Africa’s economic growth has been on the upswing in recent years, partly because of more democratic governments, better macroeconomic policies, and a favorable global economy. Six of the 10 fastest growing economies in the 2000s were in Africa. And the IMF projects 7 of the top 10 performers through 2015 will again be in Africa. But the continent remains too dependent on primary products and extractive resources, which make it vulnerable to weather and commodity price fluctuations. Besides, the recent growth has been jobless in the face of an impending youth boom. This means economic growth alone will not sustain development on the continent. To ensure that progress is sustainable and continues to improve the lives of many more Africans, countries now need to aggressively promote economic transformation. Three key Pan-African institutions—the African Development Bank (AfDB), the African Union (AU), and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)—are emphasizing economic transformation as a primary goal.

The African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET) thinks of economic transformation as Growth + DEPTH (diversified production, export competitiveness, productivity gains in firms and on farms, technological upgrading throughout the economy, and increases across the board in human well-being). From the AU’s perspective, successful transformation will entail the unlocking of the continent’s potential in several areas, including better health and nutrition, improved access to basic services, and alignment of the skills mix of the large and youthful population to the needs of transforming economies and societies. But the question remains: How can African countries speed their transformation?

The Quest for Economic Transformation conference will share perspectives from leading experts on African economies from ACET, Addax Bioenergy, AfDB, Brookings Institute, Central Bank of Kenya, Chinese Ethiopia Chamber, Ethiopian Development Research Institute (EDRI), DFID, IFPRI, Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPPRA), the Kenya Vision 2030 Secretariat, Office of the President of Nigeria, Overseas Development Institute (ODI), the Pan African Agribusiness and Agroindustry Consortium (PanAAC), Princeton University, Tufts University, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), University of Groningen, University of Nairobi, University of Oxford, and the World Bank.

The African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET) is an economic policy institute supporting the long-term growth of African countries with economic transformation. ACET was established in 2008 by Dr. K.Y. Amoako, former Executive Secretary for the U.N.’s Economic Commission for Africa. Headquartered in Accra, ACET keeps a core staff of about 30 from every sub-region of the continent plus the diaspora, augmented by a global network of seasoned business leaders and development experts, and guided by a distinguished board that includes CEOs, former heads of state, and central bank governors. ACET will release the first African Transformation Report in February 2014. www.acetforafrica.org

The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) seeks sustainable solutions for ending hunger and poverty. IFPRI was established in 1975 to identify and analyze alternative national and international strategies and policies for meeting the food needs of the developing world, with particular emphasis on low-income countries and on the poorer groups in those countries. It is a member of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) Consortium. www.ifpri.org
THE QUEST FOR
ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION IN AFRICA

DAY 1 – Thursday, December 5, 2013

08:30am - 09:00am Registration

09:00am - 09:30am Welcome and Introduction
Peter Oganga Magiti (Principal Secretary of Planning, Ministry of Devolution and Planning)
K.Y. Amoako (President, ACET)
Maggie McMillan (Senior Research Fellow, IFPRI)

09:30am – 10:45am Session 1: The Case for Economic Transformation in Africa
Chair: Dickson Khainga (Head of Macroeconomics Division, KIPPRA)
Presenter: Mina Baliamoune (Director of Research, ACET)

10:45am – 11:00am Coffee Break

11:00am – 12:30pm Session 2: Learning from Each Other (Country Case Studies in Transformation)
Chair: Nicolás Depetris Chauvin (ACET and CEPII)
Presenters:
Bethuel Kinuthia (University of Nairobi) - Malaysia vs. Kenya
Xinshen Diao (Senior Research Fellow, IFPRI) - Rwanda Case Study
Danielle Resnick (Research Fellow, IFPRI) - Zambia Case Study

12:30pm – 01:30pm Lunch
Speaker: Michael Chege (Economic Advisor, National Treasury Kenya) on Kenya’s Experience in Transformation

01:30pm – 03:15pm Session 3: Structural Change and Employment in a Globalizing World
Chair: Mina Baliamoune (Director of Research, ACET)
Presenters:
Dani Rodrik (Institute for Advanced Studies, Princeton University)
Maggie McMillan (Senior Research Fellow, IFPRI)
Louise Fox (Lead Economist, World Bank)
Angela Lusigi (Regional Programme Adviser, UNDP - Regional Bureau for Africa)

03:15pm – 03:30pm Coffee Break
Session 4: The Role of Agriculture in African Development  
Chair: Lucy Muchoki (CEO, Pan African Agribusiness and Agroindustry Consortium) 
Presenters: Doug Gollin (University of Oxford) 
Ousmane Badiane (Director for Africa, IFPRI) 
Kwabena Gyiamah-Brempong (Senior Research Fellow, IFPRI) 
John Omiti (Executive Director, KIPPRA) 

Session 5: Private Investment in Africa  
Moderator: Dani Rodrik (Institute for Advanced Studies, Princeton University) 
Participants: Moses Ikiara (Management Director, Kenya Investment Authority) 
Helen Hai (CEO of China Africa Consulting and 
Vice chair of Chinese Ethiopia Chamber) 
Polycarp Igathe (Chairman, Kenya Association of Manufacturers) 
Sam Makome (Chief Business Officer/MD Kenya, Kenya Commercial Bank) 
Jörgen Sandström (Executive Officer, Business Development and 
External Relations, Addax Bioenergy - Sierra Leone) 
John Page (Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution) 

Conference Dinner  
Guest Speaker: Manoah Esipisu (Communications Secretary and 
Chief Government Spokesman, Government of Kenya) 

Session 6: Measuring Economic Transformation in Africa  
Chair: Joe Amoako-Tuffour (Senior Advisor, ACET) 
Presenters: Yaw Ansu (Chief Economist, ACET) - The African Transformation Index 
Gaaitzen de Vries (University of Groningen) - Structural Transformation in 
Africa: Static Gains, Dynamic Losses 

Coffee Break 

Session 7: Kenya Vision 2030  
Chair: K.Y. Amoako (President, ACET) 
Presenter: Julius Muia (Executive Secretary, National Economic and Social Council - 
Presidency and Cabinet Affairs Office) 

Lunch 

Day 2 – Friday, December 6, 2013 

09:00am – 10:30am 
Session 6: Measuring Economic Transformation in Africa 
Chair: Joe Amoako-Tuffour (Senior Advisor, ACET) 
Presenters: Yaw Ansu (Chief Economist, ACET) - The African Transformation Index 
Gaaitzen de Vries (University of Groningen) - Structural Transformation in 
Africa: Static Gains, Dynamic Losses 

10:30am – 10:45am 
Coffee Break 

10:45am – 12:30pm 
Session 7: Kenya Vision 2030 
Chair: K.Y. Amoako (President, ACET) 
Presenter: Julius Muia (Executive Secretary, National Economic and Social Council - 
Presidency and Cabinet Affairs Office) 

12:30pm – 01:30pm 
Lunch
Session 8: Africa and Global Supply Chains
Chair: Julius Gatune (Policy Advisor, ACET)
Presenters:
- Francis Mulangu (Agricultural Economist, ACET) - Agricultural Supply Chains Project
- Vera Chiodi (Paris School of Economics) - Role of GRI in Ghana
- Bart Minten (Senior Research Fellow, IFPRI-Ethiopia) - Africa’s Value Chains on the Move: The Case of Teff in Ethiopia
- Girum Abebe (EDRI) - Cut Flowers and Leather Industries in Ethiopia
- Shashidhara Kolavalli (Senior Research Fellow, IFPRI-Ghana) - Cocoa Value Chains

Coffee Break

Session 9: The Extractive and Energy Sectors in Africa
Chair: Maggie McMillan (Senior Research Fellow, IFPRI)
Presenters:
- Abubakar Sambo (Special Adviser to the President of Nigeria, World Energy Council Vice-Chair for Africa) - Energy and Transformation in Africa
- Joe Amoako-Tuffour (Senior Advisor, ACET) - Country Mining Policies and the Africa Mining Vision

Session 10: What’s next in African Transformation Agenda?
(Policy Panel on Drivers, Bottle Necks, Priorities, etc)
Moderator: K.Y. Amoako (President, ACET)
Participants:
- Dani Rodrik (Institute for Advanced Studies, Princeton)
- Yaw Ansu (Chief Economist, ACET)
- Wainaina Gituro (Director General, Vision 2030 Delivery Secretariat)
- Mbui Wagacha (Chairman of the Board, Central Bank of Kenya)
- Peter Ondiege (Chief Research Economist, African Development Bank)

Closing
K.Y. Amoako (President, ACET)