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PRESS RELEASE

Morocco's New Development Model

The Attijariwafa bank Foundation Deciphers its Recommendations for Education

Casablanca, June 29, 2021 - «**New Development Model: Educational Renaissance, a Myth or a Reality?**» is the theme of the latest conference organized by the Attijariwafa Bank Foundation, as part of its conference series «Exchange to better Understand». Broadcasted in live streaming on the Foundation's Youtube channel and Facebook page, this 16th digital meeting brought together, on Thursday June 24, 2021, distinguished speakers, namely **Mrs. Rita El Kadiri**, Associative Actress and specialist in education and **Mr. Youssef Saadani**, Director of Economic Studies at CDG, both members of the Special Commission on the Development Model (CSMD). The meeting was also attended by **Mr. Abderrahmane Lahlou**, Founding Director of the Center for Teacher Training and Development, and an expert in Education and Training. The rich and intense discussion was moderated by **Ms. Sara Rami**, Journalist and radio host.

In their opening remarks, the two members of CSMD detailed the methodology adopted to draw up a report on the situation, a methodology largely based on meeting and interacting with all the players in the education sector. «This allowed us to establish the following observation: our public school is experiencing a triple crisis, a crisis of fundamental learning, of confidence and of vocation,» summarized the two members of the Commission.



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It is true that the school's openness to values such as rigor and success is important, but it is primarily a place for basic learning; yet, today, 70% of children cannot read or write at the end of primary school. By introducing learning levels every two years, it would be possible to rectify this situation and save children with learning difficulties.

«We should be aware that values are an integral part of school learning! It is not a luxury, but a necessity. To motivate students, the teacher must be equipped with both cognitive and holistic skills,» emphasizes Mr. Lahlou, drawing on his field experience.

In concrete terms, to restore confidence, the New Development Model (NDM) recommends four strong measures with a tangible impact: transparent measurement of learning levels and exit profiles from primary school onwards, training and motivating teachers, adopting a teaching method based on experimentation, and re-establishing a teaching team spirit within the school under the leadership of the principal.

To produce the skills that will bring about these changes, it will be necessary to invest in teacher training, review their status and introduce career plans to attract the right profiles with a real vocation.

However, the crisis of confidence concerns not only the public schools, but also the private schools, which attract about 15% of the students and employs 75,000 teachers without any initial pedagogical training! While the NDM addresses the future of both sectors, the focus is more on public schools because in all successful countries, public schools are strong, successful, and free at the primary level, attracting almost all students from all social classes.

Through this new conference-debate, which gave rise to numerous questions from Internet users and to which the speakers responded, the Attijariwafa Bank Foundation demonstrates, once again, its willingness to promote debate and reflection on issues that affect the future of our country, by calling on experts recognized for their competence and commitment.

Replay link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0kG3qZcnLpk>



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VERBATIMS

Rita El Kadiri

In order to restore confidence, small successes should be achieved, consolidated and structured in order to build, little by little, the ambition of the educational renaissance. To this end, the NDM recommends renewed governance around a task force with qualified human resources whose operating mode will be based on performance.

Youssef Saadani

Within the next 5 to 10 years, I dream that:

- Each parent receives a report card at the beginning and end of the year from an independent structure that tells them where their child stands;
- Every child, regardless of their social background, can benefit from quality academic support in school;
- Public schools offer sports and arts activities and provide school care;
- Teachers come to school motivated, proud of their profession and aware of the importance of their role in society, and benefit from an enhanced status.

Abderrahmane Lahlou

I am calling for a paradigm shift to say that values are good, but school is first and foremost a place of learning. In my opinion, values are an integral part of school learning. Since they are no longer part of family or street learning, they have been taken over by the school.



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Speakers' Bio Express

Rita El Kadiri

A graduate of the University of Texas at Austin in Business with a major in Economics and Finance from Harvard University, Rita El Kadiri obtained a Master's degree in International Education Policy in 2012. After working as a consultant in the Education Department of the MENA region at the World Bank, Rita El Kadiri joined the Injaz Al Maghrib team as Director of Programs. She then held the position of General Manager of the «ZAKOURA» Foundation for Education and Social Innovation, before being appointed Senior Education Specialist with McKinsey since January 2020. A member of the CSMD since January 2019, she is also a member of the Board of the Tahar Sebti Institution since December 2018.

Youssef Saadani

A graduate of Sciences Po Paris, Youssef Saadani held the position of economist at the World Bank in Washington, then at Bank Al Maghrib. He became Director of Economic Studies at CDG before being appointed Deputy Managing Director of CDG Invest in April 2021.

Youssef Saadani has also developed digital education projects. His first project, Eduqia, aimed at introducing digital tablets to improve the quality of education in elementary school in Morocco. Through his second project, Learn for Glory, he invented a digital educational game based on the mechanisms of gamification and on the results of recent research in cognitive sciences. This solution allows the greatest number of people to acquire a universal classical culture.

Abderrahmane Lahlou

After a twenty-year career as a private operator in school and university education, being founding president of associations in education and training consulting, Abderrahmane Lahlou founded ABWAB Consultants, specialized in education and training.

He is an expert with the World Bank Group for the «e4e» program in Morocco, and an accredited expert with the IDB. He also conducts studies for national and international ministries and private organizations in the three areas of university, vocational and school training.

Mr. Lahlou is an international lecturer in management, economics and education, and a visiting professor in French universities

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