

CONCEPT NOTE

ICA technical meeting – Regional Project Collaboration, Luxembourg, 15 February 2008

Background

The pace of regional integration is increasing in Africa. Particular attention is being given to developing regional infrastructure strategies and projects. The regional approach to providing cross-border infrastructure is essential if the continent is to become competitive and overcome the limitations of many small separate domestic markets, and the disadvantages suffered by landlocked countries. Regional projects are, however, more difficult to design and implement. They are also expensive and often require financing from multiple sources.

Following the successful ADF11 and IDA15 replenishments and with the launch of the EU Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund in 2007 and its focus on regional infrastructure, it is timely to maximise coordination and project collaboration between ICA members, and in particular between the WB, EC and AfDB with their existing regional infrastructure portfolios.

Delivery of a strategic regional project vision for Africa in the form of the NEPAD Medium to Long Term Strategic Framework has been delayed but efforts are underway to merge the MLTSF with the AU Master Plans. The meeting will receive an update of this ongoing work and look at donor coordination with African institutions on pipeline planning.

Regional projects require strong political backing at the country-level, often rely on finance from the private sector and deal structuring can take considerably longer than public grant funded projects. The meeting will look at ways to overcome re-occurring bottlenecks to implementation.

The outcome of the Luxembourg meeting will feed into the ICA annual meeting that will be held in Tokyo from 13 to 14 March 2008. At this meeting there will be a session on increasing collaboration on regional projects.

Meeting objectives

- To take stock of existing collaboration on regional projects
- To help maximise co-financing opportunities for regional projects between ICA members
- To find a collaborative solution to pipeline planning while awaiting the finalisation of a Pan-African masterplan for regional infrastructure projects.



Participation

The meeting will involve about thirty five participants from ICA members. India and China have also been invited along with the AU Commission and the NEPAD Secretariat.

Venue and Date

15th February 2008 at EIB headquarters, 100 Boulevard Konrad Adenauer, 2950 Luxembourg.

Administration

Participants will be expected to make arrangements for their own transport and accommodation. EIB has negotiated a special rate with Novotel.

The meeting

Both English and French are the working languages, with simultaneous interpretation.