

India in Africa

AfDB Concludes 2017 Annual Meetings on High Note of Optimism

The African Development Bank (AfDB) Group concluded its 2017 Annual Meetings on May 25, 2017 in Ahmedabad, India, on a high note of optimism generated by the Bank's good balance sheet and the early successes of its high five priorities, especially in agriculture and energy.

The 52nd Annual Meetings of the Board of Governors of the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the 43rd Meetings of the Board of Governors of the African Development Fund (ADF) reviewed and endorsed the Bank's 2016 Annual Report and its programmes for the coming year.

The Governors (Ministers of Finance, Economy, Planning and, in certain cases, Central Bank Governors) representing the 80 member countries of Africa's premier development finance institution, commended the Boards of Directors, Management and staff of the Bank for exceeding its lending and disbursement targets for 2016.

The meeting also applauded the Bank's role in the New Deal for Energy in Africa, which aims at providing millions of households with electricity by 2025.

Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi presided over the opening session on May 23, 2017 in the presence of three African Heads of State – Presidents Macky Sall of Senegal and Patrice Talon of Benin, Vice-President Daniel Kablan Duncan of Côte d'Ivoire. Besides, Indian India's Minister of Finance, Arun Jaitley, and the Chief Minister for Gujarat State, Vijay Rupani were



also present. Three former Bank Group Presidents – Omar Kabbaj, Babacar Ndiaye, and Kwame Fordwor were also present.

Over 3,500 top government officials, business leaders, representatives of non government organisations (NGOs), civil society, as well as members of the academic community and the media participated in the Annual Meetings, which were preceded by high-level meetings, symposiums and seminars on the Bank's High five priorities – *Light up and Power Africa; Feed Africa; Industrialise Africa; Integrate Africa; and Improve the Quality of Life for the People of Africa.*

In line with the central theme: *Transforming Agriculture for Wealth Creation in Africa*, many of the high-level meetings explored how India and Africa can work together order to achieve their shared goal of rural and agricultural transformation, which would go a long way in reducing rural poverty and improving the quality of lives of rural people.

A Ministerial Roundtable discussion dwelt on developing partnerships

between Africa and Asia trade and capital flows between the two continents. Entrepreneurship, private sector development in Africa, Asian lessons on human capital and technology in development as well as regional cooperation and trans-boundary challenges also came up for discussion.

The Banks signed series of project funding agreements and memorandums of understanding (MoU) with the different Ministries of Gujarat State, South Sudan and a number of other countries.

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The 52nd AfDB annual meeting in India is the fourth time that the Annual Meeting of AfDB are being held outside Africa. The first such meeting took place in Valencia, Spain in 2001 followed by Shanghai, China 2007; and Lisbon, Portugal in 2011. Busan, South Korea, will host the 53rd Meeting on May 21-25, 2018.

Bilateral Trade to Double

African Development Bank (AfDB) President Akinwumi Adesina said Africa-India trade rose five-fold in the past decade and is expected to double to US\$100bn by 2018. Adesina commended the Indian government for its commitment in supporting economic growth in Africa.

He informed that 2015 US\$10bn line of credit to be delivered over the following five years through the Exim Bank of India to Indian companies wanting to invest in Africa.

Others are the US\$9.5mn of grants made in Africa through the India-Africa Cooperation Trust Fund and the Kukuza project development company, an Africa-India initiative-based in Mauritius.

(Zambia Daily Mail, 23.05.17)

5 More African Nations Join ISA

Djibouti, Cote d'Ivoire, Somalia and Ghana have signed the International Solar Alliance (ISA) framework agreement to join the International Solar Alliance, while Comoros is expected to sign and submit its ratification instrument soon

Nauru also submitted its instrument of ratification. An ISA event was held on the sidelines of the AfDB Annual Meeting in Gandhinagar.

Finance Minister of India Arun Jaitley graced the signing and ratification ceremony organised by Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). The ISA as a legal entity will come into existence once 15 countries ratify and deposit the framework agreement. (<http://mea.gov.in>, 22.05.17)

Rising Business with Ghana

India's quest to become a global economic giant has opened up new avenues for the deepening of partnership with Africa. From health, education, agriculture, energy, information and communications technology (ICT), industrialisation, capacity building among others, India is increasing its scope of investment in Africa.

With a large population of 1.2 billion people, India is increasingly making steady inroads into the continent, developing strategies to appeal to African countries in vital

Emerging Education Hub

Call it an emerging educational hub for many African students and one will not be far from the truth. Although a number of African nations can boast many universities and institutions for specialised and professional training, many Africans consider education abroad a significant achievement, particularly in countries that have advanced educational infrastructure.



From self-funded schemes to others being funded through the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) programme and the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC), over 50,000 African students, according to Indian President, Pranab Mukherjee, were studying across various universities in India.

(Daily Graphic, 03.05.17)

sectors, like healthcare, education, investment and trade, it an important economic partner for African countries. Indian businesses have made inroads into many African countries including Ghana.

(Ghana Business News, 12.05.17)

Growth in India-Africa

During the annual meeting of the AfDB at Gandhinagar (India), Prime Minister Modi announced the launch of India's latest initiative in Africa, the Asia-Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC), in partnership with Japan.

The AAGC highlights the growing importance of Africa in Indian foreign policy. The main objective of the corridor is to enhance growth and connectivity between Asia and Africa. The corridor will focus on four areas: Development Cooperation Projects, Quality Infrastructure and Institutional Connectivity, Enhancing Skills, and People-to-People Partnership. The AAGC will focus on enhancing skills and research and development capacities in Africa.

(The Hans India, 16.06.17)

GOPIO to be Held in Durban

Captains of industry, who are people of Indian origin from across the world, are meeting in Durban for the Global Convention of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) International Global Business Summit.

The meeting provides a platform for Indian leaders to connect over opportunities for economic trade and growth for their countries of residence, and to India.

South Africa boasts the largest diaspora of Indians in the world. Since the arrival of indentured Indian labourers to KwaZulu-Natal over a 150 ago, the contribution of South Africans of Indian origin has been felt in all sectors of the economy.

(South African Broadcasting Corporation News, 20.05.17)

Namibia-India Trade Ties

Windhoek-International Relations and Cooperation Minister Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah said that Namibia is awaiting a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) from the Indian government regarding cooperation in the field of tourism. She said Namibia-India cooperation in the field of tourism would mainly focus on development of tourist destinations and enhancement of people-to-people interaction.

Nandi-Ndaitwah also said the Namibia-India Joint Trade Committee (JTC) was the ideal framework for trade and economic expansion between the two countries. She said Namibia encouraged proposals from India of joint ventures in mining and minerals exploration with Epangelo Mining Company. *(New Era, 13.06.17)*