



Economic Commission for Africa

A service of the UN system-wide support to the African Union and its NEPAD Programme

NEPAD TODAY

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TYCBP Shifts into high-gear

The African Union Commission (AUC), the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) are holding a three-day retreat from 7 – 9 September in Debre Zeit, Ethiopia focusing on the UN-AU Ten Year Capacity Building Programme.

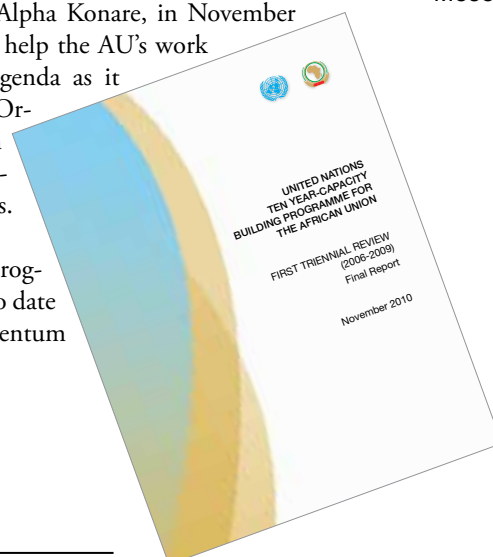
The retreat is being attended by the Executive Secretary of ECA, Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, the Chairperson of the AUC, Mr Jean Ping, the Chief Executive of the NPCA, Dr. Mayaki and senior managers from all three partner organizations.

The retreat follows closely the visit by US secretary of State, Hillary Clinton to the ECA and to the AU Commission, 13 June 2011, in which she pledges substantial US support to the capacity building programme.

The programme was initially launched by former UN SG, Mr Kofi Annan and former Chairperson of the AU Commission, Mr Alpha Konare, in November 2006. It is designed to help the AU's work on the development agenda as it transitioned from the Organisation of African Unity, which concentrated on political issues.

The retreat will assess progress in the TYCBP up to date and inject new momentum for the next five years.

Source: *Special to ECA*



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Government to address problems of school feeding

The government is determined to address the challenges hindering the attainment of the objectives of the Ghana School Feeding Programme (GSFP), to make it sustainable and effective towards achieving poverty reduction, agricultural, education and health objectives.

The National Co-ordinator of the (GSFP), Mr S. P. Adamu, said this in an interview with the Daily Graphic in Accra.

He said the government had therefore decided to rectify the targeting criteria for selection of schools to benefit from the GSFP and roll out a second phase.

This is to ensure that the target of 1,040,000 children

set to be achieved by the end of the first phase of the programme (2007 -2010) which was not achieved, is attained through the progressive expansion of the programme to the most deprived areas of the country.

He said the exercise sought to ensure an increase in school enrolment figures, attendance and retention, especially for girls, check high drop-out rate, reduce low literacy levels, improve upon hunger and vulnerability status of schools and poor access to potable water.

It involves feeding children in selected public primary schools with one nutritious meal, prepared from locally grown food stuffs on every school going day. It has the aim of achieving 80 per cent local procurement

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Media has let down in covering agriculture

A lot has been written about the worst drought in 60 years in the Horn of Africa. Acres of space and airtime have been dedicated to blame and explain who and what has been responsible the bad state of affairs in the region.

Today as I write this article, the words of Oumy Khairy Ndiaye, the Communication Manager at Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CTA) keep on ringing in my mind. Addressing journalists and communication officers in Doha Qatar during the June 2011 World Conference of Science Journalists, Oumy stated that journalists too are responsible for the food insecurity in the developing world.

According to her, weak coverage of agricultural sciences by journalists despite the renewed interest in agriculture has not done much to promote the hard work being done by scientists and researchers who have given the world a lot of technology that farmers and communities from developing countries dire need, yet are unaware of where to find them.

Indeed Oumy could not have been more right, for how would one explain the fact that journalists have

hardly taken to returning agriculture into the conversation amidst an outburst of the new media in Africa.

The technologically savvy will always let you know of the wonders of the web 2.0 revolution and how extraordinary it is a boom to the use of new media in communicating about all scientific domains. Yet one would want to wonder loudly, are “citizen journalists” and scientists not moving faster than the journalists and media houses?

On the back of this lies the fact that even though African youth (majority of the population) form part of the “digital natives” ready to increase the number of “citizen journalists. Regrettably, this lot has scarcely conversed and discussed agriculture in their blogs and twitters. One is left to imagine why Africa is in this situation despite 33 million Africans of the Diaspora are equipped to become “citizen journalists”? Sadly offers for capacity building in using new media especially in formal training universities/schools of journalism are still few and far in between.

For the full story: Nairobi Star (Nairobi), August 27, 2011 Saturday

Government to address... *Continued from page 1*

and it has hopes that strict adherence to the set criteria will guarantee the effectiveness of the programme as a poverty reduction strategy in addressing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 1& 2.

Mr Adamu said although the programme was well intentioned and straight forward, there was an information gap, as many stakeholders were not adequately informed about it, especially its purpose and intended beneficiaries.

To achieve the objectives of the retargeting exercise a national sensitisation workshop would be organised as part of the broad activities lined up to sensitise participants to the intended exercise and solicit their support and participation especially in propagating the need and reasons for the exercise to the local constituents.

The GSFP was introduced in 2005 but the inaugural phase of the programme started in 2007 with a four-year programme cycle which entered 2010.

This, Mr Adamu said resulted in a huge number of schools who were considered ‘affluent’ and who did not qualify under the selection criteria becoming beneficiaries while a lot of the deprived and needy intended communities being excluded.

For the full story: <http://www.modernghana.com/news/347676/1/govt-to-address-problems-of-schoolfeeding.html>

Upcoming Event

- Migration and Development Series: Briefing on South-South Migration Cooperation
6 Sep 2011, New York, United States
- Africa Green Investment Gateway Conference
14-16 Sep 2011, London, United Kingdom
- African Economic Conference, 25-28 Oct 2011
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, UNCC

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