



Panel Discussion

Moderator:

Prof. Costantinos Berhutesfa Costantinos,
Professor of Public Policy, School of Graduate Studies, College of Management, Information and Economic Sciences, Addis Ababa University

Speakers:

- **Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki,**
CEO of NEPAD Agency

- **Prof. Ahmadou Aly Mbaye,**
Doyen and Professor of Economic Science and Management, Cheikh Anta Diop University Dakar

- **Moe Shaik,**
DBSA Group Executive Manager, International Financing

- **Yofi Grant,**
non-Executive Director of Databank Brokerage Ltd, Databank Private Equity Ltd and Databank Financial Services Ltd.

PIDA Week: Sunday, 15th November; 5.30pm - 7.00pm

There is growing optimism that Africa will become a driver of future global economic growth. Africa has a young and growing workforce and the dependency ratio is declining. About 122 million people will be added to its labour workforce between 2010 and 2020, bringing total workforce to around 500 million. One of the major challenges for the African continent in the upcoming years and decades will be to absorb the ever growing young population by sustainably creating new jobs.

Research shows that addressing the infrastructure gap remains critical to allow new higher-productivity sectors to develop, generate jobs for the rapidly growing young population by harnessing its demographic dividend, and spur intra-African integration, as well as integration of African economies into global value chains. The OECD, for instance, highlights that infrastructure investment contributes as much as 2% to the GDP, with particularly positive effects in East and Central Africa. In absolute terms this means that for every dollar spent on public infrastructure development the GDP of a country rises between USD 0.05 and USD 0.25.

PIDA, the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, approximately requires an investment of 68 billion USD for its 51 priority programs in the sectors of energy, transport, water and ICT to be implemented until 2020. Thus, to quantify its impact, within the next five years, the construction of PIDA projects has the potential to immediately offer new income sources for about 1.4 million households. In addition to the direct impact on the job market, infrastructure in general and PIDA in particular indirectly, yet significantly contribute to job creation.

This panel discussion highlights the importance of interconnected and reliable infrastructure services for an industrialized, service-oriented Africa which provides enough job opportunities for its growing youth. Furthermore, the panel debates how infrastructure development should be steered and implemented to best serve the purpose of job creation, with a focus on youth. The panel also discusses the design of the right policies to leverage Africa's demographic dividend, combined with regional development programs supported by the PIDA continental framework, to be catalyst to Africa's transformation.

For more information on PIDA, please see www.au-pida.org.

Venue: African Development Bank, Immeuble du Centre de commerce International d'Abidjan, Avenue Jean-Paul II, Abidjan

the
panel discussion
will be followed by a
cocktail reception
at 7pm