



Association for the
Development of
Education in
Africa

Lifelong Development of Technical and Vocational Skills for Sustainable Socioeconomic Growth

ADEA organizes a regional methodological workshop in Ouagadougou on technical and vocational skills development (TVSD) in Africa

Tunis, 22 March 2011. From 24 to 26 March, Ouagadougou will host a methodological workshop on technical and vocational skills development (TVSD) in Africa. The workshop is part of the process of preparation for the 2011 ADEA Triennale, which will address the theme “Promoting critical knowledge, skills and qualifications for sustainable development in Africa: How to design and implement effective education and training systems?” The Triennale will be held in Ouagadougou, from 27 November to 2 December 2011.

In most African countries, the technical and vocational skills base is weak and inadequate in many areas of economic activity. Such skills are crucial to enabling young people and adults to start businesses, to join the workforce and thus to participate actively in economic growth, wealth creation and poverty reduction.

Aware of the situation, most countries have implemented policies and strategies to develop technical and vocational education and training (TVET). To date, however, these policies and strategies have generally proven ineffective: TVET suffers from inefficient governance and management and insufficient funding; education and training schemes remain poorly coordinated, functionally deficient and fragmented; training is generally of poor quality and often does not match the needs of the labor market and the economy; evaluation, validation and certification systems are generally not very relevant. Furthermore, TVET in its current form is geared primarily toward providing qualifications for employment in the formal sector, whereas in African environments the informal economy is dominant and accounts for 80% of jobs.

This situation, highlighted by the 2008 ADEA Biennale on post-primary education in Africa, has led ADEA to stress the need for a paradigm shift, reflected in the transition from the concept of TVET to the more holistic and inclusive concept of *technical and vocational skills development* (TVSD), which can be applied in either public or private schools, institutions or training centers, through traditional learning modes or non-formal training.

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 Web site: www.adeanet.org

What are the conditions that will enable a positive transformation of TVET in Africa? What key factors can contribute to the emergence of TVET systems capable of developing the human capital needed for sustainable economic growth? The proceedings of the 2011 Triennale will attempt to answer these questions and gain a better understanding of the link between, on the one hand, knowledge and skills acquisition, and on the other, paid employment, economic growth and the promotion of a holistic, integrated system of access to knowledge and skills. In this respect, the Triennale will explore issues of policy and governance, quality and quality assurance, relevance and employability, evaluation and certification, and access and attractiveness.

The main purpose of the Ouagadougou workshop is to provide methodological guidance for the preparation of studies on TVSD for the 2011 Triennale. The meeting will also produce a first analysis of current processes of change in the TVET/TVSD field.

The methodological workshop will be attended by representatives of the African countries and cooperation and development organizations responsible for producing these studies, including members who participate in the ADEA inter-country quality node (ICQN) on TVSD. Eighteen African countries will be represented: Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda and South Africa. Representatives of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Education Research Network for West and central Africa (ERNWACA), the Forum of African Women Educationists (FAWE), the German cooperation (GTZ), IBIS (a Danish development organization), UNESCO, the Network for Policy Research, Review and Advice on Education and Training (NORRAG) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) are also expected to attend.

TVSD is a priority area for ADEA. AN ICQN on this topic was established in 2010, with Côte d'Ivoire as the lead country.

ADEA is organizing the methodological workshop in conjunction with Burkina Faso's Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training and Ministry of Education and Literacy.

Tunis, 22 March 2010.

Press contacts:

In Tunis

- **Thanh-Hoa Desruelles**, External Relations and Communication, ADEA, t.desruelles@afdb.org, Tel. +216/ 7110 3432 (office), +216/ 21 69 11 46 (cell)

In Ouagadougou

- **Aboubacar Sy**, Director of Communication, Ministry of Technical and Vocational Education of Burkina Faso, papsyabou@yahoo.fr, Tel. +226/ 70 24 42 12

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