Eastern Africa unites to strengthen Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) systems for quality education and employability

UNESCO organized, a regional methodological workshop on the research framework for quality assurance of technical and vocational education and training qualifications in Eastern Africa from 12th to 13th July 2017 in Nairobi. The workshop highlighted the need and willingness to align the TVET to move towards harmonized quality systems at national and regional levels. It mainly consisted on preparing

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- 9 Aug International Day of the World’s Indigenous People
- 12 Aug International Youth Day
- 19 Aug World Humanitarian Day
- 23 Aug International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition
- 29 Aug International Day against Nuclear Tests
the national experts from ministries of education of the 13 countries covered by UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa (Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Tanzania, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda) for the methodologies in collecting and analyzing data in view of the development of national reports. UNESCO will then use the reports to produce guidelines that will assist countries in undertaking better quality assurance of TVET qualifications.

Moreover, the workshop provided an opportunity for the setting up of a network of experts on quality assurance of qualifications in the region for future technical cooperation and peer learning.

The workshop took place within the context of the follow-up to the “Mahe Process”, an initiative geared towards strengthening TVET in the Eastern Africa region and borne out of the forum on skills for youth employment and entrepreneurship, convened by the UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa in March 2016 in Mahe, Seychelles. More broadly, the workshop falls within the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 2016-2025) and the UNESCO Strategy for TVET (2016-2021). In the context of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, SDG 4: Quality Education for all, provides the global framework under which TVET and skills development roles in achieving sustainable development are recognized as key drivers for socio-economic development.

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UNESCO Supports the Kenya Internet Governance Forum

UNESCO participated and supported the 2017 Kenya Internet Governance Forum (IGF), organized in Nairobi- Kenya on 6 July 2017 by Kenya ICT Action Network (KICTANET). The conference, themed “Shape your Digital Future” served as a platform for policy dialogue on issues of internet governance in Kenya. During the conference, stakeholders discussed about internet and elections, Surveillance and Human Rights, internet shutdowns, “fake news”, online bullying, fintech ecosystems and ICT in Kenya’s counties. The topics were important in light of the August general election and the fact that technology was to be deployed at a level that has not happened in the previous general elections.

“UNESCO is playing a major role globally in putting a human face to technology” emphasized Mr. Jaco Du Toit, Regional Advisor for Communication and Information at UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa.

The IGF was a unique platform for all stakeholders, from the private to the public sectors, technical community, academia and civil society, to openly exchange perspectives and concerns on key issues that may affect the future of the Internet for millions of Kenyans. UNESCO’s work is to promote an enabling environment for freedom of expression, press freedom and journalistic safety, facilitating pluralism and participation in media, as well as supporting sustainable and independent media institutions in Kenya.
Regional Technical Workshop of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Global Citizenship Education (GCED): Transforming and Sustaining the World through Learning

From 4th to 7th July 2017, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa hosted, a regional event dubbed “Regional Technical Workshop on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Global Citizenship Education (GCED): The workshop was done in collaboration with key partners including UNICEF, UNEP, UNWOMEN, Interpeace, and Southern African Development Community (SADC). The workshop provided technical support to integrate Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and GCED through formal, non-formal and informal education structures in order to ensure quality and inclusive education and life-long learning for sustainable development in societies.

It attracted over 80 participants and representatives from ten countries under the UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa, as well as partners, that included IOM, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNEP, UNHCR, UNWOMEN, WFP, Arigatou International, Aga Khan Foundation, Interpeace, JICA, Teachers against Violent Extremism and the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

“We need to reorient our systems and ensure that communities not only learn to be or to do, but also learn to live

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The Dubai Municipality and UN-Habitat is currently calling for submissions to the 11th round of the 2017 Dubai International Award for Best Practices to Improve the Living Environment.

The workshop was an opportunity to clarify frameworks and concepts of ESD and GCED, as well as the monitoring of the SDG 4 Target 4.7. Subsequently, four thematic areas were discussed, among which the promotion of peace education and prevention of violent extremism through education; the empowerment of learners through health education for sustainable lifestyles and the definition of Global Citizenship education through inclusion and cultural diversity. The workshop resulted in an agreement to establish a community of practice. This is an online platform to implement recommendations, with a focus on knowledge sharing, resource materials dissemination, capacity development and increased partnerships.

Calling for Applications: 2017 Dubai International Awards for Best Practices

The Dubai Municipality and UN-Habitat is currently calling for submissions to the 11th round of the 2017 Dubai International Award for Best Practices to Improve the Living Environment.

The 2017 award is an international contest which seeks to recognize outstanding initiatives that are making valuable contribution to the sustainability agenda along the themes of the New Urban Agenda. The award is open to all national and regional governments; local authorities and their associations; non-governmental organizations; multilateral agencies; community based organizations; research and academic institutions; public and private foundations; media entities and individuals in different categories.

This edition of the Award comes at a critical time. With the New Urban Agenda signed in October last year, this is a distinct opportunity to highlight and collect effective urban interventions in line with the Agenda and Sustainable Development Goal 11 – to make cities and communities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. For 2017, the Dubai International Award will be given to applicants who have made significant contributions which:

- Have a demonstrable and tangible impact on improving people’s quality of life;
- Are the result of effective partnerships between the public, private and civic sectors of society;
- Are socially, culturally, economically and environmentally sustainable.

The Dubai Award was established in 1995. Since then, more than 100 initiatives in over 50 countries have received the Award, ranging from projects improving access to public space, improving housing affordability in Burkina Faso, promoting gender equality and women empowerment from Kenya and Netherlands, improving water and sanitation services in Pakistan, improving air quality in Canada, and advocating for sustainable cities in USA.

The last Dubai International Award took place in 2014, and the Award Ceremony drew representatives from different municipalities, local...
Staff members from United Nations Information Centre Nairobi and other UN agencies in Nairobi marked Mandela Day on 18th July at Roysambu Primary school in Nairobi. The event was also attended by students from the United States International University (USIU) and staff members from the High Commission Of South Africa in Kenya led by the High Commissioner - Koleka Anita Mqulwana who was helpful in co-hosting the event. In commemorating the day, UNIC and the group sought to donate 67 minutes of their time for community challenges in a sustainable manner in five categories, each with two winners; 2 Best Practices, 2 Best Practices Transfers; 2 Personal awards, and 2 Private sector winners are all given USD thirty thousand (30,000 US Dollars) each. 2 University Research winners will receive USD fifteen thousand (15,000 US Dollars) each.

Deadline for submissions of applications is 31 August 2017. For more information on how to apply, visit our webpage unhabitat.org/dubai-award/. All applications must be submitted online. If you have questions, please contact best.practices@unhabitat.org.
service - that is 1 minute for every year that President Mandela devoted in his service to humanity as a human rights lawyer, a prisoner of conscience, and as an international peacemaker. Jubilant students from lower class to upper class, boys and girls joined the commemorations together with their teachers. They danced and sang folk songs praising Mandela. In their singing, they thanked South Africa for producing such a hero and asked all participants to emulate him. They asked that UN and other organizations of good will should visit the school often even as they conduct awareness activities in other schools across Kenya.

While addressing the students, Mr. Newton Kanhema – the UNIC Deputy Director asked the students to espouse Nelson Mandela’s humility, commitment to humanity and value for education.

All participants including students and teachers spent the 67 minutes cleaning the school compound.

In November 2009, the UN General Assembly declared 18 July “Nelson Mandela International Day” in recognition of the former South African President’s contribution to the culture of peace and freedom.

General Assembly resolution A/RES/64/13 recognizes Nelson Mandela’s values and his dedication to the service of humanity, in the fields of conflict resolution, race relations, the promotion and protection of human rights, reconciliation, gender equality and the rights of children and other vulnerable groups, as well as the fight against poverty and the promotion of social justice. It acknowledges his contribution to the struggle for democracy internationally and the promotion of a culture of peace throughout the world.
The UN Communications Group in Kenya (UNCG) is launching the 15th Annual Selection process for the “United Nations in Kenya Award of the Year”. The deadline for submissions of candidates is 31 August 2017. This has been a collective UN-family exercise. The “United Nations in Kenya Person of the Year” ceremony has proven to be one of the highlights of our UN Day celebrations, generating extensive coverage in the press and much anticipation amongst our NGO and civil society colleagues throughout the country.

All Agencies and Programmes are responsible for ensuring the credentials and credibility of the nominees they put forth as possible candidates for this year’s award.

“We cannot over-emphasize this point.

We look forward to working once again with all of you on this exciting process to shine a spotlight on an individual or institution who will serve as an inspiration to all Kenyans.

Please send your duly filled-in forms of your nomination to: nairobi.unic@unon.org

Call for nomination of UN Person of the Year 2017
Somalia’s Ministry of Public Works building was constructed in 1977. But all activities of the Ministry ceased functioning in 1991. The office building was abandoned and became a shelter for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), until 2016 when the then Ministry of Public Works took the initiative of rehabilitating this building using part of their limited resources. The remaining part of the building, a dilapidated fourth floor is being rehabilitated by UNOPS, and funded by the Multi Partner Trust Fund (MPTF).

The scope of works consists of repairing minor damages to the internal and external walls, roof weather proofing, fixing of sanitary & plumbing units, some electrical works and installation of doors and windows.

A portion of this rehabilitated facility will be used by the Minister as his office and the rest will be used by the personnel tasked with implementing the Somalia Strengthening Institutions for Public Works Project (SSIPWP), a separate UNOPS project funded by African Development Bank. This project not only seeks to provide conducive working spaces for personnel and the Minister, but also plays a bigger role in nation building and service provision to the Somali people.
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This Newsletter is compiled by the UN Communications Group in Kenya (UNCG) designed and edited by the United Nations Information Centre, Nairobi.

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