The AFRICA INFORMATION HIGHWAY

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What is the Africa Information Highway?

- AFDB’s initiative that has funded the installation of Open Data Portals in all African countries and several regional organizations.

- With connection to internet, users can access a wide range of development data on African countries from multiple international and national official sources.
Background

- High Level Forum for Aid Effectiveness, Busan, Dec 2011 => Busan Action Plan for Statistics (BAPS)—call to promote full access to official statistics.

- 4th Statistical Commission for Africa’s of 2012 held here in SA—request to AFDB.

- AU Summit of July 2012 (AfDB, AUC, and ECA) to support countries to develop effective data management and dissemination systems.

- G8 summit of June 2013—Good governance to scale up development effectiveness.

- AFDB’s Statistical Capacity program.
Objectives

- Facilitate easy public access of official statistics to policymakers, analysts, business leaders, researchers, students and the general public.

- Improve evidence-based decision making, public accountability, policy formulation and overall good governance.

- Improve data harmonization/standardization, thereby increase data comparability.

- Tool for seamlessly exchanges of data among African countries.
Overall Functionality

- Users can visualize socio-economic indicators over a period of time, gain access to presentation-ready graphics and perform comprehensive analysis on a country and regional level.
- The platform also facilitates the collection, analysis and sharing of data among agencies/countries/ international development partners.
Key applications

Several specialized applications/portals developed within the umbrella AIH

1. **Farms Digitisation and Farmers Registry** (to be presented today)
2. **High Fives** — disseminates periodic information about the performance of African countries in the five high priority areas of focus — to light up and power Africa, feed Africa, integrate Africa, industrialize Africa, and improve the quality of life for the people of Africa.
   
   [http://opendataforafrica.org/oerzcxr/high-fives-tracking-progress](http://opendataforafrica.org/oerzcxr/high-fives-tracking-progress)
3. **Made in Africa** — disseminates detailed data on foreign trade flows on African countries.
   
   [http://madeinafrica.opendataforafrica.org](http://madeinafrica.opendataforafrica.org)
4. **Africa Food Prices** — disseminate weekly price data on various agricultural products, including cereals, meat, fish, vegetables, oils, fruits, dairy products and other food items in Africa.

   [http://opendataforafrica.org/qpnyyce](http://opendataforafrica.org/qpnyyce)
5. **Africa Infrastructure Knowledge Program** — disseminates information on issues including Water Utility, Rail, Ports, Energy and Air Transport sector.
   
   [http://infrastructureafrica.opendataforafrica](http://infrastructureafrica.opendataforafrica)
6. **Energy Power Plants** — disseminate information on all the power plants in a given country.

Significantly improved data exchanges among African countries.

Increased data access, transparency, accountability.

Improving data quality through enhanced adherence to international standards.

Promoting the regional integration and harmonization agenda.

Reduced data-reporting burden for countries.

Platform for the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of development outcomes—including the 17 SDGs and 169 targets.

AfDB as a hub/knowledge center for development data on African countries.
How can SARIMA benefit from the AIH?

- Ready access to data for all African countries but more specifically:
  - Access to data for SARIMA countries
  - Access to COMESA AIH portal
    - [http://COMESA.opendataforafrica.org/](http://COMESA.opendataforafrica.org/)
  - Access to SADC AIH portal
    - [http://SADC.opendataforafrica.org/](http://SADC.opendataforafrica.org/)
  - Use of the Open Data portals by SARIMA researchers to create thematic networks.