

# 4th Annual International Conference and Exhibition on



# A LAND OF OPPORTUNITIES

15th-16th December 2021

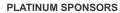
PHD HOUSE, NEW DELHI

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#### INTRODUCTION

In recognition of the growing mutual interest by Indian and African businessmen and governments towards strengthening of economic ties between the two regions, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry has been organising its annual International Conference and Exhibition on "Africa: A Land of Opportunities" at PHD House, New Delhi. The 4th edition of the "Africa: A Land of Opportunities" is scheduled on 15-16 December 2021 at PHD House, New Delhi, India. The Conference will comprise of Inaugural Session followed by Thematic Sessions focusing on major sectors namely; Energy, Health, Agriculture, Education & Skill Development, Infrastructure & Mining.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

- Make Indian business, especially the Indian SME sector, aware of the information on the growth prospects and how their products can find a market there and how to mobilize investment in Africa.
- Identify the sectors-specific opportunities for Indian economy in Africa and have focused interactions on core sectors of cooperation, by presenting the sectors where the African region offers competitive advantages, which can be utilized by the Indian Industry.
- Shed light on the incentives/schemes offered by the Government of India and financial institutions such as the EXIM Bank and describe how both the regions benefit from these incentives.
- Continue to reunite with the diplomats of African countries to promote a common understanding of shared and progressive values.

#### INDIA- A SIGNIFICANT PARTNER IN AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT

The intersection of African resurgence and India's growing economy and global profile has opened up new avenues for deepening the multi-faceted development partnership between the two emerging growth poles of the world. Increasingly, there is an alignment of India's growth agenda and Africa's Vision 2063, which is set to unleash new possibilities of partnering in key areas which are central to unfolding African resurgence, including education, health, capacity building and sustainable development. Against this backdrop, India would have to consider consolidation of its development engagement with the African continent focusing on the five elements (i) trade and investment; (ii) technology; (iii) capacity building; (iv) lines of credits; and (v) concessional finance.

India's economic engagements with African countries have been vibrant, extending beyond trade and investment to technology transfers, knowledge sharing, and skill development. Investment linkages between the two regions have grown significantly in recent years. Today, India is one of the largest trade, investment and development partner of Africa. India offers the second largest market for the African commodities and products and duty free access to the products of the Least Developed Countries of Africa.

India has executed 194 developmental projects in 37 African countries; currently working to complete 77 additional development projects in 29 countries, with a total outlay of USD 11.6 billion. Grants in Aid worth more than USD 700 million have been extended to African partner countries for projects in infrastructure, connectivity, skill development, security, agricultural, energy, tourism and health sectors.

#### **INAUGURAL SESSION: An Era of New Parnerships**

Under the current pandemic situation, it is important for India to maintain the pan-African tier of engagement on issues such as globalization, multilateralism, health, solar energy, climate change and the like need to be discussed with Africa. The session will have representations from African RECs (Regional Economic Committees), ADB, NEPAD, UNECA and the representation from the Indian Government and Industries to discuss on the new avenues of partnership between India and Africa.

#### THEME SESSIONS

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Theme Session 1: Building Healthcare Ecosystem: Known as the "Pharmacy of the World", India is seen as a critical partner in supplying low-cost medicines and medical equipments to Africa. Indian pharmaceutical companies will play a key role in boosting African pharmaceutical manufacturing capacity as several Indian companies have been drawn by the investment climate in countries like Kenya and Ethiopia and have set up joint ventures with local firms. Opportunity exists for the Indian firms to export their industry know-how, including help in navigating complex patent regimes and establishing partnerships with organisations who are already active in the region. They would also benefit from the incentives provided to foreign investors and additional incentives for establishing partnerships with local businesses besides tapping into the



tremendous promise in allied industries in processing raw materials, packaging and transporting supplies. The Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCTA), which became operational on January 1, 2021, can boost pharmaceutical manufacturing in Africa. The Government of India's initiatives like 'e-VidyaBharati' and 'e-AarogyaBharati' projects are also helping Africans in terms of tele-education and tele-medicine. Africa has become one of India's top priority markets, especially to meet the country's growing demand and to serve as an export hub to bolster Africa's pharmaceutical industry.

The session will bring together various Indian and African stakeholders on one platform to discuss and deliberate upon ways to build the Healthcare Ecosystem of Africa.



Theme Session 2: Collaboration in Agriculture: Agriculture is by far the single most important economic activity in Africa. It provides employment for about two-thirds of the continent's working population and for each country contributes an average of 30 to 60 percent of gross domestic product and about 30 percent of the value of exports. While Africa holds more than 60% of the world's uncultivated arable land, the continent's share in global agricultural production remains low. Vast areas of land are uncultivated and productivity is lower than in much of the rest of the world. Chronic long-term underinvestment and poor governance have resulted in a sector that has been

unable to play a positive role in transforming the region's economies, either by ensuring food security, creating jobs or reducing poverty. Like elsewhere, the spread of COVID-19 has disrupted agri-food systems across Africa. Key supply chains have been interrupted, markets closed and movement restricted, resulting in agricultural labor shortages. Farmers are missing planting seasons, while agribusinesses are facing liquidity constraints. Demand for catering has dwindled and consumer preferences have shifted away from highly perishable foods, like fruits and vegetables, meat and fish, to ones with longer shelf-lives. There is a need to understand the linkage between digital agriculture solutions and services with big data and analytics, viable business models, and the enabling environment required to be able to fully realise digitalisation for agriculture during recovery and sustainability.

India could partner with Africa to contribute to Africa's food security, especially in areas such as farm mechanization, agro-processing, etc. A vibrant agriculture sector is crucial in generating sustainable economic prosperity in both Africa and India, and is key to the twin goals of achieving food security and alleviating poverty. This session aims to discuss how Indian firms can effectively leverage the huge opportunities of collaboration in Africa's food sectors.

Theme Session 3: India-Africa Energy Partnership: The energy sector will be critical for Africa's post-COVID economic recovery and will be one of the most attractive investment sectors in 2021. Stakeholders ranging from the African Development Bank to large-scale private funds recognize the need cost-efficient industrial energy access as well as universal household electricity. To expand the impact of their investments in the energy sector, development finance institutions (DFIs) and private investors should pay more attention to empowering African-led energy firms by adjusting their risk analyses and to closing gaps for off-grid solar project financing. Africa is young, connected,



entrepreneurial and poised for immense growth through regional integration via the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA), which will create the world's largest free trade area. Renewable energy is a priority sector for Africa's post-COVID recovery because small and midsize enterprises need reliable and clean energy to get back to business and continue growing.

The session will bring together various stakeholders from the Energy Sector to discuss and deliberate upon ways India could provide the relevant experience and technical and financial resources to assist African countries to exploit their untapped potential for renewable energy – solar, wind, non-storage hydro power and biomass



Theme Session 4: Emulating the Indian Education & Skill Development Programs: According to a report by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa or UNECA, the African Union and the African Development, universities in Africa are producing graduates who are not well prepared for the workforce while laboratories are not well equipped to produce top-notch cadres in science, technology, engineering and mathematics – STEM – disciplines. India ranks among the top five destinations for African students for higher education. While the Africa requires more resources — both human and financial — to

meet the targets of individual countries in education, Indian higher education system has both, which when twinned can create a win-win for both the sides. African countries can adapt India's experience in developing policies designed to build a strong educational infrastructure to increase skills and learning competencies.

This session will bring together the Indian Universities and Educational Institutes to share their experience on India's massive expansion of tertiary education, which generated a human capital base with highly developed STEM expertise that allows export of scientists and technologists.

Theme Session 5: Call for Indian investment in Mining and Processing in Africa: Africa continues to be a continent of growing mining exploration and development activity by many countries, including India, looking to secure long-term resource supply. African countries including South Africa, Guinea, Mozambique, Congo, Ghana and Namibia will lead the continent in spending for 2021. There are good reasons for miners and those who invest in mining to be optimistic going into 2021 as most leading indicators point to a rebound, and long-term drivers for capital spending remain intact. Mining companies continue to reinvent themselves and reinvest in mining assets to keep up with the world's



changing commodity appetite, as well as decarbonization and sustainability targets. This will drive innovation in new processing technologies, automation and emissions reduction.

The session will have representations from various countries in Africa seeking assistance from Indian Industries in mining and processing of some of the important minerals.

Theme Session 6: Catering to Africa's Infrastructure Need: One of Africa's top developmental challenges continues to be the shortage of physical infrastructure. Greater economic activity, enhanced efficiency and increased competitiveness are hampered by inadequate transport, communication and allied infrastructure.

The world is eager to do business with Africa, but finds it difficult to access African markets, especially in the interior, due to poor infrastructure. Physical infrastructure covering transportation, power and communication through its backward and forward linkages



facilitates growth; while social infrastructure including water supply, sanitation, sewage disposal, education and health, which are in the nature of primary services, has a direct impact on the quality of life. Without this infrastructure, Africa will not achieve the growth levels expected or required.

Infrastructure planning and investment are therefore critical if Africa's huge economic and developmental potential are to be realised. Key in helping the continent realise its economic potential, is the careful construction of a sustainable infrastructure that can assist to turn the situation around. Africa's economic growth and development are intrinsically linked to infrastructure development, but it is the push-pull relationship with commodities that has become the driving force for infrastructure development in the region.

The Session will discuss and deliberate on identifying and addressing Africa's infrastructure need and how India can leverage its expertise in development of infrastructure in the continent, the opportunities and challenges.

#### KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Platform to network with Head of Mission, Businessmen, Policy makers and representatives from International organization
- Recognizing and understanding various opportunities in the key sector/areas
- Seeking new and unprecedented business partnerships
- Exploring project financing and funding opportunities
- Informative Session for professionals and business seeking to expand their business globally
- Networking with Industry leaders and policy makers
- Sharing success stories and best global business practices

#### PARTICIPANTS' PROFILE

- Head of Foreign Mission India and Indian Missions Abroad
- National and Regional Investment Banks
- Leading Investors/Traders
- Head of Chambers of Commerce & Trade Associations
- Think Tanks, Research Organisation and Academia
- Media



# PHD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

### **GLIMPSES OF PREVIOUS EDITIONS**

1<sup>ST</sup> EDITION – 20TH NOVEMBER 2013

2<sup>ND</sup> EDITION - 4-5 DECEMBER 2014





3<sup>RD</sup> INDIA-AFRICA FORUM SUMMIT 26-29 OCTOBER 2015



3<sup>RD</sup> EDITION - 21-22 JULY 2017



## FOR REGISTERATION, PLEASE VISIT

https://phdccivirtualmeet.com/visitor/

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