Africa Rebooted: Science, Technology, and Innovation in Development

Wed, Sept 24 | 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Whitehead Institute McGovern Auditorium | 9 Cambridge Center, Cambridge

Introductory Remarks:
Claude Canizares
Vice President of MIT
Bruno Rossi Professor of Physics
Associate Director, Chandra X-ray Observatory Center

Hazel Sive
Professor of Biology, MIT
Founding Director of MIT-South Africa Program
Member, Whitehead Institute

Moderator:
Professor Calestous Juma is Dr Martin Luther King, Jr Visiting Professor at MIT and Professor of the Practice of International Development at Harvard Kennedy School. He directs the Kennedy School’s Agricultural Innovation in Africa Project funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. He is an internationally recognized authority on the application of science and technology to sustainable development and was named one of the most influential 100 Africans in 2012 and 2013 by the New African magazine.

Speakers:
Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi became the seventh Secretary-General of the UN Conference on Trade and Development on 1 September 2013. He was Kenya’s Trade and Industry Minister from 2002 to 2007. Dr Kituyi has an extensive background as an elected official, an academic, and a holder of high government office. He also has wide-ranging experience in trade negotiations, and in African and broader international economics and diplomacy. Immediately prior to becoming Secretary-General, Dr. Kituyi was Chief Executive of the Kenya Institute of Governance, based in Nairobi. The Institute is a think tank and advocacy organization that focuses on linking academic research and the development of public policy.

Professor Aderemi Kuku is a Distinguished Professor of Mathematics and Computational Science at the BIUST—Botswana International University of Science and Technology. He was President of the African Mathematical Union for nine years (1986-95) and is currently President of the African Academy of Sciences. He has held many visiting positions at Universities and Research Centres in the USA, Canada, Europe, Hong Kong, China, including: Member, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA.

Dr. Beatrice Khamati-Njenga is an educationist and environmental scientist who works in the areas of education, energy, environment and sustainable development. Currently she is Head of Education Division and Acting Head of Youth Division at the African Union Commission, where she manages the African Union’s continental education programme covering all African Union Member States: working with African ministries and institutions responsible for all levels of education in articulating African common positions in education development.

Dr. Aggrey Ambali is currently serving as Advisor and Head of Science, Technology and Innovation Hub (NSTIH) at the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) Agency, where he oversees development and implementation of programmes in education, health, and science and technology. He recently coordinated the work of the African Union High Level Panel on Science, Technology and Innovation which was appointed in July 2012 and mandated to prepare a 10-year Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA 2024).

Mr. Hambali Masheleni is employed by the African Union Commission and works in the Department of Human Resources and Technology as a Senior Policy Officer. One of the long-term focuses of the Commission is to promote the development and use of science, technology and innovation (STI) in the continent. Mr. Masheleni has been involved in the implementation of African Union policy on science and technology through the Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA) and the 10-year Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA 2024).

Contributing Remarks:
Dr. Aggrey Ambali is currently serving as Advisor and Head of Science, Technology and Innovation Hub (NSTIH) at the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) Agency, where he oversees development and implementation of programmes in education, health, and science and technology. He recently coordinated the work of the African Union High Level Panel on Science, Technology and Innovation which was appointed in July 2012 and mandated to prepare a 10-year Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA 2024).

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