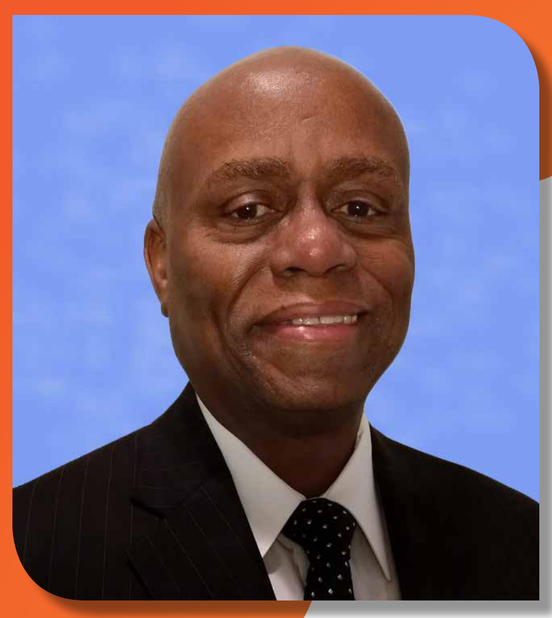
Science and Technology in Africa:
What Path Forward?



12 noon
Friday, Feb. 26, 2016
Physics Small Seminar Room

About Dr. Mtingwa

Sekazi K. Mtingwa is Principal Consultant at Triangle Science, Education & Economic Development, LLC in Hillsborough, North Carolina and Fellow of the National Society of Black Physicists, American Physical Society and American Association for the Advancement of Science. Mtingwa is President of the Interdisciplinary Consortium for Research and Educational Access in Science and Engineering (INCREASE), where he works closely with BNL's Diversity Office and Office of International Services to facilitate faculty and students from Minority-Serving Institutions in accessing the user facilities at the national laboratories.

Mtingwa received B.S. degrees in physics and mathematics from MIT in 1971 and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Princeton University in 1976. He retired from the faculties of both North Carolina A&T State University, where he previously served as Chair of the Department of Physics, and MIT, where he served in many capacities, including member of the Corporation (Board of Trustees), various Corporation Visiting Committees, faculty, and Faculty Director of Academic Programs in the Office of Minority Education.

Abstract

We will discuss the present state of science and technology in Africa, especially as regards their impact on African nations' economies, environment and health. More specifically, there are many initiatives presently underway and we will discuss three of them. First, we will describe the African Laser Centre, which is a network of laser researchers in Africa that has grown to involve more than thirty laboratories across the continent. We will describe its genesis, programs and major successes since its launch in 2003. Next, we will discuss the proposed Julius K. Nyerere University of Science, Technology and Innovation in the Mara Region of Tanzania and a model for the university that we proposed. Finally, we will provide highlights and outputs from the First African Light Source Conference and Workshop that was convened at the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility (ESRF) in Grenoble, France during November 2015. We have been involved in all three initiatives. Thus, we will report on our activities and speculate on what the future holds for their successes.

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