

Final Report

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Consultant to UNESCO/BREDA (Secondary Education Workshop)

Under this consultancy, I have completed to the writing of a **CONCEPT PAPER** that will be used as basic working document during the Regional Workshop on secondary education renewal in Africa to be held in Mauritius from 3-6 December 2001. I have also performed other duties related to the organisation of this Workshop.

A. Concept Paper

- The Context: The Concept Paper that will serve as working document is being annexed. In it, I have described the context in which the present Workshop is taking place. The demand for secondary education all over the world, including Africa, is growing fast. Investment in basic and secondary education is a key element of any poverty reduction strategy. Accelerating countries' education development yields considerable private and social returns¹, notably in African countries. I have analysed the global market competition, growing access to primary education, and the new information and communication technologies (ICT) that are creating a fast growing demand for more and better secondary education services. Nine years of basic education is now generally considered the minimum input for children to become full participating citizens in their countries and opt for further studies or enter into the labor force.
 - The objectives of the Workshop: These have been described:
 - to probe in depth the subsystem of secondary education in Africa at the beginning of the 21st century (the operational and the non operational, programs and contents, adaptability and in-adaptability of structures, equalities and inequalities, equities and inequities etc);
 - to analyse problems related to the transition between basic and secondary education, in view of proposing a variety of learning strategies aimed at solving unemployment and youth poverty;
 - to explore new approaches to initiate in-depth reforms;
 - to identify priority needs that would allow the subsystem to meet the expectations of the population;
 - to encourage an international, regional and national dynamic co-operation of stakeholders (Consortium) which would bring about reforms and encourage the development of secondary education in Africa.
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- To provide for youth education in order to meet the learning needs of millions of out-of-school youth and ex-child soldiers and other combatants in sub-Saharan Africa who, for many reasons, cannot gain access to formal secondary schools and require services from rapid learning programs, through participation in both special formal and non-formal education programs.
 - To finance public and private secondary education, with an emphasis on public education, especially at the lower secondary level due to high levels of demand resulting from increasing numbers of students who have completed primary education.
 - To revising current national testing and assessment systems, especially because some of the current systems truncate attempts to reform secondary education, to ensure it is appropriate to the learning needs of students and the societies where they live, and to improve the quality of secondary education.
 - To search for ways to achieve collective action to attract international funding support for improving and expanding public secondary education in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Preparatory work: I have described the case studies that have been done in different African countries and the importance of these studies.
- Expected Outcomes of the workshop: The following outcomes have been highlighted:
- A better understanding of the actual situation of this sub-system in the region; an identification of difficulties being met by Governments as well as the various measures and strategies being adopted, or to be adopted to solve problems while at the same time taking into account the specificities of countries going through crisis or recovering from such crisis and for which it is urgent to reconstruct this sub-system;
 - The preparation and printing of a publication describing the current status, constraints, problems and needs of secondary and youth education in selected nations plus the proceedings of the Workshop and its outcomes;
 - The setting up of an international partnership (consortium) for secondary education reforms; the development of a strategy for attracting greater international support for financing reforms and innovations of public secondary and youth education in sub-Saharan Africa;
 - The creation and description of a collaborative mechanism for maintaining a high level of interest;
 - The initiation of pilot projects to be implemented in the framework of sub-regional and regional co-operation, following a revitalisation of regional and sub-regional networks, or to be submitted for the approval of African Ministers in MINEDAF VIII;
 - The development of an on-line forum, an Internet 'space' for conference participants to follow up on their work, to help ensure that the momentum continues to build.

- Proposed Topics: Details on the 5 selected topics have been given. The implications and dimensions of these issues have been studied and submitted as guidelines for consideration by the experts who will make presentations on these themes.

B. Preparation for the Regional Workshop on Secondary Education, Mauritius, December 2001

To prepare for the meeting on secondary education, I provided the following services:

- Had meetings with Mr. P Ramlugun, Permanent Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Education, Mauritius to discuss organisational aspects of the Workshop.
- Had a meeting with a delegation of the World Bank to discuss their participation in the Workshop.
- Had meetings with Professor Chinnapah of UNESCO, Mr. A Mariro and the Director of BREDA on 3 occasions.
- Discussed and finalised the Provisional Programme of the Workshop to be held in Mauritius
- Discussed on the details of participants that would attend the workshop in December.
- Reviewed the objectives of the workshop and discussed the form of participation of the African experts in the workshop.

C. Final Report

This report constitutes my Final Report to UNESCO/BREDA.

D. Comments

I hope that my contributions were useful and helped Mr. A. Mariro in particular to organise the Workshop. However, as always, it has been a pleasure and honour to work with Mr. Mariro, who has always been available to discuss organisational aspects of the Workshop.

I am looking forward to continuing work on the Workshop on Secondary Education. Much remains to be done until December 2001

With best wishes to all at BREDA, I remain,

Yours truly,

Teeluck Bhuanee, Ph.D.