



Wilton Park

Provisional programme

African infrastructure projects: driving momentum, delivering jobs and improving livelihoods

Monday 23 – Wednesday 25 March 2015 | WP1329

Home to some of the world's fastest growing economies, Sub-Saharan Africa has entered a phase of strong trend growth, which has led to heightened foreign direct investment. With an abundance of natural resources, a swelling young working population, GDP growth, improved human indicators and levels of expertise, as well as rapid urbanisation, African countries are poised to increase their share of global GDP.

However, inadequate infrastructure is hindering growth, job creation, productivity and social development across all sectors. The building blocks of local capacity need to be in place in order to deliver incremental and sustainable growth around resource-based industries – creating a coherent set of policies across departments with the ultimate aim of economic diversification. With public finance on infrastructure under pressure and the comprehensive role of infrastructure under-represented in the Millennium Development Goals, the private sector has a critical role to play in delivering sustainable and green projects to the continent.

Businesses are increasingly recognising the continent's potential and are investing in infrastructure projects, committing to long term development and improving local labour skills. However, access to these opportunities and markets is hindered by high production and transaction costs. It is imperative that governments – in North and South alike – work to create a predictable and stable environment that facilitates sustainable infrastructure projects and attracts much-needed investors.

This conference is unique in bringing together a broad spectrum of stakeholders in order to share perspectives and experiences of how best to support infrastructure projects across their lifecycle. Strong dialogue to increase government engagement with the private sector could also establish more sustainable financing models and find a collaborative path to improved infrastructure and ultimately long term economic growth in the region.

The conference will bring together key members of each group to share experiences, insights and progressive ideas to provide participants with greater understanding of what they can do to support – and gain more from – infrastructure projects in the region.

In association with:



Monday 23 March

1300-1430 Participants arrive and buffet lunch available

1430-1445 **Welcome and introduction**

Kathryn Hingston

Programme Director, Wilton Park, Steyning

1445-1615 **1. Delivering sustainable and responsible growth from the ground up**

Why is it a good time to invest in Africa? What inhibits investor confidence? What is the current landscape of investment in African infrastructure? How big is the finance gap for infrastructure development? What might be the impact of inadequate infrastructure on future trade, investment and local livelihoods on the continent? What cross-border frameworks support regional infrastructure projects and how to strengthen them? What tensions between national and regional priorities in infrastructure?

Alex Katon

Executive Director, InfraCo Africa, Private Infrastructure Development Group, London

Sameh Shenouda

Head, Infrastructure, CDC Group plc, London

Ihab Osman

Chief Executive Officer, Blunai Inc, Khartoum

1615-1700 Photograph followed by tea/coffee

1700-1830 **2. Governance and regulation to stimulate growth**

What are the implications of governance and regulatory weaknesses, eg sclerotic institutions, highly complex business regulations, taxation issues, crime, lack of transparency, corruption, political populism, labour market issues and lack of risk management? How can local content be managed and human resources reinforced in a scalable way to deliver long term capacity for local contributors? What national policy and regulatory framework would support infrastructure finance and projects? What support is needed to give African governments insight into private sector thinking? What would encourage a long term policy plan for low income country governments? What are the obstacles to planning for the longer term?

Mark Simmonds

Member of Parliament, House of Commons; Former Minister for Africa, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London

Jens Sedemund

Executive Advisor, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Paris

Moïse Bucumi

Member, Burundi and Pan-African parliament, Government of Burundi, Bujumbura

1830-1840 Short briefing for discussion group facilitators only in Library.

1900 Reception followed by Conference Dinner

Tuesday 24 March

0800-0915 Breakfast

0915-1045

3. Innovative financing models

Financing capital projects has become more difficult and investors are hesitant to expose themselves to the risks. Governance frameworks often hinder project development and investors are cautious of future changes to regulations, taxation and policy environments. Governments could do more to offer stability and reassure potential investors. What are investors looking for? What potential mechanisms could governments implement to provide a more attractive environment for potential developers and capital funders? What factors contribute to the high production and transaction costs prevalent in the region? What disconnects between investor and government perceptions? Is it possible to converge the interests of businesses, investors and governments in a way that underpins sustainable growth and development?

George Pyper

Director, Endeavour Financial Ltd, London

Magdalene Apenteng

Chief Economics Officer; Director, Public Investment Division, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, Accra

1045-1115

Tea/coffee

1115-1245

4. Case studies

Powering Benin

Jules-Armand Aniambossou

Ambassador of Benin to France and the UK, Embassy of Benin, Paris

Urbanisation

Anne Kerr

Global Head Urbanisation, Mott MacDonald, Kowloon

Off-grid power

Andrew Reicher

Chairman, Africa Renewable Energy Fund, Berkeley Energy, London

1245-1400

Lunch

1430-1445

Introduction to discussion groups

1445-1615

5. Discussion groups

Group 1 – Partnerships

Howard Roberts

Development Director, Africa, Mott MacDonald, Johannesburg

Group 2 – Finance

Alistair Fernie

Director, International Finance, Department for International Development (DFID), London

Group 3 – Governance

Adesina Iluyemi

Secretary General, NEPAD Council, London

1615-1645

Tea/coffee

1645-1745

6. Feedback from discussion groups

Kathryn Hingston

Programme Director, Wilton Park, Steyning

1745-1800

7. eQuestionnaire

Participants will be asked to complete a short anonymous online questionnaire, the results of which, along with the findings and recommendations from the working groups, will be incorporated into the final interactive session of the conference.

<http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/WP1329/>

1900

Dinner

Wednesday 25 March

0800-0845

Breakfast

0845-0900

Room Checkout

0900-1030

8. Partnerships for prosperity: building capacity on the ground

How can stakeholders foster collaboration with the private sector to empower citizens and develop local capacities for sustainable management of infrastructure projects, eg technology transfer, skill-building and empowerment of local actors? What measures most effectively build capacity of local finance professionals? What is the value of Africa-specific initiatives (eg Infrastructure Consortium for Africa launched by the G7) in engaging the private sector?

David Donaldson

Head, InfraVentures, Africa, International Finance Corporation (IFC), World Bank Group, Washington DC

Jason Braganza

Senior Analyst, Development Initiatives, Nairobi

Sue Whitbread

Business Specialist, Oil and Gas Strategy Team, UK Trade and Investment (UKTI), London

Paul Chineegadoo

Chief Executive Officer, HEART-PPP, London

1030-1100

Tea/coffee

1100-1145

9. Commitments and conclusions

Including feedback from eQuestionnaire

Kathryn Hingston

Programme Director, Wilton Park, Steyning

1200-1300

Lunch

1315

Participants depart

This is a preview programme and as such may be subject to change.

This conference is open to those with expertise to share or an interest in the theme; our aim is to have a broad spread of nationalities and institutions represented. The full cost of participation is £1440. This covers 2 nights' accommodation, all meals during the conference and attendance at all sessions. Special rates may be available for those from non-OECD countries and also academics and NGO representatives.

Enquiries about participation to: Wendy Head, Project Manager
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