



## MEMORANDUM

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## CHINESE PREMIER UNVEILS MAJOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR AFRICA

Chinese Prime Minister, Li Keqiang, has kicked off an African tour with a promise to transform the impoverished African economies into industrial giants. The Chinese Premier announced a six-point development and industrial plan aiming to solve Africa's weak infrastructure links, brightening the fight against poverty and boosting industrial investments.

The Chinese investment plan within Africa will focus on doubling trade with Africa from the current US\$200 billion to US\$400 billion by 2020, Premier Li said in a speech Monday.

In what appears to be the most elaborate foreign partnership so far, China unveiled a broad-based foreign policy plan for Africa, focused on improving infrastructure and manufacturing in Africa.

'The China-Africa cooperation is turning a new page,' Prime Minister Li told diplomats and senior Ethiopian government officials gathered at the Nelson Mandela hall for his inaugural lecture on the China-Africa partnership.

'We are ready to share Chinese lessons on inclusive growth. We are ready to share with Africa our lessons on how to create jobs through investments in the labour intensive manufacturing sector,' Premier Li said.

The Chinese leader said Beijing was also prepared to assist African economies to modernise.

China is for the first time bringing the environmental aspects in its cooperation with Africa.

The Chinese Premier said his country would promote interests beyond industrialisation, urbanization, and growth and low carbon emissions.

'We would make our cooperation a fine example of a comprehensive partnership,' Li said.

Apart from doubling the trade with Africa by 2020, China promised to build a bigger trade complex for the African Union (at a cost of 350 million yuan) similar to the new US\$200 million complex hosting the AUC.

China also plans to relocate most of its industrial manufacturing companies to Africa to take advantage of its ongoing infrastructure investment in the continent.

The six-point development plan for Africa focuses the intended investments into the China-Africa Aviation Joint Venture. This plan seeks to improve regional aviation in Africa as aviation remains one of Africa's weakest links.

The partnership will enable African airlines to access jets at affordable prices in a joint venture with Chinese firms.

Beijing will also focus attention on connecting African capital cities via high speed railroad.

The Chinese Premier announced that China would work with Africa to implement all international treaties it has signed and also provide funds to combat poaching of wildlife.

The wide ranging lecture sought to answer critics of Chinese investment plan in Africa.

The Chinese want to continue investment in telecom revolution in Africa.

The focus on financing African institutions to access funds was also addressed.

It promised to increase credit limit to African borrowers to US\$30 billion. This is a threefold increment.

The Premier also announced an additional US\$2 billion to the China-Africa Development Fund, raising it to US\$5 billion.

The investment would also include a new Chinese plan to enhance cross border trade by enhancing currency swaps, as China seeks to redesign several years of debate on Africa's development by designing an independent financial master plan to execute it.

All the six areas would be expanded by the Chinese investment in the peace and security plan. China is supporting the launch of the African Standby Force.

The force is a plan to end conflict derailing development. China will also focus on the African emergency response mechanism, which allows any country to intervene in conflicts within three months pending a peacekeepers deployment.

Meanwhile, China has announced it will also finance green energy development in Africa, with Premier Li pledging 'We would help provide clean energy to help develop a beautiful Africa.' (Pana 06/05/2014)

### **ANADARKO PETROLEUM RAISES ESTIMATES OF NATURAL GAS RESERVES IN MOZAMBIQUE**

US group Anadarko Petroleum has raised its estimates of the amount of recoverable natural gas at its concession in the Rovuma basin, northern Mozambique, to between 50 trillion and 70 trillion cubic feet.

The recent successful conclusion of prospecting at the Orca field led to the review, which was made public at the beginning of the week when the group published its results for the first quarter of the year. Previous estimates pointed to between 45 trillion and 70 trillion cubic feet of recoverable natural gas at a time when the group had drilled over 30 wells in the deep waters of the Area-1 concession, in which it has a stake of 26.5 percent.

The consortium also includes Mozambican state company Empresa Nacional de Hidrocarbonetos (15 percent), Indian groups ONGC Videsh (20 percent) and BRPL Ventures (10 percent), Japan's Mitsui&Co (20 percent) and Thai group PTT Exploration and Production (8.5 percent).

Along with the Area-4 concession, which Italian group ENI projects has around 93 trillion cubic feet of recoverable natural gas, the two blocks are, so far, the most promising in the Rovuma sedimentary basin, which has six concession area.

Recent figures from the Mozambican government, which expects exploration of liquid natural gas (LNG) to begin in 2018, point to reserves of 180 trillion cubic feet of recoverable natural gas in the region.

Anadarko Petroleum announced it had paid the Mozambican state US\$520 million in capital gains tax on the sale of a 10 percent stake in the block to ONGC Videsh for US\$2.64 billion. (07-05-2014)

### **TUNISIA: FOREIGN INVESTMENT DECLINES OVER FIRST THREE MONTHS IN 2014**

Foreign direct investment in Tunisia declined by 19.3% during the first three months of 2014, compared to the same period last year, according to a statement from the Tunisian Agency for the promotion of foreign investment.

The agency said that investments as of late March accounted for 342.1 million Tunisian dinars against the 423.7 million dinars recorded in the same period in 2013.

It blamed the decline on the 89.7% fall in investments earmarked for the service sector.

Foreign investment in the sector of manufacturing industries also declined by 10.9%, while those on the energy sector reached about 265 million dinars against the 230 million dinars in the first three months of 2013, an increase of 15.2%. (Pana 06/05/2014)

## **CONSTRUCTION OF PORT OF PEMBA, MOZAMBIQUE DUE TO BEGIN IN 2015**

Construction work on the new port in the city of Pemba, the capital of Mozambique's Cabo Delgado province, is due to begin in 2015, said Tavares Martinho, director of the ENHILS company during a visit to Nigeria, according to Mozambican daily newspaper Notícias.

ENHILS is a partnership between state company ENH Logistics, with 51 percent, and Orlean Invest of Nigeria with the remaining 49 percent, and has technical support from Angola's Sonangol Integrated Logistic Services (Sonils).

Speaking to the newspaper, Tavares Martinho, who is leading a Mozambican delegation on a visit to Nigeria, said that the facility, the first of its kind to be built in the country, would be funded by Orlean Invest, "a prestigious group with extensive experience in developing logistics bases to support the oil and gas industry on an international level."

As part of this project an environmental impact study is underway in Pemba, after which work will begin. Initially work will involve opening up access roads so that in January 2015 the logistics hub itself can be built.

The new port in the city of Pemba will have a 300 metre dock capable of receiving ships with a maximum draught of 12 metres and a variety of other facilities on a 36-hectare plot. (07-05-2014)

## **AUSTRALIA, TUNISIA TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION**

Discussions on ways of strengthening cooperation between Tunisia and Australia in the field of natural resources and mining were held here Monday between the Tunisian Foreign Minister, Mongi Hamdi, and the president of the Australian House of Representatives, Mrs. Bronwyn Bishop.

In a statement issued after the meeting, Bishop expressed the willingness of Australian investors to invest in Tunisia in the fields of mining and natural resources.

She hailed the progress made by Tunisia in the field of democratic transition and expressed the wish for the establishment of cooperation ties between the Tunisian National Constituent Assembly (Parliament) and the Australian Parliament. (Pana 06/05/2014)

## **SPANISH GOVERNMENT OPENS UP CREDIT LINE FOR INVESTMENTS IN ANGOLA**

The Spanish government has opened up a credit line of 75 million euros to support Spanish companies interested in investing in Angola, under the terms of a protocol signed in Luanda, Angolan state newspaper Jornal de Angola reported.

Signed by the director of Angola's Business Promotion Institute, Sérgio dos Santos, and by the chairman of Spanish finance and development agency Companhia Espanhola de Financiamento do Desenvolvimento (Cofides), Salvador Marin, the funding is intended to help Spanish businesspeople interested in carrying out partnerships with Angolan companies and in setting up industrial units in Angola.

"We have stipulated a period of 60 months to finance Spanish companies interested in investing in the Angolan market, which clearly shows the Spanish government's wish to support Spanish investment in Angola," said Marin.

Spain's Trade Secretary, Jaime Garcia-Legaz, who attended the signing, said that the Spanish government planned to support growth of two-way trade and tourism. He noted that Spain, which has a population of 47 million, receives 60 million tourists per year.

Meanwhile, a business forum attended by over 200 Spanish and Angolan businesspeople from the industrial, construction, transport, infrastructure, engineering, renewable energy and information technology sectors is due to end Wednesday. (07-05-2014)

## TUNISIAN AND MOROCCAN EXPERTS TO VISIT CRISIS MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES IN EUROPE

A group of Tunisian and Moroccan experts will start a visit to European crisis management and operational centres in Belgium and France on Monday 12 May. This visit, organised in the framework of the PPRD South 2 project (Prevention, Preparedness, and Response to natural and human Disasters) is the first in a series of ten expert exchanges proposed by the project.

The series of expert exchanges, which will allow, in total, 45 participants from beneficiary countries to share their experiences, aims at strengthening networks of experts and structures between Europe and partner countries and at improving knowledge on structures and procedures of European crisis management centres.

Tunisian experts will visit the Belgium crisis management centre in Brussels, and Moroccan experts will visit the Operational Centre for Inter-ministerial Crisis Management (COGIC) in France. After the visits, the experts meet in Brussels to visit the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC). The visit will address the following:

- Operations at the national crisis center;
- Information channels and flow;
- Information from the authorities;
- The build up
- The European Civil Protection Mechanism
- ERCC presentation;
- Exercises

**PPRD South II** is a three year programme with a €5 million budget which aims at reducing vulnerability to, and the social, economic and environmental costs of, natural and man-made disasters, thereby enhancing regional and national sustainable development and climate adaptation. (Neighbourhood Info 07-05-2014)

## SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE INVITES BUSINESSPEOPLE TO INVEST IN MARINE RESOURCE EXPLORATION

The government of Sao Tome and Principe has invited businesspeople from Africa and Europe to launch exploration of marine resources in the archipelago's joint development zone (JDZ) with Nigeria, which is rich in tuna and shellfish, according to pan-African news agency Panapress.

During a seminar held in a hotel in the archipelago's capital, Arzemiros dos Prazeres, director of the Office of the Sao Tome and Principe-Nigeria Joint Authority, said that the country was located along a migratory route for tuna, which twice a year feed in the region.

"Whoever requests a fishing license to explore these resources in our zone will also have the right to do so in Nigeria's zone," Prazeres told the seminar's participants.

The director of the Sao Tome and Principe-Nigeria Joint Authority also said that a Norwegian company, which he did not name, had taken a detailed survey of the main resources available in the JDZ. (07-05-2014)

## L'AIDE AU DEVELOPPEMENT BRITANNIQUE FINANCE AUSSI LE LUXE

L'hotel Protea à Lagos, au Nigeria a reçu des financements d'aide au développement. Il propose des chambres à 400 \$ la nuit (photo: Protea)

Une enquête du Guardian révèle qu'une partie de l'aide au développement britannique contribue au financement de centres commerciaux ou d'hôtels de luxe à l'île Maurice.

Le Royaume-Uni ne réserve pas son aide au développement aux plus pauvres. Dans certains cas, c'est exactement le contraire qui arrive. [Le CDC, la branche d'investissement peu connue du programme d'aide britannique](#), a investi plus de 260 millions de dollars (186,7 millions d'euros) dans pas moins de 44 sociétés de construction et immobilières en Afrique, en Amérique latine, et en Asie.

Au moins 20 des bénéficiaires sont des hôtels, des centres commerciaux ou encore des entreprises qui construisent ou gèrent des quartiers résidentiels sécurisés et d'autres propriétés de luxe, selon l'enquête menée par le *Guardian*.

### ***Des aides pour les plus nantis***

Le CDC, auparavant appelé le Commonwealth Development Corporation, affirme que ces investissements vont créer des milliers d'emplois pour les classes sociales les plus pauvres, notamment dans le secteur de la construction et des services. Mais certaines ONG britanniques remettent en cause le principe de soutenir l'immobilier haut de gamme avec des fonds destinés à l'aide au développement.

Parmi les investissements faits par le CDC, on peut citer :

- Au Salvador, une société a reçu 3,3 millions de dollars (2,37 millions d'euros) du CDC en 2004 en vue de construire 10 résidences sécurisées. Ces nouvelles constructions suscitent de plus en plus d'inquiétudes au niveau local, car elles risquent d'entraîner des tensions au niveau de l'approvisionnement en eau et la privatisation des derniers espaces verts restants dans le pays.
- Au Kenya, 25 millions de dollars (17 millions d'euros) ont été investis [dans un gigantesque complexe de 13 hectares à Nairobi](#). Ce projet, baptisé Garden City, comprend des centaines d'appartements haut de gamme, un hôtel d'affaires, ainsi que le plus grand centre commercial d'Afrique orientale.
- A l'île Maurice, plus de 24 millions de dollars (17 millions d'euros) ont été transféré vers un [promoteur de projets destinés aux classes sociales les plus aisées](#). Ces projets comprennent notamment un village au bord de l'océan avec villas au front de mer à partir de 500 000 dollars la propriété (359 000 euros) et un pensionnat élitiste géré par le très prestigieux Wellington College du Berkshire, au Royaume-Uni.
- En Inde, une entreprise soutenue par le CDC a développé ce qui [est décrit comme](#) « le premier véritable projet en Asie du Sud d'appartements très haut de gamme destiné à l'international », accueillant « des hommes d'affaires milliardaires, des entrepreneurs de premier plan, des PDG, des directeurs, ainsi que des présidents ».

### ***Le CDC sous le feu de la critique***

Le budget consacré au développement britannique fait l'objet d'un examen de plus en plus poussé depuis que le gouvernement a atteint son objectif qui était de consacrer 0,7 % de son RNB à l'aide au développement. Le gouvernement a encouragé le recours aux investissements privés comme pivot de la politique d'aide au développement britannique.

Nick Drearden, directeur du Mouvement pour le développement mondial, a accusé le gouvernement de promouvoir un certain type d'aide au développement « clairement marqué idéologiquement, parfaitement inégalitaire, et hautement financiarisé qui aide avant tout les grosses entreprises plutôt que les personnes ordinaires ».

« Si vous vivez dans un bidonville à Nairobi, voir l'argent destiné à l'aide au développement injecté dans des projets de construction d'appartement de luxe est tout simplement une insulte ».

Un porte-parole du CDC défend cette politique d'investissement. Selon lui, ils collaborent avec des chercheurs et des économistes engagés dans l'aide au développement pour identifier les secteurs les plus créateurs d'emplois.

« Le secteur de la construction a été identifié comme prioritaire étant donné qu'il est celui qui crée le plus grand nombre d'emplois non ou peu qualifiés qui sont traditionnellement accessibles aux personnes les plus démunies dans les pays en développement ».

Le CDC est détenu intégralement par le Département du développement international (DfID). En investissant dans les sociétés privées, le CDC affirme vouloir réduire la pauvreté dans les pays en développement. Ses investissements sont comptabilisés comme des aides et le DfID est son seul et unique actionnaire.

Le CDC investit dans le secteur de la construction de propriétés à travers les États subsahariens du Ghana à la Zambie, ainsi qu'en Inde. Mais, la plupart des projets semblent tout d'abord profiter aux élites.

Une brochure en papier glacé présentant le Garden City de Nairobi, qui propose 400 appartements et maisons de ville de luxe, vante les mérites : « L'eau turquoise des piscines chauffées, les cuisines ultramodernes entièrement équipées, les planchers en bambous, les balustrades vitrées,... la qualité est la caractéristique première du village de Garden City ».

[Une brochure sur le village d'Azuri](#), un lotissement d'une société immobilière de l'océan Indien soutenu par les fonds du CDC, invite ainsi les acheteurs potentiels à « fermer les yeux et à s'imaginer respirer la douce brise de l'océan Indien et de profiter de tout ce que la vie mauricienne a à offrir ».

Azuri propose « un cadre de vie raffiné et de haute qualité » avec des hôtels cinq étoiles dispendieux en bord de mer, comprenant clubs de yachts et spa. Bref, « un environnement idéal pour permettre l'épanouissement du corps et de l'esprit », peut-on lire.

L'opposition remet en cause ces investissements destinés à des biens de très haute gamme. Jim Murphy, secrétaire d'État du "shadow cabinet" à l'aide au développement, a déclaré pour sa part : « Le CDC a été fondé en vue de contribuer à la croissance et de réduire la pauvreté. Il est difficile de comprendre comment le financement d'appartements et de résidences sécurisées de luxe peut être la façon la plus efficace de remplir ces deux objectifs ».

Le CDC rétorque que sa mission est de soutenir la création d'entreprises en vue de générer des emplois en Afrique et dans le sud de l'Asie. Il affirme ainsi que ses investissements assurent l'emploi de plus d'un million de personnes à travers 1 301 projets commerciaux parmi les pays les plus pauvres du monde. Dans le secteur de la construction, selon CDC, ses investissements assurent l'existence de 9 000 emplois directs.

Un porte-parole du DfID a de son côté déclaré : « Chaque investissement est le produit de décisions qui incombent entièrement au CDC et le gouvernement a fixé des règles strictes qui exigent la création d'emplois, le développement économique et la réduction de la pauvreté parmi les pays en développement ».

### ***Le secteur du luxe : la solution ?***

En outre, le CDC assure ne pas avoir reçu d'argent supplémentaire [du Trésor public depuis 1995](#) et déclare avoir réinvesti l'argent grâce à la vente d'anciens investissements. Cependant, 765 millions de livres (930 millions d'euros) proviennent directement de l'argent du contribuable. Ceci est le résultat de prêts en cours convertis en action en 2004.

En 2013, le secteur de la construction et de l'immobilier représentait 6,8 % du portefeuille du CDC. Les investissements étaient tout d'abord alloués aux infrastructures (25,2 %), puis aux services financiers (13,6 %). Certains investissements contenus dans le portefeuille du CDC ont été décidés avant la mise en place de la nouvelle stratégie de 2012.

En plus des résidences haut de gamme, le CDC a investi des millions dans des centres commerciaux en Afrique subsaharienne, y compris l'énorme centre commercial près du [lac de Jabi à Abuja](#), la capitale du Nigeria. Le projet vise les objectifs suivants : « répondre aux désirs des Nigériens aux goûts sophistiqués qui veulent accéder à une expérience d'achat exceptionnelle proposant des installations de loisir et des marques haut de gamme ».

Les investissements au Nigeria incluent également deux hôtels Protea, [une chaîne achetée récemment par Marriott International](#). Le prix d'une nuitée à l'hôtel à [Lagos](#) s'élève par exemple à 400 dollars (287 euros) la nuit.

La publication de l'enquête du *Guardian* survient au moment où des inquiétudes émergent quant à l'augmentation des inégalités dans les régions urbaines. Actuellement, plus d'un milliard d'êtres humains vivent en effet dans des bidonvilles.

Dans un entretien avec le *Guardian*, Joan Clos, directeur exécutif de l'agence ONU-Habitat, a expliqué : « Quand l'injustice prend pied au sein de la population, une atmosphère anxieuse et un sentiment de méfiance généralisée peut apparaître.

« Par conséquent, les zones urbaines deviennent de plus en plus des lieux de ségrégation et de différenciation. Ce n'est pas particulièrement remarquable d'un point de vue social, ni productif d'un point de vue économique ».

Au Kenya, Dereje Alemayehu, directeur d'Aide chrétienne en Afrique orientale, a déclaré pour sa part que les hôtels et les centres commerciaux ne devraient pas être considérés comme des secteurs économiques négligés. « Il y a déjà bien assez d'infrastructures destinées aux touristes, aux expatriés et à la classe moyenne relativement étendue du pays ». (*Guardien* 07-05-2014)

## **NIGERIA, EU SIGN MOU FOR CIVIL SERVICE REFORM IN NIGERIA**

Nigeria and the European Union (EU) Wednesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) towards boosting the reform process of the Nigerian civil service. The MoU, which will be executed with a commitment fund of 20 million Euros from the EU, will essentially focus on the coordination of the reform programme process of the Nigerian federal civil service, policy development and civil service administration.

Nigeria's Supervising Minister of National Planning, Ambassador Bashir Yuguda, said here during the signing ceremony of the MoU, titled EU Support to Federal Governance Reform Programme (SUFEGOR) and the inauguration of the project steering committee, said that the beneficiaries are the Office of Head of Service of the Federation, the Bureau of Public Service Reform, National Planning Commission, National Bureau of Statistics and the Federal Inland Revenue Service.

Ambassador Yuguda noted that efforts would be made to ensure that the project is implemented as planned and "achieves the desired objectives and results which will go a long way to assist Nigeria in achieving its developmental goals articulated in Nigeria's Vision 20: 2020 and the Transformation Agenda."

Nigeria commenced the implementation of the National Strategy for Public Service Reform (NSPSR) in 2008 after recognising that the weakness of the public service has negatively impacted on its ability to deliver social services and achieve the objectives of long-term policy framework.

Yuguda explained that the government's 2010 Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Report shows that the marginal gains recorded by the Public Service Reforms are not sufficient to carry the service towards being the platform for the transformation of Nigeria.

He added that the challenges of the capacity of the civil service to help in the transformation of Nigeria that necessitated the EU intervention under the 10th EDF Nigeria-EU Country Strategy Paper and National Indicative Programme (CSP/NIP) to provide support to the Federal Governance Reform Programme (SUFEGOR).

Specifically, SUFEGOR will support the aspects of the core challenges that concern coordination of the



reform process, policy development and civil service administration reform, particularly in promoting government effectiveness, control of corruption and service delivery.

Yuguda stated that 'SUFEGOR project will be implemented through a Technical Assistant Contract and the contractor will be providing technical assistance to the five beneficiary agencies for the management and implementation of the project including policy advisory services, transfer of knowledge and skills, building technical capacities of personnel in the beneficiary agencies through mentoring, coaching and training.' (Pana 07/05/2014)

## **PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF PRIVATE INVESTMENTS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN: EUROMED INVEST TO BE LAUNCHED IN MARSEILLE**

A new EU-funded project, Euromed Invest, aiming at developing private investments and economic relations in the Euro-Mediterranean area will be launched in Marseille on 26 May.

The project primarily targets five key sectors: agri-food, water and alternative energies, tourism, transport and logistics, cultural and creative industries.

Euromed Invest, with a budget of €5 million plans to develop more than 127 actions (workshops, surveys, business meetings, mentoring, etc.) in 3 years and in 26 countries.

Different types of economic stakeholders will be benefiting from the activities: investment promotion agencies, development agencies, SMEs, chambers of commerce and industry, professional organisations, clusters, investors and private and public financiers, as well as networks of diaspora and women entrepreneurs from Europe and southern Mediterranean countries.

The objective is to renew the interest of SMEs in the Euro-Mediterranean market, increase investment and business projects flow and ensure that the EU finds its leading position as source of foreign direct investment in these countries.

The project is coordinated by ANIMA Investment Network within a consortium composed of 6 members: Eurochambres (Association of European Chambers of Commerce), ASCAME (Association of Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce), BusinessMed (Union of Mediterranean Confederations of Enterprises), EMDC (Euro-med Development Center for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises), GACIC (German-Arab Chamber of Commerce) and EABC (Euro-Arab Business Council).

EUROMED Invest can also count on a network of 79 affiliated organisations from 26 countries including 7 of the 10 South ENI countries that will be mobilised to take part in the implementation of the majority of the project's activities. Moreover several prestigious international organisations are associated to the project: EUNIC, Anna Lindh Foundation, OCEMO, OECD, Agadir Technical Unit for the Mediterranean Free Trade Agreement, AIDMO and UNIDO. (Neighbourhood Info 07-05-2014)

## **CHINA, NIGERIA SIGN MOUS TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION**

China and Nigeria Wednesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to strengthen their relations, following two hours of bilateral talks between host President Goodluck Jonathan and visiting Chinese Premier Li Keqiang.

President Jonathan said his discussions with Premier Li centred on several bilateral issues common to both countries, and that they "examined issues of common interest to our countries. We reviewed in particular, our economic, trade, political and cultural relations".

He noted that the global reactions to the abduction of over 200 girls by Boko Haram terrorists in Nigeria have shown how concerned and how united the world is against such dastardly acts of terrorism.

'We are satisfied with the achievements recorded in those fields. We also agreed that the 10th Anniversary of the establishment of the strategic partnership between our two countries coming up in 2015 should be marked to further deepen our relations. We undertook to maintain the momentum of exchanges of visits at all levels, including between governments, political parties and legislatures in order to promote mutual understanding and trust,' President Jonathan said.

'I reiterate Nigeria's commitment to the one-China policy while the Premier expressed firm support for our efforts to safeguard our national sovereignty, security and territorial integrity as well as promoting economic development.

'We agreed to encourage our bastions, companies to further deepen cooperation in infrastructure development especially the railways, power plants and airports. We also agreed that the economic cooperation zones established by the Chinese enterprise in Nigeria have achieved tangible progress and that those enterprises should be encouraged to invest in various fields of the Nigerian economy.

'We further expressed support for the financial institutions of the two countries for cooperation in on-lending to Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (SMEs) in Nigeria. We also undertook that the central Banks of the two Countries should promote local currency settlements to facilitate bilateral trade and investment.

'At the end of our discussions, our Ministers signed a number of bilateral cooperation agreements and Memoranda of Understanding. Among them is the Bilateral Air Services Agreement (BASA) which will definitely promote greater people to people contact and also enhance bilateral trade and commerce,' President Jonathan said

Corroborating the President, the Chinese Premier noted that the two countries enjoy robust economic and trade relations and said his visit was aimed at elevating the current status of existing bilateral relations between the two countries.

Speaking through an interpreter, the Chinese Premier said following the visit to China by President Jonathan and the subsequent agreements entered into between Nigeria and China, the volume of economic activities between the two countries rose to US\$30.65 billion last year.

Premier Li expressed the hope that the current investment opportunities being provided by Nigerian government would give further boost to bilateral relations.

Nigeria's Foreign Affairs Minister Aminu Wali, who read the joint communiqué to journalists, said the two leaders reviewed the achievements recorded in their cooperation in the field of economy, trade, energy, infrastructure, aerospace, culture and education, where they expressed satisfaction with the level of their implementations.

According to the communiqué: 'The two sides agreed to encourage their national companies to further deepen cooperation in infrastructure development, especially railways, power plants and airports. Along the line the two countries have signed a new Bilateral Air Service Agreements (BASA) aimed at deepening cooperation in the field of aviation.

'The two countries affirmed their commitments to promote bilateral trade facilitation and address issues arising therefrom, (if any) through dialogue, in order to strengthen quality inspection control for the promotion of their bilateral trade. They also acknowledged the need to take concrete steps to address the issues of trade imbalance.

'Both sides commended the positive role of the communication satellite project in promoting the development of Nigeria and expressed willingness to enhance cooperation in satellite technology. They also looked forward to positive outcomes of the 6th Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, to be held in 2015.'

Earlier, the Chinese Premier offered to assist Nigeria in its efforts to rescue the over 200 girls who were

abducted from the school in the northern part of the country about three weeks ago.

Mr. Li arrived in Nigeria Tuesday at the head of a strong Chinese government and business delegation to the 24th World Economic Forum for Africa (WEFA), holding in Nigeria 7-9 May. (Pana 07/05/2014)

## **L'ITALIE SE TOURNE VERS LA MEDITERRANEE POUR DIVERSIFIER SON APPROVISIONNEMENT EN GAZ**

L'Italie envisage d'augmenter ses importations de gaz en provenance d'Algérie et de Libye. Le pays craint d'éventuelles coupures de gaz russe.

« Nous avons les capacités d'augmenter rapidement les importations en provenance [...] de l'Algérie, de la Libye et des Pays-Bas », estime Claudio De Vincenti, secrétaire d'État italien au développement économique.

Sa déclaration a concordé avec la réunion des représentants du G7 sur la politique énergétique européenne. Cette rencontre est intervenue à la suite d'un weekend marqué par les violences en Ukraine, qui ont tué une douzaine de personnes. Or l'Ukraine est un pays de transit pour l'acheminement du gaz russe vers l'UE.

L'Italie, qui produit plus de 40 % de son électricité à partir du gaz, est de plus en plus dépendante du gaz russe, car les importations en provenance d'Algérie diminuent et l'approvisionnement libyen reste limité en raison des troubles qui secouent de plus en plus régulièrement le pays.

Le président russe, Vladimir Poutine, a prévenu que son pays envisageait de couper le gaz vers l'Ukraine si ce dernier persistait à ne pas payer sa dette en gaz. Selon les dires de Gazprom ce montant s'élève à 3,5 milliards de dollars (2,5 milliards d'euros).

Rome porte un intérêt redoublé au projet du gazoduc transadriatique (TAP) qui permettra à terme d'importer du gaz azéri en Italie. Le gouvernement italien soutient pour les mêmes raisons le projet South Stream, qui assurera le transport de gaz russe sans transiter par l'Ukraine.

« South Stream reste un projet crucial. Nous sommes toujours convaincus que l'arrivée du gazoduc en Italie pourrait être un avantage comparé à un terminal autrichien », a expliqué Claudio De Vincenti.

Le consortium autrichien emmené par OMV a signé un accord avec le géant russe pour que South Stream soit amené jusqu'à la plateforme gazière du Baumgarten en Autriche, déjouant ainsi le plan de l'Italie visant à prolonger le gazoduc jusqu'à Tarvisio, une ville italienne qui se situe dans le nord-est du pays.

Le gouvernement italien veut se tourner vers des plateformes gazières de l'Europe du sud qui pourraient acheminer du gaz et du pétrole en provenance d'Afrique. En effet, le pays développe des infrastructures qui permettent des flux inversés à ses frontières du nord.

### **De nouvelles ressources découvertes**

Mais Claudio De Vincenti a expliqué que l'Italie analyse également les possibilités de développer des connections gazières avec les pays de l'Est méditerranéen. Des ressources gazières ont été en effet découvertes le long des côtes israéliennes, chypriotes et maltaises, ce qui a suscité aux yeux de l'Europe bien des espoirs.

« Ce pourrait certainement être une possibilité à l'avenir...nous devons déterminer la forme, si ce sera un gazoduc ou du gaz naturel liquéfié », explique-t-il.

L'interconnecteur Turquie-Grèce-Italie (ITGI) développé par l'Unité italienne Edison d'EDF pourrait jouer un rôle en la matière. « Le gazoduc a toutes les autorisations requises ».

Une source proche du dossier a indiqué à Reuters que les promoteurs du gazoduc transadriatique et de l'ITGI étaient en contact en vue de discuter d'une possible coopération.

Claudio De Vincenti a expliqué que l'Italie possédait trois terminaux de gaz naturel liquéfié qui sont à ce jour sous-exploités, mais dont l'utilisation pourrait être intensifiée.

« Il existe également au moins trois autres terminaux que nous espérons voir opérationnels dans les prochaines années à venir », selon lui.

Les ministres à l'Énergie du G7 qui se sont rencontrés ce mardi ont poursuivi les discussions au cours d'une réunion à huit clos. Ils espèrent ainsi trouver un compromis sur la sécurité énergétique pour le prochain sommet du G7 qui se tiendra à Bruxelles en juin prochain.

« Nous avons abordé toute une série d'enjeux liés à l'énergie, à la sécurité énergétique ainsi que la transition vers de nouvelles formes d'énergie », a déclaré Ségolène Royal, la nouvelle ministre de l'Écologie. (EurActiv 11-05-2014)

## **USAID, NIGERIA ANNOUNCE US\$20M ASSISTANCE TO PREVENT CHILD, MATERNAL MORTALITY**

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), taking advantage of the ongoing World Economic Forum on Africa (WEFA) here, Wednesday announced a US\$20 million scheme to provide affordable financing options and increase capacity in Nigeria's primary healthcare system.

USAID, which is partnering with the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Health and the Primary Health Care Development Agency of Nigeria in the implementation of the scheme, said it is aimed at supporting the reduction of preventable child mortality in Nigeria.

The programme, entitled 'Healthy imagination, Mother & Child Initiative', will have each of the partners contributing towards the US\$20 million in the first phase which will in the next five years to reduce preventable maternal and infant mortality rates in Nigeria.

Nigeria's Minister of Health, Prof. Onyebuchi Chukwu, told journalists at a media briefing on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum on Africa that skills were essential to healthcare on the African continent.

Stating that "we need skills to rapidly grow the health sector", Prof. Chukwu noted that the programme includes several variable components including the provision of financing and technology and the development and deployment of comprehensive training and education for midwives and a consumer health education and aware senses programme.

According to the Minister, 'these components are all part of the US\$20 million investment. While Nigeria still comprises a large share of the world's burden of child and maternal morbidity and mortality, infant mortality in Nigeria has seen a 38% reduction to 78 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2012.

He said: 'These positive trends are indicative of the Nigerian government's genuine commitment and sustained investment for maternal and new born health, where notable progress has been made over the past few years.

'We have hired over 60,000 new healthcare workers that are today providing better services to expectant mothers and it is estimated that 22,000 more expectant mothers are now receiving care during

pregnancy. Clearly, there is still more to do, and with partnerships like this, we can achieve our goals through our Save One Million Lives programme.'

Mission Director of USAID Nigeria, Michael Harvey, stressed that his organization's focus is to promote and support stronger governance, financial and human development and to serve as partners in the creation and implementation of economic and civil strategies for the benefit of all Nigerians.

'Indeed, programmes with the potentials to improve the health and wellbeing of the population are a critical focus of USAID's activities in Nigeria. USAID is proud to serve as a strategic partner to the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Health and GE Healthcare in support of the initiative.

'The reality that we know today is unacceptable and heart breaking - as nearly 300,000 mothers and three million new-borns continue to die every year from causes we know how to prevent. Through this initiative, USAID is partnering to scale up cutting-edge solutions and unlock a brighter future for the next generation of Nigerian leaders, innovators and entrepreneurs.'

The scheme is expected to give healthcare providers in Nigeria first time access to GE portable ultrasound technology like Vscan.

A fact sheet, released to journalists, said the scheme is being developed to provide physicians in remote areas with imaging capacities at the point of care using Vscan, which is a pocket size medical tool that houses ultrasound technology and provides doctors with an immediate, non-invasive method to help visualize information about what is happening inside the body. (Pana 07/05/2014)

## **CONGO: 1.8 MILLION VOTERS FOR CONGO'S LOCAL ELECTIONS**

**Brazzaville, Congo - The number of voters for the 2014 local elections in Congo is estimated at 1,808,903, according to the results of a special administrative survey (RAS) issued here on Wednesday by the Ministry of the Interior and territorial Administration .**

The figure is below the 2 million that participated in the 2009 presidential election, Antoine Ivoundou, director of the Technical Committee of the RAS said, adding that the decline followed the low interest of voters in local government polls.

The local polls are to take place at a yet-to-be-fixed date. (Pana 07/05/2014)

## **WORLD BANK MOBILISES US\$1.7 BILLION TO BOOST POWER GENERATION IN NIGERIA**

The World Bank Group Wednesday announced, on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum Africa (WEFA) summit holding in Abuja, that it has mobilized about US\$1.7 billion to boost the reforms of Nigeria's power sector and enhance electricity generation in the country.

The Group, which stressed how efficient, affordable and reliable access to electricity was essential for small- and medium-sized enterprises in Nigeria to accelerate job creation, also announced various project series to support increased electricity in the country.

In a statement, released in Abuja, Vice President in charge of the Africa Region at the World Bank, Makhtar Diop, said: 'I am glad that we were able to support Nigeria's extensive energy reform programme and provide direct assistance to increase generation capacity by mobilizing nearly US\$ 1.7 billion of private sector financing through a range of instruments.

According to the statement, 'These projects are a critical element of the World Bank Group Energy

Business Plan for Nigeria. World Bank partial risk guarantees approved include up to US\$245 million for the 459-megawatt (MW) Azura Edo power plant near Benin City, Edo State; and up to US\$150 million for the 533-MW Qua Iboe plant in Ibeno, Akwa Ibom State.

'The World Bank, IFC and MIGA Board of Executive Directors have approved a package of loans and guarantees supporting a series of energy projects that will help boost independent power generation and ease crippling energy shortages in the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Africa's largest economy. Both plants are gas-fired.

'The Boards of IFC and MIGA approved loans and hedging instruments of up to US\$135 million and guarantees of up to US\$659 million for the Azura Edo project.

'The IBRD guarantees include forward-looking mitigation and risk-sharing arrangements, designed to augment the country's power sector reforms while building market confidence and setting industry benchmarks.

'IFC's investment and MIGA's guarantee for the Azura Edo power plant will support a trail blazing project at the centre of Nigeria's ambitious power sector programme, while setting a replicable model for future power projects.'

The Bank said Nigeria was hugely endowed with abundant energy resources, including the world's eighth largest reserves of natural gas.

It noted: 'Yet 65 per cent of its population – some 100 million people – has no access to electricity. Unlocking the flow of Nigeria's extensive natural gas reserves will expand power supply and energy exports to neighbouring countries in the West Africa Power Pool.

'Support to private sector-financed independent power producers (IPPs) forms a critical part of the Nigerian Government's Power Sector Reform Roadmap, a strategy to improve power services throughout the country that is widely supported by the Nigerian public.'

The Bank said it expects the Azura Edo IPP to have a strong demonstration effect and to set a precedent for future private sector.

Meanwhile, there is excitement in the power sector over the interests so far shown by some prospective investors attending the World Economic Forum on Africa in Abuja.

To harness the interests, the Minister of Power, Prof. Chinedu Nebo, and his team are hosting a Power Forum Breakfast on Thursday morning.

The Forum targets investors who are attending the World Economic Forum on Africa, especially those who have indicated special interest in the power sector, the Ministry of Power said in a statement Wednesday in Abuja. (Pana 07/05/2014)

## **AFDB SAYS SOUTH AFRICA, OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES REBASING THEIR ECONOMIES THIS YEAR**

South Africa and other African countries are joining Nigeria in rebasing their economies beginning this year, The Chief Economist at the African Development Bank (AfDB), Prof. Mthuli Ncube, said on the sidelines of the ongoing Abuja World Economic Forum on Africa (WEFA) summit.

Prof. Ncube said that the rebasing, in which Nigeria overtook South Africa as Africa's largest economy by Gross Domestic Product (GDP), was good for the overall economic development of the African continent.

He expressed the hope that African countries will also rebase their economies as this will change some of the indicators that will make the region look at how to work towards solutions to the extreme poverty in the continent.

Ncube said, after his presentation at the Forum, that “in all, about 37 African countries will rebase this year.

He had presented a paper, titled ‘Driving Competitiveness through Cooperation, Integration and Economic Growth’ at one of the WEFA sessions here.

Calling for Nigeria, Kenya and South Africa to synergize to strengthen the African economy and engender greater growth, Ncube stated: “If the three countries could synergize, it would help to reduce the average poverty rate of 48 per cent currently in the region. These three economies -- Nigeria, Kenya, and South Africa, as well as Egypt, when they come up, must work together to drive the African Economy.”

The Chairman of KMPG global Africa practice, Seyi Bickersteth, said: 'For us to have a positive growth, we need to integrate, get rid of the guys in borders to reduce cost and time of business and movement.'

Bickersteth spoke of how borders create huge challenges to free movement of goods.

His words: 'Our political leaders have to step down their egos and provide enabling environment for private sector to play a major role.'

A South African official, Cas Coovadia, threw his weight behind calls for Nigeria, South Africa and Kenya to forge greater integration.

Coovadia, who is the Chief Executive Officer of Business Unity, South Africa, stressed that the coming together of the three economies would be in the interest of the continent.

Coovadia added: 'The hosting of the WEF in Nigeria is a great opportunity to see the largest economy in the region. We need efficient private sector participation, enhanced infrastructure and ensure accountability. The opportunity is there, Nigeria has a huge business sector, we need to get together and see how to drive the economy of Africa to create jobs.' (Pana 07/05/2014)



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Next Events

08.05.2014	<a href="#">Business Roundtable with Hon Nganou Djournessi Cameroon Minister of Economy and Planning</a>	<a href="#">Simmons &amp; Simmons</a>	London	<a href="#">BCA Business Meetings</a>
12.05.2014	<a href="#">Southern Africa: UK Heads of Mission</a>	<a href="#">Pinsent Masons LLP</a>	London	<a href="#">BCA Business Meetings</a>
16.05.2014	<a href="#">British Heads of Mission from The Mano River and West Africa</a>	<a href="#">Fasken Martineau</a>	London	<a href="#">BCA Business Meetings</a>
20.05.2014	<a href="#">Funding and Growing SMEs in Africa</a>	<a href="#">EY</a>	London	<a href="#">BCA Business Meetings</a>
22.05.2014	<a href="#">New Opportunities in Kenya</a>	<a href="#">Baker &amp; McKenzie LLP</a>	London	<a href="#">BCA Business Meetings</a>

## NEW DATES EU TRADE MISSION MADAGASCAR JUNE 9-12



EBCAM and NABC invites you to participate in the European trade mission to Madagascar, taking place June 9-12 2014, at the occasion of the visit to the country of the European Commissioner for Development, Andris Piebalgs. The aim of this mission is to introduce your company to Madagascar, the business opportunities present here and introduce you to potential business partners

Madagascar is the fourth largest island in the world offering multiple business opportunities. The key-sector is the agribusiness but the energy, agriculture, textile and tourism, oil & gas, maritime and mining sector play a very important role in the economy as well. This mission is open to all sectors and gives you a great opportunity for creating business in this beautiful country.



EBCAM and NABC will work with local partners to organize the program of the mission in Madagascar, which will include coordinated bilateral meetings, sector-focused company visits, a networking reception and a possible meeting with Mr. Andris Piebalgs, European Commissioner for Development. For more information and registration, please click [here](#)

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