

Triennale

Education and Training in Africa



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A show of political will takes centre stage at Triennale's opening

African leaders - including four heads of state - publicly committed their governments to education, saying they believed it was a lever for development and economic growth.

This need for political will was a central theme that emerged from the colourful official opening ceremony of ADEA's 2012 Triennale at the Ouagadougou International Conference Centre.

"You need political will - leadership - first. Then you define your strategies and then you orientate your budget," said Mathias Harabamungu, the Minister of Education from Rwanda, who attended the event as a representative of President Paul Kagame.

The Heads of State at the ceremony were H.E. Blaise Compaoré, President of Burkina Faso, H.E. Alassane Ouattara of Côte d'Ivoire, H.E. Amadou Toumani Touré of Mali and H.E. Mahamadou Issoufou of Niger. The Prime Minister of Benin, Pascal Koupokpi, was also present.

Their commitment to education already had an impact on budgets, the leaders said.

"In an effort to invest in education we have set aside 25% in our budget for education," said President Issoufou from Niger. He added that 2 800 classrooms had been built in the last year alone.

"This shows how education is a priority to us at all levels," he said.

President Compaoré said he would ensure that the recommendations of the Triennale are taken further through discussions with his peers in the African Union.

"Otherwise we move from one Triennale to the next without making any headway," he said.

The messages delivered by a range of speakers to the Heads of State at the opening signalled the expectations they have for the week's work.



H.E. Mahamadou Issoufou, H.E. Alassane Ouattara,
H.E. Blaise Compaoré, H.E. Amadou Toumani Touré

Learning to read and write is not enough

"...The Triennale is being held at a critical moment when the destiny of Africa is taking form. The "Arab spring" has once again highlighted the role of youth, as well as the suffering and courage of peoples aspiring to democracy.

We need to listen to them. We need to know which skills are truly useful for development and how to build education systems that can supply these skills in sufficient quality and quantity to meet the challenges of today's world...

The events in North Africa show that learning to read and write is not enough. Education does not create jobs, and formal education in some countries has not sufficed to promote integration into the job market...

Education must enable people to adapt to globalization and economic competition, to the external shocks caused by climate change and to the increasing scarcity of natural resources such as water and energy. It should help them to ensure food security and cope with demographic challenges. Education should lead to more just societies.

In this context, the European Union has adopted a new development policy through a document entitled "An Agenda for Change", which will guide European policy in the coming years. This year, the European Union's delegations will begin the programming exercise for the 11th European Development Fund and the budget for the 2014-2020 period. We will decide together what share should be allotted to education and training..."

I would like to reaffirm the European Union's support for the Triennale, so that we can prepare together today for the challenges of tomorrow.

Speech by Kristian Schmidt, Director, Directorate-General for Development and Cooperation, European Commission, at the opening ceremony of the Triennale, Ouagadougou, 14 February 2012

The theme for the Triennale is: "Promoting critical knowledge, skills and qualifications for sustainable development in Africa: How to design and implement an effective response by education and training systems".

"We have to match skills and the world of work either formal or informal," was the call by more than one speaker, highlighting the relevance of the chosen theme.

Speakers included ADEA executive secretary Ahlyn Byll-Cataria, Lalla Ben Barka of Unesco the European Commission, Sam Ogeri, the Minister of Education from Kenya, Sang-jin Lee the deputy minister of Korea, Kristian Schmidt of the European Commission.

The vice-president of the Burkina Faso Chamber of Commerce Mr. Gaspard J. Ouedraogo, spoke on behalf of the chamber's president Albert Yuma-Mulimbi. He said business was prepared to work with the education sector to ensure the employability of the youth.

Speeches and more on Triennale events on the web site www.adeanet.org/triennale/indexang.html, Facebook and Twitter pages

Give me a job, please

The Working Group on Education, Management and Policy Support yesterday screened a 50-minute long film that investigates the relationship between the youth and the world of work.

Titled Young Gems the film tells the story of four young people in Zimbabwe: a gold panner, a mechanic, an ICT specialist and an up-and-coming singer and the challenges they face in their working lives. It has French subtitles.

Prof. Peliwe Lolwana, Director of the Wits Policy Unit, facilitated a further discussion on the critical question of educational supply and demand.

Dr Mohamed Diarra, coordinator of the working group, said he hoped the film would "stir up policy dialogue" about the "challenges the youth faces in finding jobs.

The film was produced with the support of Dr. Thokozile Chitepo, principal director of Zimbabwe's Ministry of Youth Development, Indigenisation and Empowerment.

For more information on the film phone 77659888 or 79383853 or email mohameddiarra@hotmail.com.



Family photo...

Développons la formation qui donne un emploi...

«..... Le simple fait, qu'un africain, président d'un Groupe industriel africain, la GECAMINES, président d'une association de chambres de commerce, d'agriculture et d'artisanat francophone et africaine, la CPCCAF, et président d'une fédération nationale patronale, la Fédération des Entreprises du Congo, soit présent parmi vous, témoigne bien du changement des mentalités à l'oeuvre en Afrique.

Le secteur privé est enfin considéré comme un partenaire central du développement africain, dans le domaine de l'éducation et de la formation...

... L'Afrique est en croissance économique forte, entre 5 et 6 %. L'Afrique est en croissance démographique forte, 1,4 milliards d'habitants en âge de travailler en 2050, pour presque 2 milliards d'habitants.

En analyse stratégique, ces faits seraient finalement autant classables en opportunités, qu'en menaces. La croissance économique africaine est principalement tirée par les investissements Directs Etrangers et de la demande mondiale en matières premières.

Que la conjoncture se retourne et tous nos Etats perdront de leurs ressources fiscales, et tous nos partenaires économiques étrangers ralentiront leurs investissements. La crise des dettes souveraines eu-

ropéennes, après celle du crédit hypothécaire américain, est là pour nous rappeler que cette possibilité est tout sauf illusoire.

La croissance démographique est quant à elle autant une potentialité positive, avoir le plus grand marché intérieur du monde, que négative avec l'hypothèse d'une balance commerciale déséquilibrée, et beaucoup plus grave, de voir une jeunesse désœuvrée, paupérisée, sans avenir social, avec les risques que cela comporte pour la stabilité de notre continent...

... Il nous faut aujourd'hui miser sur la croissance interne de notre continent, la plus difficile à obtenir, mais aussi la plus pérenne. Tous les chefs d'entreprises le savent. Et pour ce faire, il faudrait, au moins le temps que nous rattrapions notre retard économique et industriel, que l'entreprise et le secteur privé soient positionnés au coeur du système. Car c'est le secteur privé qui transformera le potentiel africain en richesses.

C'est l'entreprise, et surtout les micros, petites et moyennes entreprises industrielles, artisanales ou agricoles qui créeront des emplois pour nos jeunes.

Ce sont nos salariés qui consommeront nos produits et en conséquence, c'est l'ensemble de nos systèmes fiscaux qui s'en trouveront renforcés et vous donneront les moyens de vos politiques publiques.

Favoriser la croissance, favoriser l'entrepreneuriat et c'est l'Afrique qui bénéficiera d'un développement

économique et social durable auquel nous aspirons tous.

Comment faire me direz-vous ?

L'éducation et la formation tiennent une part essentielle dans ce processus, sans être exclusives du reste, elles sont une part du tout. Il faudrait :

- Améliorer la Gouvernance publique. Cela tient à la volonté de nos gouvernants et celle de leurs équipes.
- Favoriser le climat de affaires, sécuriser les investissements, faire respecter la loi, car il en va de la capacité des opérateurs à prendre des risques, à investir, à produire plus et mieux.

... Enfin et surtout développons la formation qui donne un emploi, un salaire, une perspective positive de vie.

... Cessons de faire rêver nos jeunes avec des formations universitaires sans avenir, et souvent sans qualité... Concentrons les moyens où c'est nécessaire, pour une éducation supérieure de qualité et non de quantité et une formation professionnelle élargie et valorisée...

Discours de Monsieur Gaspard J. Ouedraogo,
vice-président au nom de
Monsieur Albert Yuma-Mulimbi, président
de la Chambre de commerce et
d'industrie du Burkina Faso

Korea announces that it will become a member of ADEA

Korea's Vice Minister of Education, Sang-Jin Lee, announced at the end of the highly instructive Africa-Korea Day that his country would join the Steering Committee of the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA).

"Korea will become a member of ADEA in order to pursue the work we have begun. We think that Africa should draw inspiration from the Korean experience, not to copy it in every detail but to build education systems that are appropriate to Africa's realities", he declared.

During the day-long meeting for discussions and sharing of experience, representatives of the Korea Education Institute, Seoul National University, Korea Institute of Science and Technology and the Korean National Commission for UNESCO presented Korea's strategies in the areas of education, science and technology, and lifelong learning.

The main purpose of the Korea-Africa Day was to show Africans how a country devoid of natural and mineral resources, having the same level of development 50 years ago as certain African states today, managed to rise to join the ranks of the countries that matter by putting its faith in education.

"This day gives us the opportunity to share with you some ideas and knowledge on education. Korea has never stopped educating its children. I can assure you that the priority given to education and to the application of science and technology is what enabled Korea

to move from its situation in the 1950s to the one it occupies today", affirmed Mr. Lee.

The presentations by the Korean delegation reinforced the participants' hope of obtaining substantial change in the current situation of Africa by focusing on education, science and technology and by giving rise to very clear political leadership.



Sang-Jin Lee

The daily ADEA Bulletin attempts to provide a snapshot only of a day's proceedings. Delegates are welcome to send contributions to cpretor@gmail.com.

A newsletter capturing the Triennale in full will be published on April 1.

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