

THE BRAIN DRAIN: A REAL PROBLEM FOR THE AFRICAN CONTINENT

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African countries spend billions of dollars annually for the training of young professionals to fuel the work force of western countries. Consequently, this lost of trained personnel to western countries is a major contributor to difficulties faced by African countries in all sectors of their development. Conservative estimates indicate that for some African countries there are more medical doctors abroad than home. The issue of brain drain out of Africa is not new and several organizations have even attempted to reverse the trend. Recent assessments indicate that there is very little enthusiasm of African governments in creating conditions allowing them to take advantage of the Diaspora. We will provide a global perspective on the effects of the brain drain on African economies with an emphasis on its effects on the educational system. Finally, we will present a strategy that NEPAD Council will attempt to use to tackle issues related to the brain drain.