

**REPORT ON THE PACN PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP, 22 June 2010
UNECA conference centre, Ethiopia**

**AFRICA'S WATER QUALITY: A CHEMICAL SCIENCE PERSPECTIVE,
ORGANISED BY PACN**

The objectives of the workshop were to review the key messages and recommendations arising from the PACN water report and to discuss partnerships and implementation strategies.

The minister of water, HE Asfaw Dingamo, opened the meeting by setting the scene in regard to Africa's water quality, the critical importance of accessible drinking water to health and well being, and the effect of water borne diseases in killing more children than AIDS, malaria and TB combined. Dingamo explained his government's efforts in improving usage of surface waters including substantial consequences for increased agricultural productivity by setting up 155 k hectares of irrigable land under large, medium and small scale irrigations schemes and by developing regulatory frameworks to protect water resources. However, he noted the urgent need for Africa to provide sustainable supplies of water for all and to protect better its natural resources through improved management, advances that depend on the application of appropriate S&T&I strategies. Key actions include use of inexpensive water purification technologies, the application of biotechnology and developments in nanotechnology for water quality improvement, and waste water treatment and utilisation and desalinization. These provide new areas of confluence of interest for African scientists and should be encouraged and strongly supported.

Topics of discussion during this session were:

- African water quality and the role of S&T&I and infrastructure and of governments. Shem Wandiga and Steve Ntifo presented two talks aimed at stimulating the discussion.
- Innovation and the water challenge. Feleke Zewge and Kevin McGuigan describe two new ways of purifying water: the SODIS water treatment method and the use of *moringa oleifera* seeds.
- Agriculture, water and sanitation were addressed in a presentation from Simon Cook.



From left to right: Steve Ntifo, Kevin McGuigan, Minister of Water Resources Government of Ethiopia, Simon Cook, Alejandra Palermo, Alex Tindimubona, Shem Wandiga, Feleke Zewge, participants invited from Sudan and Ethiopia ministries of water.

REPORT ON THE SCIENCE WITH AFRICA CONFERENCE, 23-25 JUNE 2010

SAWI outlined the roadmap for advancing science and technology development for socio-economic prosperity of Africa. Meeting outcomes were:

- The development of an African Innovation Framework
- The establishment of the African Science and Technology endowments funds (ASTIF) launched at SAWII
- A consultation forum on the science of climate change and economic prosperity in Africa.

The topic “Science, Innovation and Entrepreneurship” sought to identify policies, measures and mechanisms required for economic development and sustainable growth through S&T&I and entrepreneurship. HE Mr Juneydi Saddo, Minister of Science and Technology of Ethiopia opened the meeting. Saddo emphasized that building the capacity to transfer, adapt and use technologies is essential to accelerate socio-economic development, eradicate poverty, reduce technological dependence and ensure national security. The minister also noted that his experience in the S&T&I sector has convinced him that a strong and dynamic national innovation system could become a reality if and only if governments were committed to playing leadership roles through national policies, prioritisation of scientific and technological programs, promoting the linkage industry/academia/research institutions and providing adequate resources. Other speakers were HE Mr Abdoulie Janneh, the UN Under Secretary-General and ECA Executive Secretary, Dr Vera Brenda Ngosi, Director of Human Resources Science and Technology of the African Union, HE Professor Jean Pierre Ezin, commissioner for HRST at the African Union and UNESCO Assistant Director General, Professor Gretchen Kalonji. During the opening ceremony it was announced that the African Union is establishing a Pan-African University which aims to become a link between Africa’s higher education and research institutes and industrial bodies—more detailed information to follow. UNESCO’s overarching priorities are gender equality and Africa STI, especially in the areas of water management, renewable energy and earth science education

The conference was preceded by a variety of pre-conference workshops:

- Launch of the network of technology development transfer
- Innovation, IPRs and entrepreneurship in Ethiopia
- National Academy of Sciences and science councils of francophone countries
- PACN “Africa’s water quality” report
- Science, innovation and communication (journalists’ workshop)

The plenary sessions dealt with the following topics:

- STI and entrepreneurship
- STI investment
- Protecting African patents and bioassets
- African inventions
- Women and innovation
- Food and Agriculture (Syngenta)

Breakout sessions provided opportunities for in-depth discussion, duly reported back to the plenary session, in regard to the following topics:

- Climate change (2 days)
- ICT (2 days)
- Agriculture (2 days)
- Water, Energy and Transport (2 days)
- IPRs (1 day)
- Health and life sciences (1 day)
- Green science and technology (1 day)

A full draft report on SAWII will be circulated to all speakers and rapporteurs by July 20 with the aim of producing the final report by the end of July 2010.

AP acted as rapporteur for the Water, Energy and Transport workshop, a 2-day event. The resulting report that was presented by her to UNECA as general rapporteur for this session is attached in a separate file. (APPENDIX 3)



Alejandra Palermo, 28 June 2010