

INDIA, KENYA SET TO COOPERATE IN INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

The National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) from India has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Kenya ICT Board on 15 September 2011 during a visit by a 20-member business delegation from India to Kenya. The MOU will expand cooperation between India and Kenya for the IT and BPO (Business Process Outsourcing) industry. A number of Indian IT companies such as Iridium Interactive and Comviva have already set up shop in Kenya. This creates an opportunity for graduates from Kenya to find and create jobs in the IT sector, especially for multilingual off shoring capabilities

Source: www.cio.co.ke, 16 September 2011.

INDONESIA, VENEZUELA SEEK TO IMPROVE BUSINESS EXCHANGES

A delegation of government officials from Indonesia visited Venezuela in September 2011 and held discussions with Venezuelan businessmen with a view to increase economic exchange between the two G-15 countries. The meeting took place on 29 September 2011 at the Embassy of Indonesia in Caracas and discussions centred on mutual investment opportunities in agriculture, chemical and pharmaceutical industries, infrastructure and services. During the meeting, representatives of Empresarios por Venezuela (Entrepreneurs for Venezuela, EMPREVEN) were invited to attend the 26th edition of Trade Expo Indonesia to be held from 19-23 October 2011 in Jakarta.

Source: Empresarios por Venezuela, 30 September 2011

NIGERIA STRENGTHENS CULTURAL TIES WITH BRAZIL, MEXICO

Nigeria has boosted cultural relations with Brazil and Mexico through two events organized in September 2011. In the first instance, Nigeria House in Salvador, Brazil hosted a cultural week from 3-5 September featuring an exhibition, a round-table conference, cultural performances and parades. The Nigerian delegation to the event was led by the Nigerian Minister for Culture, Tourism and National Orientation, Chief Edem Duke.

During the same month, the first ever Mexican Film Festival was held in Abuja, Nigeria. The festival, which was held on September 16, saw both countries exploring opportunities for cultural diplomacy.

Source: This Day, 9 and 17 September 2011.

SENEGAL TO OPEN DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN KENYA

As a sign of the increasing importance of Kenya to its diplomatic and economic needs, the Government of Senegal has decided to open a mission in Nairobi in October 2011. So far, the country had been relying on its former colonial ruler France's embassy in Kenya for its consular needs, including the issuance of visas.

Most West African nations have preferred to operate from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the headquarters of the African Union. But with the growing importance of Nairobi as the headquarters of several UN organizations, foreign diplomatic presence in the city has been on the rise.

Source: Daily Nation, 17 September 2011.

INDIA, ZIMBABWE TO DEEPEN INVESTMENT, TRADE TIES

India and Zimbabwe have agreed to further strengthen bilateral trade and investment ties even as the two G-15 countries expedite the ratification process of a Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement. This was announced by visiting Indian Minister of State for Commerce and Industries, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia at a press conference in Harare on 21 September 2011, after he held talks with Zimbabwean Industry and Commerce Minister, Welshman Ncube.

Mr. Scindia said there was scope to substantially increase bilateral trade between India and Zimbabwe, which was \$125 million in 2010-11. Indian government-run firms like Indian Railway Construction Company (IRCON) and Rail India Technical and Economic Services (RITES) could assist Zimbabwe in expanding and rehabilitating its rail infrastructure, he added.

Source: The Economic Times, 21 September 2011.
