



Economic Commission for Africa

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NEPAD TODAY

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Media actors exchange ideas on Africa's potential as new pole of global growth

A one-day media workshop was held Wednesday, for journalists from around Africa covering this year's Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

Held at the new African Union Conference Centre, the workshop provided an opportunity for journalists to interact with experts on the theme of the conference, "Unleashing Africa's potential as new pole of global growth". The Conference is expected to discuss the opportunities, the challenges and the policies needed to position Africa as the new pole of global growth.

Opening the workshop, Prof. Emmanuel Nnadozie, Director of the Economic Development and NEPAD Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) said that after a long period of stagnation in the 1970s and 1980s, Africa has re-emerged in the 21st century as a continent alive with opportunities.

"For African countries to increase growth capacity and fully unleash their potential as a new pole of global growth, the continent

must address these key development challenges such as poverty reduction and unemployment, especially, youth unemployment," he said.

For his part, Dr. Rene Kouassi N'guetta, Director of Economic Affairs of the African Union Commission, argued that Africa has the potential to become a growth pole. However, he stated that the central challenge of African countries is "to have a unified framework for negotiation and cooperation with emerging as well as old partners that will help them maximize gains in terms of trade, and other kinds of capital flows, technology transfer, loans, and aid especially from emerging large economies." He added that the challenge is especially important considering the key differences between African countries in terms of the size of the economy, level of growth, governance structures and negotiating capacity, and resource endowment.

The workshop also agreed that innovation and new technologies are crucial to maintain productivity and absorb Africa's growing labour force. In recognition of this, the meeting learned that the ECA, in collaboration with the African Innovation Foundation have established the Innovation Prize for

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Six schools in Ghana benefit from NEPAD e-school Initiative

Six schools in Ghana benefitted from the first phase of the NEPAD e-school Initiative that was adopted as a priority continental undertaking aimed at ensuring that the youth participated effectively in the global information society.

They are, Walewale Senior High School, Acherensua Senior High School, Ola Girls Senior High School, St Augustine's Senior High School, Wa Senior High School and Akomadan Senior High School.

A statement issued in Accra on Tuesday said Ghana was set to launch the new phase of NEPAD e-schools initiative this year to harness Information Communication Technology (ICT) in schools in a bid to improve the quality of teaching and learning.

It said improving on key lessons learnt from the first phase of the initiative and from best practice worldwide, a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model had been built into the e-school initiative to help tackle some of the challenges and constraints experienced in the NEPAD demonstration project.

These include finding the most feasible cost model by which schools could be financed by the banks and other leasing companies for ICT equipment, applications and maintenance.

As part of the launch a two-day Public-Private Dialogue Forum has been scheduled in Accra from Monday, March 26-27 which would bring together over 100 participants to discuss a new e-school PPP model. It would be attended by internet service providers, financial institutions, government

departments, ECOWAS, Chamber of Commerce, bilateral and multilateral institutions, Ministry of Education, Ghana National Association of Teachers (GNAT) and other stakeholders.

Source; <http://vibeghana.com/2012/03/21/six-schools-in-ghana-benefit-from-nepad-e-school-initiative/>

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Media actors...

Africa. This annual prize honours and encourages innovative achievements that contribute toward developing new products, increasing efficiency or saving costs in Africa. The first prize for the winner and runners up, worth \$100,000 And \$50,000 respectively, will be awarded on 26th March.

The workshop recognized the important role played by the media in telling Africa's positive growth and development stories, while at the same time taking care to tackle the new optimism with a critical eye. The conference, which will open on 22 March, is the fifth of such joint meetings held under the auspices of the African Union (AU) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

Source: Special to ECA

Upcoming Events

- 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
- "Review of the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Africa (CIFAA)", 26-27 March 2012, Cape Town, South Africa
- High level NEPAD Colloquium and Congress, 28 March 2012, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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