



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 Spanish Fund approves 8.2m Euros for African women's projects

To coincide with this year's International Women's Day marked March 8, 2012, the NEPAD Spanish Fund for African Women Empowerment approved funding for 31 projects in Sub-Saharan African countries worth 8,209,745 Euros in its determination to empower women in the region and boost development.

According to a press release from the NPCA which announced this, the projects were selected from more than 600 proposals received from non-governmental organisations, grassroots groups, academic institutions and regional economic communities across sub-Saharan Africa, by the Steering Committee of the Fund in Madrid on Feb 29, 2012 and scheduled for completion

between 12 and 24 months.

Commenting on the approved funding, NEPAD Agency's CEO, Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, said "NEPAD and the Government of the Kingdom of Spain share a common goal of advancing gender equality and gender equity," adding, "The implementation of the NEPAD Spanish Fund represents one of the key steps to achieve this goal."

For his part, Director of the Spanish Agency for International Development (AECI), Mr. Juan Lopez-Doriga, praised NEPAD's Gender Programme for its meticulous, thorough and diligent work in the selection process.

Source: <http://www.ghanabusinessnews.com/2012/03/09/ nepad-spanish-fund-approves-8-2m-euros-for-african-womens-projects/>

The First Innovation Prize for Africa to be awarded in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the African Innovation Foundation (AIF) are delighted to announce the establishment of the African Innovation Prize worth USD 100,000 for the winner and USD 50,000 for the runner-up.

The prize will be presented for the first time on 26 March 2012 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on the sidelines of a Conference of African

Finance Ministers will be meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia later this month to discuss the actions needed to turn Africa into a New Growth Pole for the global economy.

The annual award is designed to promote the pursuit of science, technology and engineering careers among young African men and women and especially to develop innovative solutions with a great potential for commercialisation.

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The First Innovation...

The 2012 IPA will consist of two awards given to the two selected innovators/entrepreneurs in the following three thematic areas: ICTs; Green technology (energy and water); Health & Food security (including Agriculture). The Panel of Judges has already shortlisted seven nominees out of the 458 submissions from 38 countries:

Zeinou Abdelyamine, an industrial chemistry graduate from Algeria and founder of his own company, Bit Bait. He has two patents on manufacturing of insecticides at INAPI in Algeria. He is actively involved in research and development of environmentally friendly insecticides and rodenticides.

Rui Edgar Conceição Bram, Chief of ICT Department at National Police of Angola. He is currently developing the QINet - Digital Network of Qualification” for use in Africa, Latin America and Asia-Pacific region.

Alemayehu Hadis Getahun is an Associate Professor at Jimma University, Ethiopia. He has developed a “Fuel briquette production from coffee husk and pulp – a green and cleaner production approach for coffee waste management.” A carbonizer and an extruder machine were locally designed and fabricated at the Jimma rural technology promotion and research center and used to convert biomasses of coffee waste into fuel briquettes of required dimensions, at a very high rate.

Joel Nwakaire, lecturer in the department of Agricultural and Bioresources Engineering University of Nigeria, Nsukka. He has developed an “optimized automated biodiesel continuous production plant”, which can be used for processing various types of vegetable oils. The plant has been tested using

non-edible vegetable oil Algae and Jatropha producing good results.

Mohamed Sanad, professor at the Faculty of Engineering, Cairo University, Egypt. He has developed a low-cost, lightweight, low wind-load, foldable/deployable, multi-broadband base station antenna; using dual parabolic cylindrical reflectors with novel small size broadband resonant feeds.

Su Kahumbu Stephanou, social entrepreneur and founder of Green Dreams Ltd and Green Dreams Tech Ltd companies based in Kenya. She has developed theiCow application, which is an SMS and voice-based mobile phone application for small-scale farmers in Africa.

Evans Muchika Wadongo, founding Chair and Executive Director of Sustainable Development For All-Kenya (S.D.FA-Kenya). He has developed the 'Use Solar, Save Lives' program which involves the design, production and distribution of Solar Powered Lanterns dubbed “Mwanga Bora” to poor rural households without electricity, and he helps communities set up economic ventures from the money initially spent on kerosene.

Source: Special to ECA

Upcoming Events

- 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

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