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[SciDev.Net](#) (London)

Africa: Ministers Reaffirm Science, Technology and Innovation Commitments

Nairobi — The first African Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for Youth Employment, Human Capital Development and Inclusive Growth has concluded with ministers announcing a range of resolutions to harness ST&I for sustainable development.

Initiatives to solve societal problems in areas such as water, health, information and communication technologies (ICTs), renewable energy and agriculture were also agreed at yesterday's ministerial meeting, attended by 57 government ministers with responsibility for science, technology and innovation, finance, planning and education.

They pledged to use ST&I as a driver for inclusive growth and youth empowerment, with a focus on entrepreneurship, through strengthened support for innovation and entrepreneurship programs.

They also agreed to develop, review and implement ST&I policies, laws and strategies, to strengthen scientific research by promoting and increasing investment in collaborative research at the national, regional and intra-regional levels, and to support institutions and human capacity building in research for development (R&D).

The meeting issued a formal "Nairobi Ministerial Declaration on STI", which was guided by a commitment reached in 2006 by African Union leaders for countries to devote at least one per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) to R&D. The ministers resolved that all African countries honour this commitment, and set in place national ST&I policies, by 2015.

The UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) is already working with more than 20 African countries to review existing ST&I policies in order to develop national frameworks to help achieve these outcomes.

UNESCO is also strengthening the capacity of researchers, policymakers, development partners and the private sector.

"We need much stronger linkages between science and policy," said Irina Bokova, UNESCO's director-general. "We need an integrated scientific research agenda to better understand the world, to identify boundaries and tipping points. Africa is on the move today. ST&I is vital to maintaining this momentum."

Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki told the ministerial meeting: "Africa is currently experiencing rapid economic growth. To compete effectively in the global market we must be able to develop technologies that will set off Africa's industrial revolution."

He said his government has already formulated a new National Science, Technology and Innovation Policy with an aim to create indigenous science, technology and innovation capacities to meet Kenya's needs, priorities and resources.

On the final day of the forum, Kibaki also presented awards to five Kenyans who had exhibited innovations at the venue in Nairobi, in fields ranging from ICT applications to agriculture. The president said many world-leading innovations are emerging from across Africa, but more needed to be done to make the continent a global innovations hub.

Donald Kaberuka, president of the African Development Bank said it was also important for Africa to commercialise its own innovations.

"We need to expand financial services for innovation. I am so delighted that this conference focused on innovation and entrepreneurship, as well as on science and research and development," he said.

The ministerial meeting also received pledges from some ministers to ensure their governments allocated more resources to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) in higher education, and to strengthen regional networks through partnerships, and collaborations between developing African countries and with the global North.

Naledi Pandor, South Africa's science and technology minister, said the continent also needed to transform its views on the value of science and technology.

She said many governments were not emphasising ST&I or allocating enough resources because "science is still viewed in a traditional way, in a technical way and not [as] a development tool".

"It is important for our governments to identify productive researchers and not 'wild talkers', and fully support them. Infrastructure should also be put in place to for them to do their work," Pandor said.

She said South Africa is the only African country that devotes a full one per cent of GDP to R&D, and that other countries needed to help support African research institutions.

"We are finding that ... it is becoming almost a burden for South Africa," she said.

Conference host Kenya indicated it would look to increase its ST&I budget to one per cent in the coming financial year.

"If Kenya is going to be an advocate it must lead by example. I can assure you that parliament will pass it when the minister presents it," said Peter Anyang Nyong'o, Minister for Medical Services in Kenya.

But significant doubts remain whether funding pledges will be delivered on once the ministers returned home, in the absence of any institutions to enforce pledges - and due to the fact that most Africans are self-employed, and many do not or are unable to pay tax.

"Sixty per cent of Africans work in the informal sector. We can only attain the one per cent of GDP from our budgets if we move them to the formal sector, tax them and channel back the resources to finance R&D," said Fred Omach, Uganda's state finance minister.

For more news and analysis of the Africa ST&I Forum, see our dedicated [blog](#).

We Will Exploit ICT Fully, Asserts Kibaki

by Lordrick Mayabi

577 mots

4 avril 2012

07:06

All Africa

AFNWS

Anglais

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Nairobi, Kenya, Apr 04, 2012 (Capital FM/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- The government is committed to maximum exploitation of **science and** technological innovations for the realisation of sustainable **and** equitable development in the country, President Mwai Kibaki has asserted.

The president emphasised that both the Constitution **and** the country's development blue print, Vision 2030, explicitly recognised the critical role played by **science and technology** in achieving sustainable national development **and** global competitiveness.

Speaking when he officially opened the first African **Science, Technology and Innovation Forum** in Nairobi, the president said that Kenya had spearheaded world-leading technologies in such essential areas as mobile banking **and** financial transactions.

The Head of State noted: "I am sure there are many innovative **science and technology** initiatives in all our African countries."

"I am glad to note that Africa has taken decisive steps towards ensuring that **science and technology** are brought to the centre of our development efforts," he added.

The Head of State said the government had formulated a National **Science, Technology and Innovation** Policy whose main objective is to create indigenous **science, technology and innovation** capacities appropriate to deal with the country's needs.

He affirmed that Kenya accords high priority to regional **and** international collaborations in **science, technology and** innovations **and** thanked the African Development Bank **and** UNESCO for their steadfast support in these fields.

The president took note of scientific breakthroughs made in the continent **and** urged African governments **and** scientists to work closely for the development **and** benefit of the African people.

He said: "I call upon each one of us to work together for the common good **and** development of our people. Indeed, there is greater benefit in collaboration between us than in working alone."

The Head of State noted that Africa was currently experiencing rapid economic growth but added that there was urgent need to ensure that innovative **technology** catapulted the growth to another level.

He emphasised that the continent must develop technologies that will trigger industrial revolution, for Africa to compete effectively in the global market.

He reiterated: "This is imperative as rapid industrialisation holds the key to addressing some of our continent's most pressing challenges particularly poverty, inequality, **and** unemployment."

Despite commendable progress being made in the scientific **and** technological fields, President Kibaki cautioned that more needs to be done to ensure Africa becomes a global hub for innovations.

He urged for the implementation of measures to control **and** reverse substantial brain drain out of the continent so as to attract back home Africa's brilliant sons **and** daughters who are working in foreign nations.

"I call upon governments, academic **and** research institutions as well as the private sector to put in place policies as well as the infrastructure for research **and** development that will attract **and** retain top-notch scientists **and** researchers, both from Africa **and** the rest of the world," President Kibaki remarked.

Addressing the conference, Africa Development Bank (AfDB) President Donald Kaberuka called on African countries to facilitate children from poor **and** marginalised backgrounds to access education.

Kaberuka noted that education was a key pillar in unlocking the economic potential to create equitable wealth in the continent.

On her part, UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova expressed her organisation's commitment to support education programmes at all levels **and** urged governments to ensure equity in the provision of education among the poor citizens **and** the marginalised.

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AfDB Co-Organizes First Africa Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation

337 mots

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Anglais

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Mar 29, 2012 (African Development Bank/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- The first Africa **Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation** (STI) will take place from between 1 **and** 3 April 2012 in Nairobi, Kenya, at the Intercontinental Hotel. Hosted by the Kenyan government, it will include an Experts' Meeting (1 **and** 2 April) **and** a Ministerial Conference (3 April), **and** will highlight the need to invest in this key sector to foster youth human capital development, inclusive growth, **and** provide job opportunities for youth **and** women.

The event is organized by the African Development Bank (AfDB), UNESCO, the African Union Commission (AU), **and** the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), in collaboration with the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA).

The **Forum** will highlight best STI practices **and** policies in Africa **and** worldwide. It will seek to reinforce North-South **and** South-South cooperation, **and** partnerships between academia, private **and** public sectors. As such, an innovative exhibition - "Africa on the Move" - is being organised in parallel showcasing the work of approximately 30 Kenyan innovators **and** entrepreneurs.

Participants include 26 confirmed ministers of Higher education, **Science, and** Finance, experts, scientists, decision makers, youth, academics, representatives of the private sector **and** civil society.

They will discuss the mismatch between skills produced **and** labour market needs, creating a world class cadre of professors in **science, technology, engineering and** mathematics, how latest innovations **and** scientific research can contribute to promote clean drinking water, renewable energy, **and** effective health care **and** how to create a culture of entrepreneurship in Africa so that jobs can be generated by Africans **and** not only by foreign investors.

The Ministerial Conference will be opened by the President of Kenya, Mwai Kibaki, the President of the African Development Bank, Donald Kaberuka, the Director-General of

UNESCO Irina Bokova, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Jean Ping, **and** the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Abdoulie Janneh.

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Universities 'Must Address Youth Unemployment in Africa'

by Esther Nakkazi

698 mots

2 avril 2012

22:31

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Nairobi, Apr 02, 2012 (SciDev.Net/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- Senior officials at an all-Africa conference on **science and technology** in Kenya have said that if high levels of youth unemployment across the African continent are to be successfully reduced, **innovation and** entrepreneurship need to be included in university curricula.

The proposal was made at the first Africa **Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation** for Youth Unemployment, Human Capital Development **and** Inclusive Growth, which is taking place (1-3 April) in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi.

The **forum** is being attended by government ministers, university leaders **and** academics, civil society organisations, public officials **and** members of the private sector, **and** will conclude with a ministerial meeting tomorrow.

"This meeting is timely in addressing the role of **science and technology** in Africa in expanding the opportunities for all **and** addressing youth unemployment in particular," said Aida Opoku-Mensah, director of the ICT, **Science and Technology** Division at the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).

Around 40 per cent of Africans of working age are young people - but nearly two-thirds are unemployed, underemployed, or unemployable due to issues such as illiteracy **and** inappropriate education, the conference heard.

It was also told that youth unemployment was among the contributing factors to the social **and** political unrest of the Arab Spring, which has led to demonstrations **and** violence in several North African countries, including Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Tunisia **and** Yemen, **and** in some instances resulted in changes of government.

"[Some of] the youth that went out there [to protest] were not from poor communities. These were educated, qualified people asking for jobs," said Khadija Khoudari, an education expert from the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA).

"Local labour markets could not absorb these youths. We need to link the curriculum to the market needs."

Delegates heard calls for Africa to bridge the gap between the continent's universities **and** the industrial sector, with more systematic **and** regular collaboration in **science and technology**.

Such collaboration should also engage young people with ST&I through internship programmes, **and** those who take part should be provided with seed money to commercialise products they are involved in designing **and** developing.

"The education system plays a vital role in human capital development, **innovation and** entrepreneurship. However, the education system, both formal **and** informal, must embrace the culture of **innovation and** entrepreneurship," said Aida Opoku-Mensah.

Margaret Kamar, Kenya's Minister of Higher Education, **Science and Technology**, said the **forum** needed to convince relevant government ministers in Africa that new research initiatives would provide genuine solutions to problems facing the continent.

"Convince us **and** we [will] provide the money. We are ready to take off," Kamar told the conference on the opening day.

The opening session heard success stories from several African countries, including Ethiopia, Rwanda **and** Zambia, which have launched programmes aimed at reducing youth unemployment through **science, technology and innovation**.

In Zambia, a national competition is organised each year to enable secondary school students to develop new **and** innovative prototypes across a range of technologies.

Ethiopia has also registered some significant successes. "We are focusing on skills development, building this into education systems **and** [focusing on the] availability of water," said Mahamouda Ahmed Gaas, **Science and Technology** State Minister in Ethiopia.

In an interview with SciDev.Net, Gaas said water had been chosen as a focus because every household relies heavily on its nearest water source, whether it be a spring, well or river, for irrigation **and** clean water.

"So water **technology** is the first thing we are doing to raise [interest in] **technology**. We are directing our **innovation** towards [solving this] problem," he said.

The conference also heard that at the continent-wide level, UNECA has established the African **Innovation** Framework, which identifies key strategies for taking advantage of emerging technological niches.

UNECA has also established a **Science, Technology and Innovation** Endowment Fund to support innovators commercialise their discoveries. Rwanda has introduced a similar fund

based on UNECA's model.

For more news **and** analysis of the Africa ST&I**Forum**, see our live blog.

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Rwanda: Can Brain Circulation Be the Upside of Brain Drain

It was inevitable that the aspect of brain drain would be touched upon at the just concluded First Africa Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) in Nairobi.

"Ability to innovate and apply" is the key phrase, of which brain drain has presented one of the challenges due to the loss of local talent to greener pastures mainly in the US and Europe.

Creation of wealth was one of the underlying themes at the forum, premised on the necessity of Africa having the "ability to innovate and apply the relevant technology to industries and productive sectors."

"Ability to innovate and apply" is the key phrase, of which brain drain has presented one of the challenges due to the loss of local talent to greener pastures mainly in the US and Europe. It is estimated that at least one-third of Africa's scientists and technology graduates were living and working in developed countries in 2009, according to the Network of African Science Academies.

With so many working outside the continent, it seems self-evident that brain drain must have an effect on Africa's development. It is presumed that stopping the brain drain would retain and grow the local human resource pool, and therefore increase innovation towards wealth creation.

The presumption leads to the question: what are the pros and cons of brain drain?

There are those who claim that the concerns over brain drain are over rated, citing at least two scenarios of which it can be beneficial.

The first scenario suggests what has come to be known "brain circulation". The second is the remittances to the home country from the Diaspora, where money is sent to invest or assist family and relatives amounting to significant foreign exchange earnings for the home country.

Brain circulation describes the phenomenon where expatriates return home to work or set up enterprises in their home countries, utilising what they have learnt in the Diaspora. Chinese and Indian tech entrepreneurs returning to their home countries provide some of the best examples, while South Africa is among the very few on the continent to exhibit this phenomenon.

Without much to show for it, it may seem that the two scenarios are only worth considering for their potential impact on the continent. It is also doubtful that they can compensate for the overall effects of brain drain in the face of rampant poverty and minimal innovation and technological output.

Aside from lack of much evidence on the effects of brain circulation, recent reports in the media suggest disappointment that despite huge remittances to the EAC region not much can be seen of it on the ground.

For many on the continent, therefore, retaining the local human resource pool offers the best recourse towards wealth creation. Some of the challenges towards accomplishing this have been pointed out.

It has been pointed out that the absence of measures to encourage innovation, gaps in the legislation regarding intellectual property rights and low salaries paid to researchers all contribute to the brain drain.

It has also been pointed out that the proportion of GDP devoted to research and development averages about 0.3 per cent on the continent, seven times less than that spent by industrialised countries on this sector. The Africa Forum on STI recommended that this should increase to at least one per cent.

It was also emphasised that there should be greater South-South cooperation, of which it should be expected that with the necessary commitment Africa will reach the recommended minimum threshold of 1000 researchers per million population.

Africa: Forum Hears Proposals for African Science Foundation

Nairobi — Scientists at an all-Africa meeting on science, technology and innovation underway in Kenya have put forward a range of proposals to improve science funding for the continent - including the creation of a science foundation or fund modelled on the likes of US National Science Foundation.

Delegates at the first Africa Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for Youth Employment, Human Capital Development and Inclusive Growth (1-3 April) heard that that a continental foundation would enable bold, innovative ideas to be developed and scaled up more easily.

Alfred J. Watkins, the executive chairman of the Global Innovation Summit, said any African Foundation "could probably benefit a great deal from the lessons of experience generating by [the] 'Rising Stars' model," which is funded by the Canadian government as part of the Grand Challenges Canada programme.

Rising Stars provides grants worth 100,000 Canadian dollars to innovators from low- and medium-income countries, for research into persistent health challenges in the developing world.

It also includes an "angels' club", which sources funding and mentors for researchers, and a procurement process, through which the private sector purchases innovations for large-scale dissemination or manufacture.

"We did this because there is so much talent than opportunities in these countries, so many innovations that can offer solutions to make an impact," Peter Singer, chief executive officer of Grand Challenges Canada, told Sci.Dev.Net.

"It would be the ideal model to build upon. We are at the conference to create partnerships and to try and scale up through the private sector."

Watkins said an African fund or foundation could organise a competition whereby "virtual multi-disciplinary teams of African scientists from more than one African country" could vie for research grants.

He acknowledged there would be challenges in measuring the impact of research across the continent in terms of the number jobs or entrepreneurs established, or the number of scientific articles and patents produced.

He suggested that funding could be provided by such institutions as the Africa Development Bank.

An official from the African Development Bank who declined to be named told SciDev.Net that the bank is not yet ready to fund an African continental foundation yet, noting that the

proposal needed further discussion and the selection of a viable model by the region's scientific community.

Other scientists at the forum suggested a regional rather than continental structure for a foundation, to reduce costs and linguistic challenges. Some also suggested it should be chaired or hosted on a rotating basis.

But some researchers warned against any hasty moves to establish a foundation.

"I think we need to take stock of what we have before we think of a foundation," said Alfred van Kent, director of National Research, Science, Technology and Innovation in Namibia.

"What have we done right, what is not working, where are the gaps? Maybe it is a matter of tweaking the alignment and everything falls in place."

Separately, concern was expressed on the second day of the conference that today's ministerial meeting might not generate sufficient concrete outcomes.

"In the last decade there have been at least five Ministerial conferences on ST&I with lofty resolutions. It is my sincere hope that this meeting will not suffer the same fate as its predecessors," said Dzingai Mutumbuka, chairman of the Association for the Development of Education in Africa.

"The takeaway here is that it is time that we, Africans, moved away from lofty conference resolutions to implementation, implementation, implementation," he said.

Angola: Science Minister at African Forum in Nairobi

Luanda — A delegation of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education, headed by the incumbent minister, Maria Candida Teixeira Pereira, travelled today to Nairobi, Kenya, where from 1 to 3 April, will participate at the "African Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for Youth Employment, Human Capital Development and Inclusive Growth".

Speaking to the press, at the 4 de Fevereiro International Airport, the minister said the

meeting, which will be attended by the ministers of the sector from various countries will

discuss, in general, several aspects related to the development of that area, so and inclusive growth for each state.

By the way, Candida Teixeira said that "it is necessary that each country promotes scientific research and technology, creating models and situations that allow reverse some problems that have to do with climate change and food security."

During the event, said the Angolan minister, she will present the participants with information on everything that has been done in recent years in Angola as regards the development of the sciences and technologies, as will a review of the approved National Policy on Science and Technology and its strategy.

The minister's delegation includes national directors of scientific research, Domingos Neto, exchange and international relations, Alexandre Costa, technical and administrative secretary of the National Council of Science and Technology, Rita Mamed, the director of minister's office, Julius Almeida, among others senior officials of the portfolio.

Before the ministerial meeting to be held on April 3, the issues to be discussed will be debated in meetings of experts that will prepare the documents for the ministerial meeting.

Angola: Country At African Forum On Science and Technology

Luanda — Angola is attending since Sunday the African Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for Youth's Employment, Human Capital Development and Inclusive Growth, happening on 1-3 April in Nairobi in Kenya.

The delegation, led by the Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education, Maria Candida Teixeira Pereira, comprises the national director of scientific research, Domingos Neto, director of exchange and international relations office, Alexandre Costa, technical and administrative secretary of the national council of science and technology, Rita Mamed and director of minister's office, Julius Almeida, among other senior officers of the referred ministry.

During the event, said the Angolan minister, she will present the participants with information on everything that has been done in recent years in Angola as regards the development of the sciences and technologies, as well as she will review the approved National Policy on Science and Technology and its strategy.

Before the ministerial meeting to be held on April 3, the issues to be discussed will be debated in meetings of experts that will prepare the documents for the ministerial meeting.

Science-technologie: Stimuler l'investissement de l'Afrique

Une nouvelle impulsion pour stimuler l'investissement de l'Afrique dans la science et la technologie - Un nouvel effort est en train d'être consenti pour stimuler les investissements de l'Afrique dans la science et la technologie, dans un contexte marqué par une nouvelle preuve que la plupart des économies du continent ont connu des avancées majeures avec l'ouverture du secteur des télécommunications. La plupart des pays africains ont obtenu pas moins de 75 pour cent de leurs revenus non pétroliers et miniers de la croissance du secteur des télécommunications qui, dans certains pays comme le Sénégal et le Kenya, a atteint une moyenne annuelle de 10 pour cent depuis 2009.

Les ministres, chercheurs et scientifiques qui se sont réunis samedi à Nairobi, au Kenya, dans le cadre du premier Forum africain sur la science, la technologie et l'innovation (STI) ont cherché à mettre en œuvre la déclaration de l'Union africaine visant à accroître le financement de l'innovation scientifique.

Le ministre kenyan des Sciences et de la Technologie, Margaret Kamar, a fait savoir que la réunion convoquée par les organisations internationales en vue de chercher les moyens de stimuler le financement de la science et la technologie, était un 'moment important' pour les pays africains de renouveler leur engagement à financer la science.

'Ce forum va nous offrir une excellente opportunité de partager des expériences, en particulier les meilleures pratiques de tous les coins du monde sur les politiques, stratégies et mécanismes en matière de science, de technologie et d'innovation', a souligné Mme Kamar.

Le président kenyan, Mwai Kibaki, devrait ouvrir une rencontre ministérielle concernant la réunion, mardi.

Au moins 300 scientifiques ont participé au forum qui vise à promouvoir l'emploi des jeunes et à aider l'Afrique à éviter une répétition des développements politiques dans certains pays d'Afrique du Nord à qui on a reproché de n'avoir pas pu créer des emplois décents.

Lors de la conférence, les représentants des ministères, des institutions internationales de recherche et des agences onusiennes chercheront à élaborer un nouveau plan pour accélérer la croissance de l'innovation et à réussir sa mise en œuvre pour lutter contre la pauvreté.

En marge de la réunion, des jeunes scientifiques issus de collèges de niveau intermédiaire et d'universités exposent des innovations visant à créer des emplois.



Science, technologie et innovation - L'Afrique se réajuste face à la mondialisation

470 mots

2 avril 2012

12:43

All Africa

AFNWSF

Français

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Apr 02, 2012 (Sud Quotidien/AllAfrica Global Media via COMTEX) -- Le premier **Forum** africain sur **la Science, la Technologie et l'Innovation (STI)** se tient depuis hier dimanche à Nairobi, au Kenya en présence **de** plus d'une centaine **de** représentants **de** gouvernement **et** d'experts internationaux.

La rencontre qui dure 03jours vise à développer une réflexion **et** à favoriser le partage d'expériences les plus porteuses en matière **de** sciences, **de** techniques **et** d'innovations. L'objectif final c'est **de** promouvoir **de** nouvelles politiques africaines sur **l'innovation et** l'entrepreneuriat, deux défis majeurs à relever par le continent pour se prémunir ou amortir les contrecoups **de la** mondialisation.

La rencontre est **la** première du genre qui se tient sur le continent africain axée sur **la science, la technologie et l'innovation (STI)**, les trois pistes jugées idoines pour **la** solution au problème **de** l'emploi des jeunes, au développement du capital humain **et la** croissance inclusive.

Une préoccupation qu'a fait sienne déjà l'Union Africaine, à travers son université continentale, l'Université panafricaine (UPA) qui été lancée au mois **de** décembre dernier à Addis Abéba avec ses centres d'excellence qui seront implantés dans les cinq régions du continent.

Au cours des travaux les participants tenteront d'identifier des domaines concrets **de** collaboration **et** d'échange d'expériences, en encourageant les ministres africains chargés des secteurs en question à engager un dialogue avec les experts, notamment sur l'utilisation **et** l'investissement dans les sciences, les techniques **et** les innovations (STI) pour le développement **et** promouvoir une politique en faveur **de** l'intégration des STI dans les programmes **de** développement des pays.

Ceci est d'autant plus important que « **la** compétitivité **de** chaque pays sur le marché international dépend **de** plus en plus **de** son aptitude à innover **et** à appliquer **la technologie** pertinente aux industries **et** aux secteurs productifs ».

Il est ainsi prévu dans le cadre des discussions entre participants à **la** rencontre sur comment les sciences, les techniques **et** les innovations peuvent favoriser **la** création **de** richesse en Afrique **et** réduire **la** pauvreté tout en améliorant **la** qualité **de** vie des populations.

Toutes choses qui ne peuvent certainement pas se réaliser sans **la** satisfaction **de** certains besoins fondamentaux comme **la** sécurité alimentaire **et** **la** fourniture en eau potable, en quantité suffisante.

La rencontre est organisée par l'UNESCO, **la** Banque africaine **de** développement (BAD), l'Union africaine (UA), **la** Commission économique des Nations unies pour l'Afrique (UNECA), **et** l'Association pour le développement **de** l'éducation en Afrique (ADEA).

Le représentant **de** **la** BAD **et** **de** l'Union africaine - le Commissaire pour les ressources humaines, les sciences **et** **la technologie**, M. Jean-Pierre Ezin, entre autres, vont participer à **la** rencontre.

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Le Président Kaberuka engage au Forum de Nairobi le ferme soutien de la Banque à la science, la technologie et l'innovation

373 mots

3 avril 2012

19:01

All Africa

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Français

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Apr 03, 2012 (African Development Bank/AllAfrica Global Media via COMTEX) -- **La** session ministérielle du premier **Forum** africain sur **la Science, la Technologie et l'Innovation** (STI) s'est ouverte ce matin à Nairobi (Kenya), en présence du président du Kenya, Mwai Kibaki **et de** plusieurs ministres ou leurs représentants **de** près **de** vingt-cinq pays africains. Le président du Groupe **de la** Banque africaine **de** développement, Donald Kaberuka, était présent, ainsi que **la** directrice générale **de** l'UNESCO, Irina Bokova **et** des représentants **de la** Commission économique **de** l'Union africaine **et de la** Commission économique des Nations-unies pour l'Afrique (UNECA). Dans son discours, le Président Kibaki a remercié "**la** Banque africaine **de** développement **et** les autres institutions du soutien apporté pour **la** tenue **de** ce **Forum et** leur aide aux pays africains dans le domaine des STI".

A travers le financement **et** l'organisation **de** ce **Forum, la** BAD démontre son soutien aux pays africains dans le domaine des STI. Dans son discours à **la** session ministérielle, le Président Kaberuka a donné les raisons qui ont amené **la** BAD à s'investir aujourd'hui dans les STI. "**La** raison principale est que l'Afrique bouge". Donald Kaberuka a rappelé que "l'Afrique a **la** population **la** plus jeune du monde". Le challenge est que les pays africains tirent profit **de** cette jeunesse. Alors comment éduquer cette jeunesse ? Beaucoup **de** défis sont à relever dans les domaines des STI. Le Président a souligné que **la** BAD continuera plus que jamais à travailler sur les STI, rappelant que "l'enseignement supérieur, **la science et la technologie** font partie des quatre piliers stratégiques des activités **de la** Banque africaine **de** développement".

Durant trois jours, le **Forum** planche sur les moyens **de** renforcer les domaines **de la science, de la technologie et de l'Innovation** en Afrique. Des experts **et** scientifiques du monde entier examinent les possibilités **de** concevoir **et de** mettre en oeuvre des programmes pour faire avancer **la** recherche scientifique **et la technologie** en Afrique. Le dernier jour du **Forum** est consacré à **la** session ministérielle.

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Emploi des jeunes : L'Afrique veut miser sur la science, la technologie et l'innovation

Forum Africain sur la Science, la technologie et l'innovation (Sti) pour l'emploi des jeunes, le développement du capital humain et la croissance inclusive. Tel est le thème du premier forum africain qui se tiendra, du 1er au 3 avril 2012, à Nairobi.

Ledit forum est organisé par l'Association pour le développement de l'éducation en Afrique (Adea), la Commission de l'Union Africaine, la Commission économique des Nations unies pour l'Afrique, l'Unesco, le gouvernement du Kenya et la Banque africaine de développement (Bad). Il vise, selon les organisateurs, « à favoriser un dialogue entre les ministres africains en charge de la Science, la Technologie et l'Innovation, de l'Education et des Finances, d'une part, et le secteur privé, les universités et les communautés scientifiques dans le monde, d'autre part, sur les mesures nécessaires pour promouvoir le développement inclusif à travers l'innovation scientifique et technologique en Afrique ».

Le Forum est fondé sur 2 postulats. Le premier est que la science et la technologie « ne sont pas un luxe réservé aux pays riches ou à ceux qui aspirent à un statut de pays à revenu moyen », mais, plutôt, « une nécessité pour les pays à faible revenu qui veulent se développer et appliquer des solutions durables aux défis du développement, tels que la sécurité alimentaire, l'énergie propre, l'eau potable et la santé ». Le second repose sur le fait que « les programmes scientifiques et technologiques les mieux conçus ne généreront les résultats attendus que si les inventions et les découvertes scientifiques faites en laboratoire aboutissent à la création des opportunités d'emploi pour les jeunes qui seront sur le marché du travail africain au cours des 10 prochaines années ».

Aussi, le forum exposera-t-il « les meilleures solutions pratiques » élaborées en Afrique et dans le monde entier pour répondre à ces questions. De ce fait, il planchera sur les programmes à développer et à mettre en œuvre en Afrique. Lesdits programmes peuvent être « financés par la Bad et ses partenaires ».

Par ailleurs, le forum travaillera à construire ou à mettre à l'échelle des réseaux internationaux de chercheurs, les innovateurs, entrepreneurs et éducateurs travaillant dans les secteurs de l'Eau, l'Énergie, la Santé, l'Agriculture et la biodiversité, soulignent les organisateurs.