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Indo-African Conclave Generates Whopping US\$17 billion business



The partnership between India and Africa has touched a new pinnacle with the just concluded Conclave 2006, generating an estimated US\$17 billion, three times more than the business worth US\$ 5 billion discussed at a similar gathering in the previous year. Scores of projects have been discussed during the three-day Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership, organized jointly by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Ministry of External Affairs. The Export Import Bank of India was an active participant, being a major catalyst in promoting bilateral trade between India and the African continent. The Conclave, the second in a series, was attended by over 350 overseas and 400 Indian delegates.

The projects covered during the current Conclave are in the areas of infrastructure (ports, railways, power and energy, transport and telecom), agriculture (post-harvest processing), education (skills development), water and sanitation, health, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), minerals and metals, construction and Information and Communications Technology (ICT). For the first time, the Conclave included delegates from the Francophone region of Africa. All these projects, which will be executed in due course will involve an investment of US \$ 17 billion.

Several SMEs from both India and Africa have joined hands. A number of these are companies involved in agro-processing and engineering areas. Overall, new partnerships have emerged, new relationships built and friendships cemented.

Speaking at the valedictory session of the Conclave, Joint Secretary for Africa, N Chauhan said the relationship between India and Africa needed to be institutionalized and widened to include economic, political, cultural and other relations. This conclave, the second in a series that



began in 2005 as part of the Focus Africa programme of the Indian government, reflects the growing importance of Africa to India.

"India needs agricultural products and natural resources for its rapidly-growing economy and this has been one of the drivers of the growth in trade. Technology transfer, trade and capacity building are the three legs of the tripod of bilateral ties," Chauhan said.

There is now an enhanced possibility of Indian participation in African projects, particularly in the sectors of services, trade, manufacturing, telecommunications, banking and insurance, Ms. Chauhan said. The Infrastructure Consortium of Africa has allowed Indian companies to bid for large projects.

India has launched a slew of initiatives to boost ties with Africa. These include the Pan African E-Network for tele-medicine and tele-education, bilateral and multilateral lines of credit through restructuring of commercial debt and has executed several infrastructure projects in African countries, she said.

In addition, India can share its expertise in setting up a Pan-African Commodities Exchange, drawing on its experience on similar exchanges in India, Ms. Chauhan said. It can also assist Africa in setting up a Pan-African stock exchange that will consolidate the activities of 28 exchanges on the continent and speed up economic development.

India has become a food exporter, from being an importer, she said. It can help Africa in the fields of agro-engineering and water resources management to shore up its agricultural sector. India has become part of the

African Capacity Building Initiative, the first Asian country to do so, and is well placed to launch human resources development and training programmes in African countries.

Another major area of engagement is promoting democracy, Ms. Chauhan said. Through the Global Democracy Initiative, India works to strengthen democratic institutions, reform civil services and assist in holding free and fair elections. It has also participated in peacekeeping operations in several African countries, and currently Indian soldiers serve under the United Nations banner in Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan and the Congo.

CII's Chief Mentor Tarun Das reiterated Ms. Chauhan's statement to institutionalize ties with Africa. "There is need for long term, ethical partnerships based on trust and credibility," he said.

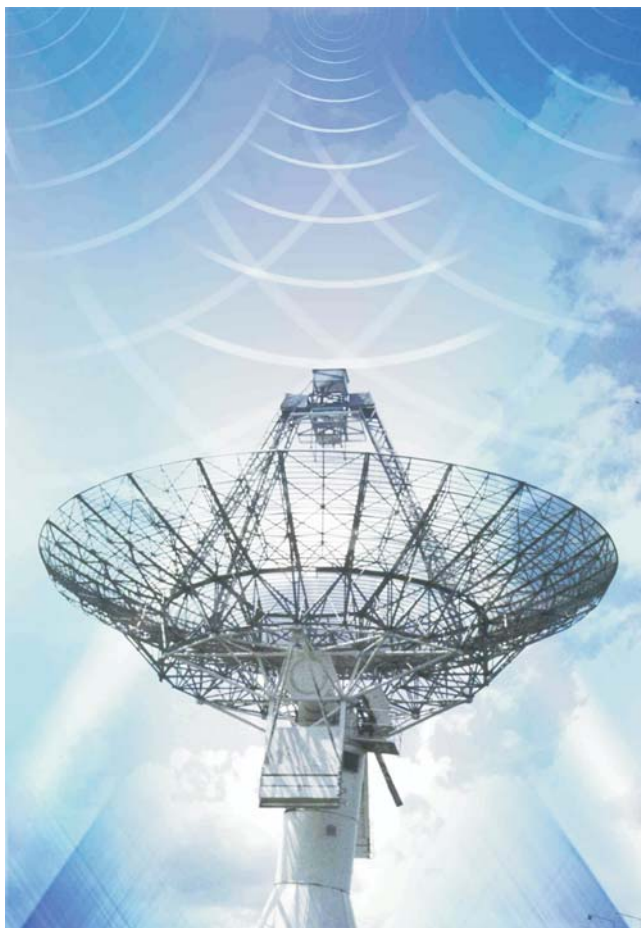
The Conclave presented newer opportunities to work together in the fields of infrastructure, transport, minerals, etc. There is now need to explore newer avenues of finance. "Indian private banks could step in to supplement the efforts of the Export-Import Bank of India and finance the cooperation between the two regions," Das said.

CII will arrange for meetings between Indian and African delegations in different parts of India to facilitate the fast-growing relationship between the two regions, he said. Some of the themes that these will focus on are skills development, human resources development and training.

During the Conclave, the Exim Bank extended a fresh line of credit of US\$10 million to the PTA Bank in Africa. This is in addition to the 37 Lines of Credit amounting to \$1.37 billion already extended by the Exim Bank to various African countries, covering areas such as Agriculture, transportation, steel and cement industry.

Earlier this year, the Exim Bank had signed a \$250 million Line of Credit with the ECOWAS bank for Investment and Development purposes. These lines of credit will have a multiplier effect as the technical and professional capabilities of Indian Business as also its global competitiveness will become familiar to Africa.

Exim Bank of India has been participating in the developmental process in Africa not only by providing funding support such as Lines of Credit which currently



amount to US\$ 1.4 billion for financing projects in the sectors like agriculture, transportation, power generation and distribution, railway, rural electrification and infrastructure but also by promoting and financing manufacturing and capacity building activities in Africa.

The enthusiastic response to the "India-Africa Project Partnership 2005: Expanding Horizons" (Nov 6-8) held in New Delhi underscored huge potential for further expansion of business and trade relations between the two sides. It was attended by 160 delegates from 32 African countries and led to over 600 one-to-one meetings between them and Indian entrepreneurs. Over 70 projects, estimated to be worth US\$ 5 billion, were discussed at the Conclave.

The first initiative was taken earlier in 2005 (March 2-4) to develop a model for promoting partnership between the government and the private sector for enhancing India's participation in the development priorities of African countries. The March meeting was also a big draw, leading to advance information on 178

projects valued at \$ 6 billion and the signing of 12 MoUs.

India-Africa bilateral trade had been growing steadily, rising from \$ 967 million in 1990-91 to 9.14 billion in 2004-05. India's exports to Africa had risen from \$ 394 million in 1990-91 to \$ 5.4 billion in 2004-05, accounting for 6.8 per cent of India's total exports. And given the vitality of African economy, which registered an all-time high in combined real GDP in 2005, India's trade and business relationship with Africa could only grow further.

India has taken up the Pan-African e- network Project for establishing e-connectivity in all 53 countries of the African Union. The focus will be on tele-medicine and tele-education facilities from specialized institutes in India to remote learning and medical centers in each African nation.

Earlier, addressing the Conclave, MEA Secretary Shashi U Tripathi said India aimed at developing a greater political and economic understanding with countries on the African continent. "We need to respond with more alacrity to the demands of the African countries," she said.

According to Ms. Tripathi, the strategy for the further development of Africa is based on the building block approach with greater stress on the administrative practices and financial assistance.

CII and the COMESA Business Council (CBC) also signed a Memorandum of Understanding in order to promote technical cooperation in all fields of economic activity. These areas of cooperation include agriculture and mineral products, infrastructure development,





exchange of information, collaboration in strengthening the business community and development of small and medium enterprises.

Under the MoU, both CII and CBC agree to establish and review working relationship, facilitate exchange of information and data on patterns of trade, investment and technology flows, promote contacts and cooperation, exchange information on policies and procedures relating to industrial, investment, trade and private sector partnership, collaborate in identifying potential business and public institutions, provide forums for continuous consultations among business communities, match and facilitate twinning arrangements with various regional and international bodies, lastly increase of India- COMESA commerce and investment.

Such measures will help boost credibility of African countries among Indian business, said Chief Mentor, CII, Tarun Das. In turn, Indian companies will help develop African human and natural resources. "We have a new energy growing between Africa and India. The process is at work and is moving steadily."

India and Africa, which together account for over half of the world's humanity, have an age-old special relationship that is in the process of being given a new thrust by closer collaboration in all-important areas of technology, trade and training.

This is in fact the new triumvirate that underpins the architecture of India-Africa relationship and has given a new resonance to South-South cooperation.

The synergies between the two sides are mutually reinforcing. Africa is the emerging market for Indian products and enterprise and an alternative source of energy security for India. And for Africa, India is a shining example how democracy and development can fuse harmoniously.

There is a new mood of buoyancy and optimism as modern India seeks to collaborate with a resurgent Africa to create a new world order. Ideology, redolent of an earlier era of a shared struggle against colonialism and imperialism, has been tempered with pragmatism and a sober realization of new challenges facing both India and Africa as they get ready to take their place under the global sun.

The result is a reinventing and rejuvenation of an old relationship in which technology reliable and affordable is going to play an increasingly important role. And nowhere was this new trend better reflected and epitomized than in the ambitious Pan-African Network that seeks to electronically connect 53 countries of the African Union, which was launched in October this year.

The brainchild of President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the PAN, which seeks to provide benefits of telemedicine and tele-education to 53 African countries, is expected to revolutionize communication through Africa and further replenish a huge reservoir of mutual goodwill that exists on both sides.

This is not to discount the importance of a rich shared past of high principles and idealism when the India-Africa solidarity was forged and cemented by a belief in the ideals of the non-aligned movement. But the world of



today is radically different from the time when most of African countries were still reeling under the yoke of colonial domination and requires a refocusing of energies and efforts to meet emerging opportunities.

Indian Initiatives

The result is a series of Indian initiatives to enhance economic and political cooperation with Africa. India has announced a Line of Credit of \$ 200 million to assist the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). Many developmental projects in Senegal, Mali, Niger and the Democratic Republic of Congo worth over \$ 80 million have already been approved under this programme. Besides, the development of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) will help in creating the culture of good governance in African countries.

India has written off the debt owed by the African countries under the HIPC (Heavily Indebted Poor Countries) Paris Initiative and restructured the commercial debts.

The Indian government has also allotted a \$ 500 million line of credit



for TEAM-9, a new initiative between India and a group of Francophone countries of West Africa- Burkina Faso, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Mali and Senegal.

This programme, launched in March 2004, has set up a mechanism for cooperation to take up bilateral as well as sub-regional projects and become so successful that at least six more countries are interested in joining it. Projects worth \$ 280 million covering these West African countries have already been approved against concessional lines of credit.

Most importantly, training and empowerment of human resource continues to remain India's enduring contribution to Africa. More than 1,000 officials from sub-Saharan Africa receive training annually in India under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC). India has in fact spent more than \$ 1 billion on such assistance, including training, deputation of experts and implementation of projects in African countries.

Over 15,000 African students study in India, and Indian engineers, doctors, accountants and teachers are present everywhere in several African countries.

India has been quick to respond to humanitarian emergencies in African countries and been generous with its help. The Ministry of External Affairs runs an Aid to Africa programme that provides resources for these projects.

India one of the largest contributors to peacekeeping in Africa, currently has 3,500 troops in the Democratic Republic of Congo and a sizeable contingent in Ethiopia and Eritrea.

Partnering the development process in Africa is in fact the guiding credo for India's sustained engagement with Africa.

India is actively engaged in the three crucial sectors of growth in Africa- telecommunications, IT and development of transport infrastructure and is looking forward to collaborate in new areas of cooperation like biotechnology and space technology.

ACBF Membership

In 2005, India became the first Asian country to become the full-member of the Africa Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) as it pledged \$ 1 million to the ACBF mission to build capacity for sustainable development and poverty alleviation in Africa.

The new contours of an old time-tested relationship are most visible in the vibrancy of burgeoning trade and commercial ties between the two sides.

Focus Africa Programme

The net result: the Focus Africa programme, started in 2002-03, which initially focused on the Sub-Saharan region with emphasis on seven major trading partners of the region, has been subsequently extended to cover 17 more countries in Africa.

Besides training and capacity building programmes, energy cooperation is set to



impart a new dimension to India-Africa relations as vast reserves of hydrocarbons are being discovered and developed in the continent. India's investment in Sudan's hydrocarbon sector is estimated to be \$ 2 billion. ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) has already acquired stakes in oil exploration in Libya and Nigeria. The possibilities are huge as Africa emerges as the new hub of global energy supplies.

India also seeks to help Africa in eliminating the scourge of the AIDS epidemic that has killed millions and continue to threaten the continent's youth.

To achieve this objective, New Delhi has entered the field of anti-AIDS vaccines that are in the stage of undergoing tests and is also launching a campaign to eradicate new strains of disease like TB and malaria.

President Kalam has held out hope for mitigating the AIDS epidemic in Africa, saying that an effective AIDS vaccine would be available



within five years. Besides, the President believes that the Indian experience in integrated nation building could be used to empower and enrich Africa.

Even as India and Africa come closer in projects of development and nation-building, their partnership can't hope to exert its requisite weight in world affairs unless they join hands to get their rightful place in the UN Security Council.

Confluence of Interests

Both India and Africa are acutely aware of a serious democracy deficit that afflicts the international body and the hidden and not so hidden opposition to their UN ambitions by some of the world's major powers. But if both sides, representing more than half the world's humanity, can fight this battle for justice together, they can still make it and use their influence in the global body to create an equitable world.

Many African countries have supported India's bid for the Security Council. Some of them have even supported the G4 resolution. But a consensus on evolving a joint position still eludes us. India sincerely hopes that the two sides are able to synchronize their positions in the days to come to make a decisive difference to the structure and functioning of the council.

India is aware that about two-third of the agenda of the UN Security Council focuses on Africa, and therefore, Africa needs permanent representation in the UNSC.

The confluence of interests, both bilateral and global, could not have been greater as India and Africa embark on an exciting voyage of rediscovery and get ready to embrace their global destiny in the new millennium. India's stature as a major power is being increasingly recognized by Africa, which sees it as an ideal partner in its resurgence and renewal. If both sides are able to synergise their energies and initiatives and adapt themselves to a changing world, the 21st century could surely belong to them. ■

Link Capacity Building in Africa to Strategic Vision, Policy & Planning

Towards a Better Life for all in an Age of Hope



Geraldine J Fraser-Moleketi

Geraldine J Fraser-Moleketi, Minister for Public Service and Administration, South Africa and Chairperson of the 5th Pan African Conference of Ministers for Public and Civil Service, has called upon governments to evolve a collective vision to achieve the goal of capacity building in every sector economic and social.

Delivering the Keynote address at the NEPAD workshop on Developing a Capacity Building Strategy for Africa, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, recently, she emphasized the need to link the strategic vision to governmental policy and planning in order to make it workable.

Following is the text of Fraser-Moleketi's address.

In April this year the World Bank Development Committee commented, and I quote "We are encouraged that growth in Sub-Saharan Africa exceeded 5.0 percent for the third consecutive year. We recognized that progress is uneven and insufficient, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa and in some regions of middle Income Countries (MICs). There are also signs of better progress towards the human development Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Yet, on current trends many developing countries will fail to meet the MDGs, in particular those related to human development. Achieving rapid, sustained, and shared growth will require further action to improve the business climate, access to infrastructure, enhanced market access and trade opportunities as well as measures to address issues of equity, including gender equity".

Although we can thus celebrate the progress we have been making on the continent, at the very same time we have our work cut out for us. Much of the prognosis and further progress we register could depend on the decisions we take at this conference with respect to the capacity building strategy we intend to embrace.

Chair, allow me to immediately state that I am going to depart somewhat from the theme the organizers of programme requested me to cover and has been announced in your programme. The theme of service delivery and the challenges we face in terms of that in our respective countries undoubtedly an important one, and one which occupy the attention of many of us on a daily basis. However, I think we will diminish the intended impact of this conference should we start focusing too narrowly on what is essentially sub-themes in the keynote address.

Let me defend my decision to depart from the service delivery theme. The role of our governments is not limited to service delivery only. Therefore, the capacities that need building cannot only be defined in terms of that specific role.

Of equally great importance in our countries is the responsibility we have for institution building in the aftermath of war and conflict, building institutions that suit the African reality in the wake of our colonial histories, developing institutions that are capable of supporting African democracy in the wake of systems such as apartheid and other dictatorial experiences. We are also responsible for nation-building and for creating circumstances in which our people will feel

secure to carry out their daily activities. We are responsible for creating policy environments, as well as the actual policies that will give effect to our respective national programmes for economic and social development. We are responsible for creating economic and investment environments in which business can thrive and our economies can grow. We need to create a dispensation in which we protect our precious natural and cultural heritages for generations to come. Increasingly we are also responsible for building alliances and partnerships across our national borders since the policy problems we are facing can simply not be effectively addressed if we blindly adhere to the nation-state boundaries that we inherited. We are also part of a global set-up and need to be able to engage with that in an optimal manner. These are only a few roles that I think modern African government is responsible for.

All of these roles of government demand capacity. On top of that "the capacity" which we so glibly refer to might take a different form in each of these instances. And all of these need building. We therefore need to keep this bigger picture in mind when we engage with the question of strategy for capacity building today and that is why I chose for this keynote address to set the visor somewhat wider than what the organizers requested me to do.

There is a general tendency when we speak about capacity that we are talking warm bodies and the skills and competence they bring to their jobs. And when we talk capacity building that we refer to the training of our human resource. This is, however, an extremely limiting perspective. Such a perspective prevents us from understanding fully the strategic implications of the scope of the conversation we are conducting or the responsibility that rest on the shoulders of those of us who are responsible to ensure that our governments have the appropriate capacity to fulfill the roles I have just outlined. I would therefore like you to extend the



perspective that you take of capacity and capacity building to its fullest implications.

The manner in which I have elaborated on this previously is and I quote. "Capacity cannot be looked at within a single organization in isolation, but it should be determined in relationships to other actors upstream and downstream in the service delivery relationship. Capacity should also not be determined in terms of number of people employed or the posts available, but key to the equation is the capacity to mobilize and coordinate other resources that might not resort directly under the control of government agencies. This broader perspective must be embraced when dealing with capacity challenges in the continent."

Three Focus Areas

Capacity building therefore should at the very least involve three focus areas: Human resource development, the process of equipping employees with the understanding, skills and access to information, knowledge and training that enables them to perform effectively.

Organisational development, the elaboration of management structures, processes and procedures, not only within the continent/organisations but also the





management of relationships between the different countries organisations and sectors (public, private and community).

Institutional and legal framework development, making legal and regulatory changes to enable organizations at all levels and in all sectors to enhance their capacities.

One of the question that arises from all our discussions on capacity is whether the building thereof is a lower level technical issue that should be left in the hands of technical experts, or whether it is a political issue that should be dealt with at that level in the first instance bestowing sufficient attention at a strategic level that is commensurate with the potential of capacity building outcomes to redraft the power-relations underpinning our societies in a very fundamental manner?

From my perspective capacity is fundamentally a political concept. It speaks to the idea of having the power and the ability to, in the first place, determine a strategic, political agenda, and then, secondly, to implement the agenda once decisions have been made. In the policy sense then it is having the capacity to make good policy decisions as well as the capacity to implement the policy agenda of a particular government. If we understand that in a democracy the very legitimacy of a government is founded on its ability to make decisions that meet the

needs of its citizens and enhances their situation. Governments get elected and voted out of power on the basis of its ability to successfully discharge its obligations or by failing the expectations its citizens have for them. Put in this way we must understand that capacity itself is deeply intertwined with the political process. The artificial distinction that the English language makes between politics and policy tend to obscure this intertwined nature of the capacity and politics and want to artificially suggest a technical aspect.

By extraction then, if capacity is political, then so is capacity building. It is, after all, about empowerment, creating power or at least setting it free where previously it did not exist, or was not free to come to the fore allowing those who previously could not do something, to do something. Key in this is of course whether capacity building empowers us to do something on our own terms, or whether empowerment is delimited in a way that will only allow for scope in doing things as far as the master would allow the student to... It is this particular dilemma that should, and have in the past, make us very sensitive regarding the undeclared agendas with which some technical assistance, training and other initiatives of such ilk have come to our shores.

To support this political notion of capacity further, allow me to turn to the issue of "vision". Leaders are responsible for couching visions. In democracies we can expect that elected leaders, political leaders, play a fundamentally important role in the process of showing the way, and inspiring their followers.

Authors on, and students of strategy informs us that one of the fundamental building blocks of a strategy is to have a compelling vision an image about the desired state that could serve as a unifying rallying point and energizer when things get tough. Policy analysts and implementation researchers also inform us that one of the easiest ways that implementation of any initiative goes off the rails, is when such compelling and unifying vision fails, or is not present in the first instance. A shared vision by all who is involved is particularly important when implementers are faced with very complex implementation settings. For example, where many different players and stakeholders are involved.

However, when such a vision is not present to unite, or when differences exist around what the vision should entail and competing images arise around what should be strived for, implementation become difficult, sub-optimal and even impossible. Resources become dispersed. Destructive conflicts and competitive





behaviour dissipate energy levels. Programmatic coherence is sacrificed and the benefit of potential alignment between initiatives and exploitation of synergies are lost.

Having spoken now somewhat in the abstract, let me bring this point down to our own situation. For a very long time Africa as a continent has suffered from the absence of a coherent vision for our development. This is partly because some international politics played itself out over our continent. Competing colonial forces tried to control as much landmass and resources for their own agendas. After that the Cold War had some ramifications on the continent. However, our own internal dynamics were not blameless. It is a universal truth that when the cake is small, the battle for even the crumbs can become fierce. This is the reality of the African continent.

However, I would like to believe that we have turned that corner. With the establishment of the African Union we have agreed to come together. We have realized that together we have a bigger chance to win the battle against poverty and underdevelopment that is plaguing Africa. That in taking a united position we will be in a stronger position to assert the interests of the African continent in the global geo-political arena.

I would like to believe that for the first time ever we have a shared vision for the continent. I believe the Heads of State and Heads of Governments meetings are continually elaborating on this shared vision and that it is for each of the sectors downstream to interpret this vision for their purposes, within the context of their specific sector. I believe that the founding documents of the AU, and the various speeches the AU leadership makes articulate this vision. The NEPAD programme of

action is a further elaboration of this.

I believe in summary that this shared and unifying vision is one that essentially speaks to a developmental agenda. It is an agenda that prioritizes the fight against poverty and underdevelopment. It is an agenda that promotes democratic governance within a human rights framework.

The vision, mission, goals and strategies for development we are in the process of articulating include a perspective on the developmental state. It is this perspective on the kind of state we intend to have that determines the form and substance of the requisite intellectual human capital. Capacity building programmes should reflect this perspective of the role of the state. According to Mark Beeson (1999:2)

"A developmental state is determined to influence the direction and pace of economic development by directly intervening in the developmental process rather than relying on the uncoordinated influence of market forces to allocate economic resources." Given this clarity in terms of direction that we deem exist, any capacity building programme is obliged to clearly tie in with, and take forward the developmental agenda. A capacity development strategy must logically flow from this vision from which the developmental objectives emanate. More specifically the strategic vision must translate itself into the strategic direction for all member states. On a daily basis the activities of all those engaged in advancing this developmental initiative must reflect an understanding and logical support for this vision.

However, I think sometimes we find evidence of inter-regional, inter-agency and inter-personal competition still sowing division. This has the potential to eat away at the unity of purpose that we might derive from a shared vision for our African future. We should keep our guard up to detect these and find away to strengthen our united action in the struggle for development and the fight against poverty and inequity on our continent. Our capacity building agenda can be a force in strengthening such unity in action.

NEPAD's Great Stake

It goes without saying that NEPAD has a great stake in capacity building initiatives in the continent. NEPAD represents an expression of the will and determination of the African (AU) leadership to steer Africa to higher



levels of sustainable development and, therefore, rid itself of poverty and marginalization from the global economy and body politic. In other words there is general agreement that NEPAD is a new engine of Africa's socio-economic renewal program which is underpinned by the energizing and revitalization of development institutions through the adoption of policies and strategies that will enable accelerating implementation of development initiatives and sustain economic growth over time. The international community has equally accepted the NEPAD framework as a basis for cooperation and socio-economic development of Africa

To maximize capacity building across the entire African continent, the development of a comprehensive and overarching strategic framework might be advisable. Such a Strategic framework for Capacity Building might be designed to speak to the following:

Plan for Strategy

A long-term vision of sustainable growth and human development on the Continent; A strategy plan, a set of feasible programmes and a fiscal framework designed to expedite achievement of the continental goal of "a better life for all in an age of Hope" an African continent devoid of the imbalances and inequities of the past, with integrated and balanced capacity development";

Growth and poverty reduction targets that inform a set of feasible and affordable programmes underpinned by broad-based consensus on the human development path to be followed by the continent;

- Programmes to address the short-term needs and crises



of the continent, as well as community based human and income poverty reduction initiatives.

- A strategy framework for capacity building in the continent could be expressed in terms of three key objectives:
- Systematic eradication of poverty through a holistic, integrated and multi- dimensional approach to pro-poor programming.
- Agrarian transformation and strengthening of household food security.
- Consolidation, development and diversification of the manufacturing base and tourism potential.

These key objectives should be supported through; Infrastructure development, human resource development, and public sector and institutional transformation.

It is in this last respect that the Pan African Conference of Ministers of Public and Civil Service is particularly geared to come to the table. The Stellenbosch Declaration of 2004 clearly stated that our programme is built, and I quote:

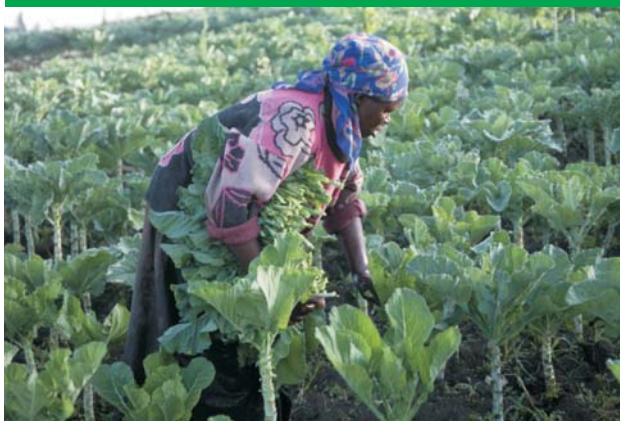
"... on the principles of regional co-operation, identification of common needs and pooling of resources, in the spirit of NEPAD and its intention to build African capacity to deal with "regional challenges"

Without going into the detail of the focus of our sector's activities, I would like to continue to pledge the support of the 5th Minister's Conference for a capacity building agenda in which we recognize the centrality of capacity in governance and administration if we are to make headway with socio-economic development on the continent. ■



First-Ever ASA Summit Calls For Wider South-South Cooperation

Heads of States and Government from Africa and South America meeting at the first-ever Africa-South America (ASA) Summit held in Abuja from 26 to 30 November, 2006 committed themselves to explore opportunities for cooperation and collaboration in the areas of trade and investment, agriculture, energy, technology, water resources and tourism. They also pledged to immediately activate and implement all bilateral agreements between their countries, particularly in the areas of trade, air services and agriculture.



The leaders agreed to establish the Africa-South America Cooperative Forum (ASACOF). There are also plans to establish a secretariat, which will be confirmed at the next Summit in 2009 in Venezuela.

In the Abuja Resolution on ASACOF, the Heads of State and Government agreed to adopt strategies and measures that will translate the vision of the ASACOF into concrete economic, political and social benefits; to intensify cooperation and consultation at all levels; and to exploit the immense opportunities in the two continents in order to benefit their estimated 1.2 billion peoples.

The adoption of the Abuja Resolution took place at the end of the week-long Summit which began with an experts' meeting, followed by a ministerial meeting.

Other documents adopted at the Summit are the Abuja Declaration and the Abuja Plan of Action. In the two documents, the two regions proposed a number of other priority areas for collaboration such as peace and security, multilateralism, democracy, respect for the rule of law, combating of illicit trafficking in arms, non proliferation of nuclear weapons, eradication of poverty and environmental protection, gender mainstreaming, science and technology, culture, education, and youth.

The following leaders addressed the opening session; President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria who co chaired the meeting with President Lula da Silva of Brazil, Presidents Muammar Gaddafi of Libya and Evo Morales of Bolivia, and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission Alpha Oumar Konare.

In their statements, the leaders emphasized the need for South- South cooperation and strategic partnerships, strengthening existing links, engaging in constructive dialogue, working together to overcome racial prejudice and working for a more equitable economic order. They agreed on the need to reform the United Nations and expansion of the UN Security Council. There was a common acknowledgement that the two regions have many historical links in the form of colonization and marginalization. As such they agreed that the challenges and aspirations are similar and should serve as a basis for mutual cooperation and a collective solution based on cooperation with the developed world.

Host President Olusegun Obasanjo said the objective of the ASA cooperation is to give expression to the ideals of South- South cooperation. He said there was need for developing countries to rally to each other's assistance, given the increasing economic and financial gap between the rich and poor countries of the world. The outcome of the Summit, he said, would be a litmus test

for this cooperation. Following is the Summit's declaration.

In order to translate this wider commitment into action, we affirm the need to cooperate in the following specific areas:

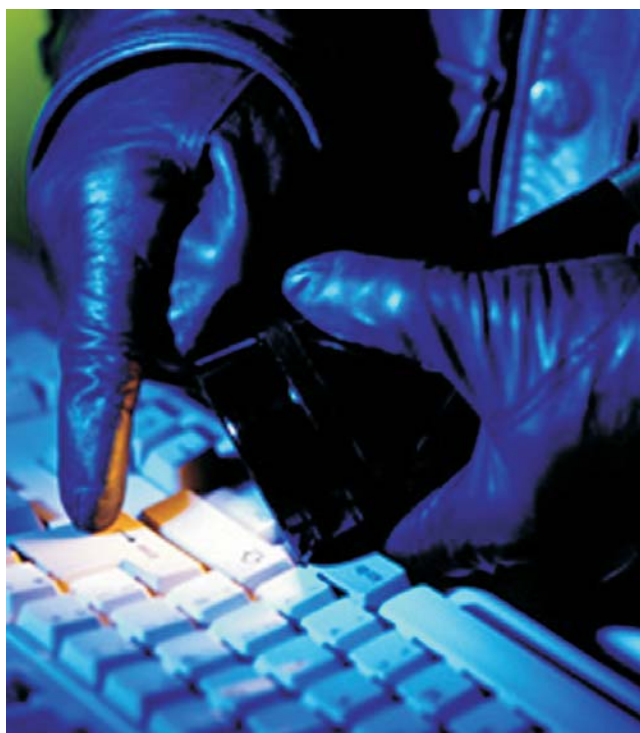
WTO & Doha Round

With regard to ongoing reforms and negotiations at the United Nations (UN) as well as the trade negotiations at the World Trade Organization (WTO), our two regions should reinforce their cooperation in these two areas. We also stress the need to reform the International financial architecture according to the parameters and objectives of the Monterrey Consensus.

It is imperative that the reform of the United Nations takes into consideration the need to increase the equitable participation of developing countries in the Organization's decision-making processes in order to render it more representative, efficient, democratic and accountable. The process of UN reform should be concluded with a view to democratizing and reforming the Security Council as well as to strengthen the General Assembly as the most representative and deliberative policy making organ of the UN.

In the current WTO negotiations, special consideration should be given to the need to coordinate the positions of our two regions to promote the interest of developing countries giving particular attention to the peculiar challenges faced by the Least Developed Countries. We urge for resumption of the Doha Round negotiations as soon as possible.

With regard to the decision making processes of the Bretton Woods Institutions, We urge for equitable participation of Developing Countries and for the disbursement of funds on concessional and affordable terms as much as possible.



Cyber Crime & Drug Trafficking

We shall also cooperate in combating transnational organized crime, particularly in respect of cyber crime, the illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, money laundering, trafficking in persons and the illicit trafficking in small arms, light weapons and ammunitions.

Agriculture, Agri-business & Rural Development

We need to develop our capabilities in agricultural and livestock production and agree that South America should participate actively in the promotion of the social and economic development of Africa's rural workers and vast agricultural and livestock resources. We further agree to support the revitalization of agriculture to boost social and economic development and achieve nutritional and food security in Africa through the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), which is the starting point for cooperation in the area of agriculture and agro-industry.

Relations between the two regions shall foster cooperation, training and exchange of experiences, in the area of biotechnology, biofuels, tropical agriculture, and agrarian reform. This should include support for horizontal and vertical diversification measures, in order to add value to the agricultural products. The two regions shall also work closely in the ongoing negotiations on Agriculture within WTO for the total

elimination of trade distorting subsidies and for greater and effective market access for our agricultural products.

Water Resources

We recognize the importance of water as a natural resource of State that is an essential element for life with a socio-economic and environmental functions. We shall promote the right of our citizens to have access to clean and safe water and sanitation within our respective jurisdictions.



We realize the need to promote sustainable use of water for agricultural and industrial purposes. In this regard, we shall promote the exchange of information and experience between our regions with a view to achieving the Millennium, Development Goals.

Trade & Investment

International trade is an important instrument for promoting social and economic development, creating job opportunities, increasing income, reducing poverty, and improving living conditions.

Africa-South American Bank

We recognize the existing trade relations between the two regions and urge the enhancement of trade and cooperation between the two regions and agree to work towards the establishment of trade arrangements for the benefit of the people of our countries. In this connection, mechanisms shall be established for increasing trade and investment between Africa and South America, and exchange of technologies to add value to raw materials. We shall encourage private sector participation to promote such initiatives through National Business

Associations and the possible establishment of an Africa-South America Business Association. In this regard, we take note with satisfaction, of the proposed establishment of an Africa-South American Bank and which the governments of the two regions shall examine within the framework of their internal legislation taking into account the financial integration processes underway in the two regions. We also take note of the establishment of the African Investment Bank of the African Union.

Moreover, regulated, transparent, non-discriminatory, and fair multilateral trade is essential to permit developing countries to benefit from globalization. Accordingly, our two regions agree to work together to achieve a fair and balanced multilateral trading system. We are deeply concerned about the delay in the WTO negotiations on the Doha Development agenda and call for a full resumption and successful completion of the Round, with development issues at its center as agreed in Doha.

UNCTAD's Role

We express our appreciation for the role played by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) as a focal point in the UN for integrated treatment of trade and development as well as related issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development, as underlined by the Sao Paulo Consensus and the G77 Ministerial Declaration documents that were approved at the XI UNCTAD meeting in Sao Paulo in June 2004.

We recognize that cooperation in trade and investment matters will have greater impact through joint initiatives aimed at endowing negotiators at bilateral and multilateral trade fora with the necessary skills.

We therefore undertake to give impetus to the following two initiatives:



- The securing of market access for products from Least Developed Countries, pursuant to paragraph 47 of the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration.
- Active participation of the countries involved in the current round of negotiations of the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries (GSTP).

We stress the importance of making progress in the integration processes in our respective regions, taking into account the asymmetries in the national economies and the special needs and constraints that affect small, vulnerable economies, particularly those of developing land-locked countries.

Fight against hunger & poverty

Pursuant to the MDGs and the Global Call to Action against Hunger and Poverty, we shall share experiences and exchange information on the best models for eradicating hunger and poverty, and promoting sustainable development.

We undertake to implement existing initiatives and to adopt new strategies to that end. Special consideration shall be given to the need to understand each others' reality and to closer coordination of our positions at international fora.

Infrastructure Development

We shall jointly identify projects aimed at contributing towards infrastructure development and the modalities of funding these projects. And for this purpose, we recognize the need to develop direct air routes and to rationalize sea routes between the two regions. The South American Infrastructure Initiative (IIRSA) and, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Short Term Action Plan (STAP) of the African Union, form a basis for mutual exchange and support in the area of infrastructure development. We shall share information



and knowledge on the best way to organize transportation means (air, sea, road and railway) within and between our two regions.

Energy & Minerals

We shall give priority to establishing inter-regional partnerships and the promotion of investment in Africa by South America in mining and energy sectors for harnessing fossil fuels, particularly hydrocarbons, petrochemicals, as well as renewable energy resources, such as hydro power, biofuels, solar, geothermal, and wind energy, to meet various energy requirements. In this area, the activities of the African Energy Commission (AFREC) the Latin America Energy Organization



(OLADE) are relevant and should be encouraged. Furthermore, taking into account South America's experience in developing technology and appropriating skills for the extractive industry, we shall encourage the exchange of information with a view to enhancing employment of local African labour in this sector.

We mandate AFREC and CASA to elaborate an energy strategy to promote sustainable development, while respecting the sovereign right to manage and regulate natural resources, and to consider the possibility of establishing an Energy Commission for our two regions.

Tourism & Soccer World Cup

To strengthen the cultural identity of our peoples and enhance cultural exchanges between them, we shall undertake cooperation and exchange initiative aimed at the formulation of strategies for dissemination through the communications media, particularly through television advertising, so as to encourage the exchange of information between the two regions and promote extensive cultural integration between Africa and South

America. We shall cooperate in promoting the first ever 2010 FIFA World Cup tournament in Africa and we shall support moving the FIFA World Cup to South America in 2014. We shall also undertake initiatives aimed at exchange and cooperation in the area of social sciences, tourism, and sports as well as at the recovery and revalorization of the original cultural traditions of the indigenous peoples and communities. We shall place special emphasis on the facilitation and strengthening of relations between Africa and the African Diaspora in South America.

Science & Technology

Given that science and technology are essential components of the industrialization processes of the two regions, we must develop and implement initiatives towards enhancing our capacities in these areas. We shall, wherever possible, exchange our experiences in the formulation and implementation of policies in science, transfer and development of technology to meet our development objectives. It is necessary to protect and to benefit from traditional knowledge as well as to find a solution to the problem raised by the granting of intellectual property rights on biological resources and/or associated traditional knowledge, without due compliance with relevant provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Specific attention should also be paid to developments that will narrow the digital divide within and between our two regions and the rest of the world, as envisaged in the Tunis Declaration adopted at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), held in Tunis, Tunisia, in November 2005. In this connection, our regions undertake to contribute to the Digital Solidarity Fund established for this purpose. Initiatives for cooperation on laying down the infrastructure and legal framework to support information and communication development should be undertaken.



Healthcare

Cooperation between Africa and South America in the area of health encompasses the HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, and other pandemics. In this regard, attention should be paid to the African Union's Plan of Action for the operationalization of the policy framework on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights adopted by African Health Ministers in Maputo in 2006. Attention should also be paid to the Millennium Development Goals, Universal Access Strategy and the resolutions of the WHO's Assembly, and the UNAIDS Position Paper for Intensifying HIV Prevention. In the effort to increase the population's access to health, to early diagnostics, and to preventive and curative drugs used against HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other pandemics, initiatives aimed at facilitating the availability of drugs against HIV/AIDS and of other generic drugs against these pandemics should be undertaken.



Education

Cooperation and exchange programmes should be implemented with a view to achieving the MDGs in the area of education and the six key Education for All (EFA) goals, as defined in the Dakar Framework for Action as well as the implementation of the Plan of Action of the Second Decade of Education in Africa, 2006-2015. We undertake to pay special attention to promoting cooperation and mutual support among educational, technical and research institutions, as well as the exchange of researchers, students and faculty, language teaching and promotion of government cooperation in



educational and academic matters including through the creation of inter-regional university institutions, the possible granting of scholarships and in other activities, such as the holding of conferences and seminars on issues of mutual interest.

Environment

In the context of sustainable development, the efficient management of natural resources will be one of the pillars of cooperation between our two regions. Special attention should be given to the conservation and sustainable use of the environment, in accordance with the relevant international instruments, including the Kyoto Protocol, sustainable use of biodiversity, including marine resources, and to the promotion of measures against the dumping of hazardous and toxic waste. We shall also share experiences and promote technical cooperation in the areas of new and renewable energy, combating desertification, global warming, forestry, the depletion of the ozone layer and combating pollution. To achieve these objectives, we shall endeavour to access the Global Environment Facilities (GEF) as well as to have new and additional financial resources made available to developing countries.



Institutional Development

The two regions shall undertake initiatives aimed at strengthening the existing continental, inter-governmental and research institutions that are envisaged to play a key role in furthering cooperation between our two regions. We shall also promote centres of excellence from among such institutions and information exchange and the sharing of best practices in all areas of cooperation. Intellectuals, civil society (NGOs, private sector actors, research institutes, religious groups and community leaders), and policy makers in our two regions and the Diaspora shall be associated with programmes and projects in these areas.

Follow-up mechanism

In order to ensure the effective implementation of the programmes and policies agreed to in this Declaration, we hereby establish an Africa-South America Follow-up Committee composed of the current Co-Chairs and incoming Co-Chairs, with the assistance of the African Union Commission and the Secretariat of the Community of South American Nations.

The Follow-up Committee comprising high level officials, shall be responsible for proposing new initiatives and undertaking actions on previously agreed programmes and projects, reviewing the progress of their implementation and disseminating information about cooperation arrangements. It shall also follow up on Ministerial and Summit decisions, and submit recommendations to Summits..

We agree that the Africa-South America Summits will be held every two (2) years in Africa and in South America, on a rotational basis. The second Africa-South America Summit (ASA) will be held in 2009 and we have accepted

with pleasure, the offer of the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to host it.

In the period between Summits, other meetings will be held, in the form and at the level that the Governments and the two regions may decide.

This Cooperation Programme shall be implemented in the context of the Plan of Action we have adopted and the Follow-up Mechanism contained in this Declaration. ■

Tata Motors Launches Pick-up Models & Trucks in S. Africa

Tata Motors, India's largest automobile company, is introducing more commercial and passenger vehicle models in the South African market. The models displayed at the Auto Africa 2006 in Johannesburg recently are expected to further strengthen Tata Motors' position in South Africa.

In commercial vehicles, new trucks (6 and 10 tonners), tippers (2-6 cubic metre capacity) and bakkies (1.3 tonne flat bed) are being launched. These vehicles are aimed at meeting diverse transportation needs of the country.

In passenger vehicles, Tata Motors is launching the Safari Dicor, which will be available in early 2007. The company currently markets the Indica hatchback, Indigo Sedan and Indigo Station Wagon. Apart from being the leading models in India, they are making forays in chosen overseas markets, including European countries.

Also on display for the first time at the recent Expo were two concept cars Tata Crossover, a 'crossover' vehicle concept, and Tata Clifffrider, a 'multi-utility lifestyle vehicle' concept.

Ravi Kant, Managing Director, Tata Motors, said, "In a period of only three years, Tata Motors has emerged as the third largest player in South Africa's commercial vehicles market, and one of the fastest growing brands in passenger vehicles. Encouraged by this response, through our presence in only some segments, our endeavour now is to expand our range with improved applications, to reach out to more customers and build a lifetime relationship."

In South Africa, Tata Motors sold over 16,500 vehicles in 2005-06. The models currently being sold are Indica, Indigo, Indigo Stationwagon in the passenger cars segment, trucks in the medium and heavy commercial vehicle segment and Tata Novus tippers in the extra-heavy commercial vehicle



segment. Over the years, Tata Motors has emerged as South Africa's leading player in various segments like 2-tonne, 4-tonne and 8-tonne. It is the market leader in the tipper segment, and is the number two player in the MCV (medium commercial vehicles) segment. In passenger cars, Tata Motors' Indigo Stationwagon has emerged as the best selling estate.

In addition to South Africa, Tata Motors is making strong progress in DR Congo, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Madagascar, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. ■



Charter Launched in Addis Ababa African Youth Told to Build 'A United States of Africa'

The fifth edition of the African Development Forum (ADF V) opened at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa on 16 November. The ADF this year focuses on "Youth and Leadership in the 21st Century" and is being jointly organized by the ECA and the African Union. Hundreds of delegates attended the forum meeting, including UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, Prime Minister of Ethiopia Meles Zenawi, Chairperson of the Africa Union Commission Professor Alpha Oumar Konare, President of the African Development Bank Donald Kaberuka, ECA Executive Secretary Abdulie Janneh, government ministers, ambassadors, AU Commissioners and invited guests.

At the official opening ceremony, Konare launched the African Youth Charter with representatives of African youths receiving copies of the Charter from the Chairperson, who was assisted by Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and technology Professor Nagia Essayed.

Konare urged the African youth to fight for liberty and accountability and to mobilize efforts against HIV and AIDS, to say no to drugs, and to raise their voice to reject conflict and impunity. He also urged the youths to acquire education and appreciate their respective cultures and languages.

He regretted that there had been so many deaths of young African migrants who lost their lives en route to Europe in search of jobs. A minute's silence was observed in honour of those who had died this way.

Konare referred to the forthcoming Soccer World Cup in 2010, which Africa would be proudly hosting and called on the entire continent to ensure that the tournament showed African culture and values, and also helped in the fight against discrimination. He emphasized that the success of Africa resided in its unity, in speaking with one voice, hence the efforts being made towards establishing a United States of Africa.

Two youth representatives addressed the ADF V. They recalled that young people, especially girls and women

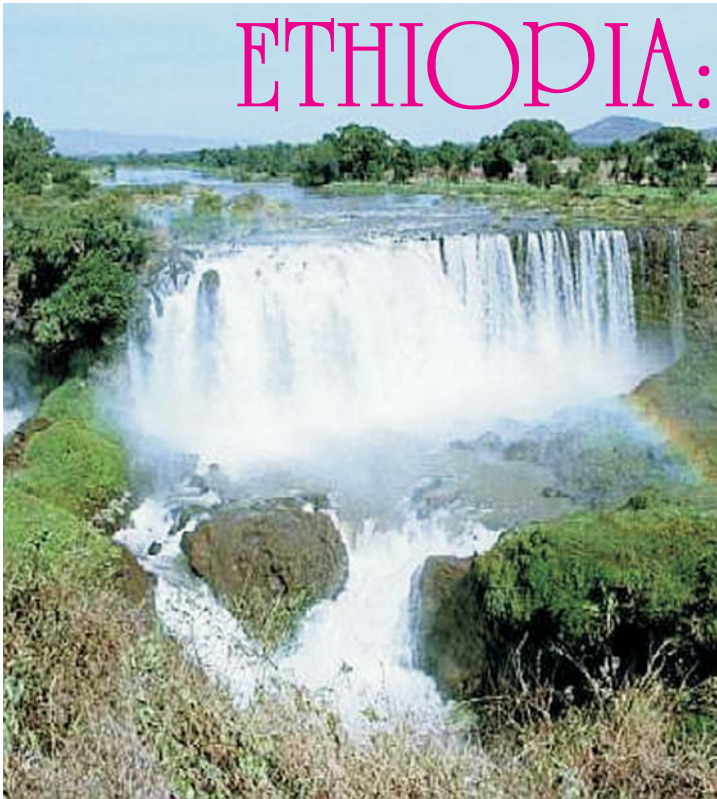
were sometimes victims of neglect, exploitation and abuse. Young people, they said, should be given a chance to gain experience and be gainfully employed either in institutions or as owners of their own businesses.

The UN Secretary General called on all the people of Africa to work hard to achieve development. Saying that development was never a gift bestowed on any country, Annan urged developing countries to implement their commitments to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). He also urged the developed and middle-income countries to fulfill their promises to the developing countries.

Ethiopian Prime Minister Zenawi noted that a combination of the wisdom of grown-ups and the courage and ambition of the youth is an ideal recipe for Africa to tackle its many development challenges. He said that while there has been interference in African affairs, Africa should not continue to blame others entirely for its condition, but should instead take responsibility for changing the balance of forces. In this respect, he encouraged the youth to see how they could contribute to the development process and become involved.

Kaberuka of the African Development Bank said that Africa was the youngest population in the world, with over half a billion young people, many of whom were part of the "MDG Generation". "This is a positive thing for Africa," he added. He also observed that, despite the recurring conflicts, cases of corruption and droughts in some cases, Africa had made a lot of progress. This progress should be supported with good institutions and the wherewithal to continue.

ECA Executive Secretary Janneh said that two thirds of Africa was below the age of 25. Young people, he said were among the most creative in society, they have radical ideas and are the inheritors of the future. "As such the ADF is also about encouraging the young people to make the right decisions and to ensure that their lives are not limited by poverty, diseases, or by wars and conflicts." He said. ■



ETHIOPIA: The Biblical Water Tower of Africa

spectacular rainbows, in one of the most awe-inspiring displays in Africa.

The Blue Nile falls can easily be reached from Bahir Dar and the Scenic beauty of the Blue Nile Gorge, 225km from Addis Ababa, can be enjoyed as part of an excursion from the capital.

The SoF Omar Cave

Sof Omar, a tiny Muslim village in Bale, is the site of an amazing complex of natural caves, cut by the Wab River as it found its way from the nearby mountains. Armed with torches and official map, visitors to Sof Omar make their way underground, far into the bowels of the earth, beside a subterranean stream, and there can see an extraordinary number of arched portals, high eroded ceilings and deep echoing chambers.

The natural beauty of Ethiopia amazes the first-time visitor. Ethiopia is a land of rugged mountains (some 25 are more than 4000 meters high) broad savannahs, lakes and rivers. The unique Rift Valley is a remarkable region of volcanic lakes, with their famous collections of birdlife, great escarpments and stunning vistas. Tisisat, the blue Nile falls, is considered as one of the greatest natural spectacles in Africa. With 14 major wildlife reserves, Ethiopia provides a microcosm of the entire sub-Saharan ecosystem.

Birdlife abounds, and indigenous animals from the rare Walia ibex (a member of goat family), to the shy wild ass, roam free just as nature intended. After the rains, Ethiopia is decked with flowers and with many more native plants than most countries in Africa.

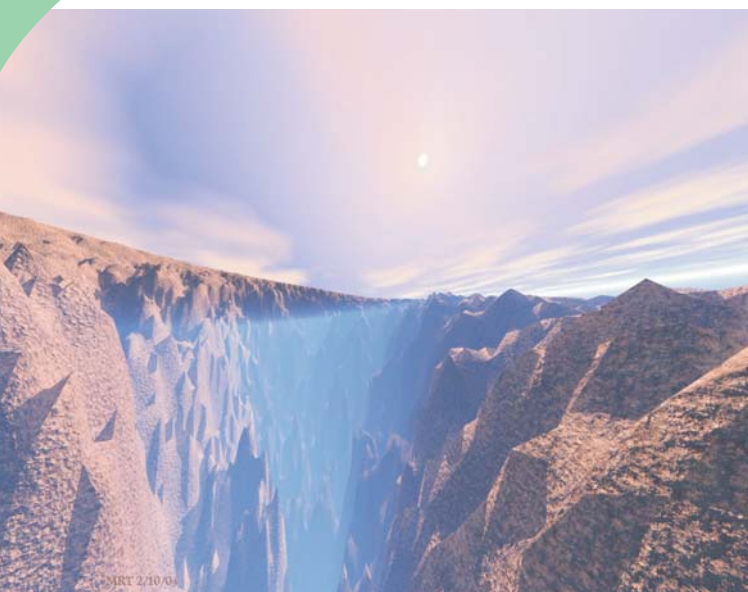
The Nile

The river Nile, the longest river in Africa, holds part of its heart in Ethiopia. From lake Tana, the Blue Nile, known locally as Abbay, flows for 800 km within Ethiopia to meet the White Nile in Khartoum to form the great river that gives life to Egypt and the Sudan. It has been said that the Blue Nile contributes up to 80 percent of the Nile's flow. The Blue Nile Falls are about an hour by tour bus from Bahar Dar. Known locally as Tis Isat, the falls are over 400m (1312ft) wide and 45m (148ft) deep. Because of a series of dams near Bahar Dar, they aren't as impressive as they used to be. Nowhere, is it more spectacular than where it thunders over the Tisisat Falls literally "Smoking Water" - near Bahar Dar. Here millions of gallons of water cascade over the cliff face and into a gorge, creating



The Rift Valley

The Ethiopian Rift Valley, which is part of the famous East African Rift Valley, comprises numerous hot springs, beautiful lakes and a variety of wildlife. The valley is the result of two parallel faults in the earth's surface between



which, in distant geological time, the crust was weakened, and the land subsided. Ethiopia is often referred to as the "water tower" of Eastern Africa because of the many rivers that pour off the high tableland. The Great Rift Valley's passage through Ethiopia is marked by a chain of seven lakes.

Each of the seven lakes has its own special life and character and provides ideal habitats for the exuberant variety of flora and fauna that make the region a beautiful and exotic destination for tourists.

Most of the lakes are suitable and safe for swimming other water sports. Besides, lakes Abiata and Shalla are ideal places for bird watchers. Most of the Rift Valley lakes are not fully exploited for tourist purposes except lake Langano where tourist class hotels are built. The Rift Valley is also a site of numerous natural hot springs and the chemical contents of the hot springs are highly valued for their therapeutic purposes though at present they are not fully utilized. In short, the Rift Valley is endowed with many beautiful lakes, numerous hot springs, warm and pleasant climate and a variety of wildlife. It is considered as one of the most ideal areas for the development of international tourism in Ethiopia.

Ethiopia's Historical Spots

Ethiopia, the oldest independent nation in Africa, has a heritage dating back to first century AD. Traders from Greece, Rome, Persia and Egypt knew of the riches of what is now Ethiopia, and by the first century AD, Axum was the capital of a great Empire. This realm became one of the first Christian lands of Africa. Late in the 10th Century, Axum declined and a new Zagwe dynasty, centred what is now Lalibela, ruled the land. Axum, Lalibela and Gonder now provide our greatest historical legacy. It was in the 16th Century that the son of the great

explorer Vasco Da Gama came to Ethiopia, but then found a land of many kingdoms and provinces beset by feuds and War.

The well-trodden path through Ethiopia's famous and fascinating historic places takes you through a scenically magnificent world of fairy-tale names, such as Lalibela, Gondar, Deber Damo and Bahar Dar.

Several of Ethiopia's more remote areas are excellent for walking safaris, which are offered by several good tour operators in the country. Walking tours, best planned for the dry season, offer the traveler the opportunity for awe-inspiring vantage points from which to view many of Ethiopia's natural wonders, cultural riches and architectural heritage.

In Gondar, there are fairytale castles dating back to the 17th century. In Harar, the visitor can enjoy the incense-flavored mysteries of narrow alleyways and towering minarets.

The followings are some of our historical attractions.

Axum

And Axum, Ethiopia's most ancient city and the capital of the historic Axumite state, is the site of many remarkable



TOURISM

monolithic stone stelae, or obelisks, the three most important being decorated to represent multi-storied buildings, complete with doors and windows.

Lalibela

Lalibela, lies at the centre of an extensive complex of rock



churches. It has 11 remarkable rock-hewn monolithic churches, believed to have been built by King Lalibela in the late 12th or early 13th Century. These notable structures are carved, inside and out, into the solid rock, and are considered to be among the wonders of the world.

Addis Ababa

It is not only the political capital but also the economic and social nerve-centre of Ethiopia. Wide, tree-lined streets, fine architecture, glorious weather and the incongruity of donkey trains along the boulevards make Addis Ababa a city of surprises and a delightful place to explore.



Debre Damo

Some 76 km from Axum is the monastery of Debre Damo (closed to women), which is said to have the oldest existing intact church in Ethiopia. Local tradition says that

Abune Aregawi, one of the nine Saints, built the church in the 16th Century. The Monastery of Debre Damo can only be reached by rope pulley.

Yeha

Some 55 km east of Axum is the 5th Century BC temple of Yeha. Its massive walls house Judaic relics and historic artefact.

Bahar Dar

Bahar Dar is a small town set on the south - eastern shore of lake Tana, where local fishermen still use papyrus boats, and just 30 km from the spectacular Tissisat Falls. Here the Blue Nile creates "Smoking Water" an awe-inspiring sight as it plunges into the gorge below.

Gonder

Gonder was the 17th Century capital of Ethiopia, and is notable for its medieval Castles and churches. These dramatic castles, unlike any other African, display a richness in architecture that reveals the Axumite traditions as well as the influence of Arabia.



Harar

The city of Harar is an ancient (1520) and holy city. Always an important trading centre, the city is famous for its ancient buildings, its great city walls and as a centre of learning Muslim scholarship.

Rimbaud House

A Fine building traditional house dating from the period when the French poet Rimbaud lived in Harar.

The Hyena Man

As evening falls, local men attract wild hyenas to the city in a bizarre spectacle as they bravely feed these dangerous scavengers.

The Ethiopian experience is one that offers something for everyone. Truly, there is no other place on earth quite like it. ■

SUDAN:

A Red Sea Country of Clear Blue Coral Reefs

Sudan, in North-East Africa, is the largest country on the continent. It enjoys various tourist resources due to the availability of enormous natural capabilities. It is regarded as one of the richest African countries in wildlife, birds and Nile natural scenery which encourages tourism investment. The climate in Sudan is characterized by varied climatic conditions which are moderate all the year round in the Red Sea area especially in the highlands such as Erkwiet Summer Resort.

Sudan is considered one of the few countries which enjoy a variety of tourism resources. These resources are represented in the Red Sea Coast which extends for more than 700 km and is characterized by many tourist

attractions, including diving and under-water photography, besides boat-rowing and water skiing.

The Red Sea Coast enjoys many gulfs and coral reefs as the area is free from contamination which plagues many seas and tourist areas in the world. Of the most attractive natural areas of Sudan are its Red Sea coastlines. In fact presently, Sudan is biggest attraction to tourists, especially sea lovers, and has gained an excellent reputation throughout the world. The Red Sea is traversed from north to south by the Nile, all of whose great tributaries are partly or entirely within its borders.

The Red Sea

The Red Sea is a long, narrow marine basin, with a total length of about 1900 km it extends northwards from the strait of Baab El Mandab in Yemen to the southern tip of the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt. Its maximum width is 306 km. The Red Sea is unique in the several aspects; among them is its uniform temperature distribution at the surface and at the different depths. At the surface near Port Sudan the temperature range is 26.2-30. 5 degrees Celsius; at a depth of 150 m. the range is still 23. 9-25. 0 degrees.

Moreover, its high degree of transparency reaches up to



46 m. These characteristics have made the Red Sea an ideal place for snorkels, divers and photographers; it is comfortably warm, one could float nicely and the visibility is better than in most other places. The Sudanese coast is 650 km long as the crow flies; numerous embayments and gulfs make it 750 km long. It has two prominent features; coastal lagoons, locally called marsas, and reefs, called shia'ab in Arabic.

The marsas may be protected embayments of the sea, or may be cut into the coastal plain, well beyond the general coastline. In marsas, despite the heavy fresh water influx during the short rainy season, corals grow and build coral knobs (tens of centimeters to meters in size) and the patch reefs (meters to tens of meters in size). As for the reefs, they are distinguished according to their shapes and positioning. There are the fringing reefs, which are immediately at the coast. They line the entire Sudanese coast, with the exception of the marsas and the Tokar Delta in the south.

Finally there are the atolls, which are reef platforms located furthest offshore, several hundreds of meters to a few kilometers in width and surrounded by waters. Examples of these are the Senganeeb Island and Shia 'ab Rumi. All these types of reef provide shelter to a diversity of marine life. They also offer protected areas for snorkels and shallow-water divers.

Coral reefs

One of the most magnificent features of the Red Sea, are its beautiful coral reefs. Corals, or more precisely, their skeletons, are the main components of which reefs are

built. Coral is an animal, individually called a polyp, which is generally one to a few millimeters in diameter. It looks like a bag with six arms (or multiples of six), for its protections and support, it forms a skeleton of a kind of limestone, or corals, as they are called, are cub or tube shaped.

Usually, they live in coral colonies, which may be centimeters to several meters in size. Different kinds of corals occur in different areas of the reef, factors such as waves and light determine the nature of the coral, whether of delicate or solid structure. Thus, the distribution of coral reflects their respective adaptation to the prevailing environment conditions in various parts of the reef.

Marine life

Surrounding the reefs and complimenting them in creating a breath-taking sight, is the wide spectrum of marine life. The Red Sea is famous for its plants and animals; many of which are related to those of the Indian Ocean, but some of which are exclusively found in the Red Sea.



Among the common fish in the Red Sea are the Tarpon, Giant Herring, Salmon Herring or milkfish, Soldier fish, Goggle Eye and Rock Cod. There are also more than 320 species of sharks, among them such voracious predators as the Tiger Shark and Hammer Shark. It should be noted, however, that unless irritated or attracted by blood, sharks are peaceful animals and, generally speaking shark attacks along the Red Sea coast are very rare.

In addition, several species of whales also find home in the Red Sea, namely the Blue Whale, a 15 m-long giant which feeds on plankton, and the killer Whale, which poses no threat to humans, but scares off sharks. The Whale Shark, 8 to 10m in length, is a jolly, plankton-eating whale that befriends fishermen.

Recreational Activities

All these characteristics make the Red Sea an attractive location for tourists. This is especially true for those who love the Sea and enjoy its offerings. Fans of scuba diving, snorkeling, yachting and various water sports will find the necessary conditions on the Sudanese Red Sea to pursue these activities to their ultimate satisfaction.

Antiquities Sites

Sudan also enjoys an ancient heritage in the field of civilizations and antiquities representing a great attraction for tourists both from within and outside the



country. This heritage is centred in the Northern areas including Al-Nag'a Al-Musawarat, Karima, Al-Berkal, Merowie, Dongola and others. These areas and others saw ancient civilizations proved by the remains of the pyramids and temples, with a great part of them still lying unearthed. These areas attract many experts and researchers in this field.

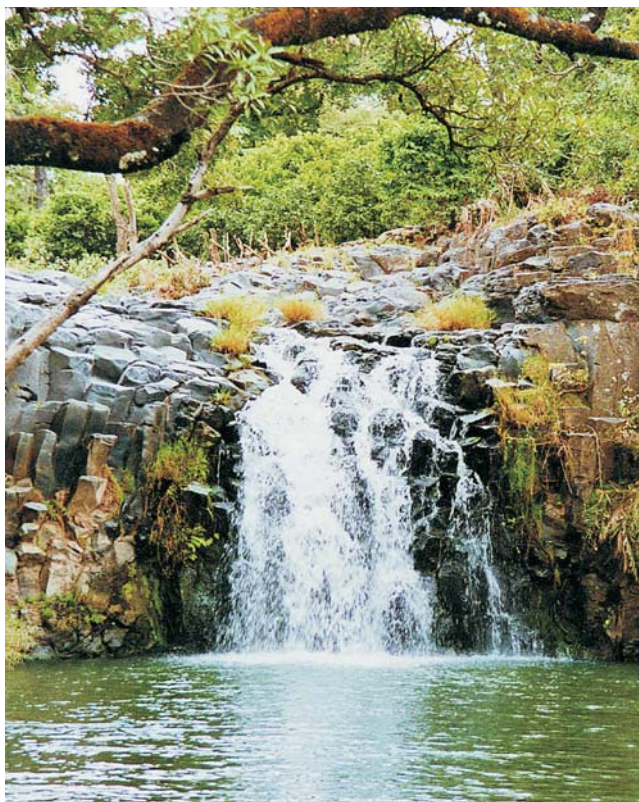
Central areas in Sudan including Sennar and Sinja contain antiquities of Al-Funj Kingdom (The Black Sultanate). The antiquities of this area bears testimony to the long and authentic history of the kingdom. There are many antiquities of the Mahdi State in east and west of Sudan and in the National Capital.

These antiquities which reflect the glory and history of the Sudanese people, beside the existence of many other antiquities in other areas deserve concern to attract tourists from abroad to get acquainted with the history of the country.

In East Sudan, at Sawakin area, on the Red Sea, there are great antiquities indicating the existence of a historically great period of Sudan's history. Sawakin island, for example, is considered one of the areas which witnessed urban development and unique styles of architecture. It is now regarded as one of the world's few areas in this field. There are many tourists interested in this aspect of history and who can be attracted to these sites.

The state also has Al-Dinder National Tourist Park which is considered as one of the greatest game reserves in Africa. It occupies a unique position north of the equator on an area of 2,470 square miles.

In 1990, the Government announced the establishment of Sanganieb national marine reserve on an area of about 12 sq km as a first Sudanese sea reserve at the Red Sea area. The government also set up Arous Tourist Village at the Red Sea area and villages of Jemieza in the Equatorial State. Areas of games are represented in the Red Sea Hills and birds hunting at Kindy Lake in Darfur state after it had been protected against poaching. ■



CAMEROON: An Alluring Blend of Flora & Fauna A Confluence of Cultures

Extending from the oceanfront to the Gulf of Guinea, reaching up toward the Chad lake, at the hinge point of Western and Eastern Africa, Cameroon is a meeting place for people and civilizations with a range of multifarious tourist attractions.

Living traditions in this country are rich and alive. They are evident in the variety and diversity of the folklore, its craftsmen, its habitat and its modes of living. Each region has its own specific folklore.

If the famous 'Bafia' ballets of Cameroon attract tourists in the South, the colourful masks and picturesque costumes of the Bamileke dancers in the West, gives special presentations to the visitors.

The North is the country of "fantasia" with its horsemen in their extravagant costumes. There are craftsmen everywhere, but the West and North are the center points.

Bafoussam, Foumban and Bamenda are cities renowned for their masks, embroidered costumes, miniature figures, seats, thrones, pipes, statues of earthenware, bronze and wood.

Maroua

Its an attractive town known for its multi-colored and

teaming markets where embroidered table-clothes, babouche, crocodile, snake, iguana or Cheeta skin handbags are available together with bracelets, swords, mats and decorative objects.

Rich and Varied Fauna

Because of its outstanding geographical location, Cameroon has one of the richest and most varied fauna of Africa. With six national parks, the North of the country is a providence for animals.

National Parks & Zoological Parks

Cameroon's diverse landscape, flora, fauna and culture surpasses all other African countries. Its rainforest, considered to be the world's richest, is found in the south.



Mount Cameroon is the highest mountain in West Africa. Cameroon is rich in wildlife, much of which are still unspoilt. The Waza national park has herd of forest Elephants, Lion, Giraffe, Cob and Ostrich. The other five national parks of Benoue, Boubandjidah, Faro, Kalamaloue, Mozogo-Gokro have variety of animal species. Tourists enjoy and photograph these magnificent animals in total liberty, in their natural



Dschang, a climatic resort, has annual temperature averages of 20 degrees C.

In the Northern part of the country, the Mandara Mountain and the lunar landscape of the Kapsikisnake the area is so beautiful that Andre Gide considered that was "one of the most beautiful landscapes in the world".

On Africa's Atlantic coast, Mount Cameroon stands like a giant sentinel, gazing out over the Gulf of Guinea. Among its legendary names is "Throne of

Thunder," a fitting tribute to the powerful gods that are said to inhabit the mountain's inner core. Mount Cameroon's rugged peak is the crown jewel of a chain of volcanic mountains that are strung like a giant pearl necklace along the Cameroon Nigeria border. The range stretches from here all the way to the northern plains of Maroua, gateway to Waza National Park.

Business Travel Destination

Cameroon is already high on the preferred list in terms of business travel. The country is rich with potential in terms of agriculture, forestry, marine life, minerals and natural resources. And a word to the wise, "Where business goes, tourism flows" - and vice versa. Europeans discovered long ago what most North Americans have yet to learn - that Cameroon is a Tourism Mecca in the raw.

With a population comprising more than two hundred and fifty ethnic groups having traditions dating a thousand years back, a biodiversity characterized by forest, savannah and mountains, the richest and most diversified fauna, Cameroon has an enormous ecotourist potential. There are four sites which are really worth mentioning: the Dja Forest Reserve, the Korup National Park, the Limbe Botanic Garden and Ebodje.

The DJA Reserve - Situated in the South Province of Cameroon and declared since 1987 a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, the DJA Forest Reserve covers a surface area of 5,260 km. More than 1,500 plant species have been identified there. With regard to fauna, there are more than 107 mammals and some 320 bird species found in and around the forest reserve.

Korup National Park

As for the Korup National Park, it is situated in the South West Province of Cameroon. It has a surface area of 1

habitat. In the three zoological gardens of the country, the Mvog Betsi zoo at Yaounde, Limbe zoo in the South West and Garoua in the north, a great number of Cameroon fauna can also be found. Tourists can expect adventure, discovery and opportunities for meeting people still uninfected by the tourism fever.

The Sea and Beaches

Opening into the Atlantic Ocean, with 400km of coastline, Cameroon has everything that sea and fishing lovers could ever wish to enjoy.

Kribi and Limbe, are the two main poles of coastal resort attractions with their fine sand beaches. Yellow and grey in colour, they are dotted with elegant palms on the border of a luxurious forest.

The Forest, the Savanna, the Steppe

From the borders in the South-East, South-West and on the Atlantic coast, working into the interior, Cameroon is covered with thick green forests, intersected by large rivers. This region is suitable for excursions, camping and picnics.

As a startling contrast to the rough vegetation of the South, the landscape of North Cameroon is savanna grass. The area begins with vast grassy plains of the high plateaus of Adamaoua and far reaching pasture land.

The Mountains & Throne of Thunder

A mountainous range extends from Mount Cameroon on the southwestern coast to Mount Mandara in the far north. Mount Cameroon is an active volcano which, in spite of its height (4,100 m) is easy to climb.

In the West and the Northwest, the extremely undulating landscape is intersected by beautiful rivers with leaping waters. In this area, the mountain tops around, almost all are former volcanos. The climate is temperate and



259 km² and is considered to be one of the oldest and most beautiful tropical rain forests in the world. Its rich flora and fauna result from a unique fact: the site of the Korup Park, in fact survived the ice age!

Today, Korup can be compared to a museum which is more than 60 million years old. Studies carried out there have led to the discovery of more than 400 tree species, many of which are medicinal. The park's present popularity stems from the fact that a creeper has been discovered there. This plant (*Aucistroclaudus Korupensis*) is believed to have constituents useful in the cure of some forms of cancer and HIV, Aids. As for the fauna, there are more than 300 bird species inside the park and 100 others in the neighboring zones, 174 reptiles and amphibians and 140 fish species living in several streams which flow across the park.

Limbe Botanical Garden & Jungle Village

Created in 1892 by German horticulturists to acclimatize economic and medicinal plants such as quinine, coffee, rubber, cocoa and banana, the botanic garden in Limbe also served as a training center for Cameroonians in the field of agriculture, horticulture and forestry. Today, it has become the greatest tourist attraction in the South West Province after Mount Cameroon. It is also an international research center in the area of bio-diversity.

A tourist attraction center known as "jungle village" has been developed in the garden. Here, popular cultural activities take place during certain events or simply for the pleasure of tourists. Several routes have been mapped out to enable tourists to visit the garden such as - the coastal trail, which enables tourists to have a good view of the western part of the garden.

Hospitality Plus

When tourists arrive in Cameroon they are not left to themselves because according to local custom, the visitor is full-fledged member of the Cameroon family. A pleasant welcome is a golden rule in this hospitable country. In true sense Cameroon is a living tradition and each region has its own style.



Le Conclave Indo-African produit un commerce d'US\$17 milliards

La collaboration atteint un nouveau sommet



La collaboration entre l'Inde et l'Afrique a atteint un nouveau sommet lors du Conclave 2006 conclu il y a quelques jours, produisant approximativement US\$17 milliard, trois fois plus que les affaires d'une valeur d'US\$ 5 milliards projetées à une réunion semblable l'année dernière. Une masse de projets a été discutée pendant le conclave de trois jours sur la Collaboration Inde-Afrique sur les Projets, organisée en collaboration avec la Confédération des Industries Indienne (CII) et le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères. La Banque Indienne de l'exportation et l'importation était un participant actif sous son rôle du catalyseur important afin de favoriser le commerce bilatéral entre l'Inde et le continent africain. Le conclave, le deuxième d'une série, a été assisté par plus de 350 délégués étrangers et 400 indiens.

Les projets couverts pendant ce conclave sont dans les secteurs de l'infrastructure (les ports, le chemin de fer, l'électricité et l'énergie, le transport et la télécom), l'agriculture (le traitement après récolte), l'éducation (le développement des compétences), l'eau et l'hygiène, la santé, les petites et moyennes entreprises (PME), les minerais et les métaux, la construction et les Technologies de l'Information et des Communications (TIC). Pour la première fois les délégués de la région francophone de l'Afrique étaient présents pendant le conclave. Tous les projets exécutés au fur et à mesure

comptent un investissement d'US \$ 17 milliards.

Plusieurs PME, de l'Inde et de l'Afrique, ont déjà collaborées. Un certain nombre de ces compagnies travaillent dans les secteurs de l'agro-alimentaire et de l'ingénierie. D'une façon générale, de nouvelles collaborations ont émergé, de nouveaux rapports ont été établis et le lien de l'amitié a été consolidé.

Pendant le discours d'adieu du conclave, le co-secrétaire de l'Afrique, N Chauhan a mentionné que les relations entre l'Inde et l'Afrique devraient être institutionnalisées et



élargis afin d'inclure les relations économiques, politiques, culturelles et autres. Ce conclave, le deuxième d'une série qui a commencé en 2005 comme une partie du programme Regards sur l'Afrique lancé par le gouvernement indien, reflète l'importance de l'Afrique pour l'Inde.

« L'Inde a besoin de produits agricoles et de ressources naturelles pour sa croissance économique rapide et ceci est un facteur clé dans la croissance du commerce. Le transfert de technologie, le commerce et le renforcement des capacités sont les trois pôles des liens bilatéraux, a dit Chauhan. »

Il y a maintenant une possibilité accrue de la participation indienne dans les projets africains, en particulier dans les secteurs de services, du commerce, de la fabrication, de télécommunication, des opérations bancaires et de l'assurance a dit Mme. Chauhan. Le Consortium pour les infrastructures en Afrique a accordé sa permission aux entreprises indiennes à la possibilité de faire des offres pour de grands projets.

L'Inde a lancé un grand nombre d'initiatives en vue d'augmenter les liens avec l'Afrique. Celles-ci incluent l'é-réseau panafricain pour la médecine télévisée et l'éducation à distance, les lignes de crédit bilatérales et multilatérales par le biais de la restructuration de la dette commerciale. L'Inde a exécuté plusieurs projets d'infrastructure dans les pays africains, elle a ajouté.

En outre, l'Inde peut, à l'aide de son expertise sur des projets de bourse pareil, assister dans l'installation d'une bourse de marchandises panafricaine, Mme. Chauhan a ajouté. L'Inde peut également aider l'Afrique à mettre en place un marché boursier panafricain qui consolidera les

activités de 28 échanges sur le continent et accélérera ainsi le développement économique.

L'Inde n'est plus un importateur des produits alimentaires, elle est devenue un exportateur, elle a souligné. Elle peut aider l'Afrique dans les domaines de l'agro-ingénierie et de la gestion des ressources de l'eau afin d'améliorer le secteur agricole. L'Inde est le premier pays asiatique à faire partie des Initiatives de Renforcement des Capacités de l'Afrique et elle est bien placée pour lancer le développement de ressources humaines et les programmes de formation dans les pays africains.

Mme Chauhan dit qu'un autre secteur principal qui peut susciter l'engagement de l'Inde est celui de la démocratie. A travers l'initiative globale de démocratie, l'Inde travaille pour renforcer les établissements démocratiques, reformer les fonctions publiques et aider dans l'organisation des élections libres et justes. Elle a également participé aux opérations de maintien de la paix dans plusieurs pays africains, et actuellement les soldats indiens, sous les Nations Unies, sont installés en Ethiopie, en Eritrie, au Soudan et au Congo.

Le chef de CII Tarun Das a répondu à la déclaration de Mme. Chauhan concernant l'institutionnalisation des liens avec l'Afrique « Il y a besoin des relations à long terme, des associations morales basées sur la confiance et la crédibilité, a-t-il dit. »

Le conclave a présenté de plus nouvelles occasions de travailler ensemble dans les domaines de l'infrastructure, du transport, des minerais, etc. Il y a besoin maintenant d'explorer de nouvelles avenues pour le financement. « Les banques privées indiennes pourraient intervenir pour compléter les efforts de la Banque Indienne de l'exportation et l'importation et financer la coopération entre les deux régions a indiqué Das ».

Le CII assurera les réunions entre les délégations indiennes et africaines dans les différentes régions de l'Inde pour faciliter les liens entre les deux régions, a-t-il dit. Certains thèmes de discussions sont le développement des compétences, le développement de ressources humaines et la formation.

Pendant le conclave, la banque Exim a accordé une nouvelle ligne de crédit d'US\$ 10 million à la banque PTA en Afrique. Cette ligne de crédit est en plus des 37 autres



existantes jusqu'aujourd'hui et qui s'élèvent à \$1,37 milliards déjà accordé par la banque Exim aux pays africains et qui couvrent les domaines de l'agriculture, du transport, de l'industrie cimentière et de la sidérurgie.

Au cours de l'année, la banque Exim avait signé une ligne de crédit de \$250 millions avec la banque ECOWAS pour l'investissement et le développement. Ces lignes de crédit auront un effet multiplicateur car l'Afrique connaîtra les capacités techniques et professionnelles des affaires indiennes et sa compétitivité globale.

La banque Exim de l'Inde a participé dans le processus de développement en Afrique non seulement en fournissant leur soutien sous forme de lignes de crédit qui s'élèvent actuellement à US\$ 1,4 milliard pour le financement des projets dans les secteurs comme l'agriculture, le transport, la production et la distribution d'électricité, le chemin de fer, l'électrification rurale et l'infrastructure mais également en favorisant et en finançant des activités de fabrication et de renforcement de capacité en Afrique.

La réponse enthousiaste à « la Collaboration Inde-Afrique sur les Projets 2005 : Horizons en expansion » (du 6 au 8 novembre) organisée à New Delhi a souligné le potentiel énorme pour davantage d'expansion des affaires et des relations commerciales entre les deux pays. La réunion a été assistée par 160 délégués de 32 pays africains et a donné suite à plus de 600 entretiens particuliers entre les entrepreneurs indiens et africains. Plus de 70 projets, estimés à US\$ 5 milliards, ont été discutés au conclave.

La première initiative a été prise antérieurement en 2005 (du 2 au 4 mars) pour développer un modèle afin de favoriser la collaboration entre le gouvernement et le secteur privé pour une participation augmentée de l'Inde aux priorités du développement des pays africains. La réunion de mars était également une grande aspiration qui a mené à avoir de l'information sur 178 projets évalués à \$ 6 milliards et la signature de 12 MoUs.

Le commerce bilatéral entre l'Inde et l'Afrique s'est développé régulièrement d'un montant de \$ 967 millions en 1990-91 à 9,14 milliards en 2004-05. Les exportations de l'Inde à l'Afrique ont augmenté de \$ 394 millions en 1990-91 à \$ 5,4 milliards en 2004-05, qui est équivalent à 6,8 pour cent des exportations totales de l'Inde. La vitalité de l'économie africaine, qui a enregistré une hausse absolue de PIB en 2005, atteste que les relations commerciales de l'Inde avec l'Afrique pourraient développer encore plus.

