



KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AFRICA

Third KMA Conference on Knowledge to Re-Position Africa in the Global Economy

Dakar, Senegal, 4-7 May 2009

THE DAKAR DECLARATION

7 MAY 2009

1. We, the participants at the Third Knowledge Management Africa (KMA) International Conference, decision- makers, Government Officials, Ministers, eminent members of National Academies, Researchers, Academics, Private Sector Entrepreneurs, Civil Society, Diaspora Scholars, Bilateral and Multilateral Organisations, met in Dakar, Senegal from 4 to 7 May 2009 ;
2. Our conference the theme of which was “**Knowledge to reposition Africa in the Global Economy**” was co-organised by the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), the Senegal Academy of Sciences and Techniques (ANSTP) and the African Regional Centre for Technology (ARCT) under the auspices of the Government of Senegal (GoS) ;
3. We were guided by statements and keynote addresses by the President of the National Academy of Sciences and Techniques of Senegal, Professor Souleymane Niang, The Chief Executive and Managing Director of the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) Mr. Paul Baloyi, the Regional Representative of the African Development Bank (AfDB) Dr. Mohamed H'Midouche, the Regional Representative of the Islamic Development Bank, Dr. Saïdou Barry, the Regional Director of IDRC, Dr. Kathryn Toure and the Regional Director of AUF, Professor Emile Tanawa ;

4. His Excellency, the Senegalese Minister of Scientific Research, Professor Amadou Tidiane Ba conveyed a message from Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade and delivered an important opening statement ;
5. We drew inspiration from these messages and statements, and resolve to uphold conclusions from KMA I and KMA II on Knowledge and Africa's Socio-Economic Challenges and Knowledge to Re-mobilise Africa, respectively. In KMA III we extensively discussed how <<Knowledge Management>> could help <<Re-Position Africa in the Global Economy>> in a world struggling with multifaceted crises, including a food crisis, an energy crisis, a pervasive financial crisis with far-reaching impacts on the economies of developed and developing countries, and with the prevalence of diseases such as HIV/AIDS, Malaria , Tuberculosis, and malnutrition . The continent is also facing environmental challenges hinging on climate change, desertification and coastal erosion ;
6. We are mindful of the need to link the re-positioning of Africa in the global economy with efforts underway to re-position our continent in the global governance system as called for by a Forum on Governance initiated by President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal;
7. We were inspired by the determination of the DBSA leadership to move from rhetoric to concrete action-oriented programmes such as infrastructure development, knowledge and skills development, and a more efficient mobilization and utilization of resources available for sustained growth and sustainable development ;
8. We also noted commendable efforts by the AfDB to promote knowledge as a centrepiece in its agenda for the continent and related institutional changes and partnerships underway to drive the bank's knowledge management agenda ;
9. We were equally inspired by the wisdom of the Guest of Honour to our conference, Professor Amadou Mahtar Mbow, a former Director General of UNESCO - who reminded us of Africa's great potentials, including its growing and young population and abundant natural resource endowments which are to be unleashed by the ongoing information revolution ushered in by exponential growth in the ICT sector;
10. We noted that with the ongoing development of environmentally sound frontier technologies including bio-technologies, nano-technologies, space technologies, new and renewable energies such as bio-fuels, solar, marine and nuclear energies, Africa could experience a quantum-leap towards sustainable growth and development. Knowledge should, however, be efficiently managed and the appropriate skills mix be developed for the implementation of major programmes such as the Great Green wall being "erected" across the Sahel";
11. We urge the DBSA, AfDB and other partners to support the Centres of Excellence and their databases and networks of experts that need to be strengthened and reinforced to spearhead Africa's efforts in the generation, acquisition, mastering and dissemination of technologies for the transformation of our economies. We therefore urge all regional,

continental, bilateral and multilateral partners to accelerate their efforts to identify, establish and/or strengthen Centres of Excellence as knowledge repositories and knowledge management units. We further call for mobility across language barriers of scientists, visiting professors and other scholars. To this end, African governments should take the necessary steps to facilitate such movements (visas etc.). Furthermore these centers should promote knowledge sharing and federate related initiatives ;

12. The DBSA is emulating earlier efforts by the OAU and ECA and deserves our congratulations and encouragement. This is in line with the DBSA leadership's resolve to shift its efforts to concrete applications as opposed to rhetoric ;
13. We are convinced that indigenous development models emphasizing the optimal utilization of domestic factors of production, including human resources, natural and cultural resources, could make our own continent an efficient player in the world economy, thus strategically re-positioning Africa in the emerging world order ;
14. We acknowledged the congenial environment conducive to new opportunities for Africa to benefit from the readiness of our partners in the developed and emerging countries to contribute to infrastructure and food security in Africa and to help to develop knowledge and skills to this end ;
15. We are convinced that these are ingredients to the economic transformation we call for and which constitute the requisite conditions to re-position Africa in the global economy as a meaningful player in value-addition, industrialization, and trade ;
16. In addition to these basic requirements for Africa to mobilize more local and foreign investments, we need to develop knowledge and skills to master value chains in our enterprises for enhanced efficiency and competitiveness. We therefore welcome related programmes to be promoted in Africa, with the assistance of multilateral institutions. We also call for these programmes to provide for entrepreneurship development through incubators, replication of more advanced business models and the transfer of research results and technologies from research centres to manufacturing enterprises engaged in processing local raw materials ;
17. Far-reaching discussions have taken place and action-oriented outcomes have been developed during our conference, in particular during exchanges at the Exhibition and Round Tables on subjects such as:

- I. Knowledge Management Systems, Experiences, Lessons and Prospects for Africa
- II. KMA Sustainability and Governance

18. In addition, five track meetings focussed on:

- I. Knowledge Management and Economic Challenges
 - II. Knowledge Management and Social Challenges
 - III. Knowledge Management and Environmental Challenges
 - IV. Knowledge Management and Governance
 - V. Emerging Technologies and Innovation
19. Our debates throughout these parallel sessions have been rich, and our conclusions and recommendations far-reaching and action-oriented. We therefore wish to express deep appreciation to all contributors and authors of the well written and thought-provoking discussion papers. We also express gratitude for the informative presentations made at plenary sessions of our conference on:
- I. Knowledge Management to Improve Public Service Delivery by Dr Snowy Khoza, president of KMA at the DBSA ;
 - II. Technology and Knowledge Management for Africa’s Sustainable Development by Dr Ousmane Kane, Executive Director of ARCT;
 - III. ICT Evolution in Africa: Challenges and Prospects by Dr Alassane Dialy Ndiaye, Vice-President of ANSTS;
 - IV. Knowledge Management and International Research Development: Collaboration with the African Scientific Diaspora by Prof. Saliah-Hassane Hamadou of UQAM.
20. We regard these papers, together with the keynote address and opening speeches, as key documents of the conference; these reports have guided all our deliberations ;
21. All these papers point to the importance of local factors (governance, infrastructure, technologies, education) in development and indispensable ingredients for the efficiency and competitiveness Africa needs for its re-positioning in the global economy as a meaningful player and an active partner ;
22. In the same vein, indigenous knowledge is to be promoted and local intellectual property rights protected. Experiences of the African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation (ARIPO) and of the African Organisation of Intellectual Property (OAPI) should be tapped to this end ;
23. We wish to make special mention of the rapid progress being made by Africa in the area of telecommunications and other ICT initiatives, and the powerful potential of such tools as the vehicles for Africa to leap-frog progress in accessing modern technologies and enhancing efficiency in participatory governance systems, through e-governance.
24. The technology life cycle is an indication of knowledge being a living evolving reality requiring innovative approaches to keep it current. This calls for anticipative capacities supported by future studies in cooperation, *inter-alia*, with the African Futures Project ;
25. We particularly appreciate and salute the African Diaspora, and “Friends of Africa’s” contribution to our debates. Tele-laboratories and other forms of virtual campuses will certainly provide appropriate responses to the overwhelming demand for education and skills development in Africa. We therefore urge the AfDB, DBSA, ARCT and other partners to take the lead in promoting pilot projects in the areas of virtual campuses and tele-laboratories to accelerate scientific research and teaching in Africa. This is a way of promoting brain gain

and mitigating brain drain. We also urge countries hosting members of the African scientific Diaspora to facilitate this exchange ;

26. to thank contributors such as ADB, ARCT, ASTF, AUF, CACTAT/UQTR, CTA, DBSA, IDRC, IsDB, ISTIC, MAE, UEMOA, UNECA, and UNESCO who actively participated in the Round Tables, for sharing their knowledge management experiences with us and giving us ideas on how KMA could evolve if sustainability is to be ensured ;
27. We wish to place on record sincere thanks and deep appreciation to the DBSA for its leadership, financial and human resources support, and for its stewardship of KMA. We further call on the DBSA to continue the decentralization process through the implementation of KMA sub-regional chapters, with the following mandates:
 - Southern Africa - promotion of indigenous knowledge systems
 - Eastern Africa - capacity building and education
 - West Africa - technological and scientific research
 - North Africa - taking knowledge products and services to the market
 - Central Africa (to be determined)

These mandates are given in addition to the following cross-cutting themes for all Chapters:

- Policy reforms on service delivery improvements - engaging civil society and their needs and priorities, language, must be taken into consideration;
 - Protection of Intellectual Property Rights across all areas;
 - Entrepreneurship linked to market access as envisaged in the North Africa focus
 - Ensuring Africa's relationship with the rest of the world;
 - Elevated role of the media in knowledge sharing taking language into consideration;
 - The systematic collection of indigenous and other local knowledge and technologies and their preservation and protection;
28. DBSA/KMA intermediate activities should continue during the period running up until KMA IV so as to enable the completion of projects such as the promotion of Regional Centres of Excellence and the organisation of technical workshops and possibly the establishment of the KMA information and documentation system.
 29. With regard to KMA sustainability and Governance, We call for the establishment of the KMA Foundation as a coordinating and open access resource mobilisation mechanism. The institutional structure will be in the form of a lean Secretariat and a Governing Board involving the DBSA, the South African Government, the Kenyan Government, the Senegalese Government, AfDB, ANSTS, ARCT, IDRC, IsDB. To this end, we mandate DBSA to undertake the necessary studies and to prepare draft Statutes for the KMA Foundation for consideration by a meeting of major stakeholders.
 30. The KMA Foundation funding sources will include:
 - Fees from Individuals, institutions, National Governments and KMA Sub-regional Chapters
 - Donor funding
 - Diaspora and "friends of Africa" funds
 - Contributions from, *inter-alia*, the Private sector and Regional Economic Communities, etc.

31. We further call for the adoption of a Vision 2020 articulated as follows:

“Managing our African knowledge heritage to improve the quality of life of our people in the Continent - supported by African knowledge workers in the continent, the Diaspora, and ‘friends of Africa’”.

This vision and related plans will help us monitor progress in the KMA processes;

32. Finally, we wish to, once again, express our deep appreciation to the Government and People of Senegal for their hospitality and for the excellent facilities put at our disposal which contributed to the success of our conference ;
33. We also wish to express deep appreciation and thanks to President Abdoulaye Wade under the patronage of whom our conference has taken place and we count on his continued support of KMA ;
34. We also wish to thank the AfDB for its strong commitment to KMA, and for its intellectual, material and financial contributions all along the KMA process ;
35. We thank <<Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie>> (AUF), the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), the Canadian Agency for International Development (CIDA), the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP/UE (CTA) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), for their financial support to the conference. We also count on their continued support to KMA ;
36. We also wish to place on record our appreciation of the important role of the media in the KMA process and we call for closer collaboration between KMA and the media ;
37. Reports on the Round Tables and the Track sessions are part of the records of the conference and will be attached to our declaration, as annexes ;

Done in Dakar, 07 May 2009

THE PARTICIPANTS

ANNEX I : LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADB	:	African Development Bank
ANSTS	:	National Academy of Sciences and Techniques of Senegal
ARCT	:	African Regional Centre for Technology
ARIPO	:	African Regional Industrial Property Organisation
ASTF	:	Arab Science and Technology Foundation
AUF	:	Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie
CACTAT	:	Centre Afrique-Canada pour le Transfert et l'Adaptation de Technologie
CIDA	:	Canadian Agency for International Development
CTA	:	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (EU-ACP)
DBSA	:	Development Bank of Southern Africa
Gos	:	Government of Senegal
IsDB	:	Islamic Development Bank
IDRC	:	International Research Development Center
ISTIC	:	International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre for South- South Cooperation Under the auspices of UNESCO
MAE	:	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Senegal
OAPI	:	African Intellectual Property Organisation
OUA	:	Organisation de l'Unité Africaine
UEMOA	:	Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine
UNECA	:	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNESCO	:	UN Education, Science and Culture Organization
UQAM	:	University of Quebec at Montréal, Canada
UQTR	:	University of Quebec at Trois-Rivières