



**Biennale on Education in Africa
(Maputo, Mozambique, May, 5-9 2008)**

**Beyond Primary Education:
Challenges and Approaches to Expanding Learning Opportunities in Africa**

Keynote Speeches

**Education as a Driver of Development
Approaches, Experience and Prospects
for Expanded Learning Opportunities**

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**Working Document
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SUMMARY OF GERMAN KEYNOTE ADDRESS
EDUCATION AS A DRIVER OF DEVELOPMENT – APPROACHES, EXPERIENCE AND PROSPECTS FOR
EXPANDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Africa is a very important continent for German development cooperation. We welcome that the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) is offering a platform for international educational cooperation between education ministers of the various nations, representatives of national and international politics, the various donor agencies and experts from worlds of research and practice. This shows ADEA's status as a pioneer in positioning, innovation and networking. One expression of this is the theme of the Biennale – "Going Beyond Primary Education: Challenges of and Approaches to Expanding Learning Opportunities in Africa" – which is certainly one of Africa's greatest challenges today. By way of a thematic introduction to this Biennale, we would like to emphasize three areas in particular.

- 1.** Education in a holistic view is a driver for individual and social development, and makes a proven contribution to social participation, peaceful coexistence and social and economic development. Investment in education – seen as a lifelong process – involves the development and strengthening of a) cognitive skills and access to knowledge, b) social and cultural competence and personal development, c) critical thinking, d) creativity, and e) the ability to cope with life and solve problems. To ensure this, we need good quality and efficient basic, secondary and vocational education institutions as well as universities. The Education for All / Fast Track Initiative, and – specifically for Africa – also the ADEA contribute substantially towards the achievement of our common goal of "education for all". The latest Global Monitoring Report shows that the efforts of the countries and the ADEA have borne fruit. They have all contributed towards modernizing educational systems and enhancing the quality of formal education. Methods and tools, such as education policy guidance and capacity development, decentralization in education systems, quality management, curricula development, teacher training and peace education have all proved their value. Much has been achieved, but there are still major challenges ahead of us. This applies especially to the countries' needs for flexible and viable educational systems that allow transition between the various levels of education.
- 2.** One of the most important questions currently is - **What comes after primary school?** An enormously increased number of children and young people are pushing for secondary educational services. About 1.3 billion young people between the ages of 12 and 24 are living in developing countries today – more than ever before, and many of them in Africa. This makes strengthening post-primary and the continuing paths of education one of the greatest challenges. In creating and improving opportunities for learning which go beyond primary education, the focus should be on strengthening secondary education, vocational training and university education, together with non-formal educational services. The orientation on the "lifeworld" is particularly important in all the various offers. Summarising, the experience of German development cooperation has shown that the following factors are decisive for post-primary learning opportunities and individual and social involvement: a) curricula relevant to the "lifeworld", b) well-trained and qualified teachers, c) qualified school managements, d) quality teaching and learning materials, e) cooperation between schools and communities, f) coordinated and flexible educational systems and policies at national and local level.
- 3.** The conference is intended to contribute towards finding answers to challenges and developing prospects for the future. This includes a) learning from innovative approaches and disseminating these, b) making effective use of international, national, regional and local networks, c) developing useful monitoring systems to show improvements and impacts, d) promoting cooperation between governmental and non-governmental institutions and involvement of civil society, e) strengthening the capability of individuals, organisations and social systems through capacity development.