

SECONDARY EDUCATION IN AFRICA (SEIA)

<http://www.worldbank.org/afr/seia>



3rd REGIONAL SEIA CONFERENCE

**Hosted by Honorable Minister for
Education, Science and Sports from
Ghana**

Held in Accra: April 1-4, 2007

**Organized by the Africa Region
Human Development (AFTHD), the
Association for the Development of
Education in Africa (ADEA), and
the World Bank Institute (WBI)**

Where we are today....

There is wide agreement in Africa and among donor partners that the priority for Sub-Saharan African countries is to achieve the Education For All (EFA) goals by 2015. In addition, there is consensus that post-primary education development can not be neglected for economic growth and social reasons. Sustainable secondary education and training delivery in Africa requires national strategies that take into account issues linked to the quality and relevance of graduate output, efficient public and private financing mechanisms, and skills for the labor market. Worldwide trends show that junior secondary education (JSE) is usually part of a high-quality “basic education cycle” for all, while senior secondary education (SSE) offers diversified pathways for further learning and entry into the world-of-work.

Broadening access and improving quality and relevance at the JSE and SSE levels is a challenge that few African countries can ignore. In Sub-Saharan Africa on average less than 30% of relevant age group complete JSE and less than 15% SSE level. Given the rapid technology changes and the emerging “knowledge society” (ICT, new fields of study and new job profiles) African countries are ready to make a transformation happen in their secondary education and training systems. This should modernize the secondary schools and make service delivery more efficient. In the end what counts is how the post-primary education sub-sector contributes to economic growth and social well-being.

A major constraint in Africa for making a “transformation” happen in secondary education and training is the efficiency of public resource use. Compared to Asia and OECD countries Africa’s relatively high unit costs for secondary education would currently inhibit any significant expansion of access. To realize economic growth, African countries need to find ways of delivering more and better secondary graduates while simultaneously achieving significant efficiency gains. In addition, the quality and relevance of secondary graduates in Africa needs to be “transformed” to rival those in Asia. The SEIA

Synthesis report discusses this and other relevant issues.

The SEIA Initiative

The Africa Human Development Department (AFTHD) of the World Bank has completed a multi-year study on “Secondary Education and Training in Africa” (SEIA) led by Jacob Bregman, Lead Education Specialist. One of the guiding principles used for the SEIA initiative is the participatory approach involving major stakeholders. This resulted in the organization of two previous regional SEIA conferences, local workshops, eight thematic studies, and the establishment of a SEIA website. To realize the thematic studies, national teams in participating countries were composed of members from Ministries of Education, universities, and other public and private stakeholder groups. These teams produced the inputs for the thematic study reports, which were put together with additional international experts. These products can be found on our SEIA website.

The SEIA Synthesis Report

The final SEIA Synthesis Report will be made available on our website by mid-February 2007:

www.worldbank.org/afr/seia

The final SEIA Synthesis Report brings together conclusions from the two previous Regional SEIA Conferences (Kampala 2003 and Dakar 2004), thematic studies, workshops, and the SEIA Literature Review on OECD trends in secondary education and training (done by the IIEP/UNESCO). It provides an overview of strategic issues, best practices and international trends, and discusses if and how these can be used by African countries for reform. It is intended to be used as a discussion tool for African policy makers and donor agencies. The report also establishes a strong case for secondary education and training as one of the key ingredients for economic growth.

3rd SEIA Regional Conference

The 3rd SEIA Regional Conference is planned for April 1-4, 2007 in Accra, Ghana, and will be hosted by the Honorable Minister for Education, Science and Sports, Ghana.

Objectives of the conference are to:

- (i) discuss with SSA policymakers issues and recommendations relating to the SEIA Synthesis Report;
- (ii) reach consensus with major stakeholders on realistic strategic solutions for a sustainable expansion of post-primary education and training in SSA countries in view of economic growth targets; and
- (iii) improve harmonization of donor capacity building for SEIA focused on quality and relevance in view of (a) SSA renewed focus on secondary education and training; and (b) the effects of EFA-FTEI.

The expected outcomes are:

- a) Participating countries will have stronger political and technical commitment to transform their secondary education and training sub-sectors, and will link it to national economic growth.
- b) SSA countries will use the SEIA Synthesis Report and the conference discussions as a tool to develop and implement a sustainable strategy for expansion of access and improvement of quality and relevance at the secondary level.
- c) More donor support and funding will become available for in the coming years for JSE and SSE expansion
- d) Increased donor support for secondary education and training will be more harmonized at the country level.

Conference Registration, Program and Language

Registration for the 3rd SEIA regional conference will be through the following website of SEIA and WBI:

<http://www.worldbank.org/wbi/education/seia>

Registration will be open from about mid-January onward until March 11, 2007. After electronic registration, confirmations will be sent out with Hotel booking information.

After arrival on Sunday April 1st, distribution of the conference materials will be from 4:00 to 6:00 pm at the desk office set up in each hotel. On Sunday evening, Yaw Ansu, Director of the Africa Human Development Department of the World Bank, will host a reception from 7:00 to 8:30pm at the “**La Palm Royal Beach Hotel**” in Accra

On Monday April 2nd, after initial statements by the organizers and key participants, the Honorable Minister of Finance from Ghana will make the Key-note Address on financial implications of the expansion of secondary education and training from an economic perspective.

Monday afternoon will be devoted to the overview of the SEIA synthesis report and a discussion of the issues so that country working groups can be formed.

On Tuesday, the country working groups, led by Ministers, will debate the “hot issues” in the context of their national policies and countries’ economic frameworks. At the end of Tuesday, the country working groups will report back in plenary session.

The summary outcomes of these working group discussions will be used on Wednesday morning to prepare recommendations for “the way forward.”

On Wednesday afternoon, country teams will work in smaller groups to propose practical implications for the “Roadmap to transform secondary education and training in Africa: the way forward.” The objective is

to get the Ministers’ perspective on best practices and possible obstacles and how the donor partners can best provide support. On Wednesday afternoon, the plenary session will be devoted to discussing the key elements and reach consensus on conference statements.

The SEIA conference will be conducted in English, with simultaneous translation in French and Portuguese.

Participants to the 3rd SEIA Conference

Ministers of Education will be invited with 1 or 2 of their senior advisors. Invitations have also been extended to representatives from donor agencies, African civil society organizations and the private sector, and World Bank staff.

The Senior Advisory Panel for SEIA

The SEIA Senior Advisory Panel (SA Panel) is composed of African and international secondary education and training experts. The SA Panel will facilitate and moderate the discussions and provide technical insight for the working groups with the purpose of getting structured feedback. These resource persons will (i) be invited to provide feedback on the draft SEIA Synthesis Report at the review time; (ii) participate in the 3rd SEIA Conference (chairing of panels and facilitating working groups); (iii) help the organizers to produce the conference proceedings; and (iv) give advice to the organizers for the follow-up dialogue with African countries and other donor partners.

Travel and Accommodation

The 3rd SEIA regional conference will be held at **La Palm Royal Beach Hotel**. Group bookings have been arranged with four Hotels in Accra. Upon receiving your electronic registration, the organizers will confirm your registration electronically with information on Hotel reservations.

Please note that all participants are expected to pay for their own travel, accommodation and subsistence costs. The organizers have selected a number of hotels in Accra, and arranged “block reservations” for specially negotiated room-rates.

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SEIA website:

<http://www.worldbank.org/afr/seia>

Note: the Registration Form for this Conference is in English, however the entire Conference will be simultaneously translated into French and Portuguese.

The Conference Brochure and executive summary documents will also be made available in French and Portuguese on the website.

The organizers gratefully acknowledge financial support from the Norwegian Post-Primary Education Trust Fund as well as the Government of Japan for the 3rd SEIA Regional Conference.