



THE AFRICAN CAPACITY
BUILDING FOUNDATION

FONDATION POUR LE RENFORCEMENT
DES CAPACITES EN AFRIQUE

Building Sustainable Capacity for Poverty Reduction in Africa
Renforcer durablement les capacités pour réduire la pauvreté en Afrique



THE AFRICAN CAPACITY BUILDING FOUNDATION



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2 November

- WISE Doha 2011 Nov 1-3: Education 'highest return for economy and society'

4 November

- 20 Years of Finland Supporting the African Capacity Building Foundation

12 November

- Untold African Stories: Challenge Curbing Development

17 November

- Columns & Comment
- Workforce Solutions with Anthony Jongwe

21 November

- Ouverture à Yaoundé d'une assemblée générale de renforcement des capacités en Afrique

21 November

- La gouvernance en débat

21 November

- African Union Commission Chairman Urges Nations to Fight Famine

3 December

- ACBF holds 7th annual meeting

WISE Doha 2011 Nov 1-3: Education 'highest return for economy and society'

Wednesday, 02 November 2011 03:52



From left: Dr Jean-Eric Aubert, Coordinator with WISE Haiti Task Force, Dr Michele Pierre-Louis, former Prime Minister of Haiti and President of Fokal Foundation and Frannie Leautier, Executive Secretary of African Capacity Building Foundation during a session on day one of WISE summit. (Shaival Dalal)

DOHA: The opening plenary session of the third World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) yesterday discussed 'Changing Societies, Changing Education.'

H H Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson, Qatar Foundation, took part in a panel debate with Dr Vartan Gregorian, President of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, Naledi Pandor, South African Minister of Science and Technology and Professor Jeffrey Sachs, Director, Earth Institute, Quetelet Professor of Sustainable Development, Columbia University.

The discussion highlighted that education in driving economic development, which was described as an investment, not a cost; attaining access to high-quality education for all, and achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals.

The second goal of the UN Millennium Development to achieve universal primary education was discussed in details especially the possibility of all children completing full course of primary schooling 2015, enrolment in primary education, completion of primary education and literacy of 15-24 year olds.

"Certainly not all countries in the world are going to reach it," said Pandor.

"The Millennium Development Goals were very ambitious, but have assisted in focusing governments on what needs to be done," she further said.

Professor Jeffrey said, "Education is the highest return for the economy and the highest return for society,"

He also explained that countries like Korea, China and Malaysia should play a creative role to support reaching the UN Millennium Development Goals in education.

The session explored interaction between education and other fields of activity in order to tackle challenges of development and growth, and to shape effective change. The participants discussed how can collaboration across national and sectoral boundaries be strengthened to address the most pressing needs in education.

In addition, the sessions throughout the day focused on how innovation occurs in a variety of sectors, and whether and how such models for change can inspire new strategies for education. Multisectoral collaboration was also examined to encourage and promote synergies and partnerships, in line with the WISE mission of opening up education to other fields.

The Peninsula

News, 11/4/2011

20 Years of Finland Supporting the African Capacity Building Foundation

Finland has been funding the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) since 1991. The Head of the Unit for Southern Africa of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jorma Suvanto, attended the 20th Annual Meeting of the ACBF Board of Governors last month. The meeting was held in Arusha, Tanzania between 7th and 10th of September 2011.

Tanzanian Vice President Dr. Mohamed Gharib Bilal opened the meeting. Members of the Board of Governors include countries and development banks, which support the foundation. The World Bank, which is the biggest financial supporter of the foundation, acts as the administrator of the fund.

The term of the foundation is ending this year. Finland has supported ACBF during the current term of 2007–2011 with EUR 1,8 million.

In the Arusha meeting, 35 African partner countries of the ACBF agreed to increase their financial support in the next term of 2012–2016 to USD 16 million.



Organic cashew nuts are being processed for export in Tanzania. Photo: Outi Einola-Head

“It is important to note that the African member countries’ share of the funding has been strongly increasing”, Mr Suvanto says.

The whole budget of the coming term is about USD 300 million.

Although ACBF has 12 bilateral partners from Europe, Asia and North America, only Canada, Finland and Sweden are active in funding the foundation currently. Therefore the Finnish support is still important, even if the funding is relatively low.

Finland was chosen as the second vice-chair of the ACBF in the Arusha meeting, the other vice-chair being Senegal. The Nigerian Minister of Finance, Mama Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, was chosen as the chairwoman of the foundation.

The next Annual Meeting of the ACBF Board of Governors will be held in June 2012 in Nairobi, Kenya.

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Untold African Stories: Challenge Curbing Development

November 12, 2011

<http://reportingdna.org/blogs/?p=742>

By [Nqobile Buthelezi](#)

“Africa has a long history of storytelling through oral tradition. Orators used all communication tools to be effective, including music and ancient instruments.” These were the words of keynote speaker, Frannie Leautier of the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), at a session titled ‘*Coalition for Media Development in Africa*’ at the 4th African Media Leaders Forum which took place in Tunis.



Keynote Speaker, Frannie Leautier of the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF)

Leautier reminded the delegation of the historical role of storytelling in African society. She equated the storytellers of old as opinion leaders, the modern equivalent being the bloggers and all voices occupying the social media landscape.

Yet, amidst the proliferation of information on social platforms, the challenge that remains is that of untold stories. Leautier explained that telling all stories is important in reconstituting the relevance of African media in framing African development challenge and will assist in identifying and dealing with core constraints.

African media often speaks or tells the story of the need to feed the growing population; however, this story is incomplete. Lacking, is the input of agriculture and sustainability projects on the ground; hence an integration of challenge and solution to make the African story holistic. The resonating argument from this session was the fact that mainstream media often portray Africa in a bad light, missing all the positive stories that exist on the ground.

Bineta Diop, Executive Director of Femmes Africa Solidarites, emphasised though that media should not live in an illusion of a healthy Africa, as bad stories still happen on the ground. “Media should not shy away from telling stories on the ground. Media has to monitor these to see how to continue networking to construct image using social media,” Diop said. Diop was content on the fact that Tunisian women finally acquired their rights and now had space to exercise these, but the pivotal question being how social media continues bring social change in Africa. She was concerned of

women still being voiceless in the societies in which they live, and how to ensure that they are empowered with a voice, sharing the same rights as their male counterparts.

Leautier said what is needed is the 'Interface between society, media and technology' and the need for 'social media literacy among media professional'. Also discussed from the floor was the solution of intersecting communities, which in itself is a question of diaspora and reintegration. She elaborated that social media can aid Africa to leapfrog gaps within its traditional media, but opportunity also exists to bridge solutions between old and new media. "The landscape might be changing, but challenges and demands remain the same," she concluded

Leautier identified three important processes to ensure the African story is told in full, these being: Inclusion, Ownership and Implementation. Statistics show that whilst 19% of the population contribute to news generation, a large percentage 69% listen to media messages, whilst 52% remains inactive. The concern therefore is the unevenness in news generation and the quality of the media professionals who do generate stories.

"Interventionary measures in this case involve the development of legal frameworks to guarantee media freedom," Leautier said. The ACBF has been running programmes where it has been taking journalists to the ground where they report themselves what they saw. For example they took a group to Rwanda, the resulting stories from that experience being different from the perception of the country post-genocide. "Success in Africa depends on portraying an image of success. Bringing portrayal of development needs to be in line with the favoured responses and aligning the way the responses portray Africa's vision," Leautier concluded.

Jay Naidoo, Former minister in Nelson Mandela's government and Chair of the Partnership Council of the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, said that the driver of all things is politics. Naidoo was quoting here the recent scourge to South African media freedom- the Protection of Information Bill. "Influential people want to implement the media tribunal. The fight against apartheid was the fight for a voice," he said; a voice that is now to be taken away. Linking the bill to Tunisia's situation, Naidoo expatiated that it was not twitter that drove to change, but people. "People should be at the centre of our development paradigm. (The) question facing Africa then is what developmental role the media is going to play?" he asked, summing it to the issue of trust. He interrogated the existence of a diverse media platform, with all participants competing with each other in an ecosystem bustling with information.

The underlying issue then which emanated from this session is that there must be a method to ensure all stories are told. A simple answer is social media. However, there must also be strategy to sieve out fact from fiction, and this can only be achieved with a coalition between traditional and new media working together as a hub to tell the African story, on Africa's terms.

Columns & Comment

Workforce Solutions with Anthony Jongwe

17 November 2011: The Financial Gazette, Harare Zimbabwe

Universities in Sub-Saharan Africa such as the National University of Science and Technology (Nust), which recently held its graduation ceremony marking 21 years of existence, are buffeted by various challenges and these were succinctly captured in a recent paper co-authored by Dr Frannie Léautier of the Africa Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) entitled "Enhancing Institutional Leadership in African Universities: Lessons from ACBF's Interventions" (2011).

According to the paper, the main challenges faced by African universities are: the difficulty in transiting from an information to a knowledge-based economy; resource constraints; emigration of the continent's intellectual capital; the HIV and Aids pandemic; intrusion of politics into academia; and an explosion in the number of students enrolling in tertiary education across the continent.

In the same vein, the paper identifies opportunities in which African universities can demonstrate relevance to the developmental discourse of the continent. Globalisation, technology and a cadre of newer generation academics mostly trained overseas and who are willing to come back to the continent represent such possibilities. It is against this background that Nust has set for itself a strategic vision to attain excellence in teaching and learning, research, innovation and entrepreneurship for sustainable development. At the core of this vision is innovation and entrepreneurship in university education. To drive this strategic orientation, Nust has set for itself a number of strategic goals within the framework of its current Five-Year Strategic Plan (2011-2015).

Since its inception in 1991, with the inaugural graduation ceremony in 1995, the university has contributed significantly to the workforce development of the country by training nearly 11000 highly skilled persons at diploma, undergraduate and post-graduate levels. These are skills which have benefitted various sectors of the economy. Under its current strategic plan, Nust is determined to build on this achievement by re-orienting its curricula and pedagogy into one which produces generators of employment as opposed to consumers of employment. This will be achieved through mainstreaming entrepreneurship in all academic courses on offer and through the introduction of new academic programmes which buttress this new paradigm as anchored in the university's 'think in other terms' motto.

In a continent lagging behind in the attainment of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and generally blighted by pervasive and endemic poverty, it is no wonder that most African countries including Zimbabwe now look towards universities as the place to uncover solutions to these myriad challenges. Universities should be able to do so by generating the environment within which such solutions may be found but their capacity to do so is constrained by a number of challenges, chief of which is the dearth of institutional leadership. On its part, Nust has acknowledged this reality and seeks to play its small part in addressing the developmental challenges faced by Zimbabwe on the basis of its innovation and entrepreneurship model which is largely informed by the Babson Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Project pioneered by David Isenberg. This project posits a framework for creating an effective entrepreneurship ecosystem through which innovation and entrepreneurship can thrive in universities.

Universities are increasingly expected to leverage on the power of partnerships to realise most of their strategic maps. Here in Zimbabwe, emphasis has largely been on the triple Ps (PPPs i.e. private public partnerships also known as university and industry linkages) although the

discourse on partnerships also includes inter-university partnerships; university and society/community ties; and student, teacher interactions. On its part, Nust has established a strong inter-university partnership with four of the country's polytechnics in the training of environmental health experts, water resources engineers, chemical technologists, industrial and manufacturing engineers as well as wood technologists under the Bachelor of Technology degree programmes. Nust has also established university and industry linkages under its Technopark which is basically a creative laboratory.

Perhaps, one area in which Nust has experienced phenomenal growth is in the provision of business education. While this may appear to be a contradiction to the name of the university, the Nust Vice Chancellor explains this as a natural by-product of its mandate to 'foster close ties with commerce and industry'. Founded in 1998 under a University of Birmingham link, the Nust Graduate School of Business is the largest in the country with about 1000 students and offering eight programmes including two PhD programmes which are currently undergoing accreditation processes with regulatory authorities. As part of its current Five-Year Strategic Plan (2011-2015), the Nust Graduate School of Business has embarked on a quality assurance drive which has seen it recruit senior academics from the Diaspora, review and rationalise its academic programmes as well as embark on international student recruitment and alumni development. According to Dr Richard Mhlanga the Director of the Graduate School of Business, Nust is determined to achieve ranking of its academic programmes under the Association of African Business Schools within the short-to-medium term.

Yet the provision of business education has not been without its fair share of controversy, particularly in developing countries which often experience a mismatch of skills and resource allocations. While business education is vital in producing skilled business managers and leaders who often must catapult the private sector as a locomotor of unbridled national economic enterprise, there are serious concerns that poor African countries may not benefit much from such education as it invariably leads to rent-seeking behavior in the form of consultants and job-seekers. The view contends that Africa needs more scientific and technical skills if it is to transcend the gap from primary production to industrial production. Mhlanga believes that African universities like Nust need to produce a new cadre of graduates who are passionate about entrepreneurship and are willing to develop new industries and businesses in line with current exigencies. To that extent, the Nust Graduate School of Business will be introducing a new specialist Master of Business Administration degree in Entrepreneurship.

[11/21/2011 11:44:35 AM] [APANEWS](#)

[Cameroun](#) - Politique

Ouverture à Yaoundé d'une assemblée générale de renforcement des capacités en Afrique

La 7-ème assemblée générale annuelle des groupes et réseaux techniques consultatifs de la Fondation pour le renforcement des capacités en Afrique (ACBF) s'est ouverte lundi dans la capitale camerounaise, Yaoundé, a constaté APA sur place.

Axés sur le thème "Le maillage au service de l'Afrique", les travaux, qui dureront deux jours en présence d'une centaine de participants, plancheront sur des sujets aussi divers que l'aide bilatérale, la gouvernance, les indicateurs de capacités sur le continent ou encore les implications en matière d'emploi de l'intégration du commerce régional en Afrique.

Selon le rapport 2011 de l'ACBF, organe indépendant et principal organisateur de la rencontre de Yaoundé, les ressources financières constituent un des obstacles majeurs à un renforcement des capacités durable et efficace en Afrique, d'où la nécessité d'aligner l'engagement des parties prenantes aux ressources nécessaires.

Dans les 34 pays étudiés, indique ce document publié en février dernier, l'engagement financier est considéré faible.

Ces Etats disposent toutefois de plans, de visions ou de stratégies de développement à l'échelle nationale, la plupart ayant lancé au moins deux plans depuis 2000 et 10 pays (29,4%) ayant adopté leur plan en 2006, ce qui laisse suggérer que la plupart des Etats africains suivent des cycles de planification quinquennaux.

70,6% des pays interrogés ont intégré le renforcement des capacités à leurs stratégies, plans et visions de développement à l'échelle nationale et 54,5% disposent de programmes nationaux spécifiques en matière de renforcement des capacités.

La majorité des pays audités ont indiqué par ailleurs avoir élaboré des documents de stratégie pour orienter le renforcement des capacités.

Cependant, hormis une poignée de réussites, constate le rapport, le taux de progrès est largement insuffisant pour envisager l'atteinte des Objectifs du millénaire pour le développement (OMD) dont le renforcement des capacités est le premier indicateur.

D'après la secrétaire exécutive de l'ACBF, Frannie Léautier, il est aujourd'hui difficile de trouver, en Afrique, en matière de gouvernance, des résultats palpables en terme e changement des comportements.

L'ACBF, dont le siège est à Harare (Zimbabwe), a été créée le 9 février 1991 avec pour objectif de renforcer les capacités humaines et institutionnelles nécessaires à une croissance durable ainsi que la réduction de la pauvreté en Afrique.



La gouvernance en débat

La 7ème rencontre annuelle des groupes et réseaux techniques consultatifs de la Fondation pour le renforcement des capacités en Afrique (Acbf) s'est tenue les 21 et 22 novembre derniers à Yaoundé. Les travaux avaient pour thème : "Le maillage au service de l'Afrique". Co-organisée par le gouvernement camerounais et l'Acbf, la rencontre a connu la participation de nombreuses personnalités parmi lesquelles Frannie Leautier, le secrétaire exécutif de l'Acbf et Jean Ping, le président de la commission de l'Union africaine. Elles ont parlé de l'incidence de l'intégration commerciale en Afrique sur l'emploi, de l'aide bilatérale ou encore de la gouvernance.

L'Acbf a pour mission de « renforcer durablement les capacités humaines et institutionnelles pour une croissance durable et la réduction de la pauvreté en Afrique ». Depuis sa création en 1991, elle intervient dans 45 pays africains et a financé plus de 238 projets et programmes en Afrique. Ses groupes et réseaux techniques consultatifs mènent des recherches et conduisent des études autour de six thèmes à savoir : l'analyse et la gestion de la politique économique, la gestion et la responsabilité financières, l'administration et la gestion des affaires publiques, les statistiques nationales et les systèmes de statistiques, les parlements nationaux et les systèmes parlementaires ainsi que la professionnalisation de l'expression du secteur privé et de la société civile.

African Union Commission Chairman Urges Nations to Fight Famine

Jean Ping of Gabon is the current Chair of the African Union Commission. He has stated that the so-called International Criminal Court is discriminatory and ignores crimes carried out by the imperialist states., a photo by Pan-African News Wire File Photos on Flickr.

African Union's Ping Urges African Nations To Fight Famine, Cut Food Prices

YAOUNDE, Cameroon (Dow Jones)--On visit to Cameroon, African Union Commission Chairman Jean Ping urged a conference Monday to build African capacity on the continent and fight famine.

"Africa is facing acute challenges today including dealing with high food prices and famine. While drought is a natural phenomenon it does not need to lead to famine. Countries like Ethiopia have shown that you can deal with famine even as you face drought. The role of capacity in dealing with Africa's challenges is important," Ping told experts at the opening of a two-day symposium in Yaounde.

Like in 2008, the International Monetary Fund predicted earlier this year that rising food demand and climatic hazards would likely spark food shortages in Africa and hike food prices. The Fund urged African governments to invest in more food production.

Organized by the African Capacity Building Foundation, or ACBF, the participants from the continent and financial donors from the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the International Monetary Fund including African government representatives are discussing the role of knowledge in addressing Africa's future and current development challenges.

Regional trade in Africa and its effect on boosting economic growth, challenges Africa would face in the near future and strategies to curb the difficulties in agriculture, mining, trade, education, economic empowerment, technological enhancement, public, financial and private sector management were also on the agenda at the Yaounde symposium.

Since its creation in 1991, the ACBF, which operates essentially in sub-Saharan Africa, has benefited over USD 619 million as pledges from 34 African nations and 13 non-African nations for socio-economic development.

"The knowledge networks are key to ACBF as we move towards our new Strategic Medium Term Plan 2012-2016. Their expertise will help ACBF better shape strategies and design innovative capacity development interventions so the Foundation is able to meet its strategic objectives," ACBF Executive Secretary Frannie Leautier told the meeting.

-By Emmanuel Tumanjong, contributing to Dow Jones Newswires; +237-9655-6261; tnuel@yahoo.com

Posted by Pan-African News Wire at 11:13 PM

ACBF holds 7th annual meeting

Saturday, 03 December 2011 15:13



Business Reporter – Sunday Mail (Zimbabwe)

The African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) met in Yaoundé, Cameroon, recently for the 7th annual meeting of its knowledge networks — TAPNETs (ACBF Technical Advisory Panels & Networks).

The meeting discussed the role of knowledge in addressing Africa's future and current development challenges, including issues of regional trade in Africa and its effect on employment trends, challenges Africa is likely to face in the near future and adaptation strategies towards those challenges.

The meeting also discussed how to leverage the role of knowledge networks in Africa to better serve the development of the continent. Speaking at the opening of the two-day meeting, Dr Frannie Léautier, ACBF Executive

Secretary, highlighted that “for ACBF, the knowledge networks have made contribution towards the development of ideas on capacity development and augmented the work that ACBF is doing on the ground”.

She added that this partnership has enabled ACBF to carry out research that has shaped some of ACBF interventions, also given insight into areas and gaps that ACBF can highlight as capacity development challenges and strengthened the knowledge and learning sharing programmes of the Foundation.

“The knowledge networks are key to ACBF as we move towards our new Strategic Medium Term Plan 2012-2016.

“Their expertise will help ACBF better shape strategies and design innovative capacity development interventions so the Foundation is able to meet its strategic objectives. ”

Dr Léautier also highlighted ACBF's investment in Cameroon. Since 1992, ACBF has contributed a total of US\$18,4 million to capacity development interventions in Cameroon. US\$8,7 million of that total has been invested in national projects and US\$9,7 million in regional projects located in Cameroon.

Officially opening the meeting, Mr Louis Paul Mataze, the Minister of Economy, Planning and Regional Integration in the government of Cameroon, declared Cameroon's continued commitment to ACBF and also highlighted that the new ACBF Third Strategic Medium Term Plan (SMTP III) of 2012-2016, highlights new development areas that require more capacity development for African countries.

“ACBF's investment in Cameroon has yielded results by assisting in the improvement of economic growth and the country's overall competitiveness,” he stated.

The official opening ceremony was graced by the presence of Mr Jean Ping, chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC).

Briefing the gathering, Mr Ping stated that, “Africa is facing acute challenges today including dealing with high food prices and famine. While drought is a natural phenomenon it does not

need to lead to famine.

Countries like Ethiopia have shown that you can deal with famine even as you face drought. “The role of capacity in dealing with Africa’s challenges is important. Networks of experts and think-tanks are a key tool in spreading good ideas and devising effective policies and programmes. ACBF and indeed the African Union Commission rely on networks to support them in dealing with the challenges facing Africa.”

“Established in 2002, the ACBF TAPNETs have served three key areas for ACBF.

“They have supported the review aspects of ACBF activities and added value to ACBF operations.

“The networks have provided a pool of experts to seek professional opinion on development issues and discuss in greater depth the sharing of experiences and best practices in the capacity development arena including development policy management.”