

Foreword

This is the first of the two reports of the “International Experience Sharing Seminars”, compiling the papers submitted to these seminars. The seminars were organized within the framework of the “Africa-Asia University Dialogue for Educational Development” network (“A-A Dialogue” in short). The first seminar was held jointly by Cape Coast University, Ghana and Hiroshima University, Japan at Accra, Ghana from 19 to 21 January 2010. It focused on “Efforts toward Improving the Quality of Education. Participating universities were five from Africa and seven from Asia; <Africa> University of Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), Cape Coast University (Ghana), Abdou Moumouni University (Niger), University of Lagos (Nigeria) and Bayero University (Nigeria), and <Asia> National University of Educational Planning and Administration (India), Indonesian University of Education (Indonesia), Naruto University of Education (Japan), Hiroshima University (Japan), Universiti Sains Malaysia (Malaysia), Chain Mai University (Thailand) and University of Education, Vietnam National University, Hanai (Vietnam).

The second one took place at Lusaka, Zambia from 12 to 13 August 2010 jointly organized by the University of Zambia, Zambia and Hiroshima University, Japan. The seminar discussed various issues on “Teacher Professional Development”. Eight universities from Africa and seven universities from Asia took part in the seminar; <Africa> Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia), Ecole Normale Supérieure d'Antananarivo (Madagascar), University of Lagos (Nigeria), University of Pretoria (South Africa), University of Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), Makerere University (Uganda), Kyambogo University (Uganda) and Universty of Zambia (Zambia), <Asia> National University of Educational Planning and Administration (India), Indonesian University of Education (Indonesia), Hiroshima University (Japan), Naruto University of Education (Japan), Universiti Sains Malaysia (Malaysia), Chiang Mai University (Thailand) and Vietnam National University, Hanai (Vietnam).

The initial project which has led to the formation of “A-A Dialogue” was implemented from 2004 to 2007 in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations University (UNU), and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) with the Center for the Study of International Cooperation in Education (CICE), Hiroshima University, Japan functioning as the secretariat. The nature of this initial stage (Phase I) was a joint research endeavor by African and Asian universities to contribute to achieving the international commitment of “Education for All” (EFA) particularly in Africa. Thanks to the cooperation and collaboration of participating institutions, Phase I was successfully completed with the fruit of more than fifteen research papers striving for possible solutions to various issues concerning EFA which were presented at the concluding meeting in December 2007 at UNESCO, Paris. Equally importantly, Phase I left another valuable legacy, which was an inter-university researcher-to-researcher network across two continents, Africa and Asia.

The strong willingness and commitment of participating universities has led to the continuation and further strengthening of this collaborative relationship among African and Asian universities. Thus Phase II was officially embarked upon in June 2009 after a preparatory period in

2008. There are at least three distinctive features in Phase II as a development of Phase I. 1) *Formalization of the network*: In Phase I the network was driven by researchers' individual relationships, whereas it is more of a formal nature in Phase II with participating universities officially signing an agreement letter to the network Statutes which have been jointly prepared by the universities participating in Phase I. Furthermore the network has been accredited as a UNU-UNESCO UNITWIN program. 2) *Expanded scope of activities*: In Phase II activities include academic staff and student exchange in addition to joint research projects. 3) *Comparative Study*: While in Phase I research collaboration focused more on issues related to EFA according to individual countries' concerns, in the new Phase comparative studies are being conducted in three broad areas of educational development; equity and gender issues, quality of education, and teacher professional development.

Within the framework of "A-A Dialogue", the two seminars of which reports are now being presented are of course part of the research activities which deal with issues of quality and teachers as mentioned above. At the same time they were intended to provide a good opportunity to exchange views and experiences about educational development among administrators as well as researchers from Africa and Asia. Cross fertilization and mutual learning between Africa and Asia is one of the major objectives of the network and so these seminars are along this line.

Currently the following twenty eight universities are the members of the network.

Africa (16)

University of Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia), Bahir Dar University (Ethiopia), University of Cape Coast (Ghana), Kenyatta University (Kenya), Ecole Normale Supérieure d'Antananarivo (Madagascar), University of Malawi (Malawi), Abdou Moumouni University (Niger), University of Lagos (Nigeria), Bayero University (Nigeria), University of Pretoria (South Africa), University of Dar es Salam (Tanzania), Mzumbe University (Tanzania), Makerere University (Uganda), Kyambogo University (Uganda), University of Zambia (Zambia)

Asia (12)

National University of Educational Planning and Administration (India), Indonesia University of Education (Indonesia), Hiroshima University (Japan), Kobe University (Japan), Nagoya University (Japan), Naruto University of Education (Japan), Osaka University (Japan), Tokyo Gakugei University (Japan), Waseda University (Japan), Universiti Sains Malaysia (Malaysia), Chiang Mai University (Thailand), University of Education, Vietnam National University, Hanoi (Vietnam)

Norihiko Kuroda

Secretary, "Africa-Asia University Dialogue for Educational Development" Network
Director/Professor, Center for the Study of International Cooperation in Education (CICE),
Hiroshima University