

CSIR Africa Workshop
CSIR Building 53, Knowledge Commons, Ulwazi Auditorium
11 September 2013 at 09:00 – 12:30

Present:	
Berenice Lue Marais (BLM): CSIR Strategic Partnerships Ndimiso Cingo (NC): African Laser Centre Daniel Visser (DV): CSIR Biosciences Ereck Chakauya (EC): SANBIO Hulda Swai (HD): CSIR MSM Nanomedicine Louis Celliers (LC): CSIR Natural Resources & Environment Francois Engelbrecht (FE): CSIR Natural Resources & Environment Zama Dlamini (ZD): CSIR Defence Peace Safety & Security Mapule Modise (MM): CSIR Defence Peace Safety & Security Joe Odhiambo (JO): CSIR BE Agreement SA Siphon Mtsweni (SM): CSIR Tertiary Institutions & Research Technology Organisations	Eunice Ndeke (EN): CSIR Funding Opportunities Themba Belle (TB) CSIR Strategic Partnerships Mmampei Chaba (MC): Department of Science & Technology (Multilateral) Anneline Morgan (AM): Department of Science & Technology (Multilateral) Joseph Senona (JS): Department of Science (Bilateral) Sikhonzile Sikhosana (SS): Department of Science and Technology (Bilateral) Kevin Brennan (KB): Department of International Cooperation Thabiso Musa (TM): Department of Trade & Industry Chimwemwe Chamdimba (CC): Nepad Agency Peter Lekhethe (PL): Industrial Development Corporation

Apologies:

Boyse Pillay (BP): CSIR ECD
 Kagiso Chikane (KC): CSIR Meraka

Record of proceedings	Action
1 Welcome	
<p>1.1 BLM welcomed all to the workshop and provided an overview of the CSIR Africa strategy. She requested the CSIR members to provide a synopsis of the programmes they were running in Africa.</p>	
2 CSIR initiatives on the continent	
<p>2.1 African Laser Centre – NC noted that ALC was a continental initiative with a presence in different parts of the continent. They were largely supported by the DST with regard to finance. They have developed a mobile platform that seeks to assist with the refurbishment of industrial components in the manufacturing industry. They have also been roped into the SKA initiative to support the laying of fibre optics for communication. Their key challenge was the need for a coordinated approach together with interacting with the Nepad Agency to raise co-funding.</p>	
<p>2.2 Sanbio – EC indicated that the network had a regional outlook with a focus on capacity in the areas of human and infrastructure development. They intend unlocking the value through enabling technologies, focusing among other things on protein deficiencies on the African child. Resolving governance issues and the need for ongoing communication with Nepad affiliates were the key challenges.</p>	
<p>2.3 Nanomedicine – According to HS, DST remains a major funder of this initiative and general funding of the initiative is a key challenge. The initiative sets out to provide capacity building as well as drug development related to poverty diseases such as TB and Malaria.</p>	
<p>2.4 Creating an economic platform in Uganda – A project that has been started by one of our centres, focusing on creating an economic platform through incubation of SMEs. Current focus on essential oils.</p>	
3 Presentation on CPA Review Process	

Record of proceedings	Action
<p>3.1 DM provided an overview of the CPA review process, the history as well as where currently the process is. The presentation also focused on the three pillars that will drive the STI 2024 Strategy. It will look at collaborative innovation, Entrepreneurship as well as the Commercialisation of key technologies.</p> <p>3.2 Some questions – Does the strategy address access to funding? Has a budget been set aside for prioritising?</p> <p>3.3 Impact of the CPA, how is it going to be done? Linkages to member states, how is this going to be achieved?</p> <p>3.4 Weakness – linkages to member states through RECs and Centres Of Excellence/flagships</p>	
<p>4 Presentation on DST Bilateral programmes</p>	
<p>4.1 JS indicated that they currently have 19 Bilateral arrangements with different African countries. They are focusing on education, health, agriculture, manufacturing, and energy and information technology. Coordination is seen as a priority.</p>	
<p>5 General remarks</p>	
<p>5.1 MC noted that DST is reviewing its programme on the Continent. In the past their bilateral agreements have focused on research priorities and building capacities. The focus is more on what is in it for us as a country. They will be focusing on immediate issues that need to be addressed and are talking to potential funders. There will be more focus regarding what they want to do on the Continent. They will be targeting a country that requires assistance and draw in relevant parties to assist in addressing a major problem in that country.</p> <p>5.2 KB indicated that DIRCO will be launching the Southern African Development Agency soon, a programme that replaces the African Renaissance Fund.</p> <p>5.3 Nepad Agency needs to assume an advocacy role</p> <p>5.4 Need for such a Forum and in order to maintain momentum important to have meetings regularly though refraining from Forum becoming a talk shop.</p>	

Record of proceedings	Action
6 Actions and closure	
6.1 DST to host the next Forum meeting before the end of November 2013	JS to propose dates
6.2 DIRCO to present at the next Forum meeting on the Southern Africa Development Agency	BK to present
6.3 CSIR Strategic Partnerships to circulate report of the workshop together with presentations	
6.4 The Chair thanked all and closed the Forum at 12h45.	TB to provide