Africa at crossroads: Education and STI as premises for development

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Introduction

Issues to deal with:
- Absolute poverty
- Food Crisis
- Energy crisis
- Financial crises
- Global Environmental Changes
- HIV/AIDS, Malaria and others

Low-income, populations living in rural areas, most are unskilled labourers working as subsistence farmers and above 60% are illiterate, peripheral in the decision making, central in the impacts of global policies and actions, and vulnerable.
Poverty trap? Can we break it?

Poverty trap:
- Extreme poverty
- Low income
- Low productivity/low quality
- Illiteracy/poor health
- No access to resources and services

Development:
- Economic growth/access to markets
- Innovation/high productivity
- MDGs

Positive cycle:
- Poverty reduced
- Literacy/health/elect./water
- Equality/democracy
- MDGs
- Economic growth/access to markets
- Innovation/high productivity
- MDGs

Investments:
- Access to K&T
- Access to services
- Good governance & Dev priorities
Our biggest challenge?

Resources

Technology

Market

Terms of trade

Power

Equity/Autonomy

Values and good governance

Development & growth

Happiness and joy
The Development Vision and Models have to mobilize the social energy

Culture of Science
Based in the countries’ potential to solve global issues;
Local knowledge and innovation capacities;
Based on the local realities and addressing the common good;
Inclusive
People’s centered
ETHICS
EMPOWERMENT
Sustainability

- Can we talk about the contraction of sustainable societies, with differentiated economical and technological options, geared towards the harmonious development of people and their relationship with the natural world?
- A change in values, behaviors and lifestyles required for a sustainable future. A complex combination of 5 characteristics of eco-systems: interdependence, recycle, partnership, flexibility and diversity.
Improved living conditions, economic growth and environmental sustainability

Access and trade conditions

Better governance

Higher production

Better services

Efficiency

Quality

Awareness

Human capital

Social cohesion

Quality Education for All

Access to Knowledge
Strategies to be used (1)

1. Quality Education for all:

• Transformation of mentalities and visions;
• Abilities to transform those visions into reality;
• Building scientific and technical skills and social support to apply them;
• Build up conviction and commitment for pursuing sustainable development;
Three major conclusions can be drawn:

1. The **content** of the educational system itself has **to be adapted**. It should teach skills and knowledge that equip the pupils for a life immediately after school.

2. Strategies such as **lifelong education** that enables people to acquire skills and knowledge according to their specific needs and capacities according to their life-stage have to be developed, including distant education.

3. **Knowledge** has **to be made accessible outside the context of formal education** and schools.
Educational institutions:

- We need a new vision of education, a vision that sees education as a means to help people to decide on the basis of a better analysis of the world in which they live and to project their future.

- UNESCO (Strategy for ESD 2004) defends that we have to develop actions to reorient our education systems, policies and practices in order to empower everyone, to make decisions and act in relevant ways to readdress the problems that threaten our common future.
2. **STI policies** that are cross-cutting and creating a structural basis for the other policies:
   - Strengthening Science education at all levels;
   - Improve and scale-up research programs in crucial areas for development;
   - A new approach of research that goes beyond research *about* Africa, moving towards research *for* Africa and *by* Africans;
   - Spur innovation in the productive sector, including SMEs;
   - Popularize Science in society.
Are you doing it?

An Africa well integrated into the global economy and free of poverty
(AST – CPA, NEPAD 2007)

A new Vision?

Science and Technology to mobilize, through innovation, the social energy needed for the development of Africa and its People.
Bring ethics to the centre of the development agenda

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Strategies to be used (3)

3. Build strong **Partnerships and Networks** that ensures knowledge production and identification of existing knowledge and builds bridges between development actors

- Deep understanding of factors influencing global policy making processes;
- Capacity to contextualize the policies at national and regional level;
- Capacity to critically analyze impacts;
- Capacity to develop alternative policies.
What are the challenges?

- Human-resources
- Infra-structure
- Institutional setting
- the lack of long-term vision and commitment towards an integration of policies and approaches in the development strategies in Africa – Leadership
Concluding Remarks

- Leadership:
  - Values and Principles
  - Open and robust dialogue
  - Shared Governance and responsibilities
  - Ownership
  - Commitment
  - Partnerships and networks

Thank you