



**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

**Report on ECA's Activities in the Area of Science and Technology
from 2008- 2009 and
Planned activities for 2010**

In its new strategic orientation, which includes helping to meet Africa's special needs, ECA's work programme now includes a major science and technology component, which is aimed at:

- Ensuring that science is targeted at the economy and the productive sectors
- Managing capacity-building programmes for science institutions especially in harnessing innovation
- Facilitating collaborative partnerships in science and
- Advocating the role of science and innovation in decision-making and in development processes.

Science with Africa – Follow-up Activities

Science with Africa Roadmap Workshop

ECA in collaboration with AU organised a roadmap workshop on 6 June 2008, to develop 20 ideas from the SwA Idea Factory into implementable projects that will help boost R&D and operationalise STI at member state level in the next 7 years 2008-2015. Government officials, ECA and AU experts as well as the African Diaspora representatives who attended this roadmap workshop identified potential lead institutions and possible partners for each core idea. Areas of focus include STI funding, African Innovation, Human Capital Development, Business Development and, Outreach and Advocacy.

Developing Health Research Guidelines in Africa: Afroguide

This is an ECA collaboration with the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Good Clinical Practice Alliance – Europe, which brought together about 25 health researchers, professors, experts from Africa and Europe to launch the process of developing guidelines for health research in Africa - AFROguide.

The African Science to Business Challenge (ASBC)

This a pioneering initiative launched in December 2008, by the ECA and the Research Triangle Institute of the USA (RTI International), aimed at strengthening links between scientific research and business development. The challenge is designed to balance the need for scientific research that addresses immediate social and economic needs while building Africa's capacities in science and technology. The winner of the *African Science to Business Challenge* will be sponsored by RTI to travel to its headquarters, situated in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, USA, to receive training in methods of commercializing the research. (Information: www.uneca.org/sciencewithafrica).

Operationalization of Mozambique Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy (MOSTIS)

Based on a request from the Government of Mozambique and in line with the Memorandum of Understanding signed between ECA and the Government of Mozambique (Cooperation and Implementation of Joint Activities and Programmes in the area of ICT, Science and Technology for Development), ECA is providing support to the Ministry of Science and Technology (MCT) in the implementation of the Mozambique Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy (MOSTIS).

AU/ECA/ICSU Technology Planning and Technology Governance in Africa Initiative

Technology Planning and Technology Governance in Africa. ECA in collaboration with the African Union, Scientific Technical and Research Commission (AU-STRC), the International Council for Science Regional Office for Africa (ICSU ROA) and the Kenya National Council for Science and Technology (NCST) organized a training workshop on Technology Planning and Technological Governance in Africa, in Nairobi, Kenya from 24 to 27 February 2009.

African Science Philanthropy Initiative (ASPI)

As a result of the Science with Africa conference and an Ideasfactory, the notion of an African Philanthropists for Science Club was mooted and UNECA was charged by the Conference of Finance Ministers to develop strategies for home-grown solutions to Africa's scientific challenges as a development priority. This has led to the African Science Philanthropy Initiative (ASPI) that is soliciting the support of leading African business leaders. The overall objective of ASPI would be to link African research institutes and local companies for a mutually beneficial relationship.

Studies on STI

In 2008 a study was commissioned on Development of Business Model for S&T Institutions. The study concluded with a Business Model including policy and strategies to strengthen the linkage between the above S&T performers and the country development. Another study commissioned was on promoting science, technology and innovation in Africa, which identified four levels of action needed to be taken by African Governments.

Knowledge Sharing and Outreach

A Science Commons & Africa Innovation Platform

This platform will be 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 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 bottlenecks throughout the continent. This initiative will build on the social infrastructure and networks that ECA has developed in the science, technology and policy-making arenas across Africa to maximize the productivity of these already existing networks.

Science with Africa e-Newsletter

On 1st December 2008, ECA launched its Science with Africa e-Newsletter. This e-newsletter, published on a quarterly basis, provides information and news on the follow-up to the Science with Africa conference, as well as other news items closely related to the themes and objectives of the event. There was tremendous interest in the e-newsletter from African scientific community in receiving this newsletter. For more:

Developing an African Innovation Framework

ECA organised from 29-30 June 2009, a workshop on developing an African Innovation Framework opened today to chart the way towards developing a concrete and implementable framework to guide Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) development in the continent. The objectives is to focus on the opportunities and challenges towards the development of African innovation strategy to complement national, sub-regional and sectoral ICT, Science and Technology policies and strategies.

Future activities for the period 2010 – 2011

1. The Second "Science with Africa", Conference, 2010 (first quarter)
2. Technical/Advisory Services

3. Publication: STI and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
4. Group Training for African Policy-makers on STI trends
5. Fellowships