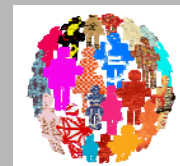




48TH SESSION OF
THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON EDUCATION
(25-28 NOVEMBER 2008)



SIDE-EVENT 1

**Discussion on the UNESCO Initiative:
Basic Education in Africa Programme (BEAP)**

*organised by the International Bureau of Education (IBE)
and the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education in Africa (BREDA)*

Background

Education in Africa has traditionally been designed to create an educated elite minority, in order to support and sustain the colonial administration. Concerted and commendable efforts have been made by African countries to achieve Education for All targets and the Millennium Development Goals. Today, less than 10% of students go on to higher education and the rest enter the world of work with the little education received at school.

There is an urgent need to provide an inclusive system of basic education, one which enhances the capacities of all students to contribute to stable, peaceful, equitable, adaptable and prosperous societies.

Initiated by the Kigali Call for Action, the UNESCO Basic Education Programme in Africa (BEAP) was established to support the extension of basic education in partner countries from early childhood education to the end of junior secondary education. This support was mainly provided by building country capacity in the design, development and implementation of basic education curricula, as well as in the improvement of teacher training, and assessment and certification systems.

How does BEAP function?

By providing support that responds to country needs in a flexible and focused way, BEAP works with partner countries who share fundamental goals of broadening and enhancing the learning conditions, opportunities, processes and outcomes for young people through expanding and democratizing the concept of basic education. BEAP integrates with existing initiatives and engages like-minded donors and development agencies already engaged in the country-led reform process.

The intended and desired outcome from BEAP support is increased quality of curriculum equitably delivered, ensuring consistency with government policies and priorities, the sequence and continuity of learning (curriculum and schooling), the emphasis on personal, social and economic dimensions and learning outcomes.

Objectives

- Advocacy for an uninterrupted 9 to 10-year basic education in Africa, including early childhood education;
- Providing information on BEAP;
- Providing concrete examples of BEAP pilot experiences;
- Showcasing integrated and comprehensive approaches and practices in the African region;
- Finding challenges common to different regions in addressing and implementing a broader vision of inclusive education.

Agenda

The moderator introduces speakers and presents an overview of the meeting (*5 minutes*):

Ann Therese Ndong-Jatta, Director, UNESCO/BREDA

The African context and overview presentation on BEAP (*10 minutes*):

Teeluck Bhuanee, Programme Specialist, UNESCO/BREDA

BEAP pilot experiences in The Gambia, Ethiopia and Cote d'Ivoire (*10 minutes*):

Representatives from Ministries of Education

Comprehensive approaches: experience of Mauritius on early childhood education (*10 minutes*):

Representative from the Mauritian Ministry of Education

Questions and comments by participants (*20 minutes*)

Closing statement by the moderator (*5 minutes*):

Ann Therese Ndong-Jatta, Director, UNESCO/BREDA

Sandwiches provided from 13.30 in front of the entrance

Support Documentation

- Information flyer on BEAP (Eng, Fr)
- Presentations on BEAP and country experiences

Tuesday, 25 November 2008

13.45 - 14.45

Room 2

Simultaneous Interpretation: English and French