



Korea to join the ADEA Steering Committee

Ouagadougou, 13 February 2012. Prime Minister Luc Adolphe Tiao of Burkina Faso opened the Africa-Korea Day on Sunday at the International Conference Center of Ouagadougou, calling on African countries to draw inspiration from Korea's experience in the fields of education, training, science and technology.

“This day of exchanges of views and sharing of experience is an excellent introduction to the Triennale of the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA). The discussions raise the issue of the quality of education. The secrets of Korea's success lie in education and training, and Korea's experience can provide inspiration for Africans”, he declared.

The Africa-Korea Day, organized by ADEA, provided the occasion for a ministerial delegation to announce that Korea would become a member of the ADEA Steering Committee and to describe in detail the path that enabled Korea to rise from its level of development in the 1960s to its current status as one of the ten strongest economies in the world.

“We have an excellent opportunity today to share our experience in the field of education with Africa. We present these results in the hope that they will help to foster new ideas for the development of education and science in Africa. It should be emphasized that Korea has never stopped educating its children”, explain Korea's Vice-Minister of Education Sang-jin Lee at the opening ceremony.

Taking the floor in his turn, Kenya's Minister of Education Sam Ogeri, who is also Chair of the Conference of African Ministers of Education (COMEDAF), called the Africa-Korea Day a “historic event” that should inform Africans about the close relationship between Korea's success and its strategy in the education sector.

“Africa has much to learn from Korea, and the meeting we have just held confirms the central role of education, science and training in economic development. We may therefore move forward by drawing inspiration from Korea's experience and drawing strength from Africa's youth”, added Mr. Ogeri at the closure of the day-long meeting.

Association for the Development of Education in Africa

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After the opening ceremony, the participants divided up into three thematic sessions that examined detailed case studies of Korea's experience regarding the three sub-themes of the Triennale:

- The common core of skills for lifelong learning and sustainable development in Africa
- Lifelong development of technical and vocational skills for sustainable socio-economic growth in Africa
- Lifelong acquisition of scientific and technical skills for the sustainable development of Africa in the context of globalization

Representatives of the Korea Education Institute, Seoul National University, Korea Institute of Science and Technology and the Korean National Commission for UNESCO took part in the three thematic sessions to inform the participants about the policies and strategies that Korea has followed for nearly 50 years in the fields of education and training.

Presenting the results of the thematic sessions, ADEA Executive Secretary Ahlin Byll-Cataria emphasized leadership, political vision, and the role of research, culture, and technical and vocational education in Korea's success.

"We have learned an enormous amount today from our Korean friends about all three sub-themes addressed in the thematic sessions. I am convinced that the lessons learned from Korea's experience will inform our discussions during the Triennale, particularly in the policy dialogue with African decision-makers", he declared.

Over 800 participants, including several heads of state and some forty African ministers, are expected to attend the ADEA Triennale, which will be held from February 13 to 17, 2012 in Ouagadougou. The theme is "Promoting critical knowledge, skills and qualifications for the sustainable development of Africa: how to design and implement an effective response by education and training systems".

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