

AFRICAN UNION

SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND
RESEARCH COMMISSION



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TECHNIQUE ET DE LA RECHERCHE

Report on
The Informative Day Meeting for the African Union Network of Sciences AUNS
Held at the STRC Conference Room on the 16th May, 2016

The Informative day meeting was conducted in the STRC HQ with aim to introduce the African union network of Science to the relevant International Partners to have their buy in and support for the implementation of this project.

The meeting was having the following agenda:

- Welcome address by the Executive Director of 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 International Organisations and Agencies: GIZ; ARCN; AFDB; ECOWAS; and UNESCO (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 showed his appreciation to the partners, recalling that support of the partners to AU projects under the book of lighthouse projects, African Regional Action Plan for Knowledge Economy ARAPKE among others and stated his optimism for the support of the AUNS. He concluded by explaining the objectives of the meeting and what is expected of from the partners.
2. The participants were called to introduce themselves.

Presentation of the project:

Dr Mohammed Kyari extensively 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 International Partners.
2. The concept and the rationale were applauded by all the 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 the sustainability of the project. It was indicated that the African Academy of Sciences has a data base developed for its members for over four (4) years, ECOWAS has many networks some of which are: Network of Chemistry, Network of Technology of Food, Network of Life Science, Network of Mathematics among other will be of benefit to AUNS. These platforms may be used to publicize the AUNS and it can benefit the project. ECOWAS promised to popularize the AUNS project in the ECOWAS Member State through their projects.
3. It was articulated that UNESCO is part of a lot of Networks in Africa and that it should also be a part of the AUNS. There is Council of Vice Chancellors and Dean of Engineering Faculties COVISET, African Council of Science and Engineering (Einstein), Network of Environmental Science, Network of Biotechnology among others were set up in partnership with UNESCO and UNESCO is ready to come on board to assist the AUNS at the implementation stage.
4. As to the Membership of AUNS whether African Universities will be on board and the role of the diaspora in the network.
5. In response, STRC appreciated the input and concerns of the participants and stressed on the sustainability of the network where the AUC and partners will sustain the network for an inception period thereafter a business plan that will be developed with a model to follow ensuit. The thoughts on functionality and viability were preliminary studies carried out showed optimism and promising success as well as avoiding duplication as indicated in the project document of AUNS.
6. In addition, STRC stressed that RECs are implementing blocks of the AU and also informed the meeting that already over 2000 database of Members have been collected, Association of African Universities AAS, Third World Academy of Sciences TWAS, as well as diaspora organization among other are willing unveil their data to AUNS while some have done already. The project is in phases as will carry members from Universities, Research Centres and beyond.
7. The meeting was informed that STRC will take action on the suggestions and will also engage the partners for further develop and strengthen the network.

Closing Remarks

Dr. Eng. Ahmed Hamdy closed the meeting by appreciating the Participants for their contribution and readiness for further consultation.

Annex

List of participants from International Organisations and Agencies.

1. Mrs Tariundu Caroline - GIZ carolinetrimborn@giz.de
2. Mr Yarama D. Ndirpaya - ARCN yndirpaya@yahoo.com
3. Mr. Bola P. Olaoye - AfDB b.olaoye@afdb.org
4. Mr Kouakou Rolaud - ECOWAS rolaudkouakou1966@gmail.com
5. Dr Osiyi Otu - UNESCO oi.otu@unesco.org

List of participants from STRC

1. Dr. Eng. Ahmed Hamdy - hamdya@africa-union.org
2. Dr. Mohammed Kyari - mdikwa@gmail.com
3. Mr Gilbert Byatuhair - gilbertb@africa-union.org
4. Mr Philbert Bayeka - philbayeka@yahoo.com
5. Mr Nebyat Ayele - neboafro@yahoo.com
6. Mrs Marie Johnson - labellemarie15@yahoo.com