



COMESA REGIONAL INVESTMENT AGENCY

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COMESA woos European Investors during the first COMESA Investment Conference, held in Brussels, 18th - 19th November 2008.

The COMESA Regional Investment Agency (COMESA RIA) in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture Belgium-Luxembourg-ACP held the "COMESA Trade and Investment Conference" between the 18th and 19th of November in Brussels, Belgium. The aim of the conference was to specifically reach out to European investors and encourage them to invest in the COMESA region. Gathering approximately 154 delegates, consisting of the EU private sector, COMESA private sector, international organizations, financial institutions and donor agencies.

The conference which was inaugurated by **Honourable Felix Mutati**, Zambian Minister of Trade and Industry, **Dr Cheick Diarra**, Co Chair of the EU-Africa Business Forum, **Mr Michel Van Der Voort**, Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture Belgium-Luxembourg-Africa-Caribbean-Pacific, **Mr Stephen Karangizi**, COMESA Assistant Secretary General and **Mr Stefano Manservigi**, Director General for Development of the European Commission, aims to foster stronger linkages between the EU and COMESA stakeholders particularly the investors as well as to show case opportunities that COMESA has for European investors especially in the area of agriculture, energy, infrastructure, information communication technology (ICT), tourism and mining. Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) from COMESA had exhibition stands which provided detailed information on the various trade and investment opportunities that were available in each country.

Hon. Mutati said COMESA countries no longer wanted to be pedestrians on the world trade and investment stage but key players.

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MALAWI

Malawi: USD 60 million For Water Development

Source: Africa News

Malawi will receive an amount of USD 60.2 million in the next five years to finance activities in the second National Water Development Programme. African Development Bank (AfDB) representative to the country Frank Kufakwandi said the bank was committed to helping Malawi develop its various activities and partner with other donors. He said that Malawi has achieved a lot and hence coming in with the funds for the country to achieve sustained social economic development.

The country's minister of finance said during the signing ceremony in the capital, Lilongwe, that the financing of the two projects would assist in fast tracking government's efforts, as it looks forward to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

The country's local daily, the Nation, quoted the Minister of Irrigation, and Water Development: Sidik Mia, as saying the current facility would improve Malawi's water sector.

REGIONAL

Mauritius tops Africa in access to banking: report

Source: Reuters

Mauritius provides its people with the best access to banking in Africa, a report by the World Bank has said. The Indian Ocean Island's banking sector is tightly regulated by the government, but the report "Banking for The Poor" said Mauritius has the highest density of accounts in Africa at 2,010 per 1,000 adults.

In the report, which assesses banking services in 54 countries across Africa and Asia, Malaysia was first, followed by Singapore then Mauritius. The study compared countries against indices including costs, transparency and complexity. Mauritius's banking sector was judged to be "outstanding".

"In Mauritius, domestic bank assets represent more than 100 percent of GDP and savings exceed 40 percent of GDP," said the report. Systems for payments, securities trading and settlements are efficient, which explains the low fees of country's commercial banks.

"You (World Bank) have recognised that there is a case for close regulation and supervision of the banking sector," said Rundheersing Bheenick, governor of Mauritius's central bank.

Zambia: Indian mining firm to invest in mining sector

Source: steelguru.com

The Sande Sara Mining Group of India has signed a MoU with the Zambia Development Agency (ZDA) to invest USD 100 million in the Zambian mining sector and has already registered a Zambian subsidiary company. A ZDA official said that Sande-Sara Mining Company is waiting for a mining license from the Zambian Ministry of Mines and Minerals Development.

ZDA's public relations officer said that the company is currently engaged in the area doing scoping to identify an area for the mining operation.

Mr Nitin Sande-Sara chairman of Sande-Sara Group said that the group had decided to invest an initial USD 100 million with the view to supplementing efforts by the Zambian government to develop the mining sector. He said that Zambia has a conducive business environment.

Uganda provides land to investors

Source: [Africa News](http://AfricaNews)

The government of Uganda has assured investors that it is to provide them with land to ensure value addition to local products. President Yoweri Museveni said that the government is to provide the land in order to promote the export of textiles as well as generate enough revenue for the local market.

President Museveni gave the assurance at a meeting with the Turkey based Kucukcalik Industry which has a linkage in the Textile Industry.

He said that the government is concentrating in infrastructure development particularly roads, railways and electricity which are crucial in promoting industries.

The chairman of Kucukcalik, Yasar Kucukcalik said, besides the textile industry they have specialty in energy and cement production.

QNB Launches branch in Sudan

Source: [Africa News](http://AfricaNews)

Islamic banking firm QNB Al Islami, has launched its first Islamic branch in The Sudanese capital Khartoum. This new branch is considered first outside Qatar. It is the first Islamic branch to be opened by a conventional bank in Qatar and is fully owned by Qatar National Bank, Qatar's biggest bank by market.

The branch, which began operating on the 16th of November, has obtained preliminary authorization to carry out banking operations in Sudan early in the Al Amarat area.

QNB Al Islami Sudan branch holds a wholesale banking license and will provide a full range of banking services which offer exclusively Islamic financial services that fully comply with the Islamic Sharia guidelines for both individuals and corporations in order to tap growing demand for Sharia compliant financing in the region. The products will include investment savings, unrestricted deposit account, corporate finance, project finance and trade finance.

Rwanda's Methane Gas dream realised

Source: [New Times](http://NewTimes)

Rwanda's dream of generating electricity out of methane gas has been realised with the first 1.8 megawatts channelled to the national grid. So far, the power extracted from Lake Kivu can supply the whole of Rubavu District or more.

"This is a memorable day in the history of this country; we have finally succeeded in extracting methane gas that has been in this lake for thousands of years and today Rwandans are consuming electricity generated from it," State Minister for Energy Eng. Albert Butare said excitedly at the mini-launch of the pilot methane gas plant in Rubavu district.

He revealed that the Government was in process of signing several agreements with foreign and local investors to

extract the gas.

Government has established a group of experts to monitor the generation of gas in the lake.

Djibouti: Intercontinental bridge

Source: Railway Gazette

Ambitious proposals have been revealed for a bridge across the Bab al-Mandib, or Gate of Tears, between Djibouti and Yemen. The USD 20 billion Bridge of the Horns would be 28.5 km long, with three 2.7 km suspension spans, the longest in the world. It would carry four railway tracks, a six-lane road and pipelines for water and oil across the strait, which is up to 300 meters deep.

Danish firm COWI has been chosen to provide engineering designs. Providing clearance to over the busy shipping route to Suez 'will mean at least 10 km of the multi-span suspension bridge', according to Head of Major Bridges Henrik Andersen.

The concrete pylons will have to be supported up to depths of 300 m and at the same time tower 400 m over the water's surface to support the ultra-long span suspension bridge. Each pylon will be 700 m.

Ethiopian market is promising

Source: AfricaNews

Nokia said Ethiopian market is strategic and promising to the company. "As Ethiopia is one of the strategies and promising market of Nokia, we will continue to enhance our customer service and a 12 month warranty that is all part of Nokia's strategy," said Gerard Brandjes, Nokia's General Manager for East Africa.

Brandjes indicated that his company is planning to negotiate with Ethiopian authorities on tax issues in order to connect as many people as possible with affordable prices. He was speaking to journalists during the launching of three new products of Nokia, which are especially designed to meet the needs of African market.

Currently there are a total of around two million people in Ethiopia connected through mobile phones. But, Ethiopian Telecommunication Corporation is working on its plan of adding six million new mobile users within one year.

Kenya: USD 100 million for under sea cable

Source: Africa News

A USD 100 million under sea cable is set to be completed by June 2009 in Kenya. This is set to make the whole process of linking ICT cheaper and more convenient. Countrywide laying out of a fibre optic cable is also set to be complete by April, 2009.

These developments could see Kenya develop e-systems in the education and health sectors which are currently given more priorities by the Kenyan government.

The project which is an initiative of the government of Kenya and Etisalat of the United Arab emirates in which the two parties have agreed to build the first undersea fibre optic cable between Mombasa and Fujaira in the Emirates though it will have to wait for the completion of two Data centres in Nairobi.

Kenya government currently subsidizes internet access to universities and hospitals at a cost of 7 million sterling pounds (USD 88,727).

Madagascar ready for oil exploration

Source: Xinhua

Madagascan government officials have confirmed that the island country now is ready for the exploration of its oil potential.

The government of Madagascar expects foreign investors to participate in the oil exploration by becoming partners of Madagascar Oil, a private oil and gas exploration and production company.

Foreign companies, including EXXON, Mobil, Chevron and Shell, have

expressed interests in the project.

Egypt Hydrocarbon Corporation to build new petrochemical facility in Egypt with financial advice from HSBC

Source: zawya.com

Egyptian Hydrocarbon Corporation (EHC), announced a further step in the development of its Greenfield Olefins Complex consisting of a 2.5 MTPA Naphtha Cracker and 2 x 450,000 MTPA Polyethylene Complex at Ain Sokhna on the Suez coast of Egypt, with the selection of HSBC Bank plc as its financial adviser.

The complex will produce 900,000 tons per year of ethylene and 400,000 tons per year of propylene. The propylene will be sold to Oriental Petrochemicals Company and the ethylene converted into 900,000 tons of polyethylene.

This project financing will represent a landmark transaction for EHC as it establishes itself as a major player in the oil and gas markets in Egypt.

In addition to the Project EHC is also developing Greenfield Ammonium Nitrate project, The Ammonia project reached financial close in 2005 and is being funded under US Exim and commercial debt structure by a syndicate of international banks and expected to achieve Completion early in 2009.

NUMBERS

Latest investment numbers



5

Egypt's EFG Hermes to buy back up to 5 million treasury shares. The latest in a series of buybacks.

25.1

Rwanda Investment Group (RIG), a company made up of 41 local investors has increased its investments in the country to USD 25.1 million (Frw13.8 billion) in two years.



Country Of The Month

Republic of Burundi

Surface area: 27,800 Km²

Population (2007): 8.1 million

Official language: Rundi, French

Currency: Burundi franc

GDP at market prices: USD 1 Billion

Real GDP growth rate: 3.6%

FDI inflows (2006): USD 290 million

Exports of goods and services (US\$ million – 2006): USD 58.6 million

Imports of goods and services (US\$ million – 2006): USD 431 million

Main export sector (2005): Coffee and Tea

Main markets for exports of goods (2006): Germany, Switzerland, Belgium and Rwanda

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60

USD 60.2 million to finance activities in the second national water development program in Malawi

100

USD 100 million for under sea cables in Kenya

25.5

Rwanda Investment Group investment grows to USD 25.5 million

Malawi: President Awarded UN Prize for Enhancing Nation's Food Security

Source: UN News Service (New York)

The President of Malawi, Bingu Wa Mutharika, has been honoured by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for his efforts in achieving food security and in transforming the economy of his nation, among the poorest in Africa.

FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf presented President Wa Mutharika with the Agricola Medal - the agency's highest award - yesterday during a ceremony in the Malawian capital, Lilongwe.

Mr. Diouf noted that in 2005, thanks in a large part to the adoption of an Agricultural Input Subsidy Programme piloted by the Government of President Wa Mutharika, Malawi was able to restore national food security by increasing access to fertilizers and improved seeds by poor farmers and other vulnerable population groups.

In addition, despite sharply rising food and energy prices earlier in the year, and the negative impact of climate change, Malawi has been able to contain food prices to the extent that economic growth for this year is expected to be around 8 per cent.

Malawi was also one of the few countries to have surpassed the agreement reached among ministers at the 2003 Maputo African heads of State and government conference for a minimum budget allocation of 10 per cent for agriculture, by allocating as much as 16 per cent to the sector, said the Director-General. Agriculture is crucial to the population of 13.2 million in Malawi.

Previous recipients of the Agricola Medal include Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand, former French president Jacques Chirac, Chinese President Jiang Zemin, Pope John Paul II, and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt.



Cont... COMESA Woos European Investors

He said this resolve had been demonstrated by a commitment to address the bottlenecks experienced by the private sector.

"We came to Brussels not to seek a rescue package for there will be none, but to engage with you. More than ever, there is an urgency to conclude the Doha round and EPAs. Thereafter, we'll do the rest." Hon. Mutati said.

Dr. Diarra "Co Chair of the EU-Africa Business Forum" stressed that Africa has the capacity to extricate itself from the current state of underdevelopment and these efforts are now gaining momentum. There are immense opportunities that can create wealth which are still untapped, he said.

Mr. Karangizi "COMESA Assistant Secretary General" said: Commitments by the COMESA Member States are a clear indication that countries are ready to work together as a region. Efforts to deepen regional integration as well as promotion of the region are an example of how committed the COMESA is to advancing economic development. This was the time to invest in the region.

Mrs. Heba Salama "COMESA Regional Investment Agency Manager" stated that this conference was a perfect place for the conveniences, practicalities, communications and trade facilitations provided by COMESA to reach a broader audience.

"Since its conception, COMESA has rapidly become a machine accelerating at full force, and it is time that Europe and the rest of the world utilize and contribute to the riches produced by our integration." she said.

Four panel discussions were held during the two days discussing the trade and investment trends in the region, investment opportunities in COMESA Member States, what international bodies can do to facilitate trade and investment in COMESA and success stories of European Companies investing in COMESA.

17 COMESA Investment Promotion agencies (IPAs) attended the meeting, presenting investment opportunities where business to business meetings were held between the IPAs and private sector.

The COMESA Investor Practical Guide was launched during the conference and participants were encouraged to make extensive use of this publication.

The conference was closed by Senator Els Shelfhout, Member of Association of European Parliamentarians of Africa which stated that the conference had portrayed a positive image of the region and it was clear that political will to create a favourable trade & investment environment is gaining momentum. This was important to encourage the private sector to invest in the region.

Egypt urged India to develop a strategic partnership between the two countries.

Source: Alahram

Egypt for more strategic partnership with India New Delhi, November 17, Egypt urged India to develop a strategic partnership between the two countries with a view to boost bilateral trade and investments covering important fields like ICT, energy and industry.

The visiting Egyptian President, Mohammed Hosny Mubarak while addressing industry conclave organized by three leading apex bodies – FICCI, CII and ASSOCHAM – in New Delhi on Monday said: "We have all what it takes to give a renewed momentum to our strategic partnership and all what it takes to bring our trade and investments to new horizons, especially in the important fields of ICT, energy and industry."

He said that trade between India and Egypt had tripled in the last 4 years reaching about \$3.5 billion in 2007. "We have managed to diversify our trade to cover a wide range of goods and I am sure there is room for further expansion", he said adding that Indian direct investments in Egypt stood at around USD 800 million in more than 200 Egyptian companies.

"The potential is for these investments to reach \$2 billion in the coming few years.

He emphasized that Egypt had witnessed a remarkable economic transformation process. "The reforms we have pursued have reflected positively in our macro-economic indicators. Egypt has emerged as one of the leading economies in Africa and Middle East and is ranked as the most attractive destination for foreign direct investments in its region", said Mubarak.

He allured the Indian investors by saying that Egypt had become a hub in West Asia and the Arab world. Through trade agreements with the European Union and COMESA, Egypt had become an important gateway to the vast European and African markets and an

attractive destination for foreign direct investment.

Beltone Financial Opens Libya Office

Source: zawya.com

Cairo Beltone Financial, the Middle East and North Africa's fastest growing investment bank, has opened an office in Tripoli, Libya, offering financial services in response to Libya's increasing business opportunities.

Cairo Beltone Financial is partnering with the Libyan Economic and Social Development Fund, one of the largest sovereign wealth funds in the region.

Beltone Financial is providing a comprehensive suite of services in Tripoli including securities brokerage, asset management, investment banking, corporate restructuring and advisory services. Beltone Financial's research unit is expanding coverage to include Libyan companies and business sectors.

Kenya: More outsourcing firms open

Source: AfricaNews

A new firm has joined the outsourcing industry of Kenya as the construction of the undersea fiber optic cable nears completion mid-next year. South Africa's Direct Channel Holding has landed through a partnership with local firm Simbitech to form Direct Channel Simbitech K Ltd.

Simbitech is a Pan African company and leading a system developer and integrator in Kenya, Tanzania and Nigeria. Direct Channel is one of South Africa's leading outsourcing companies.

Currently the company has invested over USD 750,000 equivalent of Ksh 60 million in the 36 seater call center and plans to expand to over 200 seats within a year. The bulk of this investment is its back office systems consisting of what it terms as state of art software and hardware.

The company launched its services in the country in early November 2008 at Purshotom Place in Westlands area of

Nairobi Kenya.

Direct Channel Simbitech CEO Suleiman Sheik said, "the company significant investment in Kenya demonstrates that the country has become top destination for BPOs in Africa and the world." He added that Direct Channel role in this exiting joint venture partnership is to offer skills transfer and best practices.

Direct channel has a controlling share of 55 per cent while Simbitech Ltd owns 45 per cent of the new firm. The firm said it has employed 20 agents and plans to increase this number to 400 within a year. Analyst said this is the beginning of what could be a scramble for a stake in an industry still at its formative stages.

With three undersea fibre optic cables Teams, Seacom and Essy are expected to land in the country at various times in 2009. The cost of Bandwidth which has held back the growth is expected to tumble down enabling local firms to compete effectively.

Energy City Libya Masterplan Unveiled

Source: zawya.com

Manama, Bahrain, Gulf Finance House, the Islamic Investment Bank renowned for the conception of world class economic infrastructure initiatives has today unveiled the master plan for Energy City Libya. The USD 5 billion Energy City Libya, the latest in their series of Energy City projects also located in Qatar, India and Kazakhstan will take shape on 6 square kilometers of land on the shores of the Mediterranean city of Sabratha, 70km west of the capital Tripoli, integrating all the components necessary to deliver a truly world class energy hub.

Contemporary global energy demands are well documented and the industry is engaged in an unending search for new sources of oil & gas. With approximately 40 billion barrels of oil, Libya boasts the largest proven oil reserves in Africa in addition to considerable gas resources, offering a multitude of commercial opportunities to the worlds leading names in the energy sector.

QUOTES

My wheels are running. My investments are local, regional and international.
Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Al Saud

Wide diversification is only required when investors do not understand what they are doing.
Warren Buffett

I have a problem with too much money. I can't reinvest it fast enough, and because I reinvest it, more money comes in. Yes, the rich do get richer.
Robert Kiyosaki

EVENTS

3rd-5th December 2008

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

WAIPA Investment Conference 2008

Foreign direct investment: New Scenario and Challenges

7th -9th December, 2008

Paris, France

Africa Finance & Investment Forum 2008

Financing Business Opportunities Along the Value Chain

9th -11th December, 2008

Nairobi, Kenya

African Agricultural Markets Programme

"Trade in Food Staples in Eastern and Southern Africa: The Role of Intra-Regional Trade in Price Stability and Food Security"

10th -11th December 2008

Kampala, Uganda

NEPAD-OECD AFRICA INVESTMENT INITIATIVE

2008 High-Level Meeting /Expert Roundtable

17th December, 2008

Cairo, Egypt

Mauritius Financial Services Seminar "organized by COMESA RIA"

Four Seasons Nile Plaza Hotel

21st-22nd December 2008

Cairo, Egypt

Third Cairo Investment Forum

Semiramis Intercontinental

16th -17th February, 2009

Cairo, Egypt

Sixth Business Roundtable with the Government of Egypt maintaining reform momentum in testing economic times

Grand Hyatt Hotel

About us

The COMESA regional investment agency is a co-ordinator between the 19 COMESA Investment Promotion Agencies "IPAs". It aims to bring forth all the investment information and opportunities for worldwide investors interested in the region.

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