

# IAU Experts Seminar

Role of Higher Education in Pursuit of  
Education For All Goals

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# Association of African Universities

- AAU is membership organisation established in 1967 (International NGO)
- Approximately 200 member HEIs
- Secretariat based in Accra, Ghana (Diplomatic & International NGO Status)
- Secretariat headed by the AAU Secretary General

# AAU Objectives

- Promote cooperation among higher education institutions in Africa
- Collect, classify and disseminate information on higher education and research, particularly in Africa
- Facilitate cooperation between its members and the international academic world

# Objectives ctd

- Study and publicize and advocate the educational and related needs of African higher education institutions
- Facilitate the exchange of information and experience among members of the academic community, and promote best practices

# Strategic Plan (2003 – 2010)

One of the 8 Strategic Objectives:-

**Promote & facilitate networking.  
collaboration & experience sharing in  
teaching, research & learning**

# AAU & EFA Initiative

- AAU involved in programmes/initiatives which directly & indirectly support EFA
- EFA Initiative promoted through networking & collaboration with partner institutions eg AU, UNESCO, ADEA, IAU, NEPAD, PHEA Foundations, etc (Accra Forum, March 2007)
- In 2006 DfID of UK awarded AAU £3.5 million for 3 years as Challenge Fund for Regional Capacity Mobilisation Initiative (RCMI) – linked to attainment of MDGs

# AAU Initiatives.....

ACBF funded AAU-CADRE Project  
2006-010

- Major component on leadership & management development in HEIs

# RCMI

## **Main objectives of RCMI**

- Strengthen capacity of national & sub-regional HE bodies in Africa to serve their member institutions better for them to contribute more effectively to good governance & socio-economic development
- Help African HEIs assist African countries achieve the Millennium Goals (MDGs)- in particular UPE; link between education & poverty

# MDGs Relating to EFA Initiative

## MDG 2:

- Achieve universal PE by 2015
  - Ensure all boys & girls complete full course of primary schooling
  - Ensure all children remain in school & receive quality education

# MDGS Relating to EFA Initiative

## MDG 3

- Promote Gender Equity & Empower

Women:-

- Eliminate gender disparity in primary & secondary education, preferably by 2005 & at all levels by 2015

# AAU's Role in Achieving MDGs 2 & 3

- AAU promotes & supports studies/research & engages member institutions in debates on equity & access
- In collaboration with ADEA WGHE involved in promotion of gender
- Partnering with AU Commission on implementation of Plan of Action for Second Decade of African Education (2006 – 2015)

# Past AAU Activities Relating to EFA Initiative

Study Programme on HE Research in Africa  
1993-2004

- Studies on access in HEIs and factors hindering access to HE in Africa (nature & nurture – e.g. socially excluded groups; war & conflict)
- Sida supported HIV/AIDS Programme
- Equity Studies – economic, historical, political & geographical factors
- Studies on articulation (WGHE)

# Quality Assurance & EFA

- AAU in collaboration with the World Bank involved in quality assurance studies focusing on implications of increased enrolments for quality of African HE and how to improve quality – (Quality Assurance Networks in Africa, new modes of teaching & learning based on ICT –virtual & distance education)
- WGHE is soon commissioning study on massification in African HEIs

# Quality assurance & EFA

- HEIs promote quality of training – e.g. Teacher Education
- Help member HEIs prepare to absorb large UPE & ESE outputs – increasing access in tandem with quality HE
- ICT initiative in HEIs – NREN & Bandwidth Consortium