



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

ECA, NEPAD Agency, others organize high level colloquium

Chief of Section
Kwabia Boateng

Editor

Yinka Adeyemi

Production Assistant
Meseret Arega

NEPAD@10

Working for the people of Africa

SPECIAL INVITATION

To commemorate the 10th anniversary of NEPAD, Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Chief Executive Officer, NEPAD Agency, on behalf of Africa Union, cordially invites you to:

NEPAD Colloquium and Congress

**Theme: Africa's Decade of Change:
Accelerating NEPAD Implementation through Domestic Financing**

Date: Wednesday, 28 March 2012
Venue: African Union Commission, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Time: 09h00 to 18h30

Pamla Gopaul +27837044501
PamlaG@nepad.org

RSVP:

Kwame Ababio +27714783808
KwameA@nepad.org

Let's share knowledge on Africa's future for the next decade!



ECA and the NEPAD Agency will hold a commemorative high level colloquium and congress in Addis Ababa on March 28 to examine the challenges to the implementation of NEPAD over the past 10 years and the prospects for the future.

The theme of the colloquium is "Africa's

decade of change: Accelerating NEPAD implementation through domestic resource mobilization". The two institutions said high level persons, including former heads of state, Nobel prize winners and renown scholars are expected at the event. UN agencies and organizations working in Africa in support of the African Union and its NEPAD programme will make a

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

ECA, NEPAD...

presentation at the event in the context of the regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM).

Interested participants should contact persons indicated on the invite above.

Source: www.nepad.org

APRM: Lessons from the Arab Spring

The ongoing agitation in Africa triggered by the "Arab Spring" demonstrates yet again the importance of good political and economic governance for the continent's development.

Through their street demonstrations, Africans are expressing their will to reassert control over their own destinies. They are struggling for dignity, freedom, genuine social justice and access to economic opportunities.

The Arab Spring has dramatically shown that economic performance alone is not enough in the long run. After all, Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Algeria and Morocco were among the fast-growing "African lions" (analogous to the Asian tigers). As leading development practitioners emphasize, economic prosperity and political freedom must go hand in hand.

African leaders understood this when they launched NEPAD. To more specifically promote good governance, human rights and sound economic management they then initiated the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) in March 2003.

The APRM, one of the most innovative facets of NEPAD, is a voluntary self-monitoring mechanism by which African leaders subject their policies and practices to peer review by other Africans in four related areas: democracy and political governance, economic

governance, corporate governance and socio-economic development.

The reviews are comprehensive and inclusive. Consultations are not only in the capital city with government officials but also in the countryside and with representatives from the private sector, civil society, trade unions, parliaments, local councils and so on.

A full peer-review cycle goes through five stages: a country self-assessment; a country review; a review report; the actual peer review - in which review findings are discussed by heads of state at summits of the African Peer Review Forum - and the publication of the report. Fourteen of the 30 countries belonging to the APRM have completed their first peer reviews.

Reviews have pinpointed overarching issues, such as diversity management, electoral violence, land reform, youth unemployment, gender equality and corruption. These suggested the theme of the UN's eighth African Governance Forum, to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2012: "Democracy, Elections and the Management of Diversity in Africa."

For full story: Africa News, February 27, 2012 Monday

Upcoming Events

- Annual UN Water/Africa meeting, 2 March 2012 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, UNCC
- High level NEPAD Colloquium and Congress, 28 March 2012, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Young People, Farming & Food: The Future of the Agrifood Sector in Africa, 19 -21 March 2012, Ghana
- 5th Joint Annual Meetings of the AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, 22-27 March 2012, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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: mareg2@uneca.org