



### **Opening in Abidjan of the Ministerial Conference on Technical and Vocational Skills Development in Africa**

**Abidjan, 20 September 2011** – A conference of the ministers of technical education and vocational training of 19 African countries was opened today in Abidjan by Mr. Jeannot Ahoussou Kouadio, Senior Minister for Justice and Human Rights, representing the head of state of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, President Alassane Ouattara.

This ministerial conference, which ends tomorrow, is being held in conjunction with the second meeting of the Inter-Country Quality Node (ICQN) on Technical and Vocational Skills Development (TVSD), which began on 19 September and lasted two days. The meeting was attended by some 60 experts from 19 African countries, assembled at the initiative of the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) and of African countries themselves, as part of the preparations for the 2012 Triennale to be held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from 12 to 17 February 2012.

ADEA Executive Secretary Ahlin Byll-Cataria declared that *“the proceedings of this second meeting in Abidjan are of great importance to the process of preparation for the Triennale on education and training for the sustainable development of Africa”*. He also voiced his conviction that *“the dialogue promoted by the ADEA as a consultation forum...can lead to substantial changes in policies on technical and vocational skills development”*.

In his opening address, Minister Ahoussou Kouadio congratulated the experts of the ADEA Inter-Country Quality Node, *“who give particular emphasis to the development of partnerships between government and productive sectors, so that they will work together to tackle the many challenges of job-related training in the design, implementation, management and evaluation of technical and vocational skills development (TVSD) tracks and systems”*. The representative of the Ivorian head of state declared that responding to these challenges should enable young people to emerge from an intolerable situation of unemployment and inactivity; encourage small and medium-sized enterprises to invest in training and qualification, without which they will be unable to innovate, to create value, to upgrade the quality of their products and services, or to create jobs. He confirmed

**Association for the Development of Education in Africa**

African Development Bank (AfDB)

Temporary Relocation Agency

BP 323 – 1002 Tunis Belvédère - Tunisia

Tel.: +216/ 71 10 39 00 Email: [t.desruelles@afdb.org](mailto:t.desruelles@afdb.org) Website: [www.adeanet.org](http://www.adeanet.org)

1/2

that, to address these challenges, his country would spare no effort to contribute to any and all deliberations that will help to establish an appropriate framework for the formation of skills matching the real needs of the working world. Calling as well for the sharing of experience for the benefit of all, he reminded the ministers present in Abidjan that the real point of their conference will be to envisage concrete solutions and to follow up on them.

The Minister of Technical Education and Vocational Training of Cote d'Ivoire, Hon. Mr. Albert Flind also recalled that, at the conference held to launch the ICQN/TVSD, "five themes had been adopted as avenues for reflection on TVSD policies, aimed at:

- New forms of inter-country learning
- Development of new pathways for young people to enter the workforce
- Strengthening public-private partnership through joint management of training centers
- Designing national certification centers that can validate skills acquired informally
- Enlarging the role of business sector organizations in TVSD.

The conference was also attended by Ivorian business leaders, development partners and trade unions that are playing an active part in this process.

The second conference of The Inter-country Quality Node of ADEA will end September 21, 2011. A final declaration will be adopted which will summarize the outcomes of the Abidjan meeting as well as the positions and visions that the Ministers of Technical and Vocational Training seek to promote.

### **Abidjan, 20 September 2011**

---

#### Press contacts:

- **Josette Barry**, ADEA press consultant, [barryjoset@yahoo.fr](mailto:barryjoset@yahoo.fr)  
In Abidjan: Tel: +225/ 05 09 99 16 (mobile).
- **Félicien Gbato**, Communication manager, Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training, Côte d'Ivoire, [baguigbato@yahoo.fr](mailto:baguigbato@yahoo.fr)  
In Abidjan: Tel: +225/ 01 80 11 82 or +225/ 20 22 39 24.
- **Thanh-Hoa Desruelles**, External Relations and Communication, ADEA, [t.desruelles@afdb.org](mailto:t.desruelles@afdb.org) ,  
In Tunis: +216/ 21 69 11 46 (mobile).

#### **Association for the Development of Education in Africa**

African Development Bank (AfDB)

Temporary Relocation Agency

BP 323 – 1002 Tunis Belvédère - Tunisia

Tel.: +216/ 71 10 39 00 Email: [t.desruelles@afdb.org](mailto:t.desruelles@afdb.org) Website: [www.adeanet.org](http://www.adeanet.org)