

## **Report on the 2016 Bridge Africa Conference**

### **“Sharing experiences, paving the way forward”**

The Korean National Commission for UNESCO (KNCU) and the Malawi National Commission for UNESCO (MNCU) with support of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Korea, the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare, and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology of the Republic of Malawi co-organized **the 2016 Bridge Africa Conference** in Lilongwe, Malawi from 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

The Conference was attended by over 109 persons drawn from various institutions of the Bridge Africa partner countries comprising government officials, traditional leaders in the communities and Community Learning Centres (CLCs) representatives, representatives from UNESCO (Regional Office for Southern Africa), staff from National Commissions for UNESCO, and experts from Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa, South Korea, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

After 3 days of sharing ideas, intense debate and discussion, the delegates agreed on a comprehensive communiqué (the Lilongwe Communiqué) that reflects the common vision of the Bridge partner countries for future programming.

**The Bridge Africa Programme** was initiated by the Korean National Commission for UNESCO in 2010. Since its inauguration, the programme has actively engaged in rural areas of 8 African countries (Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Rwanda, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe) in order to provide enhanced learning opportunities to not only out of school children but also to youth and adults in each country. The Bridge Africa Programme addresses the three key areas of educational development such as Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), Literacy, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). Through supporting the establishment and operation of CLCs which serve as the hub of community led education development activities, the programme aims at eradicating poverty through education, and at contributing to the achievement of SDG 4 which is to *ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all*. The programme intends to facilitate South-South cooperation to produce practical and incremental learning effects for all stakeholders in the participating countries through the sharing of good practices appropriate to different local circumstances.

For more detailed information on the Bridge Africa Programme and the Conference, please download the Report on the 2016 Bridge Africa Conference and the copy of the Lilongwe Communiqué.