

# DIRECTORATE OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN AFRICA



THE PRESIDENCY



A Catalyst For Rapid Development Of Africa



## Introduction

The Directorate of Technical Cooperation in Africa (DTCA) was established in 2001 under the supervision of the Ministry of Cooperation and Integration in Africa in the Presidency. This is in recognition of the fact that technical cooperation is a powerful instrument of regional economic integration in the 21st century.

Africa has over the years suffered from a continuing brain drain, with millions of highly qualified professionals serving outside the continent. Over the past thirty (30) years, more than 10 million Africans have migrated to Europe and the Americas, constituting an invisible nation as populous as countries like Senegal, Libya, Somalia or Mali. The IMF estimates that the Africans in diaspora could constitute the biggest group of foreign investors into Africa.

This group of immigrants in diaspora include professionals and skilled workers and it is estimated that African emigrants to the United States contribute 40 times more wealth to America than to the African economy.

Realizing that a good percentage of these professionals are largely either Nigerians or South Africans, the two leaders of these most populous nations of Africa, President Olusegun Obasanjo and President Thabo Mbeki, worried by the facts and figures of Africa's brain drain problem, decided in 1999, to reverse the trend by encouraging technical cooperation among African Countries using African experts.

DTCA's programmes are focused to attract African experts to enhance Africa's development. This is aimed at creating the enabling environment and opportunity for professionals in Nigeria and indeed those of African descent to invest their immense intellect, expertise and skills into the economies of mother Africa. It is therefore thought out that:

(a) African professionals, and Nigeria professionals particularly will be motivated, even though on short term basis, to choose any country in Africa in which they may invest their expertise;

(b) African professionals, in the process of doing (a) above, will utilize their various expertise and technology into Africa's national economies;

(c) African professionals will utilize their various areas of comparative national advantages, in terms of expertise, to improve their respective national economies;



(e) Through the activities of the DTCA, Nigeria would be able to raise Nigerian professionals and those in diaspora as volunteers to contribute their skills and expertise to the Nigerian economy. So far, interactions with a good number of these professionals in diaspora indicate that this is one programme they are eager to realize in order that they may make their contributions to nation building, being unable yet to return home to Nigeria;

(f) That the process of engaging of Nigerian experts in diaspora will also begin a process of confidence building in Africa and in Nigeria in particular, especially as Nigeria of today needs concerted effort at reconstructing her values and economy;

(g) The huge sums in foreign currencies being spent in the engagement of foreign consultants, will on the long run be saved for national development;

(h) Exercising its role as the leader of Africa, Nigeria will be able to advance continental cooperation and integration through the mechanism of technical assistance that is indeed the underlying factor for establishing the Directorate;

(i) Many African countries readily have need for Nigeria's vast human resources, including those being wasted in the name of retirement who though retired are not tired. This group of people will also be effectively engaged;

(j) Through the programme of technical assistance in Africa, better cooperation with fellow African countries will be enhanced, thus enabling Africa to realize and properly channel her foreign policies to the advantage of the Africa continent through cooperation and integration.



## The Objectives of DTCA.

The Objectives of the DTCA include the following:

To promote technology transfer through technical cooperation between Nigeria and other countries in Africa;

To promote the exchange of high - level research experts in Science and Technology, Humanities and Arts;

To provide sustainable funding for the Scientific and Technical Exchange Programme (STEP);

To provide a database of all Nigerian and African experts in Science and Technology, Humanities and Arts;

To facilitate capacity building for research and development in Africa;

To generate new ideas for Africa's development through cooperative research and collaborative development activities;

To cultivate and expand strategic relationships with key agencies in order to stimulate growth and development;

To facilitate cooperation and integration in Africa through the transfer and diffusion of technology and dissemination of innovations.



## The Mandate of DTCA

The Directorate has the following as its focal mandate:

Institutional/Technical support and other capacity building programmes in Africa;

Engaging consultants for the preparation of pre-feasibility and feasibility studies;

Acquisition of consulting services for the identification, preparation, appraisal, implementation, supervision and post-evaluation of development projects and programmes in Africa as well as carrying out mid-term reviews and audits;

Provision of technical assistance for the rehabilitation of existing projects;

Provision of training and capacity building;

Provision of technical assistance for policy studies;

Acting as a Bulletin Board for job advertisement in Africa;

Acting as a Recruitment Advisory for Africans in Diaspora and.

Other technical assistance that may be bi-laterally and multi-laterally agreed upon.



## Benefits

The establishment and programmes of the Directorate are structured to provide the following benefits:

The brain drain syndrome has robbed Nigeria and Africa of the best experts in a wide range of fields. The Scientific and Technical Exchange Programme (STEP) seeks to reverse this trend by offering attractive research facilities in African countries like South Africa to Nigerian experts desirous of serving African continent. At the home front, there are hundreds of retired Professors and other research experts who are still willing and able to offer quality services to research & development Institutions. STEP would create opportunities to engage the services of these highly trained Nigerian/African researchers. Experience within the European Union has shown that technical cooperation is one of the most powerful instruments of regional integration.

If vigorously implemented, STEP would hasten Nigeria's strategic integration with African nations. Such integration could produce the synergy for African technological liberation. STEP can also be bilaterally and multilaterally implemented with other African countries for similar benefits.

Technical cooperation between Nigeria and other Africa countries would help to bridge the widening gap between developed countries and Africa. Given the recent agreements on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Right (TRIP), which have given additional advantage to developed countries, Africa must unite through technical cooperation in order to save the continent from competing forces of globalisation.

Technical cooperation in agricultural research and development would provide rapid and viable solutions to Africa's food security problems.

Considering the pervasive nature of poverty in Africa, poverty eradication programmes are likely to receive top-priority attention from African governments and donor agencies. Technical cooperation in production could provide effective strategies for poverty eradication.



The core of technological innovations is development process. It makes sense therefore to promote technical cooperation among African countries in order to expand the continent's technological base for sustainable development.

The programme is rationalised on the ground that operations of DTCA will be rooted on a sound information technological base in its day to day management and therefore the platform to be used to enrich its products and services for development in Africa by Africans.

## Operational Programmes

DTCA focuses on three levels of operational programmes as follows:

### Level I Data base of experts

DTCA maintains a collection of biodata including qualifications, experience and field of expertise relating to Nigerian experts, experts in African countries and African experts in Diaspora. The data is of experts that have reached the peak of their service in both the public and private sectors, and those who are retired due to statutory regulations but are not tired.

### Level II Capacity Building/Training

DTCA receives requests from other African countries seeking for assistance to develop their capacity in various areas. The areas include the following:

- \*Information Technology
- \*Technological Skills and Education
- \*Research capacities
- \*Manpower development
- \*Infrastructure and etc.

### Level III Institutional Collaboration

With the availability of a number of research centres and higher institutions of learning in Nigeria that cover a variety of fields of human endeavour, DTCA is in a vantage position to link them up

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Institutions in other African countries that require technical and personnel assistance. Through this type of collaboration, the recipient institutions in those countries can cut down on personnel and operational costs and direct the savings towards expansion programmes. Example of institutions that can participate in this form of collaboration include Universities, Polytechnics and Colleges of Education and Research Centres. Collaboration may be in form of exchange of experts

## Funding

The programmes of DTCA are funded by the Nigerian Government through normal budgetary allocations and the Technical Cooperation Fund (TCF) established by Nigeria at the African Development Bank (ADB)

## Organisational Structure

The Directorate is headed by a Director-General who reports to a Presidential Inter-Ministerial Committee comprising: the Hon. Minister of Cooperation and Integration in Africa (Chairman), the Minister of Finance, the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Hon. Minister of Science and Technology.

The Directorate is structured into three departments namely:

- (i) Administration and Finance Department
- (ii) Programme Management Department
- (iii) Research, Monitoring and Information Services Department

There are also four Units in the Office of the Director - General, namely:

- (i) Internal Audit Unit
- (ii) Legal Unit
- (iii) Public Relations Unit
- (iv) Anti-Corruption & Transparency Unit



## Institutional Collaboration

The Directorate collaborates inter alia with the following National, International and Regional Establishments: and is developing such collaborations with others:

1. African Union (AU)
2. Economic Community for West African States (ECOWAS)
3. African Development Bank (ADB)
4. New Economic Partnership for African Development (NEPAD)
5. Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
6. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
7. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)
8. The African Training & Research Centre in Administration (CAFRAD)
9. Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC)
10. African Regional Centre for Engineering Design and Manufacturing (ARCEDEM)
11. Regional Centre for Training in Aerospace Surveys (RECTAS)
12. African Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education - English (ARCSST - E)
13. The Administrative Staff College of Nigeria (ASCON)
14. National Biotechnology Development Agency (NABDA)
15. Science Teachers Association of Nigeria (STAN)
16. National University Commission (NUC)
17. Industrial Training Fund (ITF)
18. National Manpower Board
19. National Directorate of Employment (NDE)
20. Small & Medium Scale Enterprises Association of Nigeria. (SMEAN)
21. National Productivity Centre
22. Zambia-Malawi -Mozambique Growth Triangle (ZMMGT)
23. Africa Recruit
24. Nigeria in Diaspora Organisations worldwide
25. Africa in Diaspora Organisation worldwide
26. Commonwealth Business Council (CBC)



## Procedure For Participation In DTCA Programmes

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### Individual Experts

Top-level experts in any field of human endeavour wishing to make his/her services available to areas of need in African countries other than Nigeria should:

- (a) Visit DTCA website at [www.dtca-ng.org](http://www.dtca-ng.org) and complete the on-line form;
- (b) Print out the on-line form, complete it and post it to:

The Director - General,  
Directorate of Technical Cooperation in Africa,  
The Presidency,  
Federal Secretariat Complex,  
Shehu Shagari Way,  
P.M.B. 557, Abuja.

### Institutions/Establishments

Institutions/establishments wishing to collaborate with similar institutions/establishments in Africa through the collaboration programmes of DTCA should:

Visit DTCA website at [www.dtca-ng.org](http://www.dtca-ng.org) and complete the on-line form.

### Projects

DTCA facilitates and finances projects that fall within the priority areas of recipient countries. Funds are available for research grants, rehabilitation of ailing or dormant industries, public utilities etc and for setting up new projects.

Countries wishing to approach DTCA for assistance may do so:

- (a) Through their representative mission in Nigeria, or
- (b) by visiting DTCA website at [www.dtca-ng.org](http://www.dtca-ng.org) and following the on line instructions.



**For More Information, visit our website at**  
**[www.dtca-ng.org](http://www.dtca-ng.org)**

**or**  
**contact:**

**The Director General**  
**Directorate of Technical Cooperation in Africa (DTCA)**  
**The Presidency**  
**Federal Secretariat Complex**  
**Shehu Shagari Way**  
**P.M.B. 557**  
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**Tel/Fax: 09-5235372**

The Directorate, while ensuring that all information herein contained is true and accurate to the best of her knowledge, shall however not accept liability for any action taken in furtherance and consequence thereof.

