level of the budget line;
- ASTII Project-2: The establishment of the African Observatory for Science, Technology and Innovation in Equatorial Guinea is in progress.
- First round of R&D and Innovation surveys with 19 countries have been finalised and the results will be released in the African Innovation Outlook.

In May 2011, the African Union Commission set to launch five new Science Technology and Innovations (STI) hubs across universities in Africa. They will focus on specialist areas to drive the socio-economic sector and development on the continent. This was during the opening ceremony of the African Science and Innovation Indicators (ASTII) Initiative Workshop (23-25 May) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The objective of the workshop was to launch ASTII Phase 2 and to present Africa's first ever Innovation Outlook Series. It captured comprehensive information on Science Technology and Innovations (STI) on the continent

Who is leading the programme?

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