



## **Commendation Letter for Dr. Sushita Gokool-Ramdoe**

### **To Whom It May Concern**

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*April 30, 2015*

### **About ADEA**

The Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) is first and foremost a forum for policy dialogue, composed of all the 54 Ministers of Education in Africa and 16 development partners. It was established in 1988 initially as a framework for better coordination among development agencies. Twenty-four years later, ADEA has come to represent a genuine partnership between African ministries of education and training and their technical and external partners. It has also developed into a network of policy-makers, educators and researchers, and, based on its capacity to foster policy dialogue, a catalyst for educational reform. Since its inception, ADEA has acted on processes that have had a profound impact on policy-making in Africa through policy dialogue based on research and analytical work, capacity building, advocacy and networking. ADEA works on different areas of education, including higher education, math and science, technical and vocational skills development (TVSD), early childhood development (ECD), non-formal education, teaching profession, information and communication technology (ICT) and Distance Education, books and learning materials, education statistics covering education management and policy support, peace education, education for sustainable development, and communication for education and development. These are implemented by thematic Working Groups such as the one on Distance Education and Open Learning (WGDEOL) that Dr. S. Gokool-Ramdoe coordinated for a few years.

### **Commendation**

It is with great pleasure and pride that I am writing this commendation letter for Dr. Sushita Gokool-Ramdoe. I have known her since 2003 when she coordinated ADEA's Working Group on DISTANCE EDUCATION AND OPEN LEARNING (WGDEOL) on behalf of the Mauritius

Ministry of Education, the lead agency for the working group and later as the lead for the Education for Sustainable Development Platform.

Since then she has been involved in a range of diverse activities ranging from distance education through adult, teacher and gender education to the emerging Education for Sustainable Development as well as financing of education. Within ADEA, Dr. S. Gokool-Ramdoo has always been entrusted with duties that carried high level responsibilities and was considered as a Senior Education Expert, requiring academic leadership consistent with directorial or professorial level competencies. In this position, she has led debates and engaged in advocacy among Education Ministers, Heads of educational institutions, policymakers and fieldworkers. This level requires academic distinction and administrative maturity to follow the stringent African Development Bank financial rules and regulations to which ADEA adheres. To date, Sushita has a faultless track record with us, such that we continued collaboration with her on an individual basis, even when the Tertiary Education Commission ceased to be a partner.

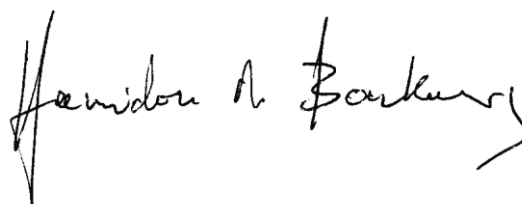
From our very first encounter with her, Dr. S. Gokool-Ramdoo has shown her academic strength and professional dedication. She was tested right away through an important and stressful event, the ADEA Biennale 2003 that was held in Mauritius. She impressed us with her polyvalence and resilience in difficult circumstances where she had to learn fast and respond with sensitivity in the highly demanding international and diplomatic environment in which we function. She became rapidly confident in handling ADEA assignments and we were equally confident in trusting her with demanding tasks which essentially involved interfacing with 54 African Ministers and Ministries of Education. Among other things, she demonstrated strong academic and administrative capabilities in providing intellectual leadership in carrying out the following:

- Formulating of country-responsive projects in line with ADEA programmatic activities
- Coordinating Technical Committee Meetings and formulating the Strategic and Operational Work Plan in consultation with members of the Technical Committee
- Prepare Activities Reports, plan the WGDEOL's Budget and implement same in consultation with ADEA Secretariat at the Leaders/Coordinators Meetings
- Managing project development, consultants' contracts and deadlines
- Managing human resources hired as consultants for the projects by matching profiles with project requirements
- Being accountable to the ADEA Secretariat and donors by ensuring that the high standards required are met
- Representing ADEA and participating in a range of international seminars/conferences
- Provide technical inputs as and when required to ADEA Secretariat, especially in terms of updating of Websites, Newsletters and other Working Group related activities
- Network with funders, and other Working Groups to further the mandate of the WGDEOL through other Working Group activities.

Through Dr. S. Gokool-Ramdoos relentless energy, the WGDEOL was pulled out of straitened circumstances and put back on track. She energetically lobbied all the funders in our database, including the Swedish International Development Corporation (SIDA), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the British DfID, the Norwegian Agency for Development Corporation (NORAD), as well as the World Bank among others to convince donors about the relevance and scope of the work of this particular Working Group for Africa. Her efforts were rewarded since some donor communities promised seed funding for work plans that had heretofore been at risk. She also joined hands with a co-Coordinating agency, the UNESCO-BREDA, based in Senegal to develop a joint plan for collaboration in terms of funding and technical support. This was a successful venture.

Her expertise broadened beyond Distance Education to embrace an issue of global interest: Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). Dr. S. Gokool-Ramdoos rapidly took leadership in this venture, starting with a study for ADEA on the development of a policy framework to integrate critical core skills in the African curriculum in a cross-cutting manner. Her experience in authoring of the Education Chapter for Mauritian policy on Sustainable Development (Maurice Ile Durable) was helpful in providing further intellectual insights to the ADEA in matters of educational policy development. She was ADEA's voice in several UNESCO events, presenting her findings or collaborating for developing Concept Notes for international conferences organized by our partner organizations. Her recent research which builds on the Aichi-Nagoya World Declaration on ESD will continue to provide useful policy directions for years to come. In fact, she has used this research recently for another ADEA assignment towards the African Summit, held in Senegal in March 2015. The Policy Brief she has authored is a trail-blazer on the path to the harmonization of higher education that Africa will soon tread through the development of the Africa Higher Education and Research Space.

I commend Sushita to any future employer for her enthusiasm, academic acumen, innovative professional approach and her highest sense of commitment, integrity and moral rigor.



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