



CODIST NEWSLETTER

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We need "to work together" to "tide over difficulties", says Abdoulie Janneh, Executive Secretary of ECA during the Closing

Our top priority is "to work together" to "tide over difficulties" as no country is an island and in this global crisis, no country can afford to be. I am happy that that this meeting did indeed draw on lessons learnt from the global financial crisis and how science and technology can be scaled up in our countries."

Participation:

The meeting was attended by more than 600 policy- and decision-makers, scientists, lawyers and journalists. These delegates and observers represented African countries, national, international, regional and sub regional organizations and development partners.

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CURTAIN CLOSES ON CODIST-1

EDITORIAL

Scientific Development, Innovation and the Knowledge Economy in Africa: Premise for development?

Insights by Dr. Lídia Brito – CODIST-1 Keynote Speaker.

We live in a world that faces major challenges related to a choice of a development model that is based in the premise that development is a process of structural changes that will imply a series of historic steps that developing countries have to follow in order to move from a traditional society to a more modern one to reach the levels of mass consumption of developed countries. This model assumes that industrialization will be the main driver of growth, and consequently development is measured essentially by levels of production and consumption, using indicators such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and per capita income, ignoring other relevant information such as social equity, redistribution of wealth, environmental sustainability and other indicators that measure better the improvement of living conditions and welfare of all.

It is in this context that concepts such as Knowledge Economy, defined as an economy where "the generation and the exploitation of knowledge have come to play the predominant part in the creation of wealth", gained root and became the paradigm of most of the interventions in the field of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI).

Although there have been efforts geared towards enhancing economies in the different regions, development indicators have been asymmetric and in many cases with limited impact on poverty reduction. The continent, with 14% of the world population and contributing only to 2% of the world GDP is the poorest and most marginalized in the world (The average GDP growth has been around 5 percent/year, with South Africa alone contributing to 25% of Africa's GDP).

The knowledge society and the globalization phenomenon pose some challenges to developing nations. If Africa has to continue to develop and strive towards improved living conditions for all its citizens, sustainable economic growth and environmental sustainability specific policies, programs and actions have to be implemented. Although many African countries have developed STI policies and massive programs in ICT, implementation of such policies and programs is still a major challenge. Human resources development is one of the areas where African countries have generally taken a short-term view. Serious and continuous investment in human resources development, R&D capacities are necessary to build strong innovation systems that will spur development at local and national levels.



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2009 TIGA Awards Announced!

Twelve innovative projects from 10 African countries won the 2009 Technology in Government in Africa (TIGA) awards in recognition of achievements that led to changes in the use of ICTs for public service delivery, according to an announcement in Addis Ababa on the 30th of April by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and its partners, the Governments of Canada and Finland.



The awards were in four categories: public service delivery to citizens or communities; improved health services through the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT); improved educational services through the use of ICT; and Public Private Partnership in economic and financial e-services delivery.

The award-winning projects included, "Identity Document Transformation Project", from the Department of Home Affairs of South Africa for an innovative project that used up-to-date biometrics technology to solve a major security problem for the country.

Botswana's Ministry of Communications, Science and Technology was rewarded for its "Connecting Communities - Kitsong Centre" project which is a first step to enabling rural communities gain access to e-services and developing ICT culture. Other recipients included Ethiopia's "Woreda Net" project connecting different layers of administration - with a focus on local administration through the provision of communications services including Internet.

In the **ICT and health category**, the winners were "Telemedicine Pilot Project" from the National Space Research & Development Agency (NASRDA) of Nigeria, offering a set of telemedicine functionalities in various regions through mobile units connected through satellites to central health units. Its satellite infrastructure had achieved a direct impact in detecting diseases such as malaria, and the project demonstrated a very impressive use of space-based technology for better health care.

The entry from the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology of Egypt, "Women Healthcare Mobile Unit Project", also won in this category. The mobile unit availed to the regions competences of the national centre of excellence to the regions. Another winner, "Implementation of data management system for the national centre of pharmacovigilance in Tunisia" offered tools for treatment and exchange of data, allowing for the transmission of information from regional centers to the headquarters of the organization for verification and grouping into a central database.

Winners under the **ICT and education category** were the "e-applications - Secondary school certificate" from

Sudan and the "Distance Learning Portal" from Angola. The Sudanese project facilitated the publication of certification results and the preparation of certificates, whilst the Angolan initiative helped address the issue of extending equal opportunities to all citizens by democratizing access to education through ICTs.

In the fourth category - **PPP in economic and financial eServices delivery** – the winners were "On-line trade procedures: Tunisia Trade Net" and "Chams Partnership with Osun State Government on Implementation of Enterprise Government e-Portal" from Nigeria. The Tunisian project facilitates import and export procedures for various actors, such as customs, insurance, banks, etc. while the project from Nigeria used an innovative approach to reach out to rural areas to bring them into the digital world.

Two projects were selected under the **Judges Award category**. These were, the "Mozambique Government Portal", and "On-line information services for users and collaborative portal for health professionals" from Mali.

Speaking at the Awards ceremony, Finland's Ambassador to Ethiopia Mrs. Kirsti Aarnio, said it was time for Africa to show how it was using technology to promote socio-economic development and how this process could be supported in meaningful ways. She said the work of ECA was "of crucial importance in bringing together stakeholders from North and South for the creation of true global knowledge society in advancement of development".



ECA's Executive Secretary, Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, said that "although a lot still remains to be done in Africa, we are all witnessing an encouraging and increasing level of awareness on Information Society issues at various levels in Africa". Ms. Therèse Poinet, First Secretary of Embassy of Canada, in her speech, re-affirmed her government's commitment to supporting Information Society development in Africa.

The 2009 TIGA Awards were organized and supported by the governments of Finland and Canada, and sponsored by Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA), Ethiopian Airlines, Microsoft, Alcatel Lucent, Jupiter Hotel, and Harmony Hotel and the Ethiopian Insurance Corporation.

The event took place during the first session of the Committee on Development Information, Science and Technology (CODIST-1) meeting held from 28 April – 1 May 2009. A full list and description of winning projects and more on TIGA is available at: <http://www.uneca.org/tiga>

CODIST-1 Plenary Resolution Highlights

Scientific development, Innovation and the Knowledge Economy

Noting:

- The lack of leadership that intrinsically understands and promotes knowledge for development through conscious and systematic investment in capacity building and research-and-development (R&D) infrastructure;
- The emulation of national innovation systems from abroad, that have little relevance to African economies and require a type of critical mass that it is inexistent in most of the continent;
- The fact that ICTs and geoinformation play a transformative role and are key enablers of the knowledge economy.

Recommends

Member States should:

- Invest in more high-quality human capital encompassing new ethical approaches and attitudes, through increased expenditure on education and R&D and introduce incentives to attract private-sector investment in science education and R&D activities;
- Strategically choose more STI programs with impact, especially those with focus on important areas such as agriculture, health and socio-economic issues;
- Promote and mainstream geoinformation technology in global and local communities in order to enhance their capacity in generating, managing, analysing and communicating spatial information for better decision-making;
- Strengthen the use of ICTs in socio-economic sectors, particularly in spreading a digital culture for a knowledge society;
- Promote an enabling environment for the development of a science and technology information system in Africa that can enhance private partnerships and accelerate economic growth.

ECA should:

- Assist member States in the design and implementation of STI policies that are cross-cutting, integrated and that create a structural base for the other policies in the health, education, economic and industrial-development sectors;
- Promote networks of excellence that ensure knowledge production, assimilation and adaptation;
- Give close attention to these common issues and develop strategic guidance on making information available to decision makers and the community in a form they can readily use,

and assist member States in developing interactive vehicles for spatial learning, discussion, information exchange, analysis, decision making and advocacy;

- Promote the integration of national Geospatial data infrastructure into national ICT policies and plans.

Enabling environment for innovation systems

- Noting the lack of effective institutionalized knowledge-sharing mechanisms within local communities and even among research scientists;
- Recognizing that individual, institutional and infrastructure capacities are essential for Africa's development;
- Considering that the foundation of accurate geospatial information starts with a uniform coordinate reference system;
- Recognizing that innovation is ubiquitous, ranging from the local village to dedicated research institutions, and is not just to be found in universities;
- Recognizing that emerging forms of intellectual, copyright and licensing and media such as Web 2.0, Science 2.0 (including Open Science), and a Science Commons may also spur and accelerate innovation.

Recommends

Member States should:

- Support social innovation for promoting an inclusive knowledge society;
- Support institutional capacity-building and the promotion of mapping agency autonomy (financial, legal, regulatory and institutional);
- Consider spatial data infrastructure as a basic infrastructure on a level with other national infrastructures.

ECA should:

- Pursue in partnership with the African Union Commission, its effort to develop an indigenous African capability in space science and technology as well as continuing to champion sound research and transfer of technology, where activities will be significantly expanded to cover the fostering of innovation, product and service development, and earth-observations applications;
- Support the development of a repository of African research centres and experts;
- Assist member States in the formulation of a legal and regulatory framework for geoinformation;
- Support the effective development of AFREF.

Innovation and economic growth

Recognizing that science, technology and innovation in most of African countries are implemented separately. Considering that geospatial technology (GIT) and geospatial science (GSS) are essential for innovation

and economic growth, for effective policy formulation and for planning, implementing and monitoring development projects.

Recommends

Member States should:

- Establish appropriate infrastructures such as technology transfer offices, incubators, or science parks in universities and public research organizations (PRO) to link industries to research institutions;
- Promote awareness-creation with respect to IPR per se and the role of intellectual property rights (IPRS) in innovation and economic development;
- Facilitate wide dissemination of data collections so that communities have better access to information and can get involved in decisions affecting them.

ECA should:

- Assist member States to develop, in a coordinated manner, policy, legal and administrative frameworks (regional, national and institutional) to address innovation and IPR issues in PROs and universities;
- Need to integrate intellectual property rights in business strategy (whether in industry or public research);
- Encourage African governments to provide legislative frameworks, policies and service delivery that enable innovation and hence economic growth;
- Continue the development of a regional geodatabase for priority areas defined by regional initiatives (emanating from the African Union, the NEPAD, and other continental bodies).

For more details and Subcommittees Resolutions, please go to: www.uneca.org/codist

Workshop on Enlisting National Mapping Agencies in the Fight Against HIV/AIDS

Attended by some 170 CODIST delegates and observers, the workshop explored how geospatial data and geographic information sciences could be leveraged to assist in arresting the transmission of HIV and AIDS. Through formal presentations and breakout sessions, the data resources and expertise of national mapping agencies (NMAs) were identified as key factors in effective sub-national monitoring and evaluation efforts and in executing spatially targeted interventions. Recognizing the current and potential role of NMAs, participants urged member States to ensure that the health sector actively engaged national spatial data infrastructure activities and that ECA, with the help of partners, developed a community of practice and developed and implemented a communication and advocacy strategy for the effective use of geographic information in public health.

The First Follow-up Workshop on WSIS, Tunis+3

Organized by ECA and the Global Network on ICT and Development (GAID), the WSIS follow-up workshop, was held on 28 April 2009 and attended by over 60 CODIST delegates and observers. The workshop was aimed at assessing the progress made by African countries on the implementation of WSIS action lines three years after Tunis 2005. Recognising the importance of monitoring WSIS action lines, participants recommended ECA to 'strengthen the follow-up to the implementation of the WSIS through regular surveys at least once every two years' and that member States should participate fully in submission of relevant data to enable effective impact assessment analysis to be undertaken. To achieve the WSIS targets, participants urged member States to focus on realising their capacity building requirements. Participants also recommended inclusion of the African Regional Action Plan (ARAPKE) implementation in the assessment of the WSIS action lines.

Workshop on the Legal and Regulatory Frameworks for the Knowledge Economy

The workshop was held on 28 April 2009 as a pre-CODIST-1 event, with an overall objective of building capacities for policy makers, lawyers as well as representatives from law enforcement agencies in the area of cyber legislation through review of the current status of cyber legislation in Africa; examination of key legal and regulatory issues that needed to be addressed with the view to providing an enabling environment for a successful transition to the knowledge economy.

The workshop was attended by over sixty-participants who included delegates from member States as well as observers from several non-African states, international, national, regional and sub-regional organisations and institutions.

Ms. Aida Opoku-Mensah, Director of ICT, Science and Technology Division of the ECA opened the workshop and delivered the welcome address, in which she highlighted that "the creation of an enabling legal and regulatory environment is critical to the effective implementation of national and sectoral e-strategies". In his opening remarks, Mr. Pierre Ouedraogo from Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), informed participants that "OIF expects that the workshop will be an opportunity for sharing best practice on cyber legislation, legal and regulatory frameworks that can in turn help in implementing national and regional e-strategies". Mr. Jon McNerney from Internet Society (ISOC) advised that the workshop provided "an excellent opportunity to collaboratively consider and identify legal and regulatory frameworks for ICTs in Africa as the development of legal and regulatory frameworks that promote an open and trusted Internet are essential not only to promote access but also to ensure that this access effectively contributes to economic and social development in Africa". In remarks read on her behalf, Ms Cécile

Barayre-EI Shami from UNCTAD noted that this "meeting provides an opportunity for all of us to revisit the important question of how best to regulate the information economy in Africa and that "the creation of an enabling legal and regulatory environment is critical to the effective implementation of e-government strategies and to the development of e-commerce at national and regional levels."

The issues discussed included e-jurisdiction, liability and dispute settlement, e-commerce and e-taxation, e-signatures and e-payments etc. The workshop also reviewed existing cyber law templates used in and outside Africa such as the UNICTRAL texts on electronic commerce and electronic signatures.

Furthermore, participants discussed and shared experiences on best practices in Africa and other emerging and/or developed economies; reviewed developments towards the sub-regional and regional harmonisation of legal and regulatory frameworks for the knowledge economy; and adopted recommendations on strategic areas where ECA could assist in implementation and improvement of legal and regulatory frameworks in Africa.

The recommendations were under three areas; namely awareness raising, capacity building, and networking and partnerships.

Workshop on the African Geodetic Reference Frame (AFREF) Project

The African Geodetic Reference Frame (AFREF) Project Workshop organized by ECA in collaboration with the AUC's Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology was aimed at engaging the community of AFREF stakeholders to agree on the next steps to move the project forward. The Workshop which was attended by more than 120 participants reviewed the status of on-going activities of the AFREF Project; discussed and adopted the best approaches and methodologies to compute future AFREF solutions. The participants endorsed the implementation plan proposed by ECA and AUC, placing particular emphasis on the management structures, the coordinating arrangements between the various partners and stakeholders, and the capacity reinforcement needed for a successful implementation of the project.

Among several other resolutions, the Workshop recommended ECA to set up a consultative Workshop on the modalities to perform the first official computation and urged member States (NMA or any other mandated agency) to commit to put at least one GNSS station on the AFREF network. The participants also appealed to ECA to closely work with the AUC to ensure that AFREF-related activities were endorsed under AMCOST.

Training Workshop on Innovation, Networks and African Science

The workshop was held on 28 April 2009 as a pre-CODIST-1 event. The workshop brought together about 100 African STI policy makers and experts to appreciate new developments and tools of Web 2.0 for facilitating STI management and collaboration. These tools will be part of the improvement on Access to Scientific Knowledge in Africa (ASKIA) with a new e-platform hosted by ECA as a major new initiative that will catalyze innovation through new social networks focused on innovation in science and technology across Africa. This platform will facilitate all dimensions of policy-formulation and implementation of cyber-strategies across UN ECA's activities and serve as a "convergence platform" that can bring diverse stakeholders (scientists, technologists, policy-makers and business communities) together and address innovation challenges throughout the continent.

Workshop outcomes were endorsed in the S&T Subcommittee of CODIST-1 which recommended that ECA "pursue the ASKIA initiative, taking into account the discussions, remarks and observations that were made. ASKIA should facilitate not only access to scientific knowledge existing in databases and journals but also be a tool for dialogue, debates, research, innovation and a repository of key documents and links to useful resources."

Delegates Feedback on CODIST-1

"I would like to congratulate you for the success of the Conference and thank you for inviting me and for giving me the opportunity to be part of this memorable activity. Looking forward to giving my contribution for the implementation of the adopted resolutions, I send you my warmest regards and congratulations to your active and dedicated team" - **Andre Bassole, Burkina-Faso.**

"I would like to take this opportunity to say "thank you very much" for selecting and having me at the CODIST-1 workshop, 27 April to 01May 2009. It was my pleasure to be there and extremely honoured to be among the more than 600 policy and decision-makers, scientists, lawyers and journalists who represented African countries, national, international, regional and sub-regional organizations and development partners - Much appreciated sir"- **Ali Kimwaga Muhiddin, Monitor & Evaluation Coordinator, Zanzibar.**

"Thank you very much for sending me the resolutions very quickly. I learnt a lot of things at CODIST-1, which was very important meeting for me" - **Hikomichi Maruyama IDI, Japan.**

"Congratulations for this historical initiative, very instrumental and commendable performance of CODIST-1 and extraordinary leadership of whole session. I learnt a lot and as a development specialist

and Ethiopian civil servant, I will have to dig deep and look forward to working with many strategic partners and stakeholders (HIV/AIDS, Geoinfo, ICT, SDI, Science and technology). Looking forward to hearing more and participating in all important events and sharing with many"- Philipos Petros Gile, Ethiopia

Media Coverage Excerpts

Selected coverage of CODIST-1

- "Africa science forum urges innovation on the continent", UN Radio:
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/radio/english/detail/73809.html>
- "Africa: Science Can Shield Continent From Economic Crisis, Spur Growth, UN Official Says":
<http://allafrica.com/stories/200904300753.html>
- "Grâce à TTN et Pragmacom, la Tunisie obtient deux prix aux TIGA Awards 2009":
<http://www.businessnews.com.tn/>
- "Ethiopia's WoredaNet wins TIGA 2009 Award", Ethiopian News Agency:
<http://www.ena.gov.et/EnglishNews/2009/May/01May09/86425.htm>
- "Afrique: Crise : Les gouvernements africains encouragés à développer les technologies":
<http://fr.allafrica.com>
- "Egypt wins 2009 TIGA Award":
<http://www.sis.gov.eg/En/EgyptOnline/>
- "ICT industry conference to open this week", Capital: <http://www.capitalethiopia.com/>
- "Codist 1 ou l'Afrique sur la piste de la recherche-développement":
<http://www.aufaitmaroc.com/>
- "ECA urges Africa to invest 1% of GDP on science, research", African Press Agency:
<http://www.apanews.net/>
- "Première session du Comité pour le développement de l'information, la science et la technologie – CODIST 1 Addis-Abeba à ouvert le bal" L'indicateur Renouveau :
<http://www.maliweb.net/>
- La Tunisie en force à Addis-Abeba : La participation de la Tunisie aux travaux du CODIST-1, qui s'est tenu à Addis-Abeba du 27 avril au 1er avril 2009, s'est caractérisée par une forte représentation de plus de dix personnes :
<http://www.webmanagercenter.com/>
- "Maroc-Technologie - Intégration des Ntic dans les opérations statistiques:
<http://www.lematin.ma/>

...and finally, a statement of appreciation from the Organising Committee

On behalf of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), may I take this opportunity to sincerely thank you, our member States, delegates and observers for your participation in the first session of the Committee on Development Information Science and Technology (CODIST-1) held at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC-AA) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 28 April to 1 May 2009. The high-level participation clearly demonstrates our collective resolve to tackle head-on Africa's developmental challenges in the area of scientific development.

I would also express like to express appreciation to our partners who were supportive in the organization and success of this meeting. These include the numerous Development Partners and sponsors of the various events and activities including the Governments' of Finland and Canada, USAID, UNAIDs, UNCTAD, Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, Internet Society, Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA), FugroMaps, Geomark systems, Esri, Japan Aerospace Agency, Hagbes Pvt Ltd, Ethiopian Airlines, Microsoft, Alcatel Lucent, Jupiter and Harmony Hotels, Ethiopian Insurance Corporation, Ernst and Young and our international media partners SABC and Africable.

We would also like to thank CODIST-1 exhibitors, African Society for Science Research & Technology (ASSRT), Alcatel-Lucent, Department of Science & Technology (South Africa), Economic Commission for Africa (ICTs, GeoInfo and S&T), Ernst & Young, ESRI, Ethiopian Airlines, Federal Ministry of Science & Technology, Nigeria, Fugro Maps, GeoMark, GIS Society of Ethiopia (GISSE), Hagbes P. L. C, Harmony Hotel, International Council for Science- Regional Office for Africa (ICSU-ROA), International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and CGIAR, Japan Aerospace Exploring Agency (JAXA), Jupiter International Hotel, MicroSoft, National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA), NBTI (Nigeria), Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD), Regional Centre for Training in Aerospace Surveys(RECTAS), System Technology and Wudassie Souvenirs.

Looking forward to our fruitful cooperation in implementing CODIST-1 outcomes!!!!

Chairperson CODIST Organizing Committee

CODIST-I BUREAUX

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- Second Rapporteur : Tanzania

S&T Sub-committee Bureau

- Chairperson : Senegal
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- First rapporteur : Tanzania
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ECA looks forward to working with the Bureau for the next 2 years

CODIST ON TWITTER! 