



ACADÉMIE NATIONALE DES SCIENCES ET TECHNIQUES DU SÉNÉGAL

BRIEF HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

The Académie Nationale des Sciences et Techniques du Sénégal (ANSTS) was created with the intention of capitalizing on Senegal's intellectual wealth for the scientific, technological, economic, and sociocultural development of the country. Formed as a learned society, under the sponsorship and oversight of the president of the Republic of Senegal, ANSTS' general mission is to provide scientific advice and expertise to the Republic of Senegal. The statutes of ANSTS were approved by Decree No. 2006-289 on 3 April 2006.

ANSTS is composed of statutory members, foreign associates, correspondents of honorary members, and emeritus members recruited freely on the basis of merit. The statutory members and the correspondents are elected after recruitment following an examination of their titles and scientific works and upon a presentation during a session of the Academy. The total number of statutory members is 45 out of a provisional number of 80. The Academy membership also includes six co-opted foreign associates.

Since its establishment, ANSTS has strongly invested in the search for scientific and technical solutions to economic and social problems at the national and subregional level, such as floods in Saint-Louis or the locust threat. Furthermore, the Academy has worked for the enlargement, intensification, and diversification of its interinstitutional cooperation framework, particularly with various sister Academies.

OBJECTIVES

With the support of the African Science Academy Development Initiative (ASADI), ANSTS has developed and adopted its strategic plan for the period of 2006–2010. This plan outlines the following strategic objectives:

- To assist and advise the government of Senegal in the definition and implementation of Senegal's national science and technology policy;
- To promote scientific research and technological innovations and to initiate and to encourage science and technology programs;
- To facilitate exchanges and collaboration with similar organizations;

- To review the quality of science and technology education;
- To award prizes to particularly distinguished scientists;
- To promote science and technology and opportunities within this field for women and youth; and
- To contribute to the development of the science culture and support the bringing together of science.

The primary objectives of ANSTS are, among others:

- Assist and advise the government of Senegal in the definition, formulation, preparation, implementation, and assessment of the national science and technology policy.
- Encourage scientific research and development and technology innovation in Senegal.
- Assist in the evaluation and determination of key national science, technology, and innovation indicators.
- Review the quality of science and technology education in relation to the culture of the population.
- Encourage exchanges and collaboration with other similar institutions by formulating opinions or recommendations, in particular through the publication of reports.

STATUTORY ORGANS

ANSTS has three organs: the General Assembly, the Scientific Sections, and the Administrative Office.

The General Assembly is the supreme authority of the Academy and is sovereign on all questions relating to the life of the Academy.

ANSTS is grouped into four scientific sections, each headed by a president. The different sections are:

- Agricultural Sciences
- Health Sciences
- Science and Techniques
- Economic and Social Sciences

The administrative office of the ANSTS is constituted of the following:

- President
- Four (4) Vice-Presidents who are the presidents of each section
- Permanent Secretary
- Assistant Secretary
- Treasurer
- Assistant Treasurer
- Four members
- Immediate past president

PRIORITY PROGRAMS

To enable the Academy to achieve its objectives, ANSTS is implementing programs derived from its strategic plan focusing on the following thematic areas:

- Science, technology, and society
- Scientific and technological innovation and development
- Cooperation and scientific and technological integration
- Science and technology education
- Information and communication technology (ICT)

ACTIVITIES

The activities of the Academy are in accordance with its objectives. Besides the statutory meetings of the Office of Administration and General Assembly, ANSTS holds:

- Monthly scientific sessions—open to the national or international scientific community eager to share their thoughts or research results
- Special scientific sessions—organized around current issues facing the country

For its international activities, ANSTS will soon host several meetings, including the NASAC Focal Points Meeting, a practical workshop on optics and astronomy, and the Third Conference of Knowledge Management Africa (KMA), for which ANSTS will work in close cooperation with ARCT (African Regional Center for Technology) and DBSA (Development Bank of Southern Africa). Moreover, ANSTS has been entrusted with the mission to promote the creation of Academies of Science in French-speaking Africa.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- ANSTS adopted a draft program for the development of teaching science and technology called the National Indicative Program.
- ANSTS reviewed all the current innovations and experiences at the national, regional, and international level in order to define an education policy in the field of science and technology relative to current trends and the needs of Senegal.
- Following a scientific fact-finding mission to Saint-Louis, ANSTS staged a special scientific session on the theme “Floods and Management: The Case of Saint-Louis.” The session resulted in the adoption of a Flood Control and Urban Management Strategy Paper (DSLIGU), submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources.
- ANSTS has been involved in the scientific management of the proceedings of various governmental conferences, striving for the accomplishment of its objectives to assist public authorities. These include the following:

- o The International Conference on the Locust Threat and the DAKAR-AGRICOLE Forum, organised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources (MAH)
- o The Containment Basins and the Great Green Wall international conference, organized for the Ministries of Environment and Conservation of Nature and Water Resources
- Within the framework of the global network of cyberpolicy resources, the Canadian and French governments, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), as well as the Institute of New Information Technologies and Training (INTIF) entrusted ANSTS with the organisation of a workshop on “National Policies and Strategies on Information and Communication Technologies (ICT): Regulations, Control, and Public Access.” As a follow-up, the InterAcademy Panel on International Issues (IAP) in collaboration with the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and the Academy of Science of China, requested ANSTS organise an international symposium in January 2006, on “Promoting Access to Scientific and Technical Information in Developing Countries.”
- ANSTS organized the Third Annual International Conference of the African Science Academy Development Initiative (ASADI) on the theme “Water and Health.”
- The Academy, in collaboration with NASIC (Network of the Academies of Sciences of the Islamic Countries) and in partnership with the African Regional Center for Technology (ARCT) and the Senegalese Ministry of Scientific Research, organised an international seminar on “Biosecurity and the Strengthening of National Capacities in the UMMAH” as a prelude to the 11th Summit of Organisation of The Islamic Conference (OCI).

STRATEGIC DIRECTION — LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE

To consolidate its national, regional, and international position and to scale up its action in promoting science and technology at the service of integral and sustainable development, the ANSTS strategic direction is aimed at strengthening its institutional capacities and enconcing its activities for the next 5 years. In addition to this, the definition of a clear and shared vision is enabling the Academy to assert itself as an operational and efficient organ of consultation and advice for public authorities, national leaders, research structures, or higher training structures, as well as the civil society. Moreover, ANSTS has placed its strategy in the long term in a spirit of openness, cooperation, and partnership. To that effect, the ANSTS strategic direction, which is mostly derived from its 2006–2010 strategic plan and which is based on Senegal’s development options contained in the 10th Economic Development Plan, aims at:

- strengthening ANSTS management capacities and programs together with national capacities in science and technology, and
- promoting cooperation and partnership in science and technology, as well as information and communication technologies and their popularization.

PRIORITY PROGRAMS PENDING FUNDING

The key priority programs of the strategic plan, for which funding is not yet secured, can be grouped into four major components:

- Support of the management of ANSTS and its organizational and institutional capacity development programs
- Contribution to the development of national capacities in science and technology
- Cooperation, partnership, and public relations of ANSTS
- Training in the use of information and communication technologies

PARTNERSHIPS

ANSTS maintains partnerships with institutions and associations whose areas of intervention converge with its fields of competence, particularly agricultural science, economic and social science, health science, and science and technology.

ANSTS is a member of several networks, such as the African Science Academy Development Initiative (ASADI), the InterAcademy Panel on International Issues (IAP) where ANSTS is represented at the executive committee level, the InterAcademy Medical Panel (IAMP), the Network of the Academies of Sciences of the Islamic Countries (NASIC), and the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC). ANSTS also collaborates very broadly with foreign academies of sciences on a bilateral level, notably with those of France (Sciences, Medicine, Pharmacy, and Agriculture), Italy, the United States, and Canada.

PUBLICATIONS

ANSTS scientific publications undergo a rigorous internal review process. The publications are administered by a special section of the administrative office of the Academy, under the supervision of the Permanent Secretary.

The publications of the Academy consist of the *Bulletin de l’Academie*, *Bulletin de Liaison*, and special publications, among which are online magazines.

Recent Publications

- Strategic Plan (2006–2010)
- Action Strategy for the Improvement and Development of Science and Technology Education
- Flooding and Land Use Planning—The Case of Saint-Louis, Senegal/Strategy for Flood Control and Urban Management
- Biotechnologies: Potentials, Applications, and Perspectives—The Case of Senegal

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Prof. Mary Teuw NIANE
Program Manager, UNECA Office, Eastern Africa

OFFICE LOCATION AND ADDRESS

61, Bd Djily Mbaye
B.P. 4344, Dakar RP
Senegal

Telephone: (221) 338491099

Fax: (221) 338491096

Website: <http://www.ast.sn>

E-mail: academ.sc@orange.sn

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