

# India in Africa

## World Dumps in Africa, India Helps Build Capacity

The world is using Africa as a dumping ground for its products but only India is helping the continent in capacity building, a group of African professionals says, indicative that New Delhi's proactive diplomacy is paying dividends.

"India is different. Most other nations are looking at Africa for dumping their products. India is looking at us for partnerships," Michael Mwaniki Ngaari, Weights and Measures Department of Kenya's Trade Ministry said.

He was among 19 middle-level participants from three countries who attended a five-day India-Africa Technology Partnership Programme organised on behalf of the External Affairs Ministry by the Confederation of Indian Industry and the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT).

The focus of the workshop was on management of international technology transfer for competitiveness and leveraging intellectual property rights for international technology transfer - building capacity in African nations to absorb new technologies.

More than the exposure to new trends in technology, the workshop was an eye-opener for Ngaari. "We

now know what the world is and what is expected from us," said Ngaari.

"We conducted one month of research on the kind of content we wanted to impart," said Deepak Bhatnagar, Head, IIFT's Centre for International Trade in Technology. "Such workshops will further boost the relationship between India and Africa," Bhatnagar added.

India has pledged to build over 100 training institutes all over the continent at the last two India-Africa Forum summits held in New Delhi and Addis Ababa. These institutions encompass a wide array of areas ranging from agriculture, rural development and food processing to information technology, vocational training, English language centres, and entrepreneurial development institutes.

The four institutions India has offered at the pan-African level include the Institute of Information Technology to be established in Ghana, the Institute of Foreign Trade



in Uganda, India Africa Diamond Institute in Botswana and the Institute for Education Planning and Administration in Burundi.

These training institutes, India hopes, will help build the industrial and managerial base of the continent by spawning a new generation of entrepreneurs and an educated middle class that will shepherd African resurgence in the days to come.

India's trade with Africa at US\$50bn is nearly one third of that of China with the continent, but New Delhi has carved a niche for itself in capacity building. The training institutes distinguish India's development-centric approach from that of China's focus on massive infrastructure projects, hydrocarbons and mineral resources.

(www.newstrackindia.com, 06.08.12)

## India Intensifying Academic Collaborations in Africa

The cultural cooperation between India and Africa is moving beyond traditional exchanges to focus on education and capacity building initiatives which can become "a part of the national idiom", said Suresh Goel, Director General, Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).

The ICCR, which functions under India's External Affairs Ministry, has taken the lead in cultural cooperation between India and Africa with a series of exchange programmes since 2011, when representatives of Indian and African countries met in Addis Ababa May 20-25 for the second India-Africa summit.

"Our primary aim was to promote understanding between cultures through traditional exchanges, but we

find that to develop sustained understanding in future, we need to build studies and academic collaborations with Africa," Goel said.

He said that till April 2012, 516 scholarships were given to African students. He said "chairs have been set up to promote Indian studies in Africa in countries like Mauritius, Nigeria and South Africa, which has a chair of political studies sponsored by India".

He said that the broad focus of India's cultural and diplomatic ties with Africa is an ideological kinship, people-to-people contacts and recognition of each other's needs. The ICCR has been lending its name and support to several private initiatives in involving Africa in the arts and handicrafts sectors as well.

(www.daijiworld.com, 26.06.12)

## India's Strong Ties with Africa

Toasting the African resurgence on the occasion of Africa Day, India underlined its commitment to build a stronger partnership with the 54-nation continent that is increasingly finding its voice on the global stage.

"On Africa Day, we reaffirm our commitment to work together in partnership with Africa to realize our potential by building an even stronger relationship in an environment conducive to prosperity, peace, security and development for our peoples," Minister of State for External Affairs Preneet Kaur said in her Africa Day lecture at the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) at Sapru House here.

Africa Day commemorates the founding of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in Addis Ababa on May 25, 1963 and celebrates African unity. The OAU was succeeded by the African Union in 2002.

Taking note of the winds of resurgence sweeping the continent, Kaur said African continent is emerging strongly from decades of lost opportunities in the 1980s and '90s.

(www.indiaafricaconnect.in, 25.05.12)



### Joint Study Group on FTA

India has set up a joint study group to examine the possibility of a free trade pact with the 19-nation Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). India is exploring possibilities of entering into similar agreements with the East African Community (EAC) and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

Besides, India is in the process of negotiating a PTA with the Southern Africa Customs Union (SACU) member countries comprising of Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland.

India has already implemented free trade pacts with South Korea and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). In March 2012, Indian and African leaders had agreed to vastly increase bilateral trade to US\$90bn by 2015. In 2011, the bilateral trade between India and Africa stood at US\$62bn. (BS, 15.05.12)

### India's Presence in West Africa

India's footprint is growing in West Africa, especially in two main players in the region, Nigeria and Ghana, with increased trade across sectors and cooperation in various other fields.

India is helping Nigeria revitalise its Defence Industries Corporation through a public-private partnership programme, according to Mahesh Sachdev, Indian High Commissioner

in Abuja. Trade between Nigeria and India was valued at US\$16.4bn in 2011. According to the India High Commission in Abuja, Nigeria's exports to India stood at US\$12.4bn in 2011, representing a 71 percent increase over the previous year, while India's exports to Nigeria grew by 58 percent to US\$22bn.

Adil Zaidi of consultancy Ernst & Young Adil Zaidi said that the trade with India could improve further if Nigeria could formulate good policies for business development. Indian investors would be able to increase trade between the two countries by investing in power generation and transmission, transportation, water, petroleum, renewable energy and healthcare.

(ET, 18.05.12)

### Malawi to Benefit from Cotton TAP

The Cotton Technical Assistance Programme (Cotton TAP) for Africa launched by India has extended an opportunity to Malawi to enhance its foreign exchange earnings, Malawi Minister of Industry and Trade, John Bande said.

Bande said the Cotton TAP is aimed at enhancing capacities in cotton sector in the identified countries through various interventions related to capacity building and technology transfer.

The Minister said Malawi intends to benefit from the programme by using it to boost development of

integrated cotton value chain along the lines of the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS). The Malawian government is quite optimistic that the Cotton TAP would greatly help in increasing the country's foreign exchange earnings.

Besides Malawi, Cotton TAP is to be implemented in Cotton-4 countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali), Uganda and Nigeria from 2012 to 2014. (www.fibre2fashion.com, 03.04.12)

### Indian Investment in South Africa

With an ambitious programme for development, South Africa plans to conduct road shows and business events in major Indian cities to attract investments in sectors as diverse as information technology, financial services and agro-processing.

"Both bilateral trade and investments can expand considerably," said South African Trade and Industry Minister Rob Davies during BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) Summit.

A stable, diverse economy, a large market and relatively strong consumer spending power makes South Africa an attractive market in the African context. Davies said India is our strategic partner and we are keen to attract Indian investments while hoping to raise two-way trade to over US\$15bn by 2014 from around US\$11bn now. (ET, 08.04.12)

Sources: BS: Business Standard; ET: Economic Times