



Newsletter - May 2018



Overview:

From January to March, PASET events took place in Senegal and Korea. PASET presented at the STI Forum organized by African Development Bank in Egypt.

January 15-18, 2018, Dakar, Senegal: PASET Board of Directors Meeting, Ministerial Meeting on Higher Education and Skills Development and Consultative Advisory Group Meeting

February 10-12, 2018, Cairo, Egypt: The third edition of the Africa Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation ("Africa STI Forum") convened by the African Development Bank

March 4-16, 2018, Seoul, Korea: Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) workshop and Knowledge Sharing Program (KSP) workshop



PASET Board of Directors Meeting, Ministerial Meeting on Higher Education and Skills Development and Consultative Advisory Group Meeting in Dakar, Senegal

Jan 15-18, 2018



On Jan. 15, 2018, Guinea Minister speaks at the PASET Ministerial Meeting on Jan. 15, 2018, as heads of delegations, representing 18 sub-Saharan African nations, explore mutually beneficially exchange on higher education and skills development in Dakar, Senegal. Photo Credits: PASET Secretariat

PASET hosted a Ministerial Meeting on Higher Education and Skills Development on January 15, 2018 in Dakar, Senegal on the sidelines of a meeting of the PASET Board Directors. Ministers and ministerial representatives of 18 countries from around Africa participated in the meeting and discussed the progress and challenges in higher education and TVET on the continent. African countries recognized the importance of skilled human capital, and science, technology and innovation (STI) for socio-economic development and noted the opportunity they provide for national priorities to be met.

During the meeting, Hon. Minister Mary Teuw Niane, Chair of the PASET Board of Directors, welcomed participants and emphasized the unique nature of PASET as an Africa-led and Africa-owned initiative that addresses the development of science and technology on the continent. PASET also shared its goals and activities, recognizing the importance of partners and strategic alliances in achieving its objectives in higher education and TVET.

Remarks from ministers and their representatives underscored the challenges and progress made in higher education and TVET since the discussions at the 4th PASET Forum in April 2017. They identified common challenges such as limited access to higher education, lack of infrastructure for research and innovation, and outdated curricula that not aligned with labor market demand. In addition, representatives emphasized the need to keep up with an increasingly digital economy. Countries also noted that they are prioritizing skills development at the national level. They highlighted steps being made to raise access and quality of higher education and TVET (see key takeaways below). In addition, the Government of Senegal presented in detail some of its efforts to reform the higher education system.

The participating Ministers and representatives, all appreciated PASET as an initiative led *by Africans for Africans*, aiming to build scientific-technical capacity on the continent with the help of the World Bank and international partners like Korea, China and India, and expressed strong interest in joining the partnership while benefiting from its initiatives. Sajitha Bashir, World Bank Education Practice Manager for East Africa, noted that PASET recognizes the importance of an operational platform that mobilizes finances, provides technical assistance and exchanges knowledge on higher education and TVET. She urged countries to work systematically and collaboratively to build their capacity to achieve steady upward mobility for the region.

In parallel to the Ministerial Meeting, the PASET Board of Directors also held its annual in-person meeting on January 15, 2018 to discuss the strategic direction of the partnership. The Board made key decisions to move forward. Following the Board and Ministerial Meetings, PASET also held a meeting of its Consultative Advisory Group in Dakar from January 17-18. The purpose was mainly to receive technical advice that could direct PASET's initiatives.

Key Takeaways

- African countries discussed how they are undertaking interesting initiatives to address challenges in higher education, including: establishing specialized tertiary universities; setting up dedicated spaces for research and innovation like national centers, science parks, or knowledge and innovation cities; promoting university-industry linkages; training faculty especially in pedagogy; collaborating with partner countries; and introducing or strengthening national quality assurance agencies.
- To strengthen TVET systems and skills development, countries have taken steps, such as: improving accreditation and certification of training, harmonizing qualifications with industry standards, revising curriculum to ensure market relevance, improving digital education, and increasing infrastructure and equipment of TVET institutions.
- Countries like Benin, Burkina Faso, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Mauritania, Nigeria, and Tanzania, indicated they have taken steps to mobilize or contribute funds to PASET. Other countries expressed interest in PASET and its activities.



Directors of the PASET Board, Executive Committee members, Chair and Vice-Chair of the Consultative Advisory Group met for the Board of Directors meeting on Jan. 15, 2018 to discuss the advancement of PASET's goals. Photo: PASET Secretariat.

PASET & ACE at Third Africa Forum on Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) in Cairo, Egypt

Feb 10-12, 2018



Credits: African Development Bank Photo, The Third Edition of the Africa Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation- Africa STI Forum's Photographer, Day 1, Flickr.

The Third Africa Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) 2018 was held from February 10-12, 2018 in Cairo, Egypt where Dr. Javier Botero Alvarez, Lead Educ. Specialist at the World Bank, participated as a panelist. He presented on PASET and the Africa Centers of Excellence (ACE) during a session on "Strengthening Regional Collaboration on STI, Education and Research Networks," discussing the lack of high quality PhD programs in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) and the potential impact of PA through PhD scholarships, research and innovation grants. He also presented PASET and ACE as regional STI and education programs, which both explore ways to link national agendas on STI. Other panelists in the session included representatives from the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), West and Central Africa Research and Education Network (WACREN), and African Academy of Sciences (AAS), who each discussed the need to scale-up higher education initiatives to the regional level.

The President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, H.E. Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, opened this year's Forum and expressed the critical role Education, Science, Technology and Innovation have when investing in cross-sectoral solutions for socio-economic development as identified in the African Union's Agenda 2063. The Forum aligned with African countries' goals, set forth in the African Union's vision with specific Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that guide investments in STI. Government officials from the region reiterated their country's commitment to invest one percent of their GDP towards research and development (R&D) goals.

The Forum hosted an estimated 300 participants, including education ministers from SSA, donors and private sector representatives who discussed the importance of STI investments in research and higher education for regional economic growth. The potential to address agricultural issues through advanced technologies was at the center of the discussions.

several discussions. Ministers and representatives from the region also exchanged ideas on acquiring data management and agro-industrial skills.

Key Takeaways

- The main goal of the Forum was to bridge the gap between technology, capacity building and research, while encouraging more innovation included in African countries' National Development Plans.
- Many innovators and entrepreneurs from Kenya, Cote d'Ivoire and Nigeria, especially from the agriculture sector, presented.
- Countries highlighted the importance of agro-industrial skills for their economic growth and stressed that STI is the backbone of national and regional research, reiterating their commitment to achieving their research and development goals.
- African Ministers and heads of delegations, agreed on a Ministerial Declaration, that maintains STI as a priority in national, regional and continental development agendas. The Declaration committed to enhancing research and innovation policies, enabling sustainable financing and strengthening regional cooperation and integration.



Photo Credits: African Development Bank (AfDB), The Third Edition of the Africa Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation- Africa STI Forum's Photographer, Day 1, Flickr.

Photo Credits: The Third Edition of the Africa Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation- Africa STI Forum's Photographer, African Development Bank, Day 1, Flickr.

Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Workshop and Knowledge Sharing Program (KSP) Workshop

Mar 4 – 9, 2018 (TVET)

Mar 11– 16, 2018 (KSP)



Meister School field visit was a central activity in sharing knowledge between the Korean hosts and Africa counterparts. Seeing the collaboration from Korea's experience in technology development and training was exciting. Photo Credits: PASET Secretariat.



Two PASET events took place in Korea during the month of March. The first meeting was a TVET workshop for the preparation of PASET's Regional TVET Center Excellence Initiative, the East Africa Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project (EASTRIP). The second event was a reporting and policy practitioners' works under the Knowledge Sharing Program (KSP) to update on the progress being made in the participating countries. The resulting report was shared and discussed to plan for second and third year of the KSP program, which was carried out in consultation with the three-country delegation.

1. Workshop for TVET: Preparation for the East Africa Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project (EASTRIP)

Over 20 African high-level government officials and leaders of TVET centers and high-level officials from ministries from Kenya, Tanzania, Cote d'Ivoire participated in a TVET workshop from March 4 - 9, 2018, as part of the preparation of the Regional TVET Centers of Excellence Project initially financed by the World Bank (EASTRIP). During the workshop, Korea shared its experiences in TVET with African delegations and organized site visits to Meister High School, polytechnics and private sector to demonstrate its successful models.

State Minister of Education from the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Teshome Lema Wedajo, stated that, "the Project will address the relevance of TVET program to industry, labor market demand and quality of TVET. More importantly, the Project is envisioned to make a crucial contribution to the ability of our national and regional economies to be competitive, enhancing regional capacity in policy research, advocacy, strategy development, dissemination of good practices and establishing a competent regional skills development and scholarship fund benefiting the countries." Furthermore, the State Minister identified how cooperation between beneficiary countries, "... address the gap we have in terms of realizing the relevance of TVET programmes to industry as a member of the Regional Integration Initiative. We will scale up the practices from targeted TVET Centers of Excellence, to other colleges for the sustainability of our regional development endeavor."

The main objectives of the workshop program were to share policy and practices in center management, program development and TVET program delivery. The workshop accomplished its main objective, which was to learn about Korean national quality assurance, accreditation, occupational standards, and national competency standards, as well as share practical approaches to TVET teacher training, learning, and curriculum design. Soft skills development, entrepreneurship, innovations, TVET delivery and pedagogy were also discussed throughout the five-day workshop.

Key Takeaways

- Regional flagship TVET institutions learned from the Korean experience, and incorporated Korean experts' feedback on their Strategic Investment Plans (SIPs).
- National component had three countries draft program concepts, whereby Korean experience was integrated to further elaborate or develop detailed implementation plans for this component.
- Regional flagship TVET institutions have agreed to enable cross-country registration to support capacity building vis-a-vis knowledge sharing.

2. Knowledge Sharing Program (KSP) – Interim Reporting and Policy Practitioners' Workshop

The Interim Reporting and Policy Practitioners' Workshop of the 2017/18 KSP took place from March 11 -16, 2018 to cement the ongoing partnership between the Korea Development Institute (KDI) and PASET. Officials from the Governments of Senegal and Rwanda participated in the workshop along with Korean experts from KDI, Korea Research Institute for Vocational Education and Training (KRIVET), Human Resources Development Service of Korea (HRD Korea) and professors, to exchange knowledge, policies and strategies for human resource development. The meeting was useful to report and plan for the second and third year of the program.

During the workshop, Korea shared its development strategies and experiences in the field of human resource development (HRD), TVET, agricultural technical development, ICT, and higher education skill development. Korean experts reported on their research progress to African governments and reached a consensus following discussions on the priority topics, which mainly included improving performance of the HRD system, ICT in HRD, and HRD for agricultural development for Rwanda; establishing a long-term manpower forecasting system for Senegal. At the end of the workshop, African delegations also shared their strategic implementation plans and plan activities for the second and third year of the KSP.

The KSP is directly implemented by KDI to support policy analysis that builds upon relevant Korean experience in HRD in Senegal, Rwanda, and Ethiopia.

Key Takeaways

- The KSP workshop showcased strategic implementation plans developed by Senegal and Rwanda based on tentative policy recommendations from Korean experts in priority fields for the two countries.
- Knowledge shared between African delegations and Korea allowed for mutual learning on advanced technological training methods. Knowledge exchange under the KSP is meant to improve HRD in terms of allowing the country's higher education students and potential workforce to learn highly technical skills, previously applied in countries like Korea. The objective is for Africans to develop their region with their own social capital.



Photo above Meister School shared how students in Korea leverage their human development capital in technical learning centers and schools. Photo left second row: Sharing on fishing markets and supply-chain. Photo right, second row: The Interim Reporting and Policy Practitioner's Workshop.
Photo Credits: PASET Secretariat.

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.

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