Rwanda has made tremendous steps towards ensuring “Universal education for All”, one of the most important Millennium Development Goals, through the nine year basic education program now moving to twelve years. Rwanda will continue to focus on challenges in quality of education, matching of skills to labor market needs and entrepreneurial mindset shift.

Major emphasis will continue to be placed on vocational and technical training in the fields of technology, engineering and management. This will be targeted at secondary and tertiary levels, as well as various sections of society (with particular emphasis on youth and women). To encourage skills development, micro-credit schemes will continue to be promoted specifically to extend finance to young, self-employed technicians. Special emphasis will be given to innovative, small-scale entrepreneurs. To promote efficiency and continuous upgrading of skills, large scale employment creation programs will be launched in the national institutions aimed at on-job-training, in-service training and distance learning.

Rwanda lags behind in professional training, with shortages in the fields of applied and natural sciences and ICT. Although the country will continue to rely on imported technology from advanced countries, well-trained specialized nationals will be essential to the running and maintenance of technological systems, ranging from medicine and agriculture to industry and telecommunications.

One crucial element to the achievement of Vision 2020 will be to ensure a proper link between education policies and sector development and labor policies. It is crucial to understand that the investment needed for the development of the secondary and tertiary sectors will not be effective without a suitably skilled labor force.