

EURO-AFRICA

FEBRUARY 3, 2010
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

COOPERATION FORUM ON ICT RESEARCH

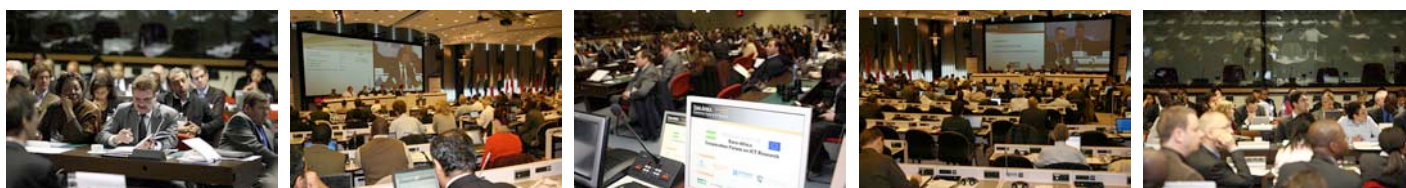


2010 EURO-AFRICA COOPERATION FORUM ON ICT RESEARCH

February 3, 2010 - Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (United Nations Conference Centre)



**Learning and Reflecting on ICT Collaborative Research and Development
- Projecting the Future of ICT Research in Africa -**



The 2nd “Euro-Africa Cooperation Forum on ICT Research” is organised by the FP7 EuroAfrica-ICT EU-funded project and is supported by the African Union Commission (AUC) and the European Commission (EC - DG INFSO - International Relations Unit) under the Information Communication Technology (ICT) theme of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7).

EVENT OBJECTIVES

This 1-day Forum is a practical, learning and interactive conference organised as a follow-up event of the 1st edition held in Brussels, Belgium in March 2009. The Forum will bring together sub-Saharan African and European organisations for an interactive and a participative event with the following objectives:

- Reflect on progress made and lessons learnt on ICT research and development in Africa and its contribution through partnerships to economic growth, improved quality of life and efficient service delivery
- Gain insight on the status and perspectives of the 8th Partnership (“African-EU Partnership for Science, Information Society and Space”) and support its action plan
- Learn more about the status and perspectives of the EC/AUC/ACP Programmes
- Enhance the development of Euro-Africa collaborative ICT research projects and identify potential partners
- Highlight the range and excellence of ICT research in Africa and in Europe
- Allow participative and interactive working sessions on ICT research and development through panel debates and interactive thematic sessions
- Network with key stakeholders in the field (private/public bodies)
- Hear about opportunities to enhance African participation in FP7
- Get detailed information on successful EU-African FP7 cooperation projects and EU-African PPP (Public-Private Partnerships)

EVENT ATTENDEES

The organisers are targeting an audience of up to 200-300 delegates (at the level of project managers, heads of research labs, researchers, engineers, policy makers, academia representatives, and industry stakeholders, etc.) from European and African organisations (national and international organisations, SMEs, academia and research institutes, etc.) active in the ICT field and interested in developing Euro-African Scientific and Technological (S&T) cooperation, to participate in this learning and practical Forum. These include European researchers looking to collaborate with African researchers in the FP7, and African researchers interested in collaborating with European researchers.

EVENT ADDRESSED TOPICS

- Africa-EU Cooperation on ICT: from Research to Deployment - Status & Perspectives
- Implementation of the EU-AU Partnership on Science, ICT and Space (the 8th Partnership)
- Introduction to EC (European Commission), AUC (African Union Commission) and ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States) Programmes
- Public Private Partnerships (PPP) - Experiences and lessons learned
- How to enhance African organisations participation in FP7/ICT? - Presentation, guidance and support
- Thematic sessions (R&D ICT)

REGISTRATIONS - Registrations are free of charge but seats are limited due to room capacity constraints. Registrations are also subject to pre-registrations and acceptance by the organising committee. Please visit www.euroafrica-ict.org for online registrations.

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INTERACTIVE WORKING SESSIONS

The Forum is not a scientific conference per se, but an interactive event aimed at providing ideal conditions to learn and reflect on achievements in ICT R&D and to stimulate debate and thinking about future research through developing further concrete Euro-African cooperation projects on ICT research.

The Forum will feature interactive and participative working sessions focused on various ICT thematic areas to address key successes, challenges and lessons learnt, identify future research topics, partners and practical strategies, and provide guidance to increase African participation in the next FP7 calls in each ICT thematic area.

High-level scientific papers will provide input into various working sessions which will form the basis for strategic debates on key issues.

These working sessions are designed to take



delegates beyond discussions to explore and highlight potential research topics for future research.

MAIN ADDRESSED THEMATIC ICT PRIORITIES

- e-Health - Health Information Systems & Sustainable and Personalised Healthcare
- e-Infrastructure
- Technology Enhanced Learning
- Digital Libraries and Intelligent Content
- Open Source Software
- ICT for Independent Living, e-inclusion and e-Accessibility
- ICT for Environmental Sustainability and Energy Efficiency
- RFID and Networked Enterprise
- e-Government - Services to Citizens & Business



EVENT BACKGROUND

The Africa-EU Joint Strategy and Action Plan (JSAP) was adopted at the EU-AU Summit held in Lisbon on December 2007. It is a political vision and roadmap for the cooperation between the two continents in existing and new areas, going beyond the traditional donor-recipient approach, and beyond institutions by involving non-State players, and addressing global challenges such as peace and security, climate change, migration, trade and regional integration. Concrete actions and goals for the years 2008-2010 are outlined in eight Africa-EU Partnerships in the so-called First Action Plan.

Africa is the continent where the scientific and digital divides are the widest. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) identify the essential role of Science & Technology (S&T) for socio-economic transformation. Investments in African scientific capacities have not been prioritised and the continent is losing some of its best scientific and technical expertise to other regions. It is in this context, that the Africa Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action (S&T CPA) was developed, consolidating the African Union Commission (AUC) and New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) programmes related to S&T capacity building, knowledge production and technological innovation.

The MDGs also identify Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) as key enablers for poverty reduction and growth. Although ICT are multi-sectoral tools for socio-economic development, a dedicated coherent strategy needs to be implemented in order to develop an inclusive information society in Africa. It is on these principles, and in the context of the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS), that the African Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE), an African Union (AU) initiative, was developed.

In this context the **"Africa-EU Partnership for Science, Information Society and Space" (8th Partnership)** adopted in Lisbon by all EU and AU Heads of States and Governments in the framework of the Africa-EU JSAP specifically aims at:

- Supporting the development of an inclusive information society in Africa
- Supporting S&T capacity building in Africa and implementing Africa's S&T Consolidated Plan of Action
- Enhancing cooperation on space applications and technology

FP7 and ICT - The Africa Science and Technology CPA formulated by the NEPAD and the African Union, the creation of the African Ministerial Council on Science and Technology (AMCOST), and the African Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE), are some of recent examples of Africa's determination to rely on S&T and ICT to achieve its growth and development objectives.

Meanwhile, in their determination to ensure Europe's global leadership in ICTs and in line with their i2010 initiative, the EU Member States have earmarked a total of €9.1 billion for funding ICT research over the duration of FP7, a research programme including an important international dimension, being open to the participation of sub-Saharan African organisations. In this context, a strengthened S&T cooperation between Europe and sub-Saharan Africa on ICT is of mutual strategic interest to the European and African research organisations and industries, and can efficiently contribute to implementing the new Africa-EU JSAP.