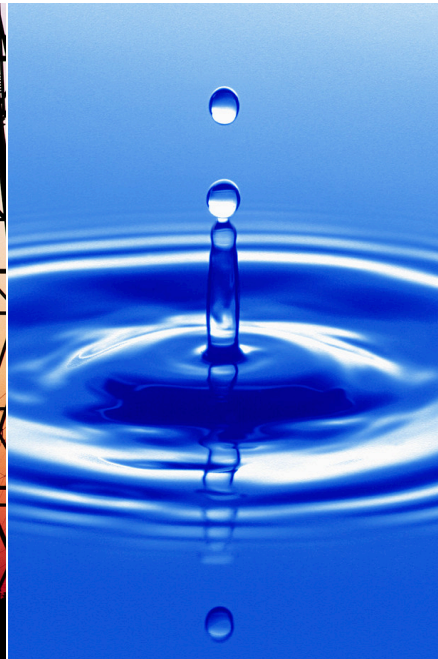


ICA Regional Infrastructure Project Collaboration Meeting – Summary



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

Session 1 – overview of existing collaboration on regional projects

Infrastructure and regional integration go together. Challenges are large and complex.

- More consistent evidence-based prioritisation
- More private sector investment (mix of instruments and innovative PPPs)
- Long term political will and strong project sponsorship (roles and resp.)
- Regulatory frameworks
- Capacity building: Regional and country levels / pre and post implementation. Link to budget support
- Poor financial viability of operators
- Lack of adequate provision for maintenance
- Importance of governance and accountability (esp. with more private involvement)
- Harmonisation of procurement rules – flexibility
- Reallocation of funds – flexibility

Session 2 – Project prioritisation and planning

- Need for African stakeholders to present better harmonised programmes to partners. Not easy but the process has started and should be supported
- Vision has to be credible to optimise funding
- Need to speed up implementation of new African Masterplan (AM) study to avoid losing its strategic significance
- AM study needs to ensure it incorporates existing work on AICD, plus growth and trade diagnostics

In the meantime:

- Need to move on projects which are mature i.e. technically and politically viable
- Dialogue at early stage with private sector is key e.g. strong link to corridor approach
- Need to identify lead partners for regions and sectors – already happening in SADC region
- Need to continue dialogue with RECs and specialised agencies on their priorities.
- Continued support for capacity building, not losing upstream ‘soft’ infrastructure elements
- ICA Secretariat to prepare a plan of action

Session 3 – The way forward on regional project collaboration

- Consensus on list put forward by ICA Secretariat – need to expand and develop further
- Mapping exercise (to include soft issues) will be needed to expand list – matrix approach
- Need to look at new ways to mobilise finance for HPIC countries and fragile states
- No shortage of donor willingness to do more together. ICA Secretariat could play a stronger facilitatory role
- COMMUNICATION e.g. internet tool on projects and ideas between public and private sector. Comes with a price!

Session 4 – Mobilising more finance

- China and India represent source of significant extra finance – more engagement needed
- Private sector is important. Private sector will only continue to invest in projects where profits are large (extraction / monopoly profits) until business environment is right. All need to push this agenda. Policy barriers remain, even in ICT area.
- And even reform is not always adequate. Size of markets are small, more to stimulate involvement of local SME investment
- Highlight business environment issues
- Economic growth will obviously be needed to widen revenue base
- No shortage of ‘bankable’ projects, they just need to be developed – it’s a capacity issue
- IPPF is one key instrument for helping to develop pipeline – it needs staffing

- Project lists: ICA Sec to update and refine and matrix mapping of who is doing what
 - Communication: ICA website interactive facility / cost communication strategy as part of 2008 work plan
 - MDG advocacy – link to communication strategy
 - ICA members to look at new instruments for HPIC and fragile states
 - G8 and IFIs in particular role to play in bringing China, India and Arab partners ‘inside the tent’ on regional projects. Information sharing important first step: ICA Sec
 - ICA members to do more to highlight business environment constraints – link to mapping exercise. Evidence base on which projects are moving and why
- For example, future ICA PPP meetings could be used to highlight more systematically these findings. Water PPP meeting planned for late 2008 / PPP best practice guide
- IPPF, for example, strengthened to improve project flow