

S&T in the African Union

By Dr B. Tema

Advisor on African Affairs

Department of Science and Technology



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AU VISION

**A Prosperous, Peaceful and
Integrated Africa, Driven by its
own Citizens, a Dynamic Force
in the Global arena”**



Decision-making inside the AU

- **The Assembly**
 - Composed of Heads of State and Government or their duly accredited representatives. The Assembly of Heads of State and Government is the supreme organ of the Union.
- **The Executive Council**
 - Composed of Ministers of foreign Affairs. The Executive Council is responsible for setting the agenda of the Assembly.
- **The Permanent Representatives' Committee**
 - Composed of Permanent Representatives of Member States accredited to the Union. The Permanent Representatives Committee is charged with the responsibility of preparing the work of the Executive Council.
- **Specialized Technical Committees/Statutory bodies of the AU - Ministers' conferences (AMCOST)**

ASCENDING LEVELS OF DECISIONS MAKING



Pillars of the AU

- **Regional economic Communities (RECs)**

Pillars/building blocks of the AU – 5
Regions = Central, Eastern, Western,
Southern and Northern.



African Ministers Conference for Science and Technology (AMCOST)

- A forum for all AU Ministers responsible for S&T
- Main decision-making body for continental matters relating to S&T
- Meets biennially to approve S&T programmes
- Presently chaired by Senegal



Consolidated Plan of Action for S&T

Objectives

- Improve infrastructure for R&D
- Build and use Africa's scientists, technicians and engineers
- Turn ideas/knowledge into products and services
- Improve quality of policies for science and innovation
- Increase African demand for science and technology



Flagship Projects

Cluster 1: Biodiversity, Biotechnology and Indigenous Knowledge

Cluster 2: Energy, Water and Desertification

Cluster 3: Material sciences, manufacturing, Laser Technologies and Post-Harvest Technologies

Cluster 4: ICTs and Space Sciences

Cluster 5: Mathematical Sciences



African Laser Centre

Director: DrAboubaker Beye

from Senegal

- The ALC is a virtual center of excellence for the African continent.
- The ALC is an open non-exclusive partnership to stimulate innovation, research and technology development in lasers and the application of lasers.
- The ALC seeks global partnerships to achieve its aims.
- Participants in the Laser centre unanimously decided that the international headquarters of the ALC will be hosted by South Africa.



Present Members of the African Laser Centre

- Senegal
- Ghana
- Algeria
- Egypt
- Tunisia
- South Africa



Functions of the Laser Centre

The ALC will:

- Promote research and training programmes of laser research user facilities and collaboration to provide a continental dimension to activities of these centres
- Facilitate the availability of:
 - Financial resources
 - Technical assistance
 - Equipment loans
- Promote collaboration among laser researchers throughout Africa and between African laser institutions and their international counterparts
- Reverse the brain drain of researchers from the African continent by providing a competitive knowledge base and attractive research and development facilities.



Proposed African Institute of Space Science (AISS)

- Proposed by the Working Group on Space Science at the NEPAD S&T Regional workshop 15 – 18 Nov 2004
- Objectives of AISS
 - To provide service delivery for sustainable development, based on a network of Science and Technology centres and facilities engaged in applied research and development in the region.



Proposed Projects for AISS

- Pilot thematic applications and demonstration projects
- Follow-up actions in support of on-going regional and global space science and technology research and development and applications initiatives



Present status of AISS

- Proposal for the establishment of AISS was submitted to AMCOST in 2006
- No decision was taken in support for the programme as there was no clarity on the extent of demand for the programme
- A new proposal can be submitted at the present conference so recommends



Merci beaucoup!

- **Thank you very much!**

