



Association for the
Development of
Education in Africa

Press release

For immediate release

Maputo to host the 2008 Biennale on Education in Africa

Paris, April 15, 2008 – The capital of Mozambique, Maputo, will host the Biennale on Education in Africa from May 5 to 9. The Biennale is the most important meeting in Africa in the field of educational cooperation, organized every two years by the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA).

Some 600 participants are expected at the Joaquim Chissano International Conference Center. The Biennale will bring together all African ministers of education and training, representatives of multilateral and bilateral development cooperation agencies, African and international non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations, foundations, education specialists, academics and practitioners, as well as providers of all types of education. Ministers for sectors other than education are also expected.

On May 5, the formal opening ceremony of the first Biennale hosted by a Lusophone African country will include addresses by President Armando Emilio Guebuza of Mozambique; President Abdelaziz Bouteflika of the Republic of Algeria, guest of honor; the current Chairperson of the African Union, Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete; and the First Lady of Puerto Rico, Luisa Acevedo Vilá.

At the 2006 Biennale in Libreville, the discussions focused on the factors and conditions conducive to effective schools, literacy programs and early childhood development programs. In Maputo, the participants will consider post-primary education, one of the greatest challenges facing African education systems now that significant progress has been made in improving enrollment and completion rates at the primary level.

The central theme, “**Beyond Primary Education: Challenges and Approaches to Expanding Learning Opportunities in Africa**”, will be addressed through three broad sub-themes: extending the duration of mandatory schooling for all to 9-10 years; the challenge of skills development, to better prepare young people for integration into social and working life; linkages between senior secondary education and higher education, with a view to building human resources for Africa's development.

Plenary sessions will be held to introduce each of these sub-themes, followed by parallel sessions which will allow participants to discuss them in greater depth, analyzing cross-cutting issues relating to, among other things, relevant policy directions, coherent and efficient governance of education systems, efficient division of roles between the central government and its various partners, mobilization of fresh resources and cost reduction, promising strategies for broadening access and enhancing equity, increasing the teaching force and teacher training, curriculum and skills development, equivalencies and bridges between components of the education system.

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The main objective of the 2008 Biennale is to foster the sharing of African and international experience and knowledge on the development of post-primary education, to promote shared understandings of the challenges and priorities and to identify lessons learned, policy options and promising strategies.

The event will provide the African education community with the tools, as well as the latest state of knowledge and practice, that are apt to bring advances in post-primary education throughout the continent, in line with the considerable progress made toward the achievement of universal primary education. Over 120 studies and research papers have been prepared for the Maputo meeting, according to ADEA Executive Secretary Mamadou Ndoye.

The Maputo Biennale will also celebrate ADEA's 20th anniversary. The year 2008 is a highly symbolic one in terms of stronger anchoring in Africa, reflected in the relocation of the ADEA Secretariat to the headquarters of the African Development Bank in Tunis, the strengthening of ADEA's partnership with the African Union in the context of the implementation of the Second Decade of Education for Africa, the upcoming merger of the COMEDAF and ADEA Bureaux of Ministers and the extension of ADEA's scope of activity to cover the entire continent. For the first time, the countries of North Africa will participate in the Biennale. The year will also see the launch of ADEA's first medium-term strategic plan (2008-2012).

About ADEA

Since its founding in 1988, ADEA has become a leader in the processes of dialogue, sharing and learning for qualitative change in education aimed at promoting African development.

Its mission is to act as a catalyst for innovative policies and practices for change in education through the pooling of ideas, experience, lessons learned and knowledge.

As a partnership between education ministries and development cooperation bodies, ADEA is a forum for policy dialogue on education in Africa; a network of education professionals, practitioners and researchers; and a catalyst for educational reform.

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For further information, please visit the ADEA Web site: www.ADEAnet.org or contact:

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