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**ACALAN organizes a Workshop on the Training of trainers of teachers of Africa Languages for mother tongue/multilingual education.**

**Lichinga (Mozambique), 28-30 May 2012**

The Fulfulde, Hausa, Mandenkan, Cinyanja/Chichewa and Setswana Vehicular Cross-Border language Commissions have identified the training of trainers of teachers for African Languages on L1 Methodologies as one of their priority areas during their planning workshops between March and August 2010, which took place in Dakar, Abuja, Bamako, Blantyre and Tshwane respectively. Subsequently, ACALAN, in collaboration with the Regional Bureau for Education in Africa (BREDA) organized a workshop in Nouakchott, Mauritania, from 19 – 20, June, 2011 to discuss the modalities of the training of trainers of teachers for those Languages on L1 Methodologies. The Lichinga workshop is a follow-up to Nouakchott workshop.

The workshop took place in Lichinga from 28 to 30 May 2012 in Lichinga, Mozambique. The choice of the place to host the workshop was motivated by the fact that the majority of the Mozambican members of Cinyanja/Chichewa Vehicular Cross Border Language Commission are located in the Mozambican province of Niassa whose capital is Lichinga. Furthermore, Mozambique was the only country that had not yet hosted any meeting or workshop of the Cinyanja/Chichewa Vehicular Cross-Border language Commission.

Apart from the Chairpersons and Secretaries of Cinyanja/Chichewa Vehicular Cross Border Language Commission, respectively Professor Alfred Mtenje and Dr Mildred Nkolola-Wakumelo; and of Setswana Vehicular Cross Border Language Commission, respectively Professor Sheila Mmusi and Ms Mmasserame David; Professor Matsinhe, Executive Secretary of ACALAN and Ms. Tamuliza from ACALAN secretariat, staff from the Pedagogic University, Lichinga Campus, as well as Professor Amindo Ngunga, member of ACALAN's Assembly of Academicians the workshop brought together experts in teacher training and curriculum development, and culture namely:

- Ms. Ivyjeb Nthara, a resource person from Domasi College of Education in Malawi;
- Mrs. Patience Awopegba, education specialist – International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa IICBA –UNESCO based in Addis Ababa;

- Ms. Angela Martins-Senior Cultural Officer, Department of Social Affairs, African Union Commission, Addis Ababa,
- Dr Samima Patel, Eduardo Mondlane University;

The aim of the workshop was to discuss the proposal of the module for the training Ms Ivyjeb Nthara from Domasi College of Education in Malawi had prepared. It also considered other relevant factors and resources needed for the implementation of the training program, including the timeframe and venue for the training, the duration of the course and selection of the venue and candidates for the training program.

The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of the government of Niassa Province, Mrs. Verónica Ernesto Langa opened the workshop. In her speech, she stressed that language is a powerful communication instrument that brings together people all over the world. Representatives of various provincial structures and of the Pedagogical University, Lichinga Campus; Eduardo Mondlane University, Maputo, also attended the workshop.

The workshop deliberated on the modules for the training which was presented by the resource person Ms Ivyjeb Nthara and recommended that:

- The training should include language aspects
- That the course should last for six month owing to accreditation issue
- That Ms Nthara would integrate the inputs from the workshop into the module and send it back to the Commissioners
- That a drafting team comprising specialists from all Cinyanja/Chichewa speaking countries-Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia will be set up.
- That upon completion, the final copies of the course modules will be sent to the language structures of those countries.

The Executive Secretary thanked the participants for their time, the Mozambican government and the Pedagogical University in Lichinga for hosting the workshop promising that ACALAN will continue to work with all stakeholders in the development and integration of Africa for optimal results.



*African languages are the anchor of our shared valued*