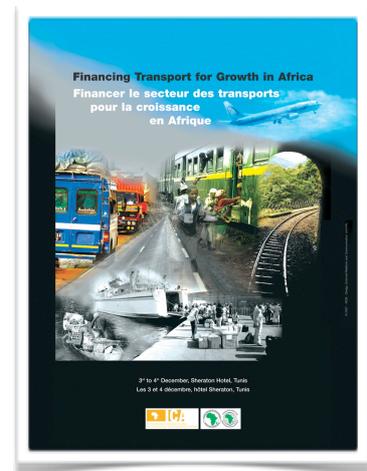




ICA Meeting on Financing Transport for Growth in Africa, Tunis, 3 to 4 December.

Financing Transport for Growth, hosted by the African Development Bank, will aim to facilitate private sector investment in transport projects (road, rail, air, maritime and urban), from across the continent, which require financing now and in the medium term. It will also offer an opportunity to review recent developments in the transport sector in Africa as well as key cross cutting issues such as cost recovery and maintenance, mobilisation of domestic finance, and road safety. Representation at the meeting has been targeted to include key decision makers from project developers, contractors and operators, along with investment banks, export-credit agencies and transaction advisors. Representatives of multilateral and bilateral donor agencies, governments, regional economic communities (RECs), the African Union Commission and

NEPAD will also attend. Presentations and other key documents from the meeting will be posted on the ICA website www.icafrica.org in due course.



EU-Africa Partnership on Infrastructure is launched

The EU-Africa Partnership on Infrastructure was launched in Addis Ababa on 24-25 October 2007. The Partnership aims to substantially increase EU investment in African infrastructure and delivery of transport, energy, water and ICT services given that Africa needs to improve infrastructure and infrastructure-related services, which will contribute to sustainable economic growth, promote regional trade, foster regional integration and reduce poverty. Among other resources, Euro 5.6 billion from the 10th European Development Fund (EDF 10, 2008-2013) has been set aside to support this Partnership. In addition, an innovative financial

instrument, the EU Infrastructure Trust Fund for Africa, brings together the EC, Member States, the European Investment Bank, and European Development Financing Institutions who can pool their respective efforts and resources to directly co-finance relevant projects. The Trust Fund provides grants that will attract and leverage additional funds from other donors and private investors. For more information click on the following link:

<http://www.africa-union.org/root/AU/Conferences/2007/october/IE/EU/iE/ic.htm>

Coordination Meeting on Regional Infrastructure

With the recent launch of the EU-Africa Infrastructure Partnership, the European Investment Bank will host a technical-level meeting of the ICA in Luxembourg on 15th February 2008. The meeting will focus on how best ICA members and their partners can collaborate on regional infrastructure projects.

Capacity Building Initiative for Regional Economic Communities

Following the launch of the G8 REC Capacity Building Initiative the ICA Secretariat has been undertaking mapping exercise of existing sources of donor support to Regional Economic Communities, Power Pools and River Basin Authorities. The results of this exercise, which includes an initial needs assessment, will be presented in Tunis on 6th December to the Oversight Committee of the NEPAD Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility (IPPF). The initiative will help support regional institutions facilitate the implementation of infrastructure Projects with resources managed and allocated by the IPPF housed at the African Development Bank.

UN MDG Africa Steering Group

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon launched in September the Millennium Development Goals Africa Steering Group with major development partners to galvanise international action in support of the MDGs in Africa. A thematic working group on infrastructure and trade facilitation has been set up with the objectives of coordinating international efforts, concretizing aid commitments and improving predictability, and operationalising the MDGs at the country level.

The AfDB, EC and World Bank will each play a coordinating role and collaboration with the ICA Secretariat. The working group will next meet in New York on November 30th. The ongoing work of the ICA will be central to the reporting of this group. Further information on the Steering Group can be found at the following link:

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/afsteering.html>

USAID's new support to energy in Africa

USAID has set aside significant funding over the next three years to support energy investments in sub-Saharan Africa. The funding, which is part of the African Global Competitive Initiative, has the objectives of leveraging over \$1 billion in new investments whilst also facilitating policy, legal and regulatory reforms aimed at increasing the long-term flow of private capital to the energy, transportation and ICT sectors.

Immediate and medium-term project activities include:

- setting up a performance-based contract, the African Infrastructure Program (AIP), which will be at the core of leveraging \$1bn in the energy sector. The AIP will focus on downstream project preparation activities and collaborate with USAID's Development Credit Authority for partial loan guarantees and the US Trade and Development Agency for upstream project development studies;
- continued support for the West Africa gas Pipeline and its extension;
- help to bring priority projects to financial closure. For example power projects in Mmamabula in Botswana and Kalangala, Uganda.

Capacity building activities include:

- Central Africa Power Pool (support for three years)
- West Africa Power Pool (support for three years)
- Southern Africa Power Pool (under development)
- East Africa Power Pool (under consideration)

The initiative will be managed by USAID's Office of Sustainable Development. Please contact Ron Greenberg (rgreenberg@usaid.gov) and Jeffrey Humber, USAID Senior Energy Specialist (jlhumber@jlhumber.com) for additional information.

Africa Infrastructure Country Diagnostic

The AICD study is making good progress and is now entering its final stages. The current emphasis is on reaching closure on the 18 background papers that will provide the core knowledge contribution. The AICD team at the World Bank will start to circulate the draft final background papers to the Steering Committee and Technical Advisory Panel shortly and simultaneously posted on the www.infrastructureafrica.org website. A meeting of the Joint AICD-MLTSF (NEPAD Medium to Long-Term Strategic Framework) Steering Committee and Technical Advisory Panel is anticipated for early 2008, and will provide an opportunity for formal review of this work. Work on the Flagship Report will begin in early 2008 once all the background papers are available.

Connect Africa Summit Commits to Bridging the Digital Divide

Six African Presidents from Burundi, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Malawi, Rwanda and Senegal attended the Connect Africa Summit, held on 29 and 30 October 2007 in Kigali, Rwanda, to seek new ways to improve Africa's information and communication technology (ICT) industry. The Summit ended with investment commitments amounting to \$55 billion, with the ICT industry taking the lead. More than 1,000 participants, including information technology ministers, ICT company executives and senior international development officials, focused on interconnecting the African continent with ICT broadband infrastructure and strengthening its connectivity to the rest of the world. The Summit closed with the adoption of five goals to bridge the digital divide in Africa, which together would help achieve "a global partnership for development", one of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

French support to the ICA Secretariat

As support to the ongoing work of the ICA the French Government recently seconded infrastructure economist Mr Renaud Paubelle for a period of two years to the ICA Secretariat based at the African Development Bank in Tunis.

Next ICA Annual Senior-level Meeting

At the outset of the Japanese Presidency of the G8 the next Senior-Level Meeting of the ICA will be hosted by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tokyo from 13-14 March 2008.

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