

Addis meeting: ICA welcomes increased commitment to infrastructure

At the second meeting of the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa (ICA) in Addis Ababa on 19-20 June, ICA members announced acceleration in the implementation of regional projects from NEPAD's Short Term Action Plan (STAP). Between October 2005 and June 2006 funding was committed for a total of 11 NEPAD / STAP projects totalling US\$764.3m. A further US\$7.1m was committed to studies designed to advance the implementation of STAP projects.

Outside of NEPAD / STAP, the ICA is responding to country priorities, and ICA members have increased their investment to regional and national infrastructure projects. From October 2005 to June 2006, Consortium members committed US\$3.44bn to country-level projects. Overall, 4.24bn were spent in 9 months, up from US\$4bn for the whole of 2004. This reflects the increasing donor commitment to infrastructure. Given the scale of the investment required, the ICA will continue to advocate for more public and private resources to infrastructure.

The website of the ICA is now up and running at www.icafrica.org. The outcomes statement from the Addis Ababa meeting is available at this address.



Consortium meets on energy security

Recognising the power crisis that is affecting the continent, the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa, meeting in Addis Ababa on 20 June, held discussions on energy access and security, in the presence of the Hon. Daudi Migereko, Minister of Energy and Mineral Development, Uganda, and Chair of the Forum for Energy Ministers of Africa (FEMA), Hon. Felix Mutati, Minister of Energy, Zambia and Hon. Asfaw Dingamo, Minister of Water Resources, Ethiopia. Participants agreed that the power crisis deserves high-level attention and changes to the way donors and countries do business. More details on the outcomes of the meeting can be found on our website www.icafrica.org.

Russia offers support to ICA work

The Russian Federation has officially announced a contribution of \$100,000 to support the work of the ICA Secretariat. The contribution was confirmed in a meeting between H. E. Dr Andrey Polyakov, Ambassador to the Russian Federation to the Republic of Tunisia, and Donald Kaberuka, President of the AfDB, on 17 July.

<p>Coordinator appointed</p>	<p>services. The guide is produced with a grant from PPIAF, the Public-Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility.</p>
<p>Alex Rugamba has been appointed Coordinator of the Secretariat to the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa. Alex is seconded to the Secretariat by the African Development Bank, as part of AfDB's voluntary contribution to support the work of the ICA. He was formerly AfDB's resident representative in Mozambique.</p>	<p>AICD, MLTSF analytical work started</p>
<p>Japan to second senior expert</p>	<p>Progress on the Africa Infrastructure Country Diagnostic (AICD) has focused on finalizing the procurement processes. Some US\$1.8 million of studies are already underway, focused mainly on data collection activities. On the funding side, PPIAF officially confirmed a grant of US\$1 million for the study, over and above the US\$2 million grant already made by DFID. The EU and AFD are currently evaluating possible contributions. The study website (www.infrastructureafrica.org) will be going online shortly.</p> <p>The contract for NEPAD's Medium to Long-Term Strategic Framework has been signed. The contract, which will be managed by the AfDB, was awarded to a grouping of consulting firms, comprising SCET-Tunisie (lead Partner), Louis Berger Group, Afro-Consult and Stewart Scott International.</p> <p>To ensure on-going complementarities, a coordination meeting between the consultants working on the AICD and MLTSF is scheduled for September in Washington.</p>
<p>Project preparation: new tool</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">- Upcoming events -</p> <p>The ICA Secretariat has been invited by the Indian Government to attend the India-Africa Project Partnership, on 9-11 October in New Delhi. The event is a platform for increased dialogue between Africa and the Indian private Sector. The AfDB is working closely with NEPAD to agree on a list of priority projects that can be presented at the event.</p> <p>A meeting between ICA members and key investment banks will take place in November. The meeting will focus on increasing private participation in the energy sector. A number of priority energy projects will also be showcased. The ICA Secretariat will facilitate organising the event, which the AfDB intends to host in Tunis.</p>
<p>Project preparation: new tool</p>	<p>Many special purpose facilities - so-called "project preparation facilities" - supporting the preparation of infrastructure projects in Africa, have been set up by bilateral and multilateral donors to help improve the flow of 'bankable' projects. Most facilities are only able to provide support to a specific part of the project that identifies these facilities, sets out what each of them does, and indicates how their resources and services can be accessed.</p> <p>The Secretariat to the ICA is currently completing a guide to many of the facilities to help project sponsors in preparing infrastructure projects in Africa. This upcoming publication will do this by providing, in one place, basic information on the function of facilities designed to help take infrastructure projects to financial closure, and on how to access technical assistance funding and</p>