

India in Africa

14th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project

The 14th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnerships concluded in New Delhi, India. The three-day conclave was organised by the Ministry of Commerce in association with Confederation of Indian Industry and EXIM Bank of India.

Addressing the valedictory session, Commerce Secretary, Anup Wadhawan said that trade ties with African countries have strengthened over the years and the relationship has been mutually beneficial. He said this conclave marks the pre-eminence of India-Africa partnership in the realm of South-South Cooperation at a time when the global economy is faced with intractable challenges that stem from rising protectionism and trade conflicts.

The India-Africa bilateral partnership is further augmented by India's ascendancy as the growing major economy, as well as Africa's new economic dynamism illustrated by some of the sub-Saharan economies featuring among the top 10 fastest growing economies in the world.

The Commerce Secretary said that the conclave coheres into the Indian government's larger vision of long-term engagement with Africa and Government of India's unwavering commitment to expanding the canvas of India-Africa economic partnership. He said several Indian engineering companies have been engaged in bridging the gaps in physical infrastructure in Africa by way of development of roads, highways, ports, power generation and distribution and watershed projects



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that connected different African countries.

India's development cooperation ranges from power projects and dams in Sudan and Rwanda to water treatment plants in Tanzania, sugar factories in Ethiopia and IT Parks in Mozambique and Swaziland, building of the Presidential Place in Ghana and National Assembly building in the Gambia, besides other numerous projects.

Wadhawan informed that as part of India's outreach in Africa, Ministry of External Affairs, on September 10, 2018 signed an agreement with the Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) to establish a pan-Africa e-Arogya Bharti Network Project to serve as a digital bridge between India and Africa shrinking the distance between India and Africa even more. This project is also designed to aid Africa's journey towards achieving Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs) targets in education and the health sector and enrich the lives of its predominantly young population.

The Conclave held annually, since its inception in 2005, brings senior Ministers, policymakers, officials, business leaders, bankers, technologists, start-up entrepreneurs and other professionals from India and Africa on a common platform. The event also marks the deepening of India-Africa economic and business ties and paves the way for a whole range of cross-border project partnerships.

Over 500 delegates from Africa participated in the Conclave. Vice President of Republic of Ghana, Mahamudu Bawumia; Prime Minister of Republic of Guinea, Ibrahima Kassory Fofana and Deputy Prime Minister of Kingdom of Lesotho Monyane Moleleki also participated in the Conclave.

India-Uganda Trade

The Indian High Commissioner to Uganda Ravi Shankar has asked Ugandans to exploit opportunities available in India for Uganda's products.

He noted that Uganda has more comparative advantage to do business with India as compared to other countries in the region because of the favourable environment between the two states.

To ensure that Uganda products have access to the India's market, the Commissioner noted that India has softened the process of applying for visas to India, especially for the business communities.

(BW, 28.04.19)

Marketing Kenyan Tourism

Kenya has set its sights on India as it seeks to grow tourist arrivals to 2.5 million by 2022. Several Kenyan travel trade partners pitched tent for three days in Mumbai, India to woo travellers to Kenya at the Outbound Travel Mart.

KTB Chief Executive Betty Radier said India remains a crucial market through which Kenya can continue to grow its tourism arrival figures that closed at 125,032 in 2018, a 6.17 percent growth compared to 2017.

India is among Kenya's top five Asian tourists' source markets and is considered the fastest growing outbound tourism travel markets, accounting for 50 million outbound tourists by 2020.

(DN, 09.01.19)

Training Zambian Journalists

The Indian government has launched a programme that seeks to train Zambian journalists in convergent journalism. So far, a journalist from Zambia News and Information Services, Mike Munkombwe, is already in India for training at the Indian Institute of Mass Communication while Daily Mail's Nancy Siame joined in March

2019, both fully sponsored by the Government of India.

"India has opened up more opportunities for Zambian journalists to appreciate all spheres of the Asian sub-continent," Zambia's High Commissioner to India Judith Kapijimpanga said.

(ZR, 22.02.19)

Exim Bank Extols Zambia

EXIM Bank Managing Director David Rasquinha said that Zambia is among the best countries to do business with, in Africa. EXIM Bank has funded infrastructure projects in Zambia such as the Decongestion of Lusaka Roads project which is taking shape.

He was speaking when he addressed Africa Day in Gujarat, India, Summit which has attracted cabinet ministers, diplomats and business executives from Africa.

Rasquinha has since urged Indian investors seeking to invest in Africa to consider his Bank for financial assistance to fund projects especially infrastructure development.

(ZNBC, 20.01.19)

Eco-friendly Vehicles for Zambia

An Indian firm that specialises in manufacturing electric motor three wheelers on expressed its willingness to introduce the eco-friendly vehicles to the Zambian market.

Rajiv Kapoor, Managing Director of the Rasandik Engineering Industries, said his company has since decided with effect from this year to start taking part in Zambia's investment expos and commercial shows as part of efforts to enter the market.

During his conversation with staff from the Zambia Embassy in New Delhi who toured the manufacturing plant in India's northern state of Uttar Pradesh, Kapoor asked Zambia to consider the promotion of the use of eco-friendly transportation systems among its citizens.

(Xinhuanet, 08.02.19)

More FDIs from India

India will invest in Kenya's agriculture and manufacturing sectors in line with the government's Big Four Agenda.



In 2018, China remained Kenya's largest source of imports for machinery and transport equipment, accounting for Sh291.8bn followed by India at Sh161.2bn, Saudi Arabia (Sh138.4bn) and the United Arab Emirates (Sh126bn).

However, India continues to outperform China in terms of the number of jobs created by its foreign direct investment (FDI).

(ST, 27.03.19)

India-Zambia Energy Partnership

An Indian company which manufactures energy efficient and solar equipment, Switcher India LLP, has announced intentions to partner with a credible Zambian company in its expansion programme.

Switcher India LLP Business Head Kapil Sobti said his company which has over five thousand Indian local distributors has been convinced by Zambia's High Commissioner to India Judith Kapijimpanga to consider Zambia as the best destination for investment.

Sobti said that the company has more women in the manufacturing chain in line with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's women empowerment agenda.

(LT, 30.01.19)

Source: BW: BusiWeek; DN: Daily Nation; LT: Lusaka Times; ST: Straits Times;

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