**A smattering Digest**

**Monday, December 20, 2010**

**Of Africa, and Plugging. This is specifically a nudge Tauriq Moosa. About knowledge, and freedom. etc.**

**I've been planning and peparing to act on a new project, gratefully with help from** [**Barrett Brown**](http://www.csicop.org/specialarticles/show/a_modern_solution_to_an_age_old_problem) **as well as Miss** [**Neurilemma**](http://emma-sparknotes.blogspot.com/)**, called** [**FirstPraxis**](http://emma-sparknotes.blogspot.com/)**. The first phase of Praxis aims at improving the availability and fidelity of research in Sub-Saharan Africa. I feel strongly that, as busy as he is in his pursuit of honest erudition, this is something my brilliant friend** [**Tauriq Moosa**](http://tauriqmoosa.wordpress.com/) **would want to be involved in.**
**I include a short digest of "what's happening" Sub-Saharan.**

[**World Bank Roots for Increased Science And Technology Financing**](http://www.blogger.com/goog_24622282)

THE Government should increase funding for science and technology initiatives to achieve its development goals outlined in the national development plan, the World Bank country manager, Kundhavi Kadiresan, has advised.

She said although the Government had a policy to support science and technology, funding for the initiative was inadequate.

"It is good to have the policy in place, but it should be supported with adequate resources to operationalise it," she said.

She also advised the Government to review the education system to introduce science and technology at pre-primary level.

"In countries where science and technology has evolved, kids are taught right from nursery school to be independent thinkers and given the right environment to learn," she explained.

Kadiresan also advised Uganda to establish and strengthen centres of excellence in the two areas to grow and nurture scientists.

She said African countries spend $1b on expatriates annually, yet they would use less to train their home-grown experts. She observed that several highly skilled scientists had left the country to work abroad, causing a shortage in key sectors.

Thu Dec 9, 2010 3:34pm GMT

By Katy Migiro

NAIROBI (Reuters) - Hundreds of Kenyans living with HIV protested outside EU offices in Nairobi on Thursday against a deal they say may block access to cheap life-saving AIDS drugs.

The European Union and India are due to discuss a free-trade agreement in Brussels on Friday which campaigners say will cause shortages of generic antiretroviral (ARV) drugs. A U.N. study found that the proposed deal could make generics more expensive.

Under the proposed deal, patent terms would be extended beyond 20 years while data exclusivity provisions would force Indian manufacturers to carry out their own clinical trials instead of using existing data.

This would delay registration of generic ARVs for several years, according to the U.N.

"Unless the attacks by the European Commission on the future of generic production in India are stopped, costs will rise, ARV access will be rationed and patients will die," said Hussein Kerrow of the advocacy group Medecins sans Frontieres.[**South Africa Launches Space Agency**](http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/South_Africa_Launches_Space_Agency_999.html) ****[**Space science**](http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/South_Africa_Launches_Space_Agency_999.html) **has contributed significantly in the sustainable development of the African continent and SANSA will help play a role in this regard.
by Staff Writers
Pretoria, South Africa (PTI) Dec 13, 2010
South Africa launched its space agency last Thursday on what has been described as a historic day for the country. Science and Technology Minister Naledi Pandor and experts from the space agencies of other countries Thursday attended the launch of the South African Space Agency (SANSA).

South Africa now joins a select group of countries that boast having a space agency, the state-run BuaNews agency reported. Outlining SANSA's role, the minister said it will implement a national space programme and advise her on the subject.

It will have the responsibility of acquiring, assimilating and distributing space data to various state entities.

Pandor said the national space strategy will promote** [**research**](http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/South_Africa_Launches_Space_Agency_999.html) **in the areas of astronomy, earth observation, communications, navigation and space physics. The strategy will foster international cooperation in space-related activities, and advance scientific, engineering and technological competencies through outreach programmes.

Emphasis would be placed on encouraging space science research and development, she added.

She said the space industry is a big business and went beyond just space travel. It is an industry with enormous potential future growth. Over the next five years, South Africa intends to develop a formal space programme.**[**Food Technology Pavilion to Boost Education, Research**](http://www.blogger.com/goog_24622314) **Huambo — The minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Maria Cândida Teixeira, Thursday, in Huambo province (centre), inaugurated a food technology pavilion and a micro-biology laboratory, built under existing cooperation between Angola and France.**[**ICT Ambition Promising, U.S. Don Says**](http://allafrica.com/stories/201012100203.html)

Edmund Kagire

10 December 2010

Kigali — The CEO of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Dr. Alan Leshner, has said that Rwanda's ambition to use ICT and Science to drive herself to prosperity, is 'promising' and a sign of the people's determination to move forward and put the past behind them**.**

[**Kenyans rally against EU-India deal on AIDS drugs**](http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE6B80MH20101209?feedType=RSS&feedName=topNews&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+reuters%2FAFRICATopNews+%28News+%2F+AFRICA+%2F+Top+News%29)