



COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON REGIONAL COOPERATION IN TVET FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA HELD AT PARADISE SUITES HOTEL, BANJUL, THE GAMBIA, FROM 2ND – 8TH JUNE 2013

We the members of the Commonwealth Association of Polytechnics in Africa (CAPA) having met at the Paradise Suites Hotel in Banjul, The Gambia from 2nd to 8th June, 2013 and having deliberated on the theme '**Regional Cooperation in TVET for Sustainable Development in Africa**' under the following sub themes:

- (i) Challenges of Sustainable Development in Africa;
- (ii) Intraregional Collaboration for Skills Development;
- (iii) Promoting Indigenous Technology for Sustainable Development;
- (iv) Gender Issues in Africa's Sustainable Development and
- (v) Innovative Curriculum Development in Africa's TVET Institutions

Have agreed among other things that:

- 1. There is a mismatch between the knowledge and training imparted on the students and the industrial training and that this should be addressed by the respective TVET institutions to make the graduates more relevant to the market.**
- 2. Staff in TVET Institutions should benchmark with industries to update themselves on current technologies and practices and incorporate them in their curriculum.**
- 3. Recommendations be made to the respective Governments to review the educational systems comprehensively in order to mainstream TVET knowledge and skills. TVET knowledge and skills are required at all levels in the educational system as a backbone for industrialization. There is also need to remove the stigma among parents and students that the TVET track is for those who have failed to join the mainstream educational system.**
- 4. Respective Governments should prioritize TVET skills in the respective economies especially among the youth and TVET should be strengthened through infrastructure and equipment to enable them train more young people for sustainable economic development**
- 5. TVET institutions should set up of Innovation centres to promote research, generation and incubation of new ideas, products and businesses.**
- 6. To promote innovation, respective Governments should increase funding for research into science, technology and innovation that will incubate home grown technology.**
- 7. TVET institutions should benchmark international best practices and standards.**

8. TVET institutions should continuously develop capacity of staff to cope with emerging issues of the new technologies. For instance continuous training staff in ICT ,new equipment use.
9. TVET institutions should come up with joint programmes that can be run through distance, open, flexible and blended mode.
10. TVET institutions should at all meetings hold a subject meeting to benchmark and harmonize programmes to attain acceptance across institutions
11. At every CAPA conference, there should be pre-conference training in research methodology and presentations
12. CAPA Secretariat should develop capacity to initiate exchange programmes among member institutions to encourage collaborations and linkages between member institutions.
13. Encourage the use of social media as teaching platform and information dissemination.
14. Recommendations should be made to the Governments to come up with the policies for the handling of e-waste,
15. CAPA should a staff fellowship exchange programme for Senior Academic and Administrative Staff for the transfer experience, research and knowledge
16. CAPA Secretariat should establish centre of excellence for Skills and Entrepreneurship Development (Technology parks)
17. CAPA Secretariat should incorporate in their plan benchmarking activities among member institutions in the areas of curriculum and teaching facilities.
18. CAPA Secretariat should prepare a database of experts in TVET institutions as a reference as consultancy and sharing of ideas and information.
19. Recommendations should be made to respective Governments initiate or improve the affirmative action in order to increase female participation in TVET programmes.
20. CAPA is very grateful to the Government and people of The Gambia for the great hospitality extended to the conference delegates; and especially to the Minister of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology, the Minister of Basic and Secondary Education, the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of The Gambia and the Banjul Conference Local Organising Committee, for their roles and participation that contributed to the success of the conference.

Dated this Thursday, June 7th 2013 at the Paradise Suites Hotel, Banjul, The Gambia.

(Signed)

Prof. Waswa Balunywa
Chairman, Communique Committee

(Signed)

Mr. Pascal Chewe
Chairman, Banjul Conference

(Signed)

Dr. Olubunmi Owoso
CAPA Secretary General