



Madagascar is first country in new project for national implementation of NEPAD

A national workshop on NEPAD – the first in a new NEPAD Stakeholder Engagement project – was held in Antananarivo, Madagascar on 5-6 June, 2007. It was opened by the Minister of Economy, Planning, Private Sector and Commerce, Harrison Randriarimanana, who also addressed participants.

The NEPAD delegation at the Antananarivo workshop, together with Madagascar's Minister of Economy, Planning, Private Sector and Commerce, Harrison Randriarimanana.

The overall aim of the project, developed by the NEPAD Secretariat last year, is to enhance stakeholder engagement for the effective implementation of NEPAD at national level, ensure integration of NEPAD programmes and principles into national development plans, as well as attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Specifically though, the project seeks to achieve the following objectives:

Raise awareness of NEPAD, through media and other activities;

Convene workshops with national stakeholders; and

Engage with government departments.

The Madagascar workshop was held in collaboration with the Ministry of Economy, Planning, Private Sector and Commerce and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The aim was to share information and identify opportunities for enhancing synergies between the Madagascar Action Plan (MAP) 2007-2012 and NEPAD.

Representatives from various Government ministries and departments, including Parliament, the private sector and civil society attended the workshop.

The NEPAD delegation to the Madagascar workshop visited this school which is part of the NEPAD e-Schools project.

The NEPAD Secretariat delegation was headed by Dr. Hespina Rukato and comprised of Dr. Philyp Mawoko of the NEPAD e-Africa Commission, Ms Thaninga Shope-Linney, General Manager Communications and Outreach, Mr. Louis Napo, Manager Media, Ms Patricia Matope, NEPAD resident translator and events coordinator, and Mr. John Rocha, consultant to the NEPAD Secretariat on National processes.

A representative from the SADC Secretariat also attended the workshop.

Presentations on NEPAD included an overview on the history of NEPAD and an update on its implementation, the African Peer Review Mechanism as well as the e-Africa Commission initiatives on Information Technology and Communication and the e-schools project.

In the spirit of partnership and the need to ensure synergies, a presentation on the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) was also made, followed by detailed presentations and discussions on the MAP.

The workshop recommended the need for:

The establishment of an inclusive National Committee on NEPAD with representatives from Government, the private sector and civil society;

Strengthening the participation of civil society and the private sector in the implementation of NEPAD programmes, including among others targeting universities on issues related to ICT and education in general;

Facilitation and assistance by NEPAD, the SADC and COMESA to strengthen partnerships for implementation of NEPAD-related objectives and priorities reflected in the MAP;

A structured national debate on the significance of accession by Madagascar to the African Peer Review Mechanism as well as on the need to strengthen the development of human capital and national leadership for the successful implementation of the MAP.

The workshop identified synergies and agreed that there were opportunities for stronger cooperation involving the people and government of Madagascar, the Regional Economic Communities, particularly the SADC, COMESA and NEPAD.

It also established a solid foundation for follow-up action, by taking advantage of the synergy between NEPAD, RISDP and MAP, particularly in agriculture, infrastructure, ICT and governance sectors. Capacity development was also identified as an area requiring urgent attention.

At the end of the workshop, the NEPAD delegation had an opportunity to visit a school that is part of the NEPAD e-schools project.