

Welcome to our third edition of the newsletter for the year 2013. This publication seeks to update and inform you, the reader, on activities of the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA)'s Working Group on Education Management and Policy Support, WGEMPS, and related developments in the field. The newsletter is intended primarily for use by producers and users of education policy review, education finance, statistics and analytical information.

WGEMPS Activities

June 2013

ECOWAS Education & Statistics Directorates' Meeting – Abuja, Nigeria

26 June-1 July. ADEA WGEMPS has been working closely with ECOWAS Education and Statistics directorates for rolling-out the development of Education Management Information Systems (EMIS) in the region and several results have been achieved. Two representatives from WGEMPS met with some officials from ECOWAS Education and Statistics directorates, to seek real commitment of ECOWAS' Gender and Human Development Commission and ECOWAS' Macro-Economic Commission with regards to EMIS development – particularly the agreed EMIS action plan – for supporting the development of quality social statistics related to education. The officials agreed on some priority activities for 2014 which include the development of ECOWAS indicators manual, taking into consideration specific needs of the region in terms of monitoring and evaluation, as well as undertaking the ECOWAS EMIS Norms and Standards Peer Review assessment. *Contact: Mohamed Diarra; mohameddiarra@hotmail.com or m.diarra@afdb.org.*

July

Pan African Conference on Teachers' Education and Development (PACTED) Meeting – Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

15-17 July. The Coordinator of ADEA WGEMPS attended this meeting which brought together representatives from 20 member states, regional economic communities and development agencies like UNICEF, UNESCO and AAU. The meeting was divided into two sessions, with senior officials drafting the agenda in the first session for the ministers meeting, the second session, that took place on the last day. The sessions discussed the status, current teacher training initiatives and opportunities for consideration. There were unanimous agreements on the necessity for innovative methods for the development of the African teacher. *Contact: Mohamed Diarra; mohameddiarra@hotmail.com or m.diarra@afdb.org.*

COMEDAF Bureau of Ministers Meeting – Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

18-21 July. Following the PACTED meeting in Addis Ababa, the ADEA WGEMPS Coordinator also participated at the Bureau of the Conference of Ministers of Education of the African Union (COMEDAF) meeting held for the first time since the fifth ordinary session of COMEDAF in Nigeria in 2012. Apart from ADEA, representatives from seven member states, EAC and ECOWAS also attended. The Bureau is mandated by COMEDAF to follow up on the implementation of collective decisions in education and act as an early warning mechanism to address challenges and constraints to implementation; both at regional and continental levels. The meeting considered the proposals of member states on the COMEDAF sub-committees and discussed the implementation of the Pan African University. *Contact: Mohamed Diarra; mohameddiarra@hotmail.com or m.diarra@afdb.org.*

August

SADC prepares for EMIS Peer Reviews

August. SADC Secretariat, in collaboration with ADEA WGEMPS, is facilitating an EMIS peer review in member states using the SADC EMIS Norms and Standards Assessment Framework jointly developed in 2011 by ADEA WGEMPS. The Secretariat has nominated Botswana and Swaziland for the review, planned for October or November 2013, and will formally send out letters to the two countries. The review team comprises WGEMPS representatives and EMIS specialists from Zambia, Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa. The EMIS Norms and Standards code of practice has four areas of focus: Policy and Legal Frameworks, Resource Availability and Utilization, Statistical Processes and Education Information Reporting. *Contact:* Angela Arnott; a.arnott@afdb.org or Tegegn Nuresu Wako; tn.wako@gmail.com.

September

Consultative meeting on Global Citizenship Education – Seoul, South Korea

09-10 September. ADEA WGEMPS staff member, Shem Bodo, participated in this technical consultative meeting organized by UNESCO and the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in partnership with Ministry of Education and the Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (APCEIU). More than 40 experts from across all regions representing civil society, academia, as well as the education and development sectors attended the meeting. The consultation examined the status and major trends in global citizenship education (GCE) across the world noting that most regions, Africa included, were implementing components of GCE such as tolerance, appreciation of diversity, conflict resolution, peace education, human rights and civic education. Shem played the discussant role in the "Mapping issues and trends" session. Discussions also took place on the definitions and goals of GCE. The meeting developed a draft paper, "Global Citizenship Education: An Emerging Perspective", to be finalized and presented at the follow up Global Discussion Forum in Bangkok, scheduled for December 2013. *Contact:* Shem Bodo; s.bodo@afdb.org.

SADC Ministers of Education Training Meeting 2013 – Maputo, Mozambique

16-20 September. SADC Secretariat organized the annual Senior Officials and Ministers meeting which was attended by all SADC countries' senior officials as well as representatives from ILO, AU and UNESCO. ADEA WGEMPS was represented by Ms. Angela Arnott who gave a presentation on the implementation of the Regional Education and Training Implementation Plan Report, using national country data for the first time. The meeting focused on capacity building in ODL; monitoring HIV and AIDS; global indicators; CSTL policy framework, and validating records of extra-ordinary meetings of Ministers. Some decisions were made by the ministers who require member states to include indicators on youth in their EMIS, technical committees to take forward challenges highlighted in the report (produced by ADEA WGEMPS) and to propose strategies to address them. The ministers also approved UNESCO Harare Cluster Office to be the SADC regional office and Mauritius to host the Pan African University Institute on Space Science. The next meeting will take place in Malawi in 2014. *Contact:* Angela Arnott; a.arnott@afdb.org.

African Education Finance Alumni Network Meeting – Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

24-26 September. An alumni meeting of past graduates, largely officials in ministries of education, in policy, planning and finance took place, with three representatives from ADEA WGEMPS – former graduates and two of them current instructors of the program – in attendance. The third meeting since its launch in 2011, the Alumni network emanates from the GIZ (previously INWENT) funded SADC programme on Finance, Planning, and Economics that takes place at the Witwatersrand University and enrolls students on an annual basis. ADEA WGEMPS and the former Working Group on Education Finance have played a critical role in the conception, curriculum development and delivery of the course since its inception in 2008. Given ADEA's experience in education finance, Angela Arnott and Shem Bodo from WGEMPS respectively made a presentation on "Financing Education in Africa: Innovative Practices and Modes" and "Improving Public Financial Management

in a Decentralization Context: Links with Education Quality". *Contact:* Angela Arnott; a.arnott@afdb.org, Shem Bodo; s.bodo@afdb.org or Brighton Mutasa; b.mutasa@adeanet.org.

Events and Training Opportunities

September 2013

Micro-science Workshop – Libreville, Gabon

16-19 September. UNESCO organized this week-long workshop within the framework of capacity building for science education. More than 50 teachers were trained as trainers and conducted several experiments in Chemistry. In addition to the workshop, a dedicated exhibition was held to celebrate the International Year of Water Cooperation. Teachers who attended this event went back to their schools with posters on water cycle to make primary and secondary students aware of the importance of water, its rarity and value. *Contact:* Souad Rouabah; s.rouabah@unesco.org.

4th Biennial SAMEA Conference – Johannesburg, South Africa

16-20 September. The South African Monitoring and Evaluation Association (SAMEA), in association with the Public Services Commission and the Department of Performance Management and Evaluation (DPME) from the Office of the President hosted this conference on monitoring and evaluation. The conference covered some of the most pressing issues in the evaluation field and all the discussions were facilitated by local and international experts in the respective knowledge terrains during the pre-meeting training workshops under the main theme of "Meaningful Evaluation: Improving Use & Results". *Visit:* www.samea.co.za.

First Annual National Conference on the role of Public Private Partnership (PPP) in the development of TVET– Mina, Nigeria

24-27 September. The School of Technical Education in Niger's State College of Education organized this conference under the main theme, "The Role of Public Private Partnership in the development of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) for National Transformation". Experts in attendance agreed that, for the development of TVET, there is need for greater commitment from the private sector through employment and further skills training. *Contact:* Adamu Jebba; adamujebba@gmail.com.

October 2013

Meeting on the draft Strategic Plan 2014-2018 of the Institute of Statistics of the African Union – Nairobi, Kenya

15-17 October. In January 2013, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union decided to create the AU Institute for Statistics which will be based in Tunis, Tunisia. In light of the foregoing, the Commission has prepared the draft 2014-2018 strategic plan of the institute and is planning an experts' meeting to validate the Plan before its submission to the next meeting of the Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices to be held in December in Gaborone (Botswana). *Contact:* Crepin N; crepinN@africa-union.org.

12th World Conference on Mobile and Contextual Learning (mLearn 2013) – Doha, Qatar

24-26 October. The College of the North Atlantic in Qatar will be hosting the 12th World Conference on Mobile and Contextual Learning (mLearn 2013). This is the world's foremost annual conference on mobile learning research and practice. *Contact:* Robert Power; mlearn13@cna-qatar.edu.qa.

November 2013

37th Session of UNESCO's General Conference – Paris, France

05-20 November. The 37th UNESCO General Conference is scheduled to take place in Paris where all member states and other international bodies are to be represented, with the purpose of reviewing the Organization's programmes. *Visit:* www.unesco.org.

International Summit on Entrepreneurship and Job Creation – Yaoundé, Cameroon

18- 23 November. This Summit, the first of its kind in Cameroon, is based on an urgent response to the global crisis of youth unemployment. Organized by the Youth Employment Service in partnership with a host of government ministries, diplomatic missions, enterprises and civil society, the Summit will showcase innovative job creation initiatives, share best practice in delivering employability skills training and develop cost effective job policy measures. *Contact:* Gilbert Ewehneh; ewehneh@yescameroon.org.

December 2013

African Ministerial Forum on ICT Integration in Education and Training – Tunis, Tunisia

09-11 December. The African Development Bank (AfDB), UNESCO, OIF, INTEL and ADEA are organizing a three-day African Ministerial Forum to address issues related to the integration of ICT in education and training. About 200 policymakers, experts and representatives of the private sector and civil society are expected to take part in this Forum *Visit:* www.adeanet.org.

Education Development News

Global

Over 4 million people to benefit from EU grants for education and training over the next seven years

The Irish Presidency has brokered an agreement on a new programme of approximately €16 billion to support initiatives in education, training, youth and sport over the next seven years. The programme, called "Erasmus +", brings together all the current EU and international schemes for education, training and youth. Over four million people will benefit from EU grants for education and training opportunities abroad between 2014 and 2020 – almost doubling the numbers who currently receive this support. *Source:* www.eu2013.ie. *Accessed on 12 July 2013.*

Children still battling to go to school

The progress in getting children into school over the past few years – however slow – has clearly not reached children in conflict-affected countries. Of the 28.5 million primary school age children out of school in conflict-affected countries, almost half (12.6 million) live in sub-Saharan Africa. The longer these children remain out of school, the lower the probability of them ever returning to school. Girls, who make up 55% of the total, are the worst affected, as they are often victims of rape and other forms of sexual violence that accompany armed conflict. *Source:* www.worldpress.com. *Accessed on 12 September 2013.*

Africa

AfDB, AUC Sign US \$45 Million Grant Agreement to Boost Pan African University

The African Development Bank (AfDB) and the African Union Commission (AUC) have signed a grant agreement worth US \$45 million to boost the Pan African University. This grant from the African Development Fund will help the African Union establish the Pan African University with a view to enhancing Africa's competitiveness and growth through the creation of high quality higher education and research capabilities. *Source:* www.afdb.org. *Accessed on 12 June 2013.*

East African Community (EAC) warns of more harmonization delays

The East African Community countries risk not meeting their goal of harmonizing education systems any time soon due to deep disparities in curricula, varying quality of learning, and budget cuts – the head of the regional higher education council has warned. The biggest concerns for countries in EAC have been wide disparities in curricula, differing lengths of degrees and difficulties in implementing credit accumulation and transfer across universities in the region. *Source: www.worlduniversitynews.org. Accessed on 12 June 2013.*

Countries

Angola: Inspection Programme Improves Teaching Quality

The implementation programme on revitalization for the restructuring of education in Angola, which started in 2010 in southern Cunene province, satisfactorily improved the teaching and learning process in the province. The programme, within the education reform process, allowed detecting many disabilities in the education system. Therefore, measures were taken and it improved the success of learning in different schools. *Source: www.irinnews.org. Accessed on 18 September 2013.*

Botswana: Barclays Bank Funds Financial Education

Barclays Bank of Botswana has partnered with the Finance Society of the University of Botswana to educate the university's student population on financial-related topics. Insurance and banking are two of the initial topics to be covered. These workshops are open to students from many areas across the University of Botswana, with the main goal of imparting critical skills to population segments that traditionally lack financial literacy. *Source: www.financialcorps.com. Accessed on 18 September 2013.*

Kenya: WFP and Canada Launch Cash Transfers Pilot for School Meals Programmes

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), in conjunction with the Government of Kenya and Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD), launched a cash transfer pilot for school meals in Kenya's arid regions. The Canadian government has provided CA\$10 million (around US\$9.6 million) to support feeding programmes in Kenyan schools. Part of this contribution will go towards cash transfers to enable schools to buy food from local traders or smallholder farmers, stimulating agricultural production in arid areas. *Source: www.allafrica.com. Accessed on 18 September 2013.*

Liberia: US \$30,000 for Girls' Education

The Liberia Education Trust (LET), founded to support girls' education in Liberia, has provided US\$30,000 cheque to six of its implementing partners as scholarship funds for over seven girls in various communities around the country for the academic year 2013/2014. *Source: www.allafrica.com. Accessed on 18 September 2013.*

Libya: The nation offers educators “golden opportunities”

As Libya begins to rebuild its infrastructure two years after its civil war, a “golden opportunity” has arisen for foreign English language, VET and HE institutions to recruit students funded by the government or private companies. The British Council alone expects 17,000 Libyans to study at UK institutions in 2013 through a scholarship programme recently announced by the Ministry of Education. *Source: www.irinnews.org. Accessed on 10 September 2013.*

Somalia: Go to School Initiative launched

The Somali authorities have launched a wide ranging campaign to give one million children and youth access to education as part of an ambitious Go 2 School Initiative. The campaign led by education authorities and supported by UNICEF and other international partners will run for three years. It aims to give a quarter of the young people currently out of the education system a chance to learn. *Source: www.unicef.org. Accessed on 16 September 2013.*

Sudan: AfDB Grants US \$1.5 million to Flood Victims and to the University of Nyala in Darfur

The Ministry of General Education and Instruction launched the Girls Education South Sudan. The African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Government of Sudan signed two Protocol of Agreements on 28th August, 2013, in which the Bank provided Emergency Assistance of US \$1 million to Flood Victims in Blue and White Nile States, and US \$0.5 million to the University of Nyala to build research capacity for the scientific preservation of livestock breeds in Sudan. *Source:* www.afdb.org. Accessed on 18 July 2013.

Vacancies, Awards and other Opportunities

Call for Papers for Higher Education Studies

Higher Education Studies (HES) is a double-blind peer-reviewed international journal published bimonthly in both print and online versions by the Canadian Centre of Science and Education. The journal is dedicated to promoting scholarly exchange among teachers and researchers in the field of post-secondary education. Its scope includes the following fields: instructional theory, pedagogy, education policy and case studies. The deadline for submission of manuscripts for the December 2013 edition is 16th October, 2013. *Visit:* www.inee.org.

Call for Papers: Conflict Sensitive Education: Strengthening Human Security in Conflict- and Fragile Contexts

The INEE invites interested persons to submit a paper proposal, which will be presented at a panel discussion, to explore the potential of education to trigger and exacerbate conflict, violence and fragility. Topics and issues raised at the panel may include: good practice in mainstreaming conflict sensitivity in education policies and programs, challenges in implementing conflict sensitivity policies and programs as well as tools and resources supporting conflict sensitive programming and policy-making in conflict and fragile settings. Paper proposals should be roughly be between 500-700 words, the due date is 15th October, 2013. *Visit:* www.ccsenet.org.

Vacancy Notice: Early Years Education Advisers

Voluntary Services Organization (VSO) is seeking to recruit a number of Early Years Education Advisers to help improve the quality of pre-primary education teaching in Rwanda. Successful applicants will work in Teacher Training Colleges (TTCs) and Education Development Centres (EDC) to ensure that trainee and in-service teachers have the skills, confidence and capabilities to deliver quality early years teaching practice. Minimum qualifications include a degree in a relevant field, such as education, social science and/ or child psychology. Applicants should have at least two years relevant working experience. Deadline for applications is 10th October, 2013. *Visit:* www.vso.org.uk.

Call for Abstracts: Third Research Conference 2014

The Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) Alumni Association, Cape Coast Polytechnic branch, in collaboration with the National Association is requesting interested scholars and academics to submit papers for its Research Conference. The aim of the conference is to provide a platform for capacity building and networking among researchers in Africa. Papers relating but not limited to the following disciplines are welcomed: Engineering; Built Environment; Hospitality and Tourism; Food Science; Oil, Gas and Energy; Medicine; Statistical Modeling; Information and Communication Technology; Applied Sciences & Arts; Business; Social Sciences and Humanities. Abstracts should be submitted by 1st November, 2013. *Visit:* <http://ashantiweb.com>.

Networking and Resources

Making Education a Priority in the Post-2015 Development Agenda

A new report has been developed by the Global Thematic Consultation on Education in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, co-led by UNICEF and UNESCO, with support from the governments of Canada, Germany and Senegal and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. The report offers a summary of the main themes and messages that have emerged from the wide-ranging contributions to the consultation and features the voices of people from around the world. The main message is

clear: Quality education and lifelong learning are key to sustainable development. *Source: www.unesco.org. Accessed on 18 September 2013.*

Towards Universal Learning: Recommendations from Learning Metrics Task Force

As the debate intensifies over the post-2015 global development goals, a new report, "Towards Universal Learning: Recommendations from the Learning Metrics Task Force" lays out a framework to put learning on the agenda and to track learning among the world's children and youth in order to achieve quality education for all. It calls for new global indicators, including a "learning for all" indicator that would combine measures of education access, completion and reading into one statistic. *Source: www.uis.unesco.org/Education/Documents/lmtf-summary-rpt-en.pdf. Accessed on 19 September 2013.*

2012-2013 All Children Learning Report

The All Children Learning Report highlights achievements and results of the Global Partnership for Education between January 2012 and June 2013. The report offers insights into how the Global Partnership works, who the partners are and what has been achieved together. *Source: www.unicef.org. Accessed on 14 August 2013.*

Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2013

The 2013/14 Education for All Global Monitoring Report will show why education is pivotal for development in a rapidly changing world. It will explain how investing wisely in teachers, and other reforms aimed at strengthening equitable learning, transforms the long-term prospects of people and societies. *Source: www.unesco.org. Accessed on 18 August 2013.*

Newsletter information sources include:

ADEA, African Countries' and Ministry of Education websites, University World News, SADC, UNESCO, UIS, IRIN News, World Bank, All Africa Global Media, Southern African Regional Universities Association (SARUA), Association of African Universities (AAU), IIEP, IICBA, OSISA, African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), SciDev.net, Pambazuka Newsletter, FAWE and general sources.

The comments expressed in this newsletter are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Working Group or those the working group represents. No responsibility is therefore taken for the veracity of information provided.

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