

Akintola Fatoyinbo Africa Education Journalism Award



Press release

ADEA launches the 2008 Akintola Fatoyinbo Africa Education Journalism Award competition in Bamako

Bamako, June 21, 2007 - The Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) launched the 2008 competition of the Akintola Fatoyinbo Africa Education Journalism Award on Thursday, June 21. The award recognizes the best articles on education written by African journalists and published in the African press.

The launch of the fifth award competition was announced in Bamako by Adama Samassékou, Chair of the African Academy of Languages (ACALAN), which has its headquarters in the capital of Mali.

The ceremony was held at the Modibo Keita Memorial, in the presence of several African ministers of education, the ADEA Executive Secretary Mamadou Ndoye, representatives of development agencies, senior officials from African education ministries, and journalists from the national and international press covering the International Conference on School Fee Abolition, held from June 19 to 22.

ADEA instituted the Africa Education Journalism Award in 2001 to promote coverage of educational matters by African media. The purpose of the award is to encourage journalists to write articles of good quality on education and thus contribute to public debates on education in African countries.

Mr. Samassékou expressed the hope that the Akintola Fatoyinbo Africa Education Journalism Award would help to enhance journalists' professional skills and encourage them to specialize in the educational field.

The 2008 award competition is open to any article written by an African journalist in English, French or Portuguese and published in an African daily or weekly newspaper or other periodical. Articles must reach ADEA before November 1, 2007. An international jury of education specialists and journalists will judge the articles, eventually selecting six winners (two in English, two in French and two in Portuguese). As in the previous award competitions, the prize-winners will be invited to take part in a study tour. Winners of the first prize in each category will also receive the sum of €3,000; winners of the second prize will receive €2,000.

Award ceremony for the winners of the 2005 competition

The official launch of the 2008 Africa Education Journalism Award also provided the

opportunity to acknowledge the winners of the 2005 competition at an award ceremony.

The winners of the first prize are:

- in the "**Anglophone press**" category, Mrs. Bukola Olatunji (Nigeria) of *This Day*, a Lagos daily, for her article "Nigerian Varsities: A slap on the dignity of man";

- in the "**Francophone press**" category, Mrs. Rose Ablavi Akakpo (Benin) of the newspaper *Le Point au quotidien*, published in Cotonou, for her article "Fonction enseignante: une vocation se meurt" (The Teaching Profession: A dying vocation);

- in the "**Lusophone press**" category, Mrs. Rosalina Mateta, of the *Jornal de Angola*, published in Luanda, for her article "A Outra Lição das Escolas" (Alternative Lessons of Schools).

Winners of the second prizes were:

- in the "**Anglophone press**" category, Mr. Joe Ombuor (Kenya), for his article "Where 'Booked Girls' find New Suitors in Education", published in the Nairobi *Sunday Nation*;

- in the "**Francophone press**" category, Mr. Moussa Sadio (Senegal), for his article "Formation 'coin de rue': Les petits pas d'une école alternative" (Education on Street Corners: The advancement of an alternative school), published in the Dakar newspaper *Le Soleil*;

- in the "**Lusophone press**" category, Mr. José Mario Correia (Cape Verde), for his article "A vez de Educação" (Time for Education), published in the weekly *Horizonte* in Praia.

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As for previous competitions, the awards included the sum of €2,000 for first prizes and €1,000 for second prizes. Prize-winners will be offered a study trip.

The ADEA Executive Secretary took advantage of the occasion to pay homage to the late Akintola Fatoyinbo, who initiated the Award and served as the first coordinator of the ADEA Working Group on Communication for Education and Development (WGCOMED).

Lawalley Cole, the new coordinator of WGCOMED, encouraged African journalists to invest more effort in their work to order to make a greater contribution to the task of promoting education in Africa.

About WGCOMED

The idea underlying the ADEA Working Group on Communication for Education and Development (WGCOMED) is that information exchange and communication between partners are essential to the achievement of well-managed, efficient education systems and education of good quality for all. Based in Cotonou, Benin, the WGCOMED is

supported by the World Bank, UNESCO, the West African Newsmedia and Development Centre (WANAD) and the Norwegian Trust Fund for Education. The lead agency for COMED is the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD). The working group assists African governments in establishing structures capable of designing and implementing information and communication programs of good quality.

In its conviction that the media play a key role in the dissemination of information, the WGCAMED attributes special importance to the training of African journalists interested in covering issues related to education and development. Since 1999, more than 500 journalists and communication officers from more than 30 countries have taken part in COMED workshops.

About ADEA

ADEA was founded in 1988 to broaden and improve cooperation among the development agencies working in the field of African education. Subsequently, the Association became a forum for strengthening the leadership capacity of African ministries in their cooperation with donors and building a consensus between ministries and agencies on how to address the major issues facing education in Africa.

The activities of ADEA focus on policy dialogue between development partners. They are also aimed at building institutional capacity in Africa by developing technical skills, establishing networks for information exchange, and sharing successful strategies, innovations and experiences.

Bamako, June 21, 2007

For further information, please visit the ADEA Web site at : www.ADEAnet.org or that of WG COMED: www.comednet.org

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