



Second Ministerial Forum on Science, Technology, and Innovation in Africa

October 14-17, 2014

Academy of the Kingdom of Morocco | Rabat, Morocco

Session Name: Technical and Vocational Skills Development (TVSD): Linking TVSD to the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) agenda to fuel growth and create jobs

Date: October 16, 2014

Time: 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Venue: TBD

Background: While on average 11 million young Africans are expected to enter the employment market every year for the next decade (World Bank 2014), many African economies are still struggling to create jobs. Young people, Africa's most precious capital and sustainable resource, account for 60% of all those unemployed. They are the principal victims of the incapacity of African economies to generate jobs.

Governments can only offer employment to – at best – 5% of the African population aged 15-29 (African Economic Outlook). Hence, the importance for private sector actors to get more involved in defining and developing the skills they require to operate and expand their businesses. A major concern is how to map present and future needs of the African private sector in terms of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) to narrow the gap between skills supply and demand and, therefore, reinforce its competitiveness to boost sustainable growth and create jobs.

Guiding questions:

- What policies are being developed and put in place to ensure that Technical and Vocational Skills Development (TVSD) policies are linked to STI agendas? What paradigm shifts need to take place? How does this translate into practice?
- In most African countries there still exists unmet demand for higher skills and qualifications in occupations and sectors with high added value. How do we concretely develop PPPs and STI-driven TVSD agenda and programs to improve African economies' competitiveness and their capacities to create jobs?
- What role for the private sector to ensure that TVSD does not only train and qualify, but also ensure integration into the labour market?
- What sectors and areas of activities can help create/provide quick wins to move forward STI-driven TVSD agenda?

Moderator: Oley Dibba-Wadda, Executive Secretary, Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA)

Panelists:

- George Afeti, TVSD expert and former Secretary General of the Commonwealth Association of Polytechnics in Africa
- Brahim Bessaies, General Director, Center of Research and Technology, Ministry of Higher Education and Technology, Tunisia
- Jean-Pierre Le Calvez, VP, Europe, Middle East and Africa, Hewlett-Packard
- David Chakonta, Director General, The Technical Education, Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training Authority, Zambia
- Jerome Morrissey, CEO, Global e-Schools and Communities Initiative (GeSCI)

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