Annual Meetings Communiqué

W e, the Governors, representing member countries of the Afri- can Development Bank (the “Bank”) meeting in Ahmedabad, India for the 2017 Annual Meet- ings from 22nd to 27th May 2017 under the chairmanship of His Excellency Arun JAITLEY, Go- vernor for India, Minister of Fi- nance and Chairperson of the Boards of Governors: 1. Deeply appreciate the presence of the Honorable Na- rendra MODI, Prime Minister of India, His Excellency Mr. Micky SALL, President of the Republic of Senegal, His Excellency Mr. Patrice GALON, President of the Republic of Benin, His Excel- lency Mr. Kablan DUNCAN, Vice President of the Republic of Côte d’Ivoire, Honourable Vi- jaybhai R. RUPANI, Chief Minis- ter of the State of Gujarat; 2. Endorse the statements made by the Chair, His Excellency Arun JAITLEY, and President Akinwumi ADESINA, in expres- sing gratitude to the Prime Mi- nister; Government and People of India for hosting these An- nual Meetings and, in particular the Government of the State of Gujarat, for their hospitality and immense contributions towards the success of the meetings; 3. Recall the strengthening of the centuries’ old historical ties between Africa and India through increased economic, technical and social coopera- tion. In this connection, we com- mend Prime Minister Modi for the Africa-India Partnership ini- tiative. We also applauded the suc- cessful implementation of the second phase of the Cotton Technical Assistance Program launched in 2012 and look for- ward to its extension to more African countries in the future. Finally, we welcome and sup- port the India-Japan Growth Corridor Program and look for- ward to its implementation; 4. Also endorse the state- ments made at the Governors’ Dialogue. We support the Bank’s multi-pronged resour- ce strategy anchored on in- creasing co-financing, fine-tuning lending operations, optimizing the balance sheet and, in due course, recapitalizing the Bank. We also ask for the speedy implementation of the High 5 strategies in order to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as the Agenda 2063; 5. Note the completion of the institutional reform commit- ments for GCI-VI which we ap- proved in 2018. All of these re- forms have been progressively and successfully implemented as part of the Bank’s broader reform agenda; 6. Urge the speedy conclu- sion of the recent institutional reforms at the Bank to assure stability, improve cost efficiency and institutional effectiveness, grow the revenue base and strengthen the field offices for greater delivery on the ground; 7. Commend the Bank’s commitment to supporting the continent’s efforts to attain wa- ter security. We note the record performance of the sector for 2018 and its contribution to job creation, health, education and overall improvement in the qual- ity of life; 8. Further endorse the Bank’s leadership in the Trans- formation of African Agriculture in the context of the global com- mitment to end poverty and overcome hunger and food inse- curity. We encourage the Bank to continue to work with other donor agencies to crowd in fi- nancial resources, financing mo- dalities and policy tools to un- lock the potential of the sector and to fast track the achieve- ment of Africa’s agricultural transformation; 9. Encourage the Bank Group to sustain its support to the private sector in our Re- gional Member Countries (RMCs), through increased lending as well as support for policy and regulatory reforms that foster a business friendly environment; 10. Are encouraged by the Bank’s engagement with Regio- nal Central Banks to address the constraints in mobilizing do- mestic resources. We laud the Bank for seeking to find ways to enhance the size and efficiency of domestically mobilized re- sources as well as approaches to broadening the tax base and encouraging financial regula- tory reforms that have the po- tential of attracting institutio- nal investments; 11. Appreciate the Bank’s role in attracting more invest- ment for youth in agriculture and the implementation of the Bank Group’s Jobs for Youth Initiative. In particular, we encourage the Bank to enhance its partnerships for enabling access to agricul- tural as a driving force for agri- cultural transformation; 12. Applaud the Bank’s role in the New Deal for Energy in Africa which aims at providing millions of households with elec- tricity by 2025. We encourage the Bank to continue to high- light the need for strong politi- cal will on Climate change in this regard and in line with the 2016 Paris Agreement. Further- more, we encourage the Bank to help leverage opportunities and overcome barriers, including ac- cess to finance to achieve trans- formation of the energy sector; 13. Further encourage the Bank to continue to address Gender inequality which slows human progress and hinders structural transformation in RMCs. In this regard, we call on the Bank to expedite imple- mentation of the Affirmative Fi- nance Facility for Women in Africa, launched in 2016 to un- lock lending to Women; 14. Commend the Boards of Directors, Management and staff of the Bank for exceeding its lending and disbursement targets for 2016, and encourage them to continue to strive to- wards achieving development impact in the RMCs; 15. Welcome the unqualified opinion of the Bank’s external auditors on the financial state- ments ending 31 December 2016. We thank the outgoing au- ditors and welcome the new au- ditors; and 16. Look forward to the next Annual Meetings scheduled for 21 - 25 May 2018, in Busan, Re- public of Korea.

In this Issue:
Sundry images, 25/05/17 p.2
Quick conversations, 25/05/17 p.3
Social Media, 25/05/17 p.4

AFRICA DAY p5

Annual Meetings ‘Asides’

Follow the stories, photos and videos as they are posted on www.afdb.org and www.afdb.org/am

End the day with an AMEN – the Annual Meetings Electronic News, highlights and hyperlinks emailed directly to you
Follow the stories, photos and videos as they are posted on www.afdb.org and www.afdb.org/am
End the day with an AMEN – the Annual Meetings Electronic News, highlights and hyperlinks emailed directly to you

Sundry images, 25/05/17
I observed that African women are very pretty. I like the way their hair is twisted but been very well done and smoothly coordinated. I was happy for that. Secondly, I think that you did not like during the meeting? No… Everything went on very well.

This is what all my colleagues are saying and I have also observed that. Anything that you did not like during the meeting? No… Everything went on very well.

Assemblees annuelles de la BAD, sont toujours une occasion pour discuter des sujets de coopéраtion et de partenariat avec les pays-clients, au cœur de nos activités, ainsi que des partenaires au développement. J’ai rencontré la plupart de mes pays clients (14 au total) au niveau ministériel, et des partenaires au développement comme le Tresor français, la Coopération suisse et l’ARC. C’était l’occasion d’échanger avec le président de la République du Bénin, sur les questions de partenariat avec la Banque et les projets qui lui tiennent cœur et qui doivent être mise en œuvre dans les prochains mois. La problématique qui est souvent revenue dans les discussions avec mes pays-clients, c’est la disponibilité des ressources face à leur ambitieux programme de développement. La solution à ce problème lancement doit être trouvée.

I have been at Crown Agents only a few months, but I have been inspired by the many transformational projects that we have delivered in partnership with African governments across Africa. From enabling an increase in customs revenue by 16-fold in Angola, treating almost 14 million people for neglected tropical diseases in Nigeria, to responding quickly in Sierra Leone to the Ebola crisis by purchasing and getting 600 line items to where they needed to be within 72 hours. I am keen to find other opportunities where we can deliver our expertise, and the AfDB annual meetings offers the perfect forum to have exploratory and in-depth conversations.

So many thanks to the AfDB and our generous Indian hosts - well done for putting on another inspirational annual meeting. Here’s to Kornia in 2018!

This is my 6th annual meeting in 7 years, which probably puts me a long way behind many, but it’s a good start! I used to attend as a delegate from the UK government (DFID) and am now representing Crown Agents. The AfDB annual meeting is one of the most important forums to attend for those interested in growth and development of the continent. It brings together a great combination of government, civil society, bankers, private sector, media, doners, multilaterals and of course AfDB staff. These different skills and perspectives combine to provide a great voice for Africa, and can help set direction for those working across Africa for the coming year.

I have been at Crown Agents only a few months, but I have been inspired by the many transformational projects that we have delivered in partnership with African governments across Africa. From enabling an increase in customs revenue by 16-fold in Angola, treating almost 14 million people for neglected tropical diseases in Nigeria, to responding quickly in Sierra Leone to the Ebola crisis by purchasing and getting 600 line items to where they needed to be within 72 hours. I am keen to find other opportunities where we can deliver our expertise, and the AfDB annual meetings offers the perfect forum to have exploratory and in-depth conversations.

So many thanks to the AfDB and our generous Indian hosts - well done for putting on another inspirational annual meeting. Here’s to Kornia in 2018!

I am Siddharth Kohli, Managing partner and CEO of the India Development and Environment Agency. I am also special editor for April issue of Gujarat. We have been looking forward to participating in the AfDB’s annual meetings, as we have been participating in other major meetings.

The Bank’s Annual meetings were a really good opportunity to take a pulse of Africa. In my view, the time has come for us in India, and in Gujarat in particular, to have strong interest in Africa. Our market is highly competitive. So, we can definitely explore business partnerships with Africa.

In this conference we were able to facilitate the evaluation of a sugar refinery investment in Ghana, worth USD70 million. We were able to release our publication “Invest Agri”. From ‘behind the scenes’ at the Annual Meetings

A real fascination in coming here to Ahmedabad is that Africa can see itself 10 years down the line. The first Annual Meeting I covered was in Ouagadougou in 2006, but when we went to Nairobi in 2007 there was a sense that the level of development was out of reach for the Africans who turned up for those Meetings. The pluming skyscrapers were too far away from them. But Ahmedabad is a concrete example of achievable development. Yes, there is poverty here, but there are jobs, there is power, the place works. This is development you can get your arms around, or your head around. It’s a near-term role model for Africa.

Meanwhile I do like this Bank focus on agriculture. President Kaberuka’s work on infrastructure was fantastic, but I like this new drive on Africa’s Number One economic activity. No country has industrialised without upgrading its agriculture – even Singapore. So it has been a good week. I enjoyed the Bankers Awards dinner on Thursday, and having fun on our table with a group of lively Indians. And I’m all set for South Korea. I’m in Korea (es) s’expriment. And de rencontrer l’un de mes musiciens africains préférés, Lokua Kanza.

The ‘third sector’ (civil society), the ‘fourth estate’ (press)

T his is my 6th annual meeting in 7 years, which probably puts me a long way behind many, but it’s a good start! I used to attend as a delegate from the UK government (DFID) and am now representing Crown Agents. The AfDB annual meeting is one of the most important forums to attend for those interested in growth and development of the continent. It brings together a great combination of government, civil society, bankers, private sector, media, doners, multilaterals and of course AfDB staff. These different skills and perspectives combine to provide a great voice for Africa, and can help set direction for those working across Africa for the coming year.

I have been at Crown Agents only a few months, but I have been inspired by the many transformational projects that we have delivered in partnership with African governments across Africa. From enabling an increase in customs revenue by 16-fold in Angola, treating almost 14 million people for neglected tropical diseases in Nigeria, to responding quickly in Sierra Leone to the Ebola crisis by purchasing and getting 600 line items to where they needed to be within 72 hours. I am keen to find other opportunities where we can deliver our expertise, and the AfDB annual meetings offers the perfect forum to have exploratory and in-depth conversations.

So many thanks to the AfDB and our generous Indian hosts - well done for putting on another inspirational annual meeting. Here’s to Kornia in 2018!

A real fascination in coming here to Ahmedabad is that Africa can see itself 10 years down the line. The first Annual Meeting I covered was in Ouagadougou in 2006, but when we went to Nairobi in 2007 there was a sense that the level of development was out of reach for the Africans who turned up for those Meetings. The pluming skyscrapers were too far away from them. But Ahmedabad is a concrete example of achievable development. Yes, there is poverty here, but there are jobs, there is power, the place works. This is development you can get your arms around, or your head around. It’s a near-term role model for Africa.

Meanwhile I do like this Bank focus on agriculture. President Kaberuka’s work on infrastructure was fantastic, but I like this new drive on Africa’s Number One economic activity. No country has industrialised without upgrading its agriculture – even Singapore. So it has been a good week. I enjoyed the Bankers Awards dinner on Thursday, and having fun on our table with a group of lively Indians. And I’m all set for South Korea. I’m in Korea (es) s’expriment. And de rencontrer l’un de mes musiciens africains préférés, Lokua Kanza.
Follow the stories, photos and videos as they are posted on www.afdb.org and www.afdb.org/am

End the day with an AMEn – the Annual Meetings Electronic News, highlights and hyperlinks emailed directly to you

Tweets of the day, 25/05/17
#AfDBAM2017

@edithbrou
L’agriculture est cool. Je le crois fermement à la fin de ces 52èmes Assemblées Annuelles de la BAD #afDBAM2017

@choi_afdb
#Korea is the host country of @AfDB_Group Annual Meetings 2018. See you all in Busan! #AfDBAM2017 #India #Ahmedabad --> #AfDBAM2018 #Busan

@YanaKakar
Women hold up half the sky while producing 60-80% of the earth’s food - Reflecting on great panel discussion at #AfDBAM2017 @DalbergTweet

@santoshgangwar
It is indeed an honour to welcome all delegates from Africa in this #AfDBAM2017, privileged to be host on behalf of Govt of India.

@mpvadodara
Few Glimpses of Annual Meeting of @AfDB_Group at Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar. @afdbam2017 Inclusive Growth of all such continents is needed

@VictorOladokun
#AfDBam2017 "There is Gold in Dirt." - Dr Akinwumi Adesina on Transforming African Agriculture for Wealth Creation
AFRICA DAY

May 25 Mai 2017

JOURNÉE DE L’AFRIQUE

Follow the stories, photos and videos as they are posted on www.afdb.org and www.afdb.org/am
End the day with an AMEN – the Annual Meetings Electronic News, highlights and hyperlinks emailed directly to you