

**ADDRESS NOTE ON THE OCCASION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF RWANDA (GoR),  
CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY (CMU) AND AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK  
(AfDB)**

**PARTNERSHIP CELEBRATION**

**KIGALI, RWANDA**

**OCTOBER 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2011**

Honorable Members of the Rwandan Parliament,

Honorable Ministers,

Honorable Members of the Diplomatic Corps,

Distinguished Permanent Secretaries,

Members of the Civil Service,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

All protocols observed.

The African Development Bank is delighted to be here in Kigali today to celebrate this unique tri-partite partnership with the Government of Rwanda and Carnegie Mellon University. Indeed, such a successful partnership between one of the best academic institutions in the world, the government, and a financial institution is quite an innovative endeavor and one of the first in Sub-saharan Africa.

**Distinguished Guests,** His Excellency President Kagame signed an agreement with Carnegie Mellon University on the 16<sup>th</sup> of September 2011 during his visit to Pittsburg. Before that the Government of Rwanda and the African Development Bank signed a protocol agreement on April 8<sup>th</sup> 2011 under which the *Bank agreed to provide \$13 million dollars to finance* the creation of this Center of Excellence. This ICT hub will comprise of an innovation incubator, an executive education center, a mobility research center, a practical training center and a graduate education program.

The Carnegie Mellon University, Rwanda Campus is a Regional ICT Center of Excellence, which is primarily meant to serve as a hub for East Africa. The Bank is proud of Rwanda's exceptional leadership in making this vision a reality.

We need a *new model for education in Africa*. Alongside the ICT revolution taking place in the continent no less than a revolution in education is needed. The universities of yesterday were designed to build the modern states particularly after decolonization and often focused on training future civil servants. In 2011 this is no longer the case. The university of tomorrow should be in line with businesses and the job market. We need to move from classroom-based education where knowledge is imparted from professor to students to a model that fosters linkages between professors, students, young entrepreneurs, businesses within Africa and globally. Diversity of ideas will be what stirs creativity and development for a new Africa and prepare the youth of today for the jobs of tomorrow.

*Africa's greatest asset is its people*. We need to build human capital in Africa to create inclusive growth and economic development. Soon there will be one billion people in Africa, and up to two thirds are under 25 years of age. Yet, these young people are more likely than adults to be unemployed. With 11 million people, Rwanda is the most densely populated country in Africa. After 17 years of reconciliation, peace building and reconstruction, Rwandans made tremendous human development achievement in addressing poverty reduction. This includes using ICT as a strategy for achieving its ambition of being a knowledge-based middle income country. At the heart of this effort are human beings, which through such investments as this one will produce competitive and employable quality human capital for Rwanda, East Africa, the African continent and globally.

These efforts are in line with the Bank's human development priorities within the Medium Term Strategy for 2008-2012, its Higher Education, Science and Technology strategy, its forthcoming Human Development strategy and Infrastructure Development operational strategies. Likewise, Rwanda's commitment to improving "Doing Business" and hence development for the private sector, entrepreneurship and infrastructure, will require quality skills development in order to support its economic and inclusive growth focused on jobs for young people

**Honorable Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen**, the Bank is very proud to be a partner in this monumental experience with the Government of Rwanda will continue to accompany the country in ensuring that the Center is a success; and that, the academic and research opportunities to be offered by the ICT Center of Excellence will be linked to lower levels of the education and training systems and stimulate high quality knowledge and skills.

We hope that this unique tripartite partnership to develop a new model in higher education catering can inspire others on the continent and become an example for Africa. The Bank stands ready to play a catalytic role in the development of science and technology in Rwanda.

Thank you for your attention.