



INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT CONFERENCE
Promoting intra- and inter- regional trade and investment in Africa

Date: 25 – 27 May 2005
Regent Hotel, East London
South Africa

Conference Secretariat

Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University
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Website: www.nepadcouncil.org/conference2005

Organised by NEPAD Council, Commission for Trade and Investment

In collaboration with:

- Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University

Supported by:

- The Office of the Premier of the Eastern Cape Province
- NEPAD Secretariat
- East London Municipality
- Border Kei Chamber of Business
- Eastern Cape Development Corporation
- Development Bank of South Africa
- The Industrial Development Corporation
- The East London IDZ

Conference Chair

Prof Dr Lynette Louw, NEPAD Council, Vice President International Relations and Communication; Chairperson NEPAD Council, Commission for Trade and Investment in Africa; Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University Business School.

Key note speakers include:

- Prof W Nkuhlu – Chairman NEPAD Steering Committee
- Minister M Mangena – Minister of Science and Technology: South Africa
- Minister M Stofile – Minister of Sport: South Africa
- Premier N Balindlela – Premier Eastern Cape
- Ms M Ramos – Group Chief Executive – Transnet
- President NEPAD Council
- Mr M Mosolo – CEO South African Tourism
- Ms SN Sigcau – Minister of Public Works

Other speakers ranging from NGO to Academics are also involved in this event (national and international). International speakers include speakers from Uganda, Belgium, Germany, Osnabrueck, Netherlands and UK.

Background and Scope

Africa faces major socio-economic and political challenges in accelerating growth, reducing poverty and creating employment opportunities. Trade and investment has long been considered primary instruments in attracting foreign direct investments. Furthermore implementing policies conducive to economic growth *is* central to NEPAD's goal of mobilizing resources for poverty reduction and development. In an attempt to promote growth and development in Africa, the overall purpose of this International Conference on Trade and Investment is to deliberate on how to reverse the trend of international divestment from Africa, sluggish intra- and inter- African trade and to promote Africa as a favourable destination for FDI.

Conference Vision

The vision of the intra- and inter regional International Trade and Investment Conference is to provide a framework to foster trade and investment in Africa by:

- Attracting foreign direct investment.
- Implementing policies conducive to economic growth.
- Improving the quality of support for trade-related technical assistance and capacity-building in Africa.
- Evaluating context-specific governmental, institutional and management requirements.
- Developing appropriate intervention strategies and frameworks to foster intra- and inter-regional trade and investment in Africa.

Conference Objectives

Coherent with the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) objectives, the Conference aims to identify enabling mechanisms for the implementation of intervention strategies at grass roots level. More specifically, the Conference aims to:

- Offer an international Conference for business leaders, policy makers, researchers and academics from around the globe to share ideas, debate and build consensus around trade and investment issues in Africa.
- Provide a critical assessment of current trade and investment climate in Africa.
- Identify specific FDI needs in Africa.
- Identify specific intra- and inter- regional needs in Africa.
- Encourage multi-lateral co-operation between international investors and role-players, African academic institutions, business practitioners and policy makers.
- Identify the need for trade-related technical assistance and capacity-building in Africa.

- Establish a platform for initiating relevant research in critical trade and investment related matters.
- Introducing the research networks for promoting NEPAD throughout Africa.
- Showcase the key development initiatives in Africa.
- Facilitate the development of competitive investment attraction strategies for FDI.

Reasons to attend the conference

Attendees will be exposed to:

- Internationally renowned and prominent speakers from industry.
- High profile international policy makers from government and industry will be contributing their experiences.
- Discussions which will give insight into the practical aspects of trade and investment challenges in Africa.
- Practices of translating policies into workable documents.
- Debates on identify the need for trade-related technical assistance and capacity-building in Africa.
- The identification of concrete interventions and solution which will promote trade and investment in Africa and to attract FDI.

Who should attend the Conference?

The Conference aims to attract:

- Business practitioners from multinational organizations.
- Potential investors from major trading blocs.
- High ranking inter-continental policy makers and government officials who influence trade and investment in Africa.
- International academics and researchers.
- Investment promotion agencies in Africa.
- Trade associations and Chambers of Commerce.
- NEPAD members.
- NEPAD council members, consisting of African academics, based in the USA, Europe, U.K., Africa and Asia.

Proposed Conference Themes

1. Current African trade and investment climate
2. FDI needs in Africa
 - Creating an enabling environment for attracting FDI into Africa, e.g. policy measures, market incentives, role of investment agencies.
 - Investment obstacles
3. Intra- regional co-operation in Africa
 - Agriculture
 - Tourism
 - Manufacturing
 - Intra- African trade bloc agreements
4. Inter- regional and multilateral co-operation in Africa
 - Agriculture
 - Tourism
 - Manufacturing
 - Multi-lateral trade agreements
5. Trade related technical assistance
 - International trade agencies
 - Diverse national policies and investment agencies in Africa
6. Capacity building in Africa
 - Human Capital deficit needs – harness the potential of the African Diaspora to the benefit of Africa and to reverse the brain drain, education and human resources development
 - Managing perceptions of Africa – competent leadership and the role of media in attracting FDI
7. Physical infrastructural capacity building in Africa
 - ICT & e-commerce
 - Technology
 - Transport networks (road, rail, sea and air)

Conference proceedings

Abstracts of conference contributions will be provided to the participants in print at the beginning of the conference.

The papers presented at the Conference and inputs from the participants and keynote speakers will be captured and transformed into a working document.

Selected papers of a high quality will be jointly submitted to a international peer-reviewed journal for publication.

Important deadlines

Submission of abstract and early registration	25 April 2005
Submission of paper and registration	05 May 2005
Last day registration	15 May 2005
Conference dates	25 - 27 May 2005

Organising committee

- Prof Dr Lynette Louw, NEPAD Council, Vice President International Relations and Communication; Chairperson NEPAD Council, Commission for Trade and Investment in Africa
- Prof Dr Hendrik Lloyd, Faculty of Business and Economic Science, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, South Africa
- Mr Joe Zeelie, Faculty of Business and Economic Science, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, South Africa

Supporting members

- Dr Jabulani Dhliwayo, Senior VP NEPAD Council, Zimbabwe
- Dr James Kajete, European representative, Uganda
- Dr Allam Ahmed, SPRU Science and Technology Policy Research, The Freeman centre, University of Sussex, Brighton, UK. Editor-in- Chief: World Review of Science, Technology and Sustainable development. NEPAD Council, UK Representative
- Prof Dr Madele Tait, Chairperson NEPAD Council, Commission for Education, South Africa
- Prof Wim Naude, Director WorkWell, Faculty of Economics & Management Sciences, North West University, South Africa

Conference venue ... East London

An exceptionally favourable climate, warm hospitality, excellent cuisine and an unhurried atmosphere makes Buffalo City (East London) an ideal destination. The city's numerous tourist attractions and sound infrastructure offer ample opportunity for recreational activities and business. The strategic location and position as gateway to the Sunshine Coast and Country, the Wild Coast and Amatola Region allows easy access to a diversity of uniquely attractive landscapes, historically and culturally rich living heritage and natural treasures.

The conference will be hosted by the Regent Hotel found on the beachfront of East London with ample accommodation and services.

Conference packages

Packages entitle all delegates to:

- Unlimited participation in the Conference
- Admission to African Day Celebration
- Participation in a one day technical excursion
- Teas and coffees
- Lunches
- Conference documentation
- Conference branded items
- Access to networking activities and social programme planning

Individual conference package (R2900)

Corporate conference package (R15000 for a group of 6 delegates)

The six conference delegates are not restricted to members from one organization and may be allocated at the firm's own discretion.

Names of organizations that purchase corporate packages will be acknowledged on the conference programme.

Transport and accommodation is at the account of the delegate. Should you require information on a range of hotels within a 5km radius of the venue, please contact the Conference Secretary.

For a registration form please contact the Conference Secretary.