



Newsletter - December 2017

**PASET's Regional Scholarship and Innovation Fund  
Receives Contributions from Kenya and Rwanda**

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The Regional Scholarship and Innovation Fund (RSIF), PASET's flagship initiative for PhD education, research and innovation, has received contributions from the Governments of Kenya and Rwanda, delivering on commitments made by the two member countries when they joined PASET.

Kenya made a \$2 million contribution, matching its pledge in full. Dr. Florah Karimi, a Technical Advisor for University Education to the Government of Kenya's Ministry of Education, Science and Technology said, "With this contribution, the Government of Kenya is proud to deliver on its promised commitment to the RSIF, to help create the next generation of African leaders in applied sciences, engineering and technology. We are hopeful that this contribution will also inspire other African countries to join PASET's far-reaching investment to our region's future.

The Government of Rwanda contributed \$0.5 million towards its commitment of \$2 million for the RSIF. Hon. Dr. Papias Malimba Musafiri, Rwanda's former Minister of Education, said, "The RSIF will help African students study at some of Africa's most competitive science and technology programs. The Government of Rwanda is pleased to be an integral part of this initiative, and contribute toward Africa's transformation into a knowledge and research driven economy."

RSIF has received pledges of \$10 million from the Governments of Senegal, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Kenya, and Ivory Coast. It is currently in process of selecting its first student cohort, which will receive scholarships at some of Africa's most competitive programs in applied sciences, engineering and technology. [Learn more here.](#)

## **India Hosts 6 African Countries for Knowledge Exchange in Skill Development**

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*Ministers and heads of delegations representing African nations light up a lamp with Minister Dharmendra Pradhan to inaugurate the Knowledge Exchange mission in New Delhi on Oct. 30, 2017. Photo: PASET Secretariat*

Taking the global knowledge exchanges at the 4<sup>th</sup> PASET Forum in April 2017 one step further, the World Bank and India's Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship organized a 5-day Knowledge exchange mission on skills development for delegates from six African countries under the PASET umbrella.

The participating African countries at the workshop, held in New Delhi on Oct. 30 – Nov. 3, included Rwanda, Ethiopia, Senegal, Ghana, Nigeria, and Tanzania. Their key objectives were to:

- Identify the challenges of addressing the skills development needs of the informal sector across India and Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)
- Discuss strategies for enhancing labor force productivity through institutional reforms at the national and state levels both in India and SSA
- Study innovative models of employer led skilling strategies for enhancing industry competitiveness
- Studying the role of the federal and state governments and key institutional reforms for successful delivery of skills training
- Discuss the longer formal training systems under TVET and its delivery models

Prof. Mary Teuw Niane, Minister of Higher Education and Research, Government of Senegal said in his address to the participants, "I have no doubt that like Julius Ceaser, PASET's members and potential members will soon be saying, we came, we saw, and we were convinced that India's model of skill development is an excellent one to address our own challenges of employability and professional integration of

African youth, who instead of being a disadvantage can provide real leverage in the emergence of our continent.”

At the workshop, the Government of India’s Ministry of Skills Development and Entrepreneurship agreed to formalize its partnership in skill development for the African region with PASET and the World Bank by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the near future.

The workshop included field visits to the Indian states of Maharashtra and Rajasthan. It was attended by key ministers from India and Africa including Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan, India’s Minister of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas; Professor Mary Teuw Niane, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, Senegal and Chair of the PASET Board of Directors; Dr. Yaw Osei Adutwum, Deputy Minister of Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET)/Secondary Education, Ghana; Mr. Olivier Rwamukwaya, Minister of State, TVET, Rwanda; Mr. Teshome Lemma, State Minister for TVET, Ethiopia; Prof. Abubakar Rasheed, Executive Secretary of National Universities Commission, Federal Ministry of Education, Nigeria; and Dr. Leonard Akwilapo, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Tanzania.

*The delegates to the Knowledge Exchange mission seen on a field visit to the St. Joseph’s Industrial Training Institute in Mumbai, India -- a flagship institution of Don Bosco Tech Society. Photo: PASET Secretariat*

The event included technical sessions around short term and long term skill development systems and certifications in India, as well as areas and opportunities in Public Private Partnerships between India and African countries and the role of sector skills councils.

Minister Pradhan in his inauguration address said, “The needs of African nations are divergent and their strengths varied. We aim to enhance our strategic ties for development of youth in the skill development and vocational training sector.” The Minister also announced to offer the scholarship and professional courses to African students through India's premiere institutions.

Annette Dixon, Vice President for the World Bank’s South Asia region said, “This knowledge exchange workshop is an important beginning. We are confident that it will help forge a strong partnership between India and the six African countries keen to learn from India’s experience in skills development and vocational training – as it strides to implement one of world’s largest skills programs.”

### ***The Workshop in the Media***

- Indian Minister Welcomes African Nationals at India Africa knowledge Exchange Mission. [READ...](#)
- Skill India and World Bank organize a ‘Knowledge Sharing Workshop’ for African delegates. [READ...](#)

## **New MoU Ramps Up China’s Collaboration with Africa in Higher Education and TVET**

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*A recently signed education MOU between China and the World Bank Group takes an already robust collaboration between the Chinese government and the Bank to the next level. Here's why this new step forward matters.*

### **What is the MoU about?**

The newly signed MOU is a cooperation framework for support to the African region's higher education, science and technology, and technical vocation education and training. Its signatories include the World Bank Group and China's Ministries of Education and Ministry of Finance. It was signed during the 3rd Invest in Africa Forum (IAF) this September.

This MOU is mainly a framework supported with financial contributions from an existing trust fund established by the Government of China. It formally endorses the many collaborations already happening at different levels, between governments, African institutions and private companies, and also comes on the heels of a second allocation notice for the trust fund.

## **What's exciting about the MoU?**

1. It will promote Chinese collaboration on the promotion, preparation and organization of education forums in Africa and China, including for the annual IAF Forum, and others organized by the Partnership for Applied Sciences, Engineering and Technology (PASET) which is facilitated by the World Bank.
2. It will pool China's efforts and expertise to seek opportunities to carry out capacity building programs for African governments, higher education, science and technology, TVET and other institutions. These programs will aim to enhance capabilities in planning, monitoring, quality assurance and benchmarking of higher education and TVET institutions.
3. It will support jointly exploring opportunities for Chinese institutions to partner with African higher and TVET institutions to develop training programs, promote faculty and student exchanges, and conduct joint teaching, learning and research projects.
4. It will promote collaboration on supporting a regional approach to PhD training, research and capacity building in applied sciences, engineering and technology for African universities, which may include scholarship funding provided by the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China to African students.
5. It will promote collaboration on the organization and execution of analytical, feasibility, and other studies needed for policy development, program formulation and execution.
6. Last but not least, the framework also provides for periodical evaluations of the effectiveness of these collaborations.

According to Luis Benveniste, Practice Director for the Education Global Practice who signed the agreement on the Bank's behalf, with this MoU, China emphasizes the importance of knowledge exchange and capacity building in addition to satisfying infrastructure needs in Africa. He said it also shows the relevance of China's development experience to African institutions, offering alternative, cost-efficient models in capacity building, teacher education and other efforts.

"The MoU is also a recognition of the role the World Bank in providing value added through trilateral collaborations, bringing partners together effectively," Benveniste added.

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The Partnership for skills in Applied Sciences, Engineering and Technology (PASET) was launched in 2013 to support Africa's socioeconomic transformation, by promoting the building of technical/scientific skills from upper secondary Technical/Vocational education and training to postgraduate education. It aims to achieve this through collaboration among Sub-Saharan African countries, African business leaders, and countries in other regions, including new

investment partners. [Learn more](#) or contact us at [pasetafrica@worldbank.org](mailto:pasetafrica@worldbank.org).

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