

# **Enhancing ICT Development in Africa –a framework for collaboration between NEPAD and RENs**

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# Outline

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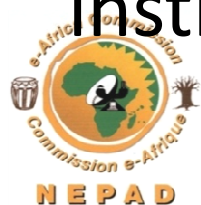
# Introduction

- Development and growth of the Internet and ICTs in Africa
  - capacity to sustain the growth
  - specialized technical and R&D capacity
- Emergence of Research and Education Networks (RENS)
  - cornerstone for facilitating future developments



# Overview of NEPAD

- a long-term vision of African-owned and African-led development
- Infrastructure sector: expanded cross-border development of infrastructure;adequate knowledge and skills
- ICT sector: development of research capacity
- Education sector: promote networks of specialised research and higher education institutions.



# Overview of NEPAD

- NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency
  - technical agency of the African
  - Mandate: to facilitate and coordinate continental and regional priority programmes; to conduct and coordinate research and knowledge management;
- NEPAD e-Africa Programme
  - develops policies, strategies; develops broad strategies for ICT infrastructure and the use of ICT applications and services on the continent



# NEPAD Centers of Excellence

- overall goal is to increase the socio-economic benefits afforded by the Internet and ICTs in Africa
  - foster regional and continental collaboration
  - develop high-level capacity and expertise
  - establish African resource centers and knowledge repositories
  - increase the use and generation of scientific knowledge





# Collaborative Framework

- model that brings together academia, private sector, government and civil society as stakeholders
  - informed by and informing policy
  - address public and private sector needs for research and innovation
  - contribute to the body of knowledge
  - inform African programming and spending on ICT projects and interventions.



# Role of NEPAD

- development of an enabling environment that allows RENs and hence the Centers of Excellence to flourish.
  - regulatory and policy environment for cross-border networks
  - policies for education, research and ICT
  - advocating for public funding for research initiatives
  - promotion of public-private partnerships
  - linkages with community informatics network





# Role of RENs

- High quality broadband connectivity
  - enable collaboration, access to and sharing of information.
- Establishment of test-bed environments for R&D
- Data and statistics for academic research and evidence-based policy making



# Conclusion

- Collaboration between NEPAD and RENs is a win-win proposition that will enhance ICT development in Africa.
- RENs provide the physical networks while Centers of Excellence provide the human and institutional networks.



# THANK YOU

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