

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

AFTERNEWS



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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the last edition of the month of March.

We appreciate the support proffered so far by our readers to help improve the newsletter, now in its second month. Most of the articles in this edition have an ECOWAS feel – not because it is deliberate, but more so because it reflects the developments within the sub-region, covid19 notwithstanding.

Ecowas is discussing the opening of its borders, which should help bring relief to many of its citizens. With covid 19 rates down, the region should begin buzzing anew. In 2015, in the 40th anniversary of ECOWAS, ECOWAS was adjudged the 16th most-powerful economy in the world. As ECOWAS heads towards its 47th anniversary, we all look forward to an-ever more dynamic region ready to respond to a growing AfCFTA ecosystem.

Happy reading!
EK Bensah Jr

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

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KNCCI & ODI HOLD AN INTERACTIVE FORUM ON AFCFTA ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN KENYA



The Kenya National Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KNCCI) in collaboration with Overseas Development Institute (ODI) have this morning hosted a roundtable breakfast meeting at Nairobi Serena Hotel. The purpose of the roundtable meeting was to discuss issues and opportunities for Kenyan companies in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) investment protocol. The Chamber 1st Vice President Dr. Erick Rutto being the moderator, officiated the session by welcoming all the partners, agencies and members. He gave all the attendees a chance to introduce themselves and their businesses in order to make the session interactive and also for them to understand each other based on the business specialties and sectors. Director of the International Economic Development at ODI Mr.

Dirk Willem te Velde gave a Research, and Innovation, Kenya actors/content and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises. Dr. Investment & Trade in Africa (SITA) (KEPROBA) Mr. Peter Ochieng Rutto concluded the session by appreciating all the participants for taking part in the session, He implementation, AfCFTA is seen as a community to prioritize, develop, and key instrument to achieve African implement smarter local strategies to transformation, necessary for seize the rising opportunities in sustained job creation. In his manufacturing and industrialization presentation he stated that AfCFTA would bring a large economic increase the global competitiveness of the continent. Assistant Director of AfCFTA Investment protocol Trade at State Department for Trade negotiations are expected to be Ms. Rose Masita gave the Ministry's assurance to support the private completed by Sept 2022.The Impact of the AfCFTA Investment Protocol on investment in Kenya will depend on putting in place complementary what is negotiated, how it relates to policies at the national level and existing investment provisions in enhancing public – private dialogue. Kenya and the region and whether The session was followed by an interactive Question & Answer forum attractive investment climate. The audience representing different and feedback regards to the Implementation of the AfCFTA. Most agencies and government were given respondents highlighted the need to a chance to give their input on the improve and involve the private AfCFTA ,CEO Shippers Council of Eastern Africa Mr. Gilbert Langat sector in the AfCFTA discussions, stated that the Global environment provide support on logistics and therefore the AfCFTA provides infrastructure in Africa. A few also market linkages for Africa to trade expressed a need to include with each other. Ag. Director, discussions on supporting local Commerce

Source: Kenya Chamber of Commerce

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ECOWAS BANK FOR INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT SECURES \$100 MILLION CREDIT LINE FOR PRIVATE SECTOR TRANSFORMATION



March 28, 2022 Abdul Rashid Thomas O

Sierra Leone Telegraph: 28 March 2022:

Dr. George Agyekum Nana DONKOR, President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) – (Photo), and Mr. Subhasis Dhal, Chief Executive of India Exim Bank, last Thursday 24 March 2022 signed an historic commercial credit line agreement for an amount of USD 100 million in the London office of the India Exim Bank. The two Financial Institutions, through this credit line agreement, intend to engender the impactful transformation of the private sector in the West African sub-region. During the ceremony, Dr DONKOR said, “This is a milestone event towards the EBID’s vision to be an effective instrument for poverty alleviation, wealth creation and job promotion for the well-being of the people of the ECOWAS sub-region. This facility expands a longstanding partnership between India EXIM and EBID, which began in 2006 with signing of a line of credit for public sector projects in the amount of \$250 million. As at today, there are four Indian lines of credit amounting to \$ 1billion of which \$912 million

has been allocated across 39 projects in the ECOWAS member states. However, Dr Donkor noted “This is the first time India Eximbank is extending a facility to EBID for financing private sector projects, an indication of the confidence India Eximbank has in the private sector portfolio and the strategic direction of the Bank” On her part, the Managing Director of India Exim Bank, Mrs. Harsha Bangari, stated that “This structured long tenor credit line agreed between EBID and India Exim Bank, is a reflection of India Exim Bank’s strategy and commitment to developing global partnership and clear evidence of India’s developmental and friendly outlook towards the African continent, to ensure post Covid-19 recovery.”

Commenting on the already existing relationship between the two organisations, Mr Saroj Khuntia, General Manager of Lines of Credit, India Exim Bank, was optimistic that this new initiative would provide multiple opportunities to bridge the infrastructure gap and drive sustainable economic growth in the West African sub-region. This milestone further establishes EBID as a credible partner with in depth knowledge of the West African development finance landscape and is poised to effectively transform ECOWAS communities by creating the conditions capable of enhancing the emergence of a Restored, Enabled and Resilient West Africa that is perfectly integrated both internally, and in the global economic system.

About the India Exim Bank

India Exim Bank was set up in 1982 by an Act of Parliament and is fully owned by the Government of India. It is the principal financial institution for coordinating the working of institutions engaged in financing exports and imports. India Exim Bank, has over the years, played a catalytic role in facilitating India’s integration with the global economy by promoting, financing and facilitating India’s international trade and investment. The Bank’s range of programmes have helped Indian enterprises become competitive and develop a global footprint.

www.eximbankindia.in

About The ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID)

ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) is a leading regional investment and development bank, owned by the fifteen (15) ECOWAS Member States, namely, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d’Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo. Based in Lomé, Togolese Republic. The Bank is committed to financing developmental projects and programs covering diverse initiatives from infrastructure and basic amenities, rural development and environment, industry, and social services sectors, through its private and public sector windows. EBID intervenes through long, medium, and short-term loans, equity participation, lines of credit, refinancing, financial engineering operations and related services.

www.bidc-ebid.org

Source: Sierra Leone Telegraph

THE ECOWAS REGIONAL COMPETITION AUTHORITY (ERCA)



March 28, 2022

The ECOWAS Regional Competition Authority (ERCA) organized a meeting of a Working Group for the review of the Draft ECOWAS Directive on Consumer Protection from the 21st to the 25th of March 2022, at Beulah Royal Hotel, East Legon, Republic of Ghana. The meeting brought together two (2) Staff of ERCA and four (4) delegates from the ERCA Consultative Competition Committee (CCC), two (2) from Anglophone countries (Nigeria and Gambia) and two (2) from Francophone countries (Senegal and Burkina Faso), who are also consumer protection experts to

work with ERCA to conduct a thorough review of the draft consumer protection Directive before submission to the ECOWAS Ministers of Industry and Trade. However, the delegate from Burkina Faso who was supposed to be part of the working group was excused for some logistic reasons.

The Working Group meeting provided an opportunity for the Experts to review the draft Directive on Consumer Protection and propose necessary amendments and recommendations. During the opening ceremony, the Ag. Executive Director of ERCA, Dr Simeon KOFFI thanked the Working Group members for attending the meeting within short notice. He expressed his appreciation to the delegates for submitting their comments to ERCA on the draft Directive and invited them to voice out their comments which they earlier sent on the Draft Directive.

Before opening the meeting, the Chairperson of the CCC, Ms. Boladale ADEYINKA welcomed the working group members and thanked ERCA for organizing such an important meeting. She highlighted the importance of having a consumer protection Directive that provides a framework that comprehensively addresses issues affecting consumers in the ECOWAS Region. She also emphasized that in the era of the AfCFTA, it is timely that this draft consumer protection Directive is under development. She highlighted that consumer protection is among the responsibilities of ERCA, thus should play a key role in the development and implementation of instruments in relation to consumer protection within the region. After the presentation of the objectives of the meeting, as well as the main principles of the draft Directive, the Working Group embarked on

discussions and comments for five (5) days. Following extensive deliberations, it came up with amendments on the format, the preamble, the scope, the definitions, the purpose, policy and application, the institutional framework, the entities that the Draft Directive is proposing to be created, as well as the technical content itself made up of the rights and responsibilities of the consumers, the obligations of businesses, etc. The Working Group finally made several recommendations to the attention of the ECOWAS Commission Management relating to the official mandate of ERCA in consumer protection, the validation process, as well as the need for manuals of procedure to facilitate the implementation of the Directive once it is adopted.

source: td'pelmedia.com



UNPACKING THE SUBMISSIONS FROM THE JUST ENDED INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION, MARCH 8th 2022



Dr. Laurie-Ann Agama

THEMED: GENDER EQUALITY TODAY FOR A SUSTAINABLE TOMORROW

Partnerships & Access to Markets

The Dep Assistant US-TR for Economic Affairs, Dr. Laurie-Ann Agama, commenced by emphasizing the USA's vision to strengthen and grow US-Africa two-way trade and investment in a way that delivers equitable and inclusive prosperity to all countries and their workers, buttressed by President Bidens commitment at the 34th AU summit to rebuild partnerships around the world.

She stated that a recent United Nations report revealed that the COVID-19 pandemic threatened a lost decade of development and that it has reversed development gains for millions in developed and developing countries with adverse effects on the least developed countries, thereby creating a more sharply unequal world. To mitigate this, the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation, with support from several partners and the International Finance Corporation, has invested in vaccine manufacturing facilities across Africa and India, which are expected to collectively have the capacity to produce 2 billion COVID-19 vaccine doses for developing countries by the end of 2022. Additionally, plans are underway for the WTO to strengthen the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement and a waiver of intellectual protections for COVID-19 vaccines.

The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)

Dr. Agama said that another important tool that could help Africa regain and possibly surpass pre-COVID-19 economic growth levels is the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). AGOA is a United States Trade Act, enacted on 18 May 2000 as Public Law 106 of the 200th Congress. The legislation significantly enhances market access to the US for qualifying Sub-Saharan African

(SSA) countries.

The program provides eligible African countries with duty-free and quota-free access to the U.S. market - a \$25 trillion economy - on more than 6,000 products and so far, has helped millions of people, supported increased investment across the continent and created hundreds of thousands of new jobs in eligible countries, including South Africa, Lesotho, Kenya, Rwanda, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Madagascar, and Mauritius; across a broad range of sectors, including apparel, home goods, jewelry, cut flowers, cashews, macadamia nuts, shea butter, coffee and cocoa products, and other high-value processed agricultural products.

In many cases, it is women-owned businesses in Africa that are supplying these products to the United States and women-owned companies in the United States that are sourcing these goods from the continent. However to date, only a handful of the 49 countries in sub-Saharan Africa have taken significant advantage of AGOA. The question is "why"?

With AGOA benefits come responsibilities. To remain eligible for AGOA's benefits, African governments must not engage in gross violations of human rights, and, among other criteria, must make continual progress to reduce poverty, combat corruption and bribery, provide protection for internationally recognized worker rights, and establish the rule of law, political pluralism and the right to due process. All these are essential to advance and empower women's full potential and participation in the global economy.

Dr. Agama echoed that The United States has also committed its support to development and implementation of the AfCFTA typically providing about \$450 million each year for trade capacity building activities across the continent. Some of the new programs under development that aim to promote regional and continental value chains for the AfCFTA region include;

- Building cross-border roads and power lines as part of the Millennium Challenge

Corporation's new Regional Compact initiative;

- Delivering workshops for African officials to assist with the intellectual property negotiations, to be funded by the U.S. Department of State;
- Supporting partnerships with women-owned and gender-balanced businesses by integrating gender equity and equality across Prosper Africa activities that grow two-way trade and investment between the U.S. and Africa.
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) placing an Specialist Program Support (SPS) Technical Advisor with the African Union Commission to help implement the SPS Policy Framework of the AfCFTA; and
- USAID conducting workshops to help prepare African entrepreneurs for the upcoming digital trade negotiations at the AfCFTA.

She added that the US Government is focussed on ensuring that women, small and medium-sized business owners, and the historically underrepresented and underserved communities get the most out of this trade deal and also pledged to support the AfCFTA Protocol on Africa's Women and Youth in trade, when it is negotiated.



APN AND EXECUTIVES OF CHRTERED

APN and executives of chartered institute of logistics and transport visited the chief of staff at the AFCFTA secretariat for collaboration and partnership.

SELECTION OF A CONSULTING FIRM FOR COMMUNICATION SERVICES TO THE ECOWAS PROJECT PREPARATION AND DEVELOPMENT UNIT (PPDU)*

Date : 24 Mar 2022 - 15 Apr 2022

Venue : Lomé (Togo), Town : Lomé , Country : Togo

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (Consulting services –consultant selection)

Selection of a Consulting Firm for Communication Services to the ECOWAS Project Preparation and Development Unit (PPDU) FV Advert Eoi – PPDU Communication Services – Mar 2022

Reference No. ICS/PPDU-AECID/PROC—AU/CMM/05

The Project Preparation and Development Unit (PPDU) is a specialized agency of the ECOWAS Commission and is based in the Togolese Republic. In February 2015, the ECOWAS PPDU received financial support from AECID through a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the ECOWAS Commission and the Spanish Cooperation for International Development (AECID). To this end, the ECOWAS PPDU wishes to use part of these funds to conduct communication services to enhance the visibility of PPDU activities.

The overall objective is to develop tools and a strategy for communication, awareness raising and sensitization around the activities of the PPDU with a view to fostering the support of policy makers, potential investors and citizens of the Community.

The consulting services (“the Services”) shall include but not necessarily limited to the duties and responsibilities outlined below:

- Prepare a communication and outreach work plan and strategy that will enable the PPDU to effectively communicate and engage with different stakeholders, including the media, at all levels.
- Prepare a short video (max 15 minutes) video documentary to promote the ECOWAS Regional Infrastructure Development Masterplan
- Define communication modes (including online media and social networking tools, among others) for each stakeholder group
- Develop branded items that effectively describe and promote the PPDU such as slogan, logo, colours, style, etc.
- Prepare copies of various public relations communications and marketing tools such as videos, posters, fact sheets, brochures, flyers or other promotional materials.
- Develop graphics, animations and content for the PPDU website and social media.
- Define the formats of forums, road shows, donor round tables to be organised.

The ECOWAS PPDU now invites eligible firms (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services.

Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are as follow:

Experience

Firm must have at least 15 years experience in communication

services; Firm must have conducted at least two similar exercise within the ECOWAS region; Firm must have Public Relation experience in recognized institutions; Demonstrated ability to work effectively in the media environment; Proven knowledge on preparation of audio-visual programs;

In-depth knowledge of ECOWAS Institutions will be an advantage

The Consultancy firm is expected to present an experienced multidisciplinary team comprising at least the following:

- o Team Lead with vast experience in communication and PR
- o Graphic Designer
- o Audio-visual Production Crew (Cameraman, sound expert, producer etc)

The professionals who make up this team must have at least a Master’s degree in their specific disciplines and possess at least 10 years work experience except the Team leader who must have at least 15 years work experience.

Language

The personnel should be fluent in at least two of the Official working languages of ECOWAS (English, French or Portuguese) and the knowledge of a third ECOWAS language would be an advantage.

Duration

The duration of the contract shall be for a maximum period of four (4) calendar months.

NB: In addressing the above listed criteria, Consultancy firms must provide tangible evidence and detailed references for all claims made in terms of experience and capabilities, similar assignments, availability of appropriate skills among staff etc. Each reference provided should be summarized on a project sheet and will be considered and accepted only if the candidate attaches supporting documents indicating the contact

information of the contracting authorities so as to facilitate verification of the information provided, covering contracts OR copies of attestation(s) of good performance of each contract presented, as issued and signed by the Client.

Interested Consultancy firms may apply as a consortium or partnership to ensure and/or boost their consolidated capacities to execute the assignment.

The attention of interested Consultants is particularly drawn to Article 118 of the ECOWAS Revised Procurement Code (“Infringements by Candidates, Bidders and Awardees”), providing information on corrupt

or fraudulent practices in competing for or executing a contract. In addition, please refer to the following specific information on conflict of interest related to this assignment as per “Article 119 of the ECOWAS Revised Procurement Code.

The Consultants will be selected in accordance to the Quality and Cost-based Selection (QCBS) method set out in the ECOWAS Revised Procurement Code and a shortlist of five to eight (5-8) firms, which present the best profiles with all claims fully substantiated, shall be drawn up for further consideration after the expression of interest.

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the email addresses below during office hours: Monday to Friday from 9.00 am GMT+1 to 5.00 pm GMT+1.

Email: sbangoura@ecowas.int; procurement@ecowas.int; with copy to: mzongo@ecowas.int; kfye@ecowas.int; ppdu@ecowas.int,

Expressions of Interest (1 original and 3 copies) must be delivered in sealed envelopes and clearly marked

“Selection of a Consulting Firm for Communication Services to the ECOWAS Project Preparation and Development Unit (PPDU)”, Do not open except in the presence of the Evaluation Committee” to the address below latest by April 15, 2022 at 11.00 am (GMT + 1).

The ECOWAS Tender Box is located in the Office of the Commissioner, General Administration & Conference, 5th Floor ECOWAS Commission, 101 Yakubu Gowon Crescent, Asokoro District, P.M.B. 401 Abuja Nigeria.

Please note that electronic submissions are not accepted and will not be evaluated.

This EOI is also published on the ECOWAS website <http://www.ecowas.int/doing-business-in-ecowas/ecowasprocurement> and the ECOWAS PPDU website www.ppdu.org

Commissioner, General Administration & Conference





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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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EVENTS IN INTRA-AFRICAN TRADE

32ND SESSION OF THE FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA 11 APRIL 2022 - 14 APRIL 2022

The FAO Regional Conference for Africa is a forum to discuss current country and regional priorities and pressing issues in the region including the COVID-19 pandemic's impacts on food security and nutrition, the urgent need for agri-food systems transformation, and innovations and partnerships to drive progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. It