

ATUPA NEWS

A Magazine from the Office of the Secretary General • October-December 2022

POST-CONFERENCE EDITION



Meet Dr. (Mrs.) Jahou Samba Faal, Hc

Wednesday, 21st December 2022 was a historic day for the Association of Technical Universities and Polytechnics in Africa (ATUPA), and the TVET fraternity in Africa in general. On the occasion of the eleventh Graduation ceremony of the Technical University of Kenya, the ATUPA Secretary General, Madam Jahou Samba Faal was conferred upon the degree of Doctor of Technology (*Honoris causa*).

Pages 6 and 7

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

Welcome to this exciting edition of the *ATUPANEWS*, a publication of the Office of the Secretary General. In this issue, we highlight some of the most notable proceedings of the ATUPA 2022 Conference that took place in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. The keynotes and presentations are indeed testament that the Conference lived up to its theme.

The keynote by the Zimbabwe Minister for Higher & Tertiary Education, Hon. Prof. Dr. Amon Murwira, outlines the eye-opening steps on how the TVET stakeholders in Africa should design the technical education curricula. He further gives case studies on the successes of the concerted efforts by the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe, in conjunction with TVET learners and instructors to mitigate and rise from the aftermath of the global pandemic. Other Government officials from member countries present echo Professor Murwira's sentiments.

The Conference also had the Fourth Pan-African Youth Forum running parallel, thanks to the initiatives and efforts by ATUPA, in conjunction with StartUpAfrica and the Zimbabwe Local Organising Committee, in which the young students got an opportunity to showcase their talent and innovations.

Also marking the milestones of the Conference were discussions and case studies on social inclusion, particularly on interventions to augment teaching and learning amongst people with special needs, and women participation in technical education and development, as expounded by Dr. Margaret Mwakima, the Kenya Principal Secretary in the State Department of Technical Education.

Aside from the Conference, ATUPA has participated in other missions towards the close of the year 2022. The Chairperson of the ATUPA Executive Board, Professor Laila Abubakar, led a delegation of the Secretary General, Madam Jahou Samba Faal and Board member Mr. Suzgika Mvalo to Senegal, to hold meetings with Government officials and TVET stakeholders, in a bid to move TVET agenda. Hot on the heels of the Senegal visit, Mrs. Faal was honoured at the Eighth International Conference and National Award ceremony of the Women in Technical Education and Development (WITED) in Lagos, Nigeria in which she unveiled the WITED magazine.

In this issue, we are also pleased to announce the ATUPA International Conference, to be held in Ghana in August 2023. The details shall be given in our successive editions and on our website, www.atupa-sec.org.

11. Powerful Keynote speeches highlights the 2022 ATUPA International Conference

The August 2022 ATUPA International conference, held in Victoria Falls Zimbabwe, witnessed insightful keynote speeches by key TVET dignitaries, experts and stakeholders around Africa and beyond.

13. ATUPA holds Session on Ending Marginalization of Persons with Disabilities

In line with this year's ATUPA International conference theme of "Repositioning TVET Education Ecosystem in Light of COVID19 through Heritage Based Education," ATUPA held a special session on Ending Marginalization of Persons with Disabilities in Africa's TVET Ecosystem.

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Time to Make TVET Curricula Work for Africa, Minister Urges

Professor Amon Murwira, Minister for Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development, Republic of Zimbabwe, delivering his keynote at the ATUPA International Conference in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe



“Stop making education a ritual, and start making the best out of it...” This was the message from Professor Amon Murwira, the Minister for Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development, Republic of Zimbabwe.

While officially opening the ATUPA International Conference on “*Repositioning TVET Education Ecosystem in Light of COVID 19 through Heritage Based Education*,” the Minister challenged the participants to stop making knowledge exchange merely superficial, but instead use education to facilitate dignified life across humanity. “Dignified life is where people are useful to themselves, grow food, have functional health systems, provide decent shelter and innovate,” he said. In his keynote, Professor Murwira sought to understand why a society would boast highly-educated physicians and

engineers, while the community was unhealthy, and there were no signs of roads anywhere.

He called on Africa to reflect on its approach to education, and particularly in the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). Challenging TVET practitioners to make things move and provide solutions, he urged them to first believe in themselves and what they were teaching, before they could impart the same to their students.

Borrowed Topics

Professor Murwira further cautioned Africa against living on borrowed topics. To do this, he urged TVET trainers to first identify Africa’s homegrown needs, and then use education to create solutions to these needs. He observed that it was paradoxical to lament youth unemployment, yet too many jobs were

out there; waiting to be done. “You do not need to work or offer yourself to be exploited by an employer. Rather, you need to work for yourself,” he added.

The most straightforward illustration of Professor Murwira’s call was on food production, which has for a long time been an untapped potential in Africa. “Make your own cars... And if you are hungry, grow your own food... After all, education is not about knowing where to buy food. You cannot complain about a shortage of cars, when you can make one...” he posed. The Minister opined that with a sound tertiary education curriculum, no nation would blame lack of food on countries at war, adding that the Government was always on hand to provide a conducive environment.

TVET and Industry

Speaking at a time the Fourth Pan-African Youth Forum had just



concluded its finals, Professor Murwira spoke passionately about industry, and what TVET institutions had to do. He described industry as the mass production of goods and services to fulfill human needs, which makes human needs the basis of industry. The Minister urged the participants, particularly the contestants who showcased their projects and innovations at the Skills Show of the Youth Forum, to learn to produce consumer goods and not import and sell container-loads of goods made by some other persons in some other foreign country.

Quoting Mwalimu Julius K. Nyerere, he said, “You cannot develop people; you can only allow them to develop,” emphasising that education must be made to do exactly that. The Minister acknowledged that 97% of Zimbabwe is literate, and added that it was time to move to the next level, which is “to TVETise the education.” He used Timbuktu and Cairo as epitomes of important African civilisations brought down by colonial mindsets, and urged TVET practitioners to use case studies available locally, while amalgamating existing theories and laws of science with local resources to realise new potential.

The 2030 Blueprint

Similar to the Kenya Vision 2030 blueprint, Professor Murwira revealed the Government of Zimbabwe’s resolve to achieve the upper middle-income economy status by the year 2030. Explaining how TVET would be involved, he proudly narrated Harare’s reemergence from the aftermath of COVID-19 with their own heritage-based mitigation systems, which included locally-developed online teaching and learning tools, resulting in timely reopening of institutions of learning. Better yet, his presentation dwelt on the Zimbabwe Innovation Hub, which brings together faculty research teams, industry and the general public to do prototypes and obtain patents and licenses to aid industrialisation. Furthermore, he showcased Zimbabwe’s fully-functional oxygen plant that was already producing oxygen to full capacity, being one of the post-COVID-19 flagship projects where TVET students were actively involved.

The ATUPA Conference Highlights

The ATUPA Secretary General, Mrs. Jahou S. Faal, while welcoming delegates to the Conference, noted that it was delightful and refreshing to meet and interact physically after a three-year Conference hiatus, having surmounted the treacherous COVID-19 pandemic. Mrs. Faal enthusiastically appreciated the full logistical support extended by the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe. She also thanked the Local Organising Committee for working tirelessly, through the support of the Honourable Minister.

The Secretary General also appreciated the presence and participation of Mr. Madi Ousman Jatta, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Administration and Finance at the Ministry of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology, The Gambia, for gracing the occasion of the Pan-African Youth Forum. Mrs. Faal exuded confidence of ATUPA growing to a fully-continental TVET Association in the years to come. She finally challenged the participants to take important notes and take home the serious lessons learnt from the plenary and parallel sessions to strengthen TVET programmes back in their home countries.

The ATUPA Executive Board Chairperson, Professor Laila Abubakar, explained that the ATUPA Conference was an opportunity to showcase the strides we had made to strengthen TVET in Africa. She noted that the Conference theme was quite significant, and echoed our need to critically examine the multiple challenges TVET is facing in the wake of COVID-19, and the desire to promote decent work through skills acquisition, job creation and social dialogue. Professor Abubakar found a perfect example to illustrate the small yet significant ways in which Africa was making progress on heritage-based innovation as espoused in the Conference theme: The “*Sumbani*” herbal tea cocktail served at the Conference, which had been initially prepared as a remedy to reduce the effects of COVID-19.

In conclusion, Professor Abubakar echoed Professor Murwira’s

sentiments that, indeed, the situation now calls for flexibility and progressive change in our curricula. She said duty called on the supervisor to ensure that every thesis authored by a student to end up in a startup of some sort.

Women Participation in TVET

The momentous occasion of the ATUPA International Conference was also graced by Dr. Margaret W. Mwakima, the Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Republic of Kenya, a staunch advocate of women participation in technical education. Dr. Mwakima intimated that it was quite encouraging to see women in STEM present and active in the Conference as keynote speakers, paper presenters and panelists. “Women in Africa must rise to the occasion and take strategic steps to ensure empowerment of women and girls, right from their lowest and most vulnerable situations,” she added. While acknowledging the multiple roles of women at work, at school and at home, Dr. Mwakima added one more important ingredient to the success of women in their journey to academic, professional and career progress: Men. In her rather humorous allegories, the PS cheered up the audience with the story of the importance of involving their men in their career prospects.

“Make your own cars... And if you are hungry, grow your own food... After all, education is not about knowing where to buy food. You cannot complain about a shortage of cars, when you can make one...”

— Professor Murwira



Power to read: Madam Jahou Samba Faal being admitted to the degree of Doctor of Technology, by the Pro-Chancellor and Acting Chancellor, Dr. Idle O. Farah, at the eleventh congregation of the Technical University of Kenya

Meet Dr. (Mrs.) Jahou Samba Faal, Hc

Wednesday, 21st December 2022 was a historic day for the Association of Technical Universities and Polytechnics in Africa (ATUPA), and the TVET fraternity in Africa in general. On the occasion of the eleventh Graduation ceremony of the Technical University of Kenya, the ATUPA Secretary General, Madam Jahou Samba Faal was conferred upon the degree of Doctor of Technology (*Honoris causa*).

This honour is in recognition of Madam Faal’s incredible and impeccable contributions to the development of TVET in Africa. Apart from her stewardship of the continental

TVET organisation, Madam Faal was acclaimed for her sterling performance and contributions as Director-General of the Gambia Technical Training Institute (GTTI) in her native country,

The Gambia, having risen through the ranks from the position of Lecturer.

At the congregation, Madam Faal was credited with record-breaking achievements as holder of positions few women, if any, had held in The Gambia. It was also noted that she used her vast experience in women leadership to reinvigorate the Women in Technical Education (WITED) programme in Africa, as evidenced by her mentorship of the WITED Kenya Chapter.

The degree of Doctor of Technology (*Honoris causa*) was conferred by the Technical University of Kenya Pro-Chancellor and Acting Chancellor, Dr. Idle O. Farah. On hand to witness this momentous occasion were the Principal Secretary, State Department of TVET at the Ministry of Education; the Technical University of Kenya Council members; Vice-Chancellor Professor



Madam Faal shows off her Honoris causa after the presentation by Dr. Farah



Madam Faal being walked to the dais to receive the degree of Doctor of Technology (*Honoris causa*)

Francis W. O. Aduol; the Vice-Chancellor of the Technical University of Mombasa and Chairperson of the ATUPA Executive Board, Professor Laila Abubakar and Executive Board members Mrs. Glory Mutungi and Mr. C. T. Akumu-Owuor, who is also the Director of TVET at the Technical University of Kenya, among other distinguished guests.

In her acceptance speech, Dr. Faal did not disappoint: She vowed that this award was but the fuel that would power her resolve to champion TVET advocacy in Africa, and that with the support of the Technical University of Kenya, ATUPA and her partners would realise the full potential of TVET in Africa, and its plethora of benefits would trickle down to the

young and growing African population.

In paying tribute to the men and women who are the epitome of TVET excellence in Africa, Dr. Faal evoked an emotional moment for the CAPA/ATUPA stakeholders, when she paid special homage to the immediate former Secretary General, the late Dr. Olubunmi Owoso (may his gentle soul rest in peace), who set the stage for her leadership at ATUPA.

The convocation also saw the conferment of the degree of Doctor of Science (*Honoris causa*) upon Professor Washington Yotto Ochieng, the conferment of various degrees of Doctor of Philosophy, Masters and undergraduate, and the award of various diplomas and certificates of the Technical University of Kenya.



Dr. Faal giving her acceptance speech



Above: Madam Faal and her husband, Hon. Samba Faal after the Graduation ceremony



Left: Dr. Faal poses for a photograph with fellow awardee Professor Washington Yotto Ochieng and members of the University Council and Management Board

ATUPA 2022 International Conference on **“Repositioning TVET Education Ecosystem in Light of COVID 19 through Heritage Based Education”**

August 27th – September 2, 2022



The Association of Technical Universities and Polytechnics in Africa (ATUPA), hitherto known as the Commonwealth Association of Technical Universities and Polytechnics in Africa (CAPA) is a Pan-African organization created out of a decision taken on August 29, 2019 at the CAPA General Assembly of Heads of Member Institutions in Kigali, Rwanda. This decision was ratified by the Ministers of Education from AU member states at the Third Ordinary Session of the Specialized Committee on Education, Science and Technology (STC – EST III) on December 13, 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, which resolved to “TAKE NOTE of the rebranding of the CAPA to the Association of Technical Universities and Polytechnics in Africa (ATUPA), and to encourage Technical Universities and Polytechnics in their countries to join this continental Association”.

The mandate is to support professional and skill development amongst its membership mostly drawn from TVET institutions in Africa. In order to stimulate exchanges of

experience and ideas, the Association regularly organizes and provides forums for discussion of matters of common interests.

After ATUPA being negatively impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic in holding its physical forums in different parts of the continent as was its norm. ATUPA held Its 42nd International Conference virtually on August 30 - 31, 2021. In 2022, Zimbabwe graciously accepted to hold the conference in Harare, Zimbabwe under the theme “Repositioning TVET Education Ecosystem in Light of COVID 19 through Heritage Based Education”

Repositioning TVET Education Ecosystem in Light of COVID 19 through Heritage Based Education

Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) plays an important role in the coping phase, intermediate phase and any post-COVID19 phase. As the TVET curriculum is majorly practical based, it becomes difficult for TVET institutions to cope with such disruptions as visited by the COVID 19 containment

measures. Therefore, there is an urgent need to reposition TVET with new approaches and solutions to the challenges facing the continent, chief of them being the high unemployment amongst the youth. As the rate of technological change accelerate, Africa finds itself at the mercy of technological giants with little or no role to play. Africa has become mere consumers of these technologies. There is need for TVET teaching and learning to go beyond the binary approach. A more complex, inclusive, nuanced view incorporating multiple factors, including epistemology, ontology, and heritage based educational philosophies are required. Furthermore, andragogies, platforms, contexts, practices, research, innovation and industrialisation should be synthesised to reposition Africa TVET ecosystem to address national needs while applying indigenous knowledge systems to local challenges. Africa cannot manage or improve its circumstances if we do not control and measure our outputs. A well-constructed, structured and fully adopted research, innovation and industrialisation barometer and policy

for Africa, would guide the continent to support the right research, technologies and innovation by the right people, in the right places, and for the right reasons. This is why ATUPA saw it fitting for its 2022 annual international conference to have discussions and presentations of researched conference papers on the theme “Repositioning TVET Education Ecosystem in light of COVID 19 through Heritage Based Education”. The impact of technological, demographic and socio-economic disruptions on business models will be felt in transformations to the employment landscape and skills requirements, resulting in substantial challenges for recruiting, training and managing talent.

Participation

The Conference attracted over 400 participants who included

Permanent Secretaries of Education, heads of TVET regulatory bodies and parastatals, ATUPA partners, Chairmen, Council Members and heads of technical universities and polytechnics, senior staff of TVET colleges as well as members of civil society groups. The participants were drawn from Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Malawi, South Africa, Lesotho, The Gambia, China, Ghana, Nigeria, Mozambique and the host country, Zimbabwe. The delegates included youth leaders and student representatives who also took part in the Pan-African Youth Forum, convened jointly by ATUPA and StartUpAfrica.

Organisation / Events

The conference was marked with several events that included:

- i. The main conference featuring plenaries with keynotes, plenaries,

panel discussions and podium sessions on the Conference theme and other cross-cutting issues

- ii. The Fourth Pan-African Youth Forum for TVET Students, hosted in partnership with StarUpAfrica, on the theme: “Work Based Learning (WBL) and the Transition to Decent Work in the New Era of African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)”
- iii. Women in Technical Education and Development (WITED) forum
- iv. Ministerial Forum
- v. The General Assembly of heads of ATUPA member institutions and elections of a new Executive Board



The WITED Forum

Another exciting feature of the ATUPA 2022 International Conference was the WITED Forum. Women Participation in TVET The momentous occasion of the ATUPA International Conference was also graced by Dr. Margaret W. Mwakima, the Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Republic of Kenya, a staunch advocate of women participation in technical education.

Dr. Mwakima intimated that it was quite encouraging to see women in STEM present and active in the Conference as keynote speakers, paper presenters and panelists. “Women in Africa must rise to the occasion and take strategic steps to ensure empowerment of women and girls, right from their lowest and most vulnerable situations,” she added. While acknowledging the multiple roles of women at work, at school and

at home, Dr. Mwakima added one more important ingredient to the success of women in their journey to academic, professional and career progress: Men. In her rather humorous allegories, the PS cheered up the audience with the story of the importance of involving their men in their career prospects.

On the theme of Strengthening Gender Equity in TVET Programs it was agreed that Discrimination against women was still prevalent in most TVET institutions across Africa, therefore, advocacy on existing affirmative policies in preference for gender mainstreaming was critical. Women in TVET were encouraged to be more assertive and claim their deserved space within the TVET ecosystem as opposed to being complacent While gender disparities in most African nations are entrenched and located within patriarchal customs,

norms and values; gender equity and mainstreaming have received traction globally with legislation promulgated to address related disparities;

Participants agreed that there was still need to strive to ensure that women and girls have equal access to TVET programmes while avoiding stigmatising and isolating girls into stereotypical gender- biased programmes such as sewing or hairdressing. Given the unfortunate but complex reality that stereotypes about women’s abilities start early, often undermining the confidence of girls in their mathematical and technical bilities, TVET institutions need to take a stand to empower women and girls. They also encouraged each other to address occupational related issues that discourage female participation in TVET related fields is also important



Participants follow proceedings at the ATUPA International Conference in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe



ATUPA Board Chairperson Professor Laila Abubakar addresses the participants at the Victoria Falls Conference



Some of the mega projects initiated by the Government of Zimbabwe to mitigate climate change, all run by TVET students and graduates



A participant weighing in on a presentation during a discourse on gender mainstreaming



A WITED Kenya Chapter making a presentation



Minister for Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development, Republic of Zimbabwe, Professor Amon Murwira, presenting a dummy cheque of USD 3,000 to DK Technologies, the winners of the StartUpAfrica innovation challenge at the Fourth Pan-Africa Youth Conference in Victoria



ate against the global pandemic: A solar power plant and an oxygen plant,



ATUPA Secretary General Mrs. Jahou S. Faal addressing participants during the opening ceremony of the ATUPA International Conference



A delegate participating in the conversations on technical education and skills transfer

Powerful Keynote speeches highlights the 2022 ATUPA International Conference

The August 2022 ATUPA International conference, held in Victoria Falls Zimbabwe, witnessed insightful keynote speeches by key TVET dignitaries, experts and stakeholders around Africa and beyond.

Led by Zimbabwe’s Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development, **Professor Amon Murwira**, who was the distinguished guest of honour and officially opened the conference, the keynote speakers gave vital insights on repositioning TVET Education Ecosystem in Light of COVID19 through Heritage Based Education, which was the theme of the conference. Prof Murwira lauded the timely theme, adding that it challenges Africa to rethink the TVET education design. The minister challenged African governments should come up with educational systems that promote skills development and innovation as the era of priding themselves in literacy that does not provide answers to national challenges is long gone. Prof Murwira said countries that have well developed education systems that emphasise on knowledge and skills fared better during Covid-19 pandemic era as they produced their own PPEs and vaccines. He commended Zimbabwe for producing its own PPEs. The minister represented the government of Zimbabwe



Mr. Madi O Jatta, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology, Bijilo, The Gambia

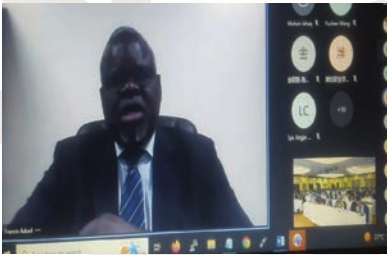


The guest speaker, **Mr Mike Kamungeremu**, gave a powerful speech on Role of TVET in Anchoring Africa’s Industrialisation Agenda 2063. Mr Kamungeremu is the President of Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce (ZNCC) and Managing Director of Tendo Electronics Pvt Ltd.

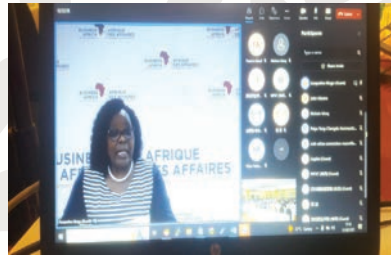


Prof. Keo Motaung, an award-winning biomedical scientist, gave her keynote virtually as the participants followed her address from screens in the conference venue. Her address focused on Entrepreneurship Ecosystem in Tertiary and Higher

Education Institutes. Prof Keo is the TTI Director, Durban University of Technology (DUT), South Africa and has received a numerous accolade due to her continuous efforts in bridging the gap between science and entrepreneurship.



Prof. Francis Aduol, the Vice Chancellor of Technical university of Kenya, virtually gave a comprehensive address on Repositioning TVET Education Ecosystem in Light of COVID-19, citing experiences from Kenya. “Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) is a powerful tool for development to the extent that it prepares students for the world of work through dedicated skills training” said Prof. Aduol, who is also an executive member of ATUPA. He concluded by challenging African countries to take advantage of the gains made during the pandemic to expand the space for TVET and should use the opportunities to enable people to access TVET.



Ms. Jacqueline Mugo, EBS, Executive Director & CEO, FKE, Kenya and the IOE Vice-President for Africa. Ms Mugo gave the employer perspective of TVET Education Ecosystem in Light of COVID19. Ms. Mugo plays a critical role in the development of labour and social policy and represents employers and the business community at the African Union Specialised Technical Committee (STC) on Social Development, Labour and Employment, the ACP-EU Followup Committee on Economic Partnership Agreements and the Joint EU-Africa Parliamentary Assembly



Prof. Dr. Paul Mapfumo, Vice Chancellor University of Zimbabwe, gave an enlightening talk on TVET as A Key Cog in Building Sustainable Food Security and Economic Development in Africa. He highlighted major causes for Africa’s Underdevelopment, pointing out long standing development template completely misses the point and has only yielded paradoxes. The talk outlined pathways to transformation getting Africa off the rails to poverty. “Society’s adoption of Science and Technology as an enabler for Socio-Economic Development is in itself mankind’s greatest innovation”



Dr Thomas Odera Ongolo, the Regional Advisor for Africa, GIZ, addressed the disability inclusivity within TVET in Africa. During the same conference, he chaired a special session that focused on Ending Marginalization of Persons with Disabilities in Africa’s TVET Ecosystem. The engaging discussion included nine disability themed paper presentations and virtual participation of delegates in Malawi, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Germany. Dr. Ongolo is Open World Fellow and is skilled in partnership management, inclusive remote working with scientific interests in disability inclusion, participation and representation, towards empowerment.



Eng. Joy Makumbe, the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Local Government Public Works and National Housing, Zimbabwe gave an engaging address on Strengthening Gender Equality in TVET Programs. She grasped the attention of the audience with a captivating phrase “*Behind every successful woman is herself*”. She added “On a global perspective, the factors that hinder women from participating in TVET related courses are similar for both the developed and developing countries”. Her address pointed out the challenges women face in taking up technical courses/careers and overcoming the challenges. She challenged teachers, both male and female to integrate gender equality through their teaching strategies. Joy started documenting her journey in tech through a YouTube channel titled The Tech Girl and she has written a book, “Tech Girl Diaries”.



Ms. Alice Vozza, International Labour organization (ILO) representative made an informative address on Greening TVET to Mitigate Climate Change in Africa. The highlights included Climate change impacts on jobs and productivity, ILO Global Research on Skills for a Greener Future and Greening TVET and skills development. Additionally, Ms. Vozza a practical guidance tool for greening TVET. She concluded by giving insights on greening in the informal economy and importance of sensitizing employers in all sectors – with diversified approaches.



Dr. Thomas Ongolo (right) Chairs the Disability Session

ATUPA holds Session on Ending Marginalization of Persons with Disabilities

In line with this year's ATUPA International conference theme of "Repositioning TVET Education Ecosystem in Light of COVID19 through Heritage Based Education," ATUPA held a special session on Ending Marginalization of Persons with Disabilities in Africa's TVET Ecosystem. The August 2022 ATUPA Annual International Conference held in Elephant Hills Resort – Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe on Aug. 29 – Sept. 2, 2022.

The special session included a panel discussion and nine paper presentations based on the disability theme. The session was chaired by Dr. Thomas Ongolo, Regional Advisor for the Inclusion of Persons with disabilities, GIZ and coordinated by Ms Ana

Ramos from Humana People to People.

Dr Ongolo reflected on the barriers which people with disabilities experience such as inaccessible TVET institutions and absence of specialised equipment needed by people with disability. The engaging discussion included six virtual participants from Malawi, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Germany.

The participants actively shared experiences on how they deal with persons with disabilities in their respective institutions. Through a video recording streamed to the audience, DAAP Mikolongwe Vocational School in Malawi shared insightful approach on how the school reach disadvantaged persons through mobile training centres.

During the session and paper

presentations, delegates unanimously agreed that though there is prevalence of persons with disabilities in TVET institutions there is lack of a shared and common conception of persons with disabilities and legislation in addressing issues of persons with disabilities is either inadequate or lacking.

There were suggestions of international initiatives that can be instrumental in facilitating disability inclusion including the SDGs sustainable development goals, Leave No One Behind – Build Back Better – Reaching the Last First, UN Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Africa Disability Protocol. TVET institutions can exploit these initiatives to reposition themselves.

There was general consensus that financing has an impact on reversing disability marginalisation. In this regard, business models exploring Private Public Partnerships can nurture civil society collaboration to end marginalisation; accessibility by persons with disabilities to TVET institutions and programs means inclusion, therefore creating a barrier free environment to aid accessibility; Involving persons with disabilities as significant stakeholders in addressing issues of disability mainstreaming and inclusivity in TVET is critical: nothing for us without us; Capacitate the entire TVET ecosystem through supporting, technical and pedagogic skills requisite for mainstreaming inclusivity.

ATUPA on its part will continue to stimulate exchanges of experience and ideas on ending marginalization of persons with disability among member institutions by providing a forum for discussion and arranging meetings, conferences and seminars.

SG Awarded for Supporting Girl Child, Honoured to Unveil WITED Magazine



During the 8th International Conference and National Award ceremony of the Women in Technical Education and Development (WITED) Nigeria held on 30th November, 2022 at Yusuf Grillo Hall, Yaba College of Technology, Yaba, Lagos, The Secretary General, ATUPA received the 2022 WITED National Award of Support of the Girl Child Category in view of her exemplary high standards of ethical conduct, integrity, civic and social responsibility she has

demonstrated over time. She commended to having stood out as one of the leaders who exemplify ethical standards and behavior.

Madam Faal thanked the organizers of the event for the award and assured to continue supporting the Girl Child. She appreciated Council of

Heads of Polytechnics and Colleges of Technology in Nigeria (COHEADS) for supporting WITED, Nigeria and congratulated members of WITED Nigeria for giving her an opportunity to unveil their magazine which was going to showcase their milestones. She applauded WITED Nigeria for inspiring Kenya the rest of Africa. Finally, she invited all to Senegal for the Western Regional ATUPA Conference

From page 13

Highlights of Keynote speeches



Eng. Sebastian Marume, the Chief Executive Officer Zimbabwe Manpower Development delivered a speech on Strengthening TVET, Financing and Resourcing for Sustenance. Eng. Marume’s presentation outlined how TVET is a key pre-requisite for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and how TVET provides opportunities to transition students into this new world of work as well as keeping existing workers employed. “To realize these benefits, however, will require a substantial commitment by governments, households and firms to finance TVET.” He emphasized. “Training Levies are very key for

Strengthening TVET Financing and Resourcing for Sustenance.” Eng. Marume is an extraordinary torchbearer with a strong passion for critical human capital skills development and innovation as well as exuding sound people leadership, interpersonal, networking and stakeholder engagement skills. He has wide experience ranging from manufacturing, processing and petroleum industries



Mr Yu Yougen, the Deputy Secretary General, China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE), gave his speech virtually as participants in the conference venue followed keenly. He was accompanied

by thirteen online participants from CEAIE. He recognized and appreciated the collaboration between CEAIE and ATUPA, highlighting the mutual benefit to the two institutions. CEAIE and ATUPA has a unique Memorandum of Understanding in place that aims for collaborations that will promote the student and faculty mobility creating opportunities for students and faculty to learn about vocational and technical education in partner countries through exchange of positions with similar students in partner countries among other key areas. Mr. Yu Yougen was previously director of vocational education and training, director of international cooperation, acting director of American and African affairs, deputy director of teachers and students exchange, China Education Association for International Exchange.

The Fourth Pan-African Youth Forum for TVET Students & the 2022 StartUpAfrica – ATUPA Continental Innovation Olympiads



The Fourth Pan African Forum for TVET Students under the theme “Work Based Learning (WBL) and the Transition to Decent Work in the New Era of African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)” brought together TVET students representatives from across Africa. The youth leaders got an opportunity for moderated exchange ideas on challenges and opportunities in Work Based Learning as part of their TVET programmes in preparing them for the world of work, especially in the Covid-19 pandemic period and beyond.

The Continental Innovation Olympiads for TVET Students was a culminating event that saw TVET students from Africa get knowledge of what it takes to be an entrepreneur by working in a team format, identifying a problem and how to solve it by

coming up with an innovative or an entrepreneur solution. The ultimate goal of the program was to demonstrate how TVETs’ could adopt the teaching of entrepreneurship skills

and mindsets to prepare the learners towards becoming potential future entrepreneurs in Africa and beyond. 36 teams registered for the competition and only 20 finalist were selected.



ATUPA Visit to Senegal Sets the Stage for the West Africa Regional Conference



Investiture Ceremony of the ATUPA Vice Chairperson for Western Region and Country Representative of Senegal, Prof. Niang during the visit to Senegal

ATUPA Chairperson, Prof. Laila Abubakar recently led a delegation of the Secretary General, Mrs. Jahou Samba Faal and the ATUPA Board member and Country Representative of Malawi, Mr. Suzgika Mvalo to Senegal. The visit, hosted by the Country Representative of Senegal and ATUPA Board Vice Chairperson for the Western region, Prof. Fadel Niang, held meetings with the Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation of Senegal

(MESRI), Minister of Vocational Training, Apprenticeship and Integration of Senegal (MFPAI), Directorate General of the Financing Fund of the Vocational and Technical Training of Senegal (3FPT). They also visited various institutions for benchmarking and various activities. The main purpose of the visit was to introduce ATUPA to Senegal and initiate the planning of the Western Region TVET Conference which will be held in Senegal.

The Conference

West African Regional TVET Conference on: *“Contribution of research and technical and vocational training to the development of agro-industry”* shall be held in Saly — Senegal, from 25th to 27th April 2023. The Conference shall be based on the following specific objectives:

1. To share knowledge on the sector wide reforms needed to improve TVET outcomes as relates economic development through agro-industry;
2. To share innovative, practices and concepts that enhance TVET delivery;
3. To share experiences on building and sharing TVET knowledge and promising practices through facilitating regional exchanges on TVET; and
4. To strengthen a national/regional and international cooperation and network of TVET sector involving training institutions, industry/private sector, development partners and government in the Western Africa Region.



Mr. Suzgika. W. Mvalo, Principal, Lilongwe Technical College, Malawi, Country Representative of Malawi; Madam Jahou S. Faal, Secretary General, ATUPA; and Prof. Laila Abubakar; Vice Chancellor, Technical University of Mombasa, Kenya and Chairperson, ATUPA Executive Board, took the benchmarking trip to Senegal, hosted by Professor Fadel Niang, ATUPA Board Vice Chairperson for the Western region.

ATUPA holds a celebration of one of its staff who recently retired



Mr. Aggrey Mutemi Kalutu joined ATUPA in the year 2006 as the Office Driver at the age of 43 years. Mr Aggrey has worked for ATUPA for 16 years diligently and has proved to be very hard working. He has served three Secretary Generals and 2 acting Secretary Generals as a driver and clerical Officer at the Secretariat. He reached his retirement early this year. The Secretariat held a befitting retirement party where his Family and a few friends were invited. His Colleagues thanked him for being supportive at all times and wished him well. Friends and family mentioned that they had witnessed the love he had for his job and encouraged him to continue that way. Mr. C. T. Akumu Owuor who represented the Executive Board congratulated him for reaching his retirement while at the Secretariat and wished him well in the new phase of life. He attested that Mr. Aggrey was very professional.

The Secretary General echoed all what his colleagues, Family and friends said about the work ethic of Mr. Aggrey. She advised him to continue being hardworking, respectful and reliable as he has always been. She also informed members that Mr. Aggrey would continue working for the Secretariat.

Mr. Aggrey Kalutu thanked The Secretary General and all those who took time and came to be part of the celebration. He promised to continue working diligently and encouraged others to work hard and be prayerful at all time.



Coming Up: The West Africa Regional Conference in Senegal

Saly — Senegal, from 25th to 27th April 2023

There is the need for TVET to bridge the gap between job market and work force. Nevertheless, in many of our countries the TVET sector has not been able to perform to its best. Although governments have acknowledged the need for development of the sector, they face many problems, such as inadequate resources, limited private sector and industry engagement and the challenge of interlinking skills and the job market.

It is on this background that the Association of Technical Universities and Polytechnics in Africa (ATUPA) in partnership with the African Union have decided to hold the 2023 West African Regional TVET Conference on: *“Contribution of research and technical and vocational training to the development of agro-industry”* shall be held in Saly — Senegal, from 25th to 27th April 2023. The Conference shall be based on the following specific objectives:

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4. To strengthen a national/regional and international cooperation and network of TVET sector involving training institutions, industry/private sector, development partners and government in the Western Africa Region.

Later: The ATUPA International Conference in Ghana



ATUPA will be holding its next conference in the beautiful country of Ghana. More details will be communicated soon through our email info@atupa-sec.org and website www.atupa-sec.org

ATUPA Member-countries:

Western Region: The Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria 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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