



Economic Commission for Africa

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

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ICT project to connect African schools

A project to connect more than 600,000 schools in Africa is currently underway due in large part to a second Pan African satellite that was launched recently.

In a bid to ensure that Africa becomes connected via information and communication technologies (ICTs), the inter-governmental commercial organization, Rascom, said it would partner with other international institutes to implement the project.

“With the second satellite [...] we are looking to partner with NEPAD in an e-learning project aiming at providing internet connectivity to more than 600,000 schools in Africa,” Mr. Jones Killimbe, Di-

rector General of Rascom, said at a news conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

The newly launched satellite is undergoing some testing before it is commissioned commercially, he added.

Rascom, which has 45 member countries, said it is set to provide Africa with affordable telecommunications infrastructure based on space technology.

“We give countries the opportunity to interconnect directly using space technology and supplement existing telecom infrastructure by allowing them to provide services in isolated areas,” Killimbe said.

Among other services, the organisation

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African fisheries ministers ratify experts' report as first Banjul CAMFA confab ends

African Fisheries and Aquaculture ministers ratified the report and recommendations of the continent's fisheries experts that was prepared in Banjul last July as part of the first Conference of African Ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture (CAMFA), which was funded by NEPAD and AU. The report entailed a sustainable management strategy plan for African fisheries sector and aquaculture development. The ministers also ratified a paper presented by civil society organisations and the media whose recommendations called for the integration, recognition and

support of African authorities and donors for the activities of these two important aspects.

Lamin Kabba Bajo, Minister of Fisheries, Water Resources and National Assembly Matters, reminded the fisheries and aquaculture ministers that the rational exploitation and sustainable utilisation of fisheries resources constitute a key factor in the socio-economic development agenda of the African continent. The ratification of the report and recommendations,

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ICT project . . .

intends to support e-health, e-post and transmission of both radio and television broadcasting services in remote and under-served areas in Africa as well.

Mr. Killimbe commended the deployment of fibre optic cables around Africa, saying that the move would ultimately create reliable connectivity on the continent.

Source: <http://thecitizen.co.tz/news/4-national-news/4323-ict-project-to-connect-african-schools.html>

Commission Finds Science Support Lacking

Donor support for science and technology (S&T) in Africa has been "disappointing"; according to a recent report from the Commission for Africa.

Some US\$ 3 billion, which the Commission had urged donors to spend on building centres of excellence in S&T, has not been spent and the state of external support for African S&T in general is "unclear".

The Commission was set up in 2004 under the leadership of then British Prime Minister, Tony Blair. It aimed to push the developed world to make and honour commitments to Africa. Most of its 17-member board members are African heads of state.

The report praised the African Union's 2005 Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action for Science and Technology (CPA) as well as annual meetings of the African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology (AMCOST), which is leading several initiatives.

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African fisheries . . .

he added, will usher the continent into a more responsible and judicious utilisation of its fisheries resources.

Dr. Sloans Chimatiro, NEPAD's Senior Fisheries Officer and representative of NEPAD's chief executive officer at the conference, commended the efforts of the fisheries experts for putting together the various aspects required for the development and sustainability of Africa's fisheries sector. He opined that unless the sector is allowed to demonstrate its role, it would be difficult.

Source: Daily Observer, Gambia

However, despite new funding from the European Commission and others, there has been little progress overall and no co-ordination of donor funding.

Aggrey Ambali, acting director of NEPAD's Office of Science and Technology, said "disappointing progress is rather a qualitative position. Remarkable progress has been made in the implementation of the CPA. There has been no benchmark against which progress in science and technology is measured on the continent. That's why the NEPAD Agency established the African Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators (ASTII) Initiative."

Lack of benchmarking also meant the Commission had failed to notice "marginal" progress in creating centres of excellence, he said.

Donors have been giving money to fund these, he insisted, "but not all of it is being made through one channel, hence there is no tracking system for this commitment".

Source: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201009230917.html>

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