



Biennial Plenary session

Venue: Kenyatta International Conventional Centre (KICC)

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Session Name: Building high level skills to deliver on African Union Agenda 2063

Date: Thursday; 25 October, 2018

Time: 08:30 – 10:30hrs

Room: Tsavo

Venue: KICC, Nairobi, Kenya

Background/ Introduction

Africa outlined its long-term vision for social economic wellbeing of her peoples in the African Union Agenda 2063. This continental endogenous Agenda was prepared to guide structural transformation in Africa. The strategy is premised on seven aspirations of Africa. However, attainment of these inspirations will require educated citizens and skills revolution in critical areas especially in Science, Technology and Innovation. Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) holds special promise for Africa, by providing the much-needed acceleration in key sectors, such as agriculture, engineering, and industrialization. STI will enable Africa to tap into existing resources that are known to be in abundance but currently not efficiently used. However, STI requires a strong base of expertise and skills in critical areas.

Recent reports indicated an increase in Africa's human development index (HDI) by 9% over 1990-2014. Despite this, Africa still lacks the required human capacity to respond to critical development challenges. Skills are inadequate in many areas from primary to tertiary level, and vocational training. There is need to develop high level skills, institutional capacities, critical technical skills, and resources in key investment areas. The current situation is a major constraint to the implementation of development programmes and continental frameworks hence foreseen delayed emergence of African counties as knowledge economies. Progress has so far been made by several regional stakeholders including the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), African Development Bank (AfDB), Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) among others to identify the key critical *soft* and *hard* skills that are necessary to drive the agenda 2063. With this, educational institutions being the main actors in the skills





competencies and technological development value chains, are expected to transform and realign their interventions to develop the high level skills needed to deliver Africa Agenda 2063. The necessary policy frameworks are in place including the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA), the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA), the Science Agenda for African Agriculture (S3A), among others. RUFORUM on its part has responded by developing its 2030 Vision 2030 Strategy- the African Universities Agenda for Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (AHESTI) that aims to catalyze efforts to strengthen skill development and innovations in the continent ‘ ‘.

With the establishment by the African Union Committee of Ten African Heads of State Championing Education, Science and Technology in the continent, there is urgent need for African Higher Education and other actors to map out the skill gaps needed across the continent and identify strategies to build high level skills to support the attainment of the African Agenda 2063 –*The Africa We Want*. This will require concerted efforts by a multitude of actors to forge partnerships and implement collaborative actions to build the required capacity for the continent.

Session Aim:

This session aims to provide a platform for stakeholders to work together, share experiences and lessons and ideas on possible means to build the required human skills and institutional capacity to support development of Africa in light of Agenda 2063;

Specifically, the session will,

- Provide an opportunity for stakeholders to directly engage and deliberate on how they can complement each other’s efforts in escalating the building of high level human capital for the continent
- Identify opportunities related to strengthening human capital by making use of three strategic intervention areas: *integration, innovation and investment*
- Suggest roles for critical actors to further support and strengthen the building of human capital as well as to foster robust implementation at continental, regional and national levels

Session contributions:

Moderator:

Prof. Mary Okwakol, Vice Chancellor, Busitema University

- Very briefly introduce the topic and the presenters (3 Minutes)
- Ensure that speakers keep to their allocated time (7 Minuets)





- Facilitate audience participation during the discussion session and ensure short questions for presenters rather than long statements (10 Minutes allotted to each)
- Provide an opportunity for all presenters to participate in answering questions
- Direct questions to a particular presenter rather than allowing each one to answer each question, unless a question has been addressed to a specific presenter
- Present a brief summary of salient points at the end of the discussion and close the session
- Moderator at liberty to modify design of the session to bring in more dialogue

Lead Speaker:

Lead Speaker: Prof. Emmanuel Nnadozie, Executive Secretary, African Capacity Building Foundation - *Insights from key studies undertaken on STI capacity landscape to drive Agenda 2063*

- Provide an overview of the skill gaps across the continent
- Provide key issues in building the required capacity to support Agenda 2063
- Tease out some key questions that may need to be highlighted further by the Panelists

Panelists & Confirmation status:

Mode of session contributions:

- You will be seated at the front of the room. A power point presentation is not preferred (7 Minutes talk)
- You will discuss and provide your perspectives as regards to the theme of the session
- Keep your answers to the questions from the audience short to the point

Panelists and suggested Topics

- Dr. Youssef Travaly, Next Einstein Forum - *Mechanisms and Investments: Role of Innovation & Institutional Partnership in skills building*
- Professor. Amr Adly, Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Egypt *Building high level skills and institutions: Experience and policy implications from Egypt*
- Professor. Frans Swanepoel, Manager Cooperate Partnership, University of Pretoria, South Africa *Strategies in Science, Innovation and Technology for national economic growth – Experience from South Africa and implications for Africa.*
- Prof. M Slim Khabous, Minister of Education and Scientific Research, Tunisia – *The role of higher education in building STI capacity*
- Professor. *Amadou Tidiane Guiro, Universitye Sine Saloum El hadj Ibrahima NIASS (USSEIN) : STI policy, Strategies, Design for higher education & scientific research : Lessons and Experiences from Senegal*





Rapporteur: (*Dr Wales Singini & Dr Sara Akello*)

Proposed session line up

Time	Activity
08.30 – 08.40:	Mr. Shem Bodo - Moderator introduces session
08.40 – 09:00	Prof. Emmanuel Nnadozie , Executive Secretary, African Capacity Building Foundation, Presentation (Max 7 slides) <i>Question and Answer</i>
09.00--09.10	Dr. Youssef Travaly , Next Einstein Forum - Mechanisms <i>and Investments: Role of Innovation & Institutional Partnership in skills building</i> <i>Question and Answer</i>
09.10: 09.20	Professor. Amr Adly , Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Egypt <i>Building high level skills and institutions: Experience and policy implications from Egypt</i> <i>Question and Answer</i>
09.20-09:30	Professor. Frans Swanepoel , Manager Cooperate Partnership, University of Pretoria, South Africa Investment <i>Strategies in Science, Innovation and Technology for national economic growth – Experience from South Africa and implications for Africa.</i> <i>Question and Answer</i>
09.30-09.40	Professor. Amon Murwira , Minister of Higher Education and Tertiary Education, Zimbabwe – <i>The role of higher education in building STI capacity</i> <i>Question and Answer</i>
09.40-09.50	Professor. Amadou Tidiane Guiro , Universitye Sine Saloum El hadj Ibrahima NIASS (USSEIN): <i>STI policy, Strategies, Design for higher education & scientific research: Lessons and Experiences from Senegal</i>
09:50-.10: 10	Plenary Questions &Answers
10:10 – 10:20	Concluding Comments by Panelists
10: 20-10.30	Concluding Statement by Lead Speaker
10.30: 10:40	Session Summary by Moderator

Expected take away messages: (*What you expect out of the discussion*)

- Priority skill gaps for intervention
- Proposed investment strategy for skills development in Africa





- Partnerships strategy to accelerate skills development for Agenda 2063
- Policy recommendations
- Sustainability plans for skills development

CO-ORGANISERS:

