



Association for the
Development
of Education
in Africa



**African Development
Bank Group**

Press release

For immediate release

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ADEA awards researchers on Education in Africa

On Tuesday 14 May 2013 the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) will present awards to African scholars who have published distinctive research in the field of education. The award ceremony will take place in Sevres, near Paris in France. This award, known as the Education Research in Africa Award (ERAA), is jointly sponsored by the African Development Institute (ADI) of the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Korea-Africa Economic Cooperation (KOAFEC). The award has been managed by ADEA and the ADI, with initial support from Education Without Borders (EWB, South Korea), an affiliate of the Seoul National University (SNU) of South Korea. The latter will be providing opportunities for further training for the researchers who have won the various categories of the award. Scholarships and opportunities for post-doctoral studies will be provided for the laureates through EWB/ SNU.

The purpose of the Education Research in Africa Award is to institutionalize a culture of high quality and relevant educational research in African universities, research networks and institutes. It will do so by rewarding research on innovative education policy and practices in Africa. Indeed, it is in this area that one can find the most fertile entry points for the interface between research and decision-making.

The Award was officially launched on August 17, 2012 with four categories of the Awards announced. These are: Emerging Educational Researcher, Accomplished Educational Researcher, Outstanding Mentor of Educational Researchers and Enabling Institutional Environment for Education Research.

More than 50 researchers submitted their works with most research proposals falling in the Emerging Educational Researcher category. Submissions received from Africa-based and non-Africa based young researchers focused on a broad range of topics that include the following: Policy related (reform issues in all education sub-sectors), Sociology of education, Economics of Education/Education Finance, Skills development and Vocational Education, Technology & ICT, Mathematics and Science Education, and Higher Education. Most of the eligible submissions came from Anglophone African countries.

A shortlist of the eligible candidates was prepared by a 10-member Scientific Advisory Committee. The final selection in each award category was done by a 5-member jury. These two entities have reflected the regional and linguistic diversity of Africa as well as adequate gender representation. The winners for all the 4 categories of awards have been identified, and will be awarded at the special ceremony in Sevres, France on the evening of May 14, 2013.

Since its inception in 1988, the Association for Development of Education in Africa (ADEA), formerly known as Donors to African Education (DAE), has invested heavily in research and analytical work in order to support its main mission --the promotion of policy dialogue, change and transformative reforms in African education. This also entails capacity building among its key stakeholders: African ministers of education, senior policy makers, bilateral and multilateral funding and technical agencies, international and national non-governmental institutions, civil society organizations and education practitioners at large.

The mandate of African Development Institute (ADI) is training and capacity development to support the effectiveness of African Development Bank-funded operations. Since 2010 ADI has been the focal point of the AfDB Group in facing the challenges of capacity building and in

strengthening the Bank's role as a knowledge institution. Hence research and education are essential elements in capacity building and knowledge sharing of the Bank.

Future support for the Award will be solicited to ensure the continuity and sustainability of ERAA. ADEA and ADI will ensure a large buy-in of the rationale for the Education Research in Africa Award. Indeed, the success of the Award will hinge on the support ADEA and ADI will be able to muster from key actors such as the African research networks and institutes, ministries of education and their technical and financial partners (bilateral and multilateral development agencies), foundations, civil society organizations and other interested parties (e.g. media groups).

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