



SECOND CIRCULAR

Dear Sir/ Madam

Subject: **African Union Exhibition of Teaching and Learning Materials in Science and Mathematics 6th to 10th of August 2007, JOHANNESBURG, South Africa**

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The January 2007 Summit of the African Union Heads of State and Government took a decision to declare 2007 as the launching year for building constituencies and champions for science, technology and innovation in Africa, (*Assembly/AU/Dec. 161 (VIII)*). Member States therefore need to mobilize their scientific resources to initiate programmes that will promote access to science and technology by all, strengthen research capacities and increase the use and generation of scientific knowledge for the development of the continent.

In their quest to develop quality education in Africa, the January 2006 Conference of Ministers of Education of the African Union identified the need to enhance and strengthen the teaching and learning of Science subjects and Mathematics, as part of the Plan of Action for the Second Decade for Education for Africa. The Plan of Action of the Second Decade of Education for Africa (2006-2015) comprises of seven areas whose performance directly affects and even determines the quality and magnitude of Africa's development. Teaching and Learning Materials in Science, Mathematics and Technology is one of the major areas of curriculum development that needs to be addressed. For Africa to entrench a culture of science, technology, research and innovation in its people, the teaching and learning of science and technology must be informed at all levels must be anchored in experiential and audio-visual methods, with a special focus on the use of ICTs. Teaching methods ought to encourage linkages between science and technology on one hand, and with the learner's culture and environment on the other.

It is for these reasons that the Department of Human Resources Science and Technology of the African Union Commission has designed several programmes aiming to enhance the teaching of Science and Mathematics and to encourage more African Students to participate actively in Science and Mathematics. In this light, a workshop on development of school equipment will be held in Zimbabwe from 18th to 19th July 2007, and an Exhibition on teaching and learning materials and equipment in Science and Mathematics will be held during the third ordinary session of the Conference of Ministers of Education of the African Union, from 6th to 10th August 2007 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The Government of Republic of South Africa has cordially offered to host this Exhibition. The Exhibition is targeting the following groups:

- • Curriculum Developers;
- • Scientific school equipment developers;
- • Publishing Houses that have innovated ways for representing Science and Mathematics;
- • Textbook academic writers;
- • Research organizations;
- • Industry; and
- • International organizations interested in Science and Math Education

The Commission is therefore requesting those interested to participate in the above-mentioned Exhibition to fill the Attached form and send it as soon as possible to the Commission.

- There will be room for **ONLY Forty (40) Exhibitors**, who will be selected on 'first come first served' basis as long as they meet the criteria of relevance.

Please note that exhibitors will have to cover their costs for travel, shipping equipment and accommodation. An Exhibition Manual with more detailed information of the exhibition facilities will be sent to you due course.

Attached is a request form for participation. Please fill out the details legibly.