

Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology

| | |
|---|---|
| Bank Contact: Responsible Sector and Bank Unit: Recipient Agency: Web Address: | Kaliope Azzi-Huck / 202-473-4686 & /Peter Materu 202-473-0358 AFTHD Nelson Mandela Institutions for Knowledge Building and the Advancement of S&T in SSA www.nmiscience.org |
| Financial Arrangements for FY09 (Amount in US \$ Million) | |
| Total Budget: DGF Funding Request: DGF Percentage: | 97.00 0.50 0.5% |
| Objectives and Expected Outcomes | |
| <p>The African Institute of Science and Technology aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>sustain Africa's growth - quality human capital is needed to sustain a high rate of growth in SSA</i> • <i>set a new example of higher education in Africa. AIST provides economies of scale in offering high quality education to smaller countries that would not be able to establish individual national institutes.</i> • <i>buttress a skills and knowledge intensive development. A skills and knowledge-intensive approach to development is the only path for many African countries achieving outward-oriented development.</i> • <i>work with Economies of Scale. In view of the small size of many African countries and the limited resources at their disposal, regional partnerships among groups of countries is cost-effective and more likely to help build institutions with the scale and finances that would provide specialized training and conduct strategic research.</i> | |
| Main Components | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a sound institutional, legal and governance frameworks; • Support initial cohort of leading scientists from the Diaspora to launch Abuja campus programs; • Facilitate formulation of policies, processes and control to ensure transparent and accountable management of funds; • Support preparatory work for development of the Tanzania center; and • Cover costs for information and communication technologies services as well as the secretariat. | |
| Performance Indicators | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of students enrolled in its programs; • Number of students graduating from its programs and acquiring employment on the continent; • Number of African Diaspora involved in its curriculum development and teaching; • Number and types of institutional partnerships across other elite higher education institutions; • Recognition within and across countries of the AIST education opportunities. | |
| Progress and Achievements | |
| <p>Using the \$500K awarded to AIST by DGF, The Nelson Mandela Institute has surpassed expectations. As such, it has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed the required curricula in the five priority areas (applied math, computer science, oil/gas engineering, material science, water and environmental engineering). Classes are already ongoing in Ouagadougou and are on target to | |

commence in Abuja in July 2008.

- Developed evaluation tools for student admissions tests has worked out plan for administration of tests.
- Incorporated the Institute and acquired accreditation from the National Universities Council in Nigeria.
- Completed a master plan for the Abuja campus and begun construction and renovation of the facilities.
- Established, and enhanced collaborations with globally renowned technical institutions including ITT Bombay, the University of California system, African Institute of Mathematical Science (Cape town, SA), and Princeton University.
- Identified candidates for the Board of Trustees and professors, specialists, and mentors.
- Mobilized additional resources to help scale up project. Total commitments currently stand at approximately \$120 million in in-kind and financial resources for Nigeria, Burkina Faso, and Tanzania.

NMI has also secured significant government buy-in to date. A number of countries (Tanzania, Nigeria, Burkina Faso etc) have expressed enthusiastic support of AIST to Bank Management (mainly Country Directors -letters available upon request) in addition to providing financial and in-kind contributions. The Government of Burkina Faso is using a portion of its IDA allocation to support AIST.

The AIST project is now at a critical juncture. Over the past few months, significant progress has been made in the preparation of a business and implementation plan, the finalization of the pedagogic philosophy of the campus, the launching of an international architectural competition for the design of the AIST-Abuja campus, the identification and commitment of credible sources of financial support, and the development of institutional support with the University of California and IIT-Bombay. The reality is that there is now an active campus in Ouagadougou (2IE), Abuja-campus is at an advanced stage in architectural design and curriculum development and is hammering out the last details of the program offerings, scheduled to start in July 2008, and Arusha has received support from multiple ministries and has the highest government level of commitment in Tanzania as well as the Eastern Africa Region.

Partners

See Commitments Above.

Governance and Management

There has been no significant change in governance arrangements as AIST continues to have sound legal and governance structure.

Many of the risks perceived to be prominent at the time of the original submission have been mitigated and AIST today stands on safer ground. Taking note from the DGF Council's concern that the business model for this project had been ambitious, the team has:

- Modified its strategy into a sequenced, rather than parallel track.
- While maintaining great momentum, scaled back the initial goal of building four campuses from scratch in different regions of Africa to working with pre-existing establishments to maximize use of already available resources and infrastructure.
- Modified the goal of securing of \$1 billion in endowment funds to a more practical stance of \$200 million during the first four years of operation.
- Shown that the legal and governance structures of AIST have been tested and are sound.

Exit Strategy

FY09 will be the last year of DGF funding.