



Nothing for Us, Without Us

Workshop Proceedings Report:
African Youth Forum for Science and Technology (AYFST)
5th Steering Committee Meeting and Workshop
August 9 -11, 2010, Accra, Ghana

By Marsden N. Momanyi
and Dr. Kevin Urama





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We are very grateful for the following who participated in the discussions and those without whom the workshop and the proceedings report would not have been possible:

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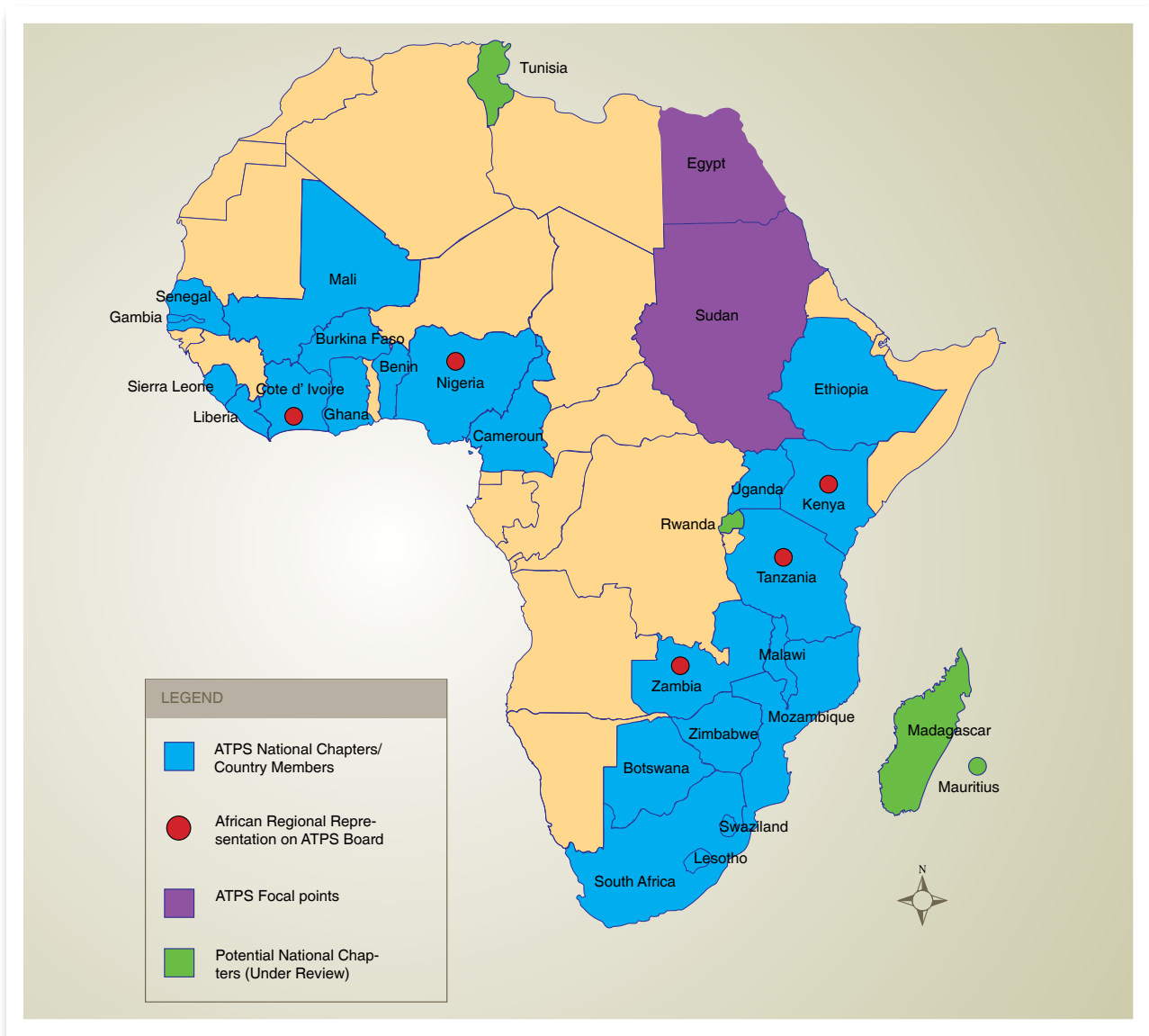
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About ATPS



The African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS) is a multi-disciplinary network of researchers, private sector actors, policy makers and civil society actors promoting the generation, dissemination, use and mastery of science, technology and innovation (STI) for African development, environmental sustainability and global inclusion. Its mission is to improve the quality of STI research, policy and practice for sustainable development in Africa, by Africans and for Africa. In collaboration with like-minded institutions, ATPS provides platforms

for regional and international research and knowledge sharing for the identification and prioritization, development, use and mastery of STI for sustainable social, economic and environmental development in Africa. With a Secretariat Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, it operates through National Chapters in 23 countries (including Anglophone, Lusophone and Francophone countries) with an expansion plan to cover the entire sub-Saharan Africa, by 2015.



Foreword:



Africa's youth constitute around 14.1 percent of the global youth population, and they make up a relatively large proportion of the total population in most countries in Africa. A large youth population in emerging economies represents a significant economic resource since a young working population can drive economic growth and offset the social costs of an ageing population. Thus if the right policies are in place, the current youth bulge represents a significant opportunity for growth and economic development in Africa.

The African Youth Forum for Science and Technology (AYFST) offers an ideal platform to build the science, technology and innovative capacity of these potential movers of Africa's economy. ATPS believes that the key to wealth creation and sustainable development in Africa lies in its innovative capacity because innovation drives productivity growth, which in turn leads to better standards of living. It is also our view that one of the continent's key assets in terms of potential innovative capacity lies in its large youth population.

Africa's youth with their restless energy and their propensity to embrace change and take calculated risks are therefore poised to become the prime shapers of sustainable development in Africa through

Science, Technology and Innovation (STI). It is for this reason that I have so often emphasized the need for the youth to be involved actively at every stage of the development process. They must play their part like an integral cog in the machine that is their respective national systems of innovation.

Since its inception in 2005, AYFST has grown tremendously, catalyzing vibrant individuals and groups of youth who are passionate about STI. With a membership drawn from 17 countries in Africa, AYFST is quickly becoming the STI think-tank for youths in Africa. Contrary to common misconception that the political class, scholars and the bureaucracy are the only capable advisors to Africa's leaders, AYFST members are slowly realizing that given their stake in Africa's economic and social development, they too have a role to play in designing the solutions to the continent's challenges. The title of this report "Nothing for us, without us," is a public declaration by AYFST that the youth are prepared to engage actively in shaping the policies that have a direct impact on their futures.

Prosperity in the global economy requires new ways of thinking and bold strategies to catalyze growth through innovative approaches in business and enterprise development, agriculture, health, environment and other development sectors. The youth are therefore the ideal proponents of this new wave of STI consciousness and renaissance. Perhaps the global music and entertainment industry, which is driven largely by the youth, best exemplifies a thriving youth-led innovation culture. We believe that if the youth approach STI research and research capacity building with the same zeal, given the right policy and investment climate, Africa will surely be propelled towards prosperity.

There is no shortage of brilliant ideas by Africa's youth. What is lacking, however, is the holistic systems approach, and the additional knowledge and capacity needed to upscale, commercialize and

“Since its inception AYFST has grown tremendously, catalyzing vibrant individuals and groups of youth who are passionate about STI.”

protect the intellectual property associated with their technological prototypes and inventions. This continues to hinder youth-led innovation and has created many widowed innovators.

Every year, members of the AYFST converge during ATPS workshops and conferences to brainstorm and air their views on how African Governments and businesses can enhance opportunities for people to escape poverty and improve their lives through STI. These gatherings also provide opportunities for ATPS to support the youth, through offering advice and mentorship, with an aim to strengthening their STI capacities. This report provides insights into the deliberations of the members of the steering arm of AYFST during their 2010 meeting, which was held in Accra Ghana.

The Accra meeting signifies a mindset change amongst the membership of AYFST and I am pleased to note that many of them now view the programme differently: less as a forum for empowering or advocating for their rights, denied them by the “powers that be,” and more as a call to action by the youth to immerse themselves in the global STI dialogues and practices. They clearly demonstrated their willingness to take ownership of such youth initiatives and

capitalize on the available opportunities to strengthen their STI knowledge-base, critical and analytical skills, innovative capacities as well as their research and development capabilities through increased participation in scholarships, grants, competitions and awards resources at national, regional and global levels.

Africa, replete with all its natural resources and its large and under-served markets waiting to be supplied with essential services, offers a green platform for youth to innovate. The youth involved in this programme continue to symbolize a growing shift from Africa’s preoccupation with its problems, to a new way of looking at these challenges as opportunities.

We are beginning to witness more African governments and the private sector stepping up their support for various youth projects and innovations, and ATPS is committed to supporting AYFST and enhancing the skills and capacity of the next generation of innovators.

*Dr. Kevin Chika Urama
Executive Director, ATPS*

“Africa, replete with all its natural resources and its large and under-served markets, offers a green platform for youth to innovate.”

List of Abbreviations:

ACTS	African Centre for Technology Studies
AGM	Annual General Meeting
ATPS	African Technology Policy Studies Network
AWFST	African Women Forum for Science and Technology
AYFST	African Youth Forum for Science and Technology
CSIR	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
CTA	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EML	Einstein Minds Lesotho
EU	European Union
FARA	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/ Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IK	Indigenous Knowledge
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
KEPSA	Kenya Private Sector Alliance
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NARO	National Agricultural Research Organisation
NCST	National Council for Science and Technology
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGOs	Non Governmental Organisations
NIS	National Innovation Systems
RUFORUM	Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture
SET-DEV	Science, Ethics and Technological Responsibility in Developing and Emerging Countries
SSA	Sub-Saharan Africa
STEPRI	Science and Technology Policy Research Institute
STI	Science, Technology and Innovation
SWOT	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats
WE CAN	Women Innovation Challenge Programme
YADSTI	Youth Agency for Development of Science Technology and Innovations
YI CAN	Youth Innovation Challenge Programme

Table of Contents:

Introduction	9
The 5th AYFST Steering Committee Meeting	10
Specific Objectives	10
Expected Outcomes	10
Communiqué and Resolutions	13
Feed back from the Youth on the ATPS on Mid Term Review	13
Fundraising	14
Communications and Outreach/Website	15
Membership	15
Conclusion	18
AYFST Declaration	18
Young People's Role in Innovation	19
Taking the Initiative	19
Youth taking the lead	
Speech by the Chair (AYFST) Shaping the Future of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for Development in Africa	20
Re-engineering our learning systems	20
Youth taking the lead	20
Utilizing Online Networks	21
Involving Diaspora	22
Climate Change Innovation Award 2010	23
Annex 1: Participants list	26
Annex 2: Workshop programme	28

Introduction:



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Youth Innovation Challenge Programme

The African Youth Forum for Science and Technology (AYFST) is amongst the priority programmes of the ATPS Phase VI Strategic Plan (2008-2012). AYFST was initiated by ATPS in 2005 in collaboration with the ACP-EU Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA, the Netherlands). Since then, AYFST has provided a useful platform for Africa's young scientists, researchers, innovators, inventors, farmers, economists and entrepreneurs to build capacity in science, technology and innovation (STI) policy research, dialogue and practice.

The forum was formerly launched during the second African youth congress on science and technology in Accra, Ghana, which was co-organized by ATPS, CTA, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), among other partners (For more information please visit: <http://ayfst.atpsnet.org/>).

In 2009, the Youth Innovation Challenge (Y I CAN) initiative was launched as a flagship programme of AYFST under the ATPS Phase VI Strategic Plan. The Y I CAN programme was designed

to build a culture of innovation amongst the youth in Africa through targeted linkages with researchers, policy makers, private sector and civil society, and through entrepreneurship incubation initiatives. (For more information about the Y I CAN initiative, please refer to: http://www.atpsnet.org/programmes/YGP/Y_I_CAN/index.php).

Prior to the 5th AYFST Steering Committee Meeting and workshop, held in Ghana, its members met on November 27, 2009 in Abuja, Nigeria, to plan for the inaugural award scheme under the newly launched Y I CAN programme. The outcome of that meeting was the 2010 Youth Climate Change Innovation Award, which aims to build the capacity of Africa's youth in climate change adaptation, mitigation and resilience through science, technology and innovation. (For more information about the call for concept papers, please refer to page 23 of this report or go to: http://www.atpsnet.org/media_centre/focus/CCIA2010/index.php)

AYFST Vision:

Empowered African communities that enjoy sustainable livelihoods

AYFST Mission:

To build the capacity of Africa's youth in science, technology and innovation and empower them to participate in policy formulation processes and advocacy for sustainable development

Objectives:

- To build the capacity of Africa's youth through training, information sharing, networking and dialogue in relevant topical and developmental issues;
- To promote youth participation in science, technology and innovation policy formulation and implementation processes at all levels for Africa's development;
- To promote a culture of science, technology and innovation consciousness amongst Africa's youth; and
- To promote youth-led, demand-driven research and development initiatives in science, technology and innovation

The 5th AYFST Steering Committee Meeting

The 5th AYFST Steering Committee Meeting and workshop was held from August 9-11, 2010 in Ghana. The Ghana National Chapter of ATPS hosted the three-day event in Accra, the symbolic birthplace of AYFST. The AYFST event brought together members from Benin, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zambia.

The AYFST event was a follow-up to the 4th AYFST Steering Committee Meeting and launch of the Y I CAN initiative that were held from July 13 – 16, 2009 in Mombasa, Kenya as well as the planning meeting for the 2010 Youth Climate Change Innovation Award, held on November 27, 2009 in Abuja, Nigeria.

“The Youth Innovation Challenge was launched to help build a culture of innovation amongst the youth in Africa through targeted linkages with researchers, policy makers, private sector and civil society, and through entrepreneurship incubation initiatives.”

The main objective of the meeting was to sensitize the youth on their role in leading Africa to economic and social prosperity through increased capacity and participation in science, technology and innovation policy research, dialogue and practice. The AYFST event was held alongside the Interim Steering Committee Meeting of the African Women’s Forum on Science and Technology (AWFST), which is its sister programme.

The specific objectives were:

- Review progress on the implementation of the AYFST Plan of Action (2007-2010);
- Devise actionable strategies that will increase the capacity and level of participation of Africa’s youth in science, technology and innovation policy research, dialogue and practice (Plan of Action 2010 – 2012);
- Take stock of progress made by ATPS, two and a half years into the implementation of its Phase VI Strategic Plan (2008 – 2012);
- Review the 2010 Youth Climate Change Innovation Award concept papers; and
- Launch the new AYFST sub-site and develop strategies to populate it, and use it as a tool for promoting science, technology and innovation for Africa’s development

Expected outcomes:

The 5th AYFST Steering Committee Meeting and workshop realized the following outcomes:

- Progress on the implementation of the AYFST Plan of Action (2007-2010) reviewed and recommendations made for the AYFST 2010/11 Plan of Action;
- AYFST National Chapters committed to engaging their respective members as well as ATPS partner institutions (such as National Commissions for Science and Technology); National youth institutions; Ministries of Youth, and other stakeholders to submit proposed activities for inclusion in the AYFST 2010/11 Plan of Action by September 30, 2010.

*Continued from page 11***Expected outcomes continued:**

The 5th AYFST Steering Committee Meeting and workshop realized the following outcomes:

- Progress in implementation of the ATPS Phase VI Strategic Plan (2008-2012) reviewed and recommendations made for improvement;
- 2010 Youth Climate Change Innovation Award concept papers reviewed and recommendations made to improve future competitions;
- AYFST sub-site launched and strategies formulated to populate it, and use it as a tool for promoting science, technology and innovation for Africa's development;
- African youth committed to promoting the relevance of science, technology and innovation in Africa's development, lobbying Governments, Civil Society Organizations and the Private Sector; and
- A workshop communiqué capturing key resolutions for dissemination through the media in Africa and submission to relevant government agencies and representatives of the international community



Participants during the 5th AYFST Steering Committee Meeting held in Accra Ghana

Communiqué and Resolutions

Communiqué and Resolutions of the 5th African Youth Forum on Science and Technology (AYFST) Steering Committee Meeting held at Mensvic Hotel, Accra, Ghana, 09 - 11 July, 2010

- 1.0 We the members of the 5th African Youth Forum on Science and Technology (AYFST) Steering Committee wish to thank ATPS Ghana National Chapter Coordinator, Dr Fred Amu-Mensah for hosting the meeting. We thank the ATPS Secretariat for choosing Ghana, which is fitting because it marks a symbolic return to the birthplace of AYFST; launched in Accra during the 2nd African youth congress on science and technology in 2006.
- 2.0 We would also like to express our gratitude to the Chair of the African Women's Forum for Science and Technology (AWFST), Professor Agnes Mwang'ombe, for her opening remarks in which she called on African Governments to apply science and technology innovations to utilize natural resources to create jobs for their people. We appreciate her call for more support to ensure the youth remain focused in science and technology.
- 3.0 The 5th AYFST Steering Committee appreciates the advice given by the Executive Director of ATPS, Dr. Kevin Urama and agrees to heed his call to the youths of Africa, to refrain from being mere critics and to become constructive analysts who have a greater interest in finding solutions and the way forward for African development.

Feed back from the Youth on the ATPS on Mid Term Review:

- 4.0 It is the view of the 5th AYFST Steering Committee, that the decision by the ATPS management to actively engage the youths in its Mid-term review process is timely and critical in ensuring that their stake in shaping the future of science, technology and innovation (STI) for Africa's development is protected. We commend the participatory approach, which the network has adopted in prioritizing and evaluating its programmes to continuously improve their impact and influence in Africa's development. We believe that this approach is vital for the long-term sustainability and strengthening of the ATPS Network.
- 5.0 The AYFST 5th Steering Committee applauds ATPS for prioritizing the youth as part of its Phase VI Strategic Plan (2008-2012) and the subsequent efforts made by the network over the years that are aimed at realizing their potential through science, technology and innovation.
- 6.0 We welcome the approach of ATPS to partner with regional bodies such as NEPAD AU, SADC, COMESA and ECOWAS etc. We would further like to recommend the extension of collaboration to include other regional and UN bodies focused on agriculture, science and technology for Africa's economic development such as IITA, RIU, FAO, UNESCO, UNECA etc.

- 7.0 The 5th AYFST Steering Committee also recommends the representation and active participation of AYFST members in ATPS National Chapter events such as scientific revival days as well as global and regional fora e.g. Africa Youth Charter, AU, NEPAD etc. We believe that these regional institutions will provide more opportunities for youth to access funding, training and capacity building opportunities; and we believe that this kind of engagements will better inform African leaders about the challenges faced by youth and the vital role that they can play in Africa's development through STI.
- 8.0 We wish to take note of several highlighted opportunities both within and outside the ATPS network to promote innovation and research-based knowledge, and efforts to inculcate an entrepreneurial culture amongst the youths by promoting business incubation.
- 9.0 We further note with satisfaction that ATPS has moved to revive its proposal tournaments for regional and small grants, and it is our belief that these grants offer an opportunity for youth to engage in funded research and innovation projects and activities. We believe that these will contribute towards reactivating AYFST National Chapters activities through the participation of its members.

Fundraising:

- 10.0 We commend the ATPS for achieving a significant increase in funding required for the implementation of its Phase VI Strategic Plan (2008-2012) and we appeal for its continued support of youth activities through the AYFST.
- 10.1 We further recognize that the ATPS offers a valuable platform for the youths to access various other STI capacity building opportunities globally.
- 10.2 We would like to renew our commitment to doing more within our capacities at the National level to ensure that these opportunities do not go begging by identifying and pursuing potential funding opportunities for youth activities.
- 10.3 In liaison with our respective ATPS National Chapter Coordinators (NCC) and through the ATPS secretariat, we shall work towards increasing the number of research grant proposals from our respective countries as well as our participation in international innovation Calls for Submissions, Expressions of Interest and other relevant competitions in line with the objectives of AYFST and the ATPS Phase VI Strategic Plan (2008-2012). We also propose organizing a training and capacity building forum for youths in proposal writing (both for research grants and for project funding).
- 10.4 The 5th AYFST Steering Committee resolves that AYFST shall start developing regional as well as National proposals for submission to various donors through the ATPS Secretariat. The AYFST Regional Steering Committee shall also start working on one joint proposal.

“Every year, members of the AYFST converge during ATPS workshops and conferences to brainstorm and air their views on how African Governments and businesses can enhance opportunities for people to escape poverty and improve their lives through STI.”

Continued from page 14

Communications and Outreach/Website:

- 11.0 The 5th AYFST Steering Committee also welcomes the significant improvements in the Communications and Outreach activities of ATPS and we believe that the showcased website offers a useful tool for effective communication within the Network.
- 11.1 We commit to working with the ATPS secretariat; to scale-up and implement effective communications and public awareness programmes in order to create a positive image of Africa through achievements by the youth in science and technology innovations.
- 11.2 We commit to fully utilize the available website facilities as a means of effective communication amongst the steering committee, and AYFST chapter members in general.
- 11.3 We resolve to constitute a smaller working group to carry forward the task of updating the content on the general AYFST sub site by August 31, 2010. The Communications and Outreach Working group shall include the following members:
1. Mr. Herbert Lwanga (Chair)
 2. Mr. Tennyson Magombo
 3. Mr. Idrissa Sannoh (Representing Mr. Festus Amadu)
 4. Mr. Phakamile Xingwana
 5. Ms. Phina Magara
- 11.4 We further resolve that each National Chapter represented shall be required to submit an update of the content on their individual country sites by September 15, 2010. The content required includes, but is not limited to:
1. A Brief history of the AYFST Chapter
 2. Milestones since inception
 3. Information about National Governance Structures
 4. Current programmes and activities
 5. Press releases of upcoming AYFST events and activities
 6. Photographs of recent events
 7. Relevant video and audio content

Membership:

- 12.0 We recognize that there have been difficulties in the past consolidating AYFST membership at the National level and there is need for an updated database for both AYFST and ATPS members at the National Chapters. We also recognize that the transient nature of the youth demographic in Africa, with several members proceeding for further studies, employment and in search of business opportunities, has contributed to the low retention rate.

Continued from page 15

- 12.1 We therefore recommend the introduction of representation (at least 3 seats) on the Steering Committee drawn from African youths in Diaspora.
- 12.2 We also recommend the introduction of a membership affiliation category for alumni who have passed the age limit of 35, but have the potential to add significant value to the activities of the AYFST
- 12.3 We further believe that by introducing a nominal fee for membership, the value and commitment attached to membership in AYFST will increase and that it will also encourage a sense of ownership and accountability within the Network. We believe that this will further attract new members with a genuine passion and interest in youth's engagement in STI for development.
- 12.4 The 5th AYFST SCM hereby resolves that admission, as a member to AYFST shall be subject to payment of membership fees as per the criteria specified in Sections 3 and 4 of the ATPS Membership Categories and Membership Criteria (Annex 1)
- 12.5 We propose that the AYFST Coordinator should send out a comprehensive list of members who have so far registered under the Y I CAN programme from each of the countries to the respective AYFST National Chapter Coordinator (NCC) by August 20, 2010. We also recommend that a receipt be issued upon payment.
- 12.6 Subsequently, the AYFST NCC shall be responsible for synchronizing the web-registrations with the current AYFST National Chapter members list to identify active membership and notify the ATPS Secretariat accordingly.
- 12.7 The AYFST NCC will also be required to inform their respective ATPS NCC who shall be responsible for collecting membership fees and depositing them into an AYFST designated bank account registered under ATPS. The AYFST NCC will be responsible for receiving and sending an updated paid-up membership list to the ATPS secretariat through AYFST coordinator.
- 12.8 We recommend that in future, the contact details of any member who registers through the ATPS/AYFST website should be forwarded to the respective AYFST NCC through an automated alert for immediate action as prescribed above. This data can also be shared with National Chapter host institutions (e.g. National Commissions/Councils of Science and Technology).
- 12.9 The information in the proposed registration forms (both hard and soft copy) shall include; information on the applicant's: Bio-data, Contacts and Address, Date of birth, Area of Interest and Declaration Statement
- 13.0 The 5th AYFST Steering Committee resolves that the Communication and outreach team constituted in Section 11.3 above should work together to produce and circulate a draft branded flyer highlighting the benefits of AYFST membership;

“The decision by the ATPS management to actively engage the youths in its Mid-term review process is timely and critical in ensuring that their stake in shaping the future of science, technology and innovation (STI) for Africa’s development is protected.”

Continued from page 16

We hereby request the ATPS to publish this and other basic promotional materials including letterheads to help publicize the youth programme within the National Chapters. Some of the benefits of AYFST membership that could be highlighted include eligibility to:

1. Apply for ATPS research grants and AYFST competitions
2. Receive free ATPS/AYFST publications and have restricted access to online ATPS Journals and other academic online resources;
3. Access restricted member information and knowledge resources on global STI policy issues, including calls for proposals by ATPS Partners institutions;
4. Sponsorship to AYFST Annual Congress as well as ATPS/AYFST events: conferences, workshops, training, etc depending on availability of resources from ATPS consortium of Donors;
5. Access to the Pan-African network of STI experts in the ATPS membership;
6. Submit manuscripts for ATPS /AYFST publication series with full ISBN numbers at no cost;
7. Access technical support by the ATPS communications experts to disseminate and popularize research findings and policy related activities through a network of multi-media website and partners;
8. Hold office(s) in the ATPS network at the national chapters, sub-regional offices, and at the Headquarters;
9. Access ATPS network of experts and institutions globally

14.0 We note with concern the lack of activity in several ATPS National Country Chapters including Zambia, Ethiopia, Benin and Madagascar. We strongly believe that the strength of AYFST lies in the vibrancy and sustainability of its National Chapters. We are however pleased to note the steps that the ATPS is taking to revitalize its dormant National Chapters some of which are being reconstituted to strengthen their membership and increase their active participation. We also pledge to carry out similar reforms within AYFST and replace inactive NCC’s in the various countries.

15.0 The 5th AYFST steering committee welcomes the move by ATPS to institutionalize its National chapters by anchoring them in state institutions such as the National Commissions of Science and Technology. We deem that this will contribute towards the long-term sustainability of the network and increase its ownership and credibility at national level. Going forward we recommend proactive engagement of national youth institutions through the Ministries of Youth at country level.

16.0 To a large extent, the success of AYFST National Chapters depends on the performance of the ATPS National Chapters. We therefore recommend that AYFST duly registered National Chapter members need to be involved and have the right to vote during elections to select ATPS National Chapter Coordinators.

“We applaud the efforts by ATPS to promote science, technology and innovation as the engine for Africa’s development.”

Continued from page 17

- 17.0 For countries that are not yet formally engaged with state institutions such as Commissions/Councils/Departments of STI, there is need for ATPS to write introductory letters for the AYFST/ATPS National chapter coordinators to use in initiating relevant partnerships.
- 18.0 National Commissions/Councils and Departments of Science, Technology and other member institutions also need to be involved in the ATPS and AYFST General meetings and participate in elections of ATPS Coordinators and AYFST steering committees. We resolve that the AYFST Coordinator shall produce a consolidated draft report on the 5th AYFST Regional steering committee meeting before the August 20, 2010 and circulate to the Steering Committee for their input.
- 19.0 There is need for the AYFST National chapters to develop their 2010/11 action plans in partnership with ATPS National chapters, Commissions/Councils/Departments of science and Technology and other stakeholders from the private sector and the civil society.
- 20.0 There is need for a defined timeline for ATPS to provide feedback on the submitted work plans and budgets. The AYFST Coordinator should also provide feedback and the necessary information in good time.

Conclusion:

- 21.0 In conclusion we applaud the efforts by ATPS to promote science, technology and innovation as the engine for Africa’s development. We unanimously express our satisfaction with the progress made so far in the implementation of the Phase VI Strategic Plan 2008-2012. We are happy with the progress made by AYFST, however we recognize that there is a need to extend our reach beyond Africa to other youths in Diaspora in order to build capacity and to help elevate AYFST on to the global platforms on STI. We recognize that there is need to identify, document and celebrate African young scientists and researchers; innovators and inventors, farmers and other key groups, who have made significant achievements in their respective fields. Finally we would once again like to thank AYFST Ghana for organizing the successful 5th AYFST Steering Committee Meeting.

THE AYFST DECLARATION

Nothing for Us, Without Us: We, members of the AYFST declare that we are doers and transformers. That, we have the power to influence and impact our communities, countries and continent, to BE and DO for the greater WE as Africans

“Your culture is my culture
 Your country is my country
 Your pain is my pain
 Your gain is my gain”

Young People's Role in Innovation

About 50 percent of Africa's population is below the age of 18, and 15.9 percent of it is between the ages of 18 and 24. Considering these statistics, it is evident that Africa's youth have the potential to drive its economic and social prosperity in future decades if they assert their influence over key policies and strategies. It is time for Africa's youth to recognize their demographic advantage and harnesses this vast pool of talent, energies and creativity to realize their full potential.

This is the message that came out of the 5th African Youth Forum for Science and Technology (AYFST) Steering Committee Meeting.

The AYFST Steering Committee members who were present underscored the need for young men and women to take decisive action at local level and engage actively in science and technology discourse. They also pledged to increase the number of research proposals, and participation in innovation competitions from their respective countries in order to drive Africa forward. Speaking during the opening ceremony, Dr. Kevin Urama, Executive Director of ATPS called upon the youth to refrain from being mere critics and instead become constructive analysts with a greater interest in finding solutions and the way forward for Africa's growth.

Taking the initiative

The Chair of AYFST, Mr. Tennyson Magombo, from Malawi, added his voice to the debate saying "It is time for us, as Africa's youth to take the initiative over decisions that affect us. We must ask ourselves hard questions such as: What are we doing to shape the future growth of Africa through Science, Technology and Innovation? What is our role in waking this sleeping giant? Are we slowly becoming a generation of sceptics or can we muster the confidence and determination needed to lead Africa out of poverty?" (*see his full speech on page 20*)

The Coordinator of AYFST Mr. Marsden Momanyi during his opening remarks called upon the youth to look beyond the limited opportunities

that the formal job market offers and to take collective action in pursuing mentorship, training, business incubation and other capacity building activities as well as funding avenues for their ideas. He added that AYFST offers the ideal vehicle for accessing these and other benefits for the youth globally.

He urged them to take the initiative as opposed to waiting with outstretched palms for recognition and 'power' to be handed down to them. "As the old African saying goes; the hand that receives is always beneath the hand that gives. This means that young people must perceive themselves as equal partners with something valuable to offer," he said. He challenged them to be more proactive, show more interest and nurture their ideas and contributions if they have any chance of overturning the status quo and leading the continent out of poverty.

It was noted during discussions that young brilliant and accomplished scientists and innovators seldom receive much recognition in their home countries. It is often only when they receive prestigious international awards, and are celebrated in the West that they are appreciated at home. The 5th AYFST Steering Committee Meeting in Accra acknowledged there is a need to identify, document and celebrate young African Scientists, researchers, innovators, inventors, farmers and entrepreneurs who have made significant achievements in their respective fields of specialization.

"As the old African saying goes; the hand that receives is always beneath the hand that gives. This means that young people must perceive themselves as equal partners with something valuable to offer."

Speech by the Chair, AYFST

Shaping the Future of Science Technology and Innovation (STI) for development in Africa; the Role of Africa's youth

I would like to express my deepest gratitude, for the privilege of addressing this forum today. On behalf of AYFST members and other young people in Africa who share the same passion for transforming their communities, I would like to thank ATPS for this opportunity to realize our vision. I applaud the Network's efforts over the years to build the capacities of young people to engage critically in finding scientific and innovative solutions and technologies, through programmes such as the "Youth Innovation Challenge (Y I CAN).

We are gathered here to look back and reflect on how far we have come, examine where we are today and to measure the remaining distance to our final destination. We must recapture the milestones achieved and look closely at the obstacles and challenges we faced over the course of our journey, in order to correct our mistakes and plan the way forward. AYFST has come a long way since its inception in 2005, and the youth too must evaluate their contribution to shaping the future growth of Africa through science, technology and innovation. We must re-evaluate our role in waking this sleeping giant.

Re-engineering our learning systems

Innovation is essentially about making use of learning, I submit to you however, that despite progress made in expanding primary and secondary school enrolment across Africa, little has been done to shape our curricula, teaching and learning methods, so as to address the challenges the continent faces. Our higher education systems are too centered on isolated disciplines without properly interrogating their inter-relationships, the systems-thinking and responsible innovation approaches that are needed for economic and social development. This, coupled with dwindling interest by the youth to take up science

subjects, particularly in important fields like agricultural science that are not considered "sexy enough," creates a further challenge towards Africa's growth. Therefore there are opportunities in the curriculum to give greater support to young people's innovation.

Youth taking the lead

However, I submit, also, that the onus is upon us, the young people of Africa, to rise up against the challenge and to take the initiative over decisions that affect us. I believe in the ability of African Youths to be the change agents in the continent. But we must begin by asking ourselves tough questions such as: What are we, the youth, doing to shape the future growth of Africa through Science, Technology and Innovation? What is our role in waking this sleeping giant? If we don't we risk being labeled as a generation of skeptics and critics who were too pre-occupied with the challenges as opposed to looking for the solutions.

My challenge to the youths gathered here today, is for each of us to do our part and inspire a generation of constructive analysts who will muster the confidence and determination needed to lead Africa out of poverty. We desperately need to rekindle our passion for science, technology and innovation. Far from advocating blind optimism, we are calling for

"We recognize that creating a youth 'innovation culture' requires a long-term cultural shift, however we must do what we can in the shorter term to enable young people contribute more to innovation and to develop the skills they need to be the successful innovative employees, employers and citizens of the future."

“We desperately need to rekindle our passion for science, technology and innovation.”

young people to re-invent themselves and adopt a systems thinking approach. We need to inculcate in ourselves a culture of curiosity and a desire to engage with the world around us. If we fail to link what we learn in schools, colleges and universities to sustainable development, then our universities will continue to churn out a generation of graduates who fail to meet the demands of industry. We need to capitalize on the available opportunities to build our capacities and become entrepreneurs of ideas and develop skills that will make us effective champions of innovation and drivers of change in Africa. We need to embrace the kind of innovative solutions that will add value to our raw materials and address Africa’s health crisis, hunger, environmental degradation and extreme poverty.

To be innovators, we must feel confident of the worth of our ideas and that our contributions are valued and can make a difference. We must overcome any cultural barriers that may exist that inhibit youth innovation. We must also learn to take responsibility for developing and implementing our innovations and actively seek support for them.

Utilizing Online Networks

Young people are more innovative where they are able to gather and bounce ideas off one another and collaborate with others to develop new concepts. There are several opportunities both within and outside the ATPS network to promote and foster youth innovation through these kinds of interactions. Young innovators can take advantage of emerging online, new media and social networks to blog, write articles and join in discussion forums on STI. We believe that web platforms such as the one now offered by ATPS provide ‘enabling spaces’ for youth to engage in STI discourse with peers, fellow inventors and role models. These facilities can help the youth traverse national and political boundaries and they provide new opportunities for them to seek mentoring and support through building links with potential sponsors. I call upon us to be the gener-



Two African youths demonstrate their innovation at the Scifest festival

“To be innovators, we must feel confident of the worth of our ideas and that our contributions are valued and can make a difference. We must overcome any cultural barriers that may exist that inhibit youth innovation.”

ation that will reshape our economies to compete in the digital age. Finally we would also like to call upon the more experienced and accomplished members of our sister programme, the African Women’s Forum for Science and Technology (AWFST), and other ATPS stakeholders present, to support our efforts to create an “innovation culture” amongst young people in Africa. We recognize that it requires a long-term cultural shift, however we must do what we can in the shorter term to enable young people contribute more to innovation and to develop the skills they need to be the successful innovative employees, employers and citizens of the future.

Involving Diaspora

One of the main challenges AYFST has faced over the years has been in retaining its members and sustaining active participation in AYFST activities at the National level. This can be attributed to the general transient nature of the youth population segment. As a result, there has been an increase in the rate at which AYFST members are leaving their home countries in search for greener pastures abroad;

with some members proceeding for further studies and in search of better jobs, and business opportunities. The problem of brain drain is typical of many African countries and has been identified as a serious obstacle to Africa’s development. Statistics show that Africa, which has 25 percent of the world’s disease burden, claims only 3 percent of the global health workforce.

In Ghana for instance, over 70 percent of the doctors produced from its publicly funded medical schools in 2008 emigrated. However, I would like us to change our perceptions and view this as an opportunity waiting to be exploited and come up with actionable strategies to tap into the human resource base presented by young Africans in Diaspora. Young Africans living abroad can bring in fresh ideas, knowledge, innovations and entrepreneurial skills gained, and they can share their global perspectives and experiences with their counterparts at home.

My fellow youth in Africa, this is our moment to make a difference, come up with the solutions to the numerous problems Africa by putting science and technology into use. Lets us lose ourselves in this cause, for as Richard Nixon once said, “A man who has never lost himself in a cause bigger than himself has missed one of life’s mountaintop experiences. Only in losing himself does he find himself. Only then does he discover all the latent strengths he never knew he had and which otherwise would have remained dormant.”

Mr. Tennyson Magombo

“Building the capacity of Africa’s youth in climate change adaptation and impacts mitigation, and resilience building through science, technology and innovation”



CLIMATE CHANGE INNOVATION

AWARD 2010

Building the capacity of Africa’s youth and women in climate change adaptation and impacts mitigation, and resilience building through science, technology and innovation

(Call No. ATPS-CP/0400/10)



A YFST members met on November 27, 2009 in Abuja, Nigeria, to plan for the inaugural award scheme under the newly launched Y I CAN programme - the 2010 Youth Climate Change Innovation Award. The Steering Committee, met again in Accra Ghana in August 2010, to evaluate progress with regards to the implementation of the competition.

Rationale behind the Challenge

The emerging challenges of climate change and its associated impacts, such as rise in temperatures, increased degradation of land and forest ecosystems, biodiversity loss, variable rainfall patterns and poor air quality, continue to undermine the provision of vital basic ecosystem services on which many African economies depend. The ATPS believes that within these challenges are endless opportunities, for African Youths to demonstrate their innovative talents and scientific and technological capacities to address them. Since 2004, ATPS has therefore been creating a

common platform for tackling climate change challenges in Africa and globally.

In November 2009 (Abuja, Nigeria) ATPS in partnership with the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) officially launched the “*Climate Sense Programme*” (CSP) which aims to promote Climate Change dialogue and encourage new scientific breakthroughs, new technologies and innovations, Innovation Incubation Initiatives, to address the climate challenge at all levels of African Society (see <http://www.atpsnet.org/prog/csp.html> and http://www.atpsnet.org/docs/annual_conference_2009.pdf.)

Supported mainly by the Netherlands Directorate-General of Development Cooperation (DGIS) and the Rockefeller Foundation, the CSP has provided platforms for African stakeholders to become part of the solution to climate change in Africa. It is under the auspices of the CSP and twin programs of the ATPS Phase VI Strategic Plan, 2008 – 2012, i.e. the Y I CAN and WE CAN programs, that the ATPS in May, announced the Call for Concept Papers for the Climate Change Innovation Award 2010.

Call Categories

ATPS called for concept papers under the following categories:

CP/0401/10: Ongoing Research Project that includes a tangible “make” or “design” perspective and demonstrates how it will lead to tangible technologies, organisational reforms, or new policies for

*Proceedings Report;
African Youth Forum for Science
and Technology (AYFST)
5th Steering Committee Meeting and workshop,
August 9 -11, 2010, Accra, Ghana,*

The specific objectives were:

- To identify, document, induce and upscale indigenous and new technologies and innovation for Climate Change mitigation, adaptation, risk reduction, preparedness and resilience capacity building in Africa.
- Harness new ideas, prototype technologies and ground breaking scientific research and/or craftsmanship in designing 'workable solutions' for addressing the climate challenge and harness the development opportunities in "climate change industry" for African development.
- Mobilise and support African Youths to harness and incubate their innovative capacities and entrepreneurship skills in addressing climate change challenges and opportunities in Africa. The Award winners will receive long term mentorship as Climate Innovators in Africa.
- Mobilize youth across the continent and amplify their voices in making sense of climate science, economics, politics, and opportunities in Africa, and
- Mainstream a culture of innovation among African youth in finding solutions to development challenges such as climate change.

addressing tangible climate induced problems at local levels. Applications in this category were required to include the full manuscripts on the research project describing tangible technologies, organisational reforms, or new policies and identified funding linkages to impact investors.

CP/0402/10: Prototypes of new technologies requiring **incubation and up scaling** to innovations for climate change adaptation, mitigation and resilience building. Applications in this category needed to be accompanied by letters of support by the prospective Incubation Centres or identify funding linkages to impact investors.

CP/0403/10: Tangible propositions for local or international Internships/Mentorships and Innovation Incubation Initiatives in selected STI institutions, the formal Private Sector, or Government Agency in Africa, or elsewhere. Applications in this category needed to be accompanied by letters of support by the prospective Incubation Centres, Institutions, Government Agency or Private Sector establishments, describing how the "budding innovative idea" will be incubated into tangible technologies and innovations for development in Africa.

CP/0404/10: Empirical case examples of sustainable indigenous knowledge practices in climate change adaptation, impact mitigation and resilience capacity building in rural African communities. This would include indigenous

practices by local communities who might not otherwise be able to submit proposals.

CP/0405/10: Best-case examples on how the challenge and opportunities of climate change can be effectively **communicated** to policymakers, private sector actors, scientists and the civil society in Africa. In line with the CSP objectives, each application had to make tangible contributions to better understanding of the science, economics, politics, and innovative opportunities in the challenge of climate change, and inform better response strategies through STI.

There were a large and impressive group of entries from 12 African countries and the selection process was not an easy one given the innovativeness as well as the relevance and potential impact on livelihoods among the submissions. 15 concept papers passed through the preliminary stage of review and were shortlisted for further interrogation during the next stage of the selection process based on their tangible contributions to better understanding of the science, economics, politics, and innovative opportunities in the challenge of climate change, and their potential to inform better response strategies through STI.

The second round involves the participation of the lead proponents in a Proposal Tournament organized by ATPS, which is scheduled for 25-27 November 2010 in Cairo, Egypt.



Annexes

“Africa’s youth need to look beyond the limited opportunities that the formal job market offers and to take collective action in pursuing mentorship, training, business incubation and other capacity building activities as well as funding avenues for their ideas.”

Annex 1:

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Annex 2:

Workshop programme

DAY 1 – 9th August 2010

Venue: Mensvic Palace Hotel, Accra, Ghana

Session one: AYFST Steering Committee Meeting – Open Session:

Rapporteur: Mr. Victor Emeka

Facilitator: Mr. Marsden Momanyi

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|------------------|--|
| 8:00 – 8:40 am | Registration by Ms Phina Magara, AYFST Kenya |
| 8:40 – 9:00 am | Welcome and self introductions, facilitated by ATPS Ghana National Chapter Coordinator - Dr. Fred Amu-Mensah |
| 9:00 – 9:20 am | Welcome remarks - Dr RoseEmma Mamaa Entsua - Mensah, Deputy Director General CSIR, Ghana |
| 9:20 – 9:40 am | Opening remarks by Executive Director, ATPS - Dr. Kevin Urama |
| 9:40 – 10:00 am | Shaping the Future of STI for development in Africa, the Role of African Youths, by Chair AYFST - Mr. Tennyson Magombo |
| 10:00 – 10:20 am | Address by Chair AWFST/ ATPS Board Member - Prof. Agnes Mwang'ombe |

10:20 - 11:00 am Health break and group photo session

Session two: ATPS Mid-Term Review and Reflections

Rapporteur: Ms. Wairimu Mwangi, Research Officer ATPS

Facilitator: Mr. Marsden Momanyi

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| 11:00 - 12:00 pm | Mid-term review and reflection; ATPS Technical and Financial Report – Dr Kevin Urama |
| 12:00 – 1:00 pm | Question and Answer session |

1:00 - 2:00 pm Lunch break

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| 2:00 – 3:00 pm | What next? Recommendations for the second half of the implementation term – Facilitated by Dr. Kevin Urama |
| 3:00 – 3:45 pm | Birds eye-view on the received concept papers for the Youth and Women Climate innovation Awards 2010 and ideas on strengthening proposals by Dr. Warigia Bowman, Assistant Professor, University of Mississippi |
| 3:45 – 4:00 pm | Question and Answer session |

4:20 - 4:15 pm Health break

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| 4:15 – 5:00 pm | Communications and Outreach Report and new ATPS Website – Marsden Momanyi Ag. Senior Communications Officer, ATPS |
| 5:00 – 5:15 pm | Question and Answer session |

End of Day 1

DAY 2 – 10th August 2010
Venue: Mensvic Palace Hotel

Session three: AYFST 5th SCM; Climate Change Discussions

Secretary: Ms. Phina Magara

Chair: Tennyson Magombo, Malawi

- 8:30 – 8:40 am Welcome and introductions
- 8:40 – 9:00 am Recap of day one's sessions and implications for AYFST - by Mr. Marsden Momanyi
- 9:00 – 9:20 am Opening of the AYFST Steering Committee Meeting and adoption of the Agenda, by Mr. Tennyson Magombo, Malawi
- 9:20 – 9:40 am Review of the minutes of previous meeting held on November 27, 2009, in Abuja, Nigeria
- 9:40 – 10:00 am Overview of AYFST and progress made towards the implementation of the Plan of Action (2007 – 2010) – by Mr. Herbert Lwanga, AYFST Uganda
- 10:00 – 10:20 am Update of AYFST in Uganda & 5 minute question and answer session – by Mr. Herbert Lwanga
- 10:20 – 10:40 am Update of AYFST in Nigeria & 5 minute question and answer session – Mr. Emeka Victor Ngwoke
- 10:40 – 11:00 am Update of AYFST in Ghana & 5 minute question and answer session – Richard Anang Clotey

11:00 - 11:30 am Health break

- 11:30 – 11:50 am Update of AYFST in Kenya & 5 minute question and answer session – Ms. Phina Magara
- 11:50 – 12:10 pm Update of AYFST in Ethiopia & 5 minute question and answer session – Mr. Yakum Negash
- 12:10 – 12:30 pm Update of AYFST in Lesotho & 5 minute question and answer session – Mr. Phakamile Xingwana
- 12:30 – 12:50 pm Update of AYFST in Malawi & 5 minute question and answer session – Mr. Tennyson Magombo

12:50 – 2:00 pm Lunch break

- 2:00 – 2:20 pm Ideas for strengthening AYFST in Sierra Leone & 5 minute question and answer session – by Mr. Idrissa Sannoh
- 2:20 – 2:40 pm Ideas for strengthening AYFST in Zambia & 5 minute question and answer session – by Ms Lubashi Shinyinda
- 2:40 – 3:00 pm Ideas for strengthening AYFST in Cameroon & 5 minute question and answer session – by Mr Melvin Ambele
- 3:00 – 3:20 pm Ideas for strengthening AYFST in Benin & 5 minute question and answer session – Mr. Judicael Alladatin
- 3:20 – 4:00 pm Summary and discussions, facilitated by Chair, Mr. Tennyson Magombo

4:00 - 4:30 pm Health break

- 4:15 - 5:00 pm Working Group Sessions to Plan of Action 2010 – 2012

End of Day 2

DAY 3 – 11th August 2010
Venue: Mensvic Palace Hotel

Session four: AYFST 5th SCM; Plan of Action 2010-2012

Secretary: Ms. Phina Magara

Chair: Tennyson Magombo, Malawi

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| 8:40 – 9:00 am | Recap of day one's sessions and implications for AYFST - by Mr. Marsden Momanyi |
| 9:00 - 10:30 am | Working Group/Break-out Sessions 1). Membership Registration 2). Mid-Term Review and Reflections and strategies for future implementation of youth activities under the ATPS 3). AYFST Plan of Action 2010 strategies for cascading to the chapters |
| 10:30 - 11:00 am | Plenary presentations by the 3 working groups groups |

11:00 - 11:30 am Health break and group photo session

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| 11:30 - 12:00 am | Discussion - AYFST Sub site - strategies to populate it and use it as a tool to promote science, technology and innovation amongst the youth in Africa (Facilitated by Herbert Lwanga and Marsden Momanyi) |
| 12:00 - 12:30 pm | Review of the AYFST Steering Committee |
| 12:30 - 1:15 pm | Key Action points and recommendations (Facilitated by Emeka Victor Ngwoke) |
| 1:15 - 1:30 pm | Formation of a Communiqué drafting team – Allocation of other duties including drafting of Workshop proceedings report |

1:30 - 2:30 pm Lunch break

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| 2:30 – 3:30 pm | Communiqué drafting team works on Resolutions |
| 3:30 – 5:30 pm | All Participants Converge to finalize and adopt the Communiqué and Resolutions from the 5th AYFST Steering Committee Meeting |
| 7:00 - 9:00 pm | Dinner – La Palm Royal Beach Hotel |

End of Day 3



The African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS) is a multi-disciplinary network of researchers, private sector actors, civil society actors and policy makers promoting the generation, dissemination, use and mastery of science, technology and innovation (STI) for African development, environmental sustainability and global inclusion. ATPS intends to achieve its mandate through research, capacity building and training, science communication/dissemination and sensitization, participatory multi-stakeholder dialogue, knowledge brokerage, and policy advocacy.



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