

Empowering Africa's Development: Launching the Enhanced Virtual Capacity Development Academy (VCDA)

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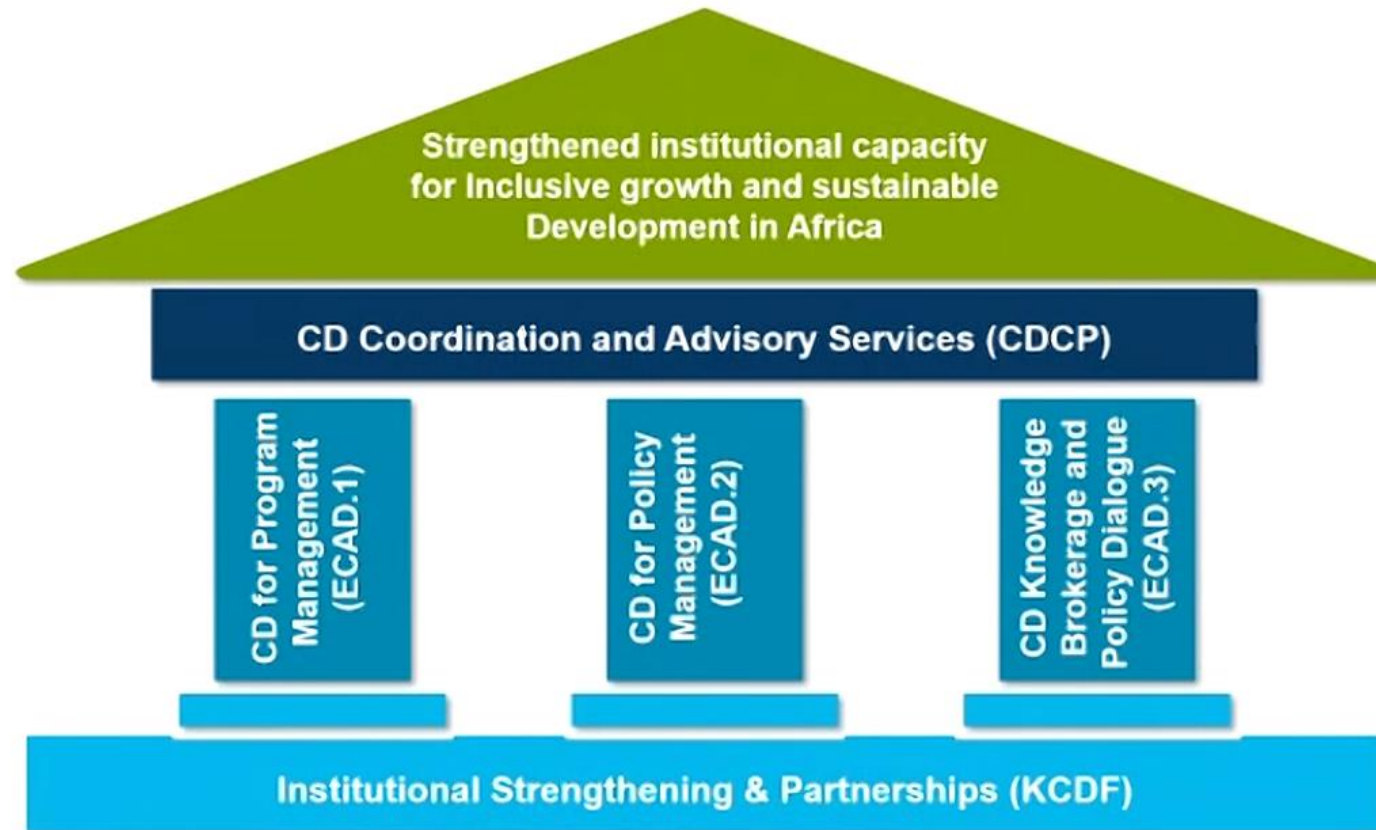
AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP



BACKGROUND/CONTEXT

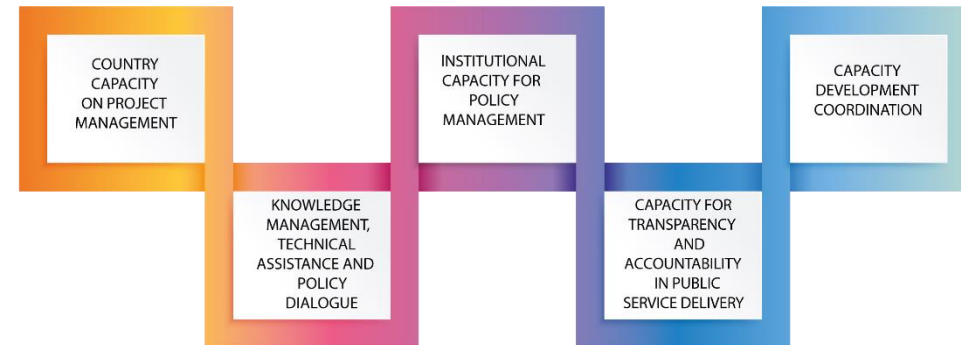
- 2015 SDGs - created great momentum to increase dev.. financing “from billions to trillions” to accelerate inclusive and green growth
- Yet “no matter the amount of financial resources mobilized for Africa’s development, such funds would yield only limited or modest results if countries do not have the human, organizational and institutional capacity to absorb and effectively utilize them.”
- African countries have made significant progress, but capacity remains a binding constraint to development.
- In 2015 the Bank articulated the High 5s to accelerate achievement of the SDGs in Africa.
- New TYS in 2024, recognizes the need for effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.
- Especially, inst. capacities for: (i) program dev. & project management; (ii) economic policy management (mgt) - (DRM, public expenditure mgt, debt mgt, macro-economic and fiscal policy mgt, and public accountability systems), and (iii) capacity for effective knowledge mgt and policy dialogue.
- Remain binding constraints on inclusive development in many African countries.

The African Development Institute (ECAD): Pillars of Progress (CDS 2021-2025)



WHO & WHAT WE ARE?

The ADI coordinates and oversees the mainstreaming of capacity development into Bank's operations and co-creates institutional capacity and knowledge for inclusive growth and sustainable development in regional member countries.



- ADVISORY SERVICES
- TRAINING
- TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
- POLICY DIALOGUE
- PEER-TO-PEER KNOWLEDGE
- EXCHANGE
- CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
- KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND DISSEMINATION
- INFORMATION SERVICES

NOW TRANSITIONING INTO A VIRTUAL LEARNING PROCESS

- Virtual learning academies revolutionize education – enable scalable, personalized, and accessible learning opportunities for Africans.
- We want to leverage cutting-edge technology to break down geographical and financial barriers to learning, enable students to engage with high-quality curriculum and expert instructors from anywhere.
- Our key stakeholders are busy public officials – we want to offer flexibility, allowing them to learn at their own pace and according to their unique needs.
- Finally, we want to create a collaborative, inclusive environment that adapts to individual learning styles, preparing learners for a dynamic, interconnected world while democratizing access to education at an unprecedented scale.

VCDA is Essential for Africa

Addressing Africa's Unique Educational **Challenges** with Innovative Digital Solutions

Current Educational Challenges:

- Africa contends with geographical barriers, resource constraints, lack of Internet access & digital literacy disparities in technology.
- Countries like Rwanda, Nigeria, Kenya, & South Africa are using innovative digital strategies; fragile states still grapple with digital gaps.
- Rwanda, has implemented extensive digital training for teachers and invested in nationwide broadband to facilitate e-learning
- Nigeria has focused on policy reforms to encourage digital innovations in education, while Kenya and South Africa have pioneered mobile learning platforms to remote areas.



Innovative Digital Learning Solutions

- Digital platforms like VCDA enhance scalability and cost-effectiveness, reaching broader audiences across diverse geographies with adaptive technologies that ensure timely, relevant, and tailored educational interventions.

Introduction to VCDA

- VCDA started in 2021 - a critical solution to continue capacity building (CB) during COVID29
- Enhancements ongoing - leverages advanced educational technologies & Knowledge Management practices to serve as a *dynamic hub* for capacity building, collaboration, and knowledge sharing
- It offer continuous learning tailored to the unique needs of its Regional Member Countries.
- Aims to drive transformation and positive change both within and beyond African countries
- Provide tools and knowledge to effectively tackle developmental challenges, fostering regional economic diversification and long-term resilience

The screenshot displays the VCDA user interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for HOME, CALENDAR, KNOWLEDGE MAP, ASK THE EXPERT, ACADEMY, COMMUNITY, and ABOUT VCDA. A search bar and a 'Sign In' button are also visible. Below the navigation is a banner image of a group of people. The main content area features a user profile for 'John' with a 'Welcome Back John!' message. The profile includes statistics: Interests: Climate Change, Talks Watched: 37, Courses Taken: 21, Upcoming Courses: 3, and Time Spent on Platform: 1 month, 5 days, 23 hours, 40 minutes. There is a 'Your Badges' section with various icons and a 'Congratulations! You now have 12,225 Points!' message. Below the profile are two buttons: 'Knowledge Map' and 'Ask the Expert'. The 'New and Recommended for You' section is divided into three categories: Academy, Bite-sized Learning, and Community. Each category shows a course card with a title, a brief description, and a 'Read more' link. The Academy card is titled 'Agriculture for a Better Life', the Bite-sized Learning card is 'AfDB modernises agriculture in São Tomé and Príncipe', and the Community card is 'Unlocking Africa's potential to create wealth from agric...'. A 'View more courses' button is located at the bottom of the page.

Strategic Alignment with Global Goals

Strategic Alignment

- Aligns with African Union's Agenda 2063, SDGs, and 10-year strategy.

SDG Focus

- Designed to address key SDGs (quality education, industry innovation, & sustainable cities) through tailored programs.

Integration of AfDB's 10-Year Goals

- Emphasis on transformative sectors such as energy, agriculture, & infrastructure - pivotal for inclusive economic growth.



Alignment with these global and continental goals strategically positions VCDA to enhance the capacities of RMCs to tackle toughest development challenges



Interactive Academies produce skilled practitioners using innovative pedagogy and tools

- Action learning that is problem based & participatory
- Dynamic educational models blend digital & blended **tools** for impactful learning
- MOOCs
- Self-paced modules
- Facilitated
- Bite-sized
- Peer-to-Peer
- Knowledge Exchanges





Example: PFM MOOC

MOOCs enhance capacity development by providing accessible, cost-effective, high-quality training. Their flexible, asynchronous delivery allows learners to tailor education to their schedules, fostering continuous skill development.

Enroll now for free Massive Open Online Course on PFM from AfDB

To boost PFM skills, a MOOC will enhance capacity across Africa.

This course offers networking opportunities, connecting learners with global experts to exchange ideas and practices.

- Domestic Revenue Mobilisation.
- Public Budgeting and Expenditure Management.
- Debt Management and Transparency.
- Fiscal Policy, Modelling and Forecasting
- Accountability, Transparency and Curbing Corruption and Illicit Financial Flows
- Public-Private Partnerships in Public Financial Management.

Key features of MOOCs:

- Structured into 12-week sessions.
- Each week will contain core and additional readings/materials.
- Didactic tools like Ted style videos, podcasts, games, assignments, quizzes and exercises to ensure understanding, application and retention of key concepts and tools.
- Join the conversation through discussion boards, two Google Hangouts, Twitter chats and other interactive features that encourage active learning.

**12 weeks | 4 -8 hours per week | English/French
Certificates upon completion**

Empowering RMCs with Targeted, Just-in-Time Learning on High 5s

- VCDA delivers timely, region-specific education to meet Africa's diverse needs, focusing on:
- Customized capacity building for RMCs in energy management and agriculture to support the initiatives to Light Up, Power, and Feed Africa.
- Networking and collaboration among RMCs to enhance economic integration and cross-border cooperation.
- Expert insights on governance and social accountability from AfDB and international sources.
- Peer learning opportunities within and outside Africa.
- Supports enhanced decision-making, skill development, and community engagement to address regional challenges effectively.





Strengthening Partnerships and Collaborative Efforts for Greater Impacts

- International and regional partnerships enhance VCDA's resources
- Partnerships extend educational reach
- Partnerships amplify impact across Africa
- **Call for Action**: Invitation to Collaborate across sectors & join in this transformative journey!
- Stay tuned for official launch scheduled for May 2024.
- Post-launch feedback to be used to enhance and scale.

Questions & Answers

