



Economic Commission for Africa

A service of the UN system-wide support to the African Union and its NEPAD Programme

NEPAD TODAY

Every Wednesday

The articles published in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of UNECA or NPCA

Kikwete welcomes progress of NEPAD; urges Agency to maintain CAADP support

Last week, on the margins of the just concluded World Economic Forum for Africa, Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, CEO of the NEPAD Agency met with President Jakaya Kikwete of Tanzania.

During the private meeting, President Kikwete welcomed the progress being made in the implementation of the NEPAD agenda in Africa. He urged Dr. Mayaki to widely engage stakeholders and to communicate the work that the Agency is doing.

President Kikwete noted NEPAD's technical leadership and support in implementation of various programmes including infrastructure as well as agriculture development through the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

Noting Tanzania's progress with regard to CAADP implementation (Tanzania's national CAADP compact was signed in July 2010) President Kikwete called upon Dr. Mayaki to maintain NEPAD's support on CAADP. He also specifically requested NEPAD to facilitate the necessary expert input and technical reviews to ensure that Tanzania's investment plan is finalised and set for implementation.

In his remarks, President Kikwete highlighted that agriculture will remain central in Africa's efforts to address poverty alleviation and in realising the continent's food security targets. He noted that increasing productivity should be the central thrust in agriculture development.

Continued on page 2

Chad to build its first railway

Construction of the first-ever railway line in the oil-producing African nation of Chad is set to start next year. The former French colony signed a \$7-billion contract with the China Civil Engineering Construction Corp. in mid-March.

The new, 1,344-kilometer-long railway will link landlocked Chad to its neighbor to the

west, Cameroon, and its neighbor to the east, Sudan. The route is expected to facilitate access to the international markets. CCECC President Yuan Li told reporters in N'Djamena during the signing of the construction deal that the project will be undertaken in two phases.

To be completed in four years, the first phase is slated for commissioning next year. This phase of the railroad will have two lines: one linking the town of Abeche

Continued on page 2

Chief of Section
Kwabia Boateng

Editor
Yinka Adeyemi

Production Assistant
Meseret Arega

Continued from page 1

Kikwete welcomes...

Africa stands to gain a lot in terms of increased agriculture productivity from increased investments in irrigation, better and widespread dissemination of research outcomes and products, for instance, improved seeds, improved markets and micro-financing especially for the smallholder farmers. President Kikwete reiterated his resolve and commitment to provide the necessary leadership to ensure Tanzania's agriculture development agenda delivers food security and socio-economic development for the people of Tanzania.

He went on to express confidence in the CAADP implementation process, through which he felt Tanzania would be able to mobilise and align increased financing – including key private sector financing – to boost especially smallholder farming systems and to realise the value of agriculture development on food security and poverty alleviation.

The implementation of CAADP in Tanzania is set to complement the work that is being done by the Tanzanian government, farmers, civil society, business and development partners through the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor (SAGCOT), a public-private initiative to drive growth and productivity in Tanzania's breadbasket regions.

Dr. Mayaki assured President Kikwete that the NEPAD Agency will take the necessary action to maintain support to CAADP implementation in Tanzania. He also commended the President for his leadership and support in the implementation of the various NEPAD programmes.

Source: NEPAD Agency

Continued from page 1

Chad to build...

to Adre on the Sudanese border, the other linking the town of Moundou to Koutere near the Cameroon border and phase two of the railway project will link these two lines through the country's capital, N'Djamena.

Chad's infrastructure ministry and CCECC, the minister said, are working out the project's details, including procurement of a design-services contract. Among other issues, the contractor will determine how many tracks the standard-gauge railway line should have. Negotiations are ongoing between Chad and CCECC on the supplier of the rails.

As Chad seeks cheaper means of gaining access to international markets, this new deal is the second attempt to link the country to its neighbors by rail.

Meanwhile, another plan for a regional railway awaits implementation. Under NEPAD the plan was approved in 2006. The NEPAD railway line will link Chad to Libya and Niger.

For full story: Engineering News-Record, May 2, 2011

Upcoming Event

- World Economic Forum

3-5 May 2011, Cape Town, South Africa

- 2nd Africa – India Summit Forum

20 -25 May 2011, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

- Freight Intra Africa 2011 Logistics for Sustainable Economic Development

27-28 July 2011 Midrand, South Africa

Please let us hear from you

How useful do you find NEPAD Today? Are there other issues you would like us to address? Please send an email to: maregaz@uneca.org