



First Africa Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) opens in Nairobi on Sunday, April 1, 2012

NAIROBI, March 30, 2012 – Over 100 Government representatives, Experts and stakeholders in Science Technology and Innovation (STI) will gather in Nairobi on Sunday April 1, 2012 to facilitate the sharing of experiences and analysis of best practices in strengthening STI mechanisms, designing policy measures for the promotion of innovation and, entrepreneurship.

The three-day conference will be the First Africa Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for Youth Employment, Human Capital Development and Inclusive Growth.

The Minister for Higher Education, Science and Technology (MOHEST), Prof. Margaret Kamar, will officially open the Experts meeting on Sunday, April 1, 2012 at 9.00 am at the Intercontinental Hotel, Nairobi. UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences, Gretchen Kalonji, will deliver a key-note address. The Representative, AfDB and the Representative, African Union – Commissioner Ezin will also take part in the opening session.

The meeting has been organized by UNESCO, the African Development Bank (AfDB), the African Union (AU), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA), and hosted by the Government of Kenya through the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology.

The conference will play an important role in pushing the experts to identify concrete areas for joint programming and exchange of experiences, and

also encourage the Ministers to engage in dialogue with experts on the use of and investment in STI for development and more significantly make a political commitment for the integration of STI in National Development Agendas.

This is important because the capacity of countries to compete in the global market depends more and more on their ability to innovate and apply the relevant technology to industries and productive sectors.

There will be some thought-provoking discussions on how STI can contribute to inclusive growth, create wealth and reduce poverty in Africa by enhancing the quality of life through food security, clean water among other basic needs.

The delegates will also explore how Africa can cultivate a dynamic innovation eco-system by strengthening its STI systems to promote clean drinking water, renewable energy, effective health care, jobs particularly for the youth, and human capital development and inclusive growth development.

The meeting will also feature special sessions on Youth employment, harnessing of innovation in the informal sector and increasing the participation of the Women and Youth in STI.

His Excellency, President of the Republic of Kenya, Mwai Kibaki will officially open the Ministerial conference on April 3, 2012 that will be attended by Ministers of Science, Technology and Innovation, Education and Finance and Planning from Africa.

The Experts meeting to be held on 1 - 2 April 2012 will bring together representatives from the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), policymakers and senior technical staff from ministries of education, science and technology. Labour representatives from Centers

of Excellence, students and youth, practitioners from the higher education, science, technology and innovation, and technical institutes, universities, research institutions and African Science Laureates will participate and pave way for a high-level one day Ministerial Conference on April 3, 2012.

The outcomes and recommendations of the Forum are expected to fit into the forthcoming STI initiatives, including the AMCOST Conference scheduled for May 2012, the “Science with Africa” in June 2012 and the AfDB Annual Meeting in May 2012.

Media contacts:

Evelyn Akoth Watta, Nairobi, Kenya, Tel : + 254 722 810 565
e-mail: evelynwatta@gmail.com

Elizabeth Mwakelemu-Tole, UNESCO Nairobi Office: +254 20 762 12 54,
e.mwakelemu-tole@unesco.org.

Argut Kipturgo, Public Communications, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Nairobi.

Cell Phone : 0721 576 718,

turgoar@gmail.com

Agnès Bardon, UNESCO Press Service, Paris. Tel : +33 (0) 1 45 68 17 64,
a.bardon@unesco.org

Thanh-Hoa Desruelles, ADEA. Tel: +216/ 71 10 34 32 / +216/ 98 41 98 87,
t.desruelles@afdb.org

Dieter Gijsbrechts, African Development Bank, d.gijsbrechts@afdb.org

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Development of Education in Africa
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