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An Overview of Our Appropriate Technology Work

What is Appropriate Technology? Public education on 'what is appropriate technology' is central to our mission as the International Network on Appropriate Technology (INAT). The cornerstone of our platform on appropriate technology (AT) is that AT is 'technology to empower people'. Focusing on technologies that are human-centered promotes: better health, better education, improved access to clean water, necessary shelter and safe food, as well as transportation and energy solutions that are do not cause ecological imbalance. The more the world population is empowered the more the potential of the world's human resources can be utilized. The broader the world population is empowered, the better equipped society is to exercise democracy. The nature of 'appropriate technology' is technology that is culturally sensitive yet ecologically sound and economically sustainable.

What we do: The INAT group currently comprises academics and professionals from the USA, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, India, Senegal, Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Sudan, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia, Swaziland, and South Africa, who are united in their commitment to enhancing, broadening and connecting appropriate technology education, research and practice with the undergirding philosophy of empowering local communities in enhancing and controlling technologies to improve their quality of life.

Origins of INAT: Our efforts began in 1998, with a workshop on appropriate technology and the formation of the Howard University Project on Appropriate Technology (HUPAT). Since then a dedicated and growing interdisciplinary team of Howard faculty has brought together exemplars of AT development and implementation at workshops, symposia and conferences. This has provided faculty and students with opportunities and projects to engage in AT study and research. The team of Howard faculty, in partnership with their international colleagues and partners, has committed themselves to a continuing series of conferences, workshops and symposia to spread the word on the relevance and necessity of appropriate technology. A few of the national and international initiatives and activities are listed below

- 1998 – AT Workshop at Howard University
- 1999 – One Day AT conference at Howard University
- 1999- A panel on "Appropriate Technology in Science and Engineering Curriculum" at African-African American Summit in Accra Ghana
- 2001 – Lecture on "Appropriate Technology for National Development" at National Conference on Leveraging Technology in Business, and Education, Windhoek, Namibia
- 2004 – 1st International Conference on Appropriate Technology (ICAT) in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe – Theme: AT for Land Management
- 2006 – 2nd ICAT in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe – Theme: AT for Public Health
- 2007 – TV special and newspaper interviews on Appropriate Technology, Guyana
- 2008 – One day regional symposium on appropriate technology, University T&T, Trinidad
- 2008 – Guest lecture on Appropriate Technology at University of Khartoum, Sudan
- 2008 – 3rd ICAT in Kigali, Rwanda – Theme: Energy and Climate Change
- 2009 – 1st Howard University AT Symposium, Washington, DC
- 2010 – 2nd Howard University AT Symposium, Washington, DC
- 2010 – 4th ICAT –Accra Ghana, Theme: AT for Water and Sanitation
- 2010 – 1st workshop on Socially relevant computing – Accra Ghana
- 2011 – 3rd Howard University AT Symposium, Washington DC
- 2011 – 2nd workshop on Socially relevant computing – University of Pretoria, South Africa
- 2012 – 1st Workshop on knowledge management capacity in Africa (co-organizer), Khartoum, Sudan