



Economic Commission for Africa

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Nigerian President seeks to stimulate SMEs

Nigeria's President Goodluck Jonathan has called for small and medium-scale enterprises (SMES) to play a greater role in facilitating Africa's economic development.

"There is need for urgent collaboration and co-operation, not only in funding but also co-ordinated bargaining with partners," said Jonathan, who was represented by Vice-President Namadi Sambo, at the opening ceremony of the NEPAD-Africa Trade Fair of Indigenous Products and Services in Abuja. The President urged Africa to become "the next growth pole and the industrial destination of choice".

He said the problems of declining foreign exchange earnings, balance of payment disequilibrium, stagnation and unemployment, all a result of the recent global recession, emphasise the need to promote the accelerated development and exhibition of indigenous products to reduce dependence on imported goods with its resultant problem of capital flight.

The Trade Fair is a bi-annual event among AU Member States to showcase the economic activities of SMEs with a view to attracting both local and foreign investment.

Source: <http://news.in.msn.com/international/article.aspx?cp-documentid=4502061>

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African air carriers in dire straits

Sub-Saharan Africa will have no stand-alone major aircraft carriers in the next four decades due to global market forces and challenges facing the continent, an aviation expert warned at the recent NEPAD Transport and Infrastructure Summit.

Speaking on the final day of the Summit, John Tambi, transport infrastructure expert at the NEPAD Agency, said no African government would be able to sustain loss-making major carriers over time.

Tambi said global dynamics and market forces would make it difficult for

Sub-Saharan Africa's three major carriers—namely Ethiopian Airlines, Kenya Airways and South African Airways – to continue operating on their own under government ownership.

Africa has not liberalised its air space, airport charges are high and lack of route network co-ordination prevailed, he said. Tambi predicted that Sub-Saharan Africa's three major carriers would not exist by 2050 as standalone carriers. In order to survive, these carriers would have to become part of a global alliance and cede ownership to foreign operators.

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China calls on rich countries to honor commitment to Africa assistance

China has called on developed countries to “expeditiously raise” their official development assistance (ODA) for Africa in order to meet the pledged targets of the international community and the actual needs of Africa.

The statement came as Wang Min, the Chinese deputy permanent representative to the UN, was taking the floor at the UN General Assembly in a meeting to discuss how to strengthen the partnership with Africa in order to promote development on the continent.

Urging the developed world to “promptly deliver on its commitments to assistance,” Wang said “despite the slight increase in the total ODA volume for Africa in recent years, it still falls far short of the pledged targets of the international community and the actual needs of Africa.”

“The African countries have made major headway through vigorous efforts to increase unity for greater strength, seek regional peace and stability, and bring about economic reinvigoration,” he said.

“In providing assistance to Africa, the international community should show greater respect for its realities and the sentiments of its countries, further remove conditionalities, increase the predictability and transparency of such assistance, and redress the power imbalance between the donors and recipients,” he said.

Since the launch of NEPAD nine years

ago, with the vigorous support of the international community, the African countries have achieved great progress in such areas as infrastructure, agriculture, health and education, he said.

“Today, most of the regional hotspot issues that affect Africa’s peace and stability are, in the final analysis, attributable to poverty and underdevelopment. China believes that development is the basis for the attainment of peace in Africa,” he said. “The international community should increase its support for Africa and help it attain greater progress in the implementation of NEPAD and thus promote stability and prosperity in Africa.”

Source: <http://english.cri.cn/6909/2010/10/15/2681s599452.htm>

African air carriers...

Tambi stated Sub-Saharan Africa would totally depend on foreign carriers for all intercontinental flights at a time when the global airline industry is expected to generate one trillion dollars in revenue and \$100bn in profit in 2050.

In 2010, the global airline industry is likely to post \$545bn in revenue and \$2.5bn in profit, Tambi said.

Presently, Africa is dogged by uncoordinated route network, lack of cooperation and high airport charges, he said. Accidents are also a contributing factor. Although Africa accounts for 5% of the international air traffic, it makes up 25% of all global accidents.

Tambi urged African countries to address these challenges.

Source: <http://www.fin24.com/Economy/Air-carriers-in-dire-straits-in-Africa-20101015>

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