

India in Africa

India to Boost Bilateral Trade through India-West Africa Regional Conclave

Indian High Commissioner to Nigeria, Nagabhushana Reddy, said that the bilateral trade between India and Nigeria would be strengthened through the India-West Africa Regional Conclave.

Reddy said this during a press conference on the India-West Africa Regional Conclave in Abuja during October 08-09, 2018. The conference was organised by the India High Commission in collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Nigeria Investment Promotion Council (NIPC) and Abuja Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI).

According to the envoy the conclave will serve as platform for dialogue between India and the 15 West African countries. Reddy said: "This is part of our larger engagement to support governments on the provision of business platforms with different stakeholders. It is in this context that the second edition of the regional conclave will hold in Abuja; we are looking forward to government to government level of business engagement. I hope the conclave will draw a new era of engagement between our country and West African countries with Nigeria at the centre. Nigeria is the largest trading partners of India and vice versa the biggest in Africa. So, we are very hopeful these engagements will bring about the much desired promotion in terms of more Indian technology investment, generation of employment, which will benefit India and Africa."



Bilateral trade between India and Nigeria would be strengthened through the India-West Africa Regional Conclave. The conclave will serve as platform for dialogue between India and the 15 West African countries.

The Regional Director of CII, Balakrishnan Rajesh, said that the conclave is important for both countries to create platform for business people to meet and interact. He added that Abuja was chosen as a venue because India has identified Nigeria as preferred country for its trade with energy-rich West Africa in line with the country's diversification policy. He also mentioned Cote d' Ivoire and Ghana as other countries in the region that were listed in India's policy of diversifying its energy sources.

According to Rajesh, the conclave is structured into thematic sessions focussed on major areas of India-West Africa economic partnership. "This includes sustainable financing, infrastructure and green energy, agriculture and

agro-processing and services (education, health and IT)," Rajesh said.

Over 200 delegates across 15 African countries, 70 business representative from India and 20 chief executives officers participated in the event.

Adeshina Emmanuel, Director of Investment Promotion of Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission, said that the conclave initiative would be apt for sustainable partnership between India and Nigeria.

According to him, it will encourage private sector operators and key financial institutions to identify priority areas and special projects for Indian investment and partnership with long terms commitment to West Africa.

Strengthening ICT Innovation

The Government of India has presented a cheque of US\$1mn to the Ghana-India Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence (GI-KACE) in Information Communication Technology (ICT), to strengthen ICT Research and Innovation in country.

The fund, which is a grant, would support the Centre in capacity building for the expansion needs of ICT research product development and service delivery.

Over the next three years, the grant would be used to develop human resource and state-of-the-art ICT laboratories, a self-sustaining system to take up assignments in technology development, research backed by a self-sustaining business model.

(www.ghanabusinessnews.com, 04.10.18)

Zambia-India Trade Exceeds

Trade between Zambia and India has exceeded the targeted US\$1bn in the year 2018. According to a statement released to Zambia News and Information Services (ZANIS) by First Secretary for Press and Tourism at the Zambian High Commission in India, Bangwe Naviley, trade between the two countries has improved from US\$650mn in the year 2016 to US\$980mn in 2017 and it has now exceeded the US\$1bn target for the year 2018.

Zambia's High Commissioner to India Judith Kapijimpanga disclosed that the business visas issued to Indian traders and investors also increased from 520 in the year 2017 to 602 in the year 2018, which represents an increase of 82.

(*LT*, 30.12.18)

Trade Opportunities for SMEs

Leading industry and trade representatives from different countries tabled the challenges and opportunities presented to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in their respective economies at the recently held 15th CII SME Global Summit at New Delhi.

Ghana-India Deepens Trade Relations

The Ghana India Trade and Advisory Chamber (GITAC), launched in September 2018, has made impressive efforts in promoting trade relations between Ghana and India. GITAC, a non-profit organisation, was established to promote and enhance trade, investment and cultural interactions between Ghana and India.

In line with its objectives, the GITAC is speedily making progress in building and nurturing of mutually beneficial relationships between Ghana and India through



excessive developments after its launch in Accra.

GITAC has been able to sign on an encouraging number of companies and still making room for more in various sectors of both countries economy. GITAC would provide consultancy to promote a close collaboration between research and policy formulation in the field of trade and investment to enhance global expertise on trade.

(www.myjoyonline.com, 19.10.18)

Speaking on the opportunities in Zambia, Chabuka J Kawesha, Vice President Services, Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ZACC) highlighted that 75 percent of their gross domestic product is influenced by SMEs. Talking of the areas for investment, Kawesha said that their policy allows trade and big markets are competing on a big scale in Zambia.

Kawesha said that the history between India and Zambia goes a very long way and cuts across the whole continent of Africa. SMEs can help to enhance our bilateral relationship between India and Africa continent.

(*ET*, 24.12.18)

India-UAE Ink MoU for Africa

India and UAE for the first time will sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to set up projects in third countries beginning with Ethiopia during Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj's ongoing visit to the Gulf country.

The MoU will focus on third country projects beginning with Africa under the South-South cooperation model. India and UAE

will collaborate to set up an IT excellence Centre in Ethiopia riding on Delhi's expertise and UAE's funds in the Eastern African country.

While Ethiopia is the highest recipient of India's concessional loans outside South Asia, UAE enjoys political goodwill in the country for having mediated between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

(*ET*, 04.12.18)

Indian Doctors Offer Free Services

A team of senior doctors from India will be in Uganda to offer free medical care at a two-day health camp focussing on children's heart diseases, cancer and deformities of bones or muscles.

"Our doctors will also examine and offer free consultation to those that have been on treatment but are in need of expert reviews. All participants are required to carry their previous personal files for reference," Mihir Vora, the founder of MagnusMedia said.

According to data from the Uganda Heart Institute, of the 1.5 million children born in Uganda, at least 15,000 present with heart problems.

(*DM*, 12.11.18)

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