

Welcome to our fourth and final edition of our newsletter for the year 2012. 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

September

ECOWAS EMIS Experts Workshop – Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

27-29 September. ADEA WGEMPS organized the technical workshop for Education Management Information Systems (EMIS) experts of ECOWAS Member States which was held at Hotel AMISO in Ouagadougou. The purpose of the workshop was to validate the ECOWAS EMIS capacity building strategy document and undertake advocacy for the political endorsement of ECOWAS EMIS Norms and Standards aimed at guiding the development of EMIS in the region. Twelve countries from the region and representatives from development agencies such as GIZ and UIS attended the meeting. The workshop resulted in experts making recommendations to the 4th Conference of ECOWAS Ministers of Education which was to take place after this workshop. Some of the recommendations included the need to adopt the ECOWAS EMIS Norms and Standards by the ministers and the development of a strategic plan for EMIS in the region. *Contact:* Alassane Ouedraogo; a.l.ouedraogo@afdb.org or Mohamed Diarra; m.diarra@afdb.org.

October

ADEA holds a Coordination and Planning meeting – Nairobi, Kenya

01-05 October. As part of the follow-up to the 2012 Triennale, ADEA held its coordination and planning meeting whose objective was to reach a shared understanding of the main messages and outcomes of the Triennale and to deliberate on activities for the 2013 work plan, within the framework of ADEA's Medium Term Strategic Plan (2013-2017). Participating in the meeting were the coordinators of the Triennale and the ADEA working groups. A one-day seminar was also held on 3rd October 2012 during which policy level presentations and discussions took place around the promotion of critical skills in education and training in order to achieve Kenya's Vision 2030, public-private partnerships and skills assessment. Representatives from the Ministry of Education in Kenya, FAWE and the civil society participated in the seminar. Working group coordinators were tasked with finalizing and submitting their work plans to the ADEA Secretariat for consolidation and presentation to the Steering Committee in December 2012. *Contact:* Mohamed Diarra; m.diarra@afdb.org.

National Policy Dialogue on Appropriate Management Practices in Education Reconstruction for Peace – Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo

01-06 October. DRC's Ministry of Primary, Secondary and Professional Education hosted a national policy dialogue forum which was facilitated and co-organized by ADEA WGEMPS, INEE, UNICEF and USAID. The overall purpose of the forum was to identify national education strategies and policies that are conflict-sensitive and which can contribute to peace-building processes, in line with the Interim Education Plan. Participants were drawn from government ministries, including a representative from the Kenyan government, academic institutions and NGOs in the DRC. This policy dialogue forum contributed to the strengthening of the national institutional capacity for participatory educational planning that is sensitive to conflicts and which supports peace building processes. The

meeting generated interest from the media with 25 journalists from several agencies covering it. This allowed not only to develop capacity for them about conflict and peace building issues but also to raise awareness about the importance of education to mitigate and prevent conflicts, and the role that informal education through media can play. *Contact: Mohamed Diarra; m.diarra@afdb.org or Houraye M. Anne; h.m.anne@afdb.org.*

Fourth Meeting of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Ministers of Education – Abuja, Nigeria

06 October. The meeting of education ministers from ECOWAS Member States, which took place immediately after the EMIS experts meeting, was held at the ECOWAS Commission in Abuja. The main objectives were to deliberate and adopt the ECOWAS Regional Norms and Standards for the establishment of EMIS for use in Member States, appraise the ministers on recent regional efforts made by ECOWAS in education, deliberate on the report of the study on ECOWAS Regional Qualifications Framework and adopt the recommendations for its implementation. This meeting was attended by fourteen countries belonging to the region and representatives from ADEA, UNESCO, CIEFFA, UNDP and the African Union Commission. The ministers adopted the ECOWAS EMIS Norms and Standards and promised to integrate them into national education plans with regards to data collection and management of information systems. *Contact: Alassane Ouedraogo; a.l.ouedraogo@afdb.org.*

Stakeholder meeting for the Accelerated Action Plan on Education – Harare, Zimbabwe

19 October. Representatives from ADEA WGEMPS participated at a stakeholders' meeting on establishing an action plan for reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Ministry of Education, Sport, Arts and Culture, with financial and technical support of UNDP and the Ministry of Labour and Social Services respectively, is currently in the process of developing the Accelerated Action Plan (AAP) for MDG number two on increasing access to basic education with the theme "improving completion rates". *Contact: Simplisio Rwezuya; s.rwezuya@afdb.org or Brighton Mutasa; b.mutasa@adeanet.org.*

Regional Conference on Globalisation, Regionalisation and Privatisation in and of Education in Africa – Johannesburg, South Africa

12-13 October. The ADEA WGEMPS representative, Shem Bodo, presented a paper on the Role of Qur'anic Schooling in Achieving the EFA goals and Education for Sustainable Development: the Case of Kenya at this two-day conference. The conference, conceived by the Privatization in Education Research Initiative and the Open Society Foundation's Education Support Programme aimed to bring together a range of institutions and representatives to critically debate the relative merits and demerits of privatization in and of education in terms of quality, equity, effectiveness and efficiency. The conference attracted 78 practitioners and experts in the field of education. *Contact: Shem Bodo; s.bodo@afdb.org.*

UNESCO Gender and Leadership Program in Africa – Dakar, Senegal

29-31 October. ADEA WGEMPS staff was one of the discussants at the Gender and Leadership in Africa meeting held in Dakar. The Program is a partnership between UNESCO (BREDA and the Division of Gender Equality/Director General, UNESCO Accra office and IICBA), Rutgers University and the Universities of Gambia, Ghana and Liberia. It aims to strengthen existing programs and help develop new gender and leadership programs within the University of Ghana, University of the Gambia and the University of Liberia, in addition to strengthening community leaders' capacity to advocate and promote gender transformative policies and programs. The meeting developed partnerships and validated a joint curriculum on gender transformative and leadership training. WGEMPS will participate in the subsequent development of modules. *Contact: Houraye Mamadou Anne; h.m.anne@afdb.org.*

Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises and Cooperative Development National Stakeholders Meeting – Harare, Zimbabwe

01 November. ADEA WGEMPS, contracted by Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises and Cooperative Development, is undertaking a study aimed at addressing the livelihood challenges of rural Zimbabwe with a focus on employment creation for women and youth. The study will measure capacity gaps and capacity assets of economic actors at national and local level and involves field visits to the four districts of Insiza, Lupane, Mberengwa and Umzingwane. A stakeholders meeting took place at the ADEA offices in Harare to engage key national-level stakeholders in the design and implementation of the research. Inputs were obtained from participants to improve the study's strategy. Among the recommendations was the need to strengthen coordination of activities and improve financing across Ministries engaged in overlapping activities, in addition to strongly engaging the private sector to support the development of management information systems and databases for evidence-based decision making. The field work has been concluded and a draft report is being developed. The study is envisaged to be concluded by February 2013. *Contact:* Simbarashe Sibanda; sibandasimba@gmail.com.

ECCAS EMIS Experts meeting – Libreville, Gabon

04-10 November. AfDB hosted an EMIS experts meeting for Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). This meeting was attended by representatives from Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Congo, DRC, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea, as well as officials from UNESCO and ADEA. The objectives were to strengthen the capacities of member states in identifying the weaknesses of their national statistical systems, develop a work program on boosting the collection of data and promote the regular production of education statistics for better planning in all ECCAS countries. The workshop helped to identify the challenges related to the production of statistics in the region. It was also an opportunity for technical and financial partners to present their projects and initiatives in the sub region. A funding strategy document to be submitted to the African Development Bank was adopted by the meeting and UNESCO will be the implementing agency. *Contact:* Alassane Ouedraogo; a.l.ouedraogo@afdb.org.

Tertiary Record Keeping and Management Training Workshop for Universities in Zimbabwe– Nyanga

13-14 November. ADEA is co-funding and providing technical support to the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education (MHTE) in records management. A training workshop took place in Nyanga for personnel from universities responsible for managing institutional records. The purpose was to introduce standardized record keeping systems aligned to national information needs to the institution's focal points and the staff at MHTE. Staff also reviewed potential software systems designed for higher education institutions. Participants were drawn from the information technology, human resources and registry departments in ten of the fourteen universities in the country. *Contact:* Tegegn Nuresu Wako; tn.wako@gmail.com, Brighton Mutasa; b.mutasa@adeanet.org or Takudzwa Nkomo; takunkomo@gmail.com.

ADEA Workshop on Sustainable Development– Port Louis, Mauritius

26-28 November. ADEA, in collaboration with GIZ and country representatives of various agencies in Mauritius, held a workshop on Education for Sustainable Development in Port Louis. Representatives of ministries of education, environment, universities from Benin, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Kenya, Lesotho, South Africa as well as officers from SADC, the Indian Ocean Commission and an ECCAS Youth network met to discuss the importance of mainstreaming the concept of sustainable development as the new paradigm for education and training. Leading on from recommendations made at the ADEA 2012 Triennale, participants renewed their understanding of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in the light of shared knowledge and country experiences. A number of outcomes were proposed as a draft work-plan for 2013. Primarily, it was agreed that ADEA needs to facilitate regular inter-country dialogue and partnership so as to ensure the strengthening of technical and institutional capacities of countries through a variety of strategies, including enhancing the networking of institutions and individuals with ESD expertise and experience of innovative practices. ADEA will explore the setting up of a proposed Inter-Country Quality Node on Education for

December

Needs Assessment of Economic Actors in the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Cooperative Sector in four districts in Zimbabwe

01-10 December. The Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises and Cooperatives Development, in collaboration with ADEA WGEMPS, carried out a needs assessment of economic actors in four districts of Insiza, Lupane, Mberengwa and Umzingwane, focusing on women and youth employment creation. The purpose of the exercise is to measure capacity gaps and capacity assets of Government institutions, non-profit implementers and other partners at the various levels in addressing women and youth issues. The study will also map economic opportunities that can be explored to provide employment or income generation activities in the local communities. Six teams interviewed 230 respondents from the four districts over a period of 10 days. The generation of tables is ongoing and data analysis has also commenced, currently focusing on focus group discussions and key informant interviews. The results of the assessment will be disseminated in February 2013. *Contact:* Simbarashe Sibanda; sibandasimba@gmail.com or Chemwi Mutiwanyuka; c.mutiwanyuka@gmail.com.

Inter-Country Quality Node on Technical Vocational Skills Development Workshop – Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire

03-04 December. In 2011, ADEA invited over 23 countries to a meeting on skills development in Abidjan. As a consequence of that meeting, it was decided to establish an Inter-Country Quality Node (ICQN) on technical and vocational skills development led by Cote d'Ivoire. The purpose is to create a platform for inter-country dialogue and learning on promising practices and strategies in this area. It is also to identify potential synergies of cooperation among members of the ICQN. Constituting the membership of this ICQN, and who attended the follow up meeting in December in Abidjan, are representatives from Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Benin, Niger, Senegal, Mauritius, Chad, Togo – drawn from ministries of vocational training, youth, labour affairs, non-formal education, among others. In addition, representatives from various country initiatives were also in attendance. The key theme of the follow up workshop was on sustainable integration of youth in the world of work. The ADEA WGEMPS staff made a presentation on the work undertaken by the Working Group in pursuing an agenda of developing linkages between TVSD and labour market information systems. *Contact:* Angela Arnott; a.arnott@afdb.org.

International meeting on Peace Education – Naivasha, Kenya

04- 06 December. The ADEA Inter-Country Quality Node (ICQN) on Peace Education held a three-day international workshop on "fostering a community of practice in Africa to promote peace through education". The Ministry of Education organized the meeting with funding from the INEE-GIZ Pan African Knowledge Hub and in collaboration with the UNESCO Nairobi office. Participants included ICQN focal points from 15 African countries, Ministers of Education and delegated representatives, the ADEA representative and international experts from ANCEFA, GIZ BACKUP Initiative, Global Partnership for Education, INEE, INEE-GIZ Pan African Knowledge Hub, UNESCO Multi Sectoral Office in Nairobi, UNHCR and UNICEF. The workshop reinvigorated the ICQN as a mechanism for knowledge exchange and collaboration among the member countries. The Ministers present, led by Kenya's Minister for Education, signed the Naivasha Communiqué on peace education and endorsed the action plan developed by the participants. As a follow-up, the meeting agreed to have an active network of focal points that will support the implementation of the action plan guided by the interim Secretariat. *Contact:* Shem Bodo; s.bodo@afdb.org.

AU Outlook on Education Database technical training for African Union Commission (AUC) Officials – Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

04-07 December. A representative from ADEA WGEMPS conducted a two day AU Outlook on Education technical training in Addis Ababa. Officials from the AU Statistics Division and the AU HRST division participated in this training. The training covered database administration and the AU Outlook database management. Participants also discussed the modalities and issues pertaining to the posting of the database on the web. *Contact:* Brighton Mutasa; b.mutasa@adeanet.org.

Restricted EMIS Technical Committee Meeting – Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

05-06 December. The African Union Commission and ADEA WGEMPS organized a Restricted Technical Committee meeting on EMIS. The objective was to review the process and outcomes leading to the reporting to the 5th Conference of Ministers of Education of the African Union (COMEDAF V) and to provide an update on all EMIS development initiatives on the continent. These included the progress of the AU indicators piloting study, a presentation of the updated AU Outlook database and the new UIS African database. This meeting was attended by thirty participants from the Ministries of Education of Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Zimbabwe and representatives from ADEA Working Groups on Higher Education, Non Formal Education and Early Childhood Development as well as from UNECA, UNESCO, CONFEMEN and the African Union. *Contact:* Mohamed Diarra; m.diarra@afdb.org, Angela Arnott; a.arnott@afdb.org or Tegegn Wako; tn.wako@gmail.com.

Tertiary Record Keeping and Management Training Workshop for Teachers Colleges in Zimbabwe – Mutare

13-14 December. As part of the Higher Education Management and Information Systems (HEMIS) revitalisation project, the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education (MHTE), in collaboration with ADEA and UNESCO, hosted a training workshop for 30 teachers colleges staff responsible for managing and keeping institutional records. The main purpose of the workshop was to offer training in HEMIS institutional record keeping and management, in addition to recommending suitable software for higher education institutions in Zimbabwe to improve the management of statistical information. Presentations and discussions revolved around EMIS, Data collection, analysis and the draft statistical report for MHTE for the years 2008 to 2011. Participants were mainly drawn from the registry departments in the fourteen colleges as well as from MHTE and ADEA. *Contact:* Simplisio Rwezuva; s.rwezuva@afdb.org, Brighton Mutasa; b.mutasa@adeanet.org or Takudzwa Nkomo; takunkomo@gmail.com.

Events and Training Opportunities

November 2012

Fifth Policy Dialogue Forum of the International Task Force on Teachers for Education – Windhoek, Namibia

29-30 November. ADEA's Working Group on Communication for Education and Development, in collaboration with UNESCO, held a forum on teachers; participants were drawn from 46 countries globally, with many coming from Sub-Saharan Africa. Discussions covered teacher education and professional development, teachers' status and working conditions, inclusion in teacher policies and practices, teachers and teaching for sustainable development, and monitoring and evaluation of teacher policies and practices. Some of the participants called for a paradigm shift, going beyond broad frameworks that define competencies in knowledge, skills, attitudes and attributes. The forum called for further work in three categories of competency standards: occupational standards, qualification standards and professional standards. Participants also called for the establishment of comprehensive National Qualifications Frameworks to guide teacher training, evaluate experiential acquisitions for validation, and certifications that would result in ensuring a positive impact on career development for the teaching profession. *Contact:* LawalleyCole; l.cole@afdb.org.

December 2012

High-Level Dialogue meeting on youth unemployment – Cairo, Egypt

05 December. The African Development Bank (AfDB) hosted a high-level policy dialogue chaired by the Egyptian Prime Minister, Hisham Kandil, under the theme of "Youth Employment: Building the Future." The Bank is partnering with the Egyptian Social Fund for Development (SFD) to find ways of promoting youth employment across the country and North African nations. The event brought together key Bank executives with a variety of important decision-makers from the Egyptian government, research organizations and youth employment experts. AfDB used the occasion to launch its 2012 flagship report: The African Economic Outlook. Focusing on youth employment, the

report outlines the numerous positive long-term effects the employment of young people has upon economic growth. *Visit:* www.afdb.org.

1st Memory of the World African training workshop – Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

10-13 December. The Korean National Commission for UNESCO organized the 1st Memory of the World African training workshop. The purpose was to enhance capacity-building in African countries in the field of documentary heritage by technically assisting the participants to elaborate nomination forms for the Memory of the world international register and provide information on the objectives of the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme. *Contact:* Joie Springer; j.springer@unesco.org.

January 2013

Academy of Management Africa Conference – Pretoria, South Africa

07-10 January. The Academy of Management Africa is hosting a conference in South Africa under the main theme of Navigating Institutions: Business, Government, and Civil Society. The aim is to bring Africa's unique capabilities and needs to the attention of the world's organization and management scholars, and provide an opportunity for interested colleagues to collaborate and work on the many interesting theoretical and practice problems of management presented in Africa. *Visit:* www.aomonline.org.

The Southern African ICT for Education Summit 2013 – Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

26-27 January. This summit looks at the possibility of investment in ICT for education in Southern Africa. It represents an ideal opportunity to “leapfrog” stages of development by building a skilled and ICT literate workforce. The summit focuses on key areas for establishing partnerships and procurement between the ministries of education and the private sector. *Visit:* www.africanbrains.org.

February 2013

CABRI Policy Forum on Education and Finance – Accra, Ghana

04-05 February. The Comparative African Budget Reform Initiative (CABRI) will be hosting a dialogue among representatives of Ministries of Education and Finance to discuss issues of education finance and ways to improve efficiencies and quality outputs. ADEA will be making a presentation on Decentralization of Education and Institutional Reform: The Ghana case study. *Contact:* Angela Arnott; a.arnott@afdb.org.

UNESCO Mobile Learning Week 2013– Paris, France

19-22 February. UNESCO will hold the Second UNESCO Mobile Learning Week (MLW) from 18 to 22 February 2013 at its Headquarters in Paris, France. The event aims to explore mobile learning as a unique and significant contribution to achieving the Education for All (EFA) goals of increasing education access, quality and equality. *Visit:* www.unesco.org.

Education Development News

Global

Leaders demand immediate attention to children's education in crisis zones

Global leaders from governments, international organizations and civil society have endorsed an urgent Call to Action to ensure the world's most vulnerable children and youth receive a good quality education by protecting schools from attacks, significantly increasing humanitarian aid for education and planning and budgeting for emergencies before they occur. The leaders urged immediate action for the 28 million children – nearly half of all children not in primary school – who live in countries scarred by war and conflict, as well as millions more struck by humanitarian emergencies such as flooding, food shortages, earthquakes and other disasters. *Source:* www.pambazuka.org. *Accessed on 29 October 2012.*

Africa

56 million youths without primary education in sub-Saharan Africa

Over 56 million young people in sub-Saharan Africa have not completed primary school and lack basic skills for employment, according to a report. These young people are aged between 15 and 24. The African leg of the UN Global Monitoring Report on Education was released by the UN Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in Soweto.

Source: www.pambazuka.org. Accessed on 29 October 2012.

African science fund springs back to life

The African Union (AU) is reviving plans to set up a fund for research and innovation. The African Science and Innovation Fund (ASIF) was founded in 2005, but the plan stalled after political support dried up. Now a working group with representatives from the AU, the European Union and the Economic Commission for Africa has been created to propose a way forward. The working group met in Cairo, Egypt, on 16 and 17 October to discuss the fund's structure and the types of initiatives it should support. *Source: www.sarua.org. Accessed on 22 November 2012.*

Growth sparks controversial rise of private secondary schools

According to an education for all global monitoring report published by UNESCO in October, 71 million adolescents of lower secondary school age were out of school in 2010, with three out of four living in south and west Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. The last of these regions has doubled the number of students enrolling over the period, yet has the world's lowest total secondary enrolment, at 40 per cent in 2010. Private schools have stepped in to plug the gap. *Source: www.sarua.org. Accessed on 22 October 2012.*

Countries

Algeria: Student and academic mobility under the spotlight

There is a pressing need for a transparent system of grants for students and academics to study abroad in order to raise quality in Algerian universities, which currently fail to meet international standards or the demands of the economy.

Source: www.worlduniversitynews.org. Accessed on 28 October 2012.

Burundi: The successes and challenges of free education

Offering free education, making it compulsory and supporting it politically has been the winning strategy behind Burundi's successful bid to ensure that virtually all children get primary school education. In an interview, UNICEF's representative in Burundi, Johannes Wedenig, elaborates on government's positive role in this development. Some major drawbacks such as an avalanche of new students and inadequate qualified teachers, classrooms, desks and books have created real bottlenecks. *Source: www.osisa.org. Accessed on 18 October 2012.*

Ghana: Development of skills for industry project (DSIP)

The African Development Bank is funding the Government of Ghana to implement the above mentioned project. The investment project will assist in financing the implementation of agreed reform to increase access and quality of TVET delivery in Ghana. The development objective of the project is to support the development of high quality middle level technical and vocational skills needed in the Ghanaian economy. *Source: www.afdb.org. Accessed on 18 October 2012.*

Kenya: AFDB Invests \$43.7 Million in Kenya's Higher Education Sector

The African Development Bank has approved a US \$43.7 Million loan to the Kenyan Government to enhance education and training institutions and develop skills needed in the changing labour market.

The Loan, approved on 14 November, will also help the university system to build capacity to deliver quality and relevant education. Kenya's growing economy is hampered by a large shortage of skilled workers such as engineers, with 40% of the country's working population being either unemployed or underemployed. The project is in line with Kenya's Vision 2030. *Source: www.afdb.org. Accessed on 18 November 2012.*

Malawi: Accountability for School Performance project

Umlambo Foundation (Umlambo) and Link Community Development Malawi (LCDM) intend to undertake a pilot project in Salima District in Malawi focussing on synergising the various school accountability and school performance methods and approaches currently being rolled out in the country. This project will be implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Department of Inspectorate and Advisory Services (DIAS). The overall aim of the project is to improve the access to and availability of quality education for all children. *Source: www.osisa.org. Accessed on 23 November 2012.*

Morocco: First Skills and Employment Development Program

The development objective of the First Skills and Employment Development Policy Loan (SEDPL1) Program is to support the Government of Morocco to implement its program of improving skills, productivity and quality of employment. Support to skills development and employment is a key component of the Country Partnership Strategy (CPS). As part of the World Bank program in Morocco outlined in the CPS, this program document proposes a SEDPL1 for an amount of EU 75.1 million (US\$ 100 million equivalent). It is the first of a series of operations which will support the Government of Morocco to improve skills, productivity and quality of employment. *Source: www.worldbank.org. Accessed on 20 November 2012.*

Mozambique: Gearing Mozambique's ICT sector to spread benefits of national economic boom

“Mozambique’s ICT sector needs to rise to the rapidly escalating management demands of its dramatically expanding economy.” This is the challenge posed to the country’s ICT suppliers and professionals by Sean Moroney, Chairman of AITEC Africa, which is organising the Southern Africa ICT Summit, in Maputo, on 5-6 December. The summit will be held under the auspices of the Mozambique Ministry of Science & Technology. Lead sponsors of the event are Vodacom and Business Connexion. *Source: www.surua.org. Accessed on 04 November 2012.*

Nigeria: Federal Government to Review System of Education

The Federal Government has said it would review the 6-3-3-4 education system to include a compulsory one year early childhood education. This is to properly incorporate early education, which is being campaigned for, into the education system. *Source: www.allafrica.com. Accessed on 26 November 2012.*

South Africa: Student loan debt is US\$1.5 billion and rising

South Africa’s Higher Education Minister Blade Nzimande recently revealed that graduates acquiring tertiary education with assistance from the government-funded National Student Financial Aid Scheme owe R13.4 billion (US\$1.5 billion) in unpaid loans – and about 20% of them have not repaid a single cent. *Source: www.sarua.org. Accessed on 07 November 2012.*

South Sudan: The nation doubles primary enrolments, but must stop dropouts, boost learning, and reach more poor rural children

A comprehensive new World Bank Report on the status of South Sudan’s education notes strong progress, including a doubling of primary school enrolment in just four years, but also some daunting challenges as Africa’s newest nation strives to make up lost ground. According to the report, entitled “Education in the Republic of South Sudan: Status and Challenges for a New System”, about 700,000 more children enrolled in primary school between 2005 and 2009. A child in South Sudan now has a 60% chance of receiving some schooling, up from 40% a decade ago. Challenges include enrolling a million out-of-school children, most of who live in poor rural areas, reducing the dropout rate in lower primary school and improving the quality of learning. *Source: www.worldbank.org. Accessed on 13 November 2012.*

Uganda: 6,500 vacancies for science teachers remain unfilled

Despite a government policy that made science subjects compulsory for all secondary school students, there is a reported shortage of 6,500 teachers to teach the subjects. According to the Ministry of Education, a good number of the available 6,500 science teachers were ill-trained and cannot adequately pass on the skills to the learners. *Source: www.pambazuka.org. Accessed on 22 November 2012.*

Vacancies, Awards and other Opportunities

Two internship opportunities: Research Africa

Research Africa is offering African science journalists-or African scientists with a proven track record in journalism-an intensive seven-month science journalism internship at its headquarters in Cape Town, South Africa. The internship will start in January 2012. The successful applicant will spend their time honing their journalism skills in Cape Town and at Research Africa's sister offices in London, as well as go on a reporting trip to an African country. The intern will work with Research Africa's excellent editorial team which produces news and analysis on African research funding and science trends on the continent. Non-South African applicants will be prioritised. Research Africa will cover the costs of travel to and from South Africa, accommodation and a small stipend. *Send an email to sjp@research-africa.net or Visit: www.research-africa.org.*

Young African Scholar Recognized for Best Research Paper at 2012 African Economic Conference

On the closing day of the 2012 African Economic Conference in Kigali, Rwanda, on Friday, the conference organizers selected the best research paper presented at the conference by a young African scholar. The goal of the prize was to recognize and encourage research among young Africans. Dick Nuwamanya Kamuganga, a Ugandan national and economist from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, won the award for his paper "Does Intra-Africa Regional Trade Cooperation Enhance Export Survival", which was featured on Day 3 of the conference in a session on Regional Trade and Integration. The paper was selected from among 500 submissions, which were narrowed down to 43 papers. In the end, only four research papers were shortlisted and given to a panel of judges to decide which one warranted the award for best conference paper by a young African scholar. *Visit: www.afdb.org.*

Applications for a PhD scholarship at the University of Leuven (HIVA institute) for candidates from Southern and Eastern Africa

As one of its contributions to development co-operation, KU Leuven offers each academic year scholarships through the Interfaculty Council for Development Co-operation (IRO) to deserving students from developing countries to do their PhD in the largest university in Flanders, Belgium. Within the framework of these IRO-scholarships, the Research Institute for Work and Society (HIVA) of the KU Leuven, Belgium, is looking for suitable candidates from Eastern or Southern Africa to carry out a PhD on innovative partnerships between old and new players in development cooperation. The proposed PhD wants to look at the growing attention for inclusive partnerships from an African perspective, and will examine, more specifically, inclusive partnerships in which private sector actors and emerging economies are involved. An MA in Political Sciences, Social Sciences or Humanities, as well as proficiency in the English language is required. Deadline for applications is January 15, 2013. *Contact: Tom De Bruyn; tom.debruyne@hiva.kuleuven.be.*

Networking and Resources

World Development Report 2013: Jobs

The World Development Report 2013 offers answers to unemployment and other difficult questions by looking at jobs as drivers of development – not as derived labour demand – and by considering all types of jobs – not just formal wage employment. The Report provides a framework that cuts across sectors and shows that the best policy responses vary across countries, depending on their levels of development, endowments, demography, and institutions. Policy fundamentals matter in all cases as they enable a vibrant private sector. *Source: www.worldbank.org. Accessed on 28November 2012.*

Education for Sustainable Development Lens: A Policy and Practice Review Tool

The ESD Lens is a guiding tool for reviewing and improving educational policy and practice using ESD perspectives. It seeks to assist Member States and stakeholders in undertaking a rapid review of

existing education plans and strategies for formal basic education systems; to identify gaps and provide recommendations to address them. *Source: www.unesco.org. Accessed on 04 December 2012.*

Global Education Digest 2012: The impact of grade repetition and early school leaving

The latest edition of the Global Education Digest reveals the urgent need to address the high numbers of children repeating grades and leaving school before completing primary or lower secondary education. New data from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) show that about 32.2 million primary pupils were held back a grade in 2010, and 31.2 million dropped out of school and may never return. *Source: www.unesco.org. Accessed on 03 December 2012.*

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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