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The News Journal of the ADEA Working Group on Communication for Education and Development

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Editorial

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By Lawalley Cole



On October 28, ADEA and one of its principal partners, the African Union Commission finalized an agreement that will enable the African Union Commission to host the ADEA Working Group on Communication for Education and Development (COMED). On that day, the African Union Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology, Dr. Martial De-Paul Ikounga and the Executive Secretary of ADEA, Ms. Oley Dibba-Wadda signed an addendum to the existing Memorandum of Understanding between ADEA and the African Union Commission. This new addition to the agreement has established the framework within which the Commission of the African Union will host COMED. ADEA is now relocating COMED to the Commission at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa, to work closely with the Education Division under the Commission's Department of Human Resources, Science, and Technology. This agreement will strengthen cooperation between the Commission and the Association according to the mandate of the two parties in areas that would promote communication in support of education and facilitate knowledge sharing while stimulating and sustaining a public debate on education issues across Africa and beyond. This development has been well-received by many ADEA and COMED stakeholders

judging from the countless messages of congratulations and support received through COMED during the past few days.

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As a key stakeholder in African education, contributing to the creation of an enabling environment for the significant changes and reforms needed for qualitative development of African education systems, ADEA has been effective in producing results with relatively limited means. ADEA is currently making it its business to ensure innovative advocacy and policy dialogue in all areas of education including where there have been several interventions in the past. Under this Memorandum of Understanding, COMED will implement activities that include the development and implementation of a communication strategy for the post-2015 African educa-

tion agenda. COMED will focus on the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 2016 – 2025), that links seamlessly with the global Sustainable Development Goals framework, as well as other important agenda and global programmes. COMED will function mainly as a 'broker of ideas' and a forum for knowledge sharing. Its audience will include the diverse stakeholders of the post-2015 African education and related agenda. These will have programmes strategies comprising of analysis, advocacy and capa-

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city building for journalists and other media practitioners and communicators at the country level to respond to urgent needs in Africa and to support communication structures in African countries to promote dialogue and consensus on education and related programmes and policies. The African Union Commission Headquarters' Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology will host COMED. Through this hosting, it will be easier to ensure more visibility of the excellent work carried out by ADEA and the Commission. The Member States and stakeholders will then be enabled to acquire the needed information and knowledge that would give them full ownership of their global policies and frameworks, to enable them to participate in intra-African and global discussions.

With its base at the African Union Commission Headquarters in Addis Ababa, COMED will continue to draw on the expertise of different areas in its work. These will comprise mainly of ministries of education through their communication or information units; media specialized in education reporting, trainers and communication researchers, and education specialists and development organizations involved in its areas of concern.

COMED has a vast network that consists of more than 1,200 journalists, communication experts, and mem-

bers of NGOs and civil society organizations located in all the 54 member states of the African Union, and spread all over the five regions of the continent across Anglophone, Francophone and Lusophone linguistic groups. There is a common understanding among members of the network and ADEA that they have to cover all education matters including ADEA and African Union Commission events in their different locations. COMED is the only organization on the continent that has been active in fostering relationships with education journalists through capacity building of members of the network. Consequently, the

networks have been instrumental in knowledge sharing and stimulating and sustaining a public debate on education issues in many African countries. Under this agreement with the Commission of the African Union, COMED will continue to provide communication support to education on the continent, through its existing networks of communicators, and will seek reliable and tangible solutions to the fresher issues and challenges in education in Africa.

Although Africa is clearly on the path of socio-economic transformation, recording over the last decade an economic growth rate of around 5% per year, the pace and pattern of economic growth in Africa have not permitted significant social progress. The hypothesis being put forward here is that Africa's lack of development relates to the poor performance of its education and training

Under this Memorandum of Understanding, COMED will implement activities that include the development and implementation of a communication strategy for the post-2015 African education agenda. COMED will focus on the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 2016 – 2025), that links seamlessly with the global Sustainable Development Goals framework, as well as other important agenda and global programmes. COMED will function mainly as a 'broker of ideas' and a forum for knowledge sharing.

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systems. Education and training are certainly not the only factors but are a necessary condition and prominent ones. The inadequate provision, quality and external effectiveness of education and training in Africa is failing to produce human capital capable of driving the necessary structural reforms necessary. It is, therefore, important that education brings together the interests and activities of a wide range of stakeholders in Africa. These include cooperating partners, learning institutions, learners, leaders, communities, civil society groups, and the media. The communication dimension is increasingly featuring as a core business in strategic planning in education, ensuring its comprehensiveness and inclusiveness, with style and content that enhances dialogue in promoting all aspects of teaching and learning. Communication strategies support education policies and their implementation among communities, civil society groups, the media, leaders, and cooperating partners. Information sharing, consensus and confidence building and advocacy and social mobilization all recognize the need to work together.

This agreement between ADEA and the African Union Commission is, therefore, being effected at an opportune moment when communication to promote education and development has a significant role to play in fostering a better understanding of governments, donors, civil society, communities and parents on the continent.

In 1988, a group of education stakeholders, mainly from the donor community, established the Association for the Development of Education in Africa.

Lawalley Cole is the Coordinator of the ADEA Working Group on Communication for Education and Development (COMED) and Editor of this News Journal

Education and training are certainly not the only factors but are a necessary condition and prominent ones. The inadequate provision, quality and external effectiveness of education and training in Africa is failing to produce human capital capable of driving the necessary structural reforms necessary. It is, therefore, important that education brings together the interests and activities of a wide range of stakeholders in Africa.

This Association has developed from a donors' forum created to enhance the coordination of donor activities into a broad-based forum for consultation, cooperation and policy dialogue. Today, it brings together African education ministries, development agencies, foundations, NGOs, researchers and education specialists, whose common ground lies in the contributions they make to education in Africa. ADEA is now a key stakeholder in African education and contributes to the creation of an enabling environment for the dynamic changes and reforms needed for the qualitative development of African education systems.

COMED started on an experimental basis in 1998 that supported a new initiative to promote the use of communication in support of education in Africa.



The Interview

Interview with Commissioner Martial De-Paul Ikounga,

Commissioner, Human Resources, Science and
Technology, African Union Commission



On March 25, 2014 the African Union Commission and ADEA renewed the Memorandum of Understanding initially signed in 2008. On October 28, 2015, an addendum to this Memorandum was signed by the Executive Secretary of ADEA, Ms. Oley Dibba-Wadda and the Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology at the African Union Commission, Dr. Martial De Paul Ikounga, to enable the ADEA Working Group on Communication for Education and Development (COMED) to be hosted by the African Union Commission. Way back in March, 2014, Lawalley Cole interviewed Commissioner Martial De-Paul Ikounga.

Lawalley Cole: Mr Commissioner, you just signed a Memorandum of Understanding with ADEA to expand collaboration in many areas related to the education sector in Africa. What is the main element of this memorandum?

Martial De-Paul Ikounga: The first memorandum has come to an end so this second one is an extension. That does not mean that during the time between the two that our cooperation did not continue. Personally I think that the most important point is to strengthen the position of ADEA as an important partner for implementing our policies. The rest are just details, just to explain what we will be putting together. But what we want to show is that we really want to strengthen ADEA's position as a partner, that is to say, as the leading partner in implementing our programmes in the field.

LC: Since we are getting close to 2015, the year that ends the Second Decade for Education in Africa, that was promoted by the African Union, we want to know what programme is being planned by the African Union for post 2015 education and development in Africa.

MDI: We are going to emphasise the match between training and employment for the entire southern countries, and right through our education systems and give more time to all the questions that are connected thereto. You talk about the post-2015

programme, but we are not yet at the end of 2014 and one of our biggest challenges during this last year will certainly be to make a better evaluation of what we have done. In percentage terms, the achievements are not very significant although we have made a lot of progress; there are so many things that still need to be done. We will certainly reschedule given the slowness in implementation of some key areas of our programmes, and also for information collection, and generating statistics in order to improve management. The question of implementation and the problem regarding teachers' conditions are still current. There are still real problems of ethics and as I said, what can we do to make the school fit in with the social project that we may develop when we discuss. Today, the employment problem is a major one. What can we do to make the school help solve this type of a challenge?

LC: Considering the Memorandum of Understanding that has just been signed, will ADEA have a role to play in implementing your programme? If so, how will you be able to mobilise Africa and ensure that Africa mobilises the resources needed to support this programme?

MDI: The first thing, I think about is mobilising ourselves and depicting ADEA's place and role. We have undertaken a programme on mapping partners that we will experiment with during the next COMEDAF

meeting. The aim is to make the work done by our partners visible. The first issue here will be the mobilisation process, followed by how we mobilise Africa. See, we do not hesitate to say that if our partners do well, – and we have seen how effective ADEA is – it helps us do even better in the field. We will give ADEA much more visibility in the countries because that is where we operate. They can see what ADEA is doing and can work with ADEA on the project which, I could say, ADEA is carrying out on our behalf.

LC: How are we going to convince other partners to join our crusade to make post-2015 development in Africa emphasise education?

MDI: That's what I said. We have to start by increasing visibility. Everyone has his or her own job to do. We can monitor and even supervise. But in the field, we have shown the capacity of ADEA to work. We want to highlight this capacity and tell all the partners whom we are able to mobilise that if they want to help us and go to work, ADEA will be working on our behalf. I think that that is called mobilising partners, and through this mapping of all the partners who play a role in the education sector we will be able to know who does what and be able to share this experience. I think that this visibility will enable us to better see everyone's position in relation to that of everyone else.

LC: Last question. What advice will the African Union give the governments of its member states on how to manage 'education for development' better?

MDI: What is the role of the school? This may seem trivial but I think that it is increasingly important to redefine and better understand the role of the school and make sure that the schools do not only produce people who expect everything from the state and from society. The school should not only produce young people who want to show their capacity to serve the population as a whole. This will make it possible to produce entrepreneurs, in all fields, who have the capacity to create, be enterprising, and take initiatives. You know, when we went to school we said: 'I'm going to school to become a real somebody. In other words, I'm going to school because school is the place that transforms the individual into someone who is useful for society!'

M. Lawalley Cole: Mr. Commissioner, thank you very much.

M. Ikounga: It is for me to thank you.



African Union Commission Headquarters, Addis Ababa

Brief analysis of WG COMED achievements: 1998 – 2015

Situation in 1998	Situation in 2015
<p>In 1998, the need for a Working Group on Communication for Education was based on the idea that education systems work best in contexts of well-developed partnerships and trust between the multiple actors involved.</p>	<p>(a) In 2015, the WG continued to operate in this spirit on a rather difficult and volatile context, making it extremely vulnerable to the slightest shock.</p> <p>(b) The WG remained very strong and very committed to implementing its ideals with the support of its large network of journalists and communication experts around the African continent.</p> <p>(c) The WG continued to recognize that education systems are based on partnerships and trust between school authorities, teachers, community and Education Ministry; between Ministries of Education and their financing partners.</p>
<p>In 1997 before the COMED program started, it was recognized that comprehensive communication strategies for education ministries could be essential for building and maintaining the multi-dimensional partnerships required for the sector to develop the necessary trust and social capital it requires to thrive.</p>	<p>In 2015, COMED has come a long way in spearheading social marketing of the education sector in Africa. Today, Africa is closer than ever before to the goal of communication for education in order to develop critical and informed dialogue that is mediated by media (both written and spoken).</p>
<p>In 1998, COMED was a tiny entity that was entering fallow territory with no example to replicate anywhere else.</p>	<p>(a) In 2015, COMED has grown from this tiny entity that was entering fallow territory in 1998 to a much more viable structure within ADEA whose goal is to become the leading African Communication for Education Resource Agency.</p> <p>(b) As such, COMED will become the SUSTAINABLE, independent, continental reference and facilitating agency for excellent communication practices in the field of education and development (advocacy, capacity building, analysis, research, and documenting best practices).</p>
<p>In 1998, communication was hardly recognized as a medium to transmit educational issues to service development matters.</p>	<p>In 2015, COMED's mission has been to place communication at the centre of education in Africa through promoting communication as a core element of education development and reform on the continent. With over 1,200 journalists and media practitioners in its networks based in all the 54 member countries of the African Union, there is reason to believe that considerable progress has been made</p>

<p>In 1998, when journalists wrote about education, it was generally about the scandals and bad results, and with little knowledge of the sector and how it works. When ministries did communication it was generally in order to cover the minister's activities and to promote the ministry's agenda (i.e., one step removed from propaganda). There was little thought in the ministries that communication with and through the media could be part of the dynamics of both policy formulation and implementation. There was even less thought that a well-developed, more interactive communication strategy could bring the ministry closer to its stakeholders and vice versa.</p>	<p>In 2015, COMED continued to successfully place the issue and the field of communication for education and development on the agendas of a number of education ministries and development agencies. In 2015, media event coverage and participation in press briefings constituted COMED's largest work load, as well as the bulk of COMED's physically visible presence throughout the continent.</p>
<p>En 1998, la prise de conscience que le rôle de la communication pour l'éducation et le développement était très limitée, spécialement chez les principaux décideurs gouvernementaux et les agences de développement.</p>	<p>(a) In 2015, though still relatively new, COMED's work means that readiness for its services is just beginning to be consistent unlike in its early years.</p> <p>(b) These are clear signs that the intended beneficiaries of COMED's work—ministers, journalists, communication officers—perceive a real need for COMED's approach and what it can deliver. Indeed, many who have participated in COMED's activities in 2015 in all categories and countries have indicated that some aspect of COMED—training, seminars, the development of the Toolkit—has opened their eyes to the importance and potential of communication for the development of the education sector.</p> <p>(c) Many have articulated the need to develop improved communication on the future of education with society at large. On the whole, there is in 2015 a general awareness that communication is a core element in a strategy of education development and reform that can succeed only when it is understood and internalized well beyond the confines of government (i.e., parents, communities, civil society organizations, etc.)</p>
<p>In 1998, journalists and other communication practitioners in Africa rarely met to discuss issues around education and development.</p>	<p>(a) In 2015, COMED has been quite effective in promoting contacts between journalists and communication officers through Africa. The sub-regional workshops, the media coverage of special events where COMED brings journalists from several countries to the event attest to this.</p> <p>(b) Making use of the knowledge produced and shared is an area where COMED possesses considerable unrealized potential. COMED has generated a good amount of knowledge and know-how in several areas related to its mandate: how to promote and develop education journalism (both print and electronic); bringing communication into the mainstream of MoEs; sensitizing and training of both journalists and communication officers; the use of rural radio to sensitize populations to the importance of schooling; and the two studies (Benin, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Guinea and Nigeria) on education in the media.</p>

The Interview

IPS interview with ACP Secretary General:

«We need to do development differently in the post-2015 era,» says ACP SG

Brussels, 2 October 2015/ IPS/ ACP: The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted at a summit meeting of world leaders at the U.N. headquarters in New York on Sep. 25, reflect the five strategic domains the ACP Group is gearing to focus on, as it repositions itself as a more effective organisation in the global arena, says the 79-nation bloc's head Dr Patrick Gomes.

These domains include: rule of law and good governance; global justice and human security; intra-ACP trade, industrialisation and regional integration; building sustainable, resilient and creative economies; as well as financing for development, he said in an email interview with IPS, adding that South-South and Triangular Cooperation informs the Group's approach to all these domains.

IPS: The ACP Group is composed of 48 countries from Sub-Saharan Africa, 16 from the Caribbean and 15 from the Pacific. How far has it been possible for the ACP Group to evolve a joint strategy?

ACP Secretary General Dr Patrick Gomes: From the outset, the Committee of African, Caribbean and Pacific Ambassadors in Brussels recognised the importance of the post-2015 development agenda as a platform for global action to address the enormous needs of developing countries.

In 2014 the ACP Group set up an ad-hoc Ambassadorial Working Group to focus solely on crafting a joint position on the matter, highlighting key areas which are important to our Member States – climate change, financing for development, technology transfer, for example. At the heart of it all, is the desire to create conditions for our countries to succeed in development and industrialise in a sustainable manner, in order to raise the standards of living of our peoples.

This work fed into the joint declaration with the European Union on the post-2015 agenda, which was adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Council of Ministers in June 2014. That was a true milestone and it



highlighted very clearly our joint interests while providing a guide for our future cooperation.

The ACP Group of States also more recently agreed on a position on the U.N.'s international conference on Financing for Development in July, and we are working on one for the Climate Change Conference COP21 in Paris in December. Through a number of

different platforms, the ACP Group has been able to articulate a common position on issues of direct relevance in our countries' prospects for sustainable development.

IPS: How far do the 17 SDGs address, in your view, the problems and aspirations of such a diverse group as the ACP?

SG Gomes: The ACP Group is indeed a diverse group. All are developing, but each has specific conditions – amongst the membership, there are 40 Least Developed Countries, 37 Small Island Developing States (some are both), and 15 landlocked developing states. This is also captured at the regional level, whereby the ACP is organised in six regions (East, West, Southern and Central Africa, as well as the Caribbean and Pacific). The concept of national ownership and country-driven policies becomes very important.

Furthermore, the ACP Group has called for the establishment of a vulnerability index that takes into consideration the specific challenges that affect a country's ability to develop. This doesn't mean that member states cannot stand together on common issues, or support each other's causes in the name of solidarity. We also follow a principle of subsidiarity and complementarity.

The SDGs reflect the five strategic domains the ACP Group is gearing to focus on, as it repositions itself as a more effective organisation in the global arena. These domains include rule of law and good governance; global justice and human security; intra-ACP trade, industrialization and regional integration; building sustainable, resilient and creative economies; as well as financing for development. South-South and Triangular Cooperation informs our approach to all these domains.

IPS: The Addis Ababa Financing for Development Conference in July, the Sustainable Development Summit and the Paris Climate Change Conference end of November through December have the semblance of a triumvirate determining the fate of the world in the coming years. At its core lies financing. How do you expect the financing problem to be solved? Does the European Development Fund provide adequate framework? Does it suffice?

SG Gomes: We need to do development differently in

the post-2015 era. It is clear that traditional Official Development Assistance (ODA) is, quantitatively, simply not enough to address the development demands of our countries. In fact, ODA now accounts for far less than Foreign Direct Investment, equity participation and remittances from diasporic communities investing in their countries of origin. In terms of long-term sustainable financing, we must look at mobilising domestic resources in our own developing countries. This means refining our tax laws, tackling tax evasion and curbing corruption in order to curtail the billions of dollars haemorrhaging through illicit financial flows.

To add to that, private funding to finance investments, improved public debt management, boosting trade – all these avenues need to be addressed in a comprehensive manner. The ACP Group also takes particular interest in South-South and Triangular Cooperation to complement the traditional North-South models of development finance.

Notwithstanding, ODA will remain an essential part of post-2015 development finance. Developed countries must still honour their previous pledges to allocate 0.7 percent of their Gross National Income (GNI) to development aid. So far, only a few European countries have achieved and surpassed this level of ODA – imagine if all the industrialised countries did so. Moreover, since developed nations recommitted to the 0.7 percent GNI goal for ODA in Addis Ababa in July, we have to look now at implementing this in the ACP-EU framework.

The European Development Fund for ACP countries is significant, but obviously not enough to achieve the SDGs. However, what is unique about the EDF is that it is part of a legally binding agreement between two sets of sovereign states. In the framework of our partnership, the EU provides a predictable source of finance and the ACP Group co-manages the funds. At the same time, issues of flexibility in the EDF regulations and better planning in ACP countries, mean that actual absorption rates by ACP countries can still be improved.

IPS: How far does the Sustainable Development Summit mark a watershed in global development cooperation? Do you expect it to turn out more of a success than its precursor, the MDG?

SG Gomes: The attainment of SDG's will be as successful as we make it. That is, these goals need have ownership as well as sufficient resources for work to be implemented and results delivered. Contrary to the momentum and hope generated by enormous pledges made by developed countries in international fora, the reality is that the state of financing for development is currently handicapped. In fact, amongst the challenges faced by the MDGs, were the inadequate implementation of commitments listed in Goal 8 (Global Partnership for Development), the global financial crisis of 2008, as well as issues of mutual accountability.

However, I remain positive. There is a growing awareness across the globe about development issues. There is also an interest in reviewing current systems to better deliver on development goals, as seen in the reforms currently being pursued at the UN and ACP Group. There is no doubt that the resources and means to achieve the Post-2015 Development Agenda do exist – it is a matter of collective will to wield them in the right direction. (END)

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AFRICA 2050

Attaining the 2050 Vision for Africa: Breaking the Human Capital

Barrier

by

Birger Fredriksen and Ruth Kagia

Summary by Lawalley Cole

Vision: By 2050 African countries will have developed the human capital—through national, regional and global cooperation in education, health, science and technology—needed to foster rapid, inclusive and job-creating growth, cohesive societies and accountable governments as a basis for catalyzing and supporting sustainable convergence in living standards between African countries and the rest of the world.

In this paper, Birger Fredriksen and Ruth Kagia, both former officials of the World Bank discuss the imperative of a major scaling up of human capital in Africa as a prerequisite for economic transformation. The paper is part of a major long-term study for Africa -- Africa 2050 -- covering all sectors, presented to African leaders at a major conference in Abidjan in June, 2013. Oxford University Press has this year published this study in a book entitled: «Africa 2050: Realizing the Continent's Full Potential» with editors T. Ahlers, Hiroshi Kato, H. S. Kohli, C. Madavo and A. Sood.

Fredriksen and Kagia highlight the opportunities and challenges that African countries face in making what would for most countries amount to a quantum leap in raising levels of human capital and



Ruth Kagia



Birger Fredriksen

enable them to lead healthy and productive lives. To achieve this is crucial to accelerating the economic transition from low to higher productivity sectors and enhancing Africa's competitiveness in the global, knowledge-based economy.

The model on which the global 2050 study is based projects that by 2050, Africa would be home to 2 billion people with a per capita income of US\$17,500 and a skilled and productive workforce. The vision for the education sector assumes that basic education would be universal and free for the first nine years and enrollment would have exceeded 80 percent at

the senior secondary level and 35 percent in higher education. African universities would have become leading global research centers of excellence in fields such as extractive industries, agribusiness and biotechnology. More generally, Africans would be healthier and would live longer as a result of better nutrition and health care, higher incomes and drastically reduced poverty, underpinned by a well-educated consumer middle class.

To achieve this vision, Fredriksen and Kagia have suggested a set of targets that would need to be met by 2050. They include a doubling of the completion rate for an 8-9 year basic education cycle, a 5 fold expansion in enrollments at the tertiary and pre-school level, and close to a three-fold increase in enrollment at the upper secondary level. In percentage terms, the proposed annual growth rates are not as high as those that African countries registered in the recent past. During the period 1970-2010, there was more than a twenty fold expansion of tertiary education, a twelve fold increase in enrollment in secondary schools and primary enrollment increased by about 350 percent. The authors however admit that achieving the 2050 targets will require more effort, because education systems are larger and becoming increasingly more complex and because reaching the children not yet enrolled will often be more difficult and costly.

While Fredriksen and Kagia believe that – because of sub-Saharan Africa's (SSA) considerable need for catch-up growth and continued very rapid population growth -- most education indicators in SSA will continue to be below those of other regions, they also think that expanding education to the proposed levels will provide the labor force with sufficient skills and capacity to support economic transformation in the continent. They provide the example of China which has become an economic powerhouse with education indicators that are no higher than those proposed in their paper. As is widely agreed today, Fredriksen and Kagia contend that improvements in education coverage must go hand in hand with a major improvement in education quality.

Fredriksen and Kagia also posit that achieving the 2050 vision for human capital development in Africa is important and urgent. They note that much of the economic growth registered in the last decade has been enabled by improved macro-economic poli-

cies, greater political stability, improved business climate and growing global interest in Africa, primarily driven by commodities. They, however, contend that while these are important drivers for jump-starting economic growth, they are insufficient to sustain or expand it without parallel improvements in key fundamentals of growth, in particular human capital, knowledge and infrastructure.

The authors argue that by raising the quality of human capital, the region would build critical capacities, increase the volume and quality of skills, and deepen the institutional base for harnessing new job, industrial and technological opportunities that will open up as the economies become more globally connected. In addition, they maintain that a healthier and better educated and trained population will produce more, accelerate the demographic transition and contribute to poverty reduction. They also highlight another line of reasoning which states that if, on the other hand, progress in reducing the disease burden and raising the education and skill levels of the population falters, the large reservoir of young people could become a disruptive force and slow down or reverse economic growth. They cautioned that the window of opportunity to make the massive investment required is no more than 10-15 years after which a weak human capital base would begin to act as a drag on further economic growth.

The authors examine sets of factors that drive educational change, and which can also be mutually dependent. One of these is demography which impacts education in many important ways, while education itself impacts key demographic factors such as fertility, mortality and migration. The authors insist that Africa's slow demographic transition will profoundly impact education over the next decades, significantly adding to the challenge of catching up on human capital formation. They affirm that SSA countries will need to continue to expand massively their school systems just to cater to population growth while other developing regions can start shifting resources to expanding post-basic education and to quality improvements at all levels.

The authors also mention the need to invest more in children and provide second-chance programs to those who missed out of primary education. The latter is an important part of a holistic skills development strategy which recognizes that providing

cutting-edge skills for those working in the small modern sector has to be complemented with a determined effort to provide foundation skills to the large majority of the labor force engaged in the agricultural and non-formal sectors where such skills are very low. Recognizing the urgency of rapid catch-up in building basic human capital, they argue that the best long-term investment most African countries can make over the next decade is to correct the fact that their young children and youth fare much worse in terms of basic health and education status than those of other regions. They warned that this development stage cannot be "leapfrogged" as good quality basic education and health care is the foundation for development in all other areas.

Fredriksen and Kagia make a case for mobilizing sustainable financing through economic growth. The investments required by SSA countries to address the challenges will be well above those of other re-

gions. This may well be the case over the next decade to fund essential catch-up growth and respond to high population growth. Noting that both the financing needs and scope for resource mobilization vary greatly among countries, Fredriksen and Kagia conclude that countries achieving the average 6.6 percent annual GDP growth assumed by the Africa 2050 study's "convergence scenario" (meaning that Africa's economies will "converge" towards those of advanced countries) should be well placed to meet the financing challenge.

Please click on this link to download a copy of the study:

<http://www.emergingmarketsforum.org/2013-africa-emerging-markets-forum/>

Africa Agenda 2063: Pathways to realization

by Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma

Fourteen years ago, during the debates that led to the Millennium Declaration and Development Goals, our continent was regarded as the «21st Century's Development Challenge» and a scar on the conscience of humanity.

At the same time, Africa too reflected on its future, on how to take the continent out of the preceding two dead decades for development. Thus, we transformed the OAU into the African Union, vowed to tackle conflict in a coordinated manner and adopted the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD).

Fourteen years later, Africa is the world's second fastest growing region, and home to six of the world's fastest growing economies. Several others were above or near the 7 percent threshold for economic take off, which (AfDB president Donald) Kaberuka calls the tipping point and set to double their economies in 10 years.

We are also a continent of the future, with a young and growing population, a growing working and middle classes, and our abundant natural resources, including land, minerals, gas and oil, forests, biodiversity and maritime resources. Thus, I repeat with confidence: Africa has transitioned from being the 21st Century's development challenge, to being the 21st Century's development opportunity.

We do know from our history and that of others, that opportunities can be squandered and lost. It is our determination not to be characterized by future generations of Africans for squandered opportunities that prompted us to embark on the process of Agenda 2063, a Pan African framework to rapidly move towards an Africa that is integrated, peaceful, prosperous and people-centered.

Industrialization, domestic resource mobilization, finance and monetary institutions - are critical to the realization of Agenda 2063 in the longer term



and the post - 2015 development agenda in the short term.

Africa must «design a comprehensive industrial development framework that is inclusive and transformative to speed up and deepen value - addition of local production, linkages between the commodity sector and other economic sectors.» Our discussions must assess the consolidation of nascent industrialization initiatives and sectors.

This assessment must look at the agro - processing sectors in all countries for cocoa, coffee and other agricultural ; products in Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana and Ethiopia; at the ICT sectors in Rwanda and Kenya; at the textile and fashion industries in West, Central and Southern Africa; tourism and the blue economies of Seychelles and Senegal , of Mauritius and Madagascar; the fishing industry in the Gulf of Guinea; at the work done by institutions such as the Central African Forestry Commission (COMIFAC) on forest policy convergence and with the East African Coastal forests to promote sustainable forestry and eco-tourism and whether Botswana can indeed become the world's leading global diamond trader.

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Industrial policy assessment is also about assessing the impact of our infrastructure projects: the gas pipeline between Nigeria and Algeria; the Sahara-Sahel transport corridor; the African Clean Energy Corridor Initiative; the Djibouti to Dakar transport corridor and mother others and whether these projects not only contribute towards reducing the cost to industries, but also as drivers of industrialization, technology transfer and skills development.

Assessment must also check best practice in terms of industrial and trade policy instruments - such as the local content requirement that Ghana introduced in its oil and gas industries; the monetary policy requirements for industrialization and growth discussed by the African Central bankers the activities of our various national export and investment promotion councils; the implementation of the African Mining Vision and the impact of our trade partnerships on industrialization and intra-Africa trade.

We must also know what is happening with the African private sector, both formal and informal, including the SMME sector.

In addition, there are the emerging Pan African businesses, in cement manufacturing, mining, oil and gas, ICT and banking and the growing numbers of young successful and innovative African entrepreneurs (men and women) in virtually every country.

Industrial policy won't succeed without conscious efforts to build African champions and without dynamic dialogue and interactions between government and the private sector, at sectorial, country, regional and continental levels.

Indeed, industrial policy must be accompanied by our integration efforts towards a continental free trade area by 2017, and we must do nothing that would jeopardize this.

We need the skills revolution to train hundreds of thousands more scientists, engineers and artisans, working together with the private sector and by investing in science, technology, research and innovation.

Institutions

The two dead decades of structural adjustments not only saw stagnation and de-industrialization, but also the destruction of institutional capacity for industrial policy, support and planning.

Although we cannot turn back the clock and rebuild these capacities overnight, we can leapfrog some of

the challenges through the regional and continental institutions that we agreed to put in place, to help all our countries to navigate this path of structural transformation.

Discussions on the Statutes of the African Monetary Fund and on the ratification and strategy for the African Investment Bank and the African Central Bank respectively are therefore important, so that we can get these institutions up and running. We must also be reminded about the decision taken by the January 2014 Summit on the African Remittances Institute.

Domestic resource mobilization

We have over the last few years studied this matter in detail, ranging from the report of former president Obasanjo presented last year on Alternate source of Funding, the 2013 NEPAD-ECA study on Domestic resources for African development to the progress report of the Panel chaired by former President Mbeki on Illicit flows from the continent.

All these studies show that given Africa's enormous resource potential, we indeed have the means to invest in the acceleration of our development priorities, and in the process leverage and crowding in even greater funding and resources from our partners across the world.

Fellow Africans, industrial policy, building institutions, even domestic resources mobilization and indeed transformation, is not done until it is done. It is only then that we can say, as the Nelson Mandela taught us: it is impossible, until it is done.

Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma is Chairperson of the African Union Commission. This article was first published in The African Executive in April, 2014



BRIDGES AFRICA

Analysis and news on African trade and sustainable development

Knowledge and innovation are pivotal in Africa's quest for sustained and inclusive economic growth and should therefore be encouraged based on both targeted government policies and private sector participation. This was the conclusion last year from the 9th Annual African Economic Conference held from November 1-3 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The conference, co-organised by the African Development Bank (AfDB), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), provided a forum for discussions among public officials, business leaders and academics under the overarching theme "Knowledge and Innovation

enterprises can only develop and influence the breadth and depth of industrial linkages if they harness (...) the skills and technologies needed to upgrade production processes, and identify market opportunities."

"Capacities are not the same as capabilities. We have lots of capabilities; but we need capacities," added Lopes, emphasizing the need to build capacity to transform growth into quality growth on the continent.

Abdoulaye Mar Dieye, Director of UNDP's Regional Bureau for Africa, further emphasised the human dimension underpinning the innovation-growth nexus: He called upon governments "to make sure people are at the centre of the development process." Participants discussed various



for Africa's Transformation".

"African countries are aware that their development hinges on how fast and how well their citizens acquire the skills and technological competencies needed to be competitive in today's global market," said AfDB President Donald Kaberuka at the opening of the three-day meeting. Kaberuka was seconded by the Executive Secretary of UNECA, Carlos Lopes, who affirmed that "African

priority areas for action in order to harness the development effects from innovation and technology, among which education policy and public-private partnerships featured prominently.

A panellist and researcher from Cameroon, Luc Nembot Ndeffo, explained that the low level of Africa's innovation compared to other regions of the world depends on four

main factors, namely weak institutions, poor infrastructure, a poor regulatory and institutional environment and an inadequate education system. According to Ndeffo, these factors form a vicious circle that keeps Africa in a state of underdevelopment compromising innovation opportunities.

Investing in education and women's skills

In the opening session of the conference, the role of education in ensuring a higher pace of skill and technology development in Africa took center stage. In this context, the Ethiopian Minister of Science and Technology Demitu Hambissa portrayed the absence of a critical mass of university-educated manpower as a major impediment to innovation on the continent.

Adding to this point, the then AfDB President Kaberuka affirmed that the skill deficit is exacerbated by the fact that "Africa's stock of graduates is still highly skewed towards the humanities and social sciences, while the share of students enrolling in science, technology, engineering and mathematics averages less than 25 percent."

The pivotal role of education in ensuring people-centred innovation was also highlighted by academics attending the conference: For example, Abdoulaye Seck from the Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar, Senegal, presented a paper on technology spillovers in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), showing that the spread of world technology will be conducive to local appropriation and innovation in ECOWAS countries if the latter's human capital is strengthened.

Moreover, participants noted that there is a gender imbalance in developing entrepreneurial skills through education: "There is a clear gender dimension to the technological divide", said Zuzana Brixiova, a Principal Research Economist at the AfDB. According to Brixiova, women have acquired simple employable rather than entrepreneurial skills, which, in the absence of more gender-inclusive education and vocational policies, will lead to frustration and an even more pronounced outflow of female workers into the informal sector.

Brixiova further highlighted that unemployment was recorded at 11.9 percent in 2012 and 2013, with young workers making up 50 percent of the unemployed. "Po-

licy-makers should identify the factors that force many women in Africa to join the less productive informal sector, as well as seek to address why women get lower education attainments in several countries on the continent," she said.

Generally, value addition in human capital is paramount for Africa's ultimate industrial boom – and basic education alone will not suffice, according to Manitra Rakotoarisoa, an Economist at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Leveraging the private sector for development

In addition to education policy, participants discussed the role the private sector can play in stabilising African countries stricken by conflict, political instability and natural or man-made disasters. These debates were stimulated by the report "Assessing Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Africa", co-authored by the three conference organisers and the African Union and released on the second day of the conference.

The report argues that stronger partnerships and domestic financing, backed notably by the private sector, are key to meet the MDGs and ensure sustainable and stable growth in Africa in the post-2015 period.

«The private sector has a huge role to play in finishing the business of the MDGs and sustaining progress beyond 2015. In fact, part of the work will consist in making sure future investments are safeguarded in the face of crises like the one we are seeing in West Africa,» said the former AfDB President Kaberuka, referring to the Ebola virus ravaging principally Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia.

During one of the plenary sessions on the "Role of research and innovation in enhancing productivity and competitiveness in Africa", participants noted the lack of strategic public-private partnerships on education and skills development which contributes to undermine the continent's efforts to bridge the innovation gap. Discussants also underscored that each country should develop a coherent innovation strategy with a clear roadmap based on its specific reality and situation to facilitate monitoring progress.

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"It is going back to understand what are our comparative advantages, and then focus on those comparative advantages and build centers of excellence around it," said Antonio Pedro from UNECA.

In its background note on this year's African Economic Conference, UNECA argues that for African companies to tap into global value chains, they "will need to upgrade operational competitiveness, meet global technical standards and adopt world-class manufacturing practices – which require a level of expertise that is not readily available."

The African Economic Conference is organised on an annual basis and builds on the general guidelines set out in the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the African Common Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which themselves portray technology development,

transfer and innovation as premises for structural transformation and people-centred development in Africa.

Sources: Xinhua News Agency: Boosting crisis response, financing key for Africa's continued progress: report, November 3, 2014; Seychelles News Agency: Africa's Economic Transformation Agenda Discussed in Ethiopia With a Focus On Knowledge and Innovation As Key to the Continent's Economic Progress, November 2, 2014; African Development Bank: African Economic Conference – News, November 1-3 2014.

AFRICA LOOKS FORWARD TO THE POST- 2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

Homi Kharas, Senior Fellow & Deputy Director, Global Economy and Development
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THE PRIORITY

The Millennium Development Goals (MDG) era has seen a transformation in the African development narrative. Africa's prospects in 2015 are markedly different from what they were in 2000: African economies have grown at rates rivaling those of East Asia, averaging 6 percent in 2013 (excluding South Africa) (Africa Progress Panel 2014). By 2025, if current growth trajectories continue, three out of every five African countries will be middle income. Moreover, this growth has been driven both by natural resources and by a vibrant services sector, rising private investment, increased exports and improved agricultural production. Africa is increasingly depicted by its leaders as a continent of opportunity.

The region's performance on individual well-being, however, as measured by the MDGs, contrasts with this glowing image. Since 2000, Africa has lagged behind the rest of the world on MDG progress, particularly in terms of poverty; job creation and food security (UNDP 2013) (see Figure 1). Recent reports¹ note that Africa's structural transformation has been limited, with little impact on the lives of the poorest (Africa Progress Panel 2014). The World Bank's 2014 Global Monitoring Report estimates that sub-Saharan Africa is home to 41 percent of today's global poor, a share that could reach 81 percent by 2030 under a business-as-usual scenario. This stark concentration of global poverty demands a focused response from African governments.

In September 2015, the United Nations member states will decide on the sustainable development goals that will replace the MDGs and guide the global development agenda until 2030. Encouragingly, the Common African



Position (CAP) on these goals, agreed upon by the African Union in January 2014, places emphasis on "structural transformation for inclusive and people-centered development," (African Union 2014). Operationalizing this vision will entail investing further in infrastructure, basic services and job creation, as well as going beyond the scope of the MDGs to address the difficult questions of peace, security and governance (World Bank 2014a). African governments should use the coming year to implement bold policy measures in these areas, so as to secure a central place for inclusive growth on the post-2015 agenda.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Three New Prongs of the Post-2015 Agenda

Compared to the MDGs' focus on basic needs, the post-

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2015 agenda has three new prongs that are critical to development success in Africa and that are incorporated in the six pillars of the CAP.

Job creation. Recent growth in Africa has not created enough good jobs: In the past decade, Africa's labor force grew by 91 million people, but only 37 million of these were in jobs in wage-paying sectors (UNDP 2013). This lag is posing a societal challenge, especially with the expansion of the continent's working-age population amidst growing youth unemployment. The post-2015 agenda must ensure that Africa's structural transformation leads to job creation where productivity is higher than in informal agriculture. There are compelling reasons to focus on all sectors. Prioritizing agriculture is a sine qua non for eradicating poverty, as farming is a source of livelihood for 78 percent of Africa's extreme poor; manufacturing has traditionally been an "escalator" to economic growth, with a large literature suggesting that productivity convergence is easier to achieve in manufacturing than elsewhere (Rodrik 2013); and the recent African growth successes have been driven by the expansion of a dynamic service sector, mostly in telecommunications, retail, transportation and tourism, which accounted for 62 percent of cumulative GDP growth between 1995 and 2011 (World Bank 2014b). Achieving enough job creation to make growth inclusive and to reduce poverty will require African governments to address binding constraints in all three sectors.

Infrastructure and governance. African infrastructure in transport, power, irrigation, storage and other areas is underdeveloped. Addressing it will require a larger pipeline of projects, better governance to encourage the entry of private long-term investors, and new financing: The estimated financing gap for infrastructure is about \$48 billion per year. The Africa50 Fund, established by the African Development Bank, is an example of the new kind of facility that is needed to provide technical expertise, early stage capital, and dedicated project teams to accelerate the financial close of infrastructure projects. But improved project facilities will not be sufficient. By and large, Africa has not achieved the kind of governance improvements needed to deliver, operate and maintain better infrastructure. Lingering gaps in rule of law and persistent corruption continue to constrain private investment. Likewise, while access to most basic services

improved during the MDG period, there are gaping disparities between urban and rural areas and between income groups. A more inclusive approach to infrastructure will entail tackling delicate issues not addressed by the MDGs, such as property rights, discrimination and corruption.

Peace and security. Twenty-four countries in sub-Saharan Africa have extreme poverty rates exceeding 40 percent, of which 18 are listed by the OECD as fragile states (World Bank 2014c). This implies that in order to eradicate poverty in sub-Saharan Africa, there needs to be a strong push to invest in peace, security and institutional reform. As highlighted by the High-Level Panel report on the post-2015 agenda, this is a "fundamental shift—to recognize peace and good governance as core elements of well-being, not optional extras," (United Nations 2013). The Common African Position also includes peace and security as a pillar, but this is currently the least developed part of its action plan. Operationalizing it will require both donors and governments to go outside their comfort zones.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE IN 2015

African governments can still accelerate progress towards the MDGs during 2015. Even if goals are not fully met, the MDGs are the starting point for the post-2015 agenda, and every effort must be made to strengthen these foundations by the end of the year. Drawing lessons from implementation of the MDGs can be instructive in discovering how best to use a global goal-setting framework to support national development. In 2015, the debate will shift towards financing, means of implementation and accountability for results. The year provides a window of opportunity for African governments that have already signaled their willingness to take on and own politically sensitive issues in the context of the CAP, to now develop a strong regional vision for monitoring and accountability, with clear plans for financing and implementation strategies at the country level.

One important milestone is the upcoming third International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Addis Ababa, July 13-16, 2015. (For more on financing for development in Africa, see "2015: A Crucial Year for Financing Development in Africa.") This conference is an opportunity to realize three key outcomes: (i) a reaffirmation of strong official development support to least

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developed and post-conflict countries, despite the budget pressures in many developed countries, and perhaps through a reallocation of grant aid from middle-income to low-income countries; (ii) an increased level of support for the financing needs of low- and lower-middle-income countries, especially for big-ticket national and regional infrastructure support; and (iii) a common understanding of the positive role that business—local and multinational, large and small—can play in achieving sustainable development, and the policies, regulations and incentives that will maximize business' contribution to development consistently with their incentive to maximize long-term profits.

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Could too much democracy be hindering Africa's growth?

by Ronak Gopaldas

DESPITE Africa's strong economic growth, only a handful of its countries have managed to make inroads into reducing inequality. In reality, large wealth gaps between the rich and the poor remain, with a middle class that is struggling to stay out of poverty. In light of this, it has been asked how best to achieve inclusive growth, and whether a democratic dividend or deficit is more likely to facilitate it.

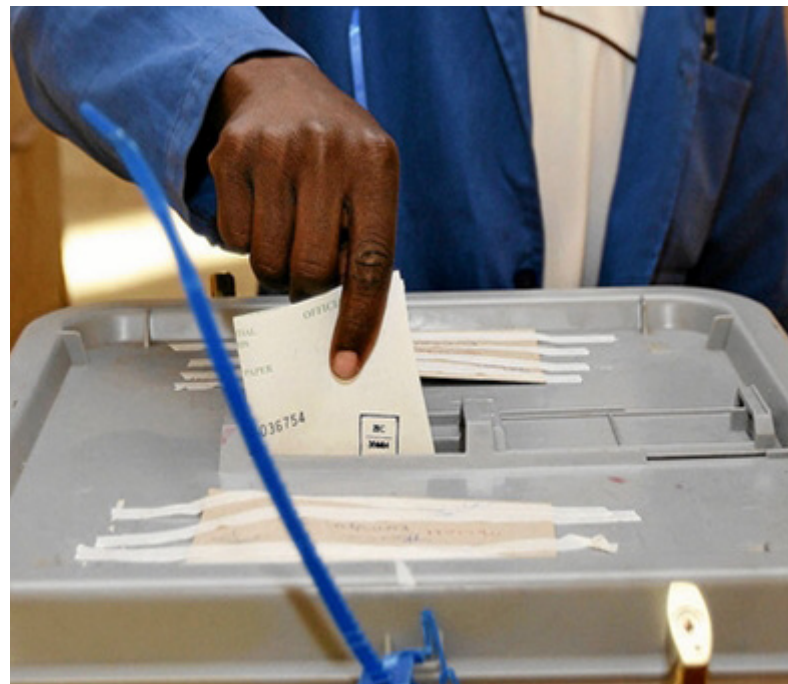
Two recent global events in particular have prompted questions about what developmental model is the most effective for Africa to achieve this transformative economic growth. The peaceful and successful transfer of power in Nigeria cemented Africa's largest economy's democratic credentials and indicated a new era of political maturity for the country.

This «democratic dividend», it is argued by development practitioners, provides a platform from which sustained growth can be achieved. The stability, respect for human rights and rule of law associated with stable democracies creates an environment conducive for jobs, growth and new investment.

The passing of Singaporean prime minister Lee Kuan Yew in the same month prompted many to reflect on his transformative-growth template, which adopted a system of development outside of a democratic framework.

Lee, who is widely viewed as the architect of «developmental authoritarianism», chose a «command in control» system, which prioritised economic efficiency over political freedom to lift swathes of people out of poverty – a system that has been mooted for African countries.

Africa's democratic landscape has changed dramatically in the past 20 years. Before 1990, peaceful and democratic power transfers in Africa were rare and multi-party elections were largely outlawed.



Today, predictable and constitutional alternations of power are commonplace and all but a handful of African states regularly hold multiparty polls. This has raised hope that Africa will benefit from the «democratic dividend» and translate these gains into sustained «bottom-up» growth, industrialisation and urbanisation, which will deliver jobs and prosperity to its fast-growing younger population.

But given the fact that inequality in Africa has worsened despite robust economic growth and the continent's positive democratic landscape, many feel that democracy is an impediment to development, and that an alternative model, like Lee's «developmental authoritarianism», will deliver what the continent needs.

Many experts believe economic success in «pseudo-democracies», such as Rwanda and Ethiopia, has been due to the Asian-inspired development authoritarian model.

Under the leadership of their militias-cum-ruling parties,

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Rwanda and Ethiopia have strengthened the effectiveness of the state, improved public services, reduced poverty and produced sustained improvement in per capita incomes in ways their neighbours have not. This has given them some legitimacy, despite their unwillingness to test their positions in free and fair elections.

In both cases, opposition parties do not present a serious challenge to the dominant party's rule. Additionally, both regimes have used force to stay in office, often framing it as a way to protect citizens from sliding back into chaos and poverty.

While they remain impoverished, both countries have experienced rapid growth in per capita gross domestic product while demonstrating a willingness and ability to promote improvements in the livelihoods of their citizens beyond economic growth.

Both have significantly decreased the proportion of their population living below \$1.25 a day. From 2005-11, Rwanda's poverty head-count has fallen 12 percentage points, while Ethiopian poverty levels fell by half in 1995-2011.

It is these factors, among others, that lead many to the conclusion that Africa needs benevolent dictators to push through reforms for social, economic and political development. As is noted by Fred Swaniker, founder of the African Leadership Network: «In Africa, where you don't have strong institutions, one good leader can have a tremendous impact on society, but ... one bad leader can destroy society.»

Many argue that an authoritarian government is necessary for growth or for difficult decisions to be made.

Singapore, like South Korea, China, Indonesia and Taiwan, modernised under a system of rigid political control. Renowned economist Amartya Sen calls this the «Lee thesis» - essentially, the argument that the denial of these rights helps to stimulate economic growth and is «good» for economic development.

Lee's thesis argues that democracy and human rights are «luxury goods» that should be attained only once a certain level of development is reached. Proponents often argue that people do not eat votes or elections or freedom of speech, and would easily sacrifice political pluralism if it meant there was a material improvement in the quality of their lives.

However, such a system depends almost entirely on an altruistic and enlightened autocrat to ensure continued progress. But because such a system hinges on diluting institutional strength and political dissent, the sustainability of this economic model and its gains remain fragile. If less-skilled, corrupt tyrants come to power, countries easily risk becoming failed states.

Côte d'Ivoire is a case in point. The country's first president, Félix Houphouët-Boigny, and his one-party state, created Africa's strongest and most prosperous nation in the 1960s and 70s. His rule was paternalistic and highly effective.

Considered by some to have been an archetypal dictator, Houphouët-Boigny dealt with political dissent by drawing the opposition into his government and ruled relatively unchallenged from the mid-1960s until his death in 1993. But his declining health had allowed power brokers to assume much of the day-to-day control of the country and the country fell into chaos after his demise.

Africa's leaders are at a crossroads and have no option but to deliver effective policies and leadership. As Swaniker notes: «By 2030, Africa will have a larger workforce than China, and by 2050, it will have the largest workforce in the world. One billion people will need jobs in Africa, so if we don't grow our economies fast enough, we're sitting on a ticking time bomb, not just for Africa, but for the entire world.»

In light of the potential risks, what is clear is that regardless of democratic or autocratic constructs, Africa urgently needs effective and high-quality leadership to solve its challenges. Lee Kuan Yew, in reflecting on his economic transformation of Singapore, summed up the crux of Africa's challenges: «We were not ideologues. We did not believe in theories as such.

A theory is an attractive proposition intellectually. What we faced was a real problem of human beings looking for work, to be paid, to buy their food, their clothes, their homes and to bring their children up. So whatever the final outcome, we had the responsibility of getting the economy going and getting jobs and income.»

How technology can transform Africa

By Fredrik Jejdling

In Africa, as in the rest of the world, Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) are set to transform society. This will deliver growth and prosperity based on greater inclusion, social cohesion and environmental sustainability. What was once technological infrastructure will become social infrastructure – seamless, intuitive and integral, connecting not just people but communities, systems, processes and intelligence.

New opportunities will emerge for people to collaborate, innovate and participate in ways that positively impact their lives and in turn the world. Mobile broadband in particular has huge potential for Africa, with its large and young population, vast landmass and limited infrastructure.

While the past few decades of ICT progress have been promising, this has only laid the foundation for what is yet to come. Across the continent today, infrastructure development continues, primarily focused on one of its most basic capabilities – connecting people and places.

This is a worthy goal being taken on by private industry. However, it fails to take into account technology's significant potential to drive long-term inclusive and sustainable social and economic development on the continent. As such, on its own it will not deliver the outcomes required to put the African continent on a path to prosperity.

Universal broadband access connects people to information and services. Achieving universal access will bring about opportunities to create and deliver goods and services at lower fiscal and environmental costs than traditional methods.

For ICT to truly achieve its potential, it is imperative that governments and policy-makers methodically collaborate with private industry to create the right type of ecosystem. We particularly need to put in place well-defined



national broadband plans and forums where partnerships among stakeholders are explored and enhanced. Policy must be inclusive and provide a clear vision that favourably positions Africans as global citizens.

The challenge that many regulators face is not necessarily an unwillingness to create these plans, but often a limitation of resources and competing priorities. It also takes a long time to progress from creating a policy to passing it into law, and more time still to implement new laws. Technological innovation happens at breakneck speed, and policy can't keep up.

In addition, misconceptions about the scalability, long-term possibilities and potential impact of various technologies have long-term repercussions. Technologies that are harmonized and deployed globally benefit from economies of scale and interoperability. As such, it is impe-

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rative that key ICT stakeholders work with policy-makers to ensure they understand the implications of the policies they are putting in place, including, for example, spectrum allocation after 2020.

While it is the responsibility of governments to develop broadband policies and regulations that support their wider goals, partnerships with private enterprise can ensure the efficacy of these plans, as private sector players have a unique insight into the intricacies of various industries. This is important, as broadband plans should not focus solely on the supply side, covering issues such as spectrum, licensing, rights of way, and base station emissions. An effective plan must also address the demand side, which facilitates the development of the entire system – such as solutions for e-government, education, health services and utilities.

Effective broadband policies and regulations translate into market growth in the long term. When countries implement broadband plans supported by aligned policies and regulations, this creates a dynamic business environment in which service providers can collaborate and com-

pete. Take the case of mobile money in Kenya, lauded as a success story globally – it is the result of the right type of legal and regulatory framework, which helped create a vibrant ecosystem and encouraged private sector investment.

It is hard to overstate the impact ICT could have on people's lives in Africa. It could bring about social inclusion, expand access to knowledge, financial services and healthcare, create new business opportunities, and provide more consumer choice. ICT really could transform the continent.

But it's only when everyone involved – governments, policy-makers, the private sector, industry experts – works together that we can maximize the opportunities. If we manage to do that, there is no limit to what can be accomplished.

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WHY 'POWERED' AFRICA IS KEY TO ITS ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

By: Stephen Yeboah and Mohamed A. Sultan

Courtesy: Africa progress Report - 2015

History teaches us that Africa will not be able to lift people out of poverty, substantially improve well-being, and reduce inequalities, if it cannot sustainably power itself. The paradox is stark. The region has stunning landscapes, scorching sun, vast water resources to produce cleaner, cheaper and widely accessible energy. Yet, today, more than 600 million people or two thirds of the continent's population live in darkness, without electricity. Today, the continent has less capacity to generate and transmit grid-based capacity than South Korea, which has a fifth of its population.

Though not much talked about, the cost associated with lack and inefficiency of energy is devastating. Power shortages reduce economic growth by 2-4 per cent annually. Quality education is affected too. In Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Malawi, and Niger, about 80 per cent of primary schools have no access to light for their classrooms or to power computers. Also, power outages in healthcare facilities have critical effects for hospital patients all over Africa.

Though Africa contributes only about 2% of global CO2 emissions, the great damages that climate change has on African livelihoods is striking. More prevalent droughts and floods place unprecedented stress on agricultural systems, water sources are rapidly exhausted, and changing weather patterns causing natural disasters are just a few examples. Climate change is a threat to livelihoods, and lives as well as development trajectory.

However, the timing is ripe to reverse the tide and

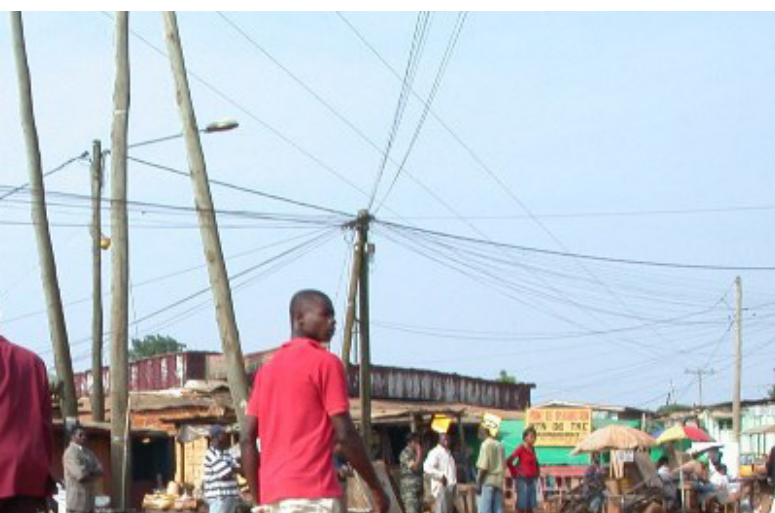


use this as an opportunity to critically rethink our leadership on clean technology and sustainable development. Energy provision is at the core of this process. How do we get to a much more balanced energy mix which looks to substantially reduce dependence on fossil fuels, with the aim of ultimately divesting away from them? The reality is that for the very short term without adequate investment, good governance, and strong leadership, Africa cannot take a leadership role – globally – in leap-frogging from current energy systems to efficient, resilient and low-carbon economies.

Viewed from an investment perspective, replacing

existing fuels with modern energy is a widely neglected market opportunity. As argued in this year's Africa Progress Report 'Power, People, Planet: Seizing Africa's energy and climate opportunities', 138 million households living on less than \$2.50 a day spend US\$10 billion annually on energy-related products, including charcoal, candles and kerosene. This is a challenge as well as an opportunity. Access to modern energy systems would not only cut household costs, releasing resources for productive health and education investment, but also boost renewable energy businesses.

The World Bank estimates that over the next decade \$6.4 trillion will be invested to develop clean technologies in developing countries. The global fossil



fuel divestment (asking institutions to move their money out of oil, coal and gas companies for both moral and financial reasons) is real, and continues to pick up steam in the most unexpected places. This is an opportunity to unleash creative, competitive, technologically advanced business opportunities on the continent. Chair of the Africa Progress Panel Kofi Annan argues that 'unlocking Africa's clean energy potential can drive growth and create jobs'.

Can anyone guess what Tesla's new storage could mean for the continent? Probably not, but the sheer opportunity of wide market access is encouraging. How will mobile payment for mall and less expensive solar systems affect the energy market? That is the kind of transformation we need to see on the continent.

Politics and economics in the energy sector lie at the heart of the problem. Political will is missing. African governments currently invest just 0.5 per cent (US\$8 billion) of gross domestic product per year in the energy sector. This is inadequate to power homes and boost businesses. Power sector inefficiencies from underpricing of electricity and under-investment in operations and maintenance cost the region US\$8.2 billion annually. These inefficiencies are linked to political patronage and institutionalized corrupt practices too. Tanzanian state power utility, Tanesco, for example, lost US\$124 million through a complex web of off-shore companies. Corruption and opacity in the management of utilities on the continent remains very high and is a major challenge which must be addressed.

How to finance this transformation

The reality is that we can indeed find great resources on the continent. Using revenue generated from fossil fuels to fund renewable energy is one way to do so. Another perfect example is the potential in curbing illicit financial flows (IFFs). IFFs – billions of dollars lost mostly through trade misinvoicing – shortchange governments in putting energy infrastructure in place. As argued in 'Power, People, Planet', Africa alone lost an estimated US\$69bn through illicit financial flows in 2012, more than the financing needed to cover the energy and climate adaptation gaps, which amounts to US\$66 billion per year.

In the report 'Domestic Resource Mobilization in West Africa: Missed Opportunities', the Open Society Institute for West Africa (OSIWA) indicates that between 2012 and 2018, West Africa alone could lose up to US\$56bn in government revenue simply due to transfer mispricing, and even more due to abusive tax incentive regimes. There are practical opportunities to fight these outflows by reviewing fiscal regimes, strengthening revenue administrations, increasing transparency in the financial sector, and critically engaging in regional and continental exchange and control mechanisms. This is a critical aspect of making fiscal revenue work for broad development.

African governments must increase finance for high energy, low carbon future by spending about 3-4 per cent of GDP on energy sector development. They must take bold steps to reduce the inefficiencies.

They should explore the opportunity of redirecting the US\$21 billion per year they spend covering utility losses and subsidizing oil-based products into energy infrastructure. In July, global leaders will converge in Addis Ababa to discuss financing for development. It is an opportunity for African governments to rethink taxation system aimed at increasing tax revenues,

and addressing illicit flows and corruption.

By: Stephen Yeboah is a research fellow at the Africa Progress Panel and Mohamed A. Sultan works on Economic Governance with the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA)

Investing in innovation and technology, a preliminary condition for Africa's development

African Development Bank

United Nations Development Program

Economic Commission for Africa

Innovation and technologies can serve as a springboard for economic transformation, provided that they are driven by the populations. This was the message that was highlighted by the partners and participants at the closing of the 9th session of the African Economic Conference, which was held from November 1 to 3, 2014 in Addis Ababa.

Decision-makers, heads of companies, economists and academics from the entire world got together on this occasion, to discuss how to get the best out of knowledge and innovation to stimulate youth employment, favor the adoption of new technologies and optimize Africa's economic transformation.

"Investments in skills, technologies, knowledge and innovation will guarantee democratic and reactive governance, able to provide efficient public services and facilitate universal access to basic services, such as food and nutrition, water and sanitation, housing, health-care and education," stressed Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, president of the African Union Commission.

"Innovation is considered essential

for the transformation of African economies," pointed out Steve Kayizzi-Mugerwa, head economist and interim vice president of the African Development Bank (AfdB), who underlined the necessity of being proactive and tackling the challenges with which Africa is faced: "We must stop being placid analysts and deal with our challenges ourselves; we must stop wasting resources and implement our own ideas." And he added: "Africa must first of all understand where we stand, what led us to this point, before trying to understand what must be done differently to obtain other results."



Apart from technologies and technology transfer, the role of innovation as a behavioral and social change factor was at the heart of the discussions. "Innovation is a decisive factor in the capacity of economies to sustain growth and it is essential to the improvement of socio-economic conditions," stated Abdoulaye Mar Dièye, director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa and under-secretary-general of the United Nations. "The socio-economic transformation



in Africa requires both adapting to existing technologies and developing innovations specific to Africa."

The participants emphasized that the continent can strengthen its development program by creatively using technologies and technology transfer, by creating revenue opportunities for farmers, jobs for young people in urban zones and tackling various strong challenges, between adapting to climate change and reducing the risks of disasters.

M-Pesa, the innovative mobile phone payment system created in Kenya and extended to Tanzania, South Africa, Afghanistan, India and Eastern Europe, has had a very strong impact on the life of ordinary Kenyans. This system enabled access to financial services for 19 million Kenyans to be improved and jobs to be created, with a positive impact on savings and money transfer systems. In just five years, M-Pesa reduced informal savings in Kenya by 15%, increased the frequency of transfers and remittances by 35% and augmented the use of banking services by 58% compared to the 2006 figures.

Another important observation that emerged during the Conference discussions: tackling the question of the glaring deficit in skills, in order to offer young men and woman from the African continent the opportunity to take part in these new types of economic activities and to benefit from economic growth, is crucial. "Innovation and technology-oriented education are essential for a viable economic performance and competitiveness. This gives our young people the indispensable foundations for ensuring their future," stated Carlos Lopes, executive secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa. Continuous investments in education and research and development, structured training programs in the workplace and the creation of technical training institutes would be ways to involve young people and strengthen the participation and empowerment of women.

Governments, the private sector, the university milieu and civil society must act as complementary entities, not as competitors, in the development process. Solid links must be created between these entities to ensure that innovation drives a generalization of efforts, the adoption of best practices and the improvement in inclusive economic growth and sustainable development.

Given the profile of the current population, the majority of the African population being under 20 years old, the Conference participants stated that the era

of innovation in Africa was still to come. Favoring innovative solutions and establishing a social contract in which the governments, the private sector, the university milieu and civil society turn to innovation to overcome the obstacles of inclusive development and structural transformation are critical to an inclusive and sustainable development. This is indispensable in order to go from aspiration to action, concerning the 2063 African Agenda, the vision of Africa in 50 years and Africa's common position on the post-2015 development agenda.

Since 2006, the African Economic Conference has been co-organized every year by the AfDB, the ECA and the UNDP, with the mission of favoring dialogue and knowledge exchange on economic questions and the challenges that Africa faces.

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Flashback:

Q & A on Financing the Post-2015

Development Agenda – How the World Bank saw it in October, 2013

Q: How will we increase the amount of financing for development from “billions to trillions”?

A: The World Bank Group, the IMF and multilateral development banks – AfDB, ADB, EBRD, EIB and IDB – are working together to support the financing effort for the post-2015 development agenda (Joint Statement from MDBs and IMF Head on Financing for Development, April 16, 2015). These institutions have outlined their initial commitments to scale up the amount of financing, moving from “billions” in official development assistance to “trillions” in development investments of all kinds: public and private, national and global. This work was shared at a meeting of the World Bank Group-IMF Development Committee on April 18, 2015 (pdf).

A New Vision for Sustainable Development

In 2000, world leaders set eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) aimed at ending poverty and hunger, improving education, gender, and health, and



promoting sustainable development. With the MDGs set to expire at the end of 2015, a new post-2015 development agenda is being designed. Today's global realities and development challenges require that the proposed agenda be more ambitious and interconnected than its predecessor, with a more comprehensive vision of development embracing economic, social and environmental dimensions.

The proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) encourage every country to end poverty and enhance social and economic development in a sustainable manner. These goals will not be achieved with a business-as-usual approach.

Three summits in 2015 will set the stage for international cooperation over the coming decades:

July 13-16, 2015: Financing for Development Conference in Addis Ababa

September 25-27, 2015: UN General Assembly which is set to adopt a new set of SDGs

November 30 - December 11, 2015: The 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which is expected to adopt a binding agreement on the long-term reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Financing for Development Post-2015

The Third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa in July will be an important milestone in the global effort to achieve universal and sustainable development. The conference underpins the expected adoption of the SDGs at the UN Special Summit for Sustainable Development in New York in September. This trajectory will continue with the World Bank Group–International Monetary Fund Annual Meetings in Lima in October, and with the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris in December, which seeks a new international agreement on climate change. In short, 2015 will create a platform to support global development aspirations for the next 15 years.

Role of the WBG, MDBs and IMF

The multilateral development banks (MDBs) and the IMF have produced a joint discussion note, "From Billions to Trillions: Transforming Development Finance," (pdf) which proposes a preliminary vision for the collective role of our institutions looking toward the Addis Financing for Development conference and beyond.

- To meet the investment needs of the SDGs, the global community needs a paradigm shift to move the discussion from "billions" in overseas development assistance (ODA) to the "trillions" in investments of all kinds: public and private, national and global, in

both capital and capacity.

- Globally, achieving the proposed SDGs will require the best possible use of each available grant dollar, beginning with \$135 billion in ODA from governments and also including philanthropy, remittances, South-South flows, other official assistance, and foreign direct investment. To reach the needed trillions, additional flows must come from two main pillars: public domestic resources, where the most substantial development spending happens, and private sector finance and investment, the largest potential source of additional funding.

- This is the trajectory from billions to trillions, which every country and the global community must support together to finance and achieve the transformative vision of the SDGs.

- The joint discussion note was discussed at the Development Committee meeting of the IMF-World Bank Group Spring Meetings on April 18, 2015.

- In parallel, 11 country-at-a-glance notes are being produced to provide an initial picture of the implications of the post-2015 agenda at the country level. A paper describing the framework (pdf) that underlies these assessments is available. The notes for Kyrgyzstan, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Senegal, and Uganda have been completed. Notes for Jamaica, Liberia, Peru, and Yemen are forthcoming.

MDB Financing Solutions

MDB financing solutions can be grouped into four broad categories. Each comprises specific approaches and tools that can be customized to the circumstances of a goal or program. There is no one-size-fits-all solution.

- Adding, pooling, enabling (pdf): This category of solutions covers new flows, such as taxes or fees, as well as policy-driven "flows" that are not traditional finance instruments or investments but generate economic or financial value. Policy guidance and lending help strengthen the domestic policy, legal, tax, regulatory and institutional environment, which can increase a country's available resources and cre-

ditworthiness, enhance development impact, and encourage and attract private investment.

- Debt-based/right-timing instruments (pdf): These instruments help provide a steady, predictable stream for development programs. These initiative make public funds available earlier for development via the issuance of bonds on international capital markets.
- Financial risk management mechanisms (pdf): These initiatives leverage public funds to create investment incentives for the private sector through mechanisms that correct market failures, reduce sovereign risk and/or macroeconomic and climate-driven vulnerabilities. Examples of risk management approaches include guarantees, derivatives, blended finance, pooled vehicles and project preparations facilities. These mechanisms provide insurance protection for risk sharing or full risk transfer.
- Results-based financing (pdf): Results-based financing provides funding when desired results are delivered. One benefit of this approach is transferring



the risk of success or failure to the entities conducting the work, which helps promote greater accountability and ownership, improved management, and effectiveness of service providers. It also improves the chances to crowd in multiple times the funding toward the development objective.

AFRIQUE-EDUCATION

An expert underlines the problems linked to the quality of education on the continent

Special correspondent: Adama Diouf Ly

"This created two major problems: that of quality in the entire system but also that of access to the secondary level," Jytte Vagner stressed during the session on the quality of education.

Mme. Vagner spoke in the framework of the meeting of education advisors of the WARO Plan, held in Ouagadougou.

This meeting was held on the sidelines of the training workshop for the actors of civil society to advocate education for girls, organized by the WARO Plan.

The Regional Office conducted a study on the quality of education in Western Africa with a specific study in four countries (Sierra Leone, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea and Burkina Faso).

"Starting in 2000, major progress was made on access with nearly 50 million children enrolled in school, but as of 2008, there was a sort of slackening, due to the lack of financing," Mme. Vagner said.

"However," she added, "this isn't the only reason because today, Western Africa has an enrollment rate of 75 to 80%, but in this population, those who leave school before the end of the primary cycle don't really learn life skills and don't know how to read or write."

"It's a problem in the context of the development of information and Internet access, but also if you want to get along in life you need certain skills like reading



and writing," she maintained.

The study on the quality of education was conducted to help improve intervention approaches in the education theme of the WARO Plan. For the education advisor, the objectives were to analyze the Plan's approaches related to the search for quality in education and especially how to train and supervise teachers.

"The idea was to identify the challenges and good practices and to see good examples of quality in some countries to promote them in others," Jytte Vagner explained.

Inside Africa

For the director of the Mali Plan, Fadimata Alainchar, the countries were not sufficiently prepared to receive this flow of children who had completed the primary cycle. She pointed out that the teachers did not have enough preparation to contribute quality education and the parents were not sufficiently prepared to accompany the whole process.

"No one cares about what the children are really learning, no one cares about the training the teachers receive," she maintained.

"There are also problems in governance, because the parents don't always have the education level needed to effectively take part in the school's management," she added.

"This has repercussions on the children's learning process and the completion of the education cycle. Plan International undertook a large number of studies with its education advisors concerning the quality of education," Mme. Alainchar stressed.

"Every decision on education concerns everyone. Our states must invest in it to also work on access, governance as well as quality," she stated.

The training workshop is organized on the sidelines of the meeting of the technical networks held each year. The meeting brings together the Plan's technical advisors in education and healthcare in the 12 countries of Western Africa.

The idea is to have exchanges on education and see which strategies to adopt on access, governance and partnership with the public authorities for the new year.

The meeting, which ends on Thursday, will examine the actions carried out during the past year, the objectives met and the challenges that remain on developing education.

ADL/AD



SENEGAL-EDUCATION-REFORM

The education conference aims at an authentically Senegalese school

"When we talk about radical reform, we think that we should focus on the specificity of the regions, that we should reinvent education according to the socioeconomic and cultural needs of the local communities," Eugénie Aw said.

She added that at the same time we must enrich this training so that education becomes Senegalese education and also education open to the world, that our students have ideas that will permit them to be integrated anywhere later on.

Having arrived Wednesday in Tambacounda from Kédougou, the leader of the communication cell for the education conference, at the head of a delegation, spoke to journalists at the end of a courtesy visit at the governor's mansion.

This tour followed a harmonization workshop organized last February in Dakar, at which all the country's regions were represented, with the aim of drafting a methodology and frameworks, with a view to a regional action plan.

"This action plan is based on the idea of inclusion. The conference not aiming solely at reforming education, but at radically transforming it, with the objective of involving all the stakeholders in the reflection," Eugénie Aw explained.

The tracks include quality, access to funding. The committee is endeavoring to reinvent financing so that it is less vertical, with the introduction for example, of private and public financing. Governance, notably citizenship training, is another reflection track.



"The structure, which works from preschool to the end of secondary, also reflects, among other areas, on non-formal education, literacy training and the status of national languages in education," she noted.

One of the subjects pondered is whether it is possible for a people to really have an efficient education system whereas teaching is done in a language that has perhaps become the people's own but that is basically something that was acquired from the exterior.

Her idea of a Senegalese school is one that is founded on our values, including religious values. "Hence the importance," she said, "of examining the question of the daaras (Quranic schools) and Franco-Arabic schools. The daaras have to be modernized while keeping their essential elements," she stressed.

"We currently have an enormous number of development partners. We earmark 40% of our budget to education, but aren't the partners in a certain way dictating what our schools should be?" she question-

ned. She brought up the position that she thinks is very appropriate of a teacher from Saraya (Kédougou) for whom education in Senegal should be a question of national sovereignty.

In her opinion, this would be produced through the debate instituted by the conference, and that should take an interest in the upgrading of the teacher's status, to which must be added pedagogic training so that the student is, in a certain way, the teacher's wealth.

"Groups are crisscrossing all the country's regions, to carry out basic questioning," Mme. Aw pointed out. For her, the regions, with their specificities, are the heart of this education.

"We advocate the centrality of the student," Eugénie Aw moreover asserted, "that the school is created for all the little Senegalese students, that they feel that they have their place in the system." She considers that beyond this verticality of teaching, it is important for the student to take part in his or her own training.

The head of the communication cell continued: "The members of the conference's committee is meeting with authorities, those who have something to say about education, and are looking for the essential."

She announced, on this subject, that a forum that will bring together all the communities will be held in Tambacounda, without specifying a date.

Along the same lines, a focus group with students and teachers was organized in Kédougou. The idea was to allow the greater participation of everyone who is interested in education.

As information and communication are at the heart of its work, the committee endeavors to work with community radio stations as proximity tools, using the local languages, but also to better train the press by building a network of journalists who specialize in education.

ADI/AD

Burkina

École nationale des eaux et forêts: 332 new forest rangers have comple- ted their training in Dindéresso

Under the presidency of the minister of the environment and fishery resources, Sadou Maïga, the 55th class of students of the École nationale des eaux et forêts (ENEF, national school of water resources and forests) graduated on July 31, 2015 in Dindéresso, about 15 km from Bobo-Dioulasso. Mohamed Diakité, representative of the president of the ECOWAS commission, the ceremony's sponsor, was present at the event.

After two years of training for employees, assistants, water and forest controllers and environmental technicians, and three years for water and forest inspectors, the École nationale des eaux et forêts (ENEF) made 332 new environmental agents available to the Burkina Faso government, the private sector and the sub-regional and African administrations. Apart from Burkina Faso citizens, the 55th class of the ENEF is also composed of Togolese, Nigerians, Chadians and students from Central African Republic. Like all the other graduating classes, the 2015 vintage gave itself a name: "Zero plastic bags." Sadou Maïga, the minister of the environment and fishery resources, explained that the law prohibiting the use of plastic bags went into effect in 2015. It was an opportunity for him to remind the graduates of this slogan. The new forest rangers will help ensure that the disappearance of these plastic bags becomes a reality everywhere. Mr. Maïga also reminded the graduates to strictly adhere to the law while doing their jobs and not be tempted by corruption. Sayouba Kirsi Ouédraogo, the general delegate of the 55th class of the ENEF, felt very satisfied, along with his classmates,



to be involved in a new mission. However, he did not fail to list a few problems and express a wish for an improvement in the training and living conditions at the ENEF, which was founded in 1953. Among the needs cited are an Internet connection to facilitate access to scientific information, the introduction of new modules in the training curricula, an increase in supervisory personnel and the inclusion of the students' meals in the state's budget.

Elie Z. Sanou

Burkina

End of the annual pedagogic supervisors' conference in the Centre-Ouest region: the supervisors comment on the relevance of the theme

Supervisors comment on the relevance of the theme

Koudougou, (AIB) – Begun on July 27, 2015, the annual pedagogic supervisors' conference (CAEP) organized throughout the country ended on July 30. With the theme "curriculum reform in the context of continuum," this annual meeting was the occasion for the inspectors and advisors to examine the highly sensitive issue of basic education in Burkina Faso. In the Centre-Ouest region, this meeting was held in Koudougou and the closing ceremony was presided over by the high commissioner of Boulkiemde, Mr. Abdoulaye Zeba, representing of the region's governor.

The objective was to permit primary education inspectors and itinerant pedagogic advisors to build their skills in order to meet the major challenges of the basic education sector. Therefore, in addition to the main theme, the following were tackled: the study on the collective and individual improvement plans (PAC/PAI), the results of the evaluation of achievements and the generalization of management committees (COGES). In the Centre-Ouest region, there were 181 participants in the conference. After four days of work, the regional director of national educational and literacy training of the Centre-Ouest region, Mr. Boureima Sawadogo, said that he was satisfied with the participation rate and the results obtained through the themes and the various exchanges. From his viewpoint, "the general participation rate was 84%. The planned themes were tackled and the participants showed a great deal of interest and were fully involved during the work, which permits me to say that the hoped-for results were attained." The fruits of this conference will therefore, in his opinion, permit the pedagogic supervisors to properly work with the teachers in the field and in the end improve the quality of education in the region. After Mr. Sawadogo, the participants, after their working sessions, also established a positive evaluation of this year's Centre-Ouest CAEP. From



the viewpoint of Mme. Assata Bationo, the primary education inspector and head of the Léo 1 basic education school district, "the themes developed will make it possible to improve performance indicators in the region's basic education sector. Suggestions were made with the aim of improving the implementation of the PAC/PAI in schools and the exchanges made on the generalization of the COGES will permit the communities to mobilize to a greater extent around the school," she concluded. However, the participants truly hope that the different resolutions that were made during the conference will be implemented. It is from this viewpoint that Mr. Idrissa Tiendrébéogo, itinerant pedagogic advisor in the Kassou basic education district, not only pointed out the relevance of the themes, but also expressed the wish that the results of this conference would be promoted and that recycling to deepen the knowledge acquired would occasionally be carried out. Even if the participants were generally satisfied, they nevertheless wanted to see working conditions improved during the next conferences and, above all, that some of the region's supervisors be given the responsibility of presenting certain modules. In short, it was on a satisfactory note that the curtains were drawn on the 2015 Centre-Ouest CAEP and the participants were already planning to be heard on the crisis of authority in education at the 2016 conference.

François Kabore

Congo – RDC

10 prizewinners launched on the job market by the ISSS/Inongo



Inongo, August 6 (ACP).- The Institut supérieur des sciences de sante (ISSS) of Inongo has just launched 10 prizewinners on the job market who received, on Tuesday, their diplomas in nursing sciences, with a hospital specialty, during the graduation ceremony that took place in the institute's reception hall. According to the academic report, out of 50 students enrolled in G3 for the 2014-2015 academic year, only 10 succeeded in graduating, showing the seriousness

and rigor of the authorities and the teaching staff in the training of students in this institution of higher education.

The SSS/Inongo, created in 2004, is a private institution for the training of technicians in the healthcare sector and the nursing sciences. ACP/Zng/Ndom/Fmb

Starting soon: doctoral programs at the ISTM/KIN

Kinshasa, August 6 (ACP) The Institut supérieur des techniques médicales of Kinshasa (ISTM/KIN) will soon offer doctoral programs to train teachers to give courses at the ISTMs of the DRC, it was announced Wednesday at this public institution of higher and university education (ESU).

This governmental measure was hailed by the management committee of this institution, which fought hard to explain to the doctoral program commission the motivations for launching it at the ISTM/KIN.

This institution of higher education has benefited from stipends from certain friendly countries to support its current teaching staff, notably, the United States, Japan, Canada and Morocco, as well as the UNFPA,.

Continuation of construction work on the ISTM/KIN site

The management committee of the ISTM/KIN reasserted its commitment to continuing construction on the site of this school with a view to its transformation and modernization. This site, which it acquired over a decade ago from the University of Kinshasa (UNIKIN), has been improved every year by the management committee, which has already built



more than 12 buildings paid for from its own funds. A large part of the site, let us recall, was plundered by unknown persons, thwarting the possibility of extending its buildings. ACP/ Kayu/May

125 graduates of the ISC/Bandundu launched on the job market

Bandundu, August 3 (ACP) The institut supérieur de commerce (ISC) of the city of Bandundu launched, last Friday, 125 new graduates in business and financial sciences and IT management on the job market. This cohort included 66 young women out of the 252 finalists registered in the first session. This took place at the end of the 2014-2015 academic year, which was marked by the graduation ceremony of the prizewinners, the ACP stated.

Among the prizewinners, seven, including one young woman, graduated with honors, out of all the specialties that this institution offers. The director general of the ISC/Bandundu, Julien Tazi, invited, in his speech, the prizewinners to be the standard bearers of the ISC/Bandundu, before calling on parents to massively register their children in the school.

The provincial finance minister, Bienvenu Ilanga, who represented the provincial authorities, urged the finalists to create jobs by adapting to the new working methods and the current economic context. The Institut supérieur des sciences et de développement (ISSD) of Bandundu, the leading private and accredited institution of higher education in Bandundu, founded in 1986, also launched, on the same day, 40 finalists on the job market.



One day before, the Institut supérieur des sciences et techniques médicales (ISTM) of this city provided the job market with 82 graduates, including 41 in nursing sciences, 20 in laboratory techniques and 21 midwives, one of whom graduated with honors. ACP/ZNG./Ndom.

AfDB Board of Directors approves the Bank's Knowledge Management Strategy for 2015-2020

The Board of Directors of the African Development Bank (AfDB), in its meeting on June 24, 2015 in Abidjan, approved the institution's Knowledge Management Strategy (KMS) for 2015-2020.

The vision of this Knowledge Management Strategy is for the AfDB to become the premier knowledge institution in Africa in the areas of its mandate. This is a long-term goal and an aspiration, where the journey is as important as the destination.

Today, knowledge and innovation have emerged as crucial features of development strategies in many parts of the world.

With its ability to combine knowledge with funding, the Bank is uniquely positioned to lead the development of innovative solutions for the complex challenges facing the Africa. To play this role, the Bank increasingly complements its financing with knowledge products and services, including analytical, advisory and policy work.

The strategic objective of the KMS is to raise its development effectiveness through providing and exchanging innovative knowledge solutions for Africa's transformation with African countries. Effectiveness, quality and impact will require focus on critical knowledge areas.

The priorities are aligned with those of the Bank's Ten Year Strategy (TYS) for 2013-2022: infrastructure development, private sector development, regional economic integration, skills and technology, governance and accountability as well as the areas of spe-

cial emphasis - gender, fragile states, and agriculture and food security.

The KMS has two pillars reflecting the role of knowledge in enhancing the effectiveness of Bank operations to address Africa's pressing development needs; and strengthening the quality of the institution's policy dialogue, advisory services, and involvement in the development debate.

The implementation of the KMS will build on the Bank's established knowledge assets, such as its flagship publications, policy dialogues, capacity-building programs and knowledge management and learning ICT platform.

The KMS will strengthen existing strategic partnerships and establish new ones. It will be important for the Bank to choose its knowledge management activities strategically, based on demand, consensus among key actors, and targeted interventions, with measurable outcomes.

The KMS will aim to address areas for strengthening identified in the evaluation of Bank's Economic and Sector work, the recent Knowledge Management Audit, and evaluations of knowledge work in other International Financial Institutions.

These include the need to balance the Bank's lending and knowledge work (raise the share of knowledge products on infrastructure, for instance); pay more attention to quality of knowledge products; incentivize the generation of the knowledge products and services as well as avoidance of supply-driven

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approaches and working in silos.

Ultimately, the key to successful knowledge management resides in the culture of the Bank and the mind-set of its staff. Attention will be paid to turning the Bank into a continuously learning and innovating institution that is able to learn from its own projects and initiatives as well as from those of its development partners and counterparts.

The KMS is not prescriptive; rather, each Department and unit of the Bank will adapt the framework to their own needs. The results of the Bank's knowledge

activities will be measured to monitor and evaluate progress and to address any emerging challenges.

The KMS 2015-2020 mid-term review will take place in 2018. Responsibilities for implementation will be shared among the knowledge-generating departments of the Bank. The Chief Economist's Office will continue to provide overall coordination.

(Source: African Development Bank)

Tertiary Education Graduates Must Fit Into Industrial Sector- Minister

Mr Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa, Deputy Minister of Tertiary Education has noted that tertiary education must train graduates with the right calibre of manpower to be innovative and respond to the needs of industrial sector.

He said education goes beyond acquiring knowledge in class, but rather build students with the right attitudes to fit into the society and make meaningful impact in their field of endeavour.

Mr Ablakwa said this at a forum in Accra christened: "Global Citizenship World Café," organised by Webster University Ghana to encourage the spirit of global citizenship in the country and the sub region.

The forum brought together accomplished Ghanaians from all sectors of the economy and provided rich blend of world views and insights to inform discussions on global citizenship and how it applies to present generation in shaping their outlook.

He noted that quality education remains government priority, adding that Ghana is among countries identified as preferred destination for higher education in Africa and no doubt the country has a good number of international students learning in the universities.

He said government has tasked the National Accreditation Board to give priority to private universities who want to offer science based institution since there is room for more private sector education in that field.

Mr Ablakwa said government has had 13 educational reforms since independence, hence the need to identify strategic areas that should be improved upon through dialogue and constructive criticism.



He said the country spends six per cent of its Gross Domestic Product on education and the forum was to provide opportunities to learn experiences from other countries to enhance education.

Ms Christa Sanders, Director of Webster University said the University is an American tertiary institution founded in 1915 and started operation in Ghana Campus in 2013 to deliver high-quality American style education.

She said the forum was in line with the University's vision to develop global citizens who think and see things differently and expressed hope that the discourse would develop local students into global citizens.

She indicated that the forum focussed on the core programme areas of the University with reference to business management, international relations and media communications.

Ms Sanders said the Ghana Campus is one of nine international campuses that form a unique network for studying almost anywhere in the world.

Inside Africa

Mr Rami Baitie, Head of Corporate Affairs and Marketing at UT Group said the forces of global engagement are helping people identify themselves as global citizens, through modern information, communication and transportation technologies.

He said companies need to be time conscious in doing business to remain competitive on the global scale of business as well as make good use of technology since it is a driving force for business organisations.

Dr Godwin Etse Sikanku, Lecturer at the School of Communication Studies, University of Ghana said the

role of media to global citizenship is critical because it serves as a tool to transmit information across the globe for social and economic transformation.

Mr Francis Appiah, Financial Analyst at Liberty Capital said an effective means to address many of most pressing global problems is to mobilise the business sector in building economic partnership.

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