



Association for the
Development of
Education in
Africa



Burkina Faso



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Education and training necessary for development and prevention of conflicts in Africa, says President Blaise Compaoré

More than 100 journalists from all over the world gathered at a Press Conference at the African Union headquarters in Addis, Ababa on Monday January 28, 2013 to listen to President Blaise Compaoré of Burkina Faso to pronounce his thoughts about the new education vision for Africa. President Compaoré also spoke extensively on the Malian crisis in his capacity as the ECOWAS designated mediator for the crisis. At the Press Conference, President Compaoré said:

“I am here basically to talk about education and training as we try to find ways to concretely implement the vision and thoughts of the founding fathers of the African Union. As we celebrate 50 years of this organization and as we sit here today, our thoughts lie with the past but also with what we envisage for the next 50 years, the President asserted. There is a lot of food for thought on this question and we must reflect a lot on what we need to do or not do in the future.

“If we are here today to discuss education, it is because we are carrying the messages of African education ministers. This, of course, is with reference to the problems in this sector. We have been talking about education for some time now, but the difference now is that we are talking about education that can train people to contribute to development - which is interesting for Africans - so that the individual can become more productive, live and work harmoniously and in essence contribute to development. What is essential now for us is to see how we can break with the past and move forward with scientific knowledge, as well as with technology and innovations in our education systems. Our systems need to be knowledge based, with schools open to society. In particular, we need to train actors of development – with new knowledge, new perspectives and a real vision for the development of the African continent. Indeed what I am talking about is a total reconstruction of our education systems for the continent.

“Within these perspectives, we need to review how best we can change the education system in Africa to suit employment needs – this will give Africa a renewed commitment to support and reinforce development on the continent”, the President further contended.

Most of the press conference which lasted for about 40 minutes was dominated by the crisis in Mali, and President Blaise Compaoré in answer to one of the questions posed on Mali linked education with governance issues and development as a way to avoid conflicts in Africa. A main challenge is good governance of our states, President Compaoré said.

“The absence of freedom and development can create or instigate armed groups. Good governance on the continent should therefore be emphasized in our education systems also”, President Compaoré noted.

He told the assembled journalists that it is vital that we first and foremost look into the causes of these conflicts. “Governance issues blended with development must be addressed if we are to successfully pursue our education agenda for Africa”, President Compaoré concluded.

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