

MEMORANDUM

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WORLD BANK GROUP, CHINA-LED AIIB AGREE TO DEEPEN COOPERATION



The logo of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is seen at its headquarter building in Beijing

The World Bank Group and the China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank said on Sunday they agreed to deepen their cooperation with a framework for knowledge sharing, staff exchanges, analytical work, development financing and country-level coordination.

The memorandum of understanding signed at the World Bank and International Monetary Fund spring meetings in Washington comes a year after the two multilateral lenders established mechanisms for cost-sharing and co-financing of investment projects.

Since then, the AIIB and the World Bank have co-financed five projects, supporting power generation in Pakistan, a natural gas pipeline in Azerbaijan, and projects in Indonesia to rebuild slums, improve dam safety and develop regional infrastructure.

They said in a joint statement that they are discussing more projects to be co-financed in 2017 and 2018.

"Signing this memorandum of understanding fits into our vision of a new kind of internationalism," AIIB President Jin Liqun said in a statement. "It deepens our relationship with the World Bank Group and sets up the mechanisms through which we can more easily collaborate and share information."

A World Bank spokeswoman said the knowledge-sharing memorandum was similar to one that was in place during the AIIB's early development stages, but which ended when the Beijing-based institution was formally launched in January 2016.

She said the new agreement does not specify financing amounts or targets, adding that those will be determined through meetings and consultations to discuss the banks' respective portfolios.

The AIIB has been viewed as a rival to the Western-dominated World Bank and Asian Development Bank. The United States initially opposed its creation and is not a member, but many U.S. allies, including Canada, Britain, Germany, Australia and South Korea have joined.

World Bank President Jim Yong Kim told Reuters on Thursday that he wants to push the Washington-based lender's business model towards harnessing more private capital for development finance.

In a statement on Sunday, Kim said: "Collaboration between development institutions is essential to make the best use of scarce resources, crowd-in the private sector, and meet the rising aspirations of the people we serve."(Dev)

BANK EXPRESSES CONFIDENCE IN NAMIBIA'S MINING SECTOR

South African-owned Standard Bank on Friday expressed confidence in Namibia's mining sector, saying it is ready to partner players in the industry.

"Standard Bank understands that mining companies require considerable amounts of financing for their large-scale mining projects," the bank's head of client coverage Adri Spangenberg said ahead of next week's 2017 Mining Expo and Conference.

He said mining prospects look bright for Namibia as the country is currently the world's fourth largest producer of uranium.



“Through the commencement of the Husab mine production Namibia is expected to take its seat as the second largest uranium producer globally.

The 2017 Mining Expo and Conference is scheduled for 26-27 April in Windhoek and would be held under the theme, “Reaping the Benefits of Mining Investments.”

It is hosted by the Namibia Chamber of Mines. (APA 21-04.2017)

TUNISIE : LE PATRONAT S'ALARME DE LA « DEPRECIATION RAPIDE » DU DINAR



Dinars tunisiens

La principale centrale patronale de Tunisie, l'Utica, s'est alarmée jeudi de la "dépréciation rapide" de la monnaie nationale et a appelé les autorités à intervenir face à ce "grand danger" pour l'économie du pays, déjà fragilisée.

Le dinar a perdu près d'un quart de sa valeur par rapport à l'euro ces deux dernières années : alors qu'il s'échangeait encore à près de deux euros en 2015, il a atteint cette semaine un plus bas historique, à plus de 2,55 euros.

Particulièrement marquée au printemps 2016, cette chute s'est de nouveau accélérée ces derniers jours, une « dépréciation rapide » qui « constitue un grand danger aussi bien pour l'économie nationale que pour l'entreprise », a réagi dans un communiqué l'Utica. Elle aura des « conséquences graves et très négatives », a poursuivi l'organisation, exprimant « sa profonde inquiétude ».

Dans ce contexte, le gouvernement et la Banque centrale (BCT) doivent mettre en oeuvre rapidement un « plan » visant à « freiner ce glissement », a souligné l'Utica.

Le déficit commercial pèse lourd dans la dévaluation du dinar

Mardi, sur *Express FM*, la ministre des Finances, Lamia Zribi, a relevé que la faiblesse du dinar s'expliquait par un creusement de plus en plus inquiétant du déficit commercial de la Tunisie. Celui-ci a culminé à 2,5 milliards de dinars (près d'un milliard d'euros) à fin février contre 1,35 milliard (520 millions d'euros) il y a un an. Les propos de la ministre ont été interprétés par la presse tunisienne comme un manque de volonté des autorités d'empêcher un nouveau glissement de la monnaie nationale.

Depuis sa révolution en 2011, la Tunisie a franchi avec succès plusieurs étapes de sa transition politique. L'unique pays rescapé du Printemps arabe reste en revanche englué dans la morosité sociale, économique et financière.

Après [une mission ce mois à Tunis](#), le Fonds monétaire international s'est engagé à verser une nouvelle tranche de 300 millions d'euros, dans le cadre de la nouvelle ligne de crédit accordée l'an dernier au pays, d'un montant total de 2,6 milliards d'euros sur quatre ans.

Dans son communiqué, l'Utica note toutefois que la chute du dinar menace « d'accentuer le taux d'endettement du pays et le service de la dette ». À la fin de 2016, la dette publique tunisienne a culminé à 63% du PIB et pourrait dépasser 70% cette année(JA 21-04-2017)

GHANA: KUMASI GETS \$95M CITY MALL



Residents of Kumasi, the second largest city in Ghana on Thursday afternoon witnessed the inauguration of a US\$95 million City Mall, at a colourful ceremony, APA learns here Friday.

The 18,500 square meter shopping centre is located at Asokwa, and has 74 shops and restaurants.

The Ghanaian Times reports on Friday that Mr. Kofi Sekyere, Chairman of the Kumasi City Mall, expressed satisfaction with project and assured that it would have a positive impact on the economy of the country as it would boost trading activities in the Ashanti Region.

He noted that the mall has an opportunity to employ over 500 people, in addition to the 1,000 people it employed during construction.

Ghana has become famous with the construction of Malls in recent years after getting what is touted as the largest mall in West Africa, known as 'West Hills Mall', located on the Accra-Cape Coast Road. (APA 21-04-2017)

WORLD BANK TO FUND AFRICA'S TOP 20 TECH STARTUPS

World Bank has launched XL Africa, a five-month business acceleration program designed to support the 20 most promising digital start-ups from Sub-Saharan Africa.

Start-ups will receive mentoring from global and local experts, learn through a tailor-made curriculum, increase their regional visibility, and get access to potential corporate partners and investors.

With support from prominent African investment groups, XL Africa will help the 20 selected start-ups attract early stage capital between \$250,000 and \$1.5 million.

Vice President for the Africa Region at the World Bank, Makhtar Diop, says digital start-ups are important drivers of innovation in Africa.

“To scale and spread new technologies and services beyond borders, they need an integrated ecosystem that provides access to regional markets and global finance; pan-African initiatives like XL Africa play a critical role by linking local start-ups with corporations and investors across the continent.” The program comes at a time of increasing interest in the African digital sector.

According to a recent report by Disrupt Africa, in 2016, the number of tech start-ups that secured funding increased by 16.8% compared to 2015.

The program's flagship activity includes a two-week residency in Cape Town, South Africa, where the ventures will have the opportunity to interact with and learn from their mentors, peers, and local partners. The Cape Town residency will conclude with the Venture Showcase, a regional event in which the entrepreneurs will present their business models to a select audience of corporations and investors. "The program's unique combination of targeted mentorship and access to investors represents a vital resource for digital ventures ready to grow," said Lexi Novitske, Principal Investment Officer for Singularity Investments, a venture group based in Lagos, Nigeria. The program will collaborate with close to 20 prominent African and global investment groups. Interested companies can apply online on the XL Africa website www.XL-Africa.com by Monday, June 12, 2017. (XL Africa 20-04-2017)

ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE AMONG THE TOP 10 TOURIST DESTINATIONS IN THE NEXT DECADE

Angola and Mozambique are among the 10 tourist destinations that are expected to record greater growth in demand for leisure travel in the next decade, according to the latest report on the competitiveness from the World Economic Forum.

Developing and emerging countries are the "stars" of the 2017 Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report, which concludes that most of them "have significantly improved their performance since 2015" when the previous edition was published.

"Twelve of the 15 countries with the greatest improvements are emerging or developing countries," the report said.

Between 2016 and 2026, according to research by the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), India will be the fastest growing destination for leisure travel, followed by Angola, Uganda, Brunei, Thailand, China, Burma, Oman, Mozambique and Vietnam.

The competitiveness assessment includes a total of 136 economies, four of which are Portuguese-speaking, with Angola, due to insufficient data, not included in the analysis, in which it had been included in 2015.

Portugal is the best-placed Portuguese-speaking country, in 14th place, one place above the position reached two years ago, followed by Brazil, in 27th, which also rose one place.

Cabo Verde (Cape Verde), rose three places to 83rd, with higher scores for the "air transport infrastructure" criteria (43rd, with the 2nd highest airport density in relation to the size of the population), "Environmental sustainability" (44th) and "price competitiveness" (49th).

The lowest scoring criteria were "cultural resources and business travel" (134th) and "natural resources" (127th).

The Cape Verdean government's programme aims to be among the 30 most competitive countries in the world in terms of tourism and among the top five in Africa by 2021.

Mozambique is one of the countries that performed best, eight places higher than in 2015, to 122nd place.

“The strengths of Mozambican competitiveness for tourism and travel continue to be its natural resources and its very open visa policy. This year, the country has risen due to improvements in information and communication technologies, resulting from increased use of mobile phones, reduced taxes and charges on air transport and the attribution of greater value to its natural resources,” the report said.

The tourism competitiveness report also highlights the sector’s great growth potential, in particular due to the expected increase in the world middle class by 2031 – another 3 billion people, most of them in China, India and emerging countries.

“This new purchasing power will give the middle class greater access to travel. Although travel is growing strongly in China, it is estimated that currently only 5% of Chinese citizens hold a passport, “a situation similar to that of other emerging countries, the report said. (24-04-2017)

LARGE VEGETABLE PRESERVES COMPLEX COMES TO ETHIOPIA

Celorrio is to build a large complex in Ethiopia. It would be the largest investment ever made by the La Rioja-based group and will employ more than 3,000 people, intending to increase substantially its capacity to manufacture vegetable preserves (asparagus, Piquillo pepper and artichoke).

After several years of research across several countries, it seems that the town of Mek’ele has the microclimate suitable for these crops and a great water capacity.

The factory, which will be ready in September 2018, will have a constructed area of 65,000 m², over a total acreage of 5,000 hectares of land, with the aim of reaching a production capacity of 80,000 tons.

The aggregated sales of Grupo Celorrio amounted to €190 million in 2016, 9% more than the previous year. Of that turnover, 20% comes from exports. (Alimarket / Agroberichten Buitenland 18-04-2017)

S/AFRICAN GOV’T SAYS FDI REPORT SHOWS CONFIDENCE IN ECONOMY

The South African government has welcomed A.T. Kearney’s 2017 Foreign Direct Investment Confidence report, which indicates that South Africa is the 25th most attractive destination for foreign direct investment (FDI), and the top most in the African continent.

South Africa’s improvements in short-term economic prospects and the long-term investment in the country’s manufacturing have been cited as some of the key drivers of South Africa’s improved rating on the index, a senior official said.

“Government is humbled by this ranking, which shows that South Africa’s strategic partnership with foreign investors is gaining momentum.

“The report demonstrates that our country’s blueprint on development is yielding results and requires that we strengthen this by also encouraging South Africans to save so that we balance this show of confidence through involving South Africans,” Communications Minister Ayanda Dlodlo said.

Dlodlo said South Africa was considered as a gateway to Africa with lucrative value and opportunities for international investor partnerships, boasting a combination of infrastructure and an emergent market economy that gives rise to a vibrant and entrepreneurial investment environment.

The report showed of confidence boding well for the country’s efforts aimed at strengthening economic relations with many regions of the world, which recently saw South Africa hosting delegations from Qatar and Estonia, he said.

According to the minister, South Africa has heeded President Jacob Zuma's call to focus on changing any negative perceptions held by foreign investors by strengthening synergies within civil society. (APA 21-04-2017)

HELP ON OFFER FOR IRISH AGRI FIRMS TO MOVE INTO AFRICAN MARKET



South Africa is the largest animal-feed producer on the continent, and there's an ongoing opportunity to supply supplements to feed manufacturers, although this will mean taking market share from existing players.'

With over 1.2m sq km of land, South Africa comprises Mediterranean, subtropical and semi-desert regions, producing everything from deciduous, citrus and subtropical fruit to grain, wool, cut flowers, livestock and game.

Its farm holdings range in size from the vast fields of the Eastern Cape to subsistence-based production in deep, rural parts.

When things become quiet around the Irish countryside, South Africa's counter-seasonality offers agritech and farm-machinery producers an additional southern hemisphere market to provide a counterbalance to the end of a busy period back at home.

While some agricultural markets 'down under' have a strong indigenous farm machinery heritage, South Africa has a preference for imported European and North American equipment.

The good news is that, despite the weak value of the South African rand, European exports can compete on price. Irish companies active in the market include farm-machinery producers Keenan and McHale and food-processing software provider Emydex.

Other potential opportunities offered by South Africa's large agricultural sector include animal nutrition and veterinary products, dairy and meat-processing equipment, alternative-energy solutions and water-saving technologies.

South Africa is the largest animal-feed producer on the continent, and there's an ongoing opportunity to supply supplements to feed manufacturers, although this will mean taking market share from existing players.

Meat processing remains a large sector, particularly as the consumption of protein is increasing with a growing middle class. With the introduction of minimum-wage legislation there is a heavy focus on efficiency, with many South African farmers and processors looking to new technologies to increase productivity.

In selecting a South African market representative, companies should look for an agent or distributor that can provide an after-sales service and offer market reach right into the whole of the southern Africa continent. They may also be best advised to consider some of the smaller equipment suppliers, as larger distributors typically already have a full complement of partnerships in place and are less likely to take on new products.

In November, we will be taking a group of Irish farm equipment and agtech specialists on a market study tour to South Africa, providing an ideal opportunity to get a feel for the market, meet potential partners and showcase their products.

The visit will also take in Kenya, where agriculture accounts for 20pc of GDP, and tea and horticultural products are the country's largest exports.

The Kenyan market represents yet a different opportunity again. The sector is characterised by small-scale farming, with family businesses typically operating on one-to-three hectare farms. However, the country is well capable of handling productivity gains thanks to a variety of climatic conditions, allowing for good grain, sugar cane, coffee and tea production.

Young Kenyans, who are leaving office jobs to venture into farming, are receptive to modernisation, and agriculture is central to the government's economic development strategy. In 2010, Kenya signed a comprehensive Africa agriculture development programme to address constraints such as low investment and limited access to technology.

Irish animal-health company Cross Vetpharm has operations in Kenya, and those active elsewhere in East Africa include MagGrow, a start-up commercialising eco-efficient spraying technology; Hermitage Genetics, which specialises in pig breeding, and milking parlour specialist DairyMaster. There's no doubt that other Irish firms selling to the agricultural sector could also look to Africa.

We here in Enterprise Ireland's Johannesburg office can help with information, introductions and itinerary planning for market visits. (Farm Ireland 24-04-2017)

MOZAMBICAN BANKING SECTOR REPORTS POSITIVE RESULTS IN 2016

Mozambican bank Banco Único reported a net profit of 440 million meticaais (US\$6.16 million) in 2016, according to a report published in Mozambican weekly newspaper Savana.

"We have achieved a historic and meaningful milestone, with a net result that is 3.7 times higher than in 2015," said the Chairman of the Board of Directors, Abdul Osman, adding that "Banco Único is increasingly a benchmark in the market, and is now the fifth largest bank in Mozambique."

South African bank Nedbank, which had a 38.3% stake in Banco Único, started out with 50% plus one share of the bank, according to the documents – which is equivalent to 1.3 billion meticaais of subscribed capital.

Gevisar SGPS, a partnership between Portugal's Visabeira and Corticeira Amorim, which also had a 38.3% stake, reduced it in 2016 to 30.2% – the subscribed capital now stands at 798 million meticaais.

Banco Terra Moçambique also achieved positive results in 2016, amounting to 12 million meticaais (US\$168,000), "representing growth of about 120% compared to 2015," said the statement.

Banco Terra Moçambique's shareholders, according to its website, are Rabobank, a banking cooperative in the Netherlands, Norfund – Norwegian Investment Fund for Developing Countries, Montepio Holding, which is part of Montepio Geral – Associação Mutualista Portuguesa and Gabi, a Mozambican development finance institution. (24-04-2017)

BREWERS LOOK TO CRACK AFRICA'S \$13BN BEER MARKET

Multinational drinks companies are battling for their share in the biggest markets in Africa amid the worst economic slowdown on the continent in two decades.

As traditional markets slow, brewers are apparently eager to push further into the region and expand their brand presence.

The *Financial Times* reports that Africa is the world's fastest-growing beer market, with research group Plato Logic forecasting volume growth of 4.5 percent this year compared with 1.4 percent globally.

The continent is thought to remain key in the long term because of its fast-growing, urbanising and young population.



Africa is the world's fastest-growing beer market, with research group Plato Logic forecasting volume growth of 4.5 percent this year compared with 1.4 percent globally

Cheaper brews are apparently on the up, as a mis-forecast reveals that Africa's middle class are expanding slower than expected.

Many premium brands are feeling the effects of the previous free-falling economy. As consumer incomes have been squeezed, these brands have been pushed out of reach of tens of millions of people.

"Low-cost beer is what people are drinking," Adedayo Ayeni, an analyst at Renaissance Capital, told *Financial Times*.

Other market analysts agree, stating that amid the downturn, the continent has seen economy lager starting to boom.

Heineken, the world's second-largest brewer, officially opened a \$160 million brewery in Côte d'Ivoire this month to take advantage of the growing young market.

With many multinational brewers becoming increasingly interested in the continent's exponential beer market, it is thought that this could lead to an era of colourful competition between sellers in Africa. (CGTN 19-04-2017)

HYDROPOWER PROJECT SET TO BOOST ANGOLA'S ENERGY SECTOR

Angola's energy sector is set to augment as the government has approved a 18MW hydropower plant to be built in the northwestern region.

The US-based clean energy company, Dominovas Energy Corporation has secured the rights to finance, build and operate the hydropower plant worth \$90 million.

According to a company statement, the project will produce over 150,000,000/kWh of electricity per year. In executing the project, the energy firm stated that it will be employing the "proprietary Ocean River Current Access Solutions installation, which will utilise the most advanced, eco-friendly and effective hydro technologies available for sustainable power generation."

"The system enables on- and off-grid clean energy flexibility for the generation of electricity from river-based power generating systems," the company said. [Read more...](#)

Hydropower project

It is anticipated that the deployment will complement an existing hydropower plant; a project that reflects several years of collaboration between the energy company and government officials to explore much-needed clean, efficient, and reliable power solutions for the country. [Read more...](#)

The company's managing director in Africa, Vassilis Koutras, commented: "The Dominovas team has been relentless in its efforts in Angola, to deliver this project. Long in the making, yes, but well worth the wait. I now look forward to the next set of steps in our process."

Meanwhile, the company's chairman and CEO, Neal Allen, said: "I am honored our company has been selected for this high-profile project, and I applaud the administration for its vision and unyielding determination to deliver continuous, reliable, and efficient electricity to its people.

"We do not take this selection lightly and look forward to moving to execution and implementation with each of the venerable."

Investments

Next steps will include the completion of appropriate bankable feasibility studies, the negotiation of all off-take agreement terms and conditions, which will be supported by the requisite government guarantees, covering Dominovas' investment in the power plant and attendant infrastructure.

The project will be funded by company's financing partner, Graecrest Energy Solutions and its partners, under a \$1.2 billion financing agreement.(ESI Africa 19-04-2017

JAPAN FUNDS FOOD CONSERVATION AND PROCESSING CENTRE IN ANGOLA

A food conservation and processing centre will open in June this year in the Angolan city of Moçâmedes, Namibe province, a project of the United Nations Fund and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) funded by the government of Japan.

Budgeted at US\$120,000, the centre's construction work began last January and aim to conserve food to reduce post-harvest losses in Namibe province.

The FAO's southern regional representative, Matteo Tonini, told the Angop news agency that Angola relies exclusively on imports for preserved products and prices lose some value when there is surplus agricultural production.

"This is why the FAO, in collaboration with the Japanese Embassy, decided to build a food processing and preservation centre in Namibe, which will have cold storage and other components," he said. (24-04-2017)

EN AFRIQUE, DES EURODEPUTES S'INTERROGENT SUR LES ACCORDS DE PARTENARIAT



Le siège de la délégation de l'Union européenne à Dakar, au Sénégal, un membre de la Cédéao.

La commission commerce international est en Afrique de l'Ouest pour surveiller la mise en application des Accords de partenariat économique.

Une équipe de six eurodéputés, dirigés par Bernd Lange (groupe S&D), est au Ghana et en Côte d'Ivoire pour rencontrer les politiques locaux, les dirigeants d'entreprise et les membres de la société civile du 18 au 20 avril. Le séjour se clôturera par une conférence de presse dans la capitale ghanéenne, Accra.

Le voyage intervient dans un contexte de scepticisme concernant les Accords de partenariat économique (APE), étant donné que le représentant spécial de l'Allemagne pour l'Afrique, Günther Nooke, a indiqué la semaine dernière que ces derniers n'étaient « pas une réussite, ni pour l'Afrique, ni pour l'Europe ».

Les accords commerciaux avec l'Afrique ne sont pas une « success story »

Pour le représentant allemand en Afrique, le commerce entre l'Europe et l'Afrique est « presque insignifiant ». La faute aux mauvais accords de partenariat mis en place par l'UE, mais aussi aux gouvernements africains qui « ne sont pas à la hauteur ».

Günther Nooke fait partie de l'équipe du gouvernement allemand en charge de l'organisation du prochain sommet du G20 à Hambourg en juin, qui se concentrera sur l'Afrique. Pour lui, les APE « ne sont pas un accord, ni un partenariat », et le commerce entre l'Afrique et l'UE est « presque insignifiant », sauf pour le café, le cacao et les diamants du Botswana.

Si l'UE est le premier donateur au monde, aussi bien en termes absolus que pour l'Afrique en particulier, les APE ne datent que de l'année 2002. Leur mise en place a été chaotique, étant donné que les négociations n'ont pas abouti à la date prévue, en 2008, et que des accords temporaires ont été adoptés, d'abord jusqu'en 2014, puis jusqu'en octobre 2016.

Les 16 chefs d'État de la Cédéao (Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest) ont approuvé les APE en 2014, mais le processus de signature est toujours en cours. Le Nigéria et le Ghana ont refusé de les signer, même si le Ghana a signé un accord provisoire en août 2016 afin de ne pas perdre son accès privilégié au marché européen.

En vertu de la première convention de Lomé de la fin des années 1970, puis des accords de Cotonou de 2000 (qui expireront en 2020), les 79 membres des États ACP (Afrique, Caraïbes, Pacifique) bénéficient d'un libre accès au marché européen, sous le critère de « tout sauf les armes ».

D'après une déclaration des eurodéputés, la visite de cette semaine « se concentrera principalement sur la procédure de mise en place des accords temporaires récemment signés, sur l'intégration régionale de l'Afrique occidentale et sur l'environnement commercial et d'investissement dans ces pays ». L'équipe de Bernd Lange rencontrera les gouvernements, les députés, le secteur privé, la société civile et certaines ONG durant leur voyage.

Avant son départ cependant, la commission parlementaire a publié une étude sur les moyens possibles de suspendre les APE avec les États ACP si ces derniers ne respectaient pas les droits de l'Homme, les principes démocratiques ou l'État de droit, après l'expiration de l'accord de Cotonou dans trois ans. Les progrès actuels concernant la période qui suivra la fin des accords de Cotonou s'avèrent lents, voire stagnants, à la suite des discussions de l'année dernière à Dakar, au Sénégal.

Les relations entre l'UE et les pays ACP se tendent au sommet de Dakar

Les représentants des pays du groupe Afrique-Caraïbes-Pacifique ont exprimé leur mécontentement quant à leur collaboration avec l'UE lors d'une rencontre au Sénégal.

Le Cédéao compte 16 membres, à savoir le Bénin, le Burkina Faso, le Cap Vert, la Côte d'Ivoire, la Gambie, le Ghana, la Guinée, la Guinée-Bissau, le Liberia, le Mali, le Niger, le Nigéria, le Sénégal, la Sierra Leone et le Togo.

Le Soudan et la Guinée équatoriale ont refusé de ratifier l'accord de Cotonou en 2000, après la publication d'un amendement en 2005 reconnaissant la compétence juridictionnelle de la Cour pénale internationale.

Le Fonds européen de développement (FED) pour aider les pays ACP s'élève à 29,1 milliards d'euros, dont 24,3 milliards sont destinés aux programmes de coopération régionale et nationale, 3,6 milliards à la coopération entre États ACP et 1,1 milliard aux dispositifs d'investissement ACP. (EuroActiv 19-04-2017)

NIGERIAN OIL GIANT NNPC DIVERSIFIES INTO HEALTH SECTOR



The state-run Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) has diversified into the health sector in line with the Corporation's stand to stay afloat as a commercially viable entity.

The Group Managing Director of the Corporation, Dr. Maikanti Baru, said at the inauguration of the Boards of the NNPC Medical Services Ltd. (NMSL) and the NNPC Health Maintenance Organisation (HMO) Ltd on Thursday in Abuja that his vision was to make NNPC a renowned Health Medical Services (HMS) provider globally.

The Independent newspaper report on Friday quotes Baru as saying that in the nearby future, we are committed to making our medical facilities a reference point for the provision of world-class health medical services in Africa and beyond.

"As at today, the NNPC Medical Services Division boasts of 52 clinics and hospitals spread across the Corporation's various locations across the country, providing services to staff and their family members," Baru said.

He explained that the aim is to open up these medical facilities to other oil and gas organisations as well as other interested third party consumers for profitability.

Baru charged the Board members to provide the necessary direction to medical service delivery in the NNPC in line with global best standards.

Following the recent restructuring of the NNPC, its Group Medical Services was realigned as a new venture non-core business entity, charged with the responsibility of creating new medical businesses that will generate revenue for the Corporation. (APA 21-04-2017)

MEPS IN GHANA AND IVORY COAST TO MONITOR EPA IMPLEMENTATION

MEPs from the European Parliament's International Trade Committee are in West Africa this week, to monitor the implementation of Economic Partnership Agreements.

A team of six MEPs, headed by Bernd Lange (S&D group), will be in Ghana and Ivory Coast, meeting politicians, business leaders and civil society from Tuesday to Thursday, finishing with a press conference in the Ghanaian capital Accra on the final day.

However, the trip comes against a backdrop of mounting scepticism on the EPAs, with Angela Merkel's Special Representative for Africa, Günther Nooke, last week calling them "no success story, neither for Africa nor for Europe".



Merkel's 'man in Africa' downbeat on prospects for Africa-EU summit

Gunther Nooke, Angela Merkel's representative to Africa, offered a gloomy prognosis of November's Africa-EU summit in Abidjan on Tuesday (11 April), saying trade between the continents was "almost irrelevant" and that the African Union required major "institutional reform".

Nooke is part of the German government team organising the upcoming G20 summit in Hamburg in June, the special focus of which is on Africa.

He went on to say that he agreed with the sentiment that EPAs "are not an agreement, and it's not a partnership" and said Africa-EU trade was currently "almost irrelevant", except from coffee, cocoa and diamonds from Botswana.

Although the EU is the world's largest donor, both in absolute terms and to Africa in particular, the EPAs only date back to 2002.

However, they had a troubled birth, with negotiations not finalised by 2008, as originally planned, and so temporary interim agreements have been made, first stretching to 2014, then extended to October 2016.

The 16 heads of state of ECOWAS (the Economic Community of West African States) endorsed the EPAs in 2014 but the signature process is still in progress.

Nigeria and Ghana have refused to sign up, while Ghana signed an interim EPA in August 2016 in order not to lose preferential access to EU markets.

Under first the Lome Convention of the late 1970s, then the Cotonou Agreement of 2000 (which expires in 2020), all 79-members of the ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific) nations, enjoy free access to the European market under the 'Everything But Arms' (EBA) criteria.

According to a statement from the MEP committee, the visit this week "will focus mostly on the implementation process of recently concluded interim EPAs, regional integration of Western Africa and business and investment environment in those countries".

Lange's team will meet with government, parliamentarians, the private sector and civil society and NGOs during the trip.

However, prior to departure, the committee [posted a study](#) on possible means of suspending EPAs with ACP states if they are deemed to break human rights, democratic principles or the rule of law, following the expiry of the Cotonou Agreement in three years time.

Current progress on the post-Cotonou agreement appears to be sluggish, if not stalled, following talks in Dakar, Senegal last year.



Cracks appear in EU-ACP unity at Cotonou meeting in Dakar

Dissent was heard at the high-level meeting in Dakar last week of the EU and the 79-member states of the African, Caribbean and Pacific group.

The 16 members of ECOWAS comprise Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Ivory Coast, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

Both Sudan and Equatorial Guinea have refused to ratify even the 2000 Cotonou Agreement, after a 2005 amendment recognised the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court.

The current EU European Development Fund (EDF) of aid for ACP countries runs at €29.1bn, of which €24.3bn goes on national and regional cooperation programmes, €3.6bn on intra-ACP cooperation and €1.1bn on the ACP Investment Facility. (EurActiv 18-04-2017)

PRICES OF HOTELS IN ANGOLA HAVE TO LOWER TO INCREASE OCCUPANCY RATE

Hotel owners in Angola must establish prices in line with people's purchasing power in order to increase the occupancy rate of these units, said on Friday in Luanda the secretary general of the Association of Hotels and Resorts of Angola (AHRA).

Secretary-General Ramiro Barreira pointed out that hotel establishments in some of the country's provinces have occupancy rates ranging from 5.0% to 15%, and that measures should be taken to increase this rate to at least 50%.

Barreira, on the sidelines of the end of the first course for hotel directors and managers in the provinces of Moxico, Benguela, Malanje, Kwanza Norte, Huíla and Luanda, said that his association would try to find a balance in order to adjust hotel prices to the reality of the country.

The secretary general of the AHRA also said that if the occupancy rate of hotels reached 50% it would be possible to increase the number of both domestic and foreign tourists and make the sector's weight in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) exceed the current 0.65%.

The Ministry of Hospitality and Tourism of Angola has a plan underway to increase the number of tourists to 4.6 million by 2020.

Barreira pointed out that in order for owners to lower their prices, electricity and water costs needed to be reduced along with taxes on the sector.

The Association of Hotels and Resorts of Angola currently has 400 members from the country's 18 provinces. (24-04-2017)

TANZANIA: DRUGMAKER TO FINANCE TRAINING FOR TANZANIANS

GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) has announced a new scholarship to support the training and development of the next generation of leaders in global health. The plan also seeks to strengthen the capacity of health systems in Africa.

GSK Tanzania country manager David Ng'ang'a said Tanzanian scholars are among 30 from sub-Saharan Africa who have been targeted to study for a master of Science program at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) through the Sir Andrew Witty GSK Scholarships programme.

"Our commitment to Africa has a strong focus on capability development. GSK's academic investments focus on building local scientific, technical, manufacturing, and public health skills and capabilities in order to strengthen local healthcare capacity.

The Sir Andrew Witty GSK Scholarships open to scholars in Tanzania, will support this commitment by empowering future generations of African global health leaders", said Mr. Ng'ang'a.

The scholars will study in London towards a one-year Master's degree programme on a health topic of their choice such as infectious disease control or global mental health.

The London School of Hygiene and Tropical medicine director, Prof Peter Piot, said the Sir Andrew Witty GSK Scholarships will play an important role in supporting the next generation of public and global health leaders in Africa.

The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine is a world-leading centre for research and post-graduate education. Tuition fees and a tax-free living allowance will be funded by GSK.

GSK has a 10-year agreement with the facility. The scholarship recognises retired CEO, Sir Andrew Witty's commitment to addressing health challenges in Africa. (The Citizen 12-04-2017)

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The Memorandum is also made available by AHEAD-GLOBAL, BCA, Chamber of Tenerife (by posting it at the Africa Info Market), CCA - Canadian Council on Africa, CCA - Corporate Council on Africa (USA), ELO,HTTC ,NABA,NABC (by posting selected news) and SwissCham-Africa to their Members.



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www.swisscham-afrika.ch

Fernando Matos Rosa

fernando.matos.rosa@sapo.pt

fernando.matos.rosa@skynet.be

