



Economic Commission for Africa

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

NEPAD TODAY

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Leadership baton changes hand at ECA: Carlos Lopes reports for duty

ECA's new Executive Secretary and UN Under Secretary-General, Mr. Carlos Lopes, assumed his new position on September 10 in Addis Ababa.

Dr. Carlos Lopes served as Director of the United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC) at the level of Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) since 2007. He also previously served as UN Assistant-Secretary-General and Director for Political Affairs in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General.



Mr. Carlos Lopes

A specialist in development and strategic planning, Dr. Lopes has authored or edited 22 books. He began, this morning, to hold "meet and greet" sessions with ECA staff and is expected to address a town hall meeting of ECA staff soon.

NEPAD Today welcomes Dr. Lopes to ECA and Addis Ababa and wishes him a most fruitful tenure.

Chief of Section
Kwabia Boateng
Editor
Yinka Adeyemi
Assistant Editor
Meseret Arega

NEPAD sourcing funds for Zambian agriculture

NEPAD has disclosed that it is mobilising funds to implement various agricultural and climate change programmes in Zambia. NEPAD, CEO, Ibrahim Mayaki says this is in view of the technical review of NEPAD facilitated agriculture projects in the country which are scheduled to be completed in November 2012. Dr Mayaki said in an exclusive interview from South Africa that NEPAD is happy with the "strong political will" exhibited by the Zambian government

to achieve the 10 percent annual national budgetary allocation benchmark. "We are working with the Ministry of agriculture to finalise the impact of climate change so that issues of climate change in agriculture are effectively tackled in Zambia," he said. He said Zambia is also conforming well to other governance issues, and that good governance is key to "unlocking" the country's potential in various sectors.

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NEPAD says biosciences can help with Africa's food security, health and climate change issues

The Finish and South African Government have committed their continued support to the NEPAD BioFISA Programme, as concrete achievements have been made in curing diseases, combating hunger and sustaining livestock. This follows a four-day meeting in Johannesburg to evaluate the impact of BioFISA, a NEPAD Programme supported by the two countries

“Using biosciences at its primary strategy, BioFISA effectively made progress in the past four years in HIV infection control, livestock disease control, bioinformatics and the development of plant genetic resources guidelines,” said Prof Luke Mumba, Director of the NEPAD Southern African Network for Bioscience (SANBio).

Prof Mumba also highlighted that BioFISA has grown and preserved mushroom production for small-scale farming, developed responsible fish farming, and promoted

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Dr Mayaki said Zambia has also proved to be a good example of democratic dispensation and transition and that this is critical to consistently implement developmental projects.

He said there is need for all African countries to prioritise the agricultural sector and empower small-scale farmers to reduce poverty. “There is need to increase priority in the agriculture sector to reduce poverty and empower small-scale farmers, we must also ensure that they own the programmes locally,” Dr Mayaki said.

For full story: <http://www.daily-mail.co.zm/?p=13430>

indigenous knowledge systems and scientific validation of traditional remedies.

Participation was drawn from South Africa's Department of Science and Technology, the Finnish Government, development partners, and SADC member states who took stock of the achievements made by BioFISA since its establishment in 2009. The Programmes uses bioscience technology to improve health and food security; boost resilience to climate change and identifies environmentally sustainable ways of producing food in the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

In terms of concrete projects, NEPAD Senior Coordinator of the CEO's Office, Mr Abdoul Salam Bello, said: “BioFISA has improved the lives of more than 600 small-scale mushroom growers in Malawi, Namibia and Swaziland. Further, more than 100 Agriculture extension officers and researchers from Angola, Namibia, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland and Zambia have been trained in mushroom farming. Through reliable methods for producing mushroom seed, training and marketing, mushroom production activities have improved in many communities in the region.”

For full story: www.nepad.org

Upcoming Event

- AU/NEPAD Science & Technology Policy Workshop, 1- 5 Oct 2012, Nairobi, Kenya
- NEPAD Briefing at the UN General Assembly 16 Oct 2012, New York, United States
- African Development Forum (ADF VIII), 23-25 October 2012 “Governing and Harnessing Natural Resources for Africa's Development”, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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