

# ATUPAN NEWS

A Magazine from the Office of the Secretary General • August-November 2023



The Ghana Independence Arch, Accra. Picture Courtesy: George Appiah, From Wikimedia Commons, the free media repository ([https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Independence\\_Arch\\_-\\_Accra,\\_Ghana1.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Independence_Arch_-_Accra,_Ghana1.jpg))

W E L C O M E T O

ACCRA!

## **Vision**

To be an influential voice in Africa for the promotion of skills development for wealth creation.

## **Mission**

To provide a dynamic forum for:

- ✦ gathering, testing and sharing of innovative ideas in technical and vocational education and training through conferences, workshops and publications;
- ✦ promotion of partnerships and capacity building initiatives; and
- ✦ policy analysis and advocacy in favour of skills development for wealth creation.

## **Aims and objectives of ATUPA**

The aims and objectives of the The Association of Technical Universities and Polytechnics in Africa are:

- ✦ To stimulate exchanges of experience and ideas by providing a forum for discussion of matters of common interest and arranging meetings, conferences and seminars.
- ✦ To study and help improve the content and methods of teaching in polytechnics and comparable institutions and in particular the associated curricula and also to help improve the organization and management of such institutions.
- ✦ To disseminate information and publications about matters of interest to member institutions, about the member institutions themselves and about education in particular subject areas.
- ✦ To facilitate the movement of students and trainees between member institutions and between countries, especially for courses not available in their own countries, as well as help to administer a programme of fellowships and exchange of students and staff.
- ✦ To study, in co-operation with governments and industry, the problems and needs associated with national development and with the transfer and development of technology.
- ✦ To facilitate collaboration in any other ways agreed by member institutions to advance their common educational interests.



# ATUPANEWS CONTENTS

## EDITORIAL

Ladies and gentlemen, we present yet another issue of the ATUPANEWS, a publication of the Office of the Secretary General. This issue is dedicated to the ATUPA 2023 International Conference in Accra, Ghana.

This year's Conference theme is "Mainstreaming TVET for Skills Development, Mobility and Resilient Economies in Africa." In this Conference, expectations are high, as far as paper presentations and keynotes are concerned, as exemplified by the interactions with a section of the ATUPA Executive Board. The Local Organising Committee, under the stewardship of Professor Ben Q. Honyenuga, has done a sterling job in the planning, and is now assuring the attendees that it is all systems go, and that you are most welcome to enjoy the proceedings of the Conference.

This issue also highlights some of the interventions by ATUPA and its partners and stakeholders in the TVET sector, even in the midst of global challenges, as the Chairperson of the Executive Board, Professor Laila Abubakar, explains. Furthermore, the Secretary General, Mrs. Jahou Samba Faal (Dr. Hc), adds impetus to this all-important discourse, by challenging attendees to focus their energies on skills development for the benefit of the young populations in need of technical education across the continent.

Speaking of skills development, ATUPA is pleased to announce the supplementary agreement signed with the China Education Association for International Exchange (CEIAE) in Nairobi, Kenya. This agreement is scheduled to directly benefit TVET trainers and learners through numerous academic and professional exchange programmes.

This edition also gives a recapitulation of this year's ATUPA West Africa Regional TVET Conference that was held in Saly, Senegal. The findings and recommendations are published here.

Otherwise, the ATUPANEWS team welcomes you to the beautiful City of Accra, and wishes you an successful and exciting Conference, even as you sample the best of Ghanaian attractions and culture!

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*An aerial view of Accra (Source: Amanor Kwaku on Wikipedia, as licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International license. This image has not been altered.)*

# About Accra

Accra is the capital and largest city in the Republic of Ghana. It borders the Atlantic Ocean. The City sits partially on a cliff approximately 10 metres high, and spreads over Accra Plains.

The name “Accra” is derived from the word “*nkran*” in the local dialect, which means “black ants,” owing to the fact that black ants are predominantly resident there.

The indigenous Ga tribe previously settled in Accra, before the Europeans arrived and constructed fortresses. Consequently, ethnic clashes pushed the native population towards the Atlantic coastline, from which they discovered trading opportunities with the Europeans. Like many other African cities, it is this brisk

trade with the Europeans that propelled Accra to spring up into the present-day City.

The Portuguese were amongst the first settlers in Ghana in late fifteenth century, with the British, Danish and Dutch explorers joining the fray later. In fact, Accra was born from three main villages — Osu, James Town and Dutch Accra, which were occupied by the British, the Danish and the Dutch.

Accra is the administrative and economic capital of Ghana, and most of its architecture — ancient and present — is inspired by religious, educational and political activities. These pieces of architecture house museums, institutions of research in the arts and sciences, medical schools, and cathedrals. The gateway to

Ghana, the Independence Arch, is a ceremonial monument replete with a square for parades. Accra City and the nation of Ghana in general, are famed for rich African cultural practices such as fashion, sports and indigenous culinary finesse.

Among other important institutions, the City of Accra hosts the mausoleum of Kwame Nkrumah, the founding father of the Republic of Ghana. Accra’s transportation infrastructure is robust, with good roads and rail services connecting the capital to other important cities such as Kumasi and the Port of Tema.

Additional sources:

Wikipedia — The Free Encyclopedia (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Accra>)

Britannica (<https://www.britannica.com/place/Accra>)



# It is All Systems Go in Accra

*Welcome Note for the 2023 ATUPA Conference*



*Prof. Ben O. Honyenuga  
Vice-Chancellor,  
Ho Technical University & LOC  
Chairman*

It is my pleasure to welcome all participants to the 2023 conference of Technical Universities and Polytechnics in Africa. I welcome the Keynote Speaker, all eminent speakers and guests from different walks of life, who have travelled from far and near to share knowledge and vast experience with peers across the continent. Again, to our sponsors, stakeholders and the media, we appreciate your role in making this event a success.

This year's Conference is all set for an exciting and engaging intellectual discourse geared towards the socioeconomic development and growth in Africa. All the ten technical universities from across Ghana

are fully prepared for all the segments of the conference as they host this year's conference. The exhibition of creativity and innovations expected from the Technical Universities in Ghana and other countries are indicative of the preparedness of academia in bridging the academia-industry gap; and presenting to industry, problem-solving products ready to impact their immediate society and beyond.

All the technical universities in Ghana are holding themselves in readiness for the benchmark tours and visits across the country. For convenience and distance, however, selected technical universities —Accra, Cape-Coast, Koforidua and Ho — have been earmarked for campus visits. These selected technical universities will subsequently facilitate the tour in their respective home-regions.

The theme for this year's conference, **Mainstreaming TVET for Skill Development, Mobility and Resilient Economies in Africa** could not be more relevant especially as the continent strives to recover from the economic backlash brought by global and

continental misfortunes. It is crucial that technical universities and polytechnics across Africa exercise their mandate with extra vigour and imbibe in the mindset of the youth and young people, the urgent need to develop Africa through TVET. Indeed, the dispensation in which we find ourselves, calls for a more aggressive attitude towards continental building, and this can only be achieved when TVET in higher education is handled with utmost pride and priority.

I must say, TVET, especially in higher education, is a special vein in the heart of the Minister for Education, in Ghana, Dr. Yaw Adu Twum. To demonstrate his appreciation and zeal towards the development and enhancement of technical universities and TVET in general, he has agreed to speak at the Conference, and he will no doubt engage with us for invaluable exchange of ideas that will aid in shaping policies for TVET in Africa.

Once again, you are all warmly welcome. Enjoy your time in Ghana and experience our beautiful and peaceful Country.

Thank you.

# Highlights of the ATUPA West Africa Regional TVET Conference

The Association of Technical Universities and Polytechnics in Africa (ATUPA) held its West Africa Regional TVET Conference in Saly, Senegal, from 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023, themed “Contribution of Research and Technical Vocational Training to the Development of Agro-industry.”

The three-day event brought together paper presenters from member-countries in West Africa, to deliberate on emerging issues and prospects in the agricultural sector. In the interest of knowledge exchange and benchmarking, also attending the Conference were delegates from other countries in the Eastern and Southern region.

The Conference observed the attitudinal aspect was missing from the skills transfer in academic programmes in the agricultural sector. This was, in part, thanks to the fact that young learners and graduates have for long underestimated the potential and contribution of agricultural and allied education to economic growth and general well being of the community. To this end, it was noted, the Higher Institutes of Professional Education (ISEP) in Senegal is the epitome of efficiency and efficacy in entrepreneurial initiatives and job creation.

Among other recommendations, the Conference observed that industry players should strive to achieve food self-sufficiency by producing what we consume and limiting imports through the development of the agro-industrial sector. Furthermore, limiting the

export of agricultural raw materials would enhance the much-needed stability in the supply chain of raw materials for the food products and boost the processing sector.

The congregation challenged member-institutions and policy makers to lay more emphasis in entrepreneurship skills development, and limit obstacles by making financing available for young entrepreneurs to thrive. The

agro-industrial tools would become a reality. Also, as a matter of priority, the innovators of these groundbreaking projects were urged to move with speed to protect this intellectual property.

## The Way Forward

As the Conference concluded, it was noted that the paper presenters brought forth good quality work, as exemplified by the comprehensiveness of the results presented. As a result, ATUPA intimated its interest in people living with disabilities in technical and vocational education and training. It recommends their inclusion in the training policies.

Going forward, it was discussed and agreed that stakeholders and policy makers should:

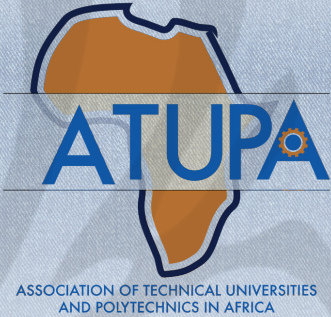
- Promote new knowledge about agriculture in general and agro-industry in particular.
- Orient students to trainings and jobs related to agri-business.
- Raise awareness among women and girls on the importance of farming
- Get rid of stereotypes and taboos existent in our societies about farming.
- Encourage research on agro-industry as well as technoeconomics to optimize the strategic choices of companies, governments or organizations, by identifying the best solutions that meet technical and budgetary constraints.
- Explore the fields of green energies such as biomass in relation to agro-industrial development



young learners and graduates were also challenged to put their classroom ideas into practice through incubation.

The convener, the Association of Technical Universities and Polytechnics in Africa, just like governments, was urged to support the large-scale manufacture, installation and commissioning of the homegrown machinery and tools for the harvesting of cassava and potato farm produce. With the support of the private sector, the production and marketing of these

**The Higher Institutes of Professional Education (ISEP) in Senegal is the epitome of efficiency and efficacy in entrepreneurial initiatives and job creation.**



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## THE ATUPA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

on

*Mainstreaming TVET for Skills Development,  
Mobility and Resilient Economies in Africa*

Accra, Ghana • 27th August — 2nd September 2023

**WELCOME**

# ATUPA's Interventions in TVET Come Alive in Accra

*(Message from the ATUPA Board Chairperson)*



Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is yet another time to hold the annual ATUPA International Conference, hosted by the City of Accra, Ghana. The ATUPA Executive Board, the Accra Local Organising Committee and the ATUPA Secretariat have worked tirelessly — jointly and individually — to build up momentum and mobilise support towards the successful holding of the Accra 2023 Conference, and it is my sincere hope that the deliberations will meet the expectations of everyone.

As ATUPA, our core business is TVET advocacy, a process that brings together managers and trainers in

technical universities and polytechnics across the continent to foster skills development and knowledge exchange, mobilise resources and develop curricula with the help of partners and stakeholders. However, the journey to this goal is never easy, especially now that we are reeling from the aftermath of the Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19). Various hurdles have come in our way — some of which we have had to live with.

Even in the midst of adversity, ATUPA strives to provide the much-needed leadership in the provision of technical education. This can be exemplified by the recent signing of the supplementary agreement with the China Education Association for International Exchange (see separate story). In this agreement, ATUPA and CEAIE intend to provide exciting academic and professional exchange opportunities to learners and their trainers across member-countries and in China.

In an effort to support economic growth through TVET, and thanks to the ATUPA-CEAIE partnership, there exists the Future of Africa —

China-Africa TVET Cooperation Programme, which gave rise to the establishment of the China-Africa TVET Cooperation Consortium (CATCC). At CATCC, ATUPA plays the Secretariat role for the African continent. CATCC shall be holding the Second China-Africa TVET Cooperation Conference alongside the ATUPA International Conference, and shall be highlighting the achievements in the past year, while inviting the participation of ATUPA in the panel discussions.

Furthermore, ATUPA continues to forge new partnerships with various stakeholders, for the ultimate benefit of our institutions of TVET education.

As the ATUPA Executive Board, we assure all delegates and stakeholders present of our continued support and cooperation, not only during the Conference, but also in the journey towards TVET transformation.

As I acknowledge and appreciate the concerted efforts of all stakeholders who participated in the successful planning of the Accra Conference, I wish delegates all the best. Welcome all!



# Mainstreaming TVET for Skills Development, Mobility and Resilient Economies in Africa

*(A Welcome Note from the Secretary General)*



Dear esteemed guests, delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Executive Board and the Secretariat, I take pride and pleasure to welcome you to the annual ATUPA International Conference on “Mainstreaming TVET for Skills

Development, Mobility and Resilient Economies in Africa,” in this beautiful City of Accra, Ghana.

This Conference comes after yet another successful conference, the ATUPA West Africa Regional TVET Conference held in Saly, Senegal.

There is no denying that Technical and Vocational Education and Training and the Agro-industry are two pillars of paramount importance to the development of our continent, given the potential we have. This is not to say there are no challenges and hurdles ahead, but the two conferences in the year 2023 have been meticulously planned and executed to aid skills development and knowledge exchange amongst the ATUPA member-institutions, identify the gaps and find working solutions.

In the current TVET dispensation, member-institutions have had to

deal with issues surrounding learners and trainers living with disability, gender inequality and general post-qualification labour constraints affecting graduates.

The Accra 2023 Conference has developed numerous action points and discussions to address some of these challenges. These ingenious sub-themes have attracted paper presentations that shall share experiences and case studies on one hand, and interventions on the other.

In the world of work, methods and processes are changing rapidly, so are tools and technologies. ATUPA is taking a leading role in mobilising curriculum development and reviews to meet these needs, and encouraging employers and general industry to participate in these reviews. For this reason, paper presentations shall delve into new ways and interventions of



meeting industry needs and sustaining the momentum.

Time and time again, we have witnessed crises — global, regional and local — that not only cause devastation, but also tilt the scales in a particular direction. Economic recessions and pandemics are some of the crises. The aftermath of the crises is felt in the education and labour sectors. Sadly, under the circumstances, the most disadvantaged are women and people living with disability. ATUPA appreciates this grim reality, and has, therefore, scaled up conversations in the mitigation measures that shall ensure the disadvantaged do not significantly fall behind. This is why Accra 2023 shall be harnessing the scaling potentials of gender equality in building integrative TVET concepts. Furthermore, as a teaser, we expect lively interactions by various chapters of the Women in Technical Education and Development (WITED) in Africa, as they articulate emerging issues affecting women in TVET.

Meanwhile, the Accra Conference also aims to provide a platform for discussion on assistive technologies essential for the design, development and delivery of TVET curricula, particularly to those living with

disability, both on campus and at the workplace. This shall go a long way in enhancing social inclusion.

For a long time, Africa is emerging as home to the world's youngest population, with approximately three-quarters aged thirty-five and below. With these demographic statistics, the odds, as far as industrialisation and economic growth, are in our favour. ATUPA strives to take the TVET advocacy gospel to the right places: institutions of learning. This is the reason ATUPA, in collaboration with our partners and stakeholders, is holding the Fifth Pan-African Youth Forum, alongside the main Conference. The Youth Forum is expected to be even more exciting, having realised positive outcomes from the Fourth Pan-African Youth Forum in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, in August 2022. The Youth Forum provides young learners and graduates a rare opportunity to showcase their skills, creativity and innovation, in such a manner that aids knowledge exchange and prospects for employment and private consultancy.

As we converge in Accra to share experiences and case studies, it is my hope that the keynotes, and more importantly, the papers that shall be presented, shall provide the

much-needed insights to surmount the challenges in the delivery of technical education in institutions of learning across Africa. Furthermore, I sincerely believe that at the end of the Conference, the delegates shall have networked and interacted well enough to take important lessons back to their respective institutions, for the betterment of the delivery of TVET curricula.

May I give special gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Ghana, through the Ministry of Education, for opening its doors to us and hosting the Conference. Likewise, we most sincerely thank the Local Organising Committee in Accra, headed by Professor Ben Q. Honyenuga, for burning the midnight oil to ensure that the Conference comes to fruition. Special thanks also go to the ATUPA Executive Board, headed by Professor Laila Abubakar for the impressive stewardship of the Association's activities. It is also noteworthy that our stakeholders and partners have stood by us to ensure that our mandate is properly executed.

Otherwise, this is to wish you all a successful Conference and a memorable stay in Accra.



*The ATUPA Executive Board Chairperson Professor Laila Abubakar and CEAIE President Dr. Limin Liu sign the Supplementary Memorandum of Understanding at The Technical University of Kenya, Nairobi*

# ATUPA Sustains TVET Advocacy with CEAIE in New Memorandum of Understanding

The Association of Technical Universities and Polytechnics in Africa (ATUPA) has entered into a supplementary agreement with the China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE). The supplementary agreement was signed by Dr. Limin Liu, the President of CEAIE and Professor Laila Abubakar, the ATUPA Executive Board Chairperson and Vice Chancellor of the Technical University of Mombasa.

The signing ceremony, which was at the time hosted by The Technical University of Kenya Vice-Chancellor, Professor Francis W. O. Aduol, was graced by a host of Chinese education officials and representatives of Chinese enterprises in Africa.

The cooperation agreement enumerates three key pillars of interest to the furtherance of TVET education, namely: Applied Talents Joint Teaching Programme; Capacity Building Programme for

Administrators and Teachers; and Skills Training and Certification, in which both parties have obligations.

The agreement is supplementary to an earlier Memorandum of Understanding for China — Africa TVET Cooperation Programme that took effect on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

The ATUPA-CEAIE agreement seeks to foster international partnerships that will bring onboard African universities and technical colleges, for the direct benefit of their



*Professor Laila Abubakar, Professor Francis W. O. Aduol and CEAIE President Dr. Limin Liu, flanked by members of the ATUPA Secretariat, Technical University of Kenya Management and the China delegation at the discussions preceding the MoU signing ceremony*

respective faculties and students. To this end, young African students shall get exciting opportunities to not only study at diploma and undergraduate levels both in their home countries and in China, but also get employment in various Chinese enterprises operating across Africa. Furthermore, the agreement promises postgraduate study opportunities to African students with proven academic and professional track record.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, the President of CEAIE, Dr. Limin Liu acknowledged the tremendous contributions that CEAIE had made in bridging the gap between Chinese institutions and the world in its forty-year history. Furthermore, China has top-notch cooperations, in which Africa is at the heart. While urging Africa to take full advantage of the existing TVET education opportunities, Dr. Liu acknowledged ATUPA as their most vital partner. He also paid homage to the Confucius institutes in Africa, terming them as paramount in the promotion of TVET initiatives.

Dr. Liu's sentiments were echoed by Prof. Aduol, who emphasised

## **The agreement seeks to foster international partnerships to bring onboard African universities and technical colleges, for the direct benefit of their respective faculties and students.**

— Dr. Liu

the friendship between the People's Republic of China and The Technical University of Kenya, since the establishment of The Kenya Polytechnic University College in 2007.

The Technical University of Kenya and the Technical University of Mombasa have a long history of good repute in the provision of technical education, and both play an active role as members of ATUPA, and support and compliment each other in the discharge of their mandates.

Prof. Laila Abubakar, flanked by ATUPA Board members Madam Glory Mutungi and Mr. C T Akumu Owuor, reiterated the mandate and mission of ATUPA. She added that ATUPA's membership of more than 200 institutions was a solid foundation for collaborations both internally and externally through joint TVET initiatives with stakeholders.



Well-trained and capable youth will be able to meet the countless challenges that await our countries. | Picture courtesy: ISEP Senegal

# We Must Walk Our Young People into a Promising TVET Future



**A**TUPANEWS had a Question-and-Answer session with Professor Fadel Niang on his recent role in the organisation and hosting of the ATUPA West Africa Regional TVET Conference in Saly, Senegal, and his prospects in the run-up to the 2023 ATUPA International Conference in Accra, Ghana. Here is a verbatim report on his insights; in both English and French:

**Q.** For the benefit of our audience, please introduce yourself (name, institution/affiliation and role in ATUPA):

*My name is Mouhamed Fadel NIANG. I am Senegalese, Professor of Universities in the field of*

*mechanical and building engineering. I have been running the Higher Institute of Vocational Training of Thiès in Senegal since 2012. I joined the ATUPA Board of Directors in 2021 and I am the Vice-chair for the West African region.*

*Je me nomme Mouhamed Fadel NIANG. Je suis Sénégalais, Professeur d'Universités Africaines dans le domaine de l'ingénierie de la mécanique et de la construction. Je*

**TVET is now considered in the majority of sub-Saharan African countries as the main pillar of development to achieve emergence.**

*dirige depuis 2012 l'Institut supérieur d'Enseignement professionnel de Thiès au Sénégal. J'ai intégré le conseil d'administration de ATUPA en 2021 et j'y occupe le poste de vice-président chargé de la région Ouest africaine.*

**Q.** You represent the newest member-country into the ATUPA family. Please describe your experiences, both as a member-country and as a member of the Executive Board thus far:

*It is true that Senegal is a brand new member of the ATUPA family. As such, I congratulate ATUPA for having agreed to extend the family to a French-speaking country for the first time. This opening allows other Francophone countries in Africa to take an interest in ATUPA and plan their membership in the Association. Based on this experience and my presence on the boards of ATUPA and AUF (Agence universitaire de la Francophonie), the latter has decided to collaborate with ATUPA for the coming years. With this dynamic, beyond the French-speaking countries, all other non-English-speaking*



countries in Africa will join ATUPA. C'est vrai que le Sénégal est un tout nouveau membre dans la famille ATUPA. A ce titre je félicite ATUPA d'avoir accepté d'élargir la famille à un pays francophone, pour la première fois. Cette ouverture permet à d'autres pays francophones d'Afrique de s'intéresser à ATUPA et de planifier leur adhésion à l'Association. Sur la base de cette expérience et de ma présence dans le conseil d'administration de ATUPA et de l'Agence universitaire de la Francophonie — AUF, cette dernière a décidé de collaborer avec ATUPA pour les années à venir. Avec cette dynamique, au-delà des pays francophones, ce sont tous les autres pays non anglophones d'Afrique qui viendront adhérer à ATUPA.

**Q.** What are your expectations at the end of the Conference, as far as the Conference theme and subthemes are concerned?

The Accra Conference in Ghana is an excellent opportunity to bring together the ATUPA family around a very topical theme in our countries, namely "Mainstreaming TVET for Skills Development, Mobility and Resilient Economies in Africa". TVET is now considered in the majority of sub-Saharan African countries as the main pillar of development to achieve emergence. The well-trained and capable youth will be able to meet the countless challenges that await our countries. African countries were able to withstand the two years of the Covid-19 pandemic, we must continue to be resilient and to be prepared for the other major crises that are sure to occur in the coming years.

La Conférence de Accra au Ghana est une excellente occasion de rassembler la grande famille de ATUPA autour d'une thématique très actuelle dans nos pays, à savoir "Mainstreaming TVET for Skills Development, Mobility and Resilient Economies in Africa". La formation professionnelle TVET est considérée maintenant dans la majorité des pays d'Afrique subsaharienne comme le principal pilier du développement et de la volonté d'atteinte de l'émergence. La jeunesse bien formée et bien

capacité sera à même de relever les innombrables défis qui attendent nos pays. Les pays africains ont pu résister aux deux années de pandémie Covid-19, nous devons continuer à être résilients et à nous préparer aux autres grandes crises qui ne manqueront pas de survenir dans les prochaines années.

**Q.** Looking back, you hosted the ATUPA West Africa Regional TVET Conference in Saly, Senegal back in April this year. Please describe the success rate of the Conference, and how its recommendations will impact TVET institutions and industry in Africa.

The Saly-Senegal conference was a huge success in terms of organization and participation of ATUPA members from the West African region. The scientific part was very well completed by a cultural part of discovery of Senegal that many participants did not know. The six recommendations below that emerged from the conference, if well implemented, will allow our countries to make giant strides in the field of agricultural industrialization.

- Promote and vulgarize new knowledge about agriculture in general and agro-industry in particular.
- Orient students to trainings and jobs related to agro-business.
- Raise awareness among women and girls on the importance of farming
- Get rid of stereotypes and taboos that still exist in our societies about farming.
- Encourage research on agro-industry as well as techno-economics to optimize the strategic choices of companies, governments or organizations, by identifying the best solutions that meet technical and budgetary constraints.
- Explore the fields of green energies such as biomass in relation to agro-industrial development

La conférence de Saly-Sénégal a été un énorme succès en terme d'organisation et de participation des membres de ATUPA de la région Ouest africaine. La partie scientifique a été très bien complétée par une partie culturelle de découverte du Sénégal que beaucoup de participants ne connaissaient pas. Les six recommandations ci-dessous issues de la conférence, si elles sont bien appliquées, permettront à nos pays de faire des pas de géant dans le domaine de l'industrialisation agricole.

**Q.** Participants at the Fifth Pan-African Youth Conference shall be reading this. What is your message to them, especially the young learners and graduates?

Young people under the age of 35 represent about 70% of the population in West Africa. All the hope of our countries rests on their shoulders. We must therefore do everything possible to offer them the best possible training, preferably in the technical and vocational fields, oriented in the economic and industrial sectors that will bring our countries to the summit of emergence. We therefore ask young people to be persevering and to believe in the future of their native countries while opening up to their African and international comrades through meetings like that of Accra

Les jeunes de moins de 35 ans représentent environ 70% de la population en Afrique de l'Ouest. Tout l'espoir de nos pays repose sur leurs épaules. Nous devons donc tout faire pour leur offrir les meilleures formations possibles, de préférence dans les domaines professionnelles et techniques, orientés dans les secteurs économiques et industriels qui amèneront nos pays au sommet de l'émergence. Nous demandons donc aux jeunes d'être persévérants et de croire en l'avenir de leurs pays d'origine tout en s'ouvrant à leurs camarades Africains et internationaux à travers les rencontres comme celle de Accra-Ghana

END



Women and girls need empowerment in technical education in order to match up and not be left behind

# Empowerment as the Key to Unlock Opportunities for Women and Girls

The ATUPANEWS team had the privilege to hear the insights, thoughts and opinion of Madam Glory Mutungi on the current affairs in the TVET sector. Here is what she had to say:

**Q.** For the benefit of our audience, please introduce yourself:

*I am Glory K. Mutungi, the Chief Principal of Nairobi Technical Training Institute. I am also a Trustee at the Kenya Association of Technical Training Institutions, and immediate former Chairperson of KATTI, a position I have held for five years. I have also previously served KATTI as Vice Chairperson for two terms. I am currently the Chairperson, Projects Committee in the ATUPA Executive Board.*

**Q.** You are a key pillar and notable figure at the Kenya Association of Technical Training Institutions. Please describe your affiliation (as KATTI) with ATUPA in the provision of TVET programmes:

*Being a long-serving leader in KATTI, I can intimate that we are*

*an affiliate member of ATUPA as an Association that brings together all TVET Institution in Kenya. Just like ATUPA, our Mission is to provide a platform that champions globally competitive, inclusive, responsive and high-quality TVET skills development through networking, policy advocacy and research in Kenya. Hence ATUPA provides the same platform form for Africa and the world at large.*

**Q.** What are your expectations at the end of the Conference, as far as the Conference theme and sub-themes are concerned?

*I anticipate highly interactive sharing of experiences of member-institutions on the Conference theme “Mainstreaming TVET for Skills Development, Mobility and Resilient Economies in Africa.”*

**Q.** As a woman and head of a TVET institution, you are automatically a WITED champion. What milestones can you attribute to the women’s caucus?

*Sure, I am a WITED champion, and having been the Chairperson*

*of KATTI and currently serving as Chief Principal of a TVET institution in Kenya, I act as a role Model to young upcoming women leaders. WITED has championed the involvement of the girl-child in enrolling in TVET institutions to acquire the competencies and skills that empowered them to get gainful employment or be self-employed. Through sensitisation, many girls have joined SET programmes and overcome cultural barriers.*

**Q.** What is your message to women in technical education across Africa, especially those participating in the ATUPA International Conference in Accra?

*My message to the women is that, what a man can do, a woman can do even better. Let us encourage our young girls to be innovators and problem solvers in their society. Let us have a TVET of inclusivity, leaving no one behind.*

END.

# Mission to Meet TVET Demands by Industry in Malawi

**M**r. Suzgika Mvalo recently spoke to ATUPANEWS on the state of affairs as far as TVET in the Republic of Malawi is concerned. He also expressed his opinion and expected outcomes of the 2023 ATUPA International Conference in Accra, Ghana.

Here is his story:

**Q.** For the benefit of our audience, please introduce yourself (name, institution/affiliation and role in ATUPA):

*My name is Suzgika Mvalo, Principal for Lilongwe Technical College in Malawi. I am a member of the ATUPA Executive Board representing the Republic of Malawi*

**Q.** In Malawi, “Entrepreneurship” is incorporated into TVET. Please explain how the entrepreneurial aspect of the TVET curricula is changing lives among your graduates:

*Incorporating Entrepreneurship into the TVET curricula in Malawi has changed lives of TVET Graduates by developing traits in them of leadership, vision, discipline, curiosity, creativity, adaptability and the ability to take measured risks. In a way this is helping them become successful when launching their businesses.*

*Entrepreneurship promotes Innovation, research and industrial*

*development, which is key for accelerating economic growth.*

**Q.** What are your expectations at the end of the Accra Conference, as far as the Conference theme and sub-themes are concerned?

*The outcomes of the Ghana Conference shall enhance TVET stakeholders’ sensitivity to the*



Mr. Suzgika Mvalo

*prevailing TVET and economic trends as well as Africa-specific instruments that can be harnessed for the renewal and consolidation of TVET programming in Africa.*

**Q.** According to the Ministry of Labour in the Republic of Malawi, there are seven national technical colleges that oversee the delivery of TEVET programmes. The

other levels of training institutions notwithstanding, do you think the seven NTCs are meeting the national demand for technical education? Please elaborate.

*The seven national technical colleges are not sufficient to meet the national demand for Technical and Vocational Education in Malawi. To meet the demand, the Government has established community technical colleges in all the 29 districts in Malawi. The approach is helping absorb the many school leavers countrywide who seek careers in TVET.*

**Q.** Are there any plans to incorporate more community colleges in Malawi into the ATUPA family?

*Plans are underway to incorporate more community colleges in Malawi into the ATUPA family. An awareness drive on ATUPA to many Colleges is already happening through sharing of the ATUPA newsletter and other literature outlining ATUPA activities in Africa.*

End

**ATUPA Member-countries:**

**Western Region:** The Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra-Leone

**Eastern Region:** Kenya, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Tanzania and Uganda

**Southern Region:** Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Republic of South Africa



**ASSOCIATION OF TECHNICAL UNIVERSITIES  
AND POLYTECHNICS IN AFRICA**

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