

## MANAGEMENT



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APN WOMEN OF AFRICA NETWORK

## EDITORIAL

We are doing something different in this edition of APN's weekly newsletter. In the first of a two-parter, we bring you some of the Best Podcasts on AfCFTA and its ecosystem. While part 1 will give you some of our selections, part 2 will give a critique of what makes a great podcast?

There are five parameters through which we assess the podcasts and offer our humble solutions in helping create a must-listen-to podcast. As per usual, there will be interesting tweets in the newsletter, plus some news in French, as well as stories you may have missed.

Happy reading!

### TWEETS (APN NEWSLETTER)

### APN BRIEFS



This is a meeting **NOT TO BE MISSED**. Participants will include **Afrexim Bank; AfCFTA Secretariat; Ghana National Chamber of Commerce.** I will be covering for **APRM Champions/APRM Communications Network.** More details soon 🔥

### CONSULTANCY OPPORTUNITY WITH APN

The AfCFTA Policy Network will be issuing a call for a consultant to help support APN's Migration, Mobility, Peace & Security work.

[www.twitter.com/APNMigration](https://www.twitter.com/APNMigration)

#GrandEthiopianRenaissanceDam

[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/mark-anthony-johnson-55615926\\_bluenile-grandethiopianrenaissancedam-hydroelectric-activity-6901155178029154304-Nc9s](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/mark-anthony-johnson-55615926_bluenile-grandethiopianrenaissancedam-hydroelectric-activity-6901155178029154304-Nc9s)



### UBA Partners with PAPSS

The Pan-African Payment & Settlement System (PAPSS) is a cross-border, financial market infrastructure enabling payment transactions across Africa.

In partnership with UBA, PAPSS will be launched in Nigeria, Ghana, Gambia, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Visit [www.papss.com](http://www.papss.com) to learn more.

## OACPS BUSINESS FORUM LAUNCHED

Brussels, 25 January 2022/OACPS:



Less than two years since the coming into force of the Revised Georgetown Agreement, which is the Constitutive Act of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, The OACPS Business Forum was officially launched on 21 January 2022 during a virtual meeting organized by the

OACPS Secretariat with technical support of Business ACP. "OACPS leaders have always recognized the crucial socio-economic role played by our private sector, and in particular our micro, small and medium sized enterprises, in fostering the sustainable development of our countries by providing decent jobs, creating wealth, generating government revenue and driving foreign exchange. However, until today we had been unable to formalize the platform through which OACPS political leaders could engage with the private sector in a constructive manner via an open and inclusive public-private sector dialogue" said H. E. Mr. Georges Rebelo Pinto CHIKOTI Secretary-General of the Organisation of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States in his welcome remarks.

During this first official meeting, attended by representatives of the private sector from across all OACPS regions, it was underlined that this Business Forum is one of the five "Subsidiary and Consultative Organs" foreseen under the Georgetown Agreement, with 3 main objectives:

Promoting dialogue and collaboration between OACPS Governments, Regional Integration Institutions and the private sector at national, regional and continental levels within and between the 6 OACPS regions; Contributing to the formulation and

## EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

Chairman Dr. Joe Tackie, Group Executive Director Louis Yaw Afful, Deputy Executive Director EK Bensah, International Executive Ms. Joyce Williams Esq, Women Of Africa Executive Director Audrey Biney

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implementation of private sector development policies; and Promoting knowledge sharing and information dissemination on private sector development issues, including the exchange of best practices between and within the 6 OACPS regions.

H. E. Mr. Samuel O. OUTLULE, Ambassador of the Republic of Botswana and Chairperson of the OACPS Subcommittee on Investment and Private Sector declared: "Your presence here today, albeit the very early or very late hour in your respective part of the globe, shows your commitment to this very important mission of fostering public-private sector dialogue and collaboration. I am profoundly reassured by the enthusiasm shown by our private sector gathered here tonight and I am confident that together we will be able to harness the strength and innovation of our private sector to adequately address the many challenges ahead."

On behalf of the private sector, Mrs Mmantlha Sankoloba, Interim Chairperson of the OACPS Business Forum and CEO of the Botswana Exporters and Manufacturers Association (BEMA) commended the efforts of the OACPS on ensuring the involvement of the OACPS private sector: "I believe a platform such as this one, basically affords us all a chance to learn from each other's best practices and lead thoughts on how to overcome pertinent hurdles. From the experiences of other nations are also something that I really value, getting to explore the practices each and every one of us has in place at their respective institutions."

This meeting also endorsed the 12 candidates (2 per region) who volunteered to serve as initial Board Members of the OACPs Business Forum: during the coming weeks, they will elect the President and 5 Vice Presidents as office bearers. They will be tasked with developing the Forum's constitute documents, proposing operational modalities and preparing a six months' work programme of the Business Forum.

For more information see: <https://businessacp.com/en/oacps-business-forum/>

source: <http://www.acp.int/content/oacps-business-forum-launched>

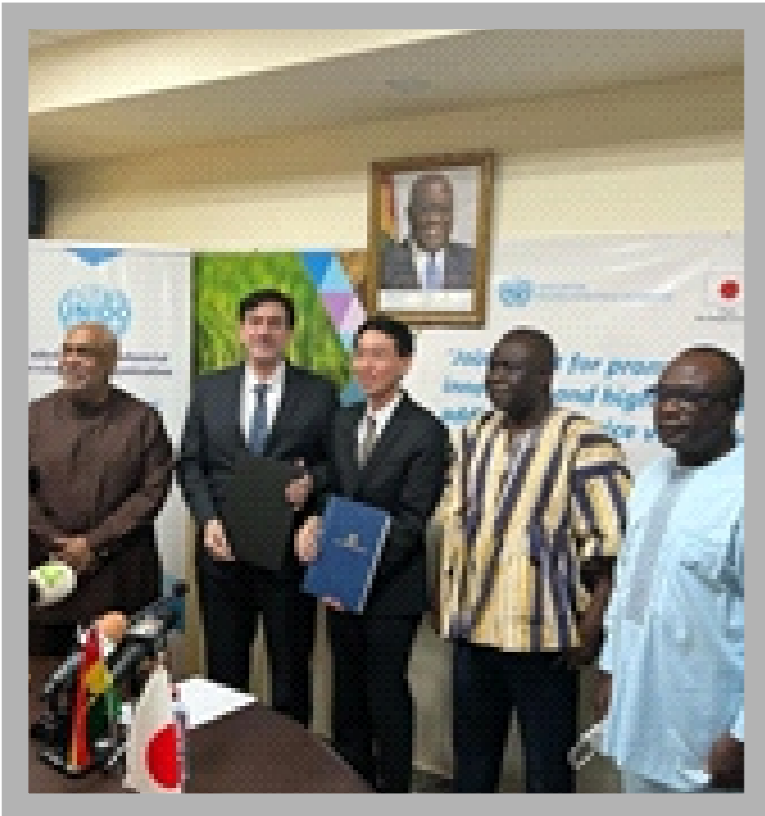
## EVENTS IN INTRA-AFRICAN TRADE



## OUR PARTNERS



PRESS RELEASE: UNIDO, GHANA AND JAPAN LAUNCH PROJECT TO BOOST RICE PRODUCTION



**A**CCRA, 21st February 2022 – As a joint effort of the government of Ghana, Japan, and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), a new project to strengthen the competencies of the Rice value chain in order to catalyze the use of modern technologies, realize higher value creation, and comply with market requirements was launched on Friday.

The project will build the capacity of value chain actors - mainly farmers, agro-traders, crop processors, and public supporting institutions - by activities focusing on quality assurance, increased productivity and business competitiveness, as well as the supply of equipment. The use of best practices and modern management systems will enhance the quality of the harvested rice and the products derived from it.

Rice is an important crop in Ghana, with a steady increase in consumption over recent decades due to population growth, urbanization and changes in consumer habits. However, multiple challenges across the value chain are holding back the full development potential of national rice production. The government recognizes that efforts to make the domestic rice value chain more competitive would not only contribute to economic growth and structural transformation, but also to solving developmental challenges like poverty and job creation for youth, women, and other vulnerable population groups. The project will be implemented by UNIDO in coordination with the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the government of Japan under the funding scheme of the government of Japan. The formal launch of the project was marked by a ceremony bringing together the Government of Ghana, represented by Mr. Yaw Frimpong Addo, Honourable Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture, Mr. Hisanobu Mochizuki, Japan's Ambassador to the Republic of Ghana; and Mr. Fakhruddin Azizi, UNIDO's Representative in Ghana.

For more information on the project, please contact: Jun Yamashita, e-mail: J.YAMASHITA@unido.org

APN NEWSLETTER - PODCASTS

**W**e have published another episode of ALP Talks - where we discussed Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Investment Protocol

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) will be the world's largest free trade area in terms of membership (55 countries) and it is poised to usher immense opportunities for Africa and investors alike.

Africa has often been described as the new frontier for global growth and several African countries have indeed experienced a high rate of economic growth as a result of foreign direct investment. The Agreement establishing the AfCFTA ("the Agreement"), provides for a number of protocols which form an integral part of the Agreement, one of which is the Investment Protocol which is currently being negotiated.

Listen on:  
Apple: <https://apple.co/3tlG9km>  
Spotify: <https://spoti.fi/3zQysDE>  
Anchor: <https://bit.ly/3GoMdfn>

source: <http://www.alp.company/resources/alp-talks-podcast/african-continental-free-trade-area-afcfta-investment-protocol-podcast>

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE APN-IOM SLO PARTNERSHIP

The primary objective of the partnership is to help \*promote the AU's Freedom of Movement Protocol\* (AU FMP 2018).

The partnership was activated by IOM-SLA (Special Liaison Office to the AU/UNECA) in August 2021 initiating a social media campaign on [www.twitter.com/APNMigration](https://www.twitter.com/APNMigration)

IOM will continue to support APN in diverse ways and projects of mutual interest throughout 2022.

Members interested in helping APN promote AU FMP are encouraged to send their interest and Cv to Project Lead E K Bensah on [ekbensah@afcftapolicy.net](mailto:ekbensah@afcftapolicy.net) with cc to [ekbensah@gmail.com](mailto:ekbensah@gmail.com)

COMMERCE : LA ZLECAF BIENTÔT EFFECTIVE DANS SIX PAYS

**S**ix pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest (Côte d'Ivoire, Sénégal, Togo, Guinée, Niger, Burkina Faso) se préparent à mettre en œuvre les accords sur la Zone de libre-échange continentale africaine (Zlecaf), selon Jérôme Ouédraogo, consultant au bureau sous-régional Afrique de l'Ouest de la Commission économique pour l'Afrique (CEA).

Les accords portant création de la Zlecaf sont officiellement entrés en vigueur le 1er janvier 2022. La Zlecaf « ne peut être perçue comme un éléphant blanc d'autant que (ces six pays) sont actuellement dans une phase de mise en œuvre avancée », indique le consultant de la CEA.

source: Ouestaf.com

SÉNÉGAL : LES EXPORTATIONS EN HAUSSE DE 18% EN DÉCEMBRE 2021

**L**es exportations du Sénégal ont enregistré une hausse de 319,9 milliards FCFA en décembre 2021 contre 271,2 milliards FCFA le mois précédent, soit une progression de 18%, selon l'Agence nationale de la statistique et de la démographie (ANSD).

Cette progression est liée au boom des expéditions de produits pétroliers (77,2 milliards de FCFA contre 33,3 milliards de FCFA au mois précédent), d'acide phosphorique (+43,3%), de poissons frais de mer (+36,5%) et des phosphates (3,4 milliards de FCFA contre 60 millions de FCFA au mois précédent), indique le bulletin mensuel sur le commerce extérieur de l'ANSD

source: Ouestaf.com

APN PODCASTS 4

**I**n this episode, we talk to Pramod Bagalwadi, CEO DHL Global Forwarding for Sub Saharan Africa on how the African Free Continental Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) will boost intra African trade. We break down how receptive national borders under the AfCFTA could benefit African MSMEs through freer movement of people, goods, and resources, allowing them to target the entirety of the 1.2 billion population. We also talk about the impediments to the agreement such as varying divestment in infrastructure among member countries and conflicting national interests and how they could shape the success of the agreement.

Tune in to learn:

- \* How Covid-19 pushed innovation in the logistics space.
- \* How optimizing member country regulations such as tax policies could help more SMEs reach customers regionally.
- \* How improvements of infrastructure will boost trade between Africa and the world by bringing multinationals closer to their consumers.

source:

<https://podcasts.google.com/feed/aHR0cHM6Ly9hbmNob3IuZm0vcy80YmZiMjVjL3BvZGh3QvcnNz/episode/NmUzZTg1NmQ0NjkoNy00NWU5LThmZmYtZDg2NWU4MzU0MzAz?ep=14>

APN PODCASTS 5

**I**n this episode, we discuss what the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is and what it seeks to achieve. We also chat about the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) recognized by the AfCFTA Agreement as building blocks of the African Continental Free Trade Area, and the freedom of movement of people in Africa. Subscribe to our podcast today to stay up to date on employment issues from law experts worldwide.

If you'd like to learn more on this topic, register for our August 4th webinar: Free Movement of People: The African Continental Free Trade Area here.

Moderator: Chloë Loubser (Bowmans / South Africa)

Guest Speaker: Nuno Gouveia (Miranda Alliance / Angola, Gabon, Mozambique & Guinea-Bissau)

source:

<https://podcasts.google.com/feed/aHR0cHM6Ly9mZWVkc3Y5idXp6c3Byb3V0LmNvbS8yMjYyNTUucnNz/episode/QnV6enNwcm91dC04OTM3NjYy?ep=14>

## AFCFTA SECRETARIAT & WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANISATION SIGN MOU

On 15 February 2022, Dr. Kunio Mikuriya, Secretary General of the World Customs Organization (WCO), and H.E. Mr. Wamkele Mene, Secretary General of the African Continental Free Trade Area (Afcfta) Secretariat, met at WCO Headquarters to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This MoU aims at strengthening the organizational capacity, transparency and effectiveness of African Customs administrations in a sustainable manner through cooperation between both Organizations.

In his remarks on this occasion, Secretary General Mene explained that it had been a long road since the establishment of the Afcfta Secretariat. Today, 41 of its 54 Member States had duly ratified Rules of Origin for 87.7% of tariff headings agreed upon, to name but one milestone. He recalled the mandate of his Secretariat and stated that Customs' involvement is essential in order to realise the ambitions laid out in the Agreement establishing the Afcfta. He also noted that expectations were high and that communities were eager to start trading under the Agreement. The Afcfta Secretary General then acknowledged the WCO's expertise and role in delivering capacity building in highly-technical areas which were key for implementing the Agreement.

After congratulating his counterpart for the work done by the Afcfta Secretariat, Dr. Mikuriya highlighted the areas where the WCO could contribute, including customs technical matters such as the Harmonized System, Valuation and Origin, as well as automation, risk management and trade facilitation which will yield economic benefits to the African continent. He went on to outline the WCO's long experience in developing capacity-building materials for Customs administrations and in donor coordination to ensure the efficient delivery of training. He reaffirmed WCO's commitment to contribute to the regional integration efforts in Africa through customs modernisation.

source: <http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2022/february/wco-and-afcfta-join-forces-for-the-implementation-of-the-african-continental-free-trade-area.aspx>

### MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS of Afcfta POLICY NETWORK (APN)

Membership is open to persons Eligibility

APN Membership is open to: professionals; legally-established, Business Associations; private corporate bodies or other organisations, which support policies connected to the development of the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (Afcfta).

APN membership is categorised in three groups, which are corporate members, ordinary members and associate members.

#### MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS OF AFCFTA POLICY NETWORK

Becoming part of a larger body professionally working together to influence policy making processes that stimulate and spur growth of policies connected to the implementation of Afcfta policies. Opportunity to network with members of the diplomatic community; private sector leaders, stakeholders and senior government officials through various business forums organized or coordinated by APN. Access to information as regards to important business and investment opportunities connected to the implementation of Afcfta policies in Ghana, ECOWAS region protocols etc. Opportunity to participate in local and international forums organized by the Afcfta Policy Network (APN).

Opportunity to be part of National dialogue activities that may involve networking with H.E the President, Ministers, Permanent Secretaries, Ambassadors and Representatives of International Organizations, such as the UN, ECOWAS; the AU; World Bank, FAO, DFID, DANIDA, SIDA through APN advocacy platforms. Access to business information on Afcfta policy

development initiatives and various business opportunities as they relate to one's sector through any of the APN electronic monthly newsletters or publications.

Your organization will also be accorded with the opportunity to advertise and/or access large business information present in the dynamic and interactive Afcfta Policy Network Web portal.

Have discounted rates on advertising opportunities and exhibition during APN Fee charging activities during local and International events. Participation and contribution to the Policy Research and Development activities for the development of policy initiatives connected with Afcfta in Ghana and on the Continent.

Opportunity to make contributions and also participate in the policy formulation process on issues affecting the Business environment in Ghana and in ECOWAS, and the AU. Improved competitiveness through access to services, such as technical assistance and capacity building through the various donor program supports that may exist at that time and which are relevant to one's institution. Facilitate Public Private Partnership Ventures with Private sector organizations and potential investors. Access to our Regular Business and Trade Training programs for members. To participate in membership capacity building programs provided by TPSE. Tailor-made services to corporate members. Special attention will be given to individual corporate members in solving their specific business investment problem

EnDs

#### APN

In this episode, Dr. Joy Kategekwa, a trade law expert who is one of the architects of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (Afcfta), talks about the historic agreement that set the stage for the creation of one single African market for goods and services. Dr. Kategekwa (Uganda) is the regional strategic advisor to the Assistant Administrator and Director for the Regional Bureau Africa at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

source:

<https://podcasts.google.com/feed/aHR0cHM6Ly9mZWVkbVZGJlYyW4uY29tL2FmcmljYXJlbnV3YWVwZmVlZC54bWw/episode/YWZyaWNhcmVvZXdhbC5wb2RiZWZuLmNvbS85ZjkwYjcwZi00MmVhLTlmwYUWtOTI5OS03OTBjN2YzYWZjYWE?ep=14>



## ADVERTS

JEX Travel and Tours is a one-stop agency which provides personalized responsive Travel services to corporate organizations, groups and individuals locally and globally.

We believe our client's cumbersome travel arrangement should be left to us, allowing our clients to increase productivity and focus on their core business. Hence, our team is dedicated to providing you with the best, efficient and effective travel consulting services by supporting you with a round the clock services giving you the best rates and fares and timely response to your travel request while applying sustainable measures that aims at reducing the negative social, cultural, economic and environmental impact of our companies activities.

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7. Travel Itinerary
8. Local and International Airport Transfers
9. Inbound and outbound tours.
10. Immigration services

We are hopeful that we can contribute to the uplifting of your company's image through our travel consultancy and other areas of your business. We are available at your earliest convenience to explore ways in which we can offer our service to your benefit.

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