

## Financing Water for Growth in Africa



The Infrastructure Consortium for Africa  
Le Consortium pour les infrastructures en Afrique

### ANNOUNCEMENT

#### ICA Water Meeting

Date : 26-27<sup>th</sup> November 2008

Venue: Centre de Conférence Méridien Président  
Dakar, Senegal

#### **Summary:**

The amount of private finance currently being attracted to water projects in Africa is small. A two-day meeting in Dakar, Senegal, under the theme “*Financing water for Growth in Africa*” is being organised by the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa with a specific focus on enhancing private sector participation in the water sector in Africa.

Millions of people in Africa still have to rely on unsafe water. Investment in water for commercial, agricultural and industrial activities is essential for growth. Achieving water MDGs and enabling economic growth in Africa require the construction, the maintenance and the management of a wide range of water infrastructure: from dams to irrigation systems, toilets to water treatment plants, wells to distribution pipes and water management systems.

The private sector can bring additional financing resources to the scarce public ones but also is a tremendous repository of organizational and management expertise that can increase the effectiveness of water service delivery.

The meeting will present case studies and projects which lend themselves to private participation, embracing water storage, hydropower, irrigation and water supply and sanitation.

#### **Expected outcomes:**

- Expanded awareness amongst stakeholders of recent developments in the African water sector and lessons learned in private engagement;
- Practical ways for greater engagement by the private sector and innovative financing.

**Host:** the Government of Senegal

**Co-organisers:** Infrastructure Consortium for Africa ([www.icafrica.org](http://www.icafrica.org)), Public-Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility of the World Bank Group ([www.ppiaf.org](http://www.ppiaf.org)), the African Development Bank Group ([www.afdb.org](http://www.afdb.org)) and the U.S. Agency for International Development ([www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov)).

**Potential participants** (both public and private sectors, local and international): sponsors, concessionaires, contractors, financiers, transaction advisors and public sector officials (governments, water utilities, AU, NEPAD and Regional Economic Communities) and senior experts from the donor community.

**Structure:** Setting the scene followed by overviews, cases studies and project workshops. Dialogue on emerging issues and high-level panel discussion.

**Administration:** Participants are expected to make arrangements for their own transport and accommodation.

**Language:** English and French with simultaneous translation.

**About the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa:** The Infrastructure Consortium for Africa (ICA) was launched at the G8 Gleneagles summit in 2005. Leading African organisations and aid donors attended the inaugural meeting in London on 6 October 2005.

The Consortium's mission is to help improve the lives and economic well-being of millions of people across the African continent through support to scaling up investment for infrastructure development from both public and private sources. Many African countries lack the essential building blocks of economic progress – roads and railways (which are well maintained), access to electricity, the internet and mobile phones and water for drinking and sanitation.

The ICA also works to help remove some of the technical and political challenges to building more infrastructures and to better coordinate the activities of its members and other significant sources of infrastructure finance, such as China, India and Arab partners.

The ICA is supported by a small secretariat hosted by the African Development Bank. Members include the G8 countries, World Bank Group, African Development Bank Group, European Commission, European Investment Bank and Development Bank of Southern Africa.

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