

# Kenya Eyes Top Scientific Spot with AIDS Vaccine

April 6, 2012. Xinhua by: Li, web editor

Kenya's quest to lead the scientific community as a major innovation hub will be confirmed with the ongoing efforts to produce the world's first ever HIV/AIDS vaccine, a senior official has said following the conclusion of a three-day forum here.

The Kenya Aids Vaccine Initiative (KAVI), which has been ongoing for several years, has been certified as the world's most viable plan toward a vaccine, but is one among 42 similar research and innovation projects in the pipeline.

"If there is ever going to be a first vaccine for HIV/AIDS, it will come from Kenya," said Professor Crispus Kiamba, permanent secretary of Kenyan Science and Technology Ministry and a former vice chancellor of Nairobi University.

The Africa Regional Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation, the first of its kind, gathered over 50 ministers of education, science and technology from Africa and the world to discuss from Monday to Wednesday innovation within the African continent.

There are ongoing clinical trials by KAVI to determine whether two candidate vaccines could become the ultimate protection against HIV/AIDS, Kiamba said.

The trials are being administered on non-infected human beings on a random basis to determine its efficiency.

Scientists are watching out for a strong and sustained and specific immune response against the targeted pathogen, according to the KAVI website.