



Association for the
Development of
Education in
Africa



Conference for African Ministers of Finance and Education

Sustaining education gains amidst the global economic crisis

July 15-17, 2009 at Golden Tulip Hotel, in Tunis, Tunisia

Jointly Organized by the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the World Bank (WB), with the support of the donor partners of the Education for All Fast Track Initiative (EFA FTI)

AGENDA

Wednesday 15, July 2009: Opening ceremony

- 4:00 – 5:45 pm: Registration
- 5:45 – 7:00 pm: Welcome, Introduction and Keynote Address

Chair: African Development Bank

- Goodwill remarks by the African Union, Tunisian Government, the European Commission, the FTI-Secretariat, UNESCO, and UNICEF
 - Keynote address by Mr. Donald Kaberuka, President of African Development Bank on “**Human Capital for Africa’s Long-Term Development: Sustaining Progress in Challenging Times**”
 - Concluding remarks by the chair
- 7:00 – 9:00 pm: Reception hosted by AfDB

Thursday 16, July 2009:

Morning Theme: Political leadership for better alignment between education development and economic growth

Chair: A Minister of Education

- 08:30 – 10:30 am:
- Distinguished Guest Speaker H.E. Mr. Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Singapore Minister of Finance on “Investing in a Knowledge-Based Society: East Asia’s Experience”

- Two Ministers of Finance to speak about their own country's experience in leveraging education for economic growth and national development
- Dialogue: 1 hour, including a concluding summary by the chair

➤ 10:30 – 11:00: Break

Chair: African Development Bank

➤ 11:00 – 12:30: **“Mutual responsibility and accountability between ministries of finance and of education in advancing education in Africa: What are the issues?”**

- Panel of two finance ministers and two education ministers each making ten minutes of prepared presentation on the institutions, governance mechanisms, skills and capacities that will be needed and the gaps and weaknesses that warrant attention
- Dialogue: 50 minutes, including a concluding summary by the chair

➤ 12:30 – 2:00: Lunch hosted by the World Bank

Afternoon Theme: Education priorities in a challenging environment

Chair: A Minister of Finance

➤ 2:00 – 3:30: **Progress and challenges in meeting the EFA 2015 goals**

- Keith Watson, Director of the Global Monitoring Report (GMR): “Highlights of the 2009 GMR”
- Panel of three Ministers of Education and UNICEF (from among countries implementing FTI programs): “Perspectives from the trenches of implementation”
- Dialogue: 30 minutes, including a concluding summary by the chair

➤ 3:30 – 4:00: Break

Chair: A Minister of Finance

➤ 4:00 – 6:00: **Skills development for economic growth**

- Shahid Yusuf, World Bank: “Economic growth and the role of skills”
- Boukary Savadogo, African Development Bank: “Skills development for youth employment and productivity growth in the informal sector: What are the options?”
- One Minister of Finance, one Minister of Education and ADEA to speak about their own experience in leveraging education for economic growth and national development
- Dialogue: 40 minutes, with a concluding summary by the chair

➤ Dinner: Own arrangements

Friday 17, July 2009: The Potential for and Challenges of Strategic Partnerships

Chair: African Development Bank

➤ 08:30 – 10:00: **Pan-African cooperation in education and training: What is the scope and what are the barriers?**

- Njabulo Ndebele, President, Association of African Universities and ex-VC of University of Cape Town: “Strengthening African tertiary education through regional collaboration: successes, challenges and options for the way forward”
- Dialogue: 60 minutes, with a concluding summary by the chair

➤ 10:00 – 10:30: Break

Chair: ADEA

➤ 10:30 – 12:15 pm: **Priorities for education finance and external aid to support Africa’s development in the coming years**

- Michel Jacquier, *Agence Française de Développement*: “Strategic policies to achieve holistic, efficient and sustainable development of education in Sub-Saharan Africa”
- Birger Fredriksen, World Bank, “External aid for education and the challenge of enhancing its catalytic impact”
- Responses from a Minister of Finance and a Minister of Education
- Dialogue: 50 minutes, including a concluding summary by the chair

Chair: World Bank

➤ 12:15 – 1:00: **Closing session**

- Minister of Finance: Reflection on key lessons from the conference
- Minister of Education: From reflection to action: practical steps for national and international collaboration to help sustain Africa’s educational and economic progress in the coming years
- African Development Bank and ADEA: concluding remarks
- Concluding remarks by the chair

➤ End of conference: Lunch hosted by ADEA