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## **AfDB receives \$8 million to support NEPAD-IPPF programmes**

The Norwegian Government has committed \$8 million dollars for the NEPAD Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility (NEPAD-IPPF) covering the period, 2007-2009, according to a statement from the African Development Bank (AfDB).

According to a communiqué recently signed by the Norwegian Ambassador in Tunisia, Thorbjorn Gaustadsaether and AfDB Secretary-General, Modibo Toure, the Bank agreed to a schedule of activities connected to the disbursement of the funds to be delivered by October 2009.

The NEPAD, Regional Integration and Trade Director, Rosalind Thomas, praised the initiative and said "This is a key step toward enabling NEPAD-IPPF realize its mandate. It demonstrates the growing interest in developing infrastructure in Africa".

The NEPAD-IPPF Special Fund, a program of the Facility currently financed by Canada and Denmark, assists Regional Economic Communities (RECs) regional infrastructure development institutions and other bodies in preparing regional infrastructure projects in energy, trans-boundary water resources management, transportation, and ICT.

In 2007, the Fund mobilized US\$ 22.5 million, and it is expecting a contribution of £6 million from UK Department for International Development (DFID), 2 million Euros from the German government in 2008 earmarked for Infrastructure development capacity building in RECs, and has targeted interested countries such as Japan, China, India, and selected African nations for their contribution. The statement said the AfDB was considering making financial contributions from its net income. The NEPAD-IPPF Special Fund supports Project Cycle activities to ensure the creation of a sustainable enabling environment for infrastructure development and private sector participation.

*Source: Panapress, 6 February 2008*

## **Trade Unions clash over Ugandan Peer Review report**

Two major trade unions; Central Organisation of Free Trade Unions (COFTU) and National Organisation of Trade Unions (NOTU) are up in arms over extracts of letters that appeared in the Ugandan African Peer Review Mechanism Report.

The extracts on page 331 and 332 of the APRM report accuse Coftu's Secretary General, Dr Sam Lyomoki (MP, Workers) and Ministry of Labour officials of engaging in unprofessional conduct by registering pseudo labour unions. COFTU denied the allegations and has petitioned the APRM Commission seeking withdrawal of the extracts from the report, failing which they may seek court redress.

The extracts, drawn from a letter written by Notu to the Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Mr Syda Bbumba, accuses Dr Lyomoki, the Registrar of Trade Unions and Commissioner of Labour of colluding and registering fake labour unions. In the letter written on May 17 2007, Dr Lyomoki describes the extracts as unethical. But Mr Bain-gana, a APRM Commissioner representing trade unions on the APRM Commission denied any wrong doing.

*Source: The Monitor (Kampala), 9 February 2008*



## China-Africa trade volumes steadily growing

The trade exchange volume between China and Africa has reached 65.9 billion USD in 2007, African Business Magazine reported. In its February 2008 issue, the Magazine said the trade exchange between the two sides increased by 31 percent compared to that of last year. Overall, imports and exports are balanced and are expected to exceed 76 billion USD this year.

Thanks to the effort made by the China-Africa Cooperation Forum Beijing Summit, the economic and trade cooperation between China and Africa has been steadily growing, the magazine quoted Chinese Minister of Commerce as saying. According to International Monetary Fund, China has become Africa's second largest trade partner. The co-operation has gradually been extended to finance, aerospace, and telecommunication sector, according to the Minister.

*Source: Ethiopian News Agency, 10 February 2008*

## Rwanda in agricultural reform drive

Rwanda is reviewing Africa's plan for agriculture reform to use it as a yardstick to measure its own performance in this sector.

The aim is to enhance the reforms that constitute Africa's Comprehensive Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), managed under the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). If the CAADP national review yields success, there's hope to increase agriculture growth rate by six percent and to allocate 10 percent of national budget to the sector, according to agriculture minister, Anastase Murekezi.

Officials from the Ministry of Agriculture and development partners analysed how far the country has gone in executing CAADP during a one-day meeting in Hotel Novotel Umubano in Kigali yesterday.

Last March, Rwanda was given the green light to start up CAADP in accordance with the continental shared framework for its strategic planning and implementation. The Agriculture Minister Anastase Murekezi said: "Our aim is to strengthen our efforts to facilitate the CAADP's future mechanism that will enrich Public-Private Partnership for required investments in the agriculture sector." He said CAADP will support such national projects as the one-cow-per-household, fisheries and biodiversity promotion in Lake Kivu, and crop intensification through water irrigation.

*Source: The New Times (Kigali), 8 February 2008*

## Mali gets \$42M for poverty reduction efforts

The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors approved International Development Association (IDA) funding in the amount of US\$42 million for Mali's Second Poverty Reduction Support Credit (PRSC II).

"We hope that with continued implementation of the reforms already under way, which the Government has pledged to continue, Mali will improve further its public management performance and effectiveness, to the benefit of its people", said Agnès Soucat, World Bank Task Team Leader of the project.

*Source: AfricaNews, 7 February 2008*

### UPCOMING EVENTS IN FEBRUARY:

12 February: Peacekeeping Africa Summit 2008 (Johannesburg)  
13 February: NOVATECH, the ICT Africa Marketplace (Addis Ababa)  
27 February: 1st US-Africa Tourism and Sports Seminar (New York)

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**DID YOU KNOW?** The Africagrowth Institute in recognition and appreciation of the important role that small and medium micro enterprises (SMME) play in promoting wealth and prosperity in the continent is holding an AFRICA SMME AWARDS. The 2008 Africa SMME Awards aim to recognise the success and vitality of the Africa SMME sector. This unique annual awards program has been established specifically to acknowledge, encourage and celebrate excellence amongst African SMMEs by giving them the opportunity to gain valuable exposure and well-deserved recognition for their global expansion ambitions. Winners of the Awards will feature prominently in the media. The Africagrowth Institute's goal is, therefore, to help the Africa SMME business sector grow and prosper, and to market Africa as an investment destination for the rest of the world.

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