



Report on
The Information Day Meeting for the African Union Network of Sciences AUNS
held at the STRC Conference Room on the 5th May, 2016

A one day meeting was conducted in the STRC HQ with aim to introduce the African union network of Science to the relevant Nigerian Ministries and Agencies to have their buy in and support for the implementation of this project.

The meeting was having the following agenda:

- Welcome address by the AU-STRC
- Roundtable introduction by Participants
- Information on the African Union Network of Sciences
- Coffee-break and Group photographs.
- Discussion and Responses
- Closing.

The meeting attracts the participation from the following Ministries and Agencies: Ministry of Communication Technology; Ministry of Science and Technology; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Nigerian Communication Commission NCC; and Nigerian Information Technology Development Agency NITDA (list of participants are annexed)

Welcome address by the STRC:

1. Dr. Ahmed Hamdy, the Executive Director of the AU-STRC gave his welcome remarks, stating his gratitude for the turn up by the participants to the meeting. He gave a brief introduction of the STRC and its projects. He further explained the objectives of the meeting and what is expected of us.
2. The participants were called to introduce themselves.

Presentation of the project:

Mr Gilbert Byatuhairé gave a detailed presentation on the Network of Sciences which includes: the rationale and needs for the network; the goals of the network and its objectives; implementation phases; risks and its expected results among others.

Discussion and Responses

The discussions that ensued after the presentation were;

1. The tone of the discussion was set by STRC by stating the expectations from the host country.
2. The concept and the rationale were applauded by all participants and the brilliance of the idea of the Network. This will enhance technology and research in Nigeria and the continent. It was further stressed the importance of science and technology, how it pulled out countries like Japan, China, and Thailand from extreme poverty and should be a good example for Africa to effectively use its human resource and science and technology. It was underscored that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is ready to support the project.
3. The meeting note that the beneficiary of the network will be greatly on the education sector hence there is need to invite and discuss with the Nigerian University Commission. This will make it have a strong support from the academia. There is also need to extend this request to the private sector to support the project through the corporate social responsibilities.
4. The meeting was informed that NITDA has data of experts across the country that can develop software and modules and the agency have been involved in building capacity for long. In this regard the STRC was requested to engage the agency on bilateral meeting for further information.
5. The participants were informed that there is currently National Research and Innovation Council NRIC that is founded by the President of Nigeria while the Minister of Science and Technology as the Secretary be explored on the possibility of linking the network to the NRIC.
6. It was also mentioned that Nigerian Communication Commission has the vision to enhance the Broad Band Network of Nigeria and to improve accessibility to ICT by all. It also has some fund for special project and the possibility accessing such fund should be explored but in all STRC need engage the management and explores the option in which the NCC will be carried along.
7. The media is critical component of information dissemination and the STRC must use the local media to popularize such projects.
8. In response, STRC appreciated the input and concerns of the participants and stressed that Africa is indeed advancing in the science, technology, and information sharing is a key component of growth. It was stressed that Nigeria is a country with a lot of potentials/talented people who can be very useful to move the network into the next level. A request was made for the participants to furnish STRC with the modalities that will advance the project.

9. The meeting was informed that STRC will take action on the suggestions and will also engage the agencies and the ministries to further develop and strengthen the network.

Closing Remarks

Dr. Eng. Ahmed Hamdy closed the meeting by telling the representatives that they are the agents of change and there is need for them to support pan Africanism so that collectively we can build the Africa of our vision.