

Reform of the S&T system in Nigeria

At the request of the President of Nigeria, UNESCO has developed a Special Plan of Cooperation with Nigeria to assist the country in the development process as the structures and practices of democratic government are re-introduced into the country. The Science Component of the Plan is focussed on the restructuring of the scientific and technological infrastructure and in developing a Plan of Action for Science and Technology which will particularly contribute to the attainment of macro-economic objectives of government.

Programme overview

The medium-term objective of this preparatory programme would be to put Nigeria in a position to call a donor's conference to discuss a set of fully-documented proposals for a multi-year Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation. Listed below are the elements of the programme.

1. A thorough review of all of the "functions" of Nigeria's National System of Innovation, coupled with a preliminary evaluation of the performance of the country's government and academic science and technology institutions.
2. Development of a proposal for a financing system for science and technology in Nigeria;
3. A human resource development program designed to create or upgrade skills in the areas of research management and the management of technical change
4. A program on information management , to encompass a review of the availability of data bases, statistical services, a system of indicators, and communication systems for science and technology
5. A review of the needs for science, technology and innovation in Nigeria's private sector in the light of increasing globalization.;
6. A program to strengthen Nigeria's infrastructure in the area of standards and metrology, linked with a national program to increase quality in the operations of the private sector;
7. A review of the country's system for the protection of intellectual property, considering the capacities needed to formulate policies and to implement them;
8. A review of Nigeria's participation in regional and international scientific activities, including as review of the country's record of making use of the information emerging from such activities

The Director-General of UNESCO has approved the sum of approximately \$500,000 from the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust for the Capacity –building of Human Resources for the first project entitled "Assistance for the Reform of the Nigerian Science, Technology and Innovation System". The Government of Nigeria has also deposited a similar amount with UNESCO as Government Cash Counterpart Contribution.