

India in Africa

India-Africa Partnership to Address Skill Development and Sharing of Knowledge

"India and Africa can join together for skill development and knowledge sharing", said M J Akbar, Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India. Speaking at the 12th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership, Akbar mentioned that the Indian Prime Minister's visionary initiatives, such as 'Jan Dhan Yojana', 'Digital India' and 'Make in India' can be emulated to address similar issues in Africa.

He remarked that open economies are turning to protectionism whereas emerging economies are currently the torchbearers of free trade. The basis of India-Africa Partnership in this field should address skill development and knowledge sharing, to contribute to the opportunities and therefore better lives for people.

He also complimented the efforts undertaken at the tri-annual India – Africa Forum Summit, which in 2015, brought together 54 countries, and concluded with the sanctioning of US\$600mn in grants from India to African nations and US\$50,000 in scholarships.

Aaron Mike Oquaye, Speaker of Parliament, Republic of Ghana, noted the common colonial heritage and the evolution of a historically close political alliance into a strong economic partnership.

The partnership is one of opportunities and benefits for both sides. Encouraging joint ventures could be the road ahead. It would be a fallacy to paint the Continent



with a common brush. There is a need to acknowledge diversity within the continent.

The trade between India and Africa for FY15-16 amounted to US\$57bn with a significant increase in exports and maintained imports. Manoj Dwivedi, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, noting this, complimented deepening bilateral ties between these two partners. While infrastructure development is important, priority should be given to education, health, and agricultural development.

Adi Godrej, Chairman, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Africa Committee and Chairman, Godrej Group, highlighted the complementarities between what Africa need to develop its growth potential and the kind of resources and expertise that India can offer. Indian companies will need to enter new markets in Africa so they can continue being global players in the 21st century.

Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII, said that 472 projects worth US\$70bn were discussed over the duration of the conclave. With offices in Egypt and South Africa, CII hopes to facilitate more cooperation by expanding its presence in other parts of the continent.

With 450 international delegates from 37 countries including 32 Ministerial delegations, the conclave provided an extraordinary platform exhibiting India-Africa Partnership.

The Deputy Managing Director, EXIM Bank of India, Debashish Malik, extended vote of thanks to the gathering for making the conclave a successful and great experience.

Strategise to Boost Exports

The Ghana National Chamber of Commerce (GNCC) has expressed its support for the Indian Government and the Trade Promotion Council of India's (TCPI's) initiative of increasing trade relations.

The initiative seeks to promote economic growth in Ghana through trade, employment generation and value addition to the country's raw materials. The Head of Marketing, Trade and Investment Promotion for the Ghana National Chamber of Commerce, Frederick Adu Amoako said his outfit is hopeful of increasing the export of processed goods at the expense of unrefined ones.

(<http://citifmonline.com/>, 28.02.17)

Footprints in East Africa

The visit of Indian Vice President Hamid Ansari to Uganda and Rwanda was seen as a strategy by the Asian giant to cement its presence in East Africa (EA) through trade deals and partnerships.

Good bilateral ties between India and Africa help enhance trade and development partnerships between India and African countries. "Rwanda offers a wonderful platform to Indian partners to enhance their presence and capabilities in other parts of Africa", the Ansari said.

(*allAfrica*, 08.03.17)

Aid for Parliamentary Chamber

Ghana's wish to have a new Parliamentary Chamber to accommodate more people could soon materialise, following the decision of the Indian Government to extend its assistance in that regard.

The 400-seater capacity new chamber will replace the present 275-seater capacity chamber configured in 2013 to accommodate more Members of Parliament (MPs).

The Speaker of Parliament, Professor Mike Aaron Oquaye, opined on the sidelines of the 12th

Indian Cos to Invest in Power

African Development Bank (AfDB) has asked Indian companies to invest in African power, infrastructure and farming sectors as it wants strong engagement with the country in terms of doing business in Africa.

AfDB would like to accelerate engagement with Indian Government in terms of doing business in Africa, AfDB President Akinwumi Adesina said.

The most important area for investment is power. Electricity, infrastructure and agriculture are other key areas', he said on the sidelines of Exim Bank (India) interactive session with a visiting African delegation.



(*Times of India*, 31.03.17)

CII Exim Bank Conclave on India-Africa Partnership in India that an Indian construction firm, Shapoorji Pallonji had already put a team of architects on site for feasibility studies. (*Daily Graphics*, 18.03.17)

Urge to Buy Kenyan Products

President Uhuru Kenyatta and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in January 2017 led their delegations in bilateral talks geared towards bolstering cooperation between Kenya and India.

The two leaders discussed ways of stepping up partnership for the benefit of the people of their countries in several areas including combating terrorism, drug and human trafficking, health, energy, technology, agriculture, education, capacity building and trade. President Kenyatta urged India to improve market access for Kenyan products in high demand, such as leather and pulses.

(*Daily Nation*, 11.01.17)

Airtel, Millicom Pact

Bharti Airtel and Millicom International Cellular SA (Millicom) said they have – through their respective subsidiaries – entered into an agreement for Tigo Ghana Ltd. and Airtel Ghana Ltd. to

combine their operations in Ghana.

Accordingly, Airtel and Millicom would have equal ownership and governance rights in the combined entity.

The combined business would serve nearly 10 million customers, out of which 5.6 million are data customers and cover more than 80 percent of Ghana's population. It would have revenues close to US\$300mn, making it one of the largest communications companies in Ghana, Airtel said.

(*The Hindu Business Line*, 03.03.17)

Credit for Agriculture Boost

India has extended a Sh10bn (US\$100mn) loan to Kenya for agricultural mechanisation. Kenya's trade with India is tilted in favour of the emerging Asian giant. In 2015, Kenya imported goods worth Sh205bn from India, while exports to the country stood at less than Sh10bn.

"The Kenyan Government is keen to increase the volume and value of Kenya's export base from agriculture and mineral-based raw products to value added manufacturing products", said Kenyan President Kenyatta on meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

(*Daily Nation*, 12.01.17)