

April 7th, 2010

Dear Participant,

We look forward to hosting you at the April meeting of the Africa Office Rockefeller Foundation Grantees at the Holiday Inn here in Nairobi.

In order to ensure that we have a fruitful and highly participatory meeting we have enclosed some pre-reading material that will enable you to have a broader sense of the work that the Foundation is currently engaged in.

The Rockefeller Foundation works through a series of Initiatives described in the Initiative Briefs attached. As we go forward with our support for work in this region, we seek to ensure that the institutions and grantees that we are working with are addressing Africa's most critical issues.

To this end we will host sessions during the convening that will allow participants in various thematic fields an opportunity to learn from each other and seek out synergies that may not previously have been maximized. We hope this opportunity to engage with leaders within a variety of different fields will allow all of us to learn of cutting edge activities promoting development on the continent and to map out new areas of work for our various organisations. As you prepare for the meeting we would encourage you to keep the following questions in mind:

- What bottlenecks in my area of work have been hindering progress in the sector and how can they be overcome? Through technology, basic interventions, increased human resources?
- What catalyst of change is missing that would be the trigger for success in my area of work?
- What lessons in my thematic area (health, agriculture, climate change resilience etc.) are applicable to theories of change in other sectors?
- How can we move policy and research into true practice and implementation?
- What lessons can I share about how we have successfully communicated our work and the impact which we have achieved?

These guiding questions will be critical for our discussion on synergies and opportunities in Africa in our discussion on Days One and Two.

On Friday the 16th we will have a series of office hours with Foundation Team Leaders in Communications, Evaluation and Grants Management. We invite grantees to sign up for one-on-one sessions with the respective leaders to gain better understanding around the Foundation's mandate and expectations in these areas. These are optional sessions and signup sheets will be distributed at the meeting. In our interest in furthering the quality of work that we as development practitioners carry out, we will be hosting an open session on Monitoring and Evaluation on Friday afternoon. Participants are welcome to sign up for this optional session as well which will be attended by a host of evaluation experts from the region.

We look forward to a highly engaged meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'James Nyoro', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the left.

James Nyoro
Managing Director
The Rockefeller Foundation, Africa Regional Office.

Encl. Initiative Briefs
Convening Agenda