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Leadership Training Workshops Launched Across Senegal

Leadership Africa USA delivers leadership curriculum training to Senegal's Ministry of Education academic inspectors from Senegal's 14 regions.

Leadership Africa USA with support from USAID and Senegal's Ministry of Education, hosted a series of leadership training workshops targeting academic inspectors of specialties and inspectors of 'school life' from Senegal's 14 regions. More than fifty (50) academic and school life inspectors participated in the two-day leadership training workshops in three venues – Dakar (which included inspectors from Dakar, Kaffrine, Thies, Fatick, Diourbel, and Kaolack, Saint Louis (which included inspectors from Saint Louis, Matam and Louga and Ziguinchor (which included inspectors from Ziguinchor, Sedhiou, Tambacounda, Kolda, and Kedougou between June 14 and June 22, 2010.

Mr. Paul Dione, Deputy Governor of Ziguinchor, who delivered special remarks at the Ziguinchor workshop, was enthusiastic about the youth leadership training initiative and the opportunities for change the program would bring for the Casamance region. He noted, "this program will allow for all our students to develop leadership skills and it will produce future leaders capable of guiding, influencing and inspiring the people."

The goal of training these inspectors, who are collectively responsible for providing in-service training to Senegal's middle school teachers, is to equip them to deliver leadership training to Senegal's middle school teachers who in turn, will implement the leadership training curriculum in middle schools throughout Senegal. With the support of USAID and Senegal's Ministry of Education, more than 100,000 copies of the youth leadership curriculum will be distributed in Senegal's middle schools targeting 250,000 students.

During the Saint Louis workshop, Mr. Mouhamed Gueye, Education Specialist, USAID in Senegal, commended Leadership Africa USA's successful pilot initiative in the Casamance region and that the results were 'encouraging and promising' for other regions in Senegal. The youth training initiative started with a pilot program in Senegal's Casamance region in 2008 where 14,000 students from 20 middle schools received leadership training.

Mr. Daouda Gueye, Leadership Africa USA's local program coordinator and principal of Coubalan CEM, and Mrs. Tacko Daffe, another Leadership Africa USA local program coordinator each underscored the significance of the youth leadership development curriculum which was developed with substantial input from Senegal's academic inspectors, principals and teachers. Mr. Malick Diop, an Education Inspector, District Education of Bignona, Senegal's Ministry of Education and the workshops' trainer, emphasized the need to continuously build the capacity of Senegal's students so that "our kids can be competent."

President Abdoulaye Wade in an earlier endorsement of the youth leadership training initiative in Senegal emphasized that the development of youth is the "best road to poverty eradication."

For more information about Leadership Africa USA and its program in Senegal, please visit the organization's newly redesigned website at www.leadershipafricausa.org.