



Economic Commission for Africa

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

# NEPAD TODAY

Every Wednesday

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## NEPAD in drive to harmonise health care in EAC

A plan to harmonise healthcare provision in the East African Community has been unveiled.

The Medicines Registration Harmonisation project will promote registration in the region for public health aimed at increasing access to quality, safe and effective drugs.

In its initial stages, the project driven by the Nepad and the World Health Organisation will focus on "priority diseases".

"The region has similar health and techno-

## AU, NEPAD to address Africa's spectrum management challenges

The African Union and its technical body, NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, will lead Information Communications Technology experts to address multiple challenges associated with spectrum management on the continent.

The ICT experts, who will gather in Kampala, Uganda, according to a statement on Monday, will review the decisions of the recently concluded World Radio communications Conference and examine its implications for Africa.

The Chief Executive Officer, Kemilinks International, one of the organisers of the

logical challenges and relatively low levels of investment in health research, drug discovery and pharmaceutical development, compared to other continents," Nepad CEO, Ibrahim Mayaki said in a statement.

But he noted that the lack of access to essential medicines remain one of the most serious public health problems where countries are struggling to produce, procure and make safe and essential medicines available to their people.

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forum, Mr. Shola Taylor, said, "Our underlying objective at this workshop is to assist African countries to map out the best strategy to manage future spectrum supply and demand in order to ensure that there is enough spectrum to meet future demand."

Taylor said Kemilinks was collaborating with the Uganda Communications Commission and the African Telecommunications Union on the workshop.

With the theme, 'WRC 12: Implications for Africa,' Taylor said the workshop would be led by seasoned experts and decision makers in the telecoms/ICT sectors; add-

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## NEPAD in drive...

“This is mainly because of limited budgets, lack of adequate infrastructure and human resources and a range of regulatory barriers including weak and or absent medicines legislation,” Dr. Mayaki said.

It is on the basis of this challenge that the new project seeks to help countries in the region overcome the barriers that hinder people from accessing healthcare across the states.

The project was launched last week in Tanzania.

“Essential medicines save lives and improve

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## AU, NEPAD...

ing that it was aimed at engendering better understanding of radio-frequency spectrum management.

“It will, therefore, provide a platform for debates on the strategic role of political leaders, regulators, operators and industry in the management and allocation of spectrum,” he said. Speaking on the workshop, the Head, Information Systems, African Union Commission, Moctar Yedaly, said, “The African Union is actively involved in promoting a harmonised ICT policy and regulatory framework in Africa and the management of spectrum and orbital resources is a key component of that strategy.” Speaking in the same vein, the Head, NEPAD e-Africa Programme, Edmund Katiti, said, “Capacity building is one of four focus areas of the e-Africa programme, and spectrum management is one of the key areas that our stakeholders have identified as a challenge.

“Given the capacity building nature of this workshop, we decided to collaborate and

health when they are available, affordable, of assured quality and used rationally,” Dr Mayaki said.

Other organisations on board are the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the World Bank, UK Department for International Development and Clinton Health Access Initiative.

The launch stressed that the regulation of medicines and harmonisation of technical standards and legislative frameworks have emerged as important components of the regional economic integration efforts.

*for full story: [www.nepad.org](http://www.nepad.org)*

we plan to develop more partnerships of this nature, making use of African expertise where it exists.”

The Executive Director, UCC, Mr. Godfrey Mutabazi, explained that this year’s edition was coming at a time when much debate would be taking place in Africa on new spectrum allocations as more African countries progressed towards establishing converged ICT regulatory frameworks.

*Source: <http://www.punchng.com/business/technology/au-nepad-to-address-africas-spectrum-management>*

## Upcoming Events

- Forum 2012: “Beyond Aid... Research and Innovation as key drivers for Health, Equity and Development”, 24 - 26 April 2012  
Cape Town, South Africa
- World Economic Forum, 9-10 May 2012, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- MDG Review Exhibition & Summit 2012  
3 -4 May 4 2012, Cape Town, South Africa
- 8th CAADP Partnership Platform (PP)  
3 - 4 May 2012, Nairobi, Kenya

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