



ADEA and Côte d'Ivoire hold a regional meeting on Technical and Vocational Skills Development in Africa

Tunis, 16 September 2011 – The Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) and the Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training of Côte d'Ivoire will hold in Abidjan, from 19 to 21 September 2011, the Second Conference of the ADEA Inter-Country Quality Node (ICQN) on Technical and Vocational Skills Development (TVSD).

The meeting is aimed at promoting the development of technical and vocational skills in Africa at the national, sub-regional and regional levels. It will be opened officially on 20 September 2011 by the President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, His Excellency Alassane Ouattara.

The proceedings will begin with a meeting of experts on 19-20 September, followed by a Ministerial conference on 20-21 September.

The meeting of experts will examine three topics:

- Crucial skills for responding to economic demand for competitiveness and social demand for integration into the world of work;
- Public-private partnerships for effective, sustainable systems of training;
- Ways and means for the recognition and certification of acquired skills in all their forms.

It will also discuss the possibilities for strengthening inter-country cooperation and measures and systems for joint development between countries to achieve that goal.

The experts's work will include reviewing the results of studies conducted by the ICQN on five topics identified as common issues: new forms of inter-country learning; new ways of bringing young people into the world of work; reinforcement of public/private partnerships; national certification frameworks that take into account the validation of skills acquired through non-formal learning; reinforcement of the role of professional sectors in TVSD.

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The ministerial conference will take note of the work of the experts and lay the foundations of a framework for action to take regional cooperation and public/private partnerships forward in the TVSD domain.

A final Declaration will be adopted to summarise the Abidjan proceedings along with the positions and visions the Ministers with responsibility for technical education and vocational training and TVSD wish to promote at the regional level. This Declaration – which will be used in preparing ADEA’s 2012 Triennale – will set out clearly the manner in which the Ministers intend firstly to design and to build together efficient TVSD systems and, secondly, to pool their efforts for the development of crucial knowledge, skills and qualifications necessary for the promotion of Africa’s sustainable development.

Some fifty delegates will be at the Abidjan meeting, coming from 19 African countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Republic of Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Morocco, Mauritius, Mozambique, Niger, Senegal, South Africa, Togo and Tunisia. It will also be attended by experts and representatives from major international organisations and bilateral and multilateral technical and financial partners.

The goal of ADEA’s Quality Node on TVSD is to act as a catalyst for innovative policies and practices in the area of technical and vocational skill development through the pooling of ideas, experience, learning and expertise. Led by the Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training of Côte d’Ivoire, it has emerged from the dynamics already present in the TVSD field and shared between Côte d’Ivoire, the WAEMU countries and Cape Verde.

A launch conference for the ADEA Inter-country Quality Node (ICQN) on Technical and Vocational Skills Development (TVSD) was held in July 2010, also in Abidjan. At this meeting, the ministers and delegates of 20 French-, English- and Portuguese- speaking countries were unanimous in their agreement that *“it is through mutual information on the policies implemented in each country, through a pooling of their practices and approaches, that the countries will be able to face up to the challenges of economic and social development in Africa, and the challenges of unemployment, underemployment and social and professional exclusion that affect far too many young people on the continent.”*

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