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# africa

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INDIAN COUNCIL FOR CULTURAL RELATIONS





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Volume 49, No. 4, November 2009-January 2010



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INDIAN COUNCIL FOR CULTURAL RELATIONS

NEW DELHI



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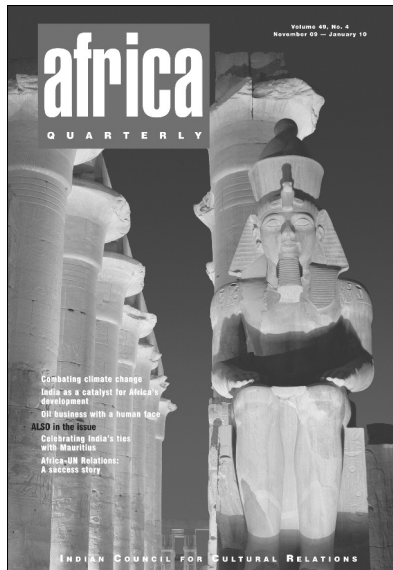
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## ■ From the Editor's Desk

# India's promise and the African dream

The ongoing climate change discourse has put a new spotlight on Africa: its extreme vulnerability to global warming and its will to get a fair deal in the midst of shifting global equations and internecine politicking. The compromise accord struck at the Copenhagen Conference in December last year came as a huge disappointment to African countries as the developed world managed to evade a legally binding treaty on cutting greenhouse gas emissions and failed to come up with concrete financial commitments for the poorer countries. Global warming is not an abstruse theme for debate; for Africans it's often a matter of life and death. The African continent is the lowest emitter of greenhouse gas emissions, but it is paying the most for excesses of the industrialised world as large regions in Africa face drought or drought-like conditions.

This edition of *Africa Quarterly* weaves a mosaic of themes focused on Africa's development, its untapped economic potential, the choice of external partners and the challenges that it need to overcome to continue its upward trajectory as a global player with a powerful voice in international fora.

Climate change is undoubtedly one of the gravest challenges that pose an existential threat to Africa and its people. In her article, Rashmi Kapoor analyses the grim consequences of global warming for Africa and its direct impact on agriculture and an increasingly elusive quest for food security. Forests are shrinking, desertification is accelerating and sea levels are rising alarmingly. The author quotes the report of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to argue that Africa "is most vulnerable to climate change due to widespread poverty and lack of resources, both natural and human, that limits its capability to adapt". Keeping the politics of international climate change negotiations aside, Kapoor suggests that "the need of the day is not only to achieve accelerated food production but to manage agriculture in such a way that human intervention is minimal and biodiversity is retained to achieve sustainable production and sustainable development in Africa".

While climate change can't be reversed overnight, Africa is determined to catch up with its economic destiny and is allying with international partners which can spur its resurgence. Buoyed by global economic recovery and rising commodity prices, the resource-rich African countries are scouting for partners that can provide them affordable technologies for their burgeoning infrastructure needs and technical expertise to train and empower its predominantly young population. In India, Africa is increasingly finding a partner which understands its developmental trajectory and one which is keen to share its expertise and experience to transform the continent into a vibrant hub of economic activity.

It's been two years since India opened a new chapter in its multi-faceted ties with the African continent by holding its first summit with 14 representative African countries, but the words of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at that landmark summit — "India wishes to be a partner in Africa's resurgence" — is finding increasing resonance among African leaders. In his perceptive article, Ravinder Rena provides a comprehensive overview of India's multi-faceted economic engagement with Africa straddling different sectors and argues that India, the world's second fastest growing economy and a knowledge power, is in a unique position to make the African dream come true. His optimism is unflagging. "One can argue that India's intermediate skills and technological capabilities are well-suited and cost-effective for African development. India's partnership with Africa will not only become a genuine symbol of South-South cooperation but will also expand to attain dizzy heights," he writes.

The past few months have justified this optimism. India's energy diplomacy in Africa got a boost with a hydrocarbon conference New Delhi hosted in December. And India's Vice-President Hamid Ansari travelled to Botswana, Zambia and Malawi in January, replenishing enormous mutual goodwill and giving a more contemporary cast to India-Africa relations. In Zambia, India signed a deal for extending a \$50 million line of credit, with a proposal to extend another soft loan of \$75 million for use in social sectors. The Exim Bank of India also pitched in to back a 120 MW hydroelectric project in Zambia. In Malawi, Ansari announced a \$50 million line of credit and signed a deal on joint uranium exploration. Ansari's visit to Botswana saw two deals on agriculture and education. The vice-president's visit underscored the dominant leitmotif in the India-Africa engagement with its emphasis on capacity building, development and human empowerment. India will not be prescriptive while providing assistance to Africa, Ansari said memorably, encapsulating India's agenda-free approach to Africa.

It's not just economics that bind the people of India and Africa together. It's a shared vision and a belief in a common future. India's Minister of State for External Affairs Shashi Tharoor is a firm believer and a diehard optimist in Africa's resurgence. "A vibrant India and a resurgent Africa are thus witnessing an intensification of relations and a growing convergence of interests in their common quest for sustainable growth and development. Our partnership encompasses priority sectors integral to the developmental goals of Africa in the 21st century," he said during his visit to Mauritius in November last year. It is this unique match of India's expertise and African resources that hold limitless possibilities for this truly global partnership.

**Manish Chand**

# Vice President Ansari visits Zambia, Malawi, Botswana

*Ansari's three-nation trip reflected India's current policy of deeper engagement with the African continent and underscored India's focus on not being "prescriptive" while providing assistance*

## ZAMBIA

### India grants \$50m loan, offers \$75m more to Zambia



Vice President Hamid Ansari with President of Zambia Rupiah Bwezani Banda, during a meeting in Lusaka on January 6, 2010.

India has signed a deal for extending a \$50 million line of credit to Zambia, with a proposal to extend another soft loan of \$75 million, even as both countries decided to “reinvigorate” relations to reflect “changed times.”

India's Vice President Mohammad Hamid Ansari held formal discussions with George Kunda, the Zambian vice-president, and called on President Rupiah Banda on January 6, 2010.

After the state banquet, it was time

to get down to business starting with an agreement signed between Exim Bank of India and the government of Zambia to extend \$50 million in concessional terms for the construction of the Itzhi-Tezhi Hydropower project.

“This project is designed to generate 120 MW of energy which will contribute to the electricity sector (in Zambia),” the Ministry of External Affairs' Secretary (West), Vivek Katju, said.

The Itzhi-Tezhi project is being

implemented by a joint venture company formed by Zambia Electricity Supply Corporation and Tata Africa Holdings. “The \$50 million will go to Zesco's equity participation in the project,” said Katju. India has also proposed another \$75 million of line of credit for a period of two years to be used for social sectors. “To activate it, we now await proposals from the Zambian government,” he said. Besides, a grant of \$5 million was also offered for investment in sectors like





Vice President Hamid Ansari visiting the Victoria Falls, in Zambia on January 6, 2010.

health and education. At the 2008 India Africa Forum Summit, India had extended Africa lines of credit of \$5.4 billion for a period of four years. Out of that, \$1 billion has already been utilised.

Katju pointed out that as all lines of credit had some characteristics, so were India's — which meant that “85 percent of the material and equipment had to be sourced from India”. The meeting between the two vice presidents was characterised by “extraordinary warmth”, where both leaders also mentioned historical ties from the era of anti-colonial struggle.

“The Zambian leadership expressed gratitude for Indian support lent during the anti-colonial struggle. On the occasion, the Zambian vice president spoke about inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi's non-violence struggle. But, there was also recognition that times have changed,” Katju said.

He added that both felt the need to “reinvigorate and reenergise” relations which were being focused in three areas of cooperation at the bilateral, Pan-African and multilateral level.

Later, Ansari also met the first Zambian President, Kenneth Kaunda, who was a close friend of former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. ■

## Nano to be brought to Africa: Tata Africa head



India's “people's car” will certainly drive down the roads of Africa, with the Tata group conducting research on the rules and regulations of the different markets in this vast continent.

“(Tata) Nano is definitely the future in Africa,” Raman Dhawan, managing director of Tata Africa Holdings Ltd, told *IANS* on January 7, 2010 in an interview in Lusaka. The current visit of Dhawan, who is based in Johannesburg, was timed to coincide with the Indian Vice President Hamid Ansari's visit to Zambia.

Tata Africa Holdings is the main promoter company for the Indian conglomerate Tata Group's businesses in Africa, where it has a presence in 10 countries. There had been a lot of interest in Tata Nano, the world's cheapest car, from several parts of the world, but especially from Africa, due to its ultra-low price as well as fuel efficiency.

But, Dhawan indicated that the launch in African countries may not come any time soon. “We are still doing preliminary research and market survey,” he said, adding that all countries had different rules and regulations which would have to be met before introducing Tata Nano. “For example, some countries have minimum speed limits,” he said. Dhawan said Tata Africa will double its turnover in the next two years to \$1 billion.

He said that partnership between public and private sectors companies could be a way forward to go to a higher level of investment in the continent. The current turnover is \$500 million. “But, we expect this to increase to \$1 billion in the next two years,” he said.

## Mahatma Gandhi is son of Africa: Zambia speaker

Mahatma Gandhi is the son of Africa and was also influenced by the principles of non-violence during his days spent in that continent, said Amusaa K. Mwanamwambwa, Speaker of the Zambian National Assembly, in New Delhi on January 5, 2010.

“He (Gandhi) is the son of Africa. We also share with India the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi,” Mwanamwam-

bwa said on the sidelines of the Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of Commonwealth Countries. “Eventually, I have the right to claim it,” the Zambian leader said after gazing at a photograph of Mahatma Gandhi and reading the words on the caption below it.

He was going round an exhibition on parliamentary democracy at Vigyan Bhavan organised by the Lok Sabha

Secretariat and had stopped before a photograph of Mahatma Gandhi, with his words below that read: “My notion of democracy is that under it the weakest should have the same opportunity as the strongest. That can never happen except through non-violence.”

Mwanamwambwa said that “tolerance is the basic nature of the people of Africa and India.”

## MALAWI

## Malawi, India ink deals, keen on joint uranium exploration

The southern African state of Malawi on January 8, 2010 expressed interest in the joint exploration of potential uranium sites along with India.

“We have already one working mine in Karonga. We can work with India to jointly explore other sites,” Malawian Vice President Joyce Banda said on after holding bilateral talks with visiting Indian Vice President Mohammad Hamid Ansari and the signing of three agreements.

The first uranium mine, operated by a Australian company, Paladin Energy, started production in September 2009, with the first consignment sent to Canada in October.

Ansari is the first Indian leader to visit the small African state, which has a population of 13.5 million, and is sandwiched between the larger nations of Zambia and Mozambique.

Banda made it clear that Malawi wanted India’s help in shoring up its energy security by developing all sources of energy from water to wind. “Uranium is only part of the broad cooperation that we want in energy

security,” she said. Ansari arrived in Malawi as part of the second leg of his tri-nation trip to Zambia, Malawi and Botswana. Malawian President Bingu wa Mutharika hosted a state banquet in his honour.

At the banquet, Ansari had announced a line of credit of \$50 million to Malawi, as well as \$5 million in grants for earthquake relief and projects in the social sector.

The three agreements signed are for foreign office consultations, cooperation in agriculture and small enterprises. Besides, Malawi wanted Indian private companies to help build the inland port of Nsanje, which will open the

Shire-zambezi waterway connecting Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique and Tanzania. “We have told them that they should come to the annual Africa conclave to make Indian companies aware of this project,” Ansari said.

Since Malawi is the next chairman of the African Union, reforms of the United Nations Security Council was also discussed, and both countries agreed that the body had to reflect contemporary realities. After talks, both leaders went to Lake Malawi, the third largest lake in Africa, before returning to the capital city of Lilongwe to attend a reception for the 7,000-strong local Indian community. ■



Vice President Hamid Ansari meeting the President of Malawi Dr. Bingu wa Mutharika, in Malawi on January 7, 2010.

### ‘I am a Delhiwala, a product of India’

There is a “Delhiwala” ruling a country of 13.5 million people in the heart of Africa. At least that is how Malawi President Bingu wa Mutharika introduced himself at a state banquet in honour of visiting Indian Vice President Hamid Ansari on January 8, 2010.

“I consider myself a Delhiwala,” Mutharika said to the clapping of hands. He had done his Bachelor of Commerce and Masters in Economics from Delhi University and then left for the US for his doctorate studies. “I am myself a product of India,” assert-

ed Mutharika, who was re-elected for a second time in 2009. Citing his success story, he urged more cooperation from India in the education sector. Malawi is a small, land-locked southern African nation.

He said the five years of study in India were continuous and without a break to return to Malawi. “That was because as a student I was always broke and didn’t have enough to come home,” he said. Then, during the holidays, he travelled extensively in India

in all the regions from Jaipur to Chennai. “I am very fond of Punjabi *bhangra*. But people with rheumatism should not try it,” he advised. Mutharika had returned to Delhi for a short trip of 13 days in 1994.

Ansari invited him to visit India to “see how much India has changed since your college days in New Delhi four decades ago”. The Malawian government had accorded Ansari’s visit the protocol of a state visit — with the president hosting the banquet.

## BOTSWANA

## India, Botswana sign two deals on agriculture, education

India and Botswana signed two agreements on agriculture and education, with visiting Indian Vice President Hamid Ansari also expressing interest in mining in the southern African state.

The agreements were signed on January 9, 2010 after talks between Ansari and his Botswana counterpart Momfati Merafhe.

“The vice president did indicate an interest in mining in Botswana,” Secretary (West) in the Indian External Affairs Ministry Vivek Katju said.

According to officials, Botswana was “appreciative” of India’s role in multilateral fora and wanted “us to do more”. This was the first visit by a senior Indian leader since the visit of then vice-president R. Venkatraman in 1986 to attend 20th anniversary celebrations of Botswana’s independence from the Britain.

Ansari wrapped up his three-day visit to Botswana on January 11 with the same message he carried to other African countries — India will not be “prescriptive” while providing assistance. On the last day of his Africa tour, Ansari called on Botswana President Seretse Khama Ian Khama, who cut short his leave as a “special gesture” for an unscheduled meeting with the



Vice President Hamid Ansari being received by the Vice President of Botswana, Momfati Merafhe, on his arrival at the Gaborone Sir Seretse Khama International Airport, in Botswana on January 9, 2010.

Indian leader.

“The president thanks our vice president for all the assistance rendered in all areas including capacity building,” Katju said after the meeting. “India has been exceptionally generous, a genuine partner,” he added. Botswana is home to 1.8 million people, with one of the highest per capita income levels in Africa, mainly due to its diamond production.

There is a large population of Indian professionals, especially in teaching, health and accounting. Ansari told the

Botswana president that India was ready to share its “wealth of knowledge” in the development process, adding: “India’s philosophy of providing assistance was not to be prescriptive and would respond to the needs of the African countries. There was discussion on the situation in southern Africa and Zimbabwe”.

Ansari’s engagements on the last day of his seven-day African trip was a tour of the facilities of the Diamond Trading Co. He also addressed the Indian community. ■

## Next stop for Bollywood — Botswana?

If Indian Vice President Hamid Ansari has his way, Indian filmmakers will have another exotic film destination — Botswana.

Enraptured by the beautiful and wild environs of the Chobe National Park, Ansari told his host, Botswana Vice President Momfati Merafhe, that he will certainly lobby for the southern African country with his domestic film industry. “India boasts the largest film production in the world, which specialises in the most beautiful of locations. They should certainly take to this most exotic of locations. To the extent that I can carry this message, I will do so,”

he said. After bilateral talks and signing two deals, the Indian delegation flew to Kasane in north-eastern Botswana, for an overnight visit to the Chobe National Park.

Three large boats were chartered by the Botswana government for a three-hour afternoon journey through the wide Chobe river, whose one bank has Botswana and the other Namibia. Ansari was seen capturing the moment on his mobile phone. “We thought that the Garden of Eden was a mythological concept. But, it exists and it is right here,” he said.

# India to help set up institutions in African countries

*To offer scholarships to 300 African students*

India intends to set up educational institutions and communication facilities in Africa and increase the number of scholarships for African students to study in India.

“We intend to establish 19 different institutions in Africa including education and communication facilities,” said Gurjit Singh, joint secretary in the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, East and Southern Africa Division. He was in Addis Ababa for meetings with officials of the African Union. Singh, who was the Indian ambassador to Ethiopia in his previous posting, said that India wanted to assist Africa in the development sector.

**India intends to set up 19 different institutions in Africa, including education and communications facilities. India also wants to assist Africa in the development sector**

He felt that capacity-building, rural development and healthcare were areas that India could provide help to African nations. Singh said:

“We discussed how to implement the plan of action. We also raised the issues of which countries will host these institutions.”

He said that India also planned to increase the number of scholarships for post-graduate and doctoral studies in its institutions to over 300 students from Africa.

Reminiscing about his four-year stint as Indian envoy to Ethiopia, Singh said that cultural and economic ties between the two nations have improved. Now working in New Delhi, his mandate is bigger. “I now work to extend that to the entire continent,” he said. ■

## India could be Africa’s rail partner: World Bank

Indian Railways, one of the world’s largest rail networks, could be expanded to develop transport infrastructure in Africa and other developing regions under an ambitious World Bank plan, a newspaper reported on December 7, 2009.

World Bank President Robert Zoellick said the Washington-based lender wants to help the profit-making public sector corporation to grow beyond its borders. “We can help the Indian Railways in India, but also, as they develop greater efficiencies, to move abroad,” *The Financial Times* quoted Zoellick as saying on his recent visit to India.

“It fulfils what I was hoping to achieve when I first came to the Bank, which is to draw in some of the emerging economic



development into the development process whether by sharing information, sharing business models and expanding investment,” Zoellick said.

“We’ve done it with China. I’d like to do it with India, and I hope

to do it with other countries,” he said.

Indian Railways generates revenues of about \$18 billion, carries 20 million passengers on a daily basis on about 18,000 trains and employs 1.4 million people.

*The Financial Times* said Indian Railways has supplied locomotives to Mozambique, Tanzania, Mali and Senegal, coaches to Angola and rehabilitated rail tracks in Mozambique and Liberia.

“In some service industries, including health, I would like us to partner, through the International Finance Corporation (the Bank arm working with the private sector), to support industries going to other developing nations, particularly sub-Saharan Africa, and provide these additional services,” Zoellick added.

# India to supply coastal security equipment to Mauritius

India and Mauritius signed an agreement for enhancing coastal security during the two-day visit of the Minister of State for External Affairs Shashi Tharoor in November last year.

Tharoor, on a two-day official visit on November 5, 2009, was the chief guest at the 175th anniversary celebrations of the arrival of indentured labourers from India. The Indian minister also met Mauritian President Anerood Juganauth, Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam and held talks with Foreign Minister Arvin Boolell.

During the visit, both governments signed a memorandum of understanding for supply of coastal surveillance radar systems from India to Mauritius. A separate agreement was also signed between the Mauritian government and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for the supply of the equipment.

Under the agreement, India will supply up to eight coastal surveillance radar systems, five of which will be on the main island, while one each on the islands of Rodrigues, Agalega and St. Brandon. BEL will also provide the training and technical support. An India-Mauritius Joint Monitoring



Mauritian Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam

Committee will be set up consisting of members from the government of India, government of Mauritius and BEL to facilitate the implementation of the project and review progress.

Tharoor handed over a Dhruv Advanced Light Helicopter to Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam, which was then inducted into the Mauritius Police Force.

Both the coastal surveillance radar system and the helicopter are covered under the grant element of the \$100 million line of credit that India offered during the visit of Prime Minister Ramgoolam in October 2005.

The Indian minister delivered an address to a 800-member audience in the University of Mauritius on the subject "India-Africa: Partners in Development."

(See the text of Shashi Tharoor's speech in Documents Section Page 54) ■

## Mauritius seeks help in medical tourism

Impressed by the growing healthcare infrastructure and quality of doctors in this country, Mauritius has sought India's help to boost its medical tourism industry and has invited Indian healthcare majors to invest in the island nation. Two hospital chains have already responded.

"India is a growing power in the field of both tertiary healthcare and drug development. We are inviting major players in your country to invest in Mauritius. Pharmaceutical, hospital and clinical trials. The opportunity for Indian players here is very good," said Nitin Pandea, head of Healthcare and Life Sciences Cluster in the Board of Investment, Mauritius, on December 25, 2009.

He said the Indian Ocean island now gets less than 4,000 foreigners a year coming for medical treatment and wants India's help to increase its revenue from this sector.

## India, South Africa propose pact to push bilateral ties

South Africa is working on a framework pact with India to boost bilateral economic relations, the country's Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan, on a three-day visit to India, said on January 7, 2010.

"We are looking at a framework where both India and South Africa will mutually benefit. This will include bilateral investment protocols," Gordhan, who is of Indian ori-



Minister for Commerce and Industry Anand Sharma with South Africa's Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan, in New Delhi on January 7.

gin, said in New Delhi. "The framework will be in place soon," he said after a meeting with Commerce and Industry Minister Anand Sharma, who has himself been a major promoter of relations between the two countries.

According to Gordhan, India and South Africa had much to share and also contribute to the global financial system.

## ENERGY SECURITY

# India eyeing oil exploration opportunities in Africa

*In search of energy security, India hosted the India-Africa 2nd Hydrocarbons meet in New Delhi, while Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Murli Deora embarked on a four-nation Africa tour*



External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna, Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Murli Deora and other dignitaries at the inaugural session of the 2nd India-Africa Hydrocarbons Conference, in New Delhi on December 7, 2009.

India is looking to participate in “exploration and production opportunity” in Africa and to be a part of the continent’s natural gas market, Petroleum Minister Murli Deora said on December 7, 2009.

“We are particularly keen to participate in upcoming exploration and production opportunity in Angola, Ghana, Sudan, Nigeria, Uganda and Cote d’Ivoire,” Deora said at the India Africa Hydrocarbon Conference in New Delhi. “Our companies are also interested in farm-in opportunities in producing blocks specially in Libya, Algeria and Egypt,” he said. ONGC Videsh Ltd, the overseas arm of state-owned explorer Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC), is thinking of setting

up a greenfield refinery in Nigeria.

On the downstream sector, Deora said India was ready to offer African countries expertise in several fields, including laying cross-country pipelines, setting up LPG terminal and depot plans and marketing and distribution of petroleum products.

Speaking about India’s interest in liquefied natural gas, Deora said: “Indian companies are interested in sourcing LNG as equity participation in existing and upcoming terminals in Africa.” Deora emphasised that India’s approach to Africa is building “an enduring partnership”.

India and Sudan signed an agreement on expanding ties in the oil and gas sector on the last day of the two-

day hydrocarbons conference on December 8, 2009.

The agreement was signed by Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Jitin Prasada and Sudan’s Energy and Mining minister Angelina Jany Teny during the valedictory session of the conference. The memorandum of understanding provides a framework to take forward the existing cooperation between the two countries.

Earlier, Minister of State for External Affairs Shashi Tharoor urged African nations to partner with India. “We offer ourselves as both a huge market for energy products, as also an investment and technology partner in the oil and gas sector,” he said. ■

## ENERGY SECURITY

## India asks Sudan for more exploration acreage

India has asked Sudan to increase the acreage of petroleum exploration and offered help in building up the downstream sector of the North African sector.

This was stated by visiting Indian Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Murli Deora to his Sudanese counterpart, Minister for Energy and Mining Ahmed Al Jazz in Khartoum, where he arrived on January 24, 2010 for the first part of his four-nation African tour covering Sudan, Nigeria, Angola and Uganda.

A statement issued in New Delhi said the minister stressed that Indian companies were keen to participate in more exploration and production acreages in Sudan. "ONGC Videsh Ltd, which has interest in four blocks in Sudan that give it 2.4 million tonnes of crude oil annually, wants to acquire more acreage in the African country," it said. Deora also offered Indian expertise in refinery upgradation and management. Besides, he suggested training slots for Sudanese students in the Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology. ■

## OVL inks deal with Angola's national oil company

India's ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL) on January 27, 2010 signed a deal with Angola's national oil company, Sonangol, for cooperation in exploration even as both countries agreed to work towards an umbrella bilateral deal for the hydrocarbon sector.

Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Murli Deora met Angolan Minister for Petroleum Jose Maria Botelho de Vascones at Luanda, where the former had gone as part of his four-nation African tour.

During the meeting, OVL signed a memorandum of understanding with Sonangol — both are already working together in the South Pars block in Iran. OVL offered to enter into joint venture operations in the existing deep water blocks of Sonangol, as well as participate in the next round of bidding for exploration blocks.

Significantly, both sides also agreed to start talks for an "overarching framework for cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector between the two countries." "A draft in this regard would be provided by the Angolan side within a month," said a government statement to the media. ■



Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Murli Deora visited Sudan, Nigeria, Angola and Uganda to scout for energy resources.

## India seeks Nigeria's help in procuring crude

India has asked Nigeria for more help in procuring crude, even as it promised to resolve outstanding issues related to its existing oil blocks.

Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Murli Deora held talks on January 25 with Nigerian Minister of State for Petroleum Resources Henry Odein Ajumogobia on reaching Nigeria.

The special advisor to the Nigerian president on petroleum matters, Emmanuel Egogah, was also present at the meeting. India, which already imports 10 percent of its oil requirement from Nigeria, expressed "interest to procure more crude from Nigeria".

In turn, Indian Oil Corporation, India's largest refiner, has offered to assist in refinery upgradation, imparting training to technical personal and providing consultancy in the downstream sector.

"The Nigerian side said that it is a priority area for them and would eagerly look forward to cooperation in this sector". ■

## Uganda asks India to help develop oil, gas sectors

Uganda has sought Indian assistance in developing its oil and gas sector. This was conveyed by Ugandan Vice President

Gilbert Balibaseka Bukenya, in his meeting with the visiting Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Murli Deora on January 28.

"He (Bukenya) underlined that India can help in providing simple and inexpensive means to the African nation for accelerating development of different areas along the hydrocarbon value chain," a statement by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in New Delhi said.

Similarly, Uganda's Energy and Minerals Minister Hillary Onek said that Africa, and especially Uganda, was looking for Indian assistance in oil and gas sector "as India has necessary technique and resources".

Deora said that India "offered all possible assistance" in the development of oil and gas sector of Uganda right from upstream to downstream. He told the Ugandans "that India is not merely looking at business, but for becoming a partner in progress". ■

# Nigeria attracts trade fair buyers with shea butter, minerals



Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Dinsha J. Patel (second from right) lighting the lamp to inaugurate the Techmart India 2009, at the India International Trade Fair 2009, in New Delhi on November 14, 2009. The Secretary, Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Dinesh Rai, is also seen.

Around 25 representatives from Nigeria took part in the India International Trade Fair, the only African country participating in the fortnight-long fair, in November 2009. Most of them traded in agricultural products, like shea butter and minerals.

The Nigerian participants came under the aegis of the Nigerian Export Promotion Council, which has been bringing exhibitors from the oil-rich African nation to participate in the fair for the past few years.

Nelly Ndaguba, on her first trip to India, tried to garner attention to her bottles of shea butter, which is used as a natural moisturiser. It is made from the nuts of the shea tree, and is often used in luxury cosmetics.

"It is really good for the skin," she said, opening the lid of a plastic bottle and rubbing some of the yellowish butter on the skin of a customer. "If you put it in your hair, it will make it bouncy," she said. There was curiosity among Indian visitors to talk to the Nigerian businesswoman, who was

attired in traditional clothes.

Ndaguba said she was one of the early birds among the delegation to reach India. "Some of our visas got delayed, while others were not able to get flight bookings," she said.

According to S.M. Abuta, a market researcher at NEPC, the major problem was in getting airline seats. With no direct flights between India and Nigeria, they had to book seats on Middle Eastern airlines. "Due to the Haj season, most of the planes were full," he said.

In the next stall, an official was setting up tinned bottles of pure cocoa powder. While in another stall down the lane, Christian O. Ezeokafor had set up samples of minerals from manganese to topaz on his shelves.

"We want to export to India, but we also want investment in mines. We have a lot of incentive from the government, which is keen to increase non-oil exports," said Ezeokafor, who already has got some serious business enquiries. ■

## Bollywood-Nigerian film industry tie-up in the offing

After 50 years of charming African audiences with its song-and-dance capers, Bollywood set up a rendezvous with its Nigerian counterpart at an international film festival in December 2009, courtesy a British film producer. Award-winning Indian-origin film and television producer Parminder Vir brought the two entertainment giants together at an international film festival in Nigeria. The ION International Film Festival, which is held in a different international location each year, was held in Africa for the first time when it was hosted in Port Harcourt from December 9-12, 2009, organisers said.

It was attended by filmmaker Madhu Mantena, producer of the Aamir Khan starrer *Ghajini*, and actress Nandita Das, who met Nigerian producers to explore ways of working together, said Vir, a fan of both Indian and Nigerian films. "Over the years, I have become a great admirer of the Nollywood film industry which is very similar to Bollywood with their 'can do' attitude. In the absences of government support, both have created an industry which contributes substantially to the wealth of the nation," Vir said. "For over 50 years, audiences in Nigeria have been watching Bollywood movies, embracing the songs, and stories of this film culture," she said.



## NEWS IN BRIEF

## India-aided textile factory opens in Chad

India's ties with Chad, an oil-exporting country in central Africa, acquired a new dimension with the inauguration of a New Delhi-aided textile mill by President Idriss Deby Itno.

Deby Itno inaugurated the STT Textile Mill at Sarh, southern Chad, at a grand ceremony on December 31, 2009 that was attended, among others, by the visiting president of neighbouring Central African Republic. Indian ambassador to Chad Mahesh Sachdev was also present at the function.

The textile unit was built with \$25 million line of credit provided by the Indian government. The factory is expected to provide employment to hundreds of Chadians and boost the economy of the country.

Chad, rich in gold and uranium, became an oil-producing nation six years ago with the completion of a \$4 billion pipeline linking oilfields in Africa's fifth largest country to terminals on the Atlantic coast.

Indian oil firms are exploring fresh opportunities in the oil sector in Chad, besides other African countries. ■

## Cape Verde seeks Indian help to develop IT sector

India has offered all help to the small African island nation of Cape Verde, which has asked for assistance especially in developing its information technology sector. Jose Brito, minister of foreign affairs, cooperation and communities of Cape Verde, a group of 15 small islands located in Macronesia in North Atlantic Ocean, had arrived on November 19, 2009 on a four-day official trip to India, the first ministerial visit from the west African country.

He held delegation-level talks with the Minister of State for External Affairs Shashi Tharoor at Hyderabad House on November 20, followed by a meeting with External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna. Tharoor said India was ready to extend a line of credit to Cape Verde out of the \$5 billion pledged to Africa, particular to buy computer hardware and software from India. The two sides discussed ways to strengthen economic ties in the future, especially to aid Cape Verde's IT and maritime sectors. Brito made a powerpoint presentation before industry captains hosted by Confederation of Indian Industry, where he invited Indian investment to his country. ■

## India extends grants to Sao Tome and Principe

India has extended a line of credit of \$5 million to the island nation of Sao Tome and Principe, as well as a grant of \$1 million for setting up an institute for the small sector industry.

This was announced in the joint statement between the two countries to mark the visit of Sao Tomean Foreign Minister Carlos Alberto Pires Tiny. He had held extensive talks with Minister of State for External Affairs Shashi Tharoor during the four-day official visit, which ended on December 1, 2009.

"India assured Sao Tome and Principe of its support in the form of official developmental assistance, technical cooperation and capacity building to facilitate the rapid economic and social development of its people," said a joint statement released on December 2. It added that India will give a grant of \$1 million for setting up a Technology Incubation-cum-Production Centre for development of small and medium enterprises sector. India will give a grant of Rs.10 million for meeting immediate needs in the education and health sectors. "In response to STP's request, the Indian side agreed to favourably consider a line of credit for \$5 million," said the statement. ■

## Tharoor visits Mozambique to attend swearing-in

Minister of State for External Affairs Shashi Tharoor visited the southern African state of Mozambique to witness the inauguration ceremony of President Emilio Guebuza on January 14, 2010.

Mozambique wants to increase the intensity of its relations with India, President Guebuza told Tharoor.

"The president expressed interest in imparting greater vigour and momentum to the close and cooperative relations between India and Mozambique in his second term of office," said the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi. Tharoor also met the ministers of foreign affairs, interior and science and technology. Later, the Mozambican foreign minister hosted a dinner in honour of the visiting Indian minister.

India is one of Mozambique's largest trading and investment partners, with Indian companies active in the transport, minerals, energy and infrastructure development sectors. "India's political and moral support for Mozambique during its struggle for independence and its economic assistance has been appreciated by the government and people of Mozambique," the press release said. ■

# COMBATING GLOBAL WARMING

The situation is grave in Africa as large parts of the continent face recurrent droughts or drought-like conditions, says **Rashmi Kapoor**



A Somalian woman sifting soil for edible seeds. Recurring droughts are one of the most devastating effects of climate change.

**C**limate change poses a critical challenge to sustainable development. The new and voluminous literature, based on a body of scientific evidence, indicates the potentially incalculable and unchecked damage that climate change can wreak on environment and development. Humans, indirectly by unmindful acts and directly through population growth, are amplifying the potential risks and stresses and making themselves inadvertently vulnerable. Its consequences are more serious for developing countries as the majority of the world's poor and the most vulnerable live here. The worst affected of all the sectors of the economy in these regions is the agricultural sector which has lately

experienced a continuous decline in production leading to massive food insecurity. The situation is graver in Africa as most of its regions have been facing recurrent drought or drought like conditions. In addition, limited agricultural infrastructure and irrigation facilities make agriculture heavily dependent on nature as most cultivation takes place in rainfed areas. Erratic climatic conditions and annual variations have resulted in shorter cropping periods. In order to be an active partner in global sustainable development, it is imperative for Africa and the developing world to adopt agricultural methods that enhance crop production without further affecting the climate adversely.

The success of the green revolution in Asian countries which adopted new and improved methods and technology to harness higher efficiencies of production seemed very

attractive. But in Africa, it turned out to be largely ineffective. Rather it was found to have caused severe degradation of the environment. The way out, therefore, is to adopt sustainable eco-agricultural techniques which combine the farmers' indigenous knowledge, cost effective methods, and local organic input based on local conditions. Contrary to what most believe, technology has proved to have enhanced agricultural production and in some cases doubled the production. This article deals with the potentially hazardous impact of climate change on agriculture.

In Africa, conventional agriculture is contributing greatly towards environmental degradation that may further cause variations in climatic conditions, in turn, adversely affecting food production. The paper discusses the adoption of eco-friendly methods for sustainable food production and ultimately sustainable development.

At present, the population and the environmental crises are two most severe crises the world is facing. The environmental crisis holds out more severe and damaging consequences for our future generations. These two crises are dependent on each other, as the world in order to provide for its growing population, exploits natural resources beyond their capacity to regenerate. The exploitation of the natural environment through deforestation, mining of minerals and crude oil, unscientific agricultural practices, and excessive infrastructure development are adversely affecting the natural ecosystem leading to degradation of the environment. The changes in the earth's atmosphere have, in some respects, exceeded the limits of natural atmospheric fluctuations, and hence have been projected to become significantly larger with time.

Climate has always been changing. Predominantly, climate change is a natural phenomenon (Ribot et al. 1996: 23). Many natural factors influence climate and have the potential to change it. The concept of a "self-regulating" Earth system sustained by interlinkages between man and his environment, made it seem that humans have been living harmoniously with nature perpetually and whatever little variation occurred was an aberration which could be easily adapted to. If climate change is not a new phenomenon, then why there is so much of anxiety and fear about it? The concern is not of the dynamic nature of climate but the apprehensions related to the speed at which greenhouse gases are emitted through human activities like industrialisation, transportation and deforestation and which are predicted to cause an accelerated climate change without precedent. The important point to be emphasised is that climate has fluctuated in the past and will continue to fluctuate. Human beings by their very interaction with the perpetually changing environment cause further change, as they respond to the vicissitudes of surroundings in order to adapt to it. The magnitude of the change has caused irreparable damage to the environment.

Human beings with their voracious appetite for consumption have fiercely exploited nature. To 'harness' nature,

man has innovated, resulting in massive technological advancements. Technology uses new forms of energy to enhance productivity. Consequently, this has exacerbated human impact on environment, not only through greater consumption of resources but also through the creation of vast quantities of environmentally harmful products and byproducts (Slaymaker & Spencer 1998: 22). Developmental efforts in most parts of the world have been neutralised. In fact, urbanisation, technological innovations and agricultural mismanagement have further aggravated the crisis.

Global population is rapidly growing. In 2000, it was approximately 6 billion, up from below 1.4 billion in 1900. By 2020, global population is likely to reach around 7.7 billion, with well over 80 percent of this growth occurring in developing countries (Scherr & Mcneelly 2001). The growth of human activities almost approximates the forces of nature in their influence on environment. The most virulent of all human interventions on nature has been the massive production of green house gases, or GHGs, ( $\text{CO}_2$ ,  $\text{CH}_4$ , CFC,  $\text{O}_3$ ) by human activity. Under normal circumstances, GHGs in the atmosphere absorb solar radiation, keeping the earth fairly warm. But, some forms of human activities have exponentially increased the concentrations of GHGs in the atmosphere, thereby raising global temperatures. This is called the anthropogenically enhanced greenhouse effect. Greenhouse gas concentration in the atmosphere is accelerating because of excessive burning of fossil fuels and increased per capita energy expenditure (Slaymaker & Spencer 1998: 22). Carbon dioxide emissions result from fire-clearing of agricultural land, domestic heating and cooking, and industrial activities. Methane ( $\text{CH}_4$ ) is produced by both agriculture and the use of fossil hydrocarbons. Together with the above, chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and Ozone ( $\text{O}_3$ ) are called GHGs. The large-scale release of these gases may lead to alterations in Earth's atmospheric composition. These atmospheric changes are bound to impact our biosphere (ibid: 22-24).

The Fourth Assessment Report of IPCC finds that "warming of the climate system is unequivocal, as is now evident from observations like increases in global average air and ocean temperature, widespread melting of snow and ice, and rising global mean sea levels". Climate change will bring about changes in precipitation, evapotranspiration (the combined loss of moisture from soil through evaporation and plants through stomata transpiration), runoffs, soil moisture, radiation and temperature, besides sea levels. The decrease in average rainfall will be accompanied by a much larger inter-annual variation in rainfall. The combination of decreasing annual rainfall, increasing rainfall variations, rising temperatures and population growth could cause a serious decline in the population's capacity to secure its food and other needs.

According to an FAO report (2007), 60 percent of the Earth's surface consist of croplands, pastures and forests. But increasing climatic variation is posing a threat to their

sustenance. Extreme variations in temperature and precipitation have led to unusual incidences of droughts and floods that could challenge the very existence of ecosystems.

As climatic patterns change, so also do the spatial distribution of agroecological zones, habitats, distribution patterns of plant diseases and pests, fish populations and ocean circulation patterns. The estimate for Africa is that 25-42 percent of species habitat could be lost, affecting both food and non-food crops. Habitat changes are already under way in some areas, leading to species range shifts. Changes in plant diversity could affect production of indigenous foods and plant-based medicines (McClellan & Colin et al, 2005). Climate change, whether due to natural variation or human activity, has become one of the most pressing issues for the global community. Besides, climate change is rendering human beings vulnerable significantly.

To adapt and mitigate some of these changes, the world today is planning and promoting sustainable environmental practices through binding decisions taken at various international fora. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has outlined the objective of stabilising GHG concentrations in the atmosphere. After more than a decade of deliberations and negotiations under UNFCCC, the first binding international agreement to control the emission of GHGs came into effect in the Kyoto Protocol for the period for 2008–2012. While committed to partner enhanced international action on climate change, most world leaders and earth science scientists could not reach consensus and so ended on an inconclusive note on the Copenhagen Accord of December 2009. The launch of the Vision 2050 projected by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) is a step forward. The Vision document will entrust the business sector with a more pro-active role in achieving sustainable development. The Delhi Sustainable Summit 2010 (DSD-2010) emphasised on integrating climate objectives with development policies, enhancing fund inflows into these areas and creating better access to technology in the field of development. Thus, climate remains high on the international agenda and has also become a critical issue on every nation's social and political agenda.

### **Impact of Climate Change on Africa**

The IPCC Report (2007) notes that Africa, of all the major world regions, has contributed the least to potential climate change because of its low per capita fossil energy use. Hence the lowest greenhouse gas emissions from the continent. But of all the continents, it is the most vulnerable to climate change owing to widespread poverty that limits its capability to adapt.

Erratic patterns have been observed in precipitation, temperatures, droughts and floods in recent years in Africa. Recurrent droughts have long been a permanent feature of life throughout the drylands of Africa. The risk of droughts has increased the continent's vulnerability mostly in the

Sahel region and parts of southern Africa (Nicholson. et al. 1988). The impact of drought is confounded by environmental degradation, including soil erosion, water pollution, and deforestation. The report also noted that the aggregate impact of drought on the economies of Africa can be as much as 8-9 percent of Zimbabwe and Zambia's GDP in 1992 and 4-6 percent of Nigeria and Niger's GDP in 1984 (Benson and Clay 1994). In some areas, desertification has accompanied these droughts. Presently, 36 countries in Africa are affected by recurrent drought and some degree of desertification (UNEP 1992). The Convention on Desertification (United Nations, 1992) recognises that 66 percent of the continent is desert or drylands and that 73 percent of the agricultural drylands have already been degraded. A combination of climatic variations and human land-management practices has led to excessive land degradation, eventually leading to desertification.

IPCC (2007) also records that by 2050 land areas may warm by as much as 1.6°C over the Sahara and semi-arid parts of southern Africa (Hernes et al. 1995; Ringius et al. 1996). Equatorial countries (Cameroon, Uganda, and Kenya) might be about 1.4°C warmer. The effects of temperature changes will vary in different subregions and ecosystems. Rising temperatures may reduce the incidence of frost damage in the high lands while expanding the range of species that could survive in warmer temperatures at higher altitudes. Though warming may prove beneficial for some regions it may adversely affect the larger warmer regions. Temperature rise could also lead to more open water and soil/plant evaporation. At a rough estimate, potential evapotranspiration over Africa is projected to increase by 5-10 percent by 2050. The imbalance between rainfall and higher evapotranspiration will imply more frequent water scarcity or in extreme situations lead to significantly greater drought risks (IPCC 2007).

Changes in sea levels around Africa may be expected by the year 2050. Sea levels rise due to thermal expansion of water. Melting glaciers compound the problem by flushing even more fresh water into the oceans. Rising seas threaten to inundate low-lying areas and islands, coastal populations, and destroy ecosystems such as mangroves and wetlands that protect the coasts against storms. It has been estimated that sea levels may rise by 25 cm (Hernes. et al. 1995). According to Eritrea Profile (2009), islands are particularly at greater risk. The Seychelles fears that they could lose 60 percent of their land because of rising sea levels.

In general, rainfall is projected to increase over the continent, the exceptions being southern Africa and parts of the Horn of Africa where rainfall is projected to decline by 2050 by about 10 percent (IPCC 2007). Regional projections of precipitation change diverge rather strongly in Africa. For example, scenarios of summer precipitation in the Sahel show a range of  $\pm 20$ . However, present trends in precipitation in Africa show a decrease in some regions. Recent transient scenarios report lower temperature changes, glob-

ally as well as for Africa. Seasonal changes in rainfall are not expected to be large. Parts of the Sahel could experience an increase in rainfall of as much as 15 percent over the 1961-90 average. Equatorial Africa could experience a small (5 percent) increase in rainfall. An increase in precipitation variation would compound temperature effects (ibid). For example, Hulme (1996) reports that inter-annual variation could be in the order of 25 percent in much of southern Africa in the 2050s. Science has proved that rainfall variation adversely impacts the hydrological cycle and eventually affects agricultural production.

Only about a third of Africa's historical forest extent remains, with West Africa's forests being lost faster than those of any other region. Annual deforestation rates average 0.7 percent per annum (FAO, 1997 as noted in IPCC 2007). WRI (1996) indicates that only 8 percent (0.5 million km<sup>2</sup>) of Africa's regional forest remains as "frontier forest". (Frontier forest is essentially natural/primary forest of sufficient size which can support ecologically viable populations of indigenous species.) Demands on forests also have escalated in some regions (for instance, as a result of civil unrest that has pushed hundreds of thousands of people into previously intact forest, IPCC 2007).

Climatic change will bring about changes in precipitation, evapotranspiration, runoff, soil moisture, radiation and temperature, besides sea levels. The key sector of the economy which is likely to be affected most by the above changes is agriculture which includes all land-based activities and perennial crops, animal husbandry and forestry. The agricultural sector's resource base, production environment and infrastructural support system (irrigation) have the most direct and closest linkages with the variations listed above.

There are several constraints to Africa's agricultural development. Mendelsohn (2000) insists that besides climate change, there are serious concerns about agriculture in Africa because of availability of water, soil degradation, and recurring droughts. A number of countries face semi-arid conditions that make agriculture challenging. Further, development efforts have been particularly difficult to sustain. African agriculture has the slowest record of productivity increase in the world. In fact, African farmers have adapted to a certain amount of climate variation though climate change may well force large regions of marginal agri-



Calling out for rain: African children wait to catch the first drops of rainfall. With increasing global warming, rainfall is becoming scant in Africa.

cultural holdings out of production in Africa.

Agriculture in Africa is the dominant sector of the economy and is the main source of employment, income and sustenance for the entire population. The importance of agriculture in Africa cannot, therefore, be overemphasised. The majority of Africa's populations is rural and, therefore, heavily dependent on agriculture for their livelihood and survival (Moyo, 2006).

African agriculture provides livelihoods to "about 60 percent of the continent's active labour force and accounts for 40 percent of its foreign currency earnings (Africa Recovery, 2004)". It is a major contributor to the current economy of most African countries, averaging 21 percent and ranging from 10 percent to 70 percent of the GDP (Mendelsohn et al, 2000). Future development is likely to reduce agriculture's share of GDP and could shrink to as little as 4 percent by 2100. Even under this scenario, several countries will still have large agricultural sectors constituting over 10 percent of their GDP. Thus any sector of the economy which employs the largest labour force (around two-thirds) and accounts for about one-fifth of the GDP share is bound to play a central part in economy (Franz-Theo. 2007).

According to the Table 1 overleaf, the irrigated area under the cropland has remained the same in SSA with only 3.6 percent, whereas in South Asia and Latin America, there has been an increase in the already large area under irrigation. Fertiliser consumption has decreased in Africa, but has substantially increased in the other two areas. Consequently, the cereal yield has stagnated in Africa but increases in South Asia and Latin America have been notable.

Yet, this sector has performed abysmally. Food production has stagnated if not declined for the past four decades. Since 1970, agricultural output has been growing at less

**TABLE 1: Basic regional agricultural indicators**

Indicator	Sub-Saharan Africa	South Asia	Latin America
Irrigated area ( percent of cropland)			
1989-91	3.6	33	11.1
2001-03	3.6	39	11.4
Fertiliser consumption			
1989-91	142	745	602
2000-02	123	1,066	895
Agricultural machinery			
1989-91	20	62	121
2001-03	13	130	123
Cereal yield			
1992-94	294	364	2,234
2002-04	341	401	2,812

*Source: Reilly. Climate Change, Global Agriculture and Regional Vulnerability. Economic Research Service, USA*

than 1.5 percent (Ayittey, 2005). The growth rate in the 1990s averaged only 2.1 percent (Maxwell, 2001). Food production has been growing and has not lagged markedly behind global growth rates. But it has not been able to keep pace with the relative demographic changes, with population growth growing at about 3 percent per annum (Ogunwale, 2007). The African production of both cereals and root crops rose mainly as more land was brought under cultivation. Henao and Baanante (2006) indicate that some 50,000 ha of forest, and 60,000 ha of grasslands in Africa are lost to agriculture annually, and approximately 70 percent of deforestation in Africa is a result of clearing land for cultivation. Dixon et al (2001) show that the contribution from area expansion and yield increases to agricultural production in SSA is not proportionate. In the past 30 years, areas for maize, millet and sorghum cultivation expanded by 1.5 percent, 1.4 percent and 1.2 percent, respectively, whereas yields increased by only 1.2 percent, 0.4 percent and 0.5 percent, respectively. But crop yields have remained largely stagnant. For want of arable land, this expansion has stagnated as well.

This has led to worsening food insecurity and chronic undernourishment (Ogunwale 2007). Consequently, food production per capita declined by 7 percent in 1960s, by 15 percent in the 1970s, and by 8 percent in the 1980s (Ayittey 2005). Beginning in 1973, Africa became a net food importer, and this represented the beginning of a chronic food gap for the region (Eicher 1999). The decline has since continued. Using 1989-91 as the base year, food production per capita income for Africa was 104 in 1980 and gradually declined to 95 in 2000. The average annual percentage growth during the period from 1990 to most recent data available stood at -0.3 percent (Africa Development Indicators, 2002). About 20 percent of the continent's export income in the 1980s was spent on food imports (Chazan et

al. 1992:259); in 1990, it had reached 40 percent (Ayittey 2005). Food exports increased by 13 percent and the agricultural resource gap (the difference between agricultural exports and imports) is widening, having grown by some 44 percent in the last decade (Moyo 2006).

The biggest challenge to African agriculture arises from the risk of crop loss owing to variations in rainfall, and droughts. Rainfall variation in Africa is almost twice as that of temperate regions. In Africa, the co-efficient of variation ranges between 15 to 30 percent (Ogunwale 2007). Variation also corresponds to the onset of rain and the extent of early rainfall. Variations in the onset of rain heighten risks in planting while delayed onsets naturally delay planting and shorten the growing season, resulting in fewer wet days. Higher rainfall intensities throughout SSA accelerate soil erosion which siphons off the soil's organic matter.

Evapotranspiration raises temperatures (Cline 2010: 26). The need for irrigation rises as conditions become drier. Global warming will increase both temperature and precipitation, therefore, irrigation will become crucial. Besides, the low incidence of irrigation and the limited extent of irrigated land will lead to soil degradation. Cline (2010: 53) shows that there is a predominant pattern of large negative changes due to warming (excluding carbon fertilisation) in dry land African agriculture. The medium change is -31 percent, with 0.5 of the 28 countries having a complete shutdown. In terms of reduction in agricultural capacity by half or more, four countries show modest declines and two countries modest increases.

Several countries show major gains from irrigated agriculture. IPCC 2007 reports that high temperatures can affect yields and yield quality in semi-arid and arid regions, although water is more important. The constant high temperature also increases the evaporation rate, producing high water deficits. As the total amount of solar radiation available to crops during the rainy season is low, this also lowers yield. The high rainfall causes leaching and erosion while the high temperature causes rapid decomposition of organic matter thus resulting in poor soil fertility products (Slaymaker & Spencer 1998).

The most common consequence of rainfall variation is drought, which increases crop failure (Ogunwale 2007). In Africa, high evaporation rates are common and this coupled with unpredictable rainfall often lead to periods of water shortage in some areas, particularly, the semi-arid. IPCC (2007:4) report notes that in the Sahelian region of Africa, warmer and drier conditions have led to a reduced length of growing season with detrimental effects on crops. It further notes that agricultural production, including access to food, in many African countries and regions is projected to be severely compromised by climatic variations and climate change. The area suitable for agriculture, the length of growing seasons and yield potential, particularly along the margins of semi-arid and arid areas, are expected to decrease. The distribution of rainfall within the growing season may

also affect yields. Low temperatures and radiation limit production in some high-elevation regions. In some countries, yields from rain-fed agriculture could be reduced by up to 50 percent by 2020 (IPCC 2007:10).

**TABLE 2: Net Revenue Impacts from Uniform Climate Scenarios**

	Warming increase of 2.5°C	Warming increase of 5°C	Warming decrease of 7%	Warming decrease of 14 %	Impacts
<b>Rainfed</b>					
Net revenue (\$ per ha)	-72.2	-120.4	-14.1		-28.3
Total net revenue (billions \$)	-22.6	-37.7	-4.4		-8.9
<b>Irrigated</b>					
Net revenue (\$ per ha)	110.3	258.8	-15.9		-31.5
Total net revenue -0.41 (billions \$)	1.4	3.4	-21	Precipitation	Precipitation
<b>Total (Africa )</b>					
Net revenue (\$ per ha)	-49.2 (-11.3%)	-95.7 (-21.9%)	-18.3 (-4.2%)		-37.2 (-8.5%)
Total net revenue (billions \$)	-16.0	-31.2	-5.96		-12.1

(Note: Values in parenthesis represent percentage changes from present climate.)

Source: Kurukulasuriya and Mendelsohn, "A Ricardian Analysis of the Impact of Climate Change on African Cropland", Policy Research Working Paper 4305, World Bank, Washington, DC.

Table 2 shows that the net revenue decrease by 16 percent and 30 percent if the warming increases by 2.5 percent and 5 percent, respectively, in rainfed areas of Africa. Irrigated areas, however, show much lower changes. Overall revenues decrease by \$16 billion and \$31 billion, respectively, with temperature changes of 2.5 percent and 5 percent. With a decrease of 7 percent and 14 percent of precipitation, respectively, the decrease projected is \$5.96 billion and \$12.1 billion. The agricultural output potential falls by 17 percent in Africa suggesting that Africa is most vulnerable to global warming (Cline 2010:80). Since less water is available for irrigation in hotter and drier areas, future irrigation compensation is irrelevant. IPCC (2001:289) finds that Africa is the continent with the lowest conversion factor of precipitation to run off. Although the equatorial region and coastal areas of Eastern and Southern Africa are humid, the rest of the continent ranges from dry to sub-humid to arid.

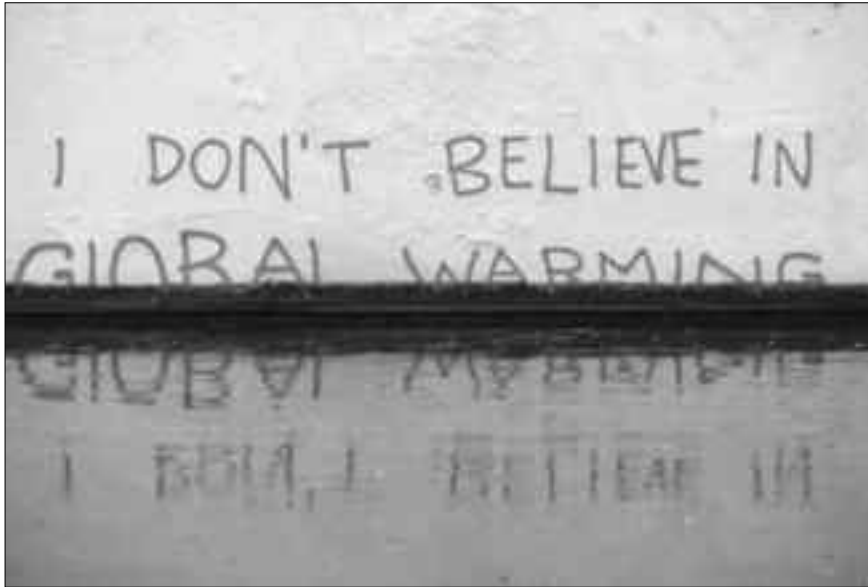
The dominant impact of global warming is predicted to be a reduction in soil moisture in subhumid zones and a reduction in the runoff. By the end of this century, excluding carbon fertilisation, Africa as a whole could experience agricultural impacts ranging from annual losses of \$48 billion if the future climate were "hot and dry" to annual gains of \$97 billion if it were "mild and wet" (Mendelsohn 2006).

No Sub-Saharan African country has been able to achieve food self-sufficiency. Population is increasing at a rate faster

than food production. Population has increased in those regions where soil is degraded, fragile and has low fertility. Demographic and economic changes do not allow for the traditional practice of allowing land to revert to natural vegetation after continuous cropping for two-three years (Ogunwole 2007). Droughts have often been blamed for Africa's agricultural decline. This is more apt for Sahelian African countries. In many other countries of Africa, droughts only exacerbate an already existing precarious situation (Ayittey 2005: 244). The results indicate that climate sensitivity of agriculture is an important factor. The impacts in Africa as a continent can range from a potential loss of \$25 billion to a loss of \$194 billion per year. One of the forecast suggests that African countries may lose 47 percent of their agricultural revenue because of global warming. But the cross-sectional forecast was less pessimistic, suggesting losses of only 6 percent of agricultural GDP (Mendelsohn 2000). However, notwithstanding climate change, it should be noted that its impact may constitute only a small fraction of future GDP. With the expected growth in other sectors of the economy, agriculture should be a small fraction of GDP in Africa by 2100. The damage from climate change to African agriculture is expected to range from 0.13 to 2 percent of GDP by 2100 (ibid).

Mendelsohn (2000) believes that the current climatic variation is marginal with respect to precipitation in many parts of Africa. But further warming in these semi-arid locations could be devastating to agriculture there. Even in the moist tropics, increased heat is expected to reduce crop yields. In Africa the current farming technology is basic and incomes are low, suggesting that farmers will have few options to adapt. The effects of climate change on agriculture are likely to be different across the African continent. The results of all these factors suggest that every region in Africa will experience some negative climate change impacts, but that some regions will be more vulnerable to warming than others. As a fraction of GDP, the Sahara and EGAD regions are the most vulnerable. These two regions are expected to suffer losses between 2 percent and 7 percent. West Africa and Central Africa are also vulnerable with effects ranging from 2 percent to 4 percent. In contrast, Northern and Southern Africa are expected to have losses from 0.4 percent to 1.3 percent (ibid).

The general conclusion is that climate change will affect some parts of Africa negatively, although it will enhance prospects for crop production in other areas (Downing, 1992) as case studies in Kenya, Zimbabwe and Senegal show. Warmer climates will alter the distribution of agroecological zones. IPCC-2007 reports that highlands may become more suitable for annual cropping as a result of increased temperatures (and radiation) and reduced frost hazards. Some regions could experience temperature stress at certain growing periods, necessitating shifting of planting dates to minimise the risk. Expansion of agriculture is important in the east African highlands. The Report further notes that



A graffiti passes judgment on the failure of the recent Copenhagen summit to reach a legally binding accord

though a large portion of African agriculture is rain-fed, heat-related plant stress may reduce yields in several key crops, such as wheat, rice, maize and potatoes.

With changes in precipitation and hydrology, temperature, length of growing season and frequency of extreme weather events, considerable effort would be required to prepare African countries to deal with climate-related impacts on agriculture. The vulnerability of the majority of the African population to poverty and low productivity in the agricultural system are not only consequences of environmental degradation but also of the limited economic resources and infrastructure, low levels of technology, poor access to information and knowledge, inefficient institutions, and limited empowerment and access to resources.

IFOAM (2009:11) observes that conventional agriculture has been a major contributor to climate change. According to IPCC, the annual amount of GHGs emitted by the agricultural sector is 10 to 12 percent of global emissions. The main GHGs emitted through agriculture accounted for by the IPCC are Nitrous oxide ( $N_2O$ ) and methane ( $CH_4$ ). Conventional agriculture relies on fossil fuel-based chemical nitrogen (N) fertilisers and herbicides manufactured in energy intensive factories transported to farms. Chemical (mineral/inorganic) fertilisers release both  $CO_2$  and  $N_2O$  during their energy intensive manufacturing process. Chemical fertilisers and herbicides inhibit the natural biological activity of the soil that drives the formation of compounds that encase and effectively store carbon. There is some indication that the higher the application of chemical inputs the greater the amount of soil carbon lost as  $CO_2$  as the soil fractions are less stable. This is probably a more significant reason for  $CO_2$  loss in conventional agricultural systems than tillage (ibid. 14).

The challenge that Africa faces lies in increasing the amount of food that can be produced on a sustained basis

without negative effects, that is, finding better farming technologies and natural resource management practices, better institutions, and better policies, so that the farmers' trade-offs are less stark (Scherr 1999). In order to consolidate food security, there is a need for an environmentally and socially responsive agricultural system, based on the needs of small land holders.

To bail Africa out of its agricultural crisis, several projects crafted by their national leaders and elites have failed. Those projects were alien to African reality and could not be adapted to their unique environments. Programmes such as Integrated Rural

Development (IRD) and World Food Programme (WFP) were undertaken in Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone and many other African countries. These programmes were rather disappointing as they did not embrace Africa's peasant farmers. The traditional environment is of greater importance to peasant farmers in Africa as they are governed more by custom and time-tested practices in an environment of economic and political freedom (Ayittey 2005). At the same time, they lack the ability to deal with new challenges and also do not have access to appropriate technology and resources.

An innovative and radical solution is required to pull back African agriculture out of this serious crisis. Africa must, without much delay adopt an agro-ecological system of production that balances the indigenous and local agricultural knowledge systems with the research based scientific knowledge and inputs that do not degrade environment.

African farmers should favour an agro-ecological model which emphasises biodiversity, recycling of nutrients, synergy among crops, animals, soils and other biological components, regeneration and conservation of resources (Duruigbo 2007: 52-3). Agro-ecology or economic agriculture which involves the use of ecological principles for the design and management of sustainable and resource conserving agricultural systems offers several advantages over the conventional agronomic or agro-industrial approach (ibid.86). The ecologically viable agriculture is the one which simultaneously increases productivity and only minimally decrease future use of the environment (Rotimi 2007:86).

Many different expressions have been noted in the UNCTAD Report to imply greater sustainability in some agricultural systems over prevailing ones (both pre-industrial and industrialised). These include biodynamic,



community-based, eco-agriculture, ecological, environmentally sensitive, extensive, farm-fresh, free-range, low-input, organic, permaculture, sustainable and wise use. However, there is continuing and intense debate about whether agricultural systems using some of these practices can qualify as sustainable.

Scialabba (2007) describes organic agriculture as “neo-traditional food system”, as it uses scientific investigation to improve traditional farming practices anchored in multi-cropping systems, natural food preservation, and storage and risk aversion strategies that have traditionally secured local food needs. The International Federation for Organic Agriculture Management (IFOAM) has defined organic agriculture as a production system that sustains the health of soils, ecosystems and people. It relies on ecological processes, biodiversity and cycles adapted to local conditions, rather than the use of inputs with adverse effects. Organic agriculture combines tradition, innovation and science to benefit the shared environment and promote fair relationships and a good quality of life for all involved. The FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius guidelines, recognised by UNCTAD in its Trade and Environment Review 2006, defines organic agriculture as “a holistic production management [whose] primary goal is to optimise the health and productivity of interdependent communities of soil, life, plants animals and people”. The underlying principle in all these definitions is the insistence on a holistic approach where tradition and science are combined to benefit the whole ecosystem including plants, animals and humans.

Agriculture is highly vulnerable to climate change and our food supply relies on successful adaptation. Adaptation actions include those necessary to restore the resilience of eco-systems and their productivity to enable sustainable economic development. Organic agriculture increases the ability of the farming system to continue functioning when faced with the adverse effects of climate change by increasing resilience within the agro-ecosystem (Borron: 2006; Ensor:2009). Diversification is a fundamental aspect of organic agriculture. Resiliency to climate disasters is closely linked to farm biodiversity. Practices that enhance biodiversity allow farms to mimic natural ecological processes, enabling them to better respond to change and reduce risk (IFOAM 2009:20). Organic agriculture encourages the use of local and indigenous farmer knowledge and observation techniques and recognises the critical role of women throughout the entire food chain, as farmers, consumers and mothers. Indigenous and traditional knowledge are key sources of information on adaptive capacity, centered on the selective, experimental and resilient capabilities of farmers (IFPRI; Niggli: 2009; Bolwig: 2007).

Organic agriculture has well established practices that not only help to adapt to climate change but simultaneously mitigate climate change, build resilient farming systems, reduce poverty and improve food security. This type of agricultural management has proved to emit much lower lev-

els of GHGs, and quickly, affordably and effectively sequesters carbon in the soil (IFOAM 2009:6). At the same time, it can transform small farms like no other farming system towards greater productivity by increasing soil fertility and stability, optimising water use, diversifying crops and incomes, building resilience to climate change, achieving high yields under difficult conditions and creating new local markets. Given the necessary information and extension services, organic agriculture is an affordable low-risk strategy for small holders (ibid:8).

Several case studies of the African region have proved that organic agriculture can increase agricultural productivity and can raise incomes with low-cost, locally available and appropriate technologies, without causing environmental damage. Furthermore, evidence shows that organic agriculture can build up natural resources, strengthen communities and improve human capacity, thus improving food security by addressing many different causal factors simultaneously.

Scialabba (2007:5) reports that according to a study carried out on behalf of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), switching to organic agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa would likely increase food availability and decrease food import dependency, with negligible changes in prices and no changes in current malnutrition rates (Halberg 2006). Of particular relevance to sub-Saharan Africa and tropical countries in general is that organic crops are grown from traditional, local seed varieties rather than from commercial, laboratory-bred ones. A modeling for large-scale organic conversion in sub-Saharan Africa (Halberg 2006) suggests that agricultural yields would grow by 50 percent, thus increasing local access to food and reducing food imports. Other estimates show that in Africa, conversion to organic agriculture was estimated to increase productivity by 56 percent by 2030 (Scialabba 2007: 6). Organic agriculture management systems have doubled yields in arid and degraded soils (e.g. in Tigray, Ethiopia). It offers an effective way to reverse the currently dramatic desertification processes taking place in Africa by preventing soil erosion and land degradation as well as by helping to rehabilitate degraded land (IFOAM 2008).

Organic agriculture is labour intensive and contributes to significant employment in the sub-sector. Organic farms provide more than 30 percent more jobs per hectare than non-organic farms (Scialabba 2007:8). This ratio increases further if on-farm processing and direct marketing are considered, because such enterprises are more likely fostered best in organic systems. Rather than displacing the agricultural workforce, organic agriculture safeguards livelihoods by keeping people on the land (Scialabba 2007: 8). The experiences of the farmers practising it show that it establishes sustainable livelihoods for African farm families and their communities by giving access to new market opportunities, resulting in premium prices for their products. It reduces the costs of external inputs as farmers refrain from using

synthetic fertilisers and pesticides, genetically modified organisms and pharmaceuticals.

IFOAMA (2009) insists that organic agriculture removes artificial boundaries between farms and landscapes and therefore provides important linkages, such as wildlife corridors, between disparate natural habitats. According to the other report of IFOAM (2008), these farming practices deliberately integrate traditional farming practices and make use of locally available resources. As such, they are highly relevant to smallholders — the majority of African farmers — producing for themselves and their local markets. Organic farming contributes towards achieving public good at the national and local levels in Africa.

According to the IFOAM 2008 report, the following statistics are an eye opener. Currently, almost 417,000 hectares are certified organic and managed by at least 175,266 farmers in Africa. The countries with the greatest organic areas are Tunisia, Uganda, South Africa and Tanzania. Most of this land is used for permanent crops. The main permanent crops are cash crops like olives (North Africa), followed by coffee, oil palm, cotton and cocoa. The countries with organic standards are Tunisia, Egypt and the East African countries (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi). In addition to the 417,000 hectares of organic agricultural land, 8.2 million hectares are certified as forest and “wild harvested” areas. The largest wild collection areas are in Zambia (7.2 million hectares), Sudan (490,000 hectares), Kenya (186,000 hectares) and Uganda (158,328 hectares).

In Africa, much organic production also takes place in the informal sector and without certification. There are organic farmers for whom certification does not hold out any advantage: this is true for farmers who practise subsistence farming, basically catering for the food security of their families or their community. There are no official statistics to quote on this type of organic production. As in most developing countries, the bulk of the certified organic products are exported.

UNCTAD-UNEP CBTF (2009) reports that in addition to estimates for certified organic agriculture in Africa, there are also large numbers of farmers that practise sustainable, traditional or near-organic agriculture. These near-organic systems do not rely on purchased inputs often because they were bypassed by the Green Revolution, or farmers do not have access to or cannot afford artificial inputs. In Africa, at least 730,000 households farming about 700,000 hectares had adopted near-organic agriculture practices in 2001, including integrated and low-external input systems. Recent evidence shows that this has increased to at least 1.9 million farmers on nearly 2 million hectares (Pretty & Hine: 2001; Pretty et al. 2005). It seems rea-

sonable to estimate that Africa accounts for 1–3 per cent of global land under certified organic management, but a much higher percentage (in the range of 20–24 per cent) of certified organic farms (Willer & Yussefi 2007; Bouagnimbeck 2008). This reflects the predominance of smallholder farms in organic production in Africa. In addition, there are at least 8 million hectares of land certified for organic wild collection, including bee pastures, roughly a quarter of the global estimated figure (UNEP-UNCTAD 2008:9)

Organic farming as discussed in (UNEP-UNCTAD 2008:9) the report is significantly more developed in North, South and Eastern Africa than other regions of Africa. In some countries, the certified organic sector comprises a few large export-oriented farms that have converted to organic production (South Africa, Zambia and Malawi). In other countries, the sector’s growth stems from significant attempts to engage smallholders in export commodity production, such as those in Uganda and Tanzania (Parrott & van Elzakker. 2003).

In East Africa, it is estimated that in 2007, Uganda had an estimated 250,000 ha under certified organic production, Kenya 181,500 ha and the United Republic of Tanzania 85,000 ha (International Trade Centre: 2007). The UNEP-UNCTAD 2008 report says that these figures may include land certified for organic wild collection. Rapidly growing exports are mostly carried out by exporting companies that subcontract (mainly smallholder) outgrowers, although some cooperatives and plantations export directly. In Uganda, for example, over the past three years organic exports have been growing at an average annual rate of 67 percent. The number of farmers certified and linked to export markets increased from 28,000 in 2002 to over 200,000 in 2008, of which 90 per cent are smallholders with less than three hectares of land (NOGAMU 2008).

In Uganda and Tanzania, the average use of chemical fertilisers is less than one kilogram per hectare per year, which implies that most land is never fertilised with synthetic fertilisers (Altieri. 2002; Wynen & Vanzetti. 2002).

Organic farming can lead to increased food production — in many cases a doubling of yields has been seen — which makes an important contribution to increasing the food security in a region. The examples above support that

**Table 3: Performance of Organic and Near Organic Agriculture**

Region	Number of countries represented	Number of projects analysed	Number of farmers in projects (million)	Number of hectares (million ha)	Average change in crop yields (per cent)
Africa	24	114	1,900,000	2.0	+116
East Africa	7	71	1,600,000	1.4	+128
Tanzania	1	9	27,000	0.06	+67
Uganda	1	17	241,000	0.68	+54

Source: UNCTAD-UNEP CBTF Report. 2009. P6.

yield increases are possible and indeed likely with a switch to organic farming in a variety of different contexts, particularly in marginalised areas or where traditional farming methods are used. Food availability increased in 11 out of 13 cases centred on food production examined in this study (UNEP-UNCTAD 2008). The table shows that in Africa, the average change in crop yield increases by a substantial 116 percent but in East Africa it was still higher with 128 percent (Table 3).

Although many resource-conserving technologies and practices are currently being used in Africa, the total number of farmers using them is still relatively small (UNEP-UNCTAD 2008). Lack of knowledge of organic and sustainable agricultural techniques is often a limiting factor in the spread of organic production. Greater government investment would help overcome these constraints though lack of proper infrastructure could affect organic exports in Africa. The absence of large domestic organic markets make organic agriculture a risky venture by solely relying on the export market. Also, with micro-financing hardly available, it could limit the spread of organic agriculture in Africa.

## Conclusion

The erratic pattern of agriculture has impacted the already vulnerable regions. These regions have been unable to cope with climate extremes on one hand and subsequent low food production on the other. Insufficient food availability implies that conventional agriculture has not been able to keep pace with growing demand. Also, the new alien methods for intensifying crop production have failed in Africa for want of the support system it requires. It has, therefore, become imperative to strike a balance between indigenous and local agricultural knowledge. The need of the day is not only to achieve accelerated food production but also to manage agriculture in such a way that human intervention is minimal and biodiversity is retained to help achieve sustainable production and sustainable development. Organic agriculture can enhance agricultural productivity and can raise incomes with affordable, locally available and appropriate technologies, with minimal harm to the environment. Organic methods of agriculture appear to be a better alternative in the present scenario. It may not sufficiently increase food production but it may be a step in the desired direction. ■

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# India as a CATALYST of development

Closer economic and commercial relations with India is helping African countries to realise their developmental aspirations, says **Dr. Ravinder Rena**



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh with Asian-African Heads of State at Bandung, Indonesia, on April 24, 2005 during the event commemorating the Golden Jubilee of the Asian African Conference -1955, Bandung.

**T**his article examines the current and future trade and partnership agreements between India and Africa. With trade being one of the earliest of human activities, economic and commercial ties between India and Africa go back a long way and have always been robust. The two sides also shared a common dark phase under colonialism owing to exploitation, discrimination and many other forms of oppression. While it may not be of much use to dwell on this dark side of the shared history of the two sides, it is also important to “remember the

past to reshape the present to have a better understanding for the future”. With the rising tide of nationalist movements in the 20th century, which helped both India as well as countries in Africa to emerge free from their colonial yoke, the ancient ties between the two regions grew at a rapid pace. Now, in the 21st century, mutual cooperation between India and Africa, based on equality and fraternity, has been expanding at an accelerating speed. No wonder then that while addressing the Nigerian Parliament Assembly in 2007, India’s Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh acknowledged that India and Africa have a shared destiny and common future. “Hence, our relationship must

be brought to full bloom,” he said.<sup>2</sup> Developed countries keen on exploiting Africa’s rich resources would love to see Africa fragmented into many pieces. That is the reason why these countries, instead of stepping up aid and development assistance to Africa, are actually cutting back such assistance. A recent OECD report indicates that the aid provided by the world’s major donors, the 22 member countries of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC), at \$103.9 billion in 2006, fell 5.1 percent from that provided in 2005. This figure includes \$19.2 billion of debt relief, notably exceptional relief to Iraq and Nigeria. Excluding debt relief, other forms of aid fell by 1.8 percent (Rena, 2007b).

Africa’s biggest challenge is to become competitive in the global economy. It is a known fact that economic strength depends on command over natural resources and quality of the labour force. Apart from the ability to cope with complex production techniques and technological changes, Africa requires not only a healthy and educated citizenry, but also policies supporting the poor. Credit needs to be made more widely available, particularly to the rural poor. Africa needs to invest in rural roads and support its small-scale enterprises (Rena, 2007b).

Although more countries are now integrated into a global economic system in which trade and capital flow across borders with unprecedented energy, the movement of people, even in this post-1970s era of globalisation, is restricted and strictly regulated in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks. Globalisation has produced increasing global economic interdependence through the growing volume and variety of cross-border flows of finance, investment, goods, and services, and the rapid and widespread diffusion of technology. A World Bank study has also pointed out the advantages of globalisation. Nonetheless, it has been argued that owing to deficiencies in governance and the resulting inequities, globalisation has become painful, rather than merely controversial, to the developing world (Rena, 2007a).

India’s Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, while speaking at the Asian African Conference, April 23, 2005, Jakarta, had said, “ours is a world of unprecedented connectivity. Thanks to the communication and information technology revolutions, distances have lost their old meaning. Fifty years after Bandung 1955, we meet in a smaller and more integrated world. Migration and more open economies are creating multi-cultural societies. Globalisation enables instant availability of information and freer competition for opportunities.”

Prime Minister Singh also said that it was not coinciden-

tal that increasing openness, democracy and social awareness follow the process of globalisation. “Recent advances in science and technology provide us with unparalleled instrumentalities to combat age-old problems of poverty, ignorance and disease. Properly managed, globalisation can effect a significant improvement in the human condition in the span of a single generation. However, along with the opportunities, globalisation brings with it new challenges. The globalisation of disease and insecurity, the management of scarce natural resources, challenges posed by HIV/AIDS and terrorism — all require a global approach and a global solution.”

According to the speech by India’s President Pratibha Devisingh Patil on the eve of the 61st Republic Day of India, “In the first decade of the 21st century, India witnessed transformational changes. It also emerged as a force driving change in the world. Our achievements and experiences have, indeed, brought the nation to a definitional stage, where the promise of a bright future as a developed and progressive nation is for us to claim, as we

all work together with conviction and commitment. However, as we overcome deficiencies and convert our strengths into an energetic force, we must remain deeply conscious of what we must preserve and what we must change.” The president’s message clearly indicated that all Indian citizens should work diligently to transform our economy into a developed one in the near future. With the development that India would accomplish in the coming one or two decades, the world economy in general and the African economy in particular will eventually benefit.

This article is divided into four sections: The introduction focuses on

Indian and African strengths and commonalities that can be shared and perceived. Besides, it also covers India’s foreign policy and her commitment to Africa. Section two highlights the establishment of Indian industries and economic and commercial activities, which are already in place. Section three discusses trade and development in Africa and various trade and institutional partnership agreements that have been initiated by the government of India and their impact on the African economies. Section four deals with the Indian aid and assistance programmes in Africa and also discusses India’s trade with the African continent. The final section provides a summary and conclusion of the study.

This article is mainly based on secondary sources of data collected from various reports of the government of India, Prime Minister’s Office, President’s Office, UNCTAD, websites and Indian media. The data has been analysed and the various trade and partnership agreements have been discussed in the best interests of both Africa and India.

**Africa’s biggest challenge is to become competitive. Apart from the ability to cope with complex production techniques, Africa requires not only a healthy and an educated citizenry, but also policies supporting the poor**

## INDIAN INDUSTRIES IN AFRICA

The Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, said “India has a long-standing, close and multi-layered relationship with Africa.” The sole objective of India’s partnership with Africa is to cooperate with all the countries of this continent, within the limits of its capacity and capability, in their efforts towards achieving economic vibrancy, peace, stability and self-reliance. India’s intention is to become a close partner in Africa’s resurgence. Indeed, over the last 50 years, China has taken huge strides in fostering African trade and development. It has, therefore, been realised that Africa can also gain from sharing India’s development experiences as part of its transformation strategy to be a developed country in the coming two decades. In India, the government sought to empower the people by investing in their capabilities and by widening their development options. Indian leaders realised that the transfer of knowledge and human skills will further strengthen mutual capabilities of India and Africa. Not only that, it has been felt that such exchange programmes must go beyond government to government interaction and must embrace their civil society, academics, artists and writers. For this purpose, the government of India began to help immensely by facilitating African students to study in India in various fields. For example, during 2009, the High Commission of India in Namibia sent more than 20 Namibian students to India. Besides, India intends to set up educational institutions and communication facilities in Africa and increase the number of scholarships for African students to study in India. In fact, India plans to increase the number of scholarships for post-graduate and doctoral studies in its institutions to over 300 students from Africa.

As the Indian Planning Commission has noted in its approach paper in mid-2007, the number of universities in India has increased from 20 in 1947 to 367 in 2006 while the number of colleges has gone from about 500 to 18,064 during the same period. But the need for a massive and well-trained workforce and high quality research output to meet the demands of economic growth is without precedent. For nearly two decades, and particularly in the recent period of robust economic growth, a quantitative expansion of the education system has taken place, largely through the private sector. While this has created more opportunities and produced some institutions of high merit, the quality of education has not been assessed rigorously.

According to Goldman Sachs, which first coined the BRIC concept to map the rising share of Brazil, Russia, India, and China in the global economy, the four countries will likely be the largest economies in the world by 2050. No wonder India is in the throes of a three-year boom with forecasters seeing more growth on the horizon. The country has just added 14 new billionaires to the Forbes list of world’s wealthiest men and has a middle class with rising incomes comprising 200 to 250 million people. India’s economic

power is the obvious counter to China’s hegemony in the region (Rena, 2008).

For nearly four decades, there have been only a handful of serious and scholarly studies on what makes the economy of the world’s second most populous country tick. Despite promises of a reasonably enlightened economic leadership after its 1947 independence from British rule, by the 1960s, India had become one of the world’s worst economic performers — an infuriatingly inward-looking, impoverished, protectionist basket case. After leading economic theorists like Jagdish Bhagwati warned in the early 1970s that India’s economy was headed south, there really wasn’t much more to add. Now an economy that stagnated for a generation has been taking off, growing more than 8.5 percent annually. Since the reform process got under way in the early 1990s, India has been on the move. Such formerly closed major sectors including banking, telecommunications, pharmaceuticals and airlines have been liberalised, and average industrial tariff, once as high as 340 percent, have fallen to around 10 percent. The reforms, particularly those directed at embracing international trade, have paid off in terms of generating real growth (Panagariya, 2008).

In 1990, India’s merchandise exports were \$18.1 billion. In the past three years, exports have doubled to \$102.7 billion. India’s service-sector exports, just short of \$30 billion three years ago, have shot up to more than \$60 billion. Overall, trade (exports plus imports) now amounts to more than 43 percent of the Indian GDP. And while the exact numbers are subject to debate, there is no doubt that hundreds of millions of Indians have been pulled out of poverty (Panagariya, 2008). Undoubtedly, over the last five decades, India has always felt happy and willing to share with Africa more of her own experience of development in agriculture, science and technology. It is for this reason that the focus of India has been, and shall continue to be, on capacity building and human resource development (HRD) in Africa. As we have seen, India is not embarking on a new journey to discover Africa and it is very important that this is made clear by the media, both in Africa and India. It is worth remembering here that in the 1960s, India was not a rich country, it is not so even today, but India has been willingly sharing its skilled manpower and technology know-how with Africa since that period (Sharma, 2008).

We have seen that India’s development assistance to African nations has a strong focus on the economic empowerment of people through capacity building and connectivity. A multi-pronged approach has been adopted, which combines creative use of lines of credit with the development of Indian expertise to create assets in Africa and to establish hi-tech projects. Another impressive aspect is that India has always taken care to ensure that its involvement in the African economies is cost effective and provides relevant and appropriate intermediate technologies. The spirit of partnership has been further strengthened by the large



number of people from different African nations who have been trained in India under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation programme (ITEC).

The possibilities of further cooperation, both in the economic and political spheres, in the context of a multi-polar and globalised world, are enormous. There is a strong belief that if the 54 countries of Africa and India continue to work together, in the international arena in such fora as the United Nations (UN) and World Trade Organisation (WTO), the sky will be the limit for their collective achievements. Both India and Africa not only face economic challenges but also common problems, such as global warming and climate change, gender inequality, poverty, unemployment, HIV/AIDS and other pandemics as well as global threats such as terrorism.

India's stand of underlining the urgent need for developed countries to bring down the high tariff and non-tariff barriers on exports to less developed countries is commendable. Such a stand is important for developing countries to secure sufficient gains from globalisation (Rena, 2007a).

As Africa strives to realise its development aspirations, there is no doubt that a new generation of leaders in Africa is increasingly looking at India and China to reduce the continent's dependency on their former colonial masters. Both India and Africa are young and are learning to grow but India has made considerable economic progress and is willing to share its dividends with friends in Africa. India's commitment to Africa is genuine and it is looking forward to forging a close partnership with Africa in its attempts at economic resurgence so that both stand to benefit in equal measure.

### **Indian renewable energy company in Ethiopia**

Indian renewable energy company 'Praj' has signed an agreement with Ethiopia's Eco Energy, a bio-fuel producing company, to provide consultancy in cultivating thousands of hectares of bio-fuel generating plants. The rising international oil prices caused the Ethiopian government to consider shifting to bio-fuels. On average, Ethiopia spends over 10 billion birr (\$800 million) annually on importing petroleum which accounts for about 90 percent of the hard currency earned from foreign trade each year.

Praj will provide consultancy for complete development of a large-scale sustainable annual energy crop farming system over a 25,000 hectare area. This will include energy crop solutions and packaging, land management, annual farming, irrigation management and leading farm mechanisation aspects. Eco Energy has been selling shares since last January with the aim of cultivating and refining bio-diesel from non-edible biological feedstock with an investment

capital of one billion birr (\$80 million). The agreement also includes providing expertise for the engineering works of the refinery. Dawit Nigusie, sales and marketing manager of Eco Energy, told *Indo-Asian News Service* (IANS) that Praj has also agreed to support the Ethiopian company in its activities towards securing funds from various international financial institutions.

Eco Energy expects to raise a capital of 250 million birr (\$20 million) and is set to start farming jatropha and produce castor oil in the country within the next 18 months. According to Dawit, his company is preparing to begin planting this March in the regional state of Oromya.

The Indian company is already developing an ethanol production project for Metehara Sugar Factory in central Ethiopia. A 25-year old company, it operates in more than 45 countries working on bio-ethanol, bio-diesel, brewery plants and related wastewater treatment systems. With plans to shift from high-cost fossil fuel to cost-effective bio-fuel,

Ethiopia's Council of Ministers has approved a bio-fuel development strategy. The 15-page strategic document was prepared by the Ministry of Mines and Energy in collaboration with experts at the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

According to the Ethiopian Investment Agency, over 60 companies received licences to participate in the bio-fuel business. However, not more than 10 companies have started production. The Ethiopian government has identified 23.3 million hectares of land for bio-fuel investment, with over 17 hectares in the Oromya region.<sup>3</sup>

**The possibilities of further cooperation in a multi-polar and globalised world are enormous. There is a strong belief that if the 54 countries of Africa and India continue to work together, the sky will be the limit for their achievements**

### **Indian Railways in Africa**

Under an ambitious World Bank plan, Indian Railways, one of the world's largest rail networks, will help develop transport infrastructure in Africa. Indeed, Indian Railways earns revenues of about \$18 billion, carries 20 million passengers a day on about 18,000 trains and employs 1.4 million people. The Indian Railways has supplied locomotives to Mozambique, Tanzania, Mali and Senegal, coaches to Angola and rehabilitated rail tracks in Mozambique and Liberia.

Keeping this in view, World Bank president Robert Zoellick said the Washington-based lender wants to help the profit-making public sector corporation to grow beyond its borders. "We can help the Indian Railways in India, but also, as they develop greater efficiencies, to move abroad," *The Financial Times* quoted Zoellick as saying on his recent visit to India. "It fulfils what I was hoping to achieve when I first came to the Bank, which is to draw in some of the emerging economic development into the development



India's Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh signing the declaration on the new Asian-African strategic partnership in Jakarta, Indonesia, on April 23, 2005, after the Asian-African Conference.

process, whether by sharing information, sharing business models and expanding investment," Zoellick said. He added, "We've done it with China. I would like to do it with India, and I hope to do it with other countries." Zoellick added, "In some service industries, including health, I would like us to partner, through the International Finance Corporation (the Bank arm working with the private sector), to support those industries going to other developing countries, particularly sub-Saharan Africa, and provide these additional services."<sup>4</sup>

## TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

### India's Support in Partnership and Trade Development

South Africa, Namibia and India became the first countries to sign a memorandum of understanding in an Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) plan for greater cooperation with SADC (Southern African Development Community). According to P. K. Shah, chairman of the EEPC subcommittee on trade with Africa: "We are in discussions with the other countries in the region (Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe) and hope to have discussions concluded with them soon."

Conceding that this would take some time, Shah added that the project was a long-term one in which SADC countries could benefit from Indian expertise and technology. "We want to complete the set-up of the Indo-SADC partnership by March 2008, when we want to have another meeting with the full partnership signed by all members so that the plan can be mapped out and the respective chambers of commerce can take up their matters with their governments," he said.

Representatives of chambers of commerce in South Africa, Namibia and India signed MoUs on the periphery of INDEE, the four-day Indian Engineering Exhibition held

at the end of 2009 in Namibia. India's Minister of State for Industry Ashwani Kumar said while inaugurating the exhibition: "We are proposing to have Indo-Africa partnerships between EEPC and all SADC members so that, apart from information sharing, we can try to promote trade and investment opportunities for India in those countries and vice versa."

Kumar further said that "until now, the EEPC only had a support role, but now the council has a new role in trade and investment and we are very confident that SADC countries present a very good market. We believe that the technologies that India's small and medium enterprises have are most suited to these countries. Currently, they

are banking on very high-value items from Europe and Britain because they have that sort of influence. But once Indian goods start pouring in here and they start manufacturing in their own countries, it will be much cheaper and will be available to even the weaker sections of the people of these countries."

The headquarters of the Indo-African Partnership would be the new Indian Engineering Centre in Johannesburg, which was officially inaugurated by Kumar in 2009. It is the second Indian Engineering Centre in the world after Chicago. The chairman of the partnership is yet to be decided, but could be from the ranks of any of the participating members, Shah added. Shah said the immediate benefits for South Africa and Namibia would be the establishment of joint initiatives between local and Indian industries that could result in savings of up to half their current manufacturing costs.

"The benefits for Namibia are that we will be able to communicate more frequently with our counterparts in India and also be able to gain expertise and engineering technology from India," said Tarah Shaanika, chief executive officer of the Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry. "We need such technology, particularly for our mining and manufacturing sectors, and we believe that India provides very good technologies for a country like Namibia," he added. Shaanika said Indian imports were still very low in Namibia, mainly coming in from South Africa. "The agreement also opens up opportunities for exporting some of our products to India, the food sector in particular. We have a lot of species of fish that are not found in India and we believe we could export this to India." Further, Shaanika said, "Namibia has also developed capacity in infrastructure, particularly airports and roads. We can export our expertise to India, even if it means competing with neighbouring South Africa, which has already been active in India in these areas."<sup>5</sup>

India well recognises the vastness of the African continent, and it also recognises the existence of its sub-regional integration. In Africa, there are five key sub-regions that are progressively working towards greater economic integration, and the process is increasingly gaining momentum. Importantly, India has taken the first step through the establishment of an India-Southern African Development Community (SADC) forum that links India with 14 countries from southern Africa. Since 2006, India has linked up with member nations of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) through visits of ministerial delegates. Further, a dialogue with 11 members of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) was initiated during the African Union (AU) summit in July 2006. Even the first ministerial summit with the 20 members of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern African Countries (COMESA) took place in October 2006. Another important initiative was when India activated in similar ways its relationship with Eastern African Community (EAC). India has signed a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) and a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement with Mauritius and with the Southern African Custom Union (SACU). (See Dr. Manmohan Singh's opening remarks at the Plenary Session of the India, Brazil and South Africa Summit on 17 October 2007 at: <http://pmindia.nic.in/visits.htm>).

These activities supplement India's tremendous support to the vision of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) since its inception in July 2001. One of NEPAD's strategies is for Africa to build bridges with her development partners in order to collectively contribute to the renewal of the African continent. India has been a role model and, of course, a worthy partner in this regard. One of the largest infrastructure projects under this framework, the Lagos-Algiers Trans-Sahara pipeline, has already attracted the attention of many major Indian companies in the recent past.

Then there is the Techno-Economic Approach for Africa-India Movement (TEAM-9), which is a targeted approach to economic, technological and scientific cooperation between India and eight African countries. It is unique because it aims at facilitating and strengthening relations between the private sectors of India and the eight African countries (Kufour, 2008). There are high expectations that projects under TEAM-9 will transcend national boundaries and will impact positively on the process of integration in the West African sub-region for the construction of roads, railways and infrastructure. Its success, barely in a couple of years, is evident from the fact that at least 12 other countries have expressed their eagerness to join it.

**“We are proposing to have Indo-Africa partnerships between EEPCC and all the SADEC members so that, apart from information sharing, we can try to promote trade and investment by India in those countries, and also for those countries in India”**

India's Commerce and Industry Ministry announced the 'Focus: Africa Programme' with the spotlight on seven countries of the Sub-Saharan Region, viz., South Africa, Nigeria, Mauritius, Tanzania, Kenya, Ghana and Ethiopia on March 31, 2002 alongside its Export Import (EXIM) Policy for the years 2002-07. With a view to further enhancing India's trade with Africa, the scope of this programme was further extended with effect from April 1, 2003 to all the other countries of the Sub-Saharan African region, where India has diplomatic missions — Angola, Botswana, Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Mozambique, Senegal, Seychelles, Uganda, Zambia, Namibia and Zimbabwe. Alongside, the six countries of North Africa, viz., Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Sudan, Morocco and Algeria were also brought under its ambit. Many missions in Sub-Saharan Africa are concurrently accredited to other countries in the region. Therefore, the programme effectively covers the whole of the African continent (<http://pmindia.nic.in/visits.htm>).

Under this programme, the government of India extends assistance to exporters and Export Promotion Councils to visit these countries and organise trade fairs and invite African trade delegations to visit India. The initiatives taken under this programme have received an encouraging response from the Indian exporting community. It is likely to further boost bilateral trade in the coming years.

**Preferential Trade Agreement/Free Trade Agreement**

India and Egypt are presently examining the possibilities of concluding a bilateral Preferential Trade Agreement. Two rounds of talks have been held so far. The next round of discussions is expected to be held shortly in Cairo. Similarly, India and SACU (Southern African Customs Union, consisting of

South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland) are in the process of negotiating an FTA. Two rounds of talks have been held and a Framework Agreement is proposed to be signed shortly. Interaction with important trading partners will be enhanced so as to act as a catalyst for the private sector to explore and tap its full potential.

**Institutional Mechanisms**

**a) Joint Trade Committees:** Institutional arrangements already exist with the countries of the African region in the form of joint trade committees with Senegal, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Uganda, Ivory Coast, Namibia, Ethiopia and Tanzania and Joint Economic Commissions with Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia. These institutional mechanisms have been activated. Steps will also be taken for the formation of Joint Trade Committees

with the countries identified under the Focus Africa programme, where the same have not yet been instituted.

**b) Joint Business Councils:** The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) plans to deepen its interaction with its counterparts and hold meetings of the Joint Business Councils (JBCs) at regular intervals. Similarly, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and other Indian chambers of commerce and industry also propose to have regular interactions with their counterparts in the Sub-Saharan African region with which they have signed MoUs. Simultaneously, seminars and conferences will be organised within India for creating awareness about emerging markets in Africa.

**c) Commercial Wings of Indian Missions:** A meeting of the Commercial Representatives (CRs) of India stationed in select countries in the West African and North African regions was held in India in June 2003 with a view to facilitating effective interaction between CRs and industry organisations and to help sensitise Indian exporters to the opportunities available in these countries. The meetings were held in Kolkata, Bangalore, Chennai, Mumbai and New Delhi during June 3-7, 2003, (including CRs from Algeria, Egypt and Sudan). The work carried out by the CRs at Indian missions in 18 countries of the Sub-Saharan region was reviewed in the first quarter of 2003-04. A meeting of CRs from the region has been planned to enable them to interact with a larger number of exporters and chambers of commerce.

**d) Trade Missions:** Trade/economic missions mostly help create awareness in the region about India's economic reforms, the strength of its industry, and its export potential. They also help encourage businessmen to explore new markets. High-level trade missions have been planned for the whole of Africa.

**e) Trade Promotion Measures:** The Indian Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) will undertake various trade promotion measures, which would, among others, include: i) Participation in specialised and commodity-specific fairs and exhibitions in Africa; ii) Special promotion and publicity in the African countries; iii) Promotion of Indian consumer products in departmental stores; iv) Organising buyer-seller meets; v) Promotion by Indian Missions by organising catalogue/brochure exhibitions.

**f) Rewarding top export performers in African countries:** Some African countries are placed in a lower category for grant of Export Credit Guarantee Cooperation of India (ECGC) cover. Because of the low grading, exporters have to pay higher premium for getting commercial cover. The grading will be reviewed periodically so that the actual economic situation of the countries is reflected in the grading of ECGC ('Focus: Africa' Programme).

### **National Centre for Trade Information (NCTI)**

Jointly promoted by the ITPO and the National Informatics Centre (NIC), NCTI is involved in the assimilation and dis-

semination of useful trade information. NCTI has carried out studies to map overall export potential with focus on African countries at the specific six-digit HS Code level of HS Classification. NCTI is also the Trade Point under UNCTAD's Trade Efficiency Programme and is part of the network of 150 Trade Points across the globe, 21 of which are located in African countries. NCTI members can take advantage by gaining access to contacts of specific buyers through the World Trade Point Federation Network (UNCTAD, 2006).

## **INDIA'S ASSISTANCE IN CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT**

### **Humanitarian Aid and Assistance**

India has also provided direct assistance to a number of countries in response to humanitarian emergencies or in the context of longer-term development projects. The Indian External Affairs Ministry's 'Aid to Africa' programme provides the resources for these projects.

In the last few years or so, India has responded to requests for emergency assistance by sending foodgrain to Chad and Guinea, medical supplies to Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Niger and The Gambia, and pumps, tents and other relief material to Senegal. In 2006, India provided an agricultural assistance package comprising 60 tractors and associated equipment to Cameroon, Benin and DR Congo and Togo.

The IT Park in Mauritius, the Entrepreneurship Training and Development Centre in Senegal, the Kofi Annan Centre for Excellence in IT in Ghana and the machine tools facility in Nigeria are some of the outstanding examples of India's technical and financial collaboration with these countries (Suri, 2008:9).

India acknowledges, however, that directly aided projects of this nature will only be able to meet a miniscule part of Africa's requirements. India also recognises that without access to affordable financial packages, its offers of transfer of technology and management skills will not be enough. India has, accordingly, placed special emphasis on creative use of lines of credit and has crafted initiatives that are uniquely relevant to the development priorities of her friends in Africa. In this regard, the TEAM-9 initiative bears special mention.

It seeks to foster a closer economic and political partnership between India and nine countries from West Africa. A line of credit of \$500 million provided by India for this programme has produced outstanding results. Projects worth over \$200 million are already at different stages of implementation.

These lines of credit are in use to finance a diverse range of projects, such as irrigation in Senegal, urban transport in Cote d'Ivoire, agricultural machinery in Mali and Burkina Faso, a mini-steel plant and a cotton ginning plant in Chad, and rural electrification and a presidential office complex in Ghana.

It is also providing crucial support for NEPAD through

a line of credit of \$200 million to assist NEPAD's objectives. Several projects in Senegal, Mali, Gambia, DR Congo and Mozambique worth over \$100 million are already being implemented within the ambit of this programme. They include building coaches and locomotives for the Dakar-Bamako railway line and tractors and other agricultural equipment for Gambia. In DR Congo, it has supported the construction of a cement plant in Kisangani and has provided 250 buses for urban transport in Kinshasa. Agreements for rural electrification projects in Mozambique and Ethiopia were signed recently.

A further line of credit of \$250 million has been extended by EXIM Bank to ECOWAS Bank for investment and development. This will support projects throughout the 15-member ECOWAS region, promoting regional integration and creating opportunities for Indian companies to participate in energy, telecom, railways and other sectors in this region.

Similar lines of credit, albeit on a smaller scale, have been extended in the past to other regional institutions such as PTA-COMESA Bank (CII – EXIM Bank, 2009).

The government of India also provided substantial lines of concessional credit, on a bilateral basis, to individual countries like Sudan, Ethiopia, Mauritius and Seychelles, and are looking at similar proposals from several other countries. In the process, India has been able to develop lines of credit as an effective instrument for delivering carefully targeted development assistance to a broad range of countries across the African continent (Suri, 2008:10).

More than 131 projects worth over \$10 billion were discussed during the three days of the India-Africa Conclave that took place on March 19, 2009. Over 900 delegates attended the "The India Africa Project Partnership 2008" organised by CII, EXIM Bank and the Ministries of Commerce and Industry and External Affairs.

The main focus was on four main areas: technology, agriculture, human resources and energy. Indian investors had the opportunity to interact with key people from more than 35 African countries on one platform (*Hindustan Times*, 2008).

### **Indian Trade with Africa**

Nigeria is India's second largest source of imported crude petroleum whereas South Africa is the largest source for India's gold imports. Morocco, Senegal and South Africa are leading sources of India's global imports of inorganic chemicals. Indian investors even commented that Africa was a success story that was waiting to happen and it would hap-

pen soon. Here, diplomats of African countries also made a strong pitch for Indian investment in the continent. The high commissioner of Ghana to India, John Bentum Williams, said that the process of investment of Indian entrepreneurs in Africa was well timed, as Africa had a lot of potential.

An initiative like the Africa-India Forum Summit aims at adopting a harmonised and comprehensive framework for reinforcing regional cooperation in a wide range of fields by providing support to the existing bilateral cooperation between African countries and India. Such a summit allows the political leadership of India to interact at the highest level with countries of Africa that currently chair the eight regional economic communities of that continent and NEPAD (Nalin, 2008:39). The summit also considered the modalities for strengthening cooperation between the two parties in the areas of economic, political science, technology, research and development, social development and capacity building, tourism, infrastructure, energy and environment and media and communication

(Africa-India Forum Summit, 2008). The summit also promoted an occasion for the sharing and exchange of good practices in harnessing resources from the diaspora. As Kufour, former president of Ghana, has said, "the main aim of the India-Africa Forum is to create a framework and a plan of action for the enhancement of the long-standing and fruitful cooperation between India and Africa". He further added that if India's experience and expertise was married to Africa's vast natural resources, it would result in accelerating the development of Africa (Kufour, 2008:26).

There is a plan to enhance the Aid to Africa budget of the Ministry of External Affairs to help implement projects in critical areas, focusing on human resource development and capacity building. For the next five to six years there is a proposal to undertake projects in excess of \$500 million. The Indian prime minister has said that India will help strengthen local capacities by creating regional and pan-African institutions of higher education, especially in science, IT and vocational education, and through investment in research and development in renewable forms of energy, and agricultural development. He also announced doubling of long-term scholarships for undergraduates, postgraduates and higher courses and an increase in the number of training slots under the technical assistance programme from 1,100 to 1,600 every year (Government of India, 2009).

The CII-Export Import (EXIM) Bank conclave on India project partnership is aimed at creating synergies between Indian competence and African needs. This initiative is designed to catalyse the participation of India as a key partner in Africa's developmental processes and to ensure that

**India has also provided assistance to a number of countries in response to humanitarian emergencies or for longer-term development projects. India's 'Aid to Africa' programme provides the resources for these projects**

African countries benefit from this partnership.

The targeted sectors are: agriculture; agro processing; construction; housing (low cost housing; community building); railway (infrastructure and rolling stock); mining, iron and steel; transport infrastructure (roads, waterways, ports and airports); power and non-conventional energy; pharmaceutical healthcare, biotechnology; education and skills development; water and sanitation; oil and gas; information and communication technology (ICT); consultancy, key manufacturing projects; tourism; MSMEs; and fast moving consumer goods. The then External Affairs Minister, Pranab Mukherjee, made the announcement at the India–Africa conclave meeting on April 9, 2007 that Indo-African trade was expected to reach \$70 billion by 2014 which is much less than Sino-African trade.<sup>6</sup> Nonetheless, Indian trade with Africa is steadily rising (Rena, 2008; Comtex News Network, 2009).

The TEAM-9 initiatives envisaged special cooperation amongst eight West African countries and India. The first ministerial meeting of TEAM-9 countries in New Delhi helped in clarifying issues of common concern and the logistics of cooperation (*Africa Monitor*, 2009). It was decided that the TEAM-9 will operate at the governmental, institutional and private sector levels, sharing various types of expertise, intellectual and physical, and build on economic opportunities for the promotion of welfare, growth and prosperity of the people. TEAM-9 ministers, who signed an MoU, agreed that a Heads of State/Government meeting would be held regularly. One of its important aims was to ensure that South–South Cooperation played a crucial role in this era of globalisation, liberalisation and privatisation (*The Hindu*, 2004; Rena, 2007a).

## CONCLUSION

It has been felt that since the late 1980s, India lost some momentum and could have done more to build upon its traditional strength in the African continent. In fact, India was trying to combat her own several challenges, such as poverty, unemployment and regional disparities, and as such lagged behind in fulfilling certain responsibilities towards Africa. Now, India is in a position, particularly after the economic reforms of the 1990s, to help invigorate the partnership in the true spirit of South–South Cooperation. The 21st century is often described as the Asian century, but India wishes to call it the century of Asia and Africa. Both India and Africa are blessed with a young population: almost 50 percent of the population is below the age of 25. It is only by investing in the creative energies of the youth that the potential of India and Africa partnership can be fulfilled. To harness this vast potential, it is important for both to work together for the establishment of an India–Africa volunteer corps that is devoted to development work.

The volunteer corps can, on a pilot basis, identify projects in the areas of public health, informal education and women's empowerment.

Africa must abandon its consumption-oriented economy and start building its manufacturing base by drawing a lesson from the Indian struggle for development and taking help from India's know-how and expertise. After all, African nations should realise that India is always willing to help them realise the 'African dream'. There is hardly anything that India cannot indigenously build with Indian labour and expertise. In fact, both can be transferred to the African continent easily as well.

An important area of cooperation between India and Africa has been agriculture and food security. The declaration of the India–Africa Framework for Cooperation involves programmes for agriculture. India, with her vast experience she harnessed during her Green Revolution, can do a lot for African countries who are faced with food shortages for want of proper irrigation and modern technology (Rena, 2004). The lines of credit that have already been extended by the Indian government to Africa's agricultural sector would provide opportunities to Indian and African partners to carry out projects of direct benefit to farming communities.

The paramount objective of the India–Africa cooperation is to ensure that both sides accelerate trade and investment while sharing the profits.

In short, both India and Africa have the same characteristic features as regards their socio-economic and cultural contexts. They also have ancient civilisations with traditional cultures, though many African nations are young and learning as they are growing. It should be noted that over the last couple of years, India has started emerging as a giant in the African continent.

It is evident that the India–Africa relationship is guided by a long history of solidarity deepened by shared values and ideals right from the days of the Non-Aligned Movement (initiated by Nehru and Marshal Tito) to the fight for freedom up until the present day. It is also true that to secure for the developing countries sufficient gains from globalisation, India has consistently underlined the urgent need to bring down the high tariff and non-tariff barriers on exports to less developed countries.

To conclude, it is the socio-economic and developmental similarities between the two regions that have enabled and would further enable a mutual and beneficial relationship based on goodwill and sharing.

The dreams that India's Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, had decades ago is coming true. Gandhi had said memorably that the commerce between India and Africa will be based on ideas and services, not on the exchange of manufactured goods for raw materials as was done by the European exploiters. One can argue that India's intermediate skills and technological capabilities are well-suited and cost effective for Africa's development.

Finally, India's partnership with Africa in the 21st century will not only become a genuine symbol of South–South cooperation but will also expand to attain dizzy heights. ■

### Notes

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# Oil business with a HUMAN face

Oil accounts for a large share in global energy consumption. The 'resource curse' theory, therefore, has renewed the interest of oil companies in corporate social responsibility, says **Vrushal Ghoble**



Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR): Many big companies and corporations invest considerably in community and social development activities. CSR projects include building schools, hospitals and roads.

**A**part from the Gulf, Africa has emerged as a major energy supplier. The proven reserves of oil and natural gas in Africa at the end of 2007 stood at 117.5 ('000 mil. bar.) and at 14.58 tcm, respectively, the third largest, next only to the Middle East, Europe and Eurasia. Recent years have seen a huge demand coming from Asia (India and China), driving Asian oil companies to look for a share in the African energy market. The article will try to investigate the entry of oil corporations, especially Asian ones, in the African energy market within the framework of energy secu-

ity policy. Oil accounts for a large share in the world's energy consumption, especially in developed and less developed countries. Therefore, the 'resource curse theory' has renewed the interest of oil companies in corporate social responsibility (CSR), especially when energy-rich states like Chad or Cameroon lack governmental accountability.

The article, therefore, also analyses the factors that drive CSR activities. In a situation where changes in the global demand are putting pressure on production and revenues, oil corporations are making an effort to pursue an alternative to acquiring oil and gas blocks overseas. It would be topical to probe how oil corporations perceive the role of CSR activities in fostering sustainable partnerships with



communities where they operate and how can these oil companies deepen their social responsibility engagement in the region. One of the key focus of this article would be to analyse the corporate social activities of Asian oil companies in Africa.

If India is looking at African suppliers for its future energy needs, it will certainly have to provide a better proposition than the other Asian (Chinese) oil companies. The article will focus on this issue specifically in the Indian context.

“Global oil consumption grew by 1.1 percent or 1 million barrels per day (b/d)... while gas consumption rose by 3.1 percent... in 2007”.<sup>i</sup> And simultaneously, with enhanced technology and dedicated manpower, the world’s proven reserves have also increased. The world’s proven reserves increased from 1,069.3 (‘000 mil. bar) at the end of 1997 to 1,237.9 (‘000 mil. bar) with about 41.6 reserves to production (R/P) ratio at the end of 2007.<sup>ii</sup> Apart from the Middle East and Europe & Eurasia, which have 755.3 (‘000 mil. bar) and 143.7 (‘000 mil. bar) respectively,<sup>iii</sup> Africa has emerged as a major energy supplier. Together, the African countries had 117.5 (‘000 mil. bar) and 14.58 tcm of proved reserves of oil and natural gas at the end of 2007, which was 9.5 percent of the world’s total proven reserve, with a 31.2 R/P ratio.<sup>iv</sup> The table denotes the reserves and production of the African states.

**Table 1: African Reserves, Production and R/P ratio (end of 2007)i/ii**

	Proved Reserves		Production		R / P Ratio
	Oil (‘000 mb)	Gas (tcf)	Oil (‘000 b/d)	Gas (bcm)	Oil
Algeria	12.3	159.45	2000	83.0	16.8
Angola	9.0	270 (bcm)	1723	830 (mcm)	14.4
Cameroon	-	-	82	-	-
Chad	0.9	-	144	-	17.2
Republic of Congo (Brazzaville)	1.9	-	222	-	23.9
Egypt	4.1	72.85	710	46.5	15.7
Equatorial Guinea	1.8	-	363	-	13.2
Gabon	2.0	-	230	-	23.8
Libya	41.5	52.80	1848	15.2	61.5
Nigeria	36.2	186.99	2356	35.0	42.1
Sudan	6.6	-	457	-	39.7
Tunisia	0.6	-	98	-	16.7
Total Africa	117.5	514.92	10318	190.4	31.2

Source: *British Petroleum (BP), (June 2008), “BP Statistical Review of World Energy”, p. 8 & 10; and; For Gas reserves and production of Angola see, OPEC (2007), “Annual Statistical Bulletin”, p. 23 & 27z*

The growing world demands unending supplies of energy<sup>vii</sup>. No wonder Asia’s booming economy has developed a ravenous appetite for it. A rising Asia basically means important consumers like India, China, South Korea and Japan, with China and India leading the ranks.<sup>viii</sup> To be



specific, India’s oil demand is expected to increase from 2.6 mb/d in 2004 to 3.8 mb/d in 2015 and 5.2 mb/d in 2030.<sup>ix</sup> While for natural gas, it is expected to grow from 30 bcm in 2004 to 55 bcm in 2015 and 98 bcm in 2030<sup>x</sup>. In such a scenario, India venturing out as an ‘energy predator’ could prove to be an ‘energising’ task.

With the energy market being tight, Asian consumers should find alternative means to luring producers. “Recent years have witnessed the spread of global business with multinational corporations extending their activities into developing countries. In contrast, there has been an increase in the number of the poor in the world, with almost 3 billion people surviving on an income of less than \$2 a day. This presents both a threat and an opportunity for business”.<sup>xi</sup>

**Corporate Social Responsibility**

“The phrase Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) was coined in 1953 with the publication of Bowen’s *Social Responsibility of Businessmen*, which posed the question: “What responsibilities to society can business people be reasonably expected to assume?”. In 1984, the celebrated management consultant, Peter Drucker, wrote about the imperative of turning social problems into economic opportunities. Throughout the 1970s and 80s, academic discussions on the concept of CSR grew, but the first company to actually publish a social report was Ben and Jerry’s in 1989, and the first major company to was Shell in 1998.<sup>xii</sup>

In the 1990s, CSR became more of an established industry with major companies like PricewaterhouseCoopers, entering as a CSR service provider. New consultancies, such as SustainAbility (1989), Business for Social Responsibility (1992) and CSR Europe (1996) also sprang up during this period, all promising to protect industry from protest.<sup>xiii</sup>



An international oil corporation holds a seminar-cum-discussion for African students on various employment opportunities available in the United States and Canada.

Thereafter, the CSR concept evolved beyond its boundaries and was involved in a much more extensive dialogue between the stakeholders including governments, corporations and people.

The concept of CSR has two aspects: macro and micro. Macro Corporate Social Responsibility “refers to indirect consequences of sudden and steep rises in revenues from extractive industries for the host country and society, such as the effect of oil revenues on corruption, human rights controversies and lack of democratic progress in developing countries. Micro Corporate Social Responsibility refers to the immediate effects on local communities of the activities of a company, employment, labour conditions, local education and health care”<sup>xiv</sup>.

The basic difference between the macro and micro CSR policies, however, remain unclear. But factors like employment of the local population and building infrastructure are possible at the macro level. Today, corporate responsibility is undertaken by corporations to take care of people’s needs, so that the people don’t think of them as an “evil exploiting their resources”. Therefore, apart from social commitment, CSR has also played a significant role in helping corporations acquire oil and gas blocks abroad. In recent years, there have been demands for a greater role for corporate houses in community development.

Today, CSR negates the notion that development is the exclusive responsibility of governments. Corporations too have a legitimate role to play. However, the policy of CSR of these oil corporations is driven by economic returns, rather than moral considerations. Corporate Social

Responsibility is mostly about not polluting local environment and displacing people from lands around the oilfields. It can, therefore, be also argued that the protests from developing or the underdeveloped countries against oil corporations only reflect the fact that the national wealth should trickle down to the poor or the have-nots.

### **Challenges before Africa**

Oil accounts for a large share in the world’s energy consumption, especially in developed and less developed countries. Proven African reserves of oil and natural gas at the end of 2007 stood at 117.5 (‘000 mil. bar.) and 14.58 tcm, respectively, which is the third largest, next only to the Middle East, Europe and Eurasia. The huge demand emerging from Asia makes it imperative for oil corporations to find their share in the African energy market. In this context, where changes in global demand mount pressure on production and revenues, oil corporations are seeking alternatives.

Hence the resource curse theory has renewed the oil corporations’ interests in CSR, specifically when energy-rich African states like Chad or Cameroon lack governmental accountability. The literature provided by oil companies also pays less attention to CSR. However, “in 2002, ExxonMobil responded to the widening CSR agenda by publishing the report *Corporate Citizenship in a Changing World*.”<sup>xv</sup>

The key issues that hinder the development of African states are high unemployment rates, lack of revenue transparency and corruption.



When ONGC's bid to purchase a oil block auctioned by Shell in Angola was topped by the Chinese, who used a \$2 billion aid package to convince the Angolan government, India realised that it will have to provide a better proposition in terms of CSR.

The business environment remains challenging for the global oil and gas industry. In 2008, Transparency International ranked Egypt 115th, Nigeria 121st, Libya 126th, Cameroon 141st, Angola 158th, Chad 173rd and Sudan 173rd, out of 180 states in its corruption perception index.<sup>xvi</sup>

In 2000, the World Bank approved a controversial oil and pipeline project led by ExxonMobil, Chevron and PETRONAS, that links oil fields in Chad to Cameroon's Atlantic coast. "The total cost of the mega project will reach \$3.7 billion ...".<sup>xvii</sup> "...

[The] Chad-Cameroon project, nominally expected to generate \$2 billion to \$3 billion in revenue for Chad and \$550 million for Cameroon over a 28-year operating period, would transform oil wealth into benefits for the poor, alleviating poverty and promoting economic growth in both the countries. However, in January 2001, it became public that Chad had used part of the \$25 million signature bonus from the oil consortium for weapons purchases".<sup>xviii</sup>

The lack of revenue transparency in these African countries has resulted in great concerns about governance and corruption. There is mounting pressure inside and outside the country from international organisations and NGOs for faster steps to be taken to bring openness about the amount

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and the use of oil revenue. Western companies like BP and Shell have identified non-transparent deals as a problem and have also published data regarding their investments in African countries. They claim to be actively fighting corruption. On the other hand, some companies emphasise and stick to the rules and regulations of the country they operate in; this has derailed their claims of being transparent. All oil corporations claim that their operations benefit the people and the country they operate in. But, at times, the country's policies do not allow transparency and companies

have to comply with their rules. Hence the standard argument by some companies that if they do not invest, someone else will and will do worse. Smaller or new oil companies generally have an under-developed CSR strategy and often less concern for society and environment, while major oil companies do have a strategy and vision and tend to perform better.

Another important issue before these corporations is employment of the local population. The consortium of ExxonMobil, ChevronTexaco and PETRONAS of Malaysia promised jobs for the natives of Chad and Cameroon. "However, most of the jobs have been temporary and lasted not more than a few weeks or months. Only

some 400 Chadians will get regular low-paid jobs (as drivers, security guards and the like), while in Cameroon the figure won't surpass 100. Average wages for Chadians working on the pipeline reach \$225 a month, much less than the income of foreign workers."<sup>xix</sup>

While oil corporations try to employ the local population at the basic level, the natives, however, face a problem. Aspirationally, the natives in most of these countries target senior leadership positions and have difficulty on account of inexperience or lack of expertise.

The oil corporations have also been blamed for serious environmental concerns. For example, ChevronTexaco (a merger between Chevron and Texaco), an oil corporation in Ecuador, first struck oil there in 1969. The government of Ecuador assumed that the oil would bring wealth to their country. Instead it is the people (Kichwa tribe of Ecuador's tropical rain forest) who are now paying the price. The oil spills have made their life miserable. Oil leaks into rivers and streams have affected their food chain.

Such spills threaten species and have led to displacement of people without compensation.

Many oil corporations have been exposed as regards their callous attitude towards environment, impacting local communities. For example, the Commission for Environmental Impact Assessment (which brought out a report on the request of the former Dutch development aid minister Jan Pronk) warns of "attacks and acts of sabotage against the project", given the risks of political instability in the countries (Chad and Cameroon). When asked in parliament in April 1998 whether it was felt that Chad could well evolve into a second Nigeria, Dutch Finance Minister Gerrit Zalm replied with a curt 'yes'.<sup>xx</sup>

In Nigeria, environmental degradation included the loss of fresh water sources while the company (U.S. oil major ChevronTexaco) opened up numerous channels from the sea towards the coast to instal their equipment. Bola Oyibo, a leader of a group of young people from 42 communities protesting against the Chevron Parabe platform following sustained damage to the environment, says: "For years Chevron has systematically undertaken a war against our lands, forests and waters. Come to the Awoye



Throughout the 1970s and 80s, academic discussion of the concept of CSR grew. The first major company to subsequently publish a social report was Shell International in 1998.

**While oil corporations try to employ the local population at the basic level, the natives, however, face a problem. Aspirationally, the natives in most of these countries target senior leadership positions and have difficulties on account of inexperience or lack of expertise**

community and see for yourselves what they have done. All is dead, mangroves, tropical forests, fish, fresh water, wildlife. All have been killed by Chevron..."<sup>xxi</sup>

"In Nigeria, the United States oil company ChevronTexaco continues to be accused of committing atrocious violations of human rights against the Niger Delta communities, in three incidents perpetrated between 1998 and 1999 against the Ilaje, Opia and Ikenyan communities. The attacks included assaults on unarmed people with firearms, summary executions, torture, maltreatment, unjustified destruction of properties and razing of their environment and way of life."<sup>xxii</sup>

On the other hand, the local population in these countries has taken some radical steps, which are most of the time violent. In recent years, with little evidence of resource wealth "trickling down" these countries have witnessed a growth of movements like Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) and shutting down of production (Shell stopped its production in Nigeria in June 2008). Also, since 1958, Shell has been extracting oil and gas from the Niger delta region, home to the Ogonis. As a result, their tradi-

tional livelihood — fishing and farming — has been devastated by oil spills. Apart from worsening militancy, vandalism of pipelines, the rise of economically volatile political systems (propelled by heavy reliance on oil revenues), displacement of people near oil fields, and mass poverty have affected people’s lives.

Therefore, CSR plays a significant role in addressing some of these problems. Whether providing aid or building infrastructure like schools and roads, or supplying anti-malarial vaccines, CSR could be anything that brings succour to people’s lives. CSR can also mean providing medicines or fresh water, while investments in mega projects can honourably win you exploration rights.

Today, host countries want oil corporations to invest more in infrastructure. CSR projects are long-term, such as investing big sums over a period of five years, while infrastructure aid for oil exploration rights can end in a short period depending on manpower, finance and other factors.

CSR is like an investment made by the company for the people. It will help the company reap benefits in the future and will also win an assurance from the local population that the latter will not act adversely against the company. Indirectly, it has also become a strategy to secure local goodwill in return for assets.

**Corporate Citizenship: Fostering India-Africa Energy Engagement**

Acquiring overseas energy assets has been central to India’s energy security policy. The India-Africa energy engagement has assumed vast significance in view of Africa’s potential as an investment destination for Indian oil and gas.

**Table 2: India’s oil imports from Africa (2004–05)**

	Oil Imports (Mt)	% of Total Imports
Angola	2.44	2.55
Cameroon	0.35	0.36
Congo	0.14	0.14
Egypt	2.12	2.21
Equatorial Guinea	1.66	1.73
Gabon	0.28	0.29
Libya	1.47	1.53
Nigeria	15.08	15.73
Sudan	0.33	0.34

*Source: Government of India (August 2006), “Integrated Energy Policy”, Planning Commission, New Delhi, p. 93*

companies and also Africa’s potential as an alternate source of supply for India’s oil demands. About a quarter of India’s crude is sourced from Africa. In fact, there is a huge potential for India to increase its oil imports from African states

in the future. India’s crude imports from Africa can be further understood from the table above.

At present, 30 percent of India’s energy needs are met by oil, with 70 percent of it being imported.<sup>ixxiv</sup> “The International Energy Agency (IEA) estimates that in order to stay on its current growth trajectory, India will have to increase its energy consumption by at least 3.6 percent annually. This will lead to India’s energy demand doubling by 2025, compelling it to import 90 percent of its petroleum supply.”<sup>xxv</sup> To meet its growing demand for oil, ONGC Videsh, the international arm of the parent company Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, has acquired stakes in oil exploration blocks under the Exploration and Production Sharing Agreement (EPSA) in countries like Sudan, Libya and Nigeria, among others. China has been at the forefront, acquiring these energy stakes. It goes without saying that India faces stiff competition with China for these energy deals.

“The India-Africa trade has grown rapidly in the last five years from \$3.39 billion per year in 2000 to \$30 billion per year in 2007. India recently announced import duty concessions, which is expected to further bolster imports from Africa. Overall, India runs a trade surplus with Africa. China’s trade with Africa is currently approximately \$60 billion per year and although India has substantially increased its trade with Africa, it still remains only half of Sino-African trade.”<sup>xxvi</sup>

India will invest \$500 million in development projects in Africa in the next five years and will also double financial credit to African countries from about \$2 billion in the past five years to \$5.4 billion.<sup>xxvii</sup> Against this, “the Chinese Export Import Bank is now the largest lending institution to African countries and is set to surpass the World Bank and the African Development Bank combined in the next three years, lending some \$20 billion in infrastructure loans to Ethiopia, Angola and Nigeria. The exact amount of the Chinese credit to Angola is unknown, though it is believed to be between \$4 billion and \$11 billion. In 2006, China’s investment in Kenya stood at \$30 million....”<sup>xxviii</sup>

In recent years, faced with hostility and competition, India has lost out on bids, especially to Chinese companies in the energy-rich regions.<sup>xxix</sup> For example, in August 2005, ONGC-Mittal Energy Limited (OMEL) lost a bid to Chinese National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) for Petro Kazakhstan. This happened despite India’s higher bid at \$3.6 billion than the \$3.2 billion offered by CNPC.<sup>xxx</sup> In another case, “ONGC’s bid to purchase a block auctioned by Shell in Angola was topped by the Chinese, who used a \$2 billion aid package to convince the Angolan government.”<sup>xxxi</sup> The above losses indicate that the Chinese have managed to gain confidence in the market, thereby giving them strategic leverage over Indian oil corporations.

If India wants to look at African suppliers for its future energy needs, it will certainly have to provide a better proposition than the other Asian oil corporations in gen-



Oil spills have devastated the traditional livelihoods of fishing and farming. Hence CSR plays a very significant role. Whether providing aid or infrastructure like building schools and roads or supplying anti-malarial vaccines, CSR helps ease people's lives.

eral and the Chinese in particular. The aggressive bidding by Asian countries — China for example —<sup>xxxii</sup> could result in some tensions among Asian consumers. Thus, it is very essential for Asian countries to cooperate.

Today energy has become a “foreign policy trump card”<sup>xxxiii</sup> and is at times used to blackmail client countries. In order to avoid such instances, a serious sense of understanding and relationship-building measures should be promoted between “producer-consumer” countries. CSR policies call for the promotion of transparency, accountability, good governance and human rights. To this end, collaboration is key to binding various stakeholders. Oil corporations can cooperate and ask host governments to become more transparent and accountable towards its people. In the quest for energy, Indian oil majors have accessed every corner of the earth. However, the setbacks discussed above have made Indian policymakers to rethink their strategy. Today, in exchange for access to these energy reserves, Indian oil companies have joined other Indian companies and are offering aid for the development of local populations by providing reasonably

priced medicines and building railway lines and hospitals. It has helped foster a sustainable partnership between India and African countries. In recent times, India has taken over a few community development projects in Africa. The following are of note:

■ Indian pharmaceutical companies supply low-cost generic drugs and provide support to humanitarian programmes across the African continent. Ranbaxy, a leading Indian pharmaceutical company, has provided reasonably priced medicines, particularly Antiretroviral (ARV) drugs, to several African countries including Nigeria, Kenya and Zambia.

■ Another pharmaceutical company, Cipla, provides HIV/AIDS drugs to one in every three patients in Africa. Some pharmaceutical companies, notably Ranbaxy, also have production facilities in Africa.

These pharmaceutical companies are not only adding to their bottomlines, but also are providing urgently needed healthcare at affordable costs.

■ India's leading telecommunications companies have also expressed an interest in investing in Africa. Bharti Airtel is

**India and China need African resources. Therefore, they must build on CSR activities to gain local goodwill by financing infrastructure projects like railways, ports or computer networks**

currently in negotiations to acquire 51 per cent of the controlling share in South Africa's Mobile Telephone Networks, the largest mobile phone-operator in Africa.<sup>xxxiv</sup>

■ India is offering West African nations up to \$1 billion towards power or infrastructure projects in exchange for oil exploration rights and supplies.<sup>xxxv</sup>

■ ONGC has built a \$259-million pipeline in exchange for exploration rights in the Greater Nile (Sudan) oil region.<sup>xxxvi</sup>

The African continent does not have enough capacity to finance its infrastructure and development projects, but has abundant energy resources. India and China need these resources and can, in turn, build on their CSR activities to gain goodwill by financing projects like railways, ports or computer networks. India sees African states as key long-term suppliers of energy. In turn, African states will benefit from investments in community development programmes.

The sense of energy insecurity is obvious and has hampered the two Asian giants (India and China) tremendously. In the process of outbidding each other, the two have actually ended up paying millions of dollars extra. This, in turn, has led to significant balance of payment problems for both. Therefore, in an age of growing energy insecurity and high oil prices, it makes sense for India and China to cooperate rather than compete. A joint purchase of a stake in a Syrian oilfield by ONGC and CNPC can be a model for

future energy deals for India and China. This can also set a basis for future energy cooperation between the two Asian countries. The two Asian giants can pursue CSR more efficiently with shared risks and costs in the host countries. CSR will also ensure that local populations are not displaced owing to environmental issues.

Today, oil corporations have put in place strong CSR policies in African countries, primarily for three reasons: First, to promote goodwill and foster cordial relations between the government, corporations and the people; second, to create a good name for the company; and third, to put in place a good infrastructure for their own convenience.

The CSR policies become more vulnerable and ineffective in the least developed countries like Chad or Nigeria which succumb to corruption and unaccountability. The governments in these countries are corrupt and huge signature bonuses and contract fees are consumed by the elites in the government, while the people are denied a share in the profits. This has further ignited tensions in the African continent as these countries gain huge benefits out of oil exports, even as the condition of the common man only worsens. However, in the recent times, oil corporations in the region have been extensively promoting CSR policies. Looking at the present scenario, the future looks stimulating as Indian and Chinese oil companies compete and learn to cooperate to provide better opportunities for the people in Africa. ■

**Today, oil corporations have put in place strong CSR policies in African countries, primarily to promote goodwill and foster cordial relations between the government, corporations and the people**



In recent years, with little evidence of resource wealth “trickling down”, African countries have seen a growth of movements like Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta, which are forcing oil corporations to shut down production.

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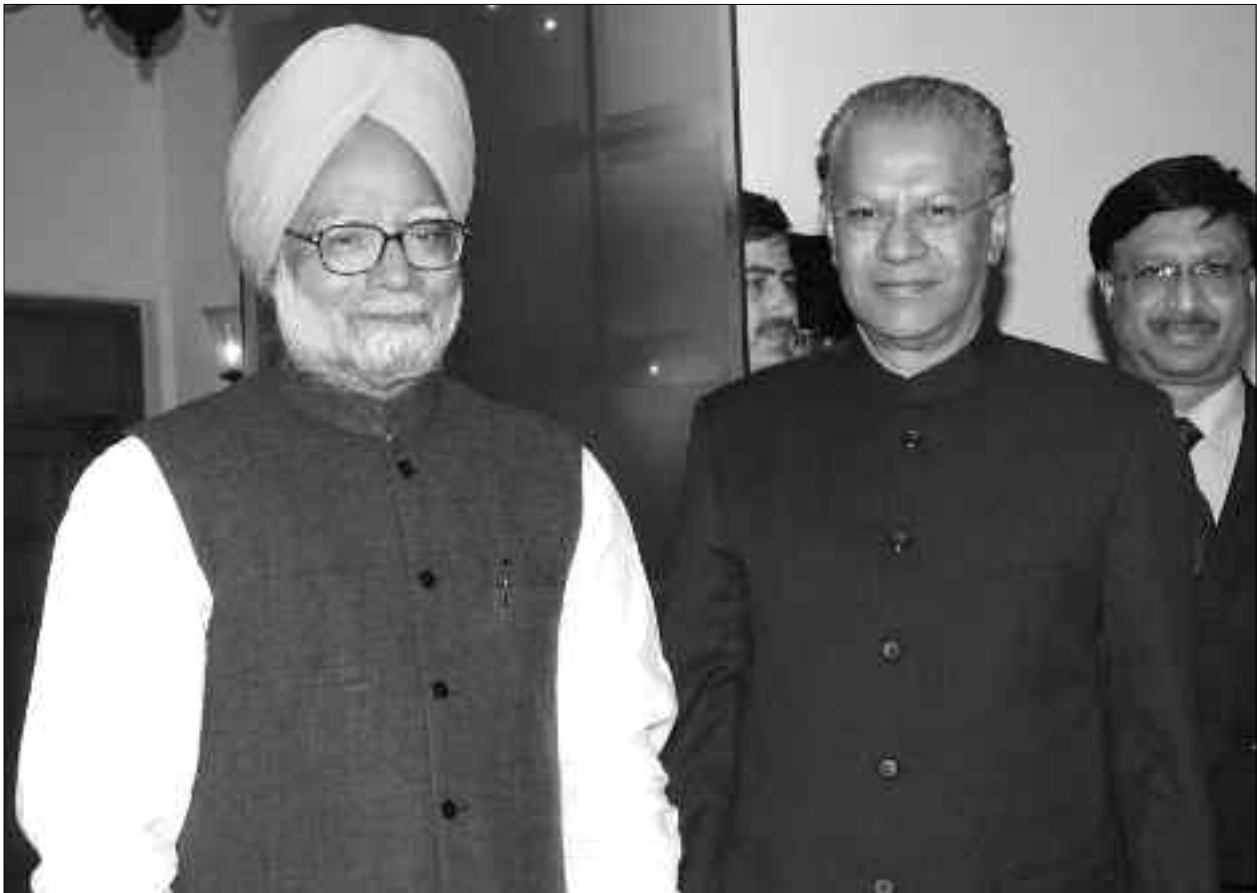
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# Celebrating India's ties with MAURITIUS

It is time to pay tribute to the contributions made by the forefathers of contemporary Mauritians who as indentured labourers forged the destiny of the island nation, says **Shubha Singh**



A file photo of Prime Minister of Mauritius Navinchandra Ramgoolam with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, in New Delhi, on February 23, 2008.

**I**n the economic history of Mauritius, people of Indian-origin have played a pivotal role. The first batch of Indian workers arrived in Mauritius about 175 years ago and this marked a sea change in the course of history of this Indian Ocean nation. Indian workers were employed in sugarcane fields on a massive scale. In due course, they helped transform Mauritius into a flourishing sugar-producing economy.

In the year 1834, a ship called *MV Atlas* set sail from the Calcutta Port in India to Port Louis in Mauritius with a shipload of Indian workers. The workers were meant for

working on the sugarcane plantations in Mauritius. The ship arrived at the Quarantine Station at Trou Fanforn in Port Louis on November 2, 1834. It was a significant moment in the history of Mauritius and it marked the beginning of what turned out to be a regulated process of emigration of Indian workers to Mauritius and later to other Caribbean islands. November 2 is now celebrated as the Indian Arrival Day in Mauritius.

Mauritius was an uninhabited island when the Dutch claimed it in 1598 and named it after Prince Maurice of Nassau. By the time Mauritius became an independent nation in 1968, the island had passed through the Dutch, French and British colonial rules.



Aapravasi Ghat, ('Coolie Ghat'), where the first batch of indentured workers had landed in 1834, became a symbol of Mauritian identity.

The French named the territory Isle de France and brought Indian artisans and workers from their French enclave of Pondicherry and Karaikal on India's Coromandel Coast to work there. The French rule continued for nearly 100 years till they handed over their Indian Ocean colony to the British, but they ensured that French influence on the island society was retained.

The varied colonial experience gave Mauritius its multi-ethnic character, where Indians constitute about 70 percent of the population. The island nation is an amalgamation of African, Chinese and Islamic cultures, as well as regional cultures and languages of India that give it a composite character. The plantation economies in the new colonies were based on slave labour. But a sustained campaign against slavery built up over the years compelled the colonial powers to initiate measures for the abolition of slavery. Finally, Britain introduced a legislation in 1834 that paved the way for its abolition in the British colonies.

Thus, slavery came to be abolished just two decades after the British had acquired Mauritius. The emancipated slaves left the plantations, refusing to work in the sugarcane fields. This resulted in an acute shortage of agricultural labourers for the plantations. The plantation estate-owners began to import Indian workers to replace the former slaves in the sugarcane fields.

As the need for replacement workers grew, the colonial administration and the British India government devised a system of indentured labour to bring workers to Mauritius.

An indentured labourer was a worker, who was bound by

a contract to a specific employer for a fixed period of time, normally for five years. Such workers had an option of serving another five years in lieu of a free return passage to India. Such labourers received transportation, food, clothing, lodging and other essentials.

The Colonial British India Government Regulations of 1837 specified the conditions for recruitment of Indian workers, who were sent to other British colonies through the Calcutta Port.

**In 2001, the Mauritius government declared that November 2 would be marked every year as Indian Arrival Day. To pay tribute to Indian-origin workers, the Mauritius government on November 2, 2009, organised a grand celebration to mark the 175th anniversary of the Indian arrival...**

Between 1834 and 1912, about 450,000 Indian workers were brought to *mirichdesh* as Mauritius was known among the Indians. About 290,000 stayed on in Mauritius, while the rest returned to India or migrated to other colonies such as Trinidad, Fiji, Natal and British Guyana. A long-drawn campaign in India and Britain against the inequities of the indenture system finally led to its abolition in 1920.

When the Indian workers arrived in Mauritius, sugarcane was the mainstay of the island's economy. But today, its share to the GDP is less than 10 percent. The indentured workers contributed to building up of the sugar economy of Mauritius. Later, their descendants moved into almost all spheres of life in the country. By the time the island nation gained independence from

Britain in 1968, it was a descendant of one of those Indian-indentured workers, Sir Seewoosagar Ramgoolam, who led the country to freedom from colonial rule.

In a bid to pay glowing tribute to the Indian-origin workers, the Mauritius government, on November 2, 2009, organised a grand celebration to mark the 175th anniversary



A Madhubani painting depicts Manilal Doctor, well-known India-born freedom fighter, social worker and lawyer, who defended the rights of Indian indentured labourers in Mauritius in the 19th century.

of Indian arrival. The centenary and the 150th anniversary of the arrival of Indian indentured workers were also celebrated with great fanfare, and in 2001, the Mauritius government declared that November 2 would be commemorated every year as Indian Arrival Day.

The ceremonial function was held at the old Immigration Depot or Aapravasi Ghat, once known as the 'Coolie Ghat', where almost 70 percent of the indentured workers had landed. The Indian indentured workers disembarked at the Coolie Ghat, climbed up the 'Sixteen Steps' to the Quarantine Station to begin their lives afresh in the new island. The Immigration Depot, thus, became a seminal reference point in the history and cultural identity of this island nation. Recognising the importance of the place in the social history, Aapravasi Ghat has been inscribed in UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites. The Ghat is also protected as a national monument under Mauritian national heritage legislation.

The function began with multi-faith prayers that reflected the religious diversity of Mauritius. A cultural performance included a traditional Bhojpuri dance that related the life of indentured workers and a dance-drama based on the story of 'Rajah at Aapravasi Ghat' was performed by schoolchildren.

On the occasion, President Sir Anerood Jugnauth released a Special Commemorative Cover for the 175th Anniversary of the Arrival of Indentured Labourers. Prime Minister Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam launched an illustrated book titled *Bande Dessinee* on the history of indenture.

In his address, the Mauritian President paid tribute to "those thousands of indentured labourers who have changed the course of history (of Mauritius) forever". He added that the arrival of "our forefathers who landed at the Aapravasi Ghat as indentured labourers was a part of the history of Mauritius, which should be kept alive for future generations."

"The miseries and sufferings endured by those who have

made Mauritius what it is today, should be made known to all. It is the landing place from where the history of the development of Mauritius started," the president said.

Describing the Aapravasi Ghat as a symbol of Mauritian identity, the President underscored the need for restoring the monument to its original state.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Prime Minister said the arrival of the indentured labourers from India was a defining moment, for they transformed the ethnography, the demography and the economy of Mauritius. "They came to a land, which was neither spiritual nor emotional. There was no joy, no freedom. There was only pain and sorrow. They were confronted by a rocky land where, instead of rice and wheat, they were made to grow and cut cane," observed the prime minister.

Dr. Ramgoolam also spoke about how the indentured labourers had to learn new languages, new etiquette and adapt to the realities of a new land. "Yet, they built mosques, *kovils* and *kalimayes*. They toiled from sunrise to sunset, six days a week. They toiled for the recognition of their rights," he said.

Minister of State for External Affairs, Dr. Shashi Tharoor, was the Chief Guest at the function. In an evocative speech, Dr. Tharoor said that a little under a century and three quarters ago, a group of people were herded on board the *MV Atlas* to arrive in Mauritius, in what was then a rocky land, inhospitable both from nature's fury and human cruelty, to face lives of unimaginable torment and drudgery. Providing for one's kith and kin was seen as an existential requirement, but had to be undertaken in suffering, cruelty and despair, Tharoor added.

"When they left the shores of India, the first group of indentured labourers was lost in the turbulence of the sea and consumed by fear of the unknown. And yet those who landed on these shores became the hardy forebears of a successful future. Their indomitable courage allowed them to triumph over the darkness, misery and uncertainty that enshrouded their arrival. They found the will to overcome. The history of these Aapravasis is a story worth telling — one which encapsulates the spirit of humankind, embodied in a dedicated, motivated and disciplined group of human being," Dr. Tharoor said.

The Mauritius government has taken several steps to preserve its Indian heritage. The Mahatma Gandhi Institute maintains the records of all the Indians who migrated to Mauritius; the Folk Museum of Indian Immigration depicts scenes from the lives of the immigrants, Phoolyar village has been preserved as the first settlement of Indians in Mauritius. The Oral History and Oral Tradition Project has been launched for the collection of heritage items. Efforts are being made through the project to retrieve old,



An Indo-Mauritian vegetable seller in the Port Louis main market.

half-forgotten folk songs that the Indians used to sing while working in the cane fields and the numerous poems that tell a tale of their hardships.

The games, foods and crafts that the indentured workers brought with them from their ancestral homes in India have also been documented and enacted. Groups of singers and dancers have worked to revive such songs of daily life in the sugar camps. The majority of the workers recruited in the sugarcane plantations hailed from a few districts of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

Ships sailing from Madras (now Chennai) brought recruits from the Madras Presidency region, from areas such as Chingleput, Trichinopoly, Salem, Arcot, and from Visakhapatnam, Masulipatnam, Guntoor, Nellore and Cuddapah. Ships from Bombay (now Mumbai) brought recruits from Ratnagiri, Satara and Thane.

The early Indians held fast to their lifestyles in Mauritius. Caste bindings fragmented over the long ship journey to Mauritius when all migrants lived and ate together. Over time, Bhojpuri became the common language of the Indians in Mauritius, though the other Indian languages also continued to some extent. Indian religion and rituals remained deeply ingrained within the immigrant community. Apart from the main Hindu festivals, *Shivratri* came to be celebrated as a major festival, when thousands of Indian *kavariyas* (pilgrims) trekked to a lake called Ganga Talao to bring back *kavars* (earthen pots) of water for their family temples. *Eid* and *Onam* came to be celebrated with equal fervour in Mauritius. After the Indian workers had served through their indenture contract of five years, they were free to leave the plantation and look for other work. The former indentured workers settled in villages and found new work. Some Indians who managed to save a bit of money used it to buy

a small patch of land. They became small cultivators. Others became traders or hawkers or looked for small jobs in the urban areas. The plantation owners sold off non-arable land to the Indians who in turn built their huts and started raising a few cattle and grow vegetables for the market.

Thus, within a couple of decades, many former indentured workers had become small farmers and by the 1870s, a sizable group of Indian landowners had emerged in Mauritius. Over the next four decades, Indians had acquired a substantial amount of the fertile land in Mauritius and had become farmers and sugarcane growers per se.

In spite of the poor living conditions, (the indentured workers were housed in the former slave quarters) and the hard, strenuous working conditions, indentured labourers and their descendants retained their culture and practices. They held fast to their religion, and put their faith in making a living for themselves and ensuring a better life for their children. The colonial administration made no provision for schools for Indian children, but the Indians were undeterred. The majority of the Indians were unlettered villagers, but they set up their own schools, known as *baithkas* (for Hindus) and *madrassas* (for Muslims), where the few literate elders taught the younger children in informal settings. Later, as the community prospered, the Indians established their own educational facilities.

Many Indians saw education as the main means of progress for their children and made great sacrifices to have their sons educated. As the second-generation Indians grew up, they moved

into different occupations and later into the professions and in clerical jobs.

By the early decades of the 20th century, Indians came to be engaged in the politics of the country and gradually started making their presence felt in almost all arenas of activity and social life in Mauritius. Mauritius celebrates the arrival of the slave community as well as the indentured workers. It takes pride in that these cultures along with their languages have flourished unhindered in the country.

The celebration of the indomitable spirit of the Indians who arrived in a new country and made it prosper with their hard work, has led to a revival of interest in the history of the Indian community. There is a greater knowledge and pride among the younger generation of Indians about the achievements of their pioneering ancestors. ■

### The celebration of the indomitable spirit of the Indians, who arrived in a new country and made it prosper with their hard work, has led to a revival of interest in the history of the Indian community

# India-Africa: Partners for a THOUSAND years

Working shoulder to shoulder, India and Africa have fought against apartheid and racial discrimination, shared the pain of subjugation, and the joys of freedom and liberation, says **Shashi Tharoor**



Minister of State for External Affairs Dr. Shashi Tharoor

**T**he India-Africa partnership has deep roots in history. Linked across the Indian Ocean, we have been neighbours and partners for thousands of years,” said Minister of State for External Affairs Dr. Shashi Tharoor, during a recent visit to Mauritius. He was addressing a large gathering at the University of Mauritius on “India-Africa: Partners in Development”, on November 3, 2009. *Excerpts from his speech:*

“The buildings of the University of Mauritius are steeped in history and are as old as this place itself. It is also significant that some of the Indian Universities and the University of Mauritius have been linked through the bonds of academia, and more importantly have worked together to provide a platform towards addressing issues of common

concern and to providing guidance and direction to the future leaders of the 21st century. I consider it a particular honour to be with you at a place where one of the highly respected Presidents of India, Professor A. P. J. Abdul Kalam had stood to address all of you when he had an inter-active session at this University in March 2006 during his State Visit to Mauritius.

I have been in Mauritius now for a little under two days. The purpose of my visit was to participate in the Aapravasi Diwas — a historic date which is steeped in poignant memory. The Aapravasi Ghat has a moving tale cast in each of its bricks and stones. History is unforgiving if we do not remember those forefathers of ours who sacrificed all to bequeath to us what we enjoy today.

We should never forget their labour and toil lest we disconnect ourselves from something which should be cherished and recalled for the larger good of mankind. The India-Africa partnership has deep roots in history. Linked across the Indian Ocean, we have been neighbours and partners for thousands of years. There was regular interaction between communities and traders, especially from the West coast of Gujarat and parts of South India with Abyssinia, Somalia, Mombasa, Zanzibar and even Mozambique.

These communities and groups played significant roles in the histories of both India and Africa. The advent of the Europeans and the colonial period disturbed these interactions but could not disrupt them. Later, both India and Africa shared the pain of subjugation and the joys of freedom and liberation. We worked shoulder to shoulder in the fight against apartheid and racial discrimination. Satyagraha, non-violence and active opposition to injustice and discrimination were first used by Mahatma Gandhi on the continent of Africa. Mahatma Gandhi always believed that so long as Africa was not free, India’s own freedom would be incomplete. Our first Prime Minister, Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, was also a firm believer and practitioner of the principle of Afro-Asian solidarity and of support to the struggles of the people of Africa against discrimination and apartheid.

India’s cooperation with Africa was based on the principle of South-South cooperation, on similarities of circumstances and experiences. India was always open to sharing our strengths, our democratic model of development and

our appropriate technologies that are cheap, yet effective. Africa became the largest partner of India's technical assistance and capacity building programmes.

We are proud that tens of thousands of African students studied in various Indian universities and then returned home to contribute to the economic and social development of their respective countries.

There was also a continuous high level of interaction between the political leaderships of India and African nations. Indian leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Smt. Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi and other leaders are held in high esteem in Africa. So also were the leaders of Africa who always received a warm welcome in India. This continues even today.

These cooperation programmes and the guidance of our respective leaderships laid the foundation of a very strong political and economic partnership between India and Africa in the 20th century. On these foundations, a new architecture for structured engagement and cooperation for the 21st century was designed at the first India Africa Forum Summit hosted by India in April 2008. The Summit provided an occasion for the leaderships of India and Africa to come together to chart out the roadmap for a systematic engagement. The India Africa Forum Summit adopted two historic documents, the Delhi Declaration and the India Africa Framework for Cooperation.

The Delhi Declaration which is a political document covers bilateral, regional and international issues. These include our common positions on UN reforms, climate change, WTO and international terrorism, etc. The India-Africa Framework for Cooperation spells out the agreed areas of cooperation. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh also announced at the Summit the Duty Free Tariff Preferential Scheme for the 50 least developed countries, 34 of whom are in Africa. This will cover 94 percent of India's total tariff lines and, more importantly provide preferential market access on tariff lines for 92.5 percent of the global exports of all LDCs. Dr. Singh also announced our decision to double the amount for lines of credit to \$5.4 billion for the next five-years i.e. over one billion each year. These lines of credit will be for projects prioritised by African nations and could include such crucial sectors as infrastructure, including agriculture and food security, IT, telecom, power-generation, physical connectivity and small, medium and micro enterprises, water-management, capacity-building in agriculture and building institutions dedicated to agricultural research.

At the India Africa Forum Summit, India also announced a grant of \$500 million for the next five to six years to undertake projects in human resource development and capacity-building. Long-term scholarships for undergraduates, post-graduates and higher courses have been doubled and the number of slots under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC) increased from 1100 to 1600 every year.

We are happy to see the Indian private sector increasingly

engage in Africa. Indian companies have made large investments in Africa running into several billion dollars in industry, agriculture, infrastructure and human resource development. India's trade with Africa has been growing rapidly. Two-way trade has risen to over \$36 billion in 2008-09, which represents an almost six-fold increase in as many years.

A successful partnership programme between India and Africa have been the CII-EXIM Bank Conclaves. These Conclaves are intended to create and provide platforms for decision makers from African countries and relevant multilateral, regional and national funding agencies to meet and interact with the entire range of Indian companies involved in engineering consultancy, turnkey projects, construction and supply of project goods. So far, five Annual Conclaves in India have been held. Indian participation has grown from 200 industry members to 500 members. Participation has grown from 153 African delegates to 483. Eleven Regional Conclaves in Africa (in Zambia, Ethiopia, Ghana, two in South Africa, Uganda, Mozambique, Ivory Coast, Senegal, Tanzania and Nigeria) were held.

There is a growing demand in Africa for developing infrastructure, new technologies, engineering services and manufacturing capabilities for local value addition. These offer excellent opportunities to Indian businesses in Africa, and to millions of young people in Africa who can be employed in the manufacturing and services sectors.

The Pan African E-network project that seeks to bridge the 'digital divide' between Africa and the rest of the world is one of the most far-reaching initiatives undertaken by India. Already 42 countries have joined this programme which is intended to provide E-services with priority on tele-education and tele-medicine services and VVIP connectivity by satellite and fibre optic network amongst the Heads of State of all 53 countries.

India has also been extensively involved in peacekeeping efforts in Africa over the past six decades. At present, India has over 7,000 peacekeepers serving in Africa, including a 5,000 strong contingent in the Democratic Republic of Congo. India's first full all-female formed police unit is currently deployed in Liberia. In addition to peacekeeping, this unit has been successful in reaching out to the most vulnerable sections of the society i.e. women and children and in inspiring women who have so often been victim of war to see themselves also as sources of succour and strength in this recently war torn society.

In conclusion, I would like to state that India envisions an Africa that is self-reliant, economically vibrant and at peace with itself and the world. While highlighting the vitality of African continent, the first Prime Minister of India, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, had said, "Of one thing there can be no doubt, and that is the vitality of the people of Africa. Therefore, with the vitality of her people and the great resources available in this great continent, there can be no doubt that the future holds a great promise for the people of Africa." ■

# Africa-UN relations: A SUCCESS story

Africa's engagement with the UN has been a remarkable chapter in the annals of world history, says **Ankush B. Sawant**



The signing of the United Nations Charter in San Francisco on June 26, 1945. One of the remarkable features of the UN Charter was its emphasis on development, prosperity and self-determination of Non-Self Governing Territories, especially the colonies of the Great Powers

**T**hough Africans could not significantly influence the founding conference of the United Nations at San Francisco in April-July, 1945, they were somewhat happy at the outcome of the conference. For the Charter of the United Nations reaffirms its faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person; and in the equal rights of men and women, and nations large and small. The organisation's commitment to "broad purposes and principles" in the form of "international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character" and to developing "friendly relations among nations, based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-

determination among people", and to promoting "social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom" have provided the moral and legal justification for most of the demands advanced by the people of Africa.

The Charter thus, becomes "a kind of documentary expression of natural law and a global bill of rights". It is because of this that the elites on the continent have traditionally held the world organisation in relatively high esteem. One of the remarkable features of the UN Charter is the interest it has shown in the development, prosperity and self-determination of Non-Self Governing Territories (NSGT). Three of the 19 chapters of the Charter are devoted to "territories under colonialism". While Chapters XII and XIII provide for the establishment of a UN Trusteeship system for some territories with the definitive obligation to



“leading them to independence”, within a specific period, Chapter XI is a declaration on NSGT.

When Ghana became independent in April 1957, the first black African country to become independent, Kwame Nkrumah made it clear that his country’s independence would not be meaningful unless it was linked with the total liberation of the African continent. Thanks to the principles and policies of the UN and the efforts of countries like India and Egypt, supported by the Communist bloc, in the sixties many other African countries became independent. In fact, 1960 is regarded as the year of Africa’s independence.

By 1960, the UN General Assembly had adopted a resolution demanding the total elimination of colonialism. The UN had, thus, become a liberating force both in principle as well as practice even as the UN Charter became a Charter of De-colonisation. The machinery, created for world peace and security, became a mechanism for “splinterisation” of the colonial Empire.

These countries, after various attempts at unity, established in May 1963, the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) representing geographical, ethnic, cultural, political, social and economic diversities but bound by a vibrant trend of pan-Africanism. The main objective of OAU was liberating the continent from the clutches of colonialism and racialism; promoting African unity and coordinating and intensifying cooperation in an effort to achieve a better life for the people of Africa. One of the purposes of OAU was to promote international cooperation, with due regard to the UN Charter.

The founding fathers of the OAU Charter affirm their adherence and dedication to the principles of the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which “provide a solid foundation for peaceful and positive cooperation among states”. Like the UN Charter, the OAU Charter also affirms its faith in sovereign equality of all member states, non-interference in the internal affairs of states, peaceful settlement of disputes, eradication of all forms of colonialism and economic development. The founding fathers, thus, intended the organisation to operate within the framework of the principles and purposes of the United Nations. The OAU provided African states a forum to develop a common agenda, a common platform, and shared attitudes, which, in turn, gave Africa an identity and helped it to play its part on the international stage.



The memorial to Kwame Nkrumah in Accra, Ghana. Nkrumah was one of the most influential 20th century advocates of Pan-Africanism and the first President of Ghana

**The founding fathers of the OAU Charter affirm their adherence and dedication to the principles of the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which “provide a solid foundation for peaceful and positive cooperation among states”**

Article XXVI of the OAU Charter provides that “this Charter, shall, after ratification be registered with the Secretariat of the UN through the Government of Ethiopia in conformity with Article 102 of the UN Charter”.

Besides these provisions of the OAU Charter, the founding fathers adopted a resolution titled “Africa and the United Nations”. The Resolution stated that the African states reaffirmed their dedication to the purposes

and principles of the UN Charter, and its acceptance of all obligations contained therein. The resolution, however, complained that the representation given to Africa as a geographical region was quite inadequate and that it should have greater representation at the principal organs of the UN, particularly in the Security Council and the Social and Economic Council. Subsequently, in December 1963, Articles 23, 27 and 61 of the UN Charter were amended, increasing the membership of the Security Council from 11 to 15 and that of Social and Economic Council from 18 to 27.

### **UN-OAU Relations**

The relations between the UN and OAU in all fields of activities were based on the Resolution 20 of October 11, 1965 of the UN General Assembly (GA) and Resolution 33 (II) of October 25, 1965 of the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government. The UNGA in a resolution requested the UN Secretary-General to invite the Administrative Secretary-General of OAU to attend sessions of the General Assembly as an observer, to explore in consultation with the appropriate bodies of OAU, the means of promoting cooperation between the two organisations and to report to the General Assembly. The OAU welcomed with satisfaction the establishment of coop-

**Annexe I  
Growth of African Membership in the United Nations**

Year	Total United Nations Membership	African states In United Nations African states	Percent of United Nations Composed of
1950	60	3	5.0
1955	76	4	5.2
1960	99	25	25.2
1962	110	32	29.0
1964	115	35	30.4
1966	122	38	31.1
1968	126	41	32.6

eration between the UN and OAU and requested the OAU Administrative Secretary-General to invite the UN Secretary-General to follow the work of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government and the Council of Ministers as well as all the Specialised Commissions as an observer.

The cooperation agreement between OAU and the UN was again updated in October 1990, undertaking to cooperate through their appropriate bodies in political, economic, social, cultural and scientific fields.

**Reasons for Close Relations**

The reasons for this emphasis on the cooperation and collaboration with the UN were not far to seek. One of the important points between the UN and Africa was the status of Africa in the UN. The doctrine of sovereign equality that is being practised in the UN, gave African countries equal status with their old colonial masters. Symbols of sovereignty were important to the countries, which had become newly sovereign. A seat in the UN was regarded as an ultimate symbol of formal independence. It gave them a sense of independent status.

When these new state-nations (as against European nation-states) entered the international arena, they had to operate within rules of European origin that governed international relations. They had no power to challenge them or modify them except to the extent the UN could influence a new pattern of attitude and/or behaviour.

Thirdly, most African countries entered into world politics with an extremely narrow information base. However, the UN system of stationing permanent missions in New York helped provide African countries a viable option. The UN conference diplomacy broadened the vision of African states on many important world issues.

Last, but not the least, the lack of both military and economic power. African countries realised that without the support of the international community, it would be difficult for them to realise their objectives. They, therefore, depended on the UN for protection of their territorial

integrity and sovereignty, besides economic development. In fact, the UN became the very centre of the new international society for African countries.

This relations between the UN and the OAU led to close cooperation between the two organisations. We have already mentioned how the UN became the instrument of de-colonisation. Along with de-colonisation, the next important issue was securing peace and security. The OAU recognised that the UN had the primary responsibility for international peace and security and that it was also endowed with greater material and financial resources. The UN, on the

other hand, recognised that its operation would lose credibility in Africa unless it was seen to be acting in harmony with OAU. The UN, therefore, had a tradition of regular consultations with the OAU on issues of peace and security affecting the African continent. The UN on its part tried to ameliorate African conflicts brought before it.

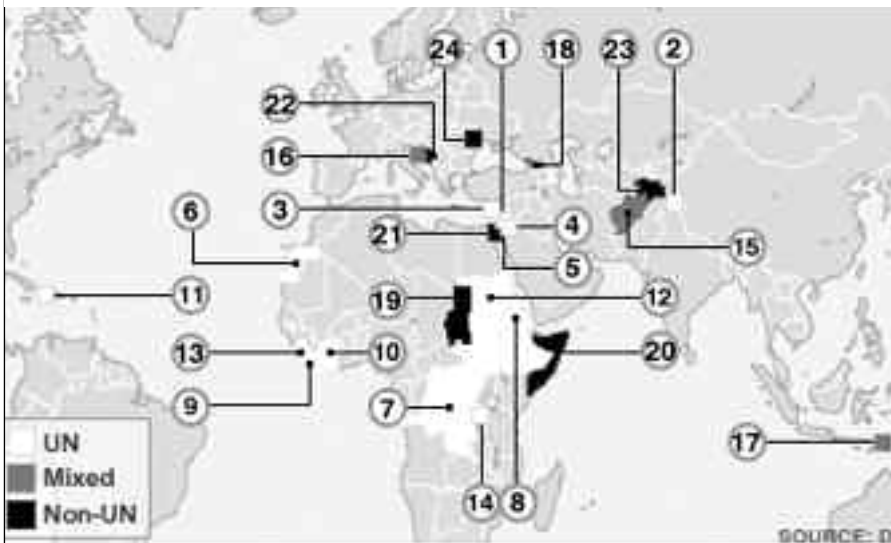
**Development**

The development of Africa became a key concern of the world body. To help accelerate economic and social development, an agreement on cooperation between the OAU and the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) was signed in November 1965. Under the agreement, it was provided that OAU and ECA would consult one another on all matters of common interest to help achieve their respective objectives and coordinate their activities relating to the economic and social development of the African continent.

The UN has given top priority to the development of Africa in line with the Millennium Development Goals of: i) Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger; (ii) Achieving universal primary education; (iii) Promoting gender equality and empowering women; (iv) Reducing child mortality; (v) Improving maternal health; (vi) Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; (vii) Ensuring environmental sustainability; (viii) Developing a global partnership for development. The target date set to achieve these goals is 2015. According to UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, it is possible to achieve these goals if the international community were to translate it into concrete deliverables.

In September 2008, the UNGA held a special high-level meeting devoted exclusively to Africa's development needs. Along with representatives of African and donor countries, and business and civil society organisations, 29 heads of state and government participated in it. In its final declaration, donor countries reaffirmed their intent to increase their development assistance and other forms of support to Africa. However, in light of the global economic crisis, there were fears that as the economies of Africa's main donor partners were affected, the first victim was going to be aid.

## Annexe II



- 1 - Middle East (UNTSO, Jerusalem) ● 2 - Kashmir (UNMOGIP) ● 3 - Cyprus (UNFICYP)
- 4 - Golan Heights (UNDOF) ● 5 - Lebanon (UNIFIL) ● 6 - Western Sahara (Minurso)
- 7 - DR Congo (MONUC) ● 8 - Ethiopia/Eritrea (UNMEE) ● 9 - Liberia (UNMIL) ● 10 - Ivory Coast (UNOCI) ● 11 - Haiti (Minustah) ● 12 - Sudan (UNMIS) ● 13 - Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL)
- 14 - Burundi (BINUB) Mixed ● 15 - Afghanistan (UNAMA and Nato-led ISAF) ● 16 - Kosovo (UNMIK and Nato-led K-For) ● 17 - East Timor (UNMIT and Australian-led force) ● 18 - Georgia (UNOMIG and Russian-led CIS force) Non-UN ● 19 - Darfur (African Union force) ● 20 - Somalia (African Union force) ● 21 - Sinai Peninsula (mainly U.S. force) ● 22 - Bosnia (EU-Eufor)
- 23 - Tajikistan (Russian-led CIS border force) ● 24 - Trans-Dniester (Russian force)

The UN is worried about Africa because despite recent improvement in growth and economic stability across the continent, absolute poverty in sub-Saharan Africa has risen over the last decades. While there are pocket of progress, not a single country in the sub region is on track to achieving the MDGs by the target date of 2015.

Meanwhile, the UN and African Union (AU) are strengthening cooperation to battle the growing problem of drug trafficking. Under this initiative, the UN office on Drugs and Crime will provide support to the AU's plan of action on drug control and crime prevention in making policy, settling norms and building capacities.

### Democracy and Human Rights

Many African countries had earlier rejected the concept of democratic political institutions and human rights, dubbing them as legacies of Western colonialism and hegemony. Under one pretext or the other, with a few notable exceptions, most African countries came under dictatorships. Thanks to the changing world environment after the end of Cold War, a new wave of independence flowed across Africa.

The United Nations played an important role in restoring democracy in Africa by providing resources, expertise and observers in conducting elections. It continues to do its best towards strengthening democracy by helping to tackle some of the most basic problems of African states.

What was true about democracy, the same was true about

human rights. Many African countries had questioned the "Universality of Human Rights" as enunciated in the UN Declaration of Human Rights. They argued that variations in cultural tradition across the world must be taken into consideration while formulating an acceptable, universally valid set of human rights. The African political elite pointed out that the basic unit of their society was the tribe and not the individual. Some African intellectuals and members of the political elite were in agreement with the Marxist view that human rights are not inherently located in man but are conferred by the state and that economic rights ought to be privileged over political and civil rights.

Under such hostile conditions, the UN slowly and steadily worked for the protection and promotion of human rights. Thanks again to the changed situation,

human rights today is an accepted norms and now the UN is working more vigorously on this front.

### Africa's Impact on the UN

The sudden increase in the number of independent African States in 1960 had its impact on the United Nations too. The admission of these states into the UN substantially transformed the organisation, its environment and the demands made upon it. First, as they had no representation on the UN Security Council, they naturally used the forum available to them, namely the General Assembly. So as their numbers swelled, the General Assembly grew in importance. Secondly, there was a major shift in the manner major issues were handled by the UN. After the entry of African countries into the UN in such a large numbers, priorities changed as the African states brought to bear on the organisation the pressure of their own priorities. Now colonialism became the chief concern of the UN. One could not think of the UN passing declarations, granting independence to colonial countries and peoples (GA Resolution 1514 (XV), 14 December, 1960) in earlier years.

Along with colonialism, economic development also got priority over other issues. The UN now began asking industrialised states to devote greater resources for developing nations. The UN's adopting a resolution like the "Right to Development" was also a pointer to the changing environment.



The signing the Charter of the Organisation of African Unity in Africa Hall in Lusaka on May 25, 1963

## Restructuring

The approach of the African countries to the question of restructuring the UN has been shaped by their experiences, besides their expectations from the UN. It is because of this that they focused mainly on the question of restructuring the Security Council. This was because many of their objectives and demands could not be achieved mainly because of the hindrances and restrictions from the Security Council. Secondly, it is the Security Council which is primarily responsible for maintaining peace and security in the world.

In restructuring the UN, Africa's main demands are: 1) increasing the membership of the Security Council, both permanent and non-permanent members; 2) giving adequate geographical representation in the Security Council; 3) providing adequate representation to developing countries, with Africa getting at least two permanent seats.

They suggest that the number of votes required to block action should be increased and eventually veto should be abolished in keeping with the spirit of democratisation.

On account of growing engagement with the world body, there is today a sizable UN presence in Africa. To begin with, the UN has nearly 50,000 troops engaged to maintain the peace in seven African countries, with plans for further operations. But this is not all. The UN is doing far more in Africa than just keep the peace. Whether it is economic development, restoring political democracy or

protecting and promoting human rights, the UN is very active in Africa. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) looks after nearly 2.5 million Africans. Some refugee camps have been in existence for years. African cities are planned and maintained with the help of UN Habitat. Its crops are assessed and improved by the Food and Agricultural Organisation. Its children are vaccinated by the World Health Organisation. Driving round many African cities, one is constantly struck by the blue and white of the UN flags and logos. Its white vehicles are to be found even in the remotest corners of Africa.

After surveying this all pervasive UN presence in Africa, Martin Plaut, BBC's Africa analyst, posed a question:

Is the UN re-colonising Africa? The author says: "It is hard to escape the conclusion that if Africa is not being colonised by the UN, then it is certainly being run at least, as much from New York as it is from most of the continent capitals."

Of course, many of the BBC's listeners/readers reacted promptly and sharply to the story. Some called it ridiculous, some called it harmful, others called it amazing. To compare the UN with colonialism is to understate the brutal character and impact of colonialism. Their main points were, first, the article misses the definition of colonialism. They pointed out that the UN is not "siphoning natural resources and claiming territory from the African states like colonialists of the past". Second, the writer should not forget that the UN comprises African nations as well. They also pointed out that Africa was in a precarious situation, created not only by colonialism but also by the Cold War. "The Cold War was to a large degree fought in Africa." And on what fraction of Africa does the UN have real influence? Which governments are behind deci-

## The relationship between the OAU and the UN is a unique example of an international system complementing a regional system whole-heartedly and helping the regional organisation in tackling numerous problems

sion-making in several African countries? BBC readers/listeners pointed out that the UN was playing an enormous role in settling disputes in African countries and was also engaged in doing significant constructive work. The UN has taken this huge responsibility because "they stabilise failed states and practically govern them because no one else will. They want UN to do more and not less in Africa. If the UN is going to be criticised for its presence in Africa, it should be for lack thereof".

## Conclusion

Though African countries were new to international politics and its rules, at least as far as the UN was concerned, they conducted themselves with dignity, maturity and foresight.

They forged close links with the UN system and made considerable impact on its working and in the process made the UN take more interest in Africa and its problems.

The OAU and the UN have had a long history of shared values and joint action as partners in a struggle against colonisation, and peace and security development of Africa.

The relationship between the OAU and the UN is a rare example of two organisations working towards a common goal with similar mechanisms. It is a unique example of an international system complementing a regional system whole-heartedly and helping a regional organisation in tackling the numerous problems from decolonisation to security and development.

Unfortunately, on their own turf, where they were the masters of their situation, African leaders have failed miserably and the benefits that could have flowed from Africa's close links with the UN have not materialised. ■

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*RESILIENCE OF A NATION: A History of the Military in Rwanda*

By **Rusagara, Frank K**; 244pp; Uganda; Fountain Publishers; Paperback; £19.95

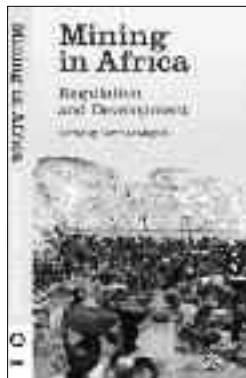
**THE BOOK** examines the role that the military has played throughout the history of Rwanda to date. Argues that, not precluding any political expediency, it is the military that has played the most central sociopolitical role in what became Rwanda from when no slave trader could tread its soil, to its zenith during the 1994 genocide. Takes stock of the history that led to the Inyenzi guerrilla movement in the 1960s, the Rwanda Patriotic Front and Army in the late 1980s and early 1990s, and the current Rwanda Defence Forces (RDF).



*THIRST FOR AFRICAN OIL: Asian National Oil Companies in Nigeria and Angola*  
By **Vines, Alex, Weimar, Markus, Campos, Indira & Wong, Lillian**; 48pp; UK; Chatam House; £10



**A COMPARATIVE** study of the impact of Asian companies on the two leading oil producing countries in sub-Saharan Africa, Nigeria and Angola, it shows that Asian companies that gained a foothold in the Nigerian oil sector in return for their commitments to invest in downstream and infrastructure projects failed to understand the political context of the time. The Chinese oil strategy has been so successful in Angola to the detriment of other Asian national oil companies and international oil companies; how Angola emerged as the second largest supplier of oil to China in 2008; how Chinese oil companies have negotiated deals; and what the benefits are for Angola.



*MINING IN AFRICA: Regulation and Development*  
By **Campbell, Bonnie (Ed.)**; 288pp; UK; Pluto Press; Paperback; £25

**AFRICA IS** rich in minerals, but rather than forming the basis for economic growth, the mining industry contributes very little to African development. Investigating the impact of the 2003 *Extractive Industries Review* on a number of African countries, the contributors find that a key dimension of the problem lies in the regulatory frameworks imposed on the African countries by the IMF and World Bank. They aim to

convince governments that regulation needs to be reformed to create a mining industry favourable to economic development. The book takes a multidisciplinary approach and provides a historical perspective of each country, making it ideal for students of development studies.

■ Pictorial View

*AFRICA LENS: 20 Years of Getaway*

Photography

By **Fox, Justin (Ed.)**; 144pp; South Africa; Jacana Media; Hardback; £20

**IN AFRICA**, there is probably no single entity that has produced as many varied images as GETAWAY. The magazine has portrayed the continent's people, fauna and landscapes in myriad indelible ways over the past 20 years through a series of breathtaking images. Assignments have taken photographers on camels across the Sahara, to being manhandled by gorillas in Rwanda, to micro-lighting over the Victoria Falls or snowmobiling across the wastes of Antarctica.

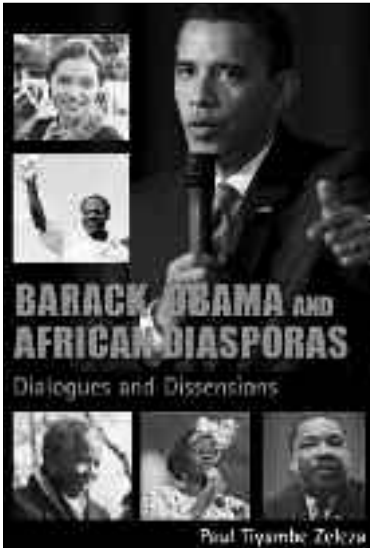


*AFRICA AT A GLANCE: Fact and Figures*

By **Esterhuysen, Pieter & van As, Elize (Eds.)**; 84pp; South Africa; Africa Institute of South Africa; Paperback; £18.95



**THE BOOK** is a collection of data about Africa from 2008-09. Includes basic geographical and linguistic information to breakdowns of individual countries' annual production. Also includes current political information and details about the eventual creation of independent states.



*BARACK OBAMA AND AFRICAN DIASPORAS: Dialogues and Dissensions*  
**By Zeleza, Paul Tiyambe; 240pp; UK; Ayebia; Paperback; £16.99**

**PAUL TIYAMBE** Zeleza provides a critical engagement with Africa's multiple worlds. With a blend of erudition and style, Zeleza writes about the role of Africa and Africans in the world and the interaction of the world with Africa. Zeleza analyses the significance of the election of a member of the African diaspora to the presidency of the United States. He also addresses Africa's urgent political concerns: China's role in Africa, South Africa's difficulties in making the transition to a post apartheid society, the

agony of Zimbabwe, and a discussion of Pan-Africanism, its history and contemporary challenges. Other posts introduce the reader to the rhythms of daily life, including leisure activities and, in capturing the different aspects of Africa.

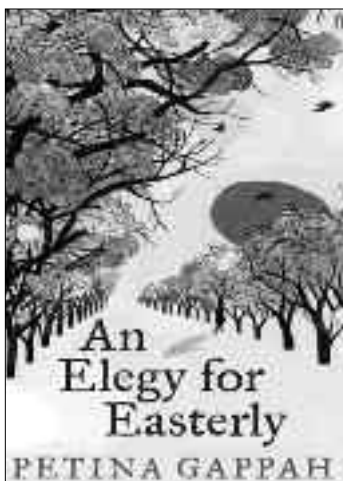
## ■ Cause and Conflicts



*AFRICAN WOMEN AND APARTHEID: Migration and Settlement in South Africa*  
**By Lee, Rebekah; 304pp; UK; IB Taurus; Hardback; £56.50**

**A KEY** mechanism of apartheid in South Africa was the set of restrictions placed on the movements of Africans; in particular, African women were subject to lives of daily surveillance and highly regulated housing, employment and mobility. Here Lee explores the lives and testimonies of three generations of African women in Cape Town during the apartheid (1948-94) and post-apartheid periods. Through

life histories and a wealth of evidence, Lee considers how African women differently experienced apartheid, offering an intimate account of their attempts to locate 'home' in the urban setting.



*AN ELEGY FOR EASTERLY*  
**By Gappah, Petina; 288pp; UK; Faber & Faber; Paperback; £7.99**

**NEW, SMALLER** format edition. In this powerful debut collection, Gappah dissects with real poignancy, the lives of people caught up in a situation over which they have no control, as they deal with spiralling inflation, power cuts and financial hardship — a way of life under Mugabe's regime — and cope with issues common to all people everywhere; failed promises, disappointments and unfulfilled dreams. Compelling, unflinching and tender, this is a stunning

portrait of a country in chaotic meltdown and turmoil.

*THE NEW PRESENCE OF CHINA IN AFRICA*



**By Van Dijk, Meine Pieter (Ed.); 224pp; Netherlands; Amsterdam University Press; Paperback; 29.50**

**THIS INSIGHTFUL** book describes China's growing range of activities in Africa and to what extent the Chinese model in Africa can act as an example for the West.

*THE DRAGON'S GIFT: The Real Story of China in Africa*

**By Brautigam, Deborah; 300pp; UK; Oxford University Press; Hardback; £18.99**



**IS CHINA** a rogue donor, as some media pundits suggest? Or is China helping the developing world pave a pathway out of poverty,

as the Chinese claim? In the last few years, China's aid program has leapt out of the shadows. Media reports about huge aid packages, support for pariah regimes, regiments of Chinese labour, and the ruthless exploitation of workers and natural resources in some of the poorest countries in the world sparked fierce debates. These debates, however, took place with very few hard facts. Deborah Brautigam tackles the myths and realities, explaining what the Chinese are doing, how they do it, how much aid they give, and how it all fits into their going global strategy.



## ■ Lost Innocence



*CHILDREN AT WORK IN AFRICA:  
Child Labor Practices in Africa*

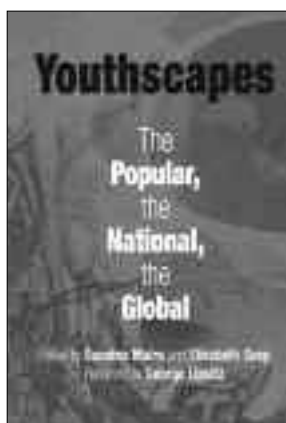
**By Kielland, Anne & Tovo, Maurizia; 20pp; USA; Lynne Rienner; Paperback; £17.99**

**ACCESSIBLE TREATMENT** of child labour in Africa, the book provides a straightforward prose, enriched throughout with photographs that give a human face to the issues involved. After providing a general background to the topic, it discusses the work typically done by African children in the home, as apprentices, and in commercial labour markets, and provides a discussion of the worst, exploitive kinds of child labour.

*YOUTHSCAPES: The Popular, the National, the Global*

**By Maira, Sunaina & Soep, Elisabeth (Eds.); 257pp; USA; University Press of Pennsylvania; Paperback; £15.99**

**THE TERM** youthscales places local youth practices within the context of ongoing shifts in national and global forces. Using this framework, the book revitalizes discussions about youth cultures and social movements, while simultaneously reflecting on the uses of youth as an academic and political category. Tracing young people's movements across physical and imagined spaces, the authors examine, among other topics, former child soldiers in Sierra Leone and Somali high school students in the United States and Canada. Drawing on methodologies and frameworks from multiple fields, such as anthropology, sociology, and film studies, the volume is useful to those studying and teaching issues of youth culture, popular culture, globalisation, social movements, education, and media.



*THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF AIDS: A Global Perspective*

**By Whelehan, Patricia; 320pp; USA; Florida**

**UP; Paperback; £29.99**

**SYNTHESISES DATA** from anthropology, psychology, sociology, and biology, and incorporates the author's two decades of work as a medical anthropologist, HIV test counsellor and sex therapist. Designed for use in a range of college courses, this volume combines a solid introduction to the epidemiology of HIV and AIDS with a wealth of material exploring the cross-cultural societal impact of the disease since 1981, focusing on current social, cultural, political, and economic factors throughout the world. She brings a relativistic, comparative, and holistic approach to look at HIV/AIDS as both a pandemic and an intercultural health problem. She also explores the ethics and controversies surrounding HIV testing, treatment, and research in the United States and other specific societies, including Thailand, Brazil, and areas of Sub-Saharan Africa.

## ■ Abuse



*SEXUAL ABUSE OF YOUNG CHILDREN IN SOUTHERN AFRICA*

**By Richter, Linda; Dawes, Andrew & Higson Smith, Craig (Eds.); 478pp; South Africa; Human Sciences Research Council; Paperback; £22.95**

**A STUDY** of the many sided nature of sexual abuse of young children. The opening section of the book confronts the realities of sexual abuse of pre pubertal children and the way abuse is represented in the press. The second section discusses the individual and socio cultural causes of child sexual abuse. Section three covers legal and

policy responses to the problem while the fourth section presents a series of accounts of interventions on behalf of abused children drawn from South Africa, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. The book concludes with some critical reflections on research in this area.

*OUR BROKEN DREAMS: Child Migration in Southern Africa*

**By Save the Children; 114pp; Zimbabwe; Weaver Press; Paperback; £15.95**



**IN THE** book, children tell their own stories to highlight the dangers they face. It explores and eeks out what has driven them to make and, what is often a long and dangerous journey. Their singular voices, remind us of their courage, resilience and their refusal to manipulate the situation in which they find themselves through self-pity and sentiment.



## ■ Development Discourse

*DEVELOPMENT AS MODERNITY, MODERNITY AS DEVELOPMENT*

By Lushaba, Lwazi; 78pp; Senegal; Codesria; Paperback; £16.95

**ANALYSES THE** impact of the Western idea of modernity on development and under-development in Africa. It traces the genealogy of the Western idea of modernity from Enlightenment concepts of the universal nature of human history and development, and shows how this idea was used to justify the Western exploitation and oppression of Africa. Argues that contemporary development, theory and practice is a continuation of the Enlightenment project and that Africa can only achieve real development by rejecting Western modernity and inventing its own forms of modernity.



*THE WORLDWIDE FUNDRAISER'S HANDBOOK: A Resource Mobilisation Guide for NHOS and Community Organisations — Third edition*

By Norton, Michael; 336pp; UK; Directory of Social Change; Paperback; £24.95

**NOW IN** its third edition, this fully revised and updated edition is the essential fundraising handbook for the developing world (including Africa, Asia, Latin America and countries of Eastern Europe). Using case studies and examples of good practice, it offers guidance and advice on establishing

effective local fundraising and the opportunity to tap into a wide range of sources of funding (including government, companies and charitable foundations). It also offers fundraising techniques and sources of information and help. This new edition incorporates changes in fundraising practice and new case studies as well as a completely updated and rewritten section on internet fundraising and an expanded 'Useful Organisations' section.

*AFRICA'S FUTURE, AFRICA'S CHALLENGE: Early Childhood Care and Development in Sub-Saharan Africa*

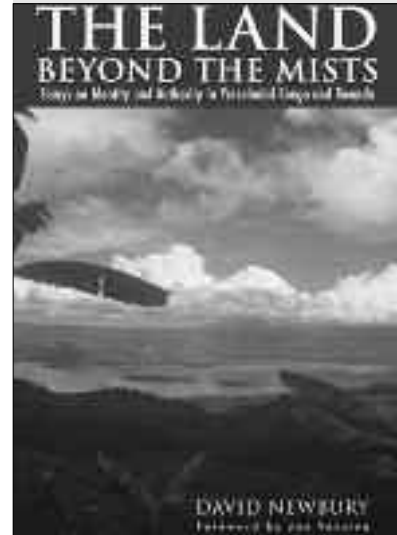
By Garcia, Marito H. & Pence, Alan & Evans, Judith L. (Eds.); 525pp; USA; World Bank Publications; Paperback; £21.99

**ARGUES THAT** early childhood intervention programmes are among the most effective ways to build human capital and break the cycle of poverty. Yet the amount spent on early childhood care and education varies considerably. Countries have to identify cost effective and adaptable interventions that meet the needs of their communities.



*THE LAND BEYOND THE MISTS: Essays on Identity and Authority in Precolonial Congo and Rwanda*

By Newbury, David; 512pp; USA; Ohio U P; Paperback; £30.99



**THE HORRIFIC** tragedies of Central Africa in the 1990s riveted the attention of the world. But these crises did not occur in a historical vacuum. By peering through the mists of the past, David Newbury presents case studies illustrating the significant advances in our understanding of the precolonial histories of Rwanda, Burundi, and eastern Congo that have taken place since decolonisation.



*STIRRING THE POT: African Cuisines and Global Interaction*

By McCann, James C.; 240pp; USA; Ohio U P;

Paperback; £20.99

**AFRICA'S ART** of cooking is a key part of its history. James C. McCann describes how the ingredients, the practices, and the tastes of African cuisine comprise a body of historically gendered knowledge practiced and perfected in households across diverse ecological landscape. McCann reveals how tastes and culinary practices are integral to the understanding of history and the new literature on food as social history.

Wildlife

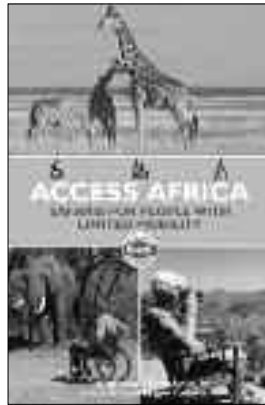


**WATCHING WILDLIFE:** *Southern Africa - South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Zambia*  
**By Firestone, Matthew; 352pp; UK; Lonely Planet; Paperback; £14.99**

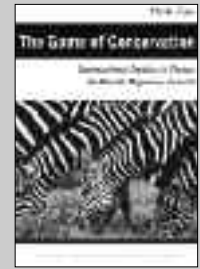
**GET UP** close and personal with Southern Africa's amazing wildlife with this all-in-one safari guide Cheetah and springbok race in a 100km/hour sprint to the death in the Kalahari; a vast grey mass of elephants surround you on their way to the riverbanks; a million flamingos lay a pink blanket over the mudflats. Whether you're on a top-shelf luxury safari or going it alone in a rented minivan, prepare for the wildlife experience of your life.

**ACCESS AFRICA:** *Safaris for People with Limited Mobility*  
**By Rattray, Gordon; 256pp; UK; Bradt Publications; Paperback; £16.99**

**THIS GUIDEBOOK** is the first to explore the five major safari countries — Kenya, Tanzania, Botswana, Namibia and South Africa — specifically with limited mobility in mind. It discovers accessible accommodation in locations such as the Serengeti/Masai Mara ecosystem in East Africa, Zambia's Victoria Falls and Botswana's elephant paradise, Chobe. With explanations of flight and airport procedure, travel insurance and health concerns, and suggestions for itinerary planning, it opens the doors of Africa to those with limited mobility.

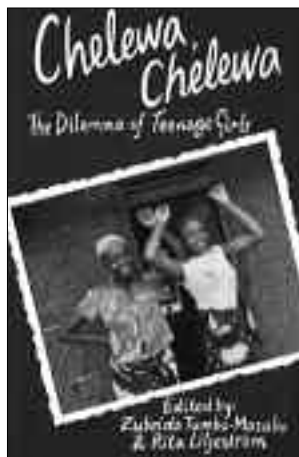


**THE GAME OF CONSERVATION:** *International Treaties to Protect the World's Migratory Animals*  
**By Cioc, Mark; 232pp; USA; Ohio UP; Paperback; £22.99**



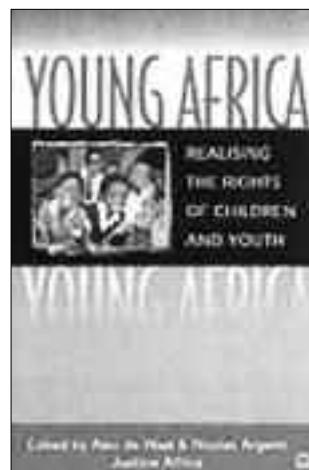
**TWENTIETH-CENTURY** nature conservation treaties often originated as attempts to regulate the pace of killing rather than attempts to protect animal habitat. It is because of these treaties that Africa is dotted with large national parks, that North America has an extensive network of bird refuges, and that there are whales left in the oceans. Drawing on a wide variety of primary and secondary sources, Mark Cioc shows that a handful of treaties — all designed to protect the world's most commercially important migratory species — have largely shaped the contours of global nature conservation over the past century. The scope of the book ranges from the African savannahs and the skies of North America to the frigid waters of the Antarctic.

Adolescent Dilemmas



**CHELEWA**  
**CHELEWA:** *The Dilemma of Teenage Girls*  
**By Tumbo Masabo, Zubeida & Liljestrom, Rita (Eds.); 218pp; Sweden; Nordic Africa Institute; Paperback; £15.95**

**BASED ON** studies conducted by the Teenage Girls and Reproductive Health Study Group at the University of Dar es Salaam. Cover girls in education and pregnancy at school, arranged marriages, initiation, matrilineality, sexuality, adolescent mothers, contraception, and abortion issues.



**YOUNG AFRICA:** *Realising the Rights of Children and Youth*  
**By De Waal, Alex & Argenti, Nicolas; 284pp; Eritrea/USA; Africa World Press; Paperback; £17.99**

**THE BOOK** examines the crisis facing children and young people in Africa. The risk of contracting HIV and AIDS, falling educational standards and the rise in militarism and fundamentalist regimes all threaten the rights and futures of young Africans. A gripping narrative that takes us through the stark realities and the threats that looms large on African society.

## Bestsellers in India

*"The Palace of Illusions" by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni climbed to the No.1 position in the fiction category of the bestseller list this week while Meghnad Desai's "The Rediscovery of India" continued to dominate the non-fiction section.*

### TOP 10: NON-FICTION



**1. The Rediscovery of India**

Author: Meghnad Desai  
 Publisher: Penguin Allen Lane  
 Price: Rs.699

**2. Nine Lives: In Search of the Sacred in Modern India**

Author: William Dalrymple  
 Publisher: Bloomsbury  
 Price: Rs. 499

**3. Yours Sincerely**

Author: K. Natwar Singh  
 Publisher: Rupa  
 Price: Rs. 395

**4. The Difficulty of Being God: On The Subtle art of Dharma**

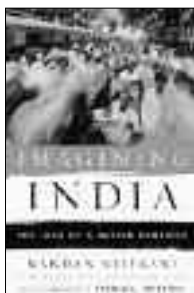
Author: Gurcharan Das  
 Publisher: Penguin Allen Lane  
 Price: Rs. 699

**5. Shah Jahan: The Rise and Fall of the Mughal Emperor**

Author: Fergus Nicoll  
 Publisher: Penguin Viking  
 Price: Rs. 899

**6. Imagining India: Ideas for The New Century**

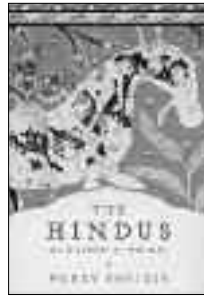
Author: Nandan Nilekani  
 Publisher: Penguin Allen Lane  
 Price: Rs. 699



**7. What The Dog Saw and other**

**adventures**

Author: Malcolm Gladwell  
 Publisher: Penguin Allen Lane  
 Price: Rs. 599



**8. The Hindus: An Alternative History**

Author: Wendy Doniger  
 Publisher: Penguin Viking  
 Price: Rs. 999

**9. The Defence of the Realm: The Authorized History of MI5**

Author: Christopher Andrew  
 Publisher: Allen Lane  
 Price: Rs. 899

**10. A Tale of Two Revolts: India 1857 and the American Civil War**

Author: Rajmohan Gandhi  
 Publisher: Penguin Viking  
 Price: Rs. 599

### TOP 10: FICTION

**1. The Palace of Illusions**

Author: Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni  
 Publisher: Picador India  
 Price: Rs. 395



**2. 2 States: The Story of My Marriage**

Author: Chetan Bhagat  
 Publisher: Rupa  
 Price: Rs. 95

**3. The Museum of Innocence**

Author: Orhan Pamuk  
 Publisher: Faber and Faber  
 Price: Rs. 599

**4. The Girl Who Played with Tattoo**

Author: Stieg Larsson  
 Publisher: Quercus  
 Price: Rs. 299



**5. Her Fearful Symmetry**

Author: Audrey Niffenegger  
 Publisher: Jonathan Cape  
 Price: Rs. 525

**6. Kal, Aaj Aur Kal**

Author: Cyrus Broacha  
 Publisher: Random House  
 Price: Rs. 195

**7. The Confession of Sultana Daku**

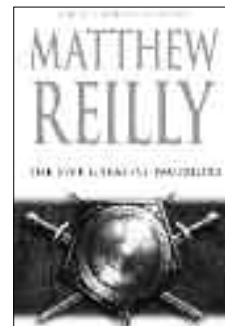
Author: Sujit Saraf  
 Publisher: Hamish Hamilton  
 Price: Rs. 399

**8. Lustrum: Blinded by Ambition, Seduced by Power, Destroyed by Rome**

Author: Robert Harris  
 Publisher: Hutchinson  
 Price: Rs. 550

**9. Last Night in Twisted River**

Author: John Irving  
 Publisher: Bloomsbury  
 Price: Rs. 799



**10. The Five Greatest Warriors**

Author: Matthew Reilly  
 Publisher: Orion Books  
 Price: Rs. 595

(Source: Bahri Sons, New Delhi, [www.booksatbahri.com](http://www.booksatbahri.com). All the books listed above are available online).

# French Riviera

*A quaint fragment of French history, memory and aroma lingers on in a tiny enclave called Pondicherry. Meld it with beauty and it takes you back into another era, says **Kamini Kumari***

A fine blend of serenity and spiritual aura, Pondicherry rests in a small enclave surrounded by Tamil Nadu. A Union Territory, Pondicherry possesses a charm of its own, a gentle laidback charm that soothes your senses. Situated 200 kms from the southern part of Chennai, Pondicherry is an important travel destination where the quiet beaches are bound to take your breath away. The word 'Pondicherry' has been derived from the Tamil language which means 'New Town'.

A small town which possesses a cosmopolitan flair of many nationalities. Walking on a busy street, one can hear snatches of conversation in English, French, German, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Hindi. A place where people from diverse cultural backgrounds live together.

Pondicherry was a Portuguese colony, having been first occupied by them in the 16th century. Later, the French took over the territory in the 17th century. Known as 'The French Riviera of The East', Pondicherry still smells of the French aroma, the structure of the buildings, the perpendicular streets carrying French names, restaurants serving Franco-Tamil food, policeman wearing French kepis — red military style caps — in a nutshell, India's very own little France. The place lures us by its picturesque beauty, breathtaking beaches, and enticing churches.



*The 300 year old Notre Dame de la Conception Church*

## Mahe: Separated at birth

Mahe, which is part of Pondicherry, is ironically situated in Kerala, on the west coast, where the Mahe river meets the Arabian sea. This tiny 'Heaven on Earth', Mahe has a character of its own with its serene beaches from where one can have a good look of the Dharmadam islands luring you with its lush green trees and placid ambience. A visit to Pondicherry and one cannot afford to give Mahe a miss. Well connected by roads, other means of reaching the place is the Calicut Airport and the Kozhikode Railway Station.

## Aurobindo Ashram

Think Pondicherry and the first thing that strikes you is the Aurobindo Ashram. Shri Aurobindo Ghosh was an accomplished linguist, philosopher, scholar and an ardent advocate of Indian independence. The Ashram was founded in 1920 upon his arrival. There are no rituals or obligatory practices to be followed here. Every year, thousands of tourists visit the place for spiritual peace and harmony. Today, the ashram houses the 'samadhi' of Aurobindo Ghosh and the 'Mother', his French disciple Mirra Alfassa.

## Auroville, the City of Dawn

Founded in 1968, this unique township is one of the major tourist attractions of Pondicherry. At its centre stands



*Clockwise from top: The statue of Mahatma Gandhi at Promenade Street; The Rock Beach; Pondicherry's historical light house on Promenade Street; Auroville, the city of dawn, at the centre of which stands the Matri Mandir*

### How to reach

**Air:** The nearest airport from Pondicherry is in Chennai (160 km).

**Rail:** Villupuram (32 km) is the nearest railway station connected directly to Chennai which in turn is connected to major cities in India.

**Road:** Pondicherry is well-connected by good motorable roads to various cities in South India.

Matrimandir built in the form of a globe. It is a place for quiet meditation. There are 80 settlements and over 1,500 people engaged in reforestation, organic agriculture, health care and village development.

### Pondicherry beach, Promenade

Promenade street, a 5-km scenic stretch alongside the main Pondicherry beach, the Rock Beach, is a huge attraction. A statue of the Mahatma and a 150-year-old light house are a visual treat.

### The churches

It is the churches that lend Pondicherry its European flavour. The church of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception or Notre Dame de la Conception is almost 300 years old. The church of Our Lady of Angels is known for

an oil painting that was gifted by Napoleon-III. The most awesome, however, is the grand gothic Sacred Heart Church with three stained glass panels portraying the life of Christ.

### Temples

Among other places of interest are the temples which reflect the Indian style of architecture. The oldest one dates back to the 10th century AD Chola Dynasty. The Vinaynagar Manakula temple has a golden dome and a collection of 40 beautiful idols.

The best time to visit Pondicherry is between July and February. ■

*Joint Communiqué issued at the conclusion of the visit to Malawi by the Vice President of India, M. Hamid Ansari*

08/01/2010

**A**t the kind invitation of the President of the Republic of Malawi Ngwazi Dr. Bingu wa Mutharika, the Vice President of India M. Hamid Ansari undertook an official visit to Malawi, from January 7-9, 2010. Vice President Ansari was accompanied by his spouse, Salma Ansari, and a delegation including the Minister of State for Employment and Labour, Harish Rawat, Members of Parliament, and senior government officials.

Ngwazi Dr. Bingu Mutharika warmly welcomed the Vice President at the New State House in Lilongwe, and a State Dinner was organised in his honour on January 7, 2010.

The purpose of the official visit was to strengthen and enhance the bilateral relations that currently exist between Malawi and India, and discuss other possible areas for more cooperation.

Vice President Ansari visited the Civic Offices in Lilongwe where he signed the Visitors Book.

Malawi and India held bilateral talks on January 8, 2010, at Capital Hotel in Lilongwe. The Malawi delegation was led by Joyce Banda, Vice President of the Republic of Malawi, while the Indian delegation was led by Vice President Ansari.

The two sides discussed issues of mutual interest, and identified more areas of possible cooperation.

Vice President Ansari announced the grant of US\$1 million as emergency relief for rehabilitation following the series

of earthquakes that caused loss of life and property in Karonga District of Malawi. He also announced \$4 million in grants to support Malawi's development in agriculture, health and education sectors.

The Vice President of India expressed happiness that the Indian Line of Credit of \$30 million extended to Malawi in 2008 for irrigation, grain storage and tobacco thrashing projects has been utilised. As part of the commitments made by the Government of India during the India-Africa Forum Summit, the Vice-President of India also announced a new Line of Credit of \$50 million to Malawi in support of its development goals.

The Government of Malawi thanked the Government of India for its development assistance made available, mainly through the EXIM BANK, Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme, and the Commonwealth African Assistance Plan.

The Government of Malawi also expressed satisfaction with the granting of duty free access to India, on various products within the framework of the Duty Free Tariff Preference Scheme for Least Developed Countries, announced at the India-Africa Forum Summit, held in New Delhi, in 2008.

The two parties signed a Protocol for Consultations between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Malawi and the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India in order to further strengthen diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The two Parties also signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors. The MoU focuses on various areas including Agriculture research; Agricultural extension management; Agricultural marketing, horticulture; animal husbandry and dairy; Watershed development; Agricultural implements and machinery; and Agro-processing.

The two parties also signed an Agreement between National Small Industries Corporation of India and One Village One Product of Malawi for mutual cooperation for the development of small enterprises in Malawi.

The two parties agreed to expedite negotiations to finalise proposed Memoranda of Understanding on Mineral Resources; Exemption of Visas for holders of Official and Diplomatic passports; Rural



Vice President Mohammad Hamid Ansari addressing the reception hosted by the High Commissioner of India in Malawi on January 8. Minister of State of Labour and Employment Harish Rawat is also seen.

Development; and Health and medicine. The two Parties agreed to sign the remaining MoUs during the next high-level visit.

The two Parties agreed to establish a joint implementation and monitoring mechanism to ensure expeditious implementation of decisions of the Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) and decisions of the bilateral talks.

The discussions were held in a cordial atmosphere which reflects the excellent relations that exist between Malawi and India.

Vice President Ansari expressed gratitude for the warm hospitality extended to him and his entire delegation during the official visit to Malawi, and he, on behalf of Her Excellency the President of India, conveyed an invitation to His Excellency Dr. Bingu wa Mutharika, President of the Republic of Malawi, to visit India, on dates to be mutually agreed upon between the two governments. ■

*Address of Minister of State for External Affairs Dr. Shashi Tharoor at the event commemorating the 175th anniversary of the arrival of indentured labourers in Mauritius*

02/11/2009



It is indeed a great honour and privilege to be present with you today on this august and auspicious occasion. I bring to you the greetings and good wishes of the Government and the people of India. As we commemorate the 175th anniversary of the day of arrival of the indentured labourers from India, I join you in paying homage to your forefathers who landed on this historic site 175 years ago. By celebrating this event, we emphasise that history never forgives those who forget it. “Le devoir de mémoire” s'impose sur nous tous. By remembering the historic date of November 2, 1834 we offer homage to those forebears who through their sweat and sacrifice, toil and tears enabled us in later generations to live in comfort and security.

A little under a century and three quarters ago a group of people was herded on board the *M.V. Atlas* to arrive in Mauritius on this day, in what was then a rocky land, inhospitable both from nature's fury and human cruelty, to face

lives of unimaginable torment and drudgery, where providing for one's kith and kin was seen as an existential requirement but had to be undertaken in suffering, cruelty and despair. When they left the shores of India, the first group of indentured labourers was lost in the turbulence of the sea and consumed by fear of the unknown. And yet those who landed on these shores became the hardy forebears of a successful future. Their indomitable courage allowed them to triumph over the darkness, misery and uncertainty that enshrouded their arrival. They found the will to overcome.

The history of these Aapravasis is a story worth telling – one which encapsulates the spirit of humankind embodied in a dedicated, motivated and disciplined group of human beings. The Aapravasi Ghat, which today is inscribed among the list of World Heritage Sites, is a living testimony of the legendary details of the legacy of that generation for all the generations that have followed and are yet to come.

Having served in the United Nations for many years as a Pravasi, I can understand the significance and import of the inscription of the Aapravasi Ghat as a World Heritage Site. The Aapravasi Ghat brings out most poignantly the pain, anguish and sorrow of those resolute personalities and enshrines those first foot-falls which have led to the confident footprint of a resurgent Mauritius.

Mauritius today reflects a success every country -- not only in Africa but globally — yearns for. We in India take great pride in your many successes and celebrate your many achievements. Your recent recognition by the Ibrahim Foundation as No. 1 for governance in Africa is merely the latest such accomplishment, for which we are all thankful to those unheralded and unsung heroes of folklore who came to this Island 175 years ago.

Mauritius had a role in India's struggle for freedom. The Father of the Indian Nation, Mahatma Gandhi visited Mauritius in 1901, which led to the later visit of Mani Lal Doctor and the impetus to address the conditions of the labourers and give importance to the need for education. The Father of the Mauritian Nation, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, was himself a contemporary in London of the leaders of India's national movement. Since then every Indian Prime Minister, Indian Government and the people of India have enjoyed a special and unique relationship with Mauritius.

India and Mauritius enjoy traditional bonds of friendship and kinship founded on a historical and shared cultural heritage. We are both pluralistic societies where democratic values are cherished and where we give importance to the creative ability and entrepreneurial skills of our citizens. We have opened our doors and windows to the many winds of globalisation but have ensured that we are not swept off our feet by them. Both our countries have striven to promote equality, harmony and peaceful coexistence in our societies with respect for all creeds and faiths. (I remarked to the PM how moved I was to witness the mosaic of ethnicities and religions whose prayers began this ceremony.) The right of



the ordinary citizen is recognised and opportunities are equally available to all. Unity in diversity is the hallmark of both our societies.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, as we celebrate the successes of Mauritius, I would like to reflect very briefly on the affinities you share with India. India today is the world's largest democracy; it is a vibrant economy; a country with strong sense of social belonging, and with a deep sense of unity in purpose and thought. We have progressed economically and we are ready to share our successes with our friends and partners to make the world a safe and secure place for future generations.

We in India are grateful to Mauritius for its strong support on issues of cardinal importance to us. We particularly appreciate the support we received from your leaders and your people nearly a year ago when Mumbai was the target of a heinous and dastardly terrorist attack, where one of your own was a victim.

India is ready to share its experience with Mauritius and move towards consolidation and expansion of its multi-dimensional partnership. We are committed to a comprehensive engagement which is mutually beneficial, guided by the thought that we too could leave the world we live in with greater security and prosperity for future generations as those who arrived on these shores 175 years ago today. ■

*Address by External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna at the Commonwealth Business Forum*



26/11/2009

I am delighted and honoured to have this opportunity to address this meeting of the Commonwealth Business Forum focusing on “Trading for a More Equitable and Sustainable Future”.

The Commonwealth Business Council is doing a commendable job of bringing together the private sector and governments, in order to foster a conducive environment for

business and investments in the Commonwealth and beyond. It provides valuable inputs to the CHOGM deliberations, both at the policy level and in finding practical ways to enhance trade and investment. I am also happy to note that it is working closely with Indian institutions, to find ways and means to tap the emerging business opportunities in India.

The theme of this Session is apt, particularly in the context of global economic and financial crisis. Today, international trade is key to promoting long term sustainable, global economic growth. The world has come a long way from the mercantilist thinking of 16th-18th centuries. It is now widely accepted that international trade is not a zero-sum game and the benefits of trade accrue to all partners in the game — albeit in varying degrees. The challenge today is to find ways to ensure equitable distribution of these fruits.

Furthermore, almost all the major challenges the world faces today are trans-national in nature. Be it the financial crisis, food and energy shortages, terrorism, drug-trafficking, pandemics or climate change, the situation in one part of the world deeply affects another. We can face these challenges successfully only if we cooperate closely, and ensure sustainable and fair development for everyone, thereby reducing disparities of income and wealth. Development should also respect pluralism and diversity.

Let me briefly touch upon the global financial crisis in particular. It is now well known that developing countries were in no way responsible for it, but in many ways, they are the hardest hit. About 90 million people in the developing world are likely to be pushed below the poverty line due to the erosion of the gains made under their poverty eradication programmes over nearly a decade. Lower revenues will result in lower spend on rural infrastructure, health and education, hampering future growth. Also, the global economic downturn has caused a very substantial loss of export demand, particularly for non-oil developing countries. Their exports will remain well below the trajectory earlier projected for several years.

The past quarter century has witnessed an unprecedented level of activity on trade liberalisation. In many respects, this most recent phase of global economic integration stands out when compared with any other in human history. It is for the first time that more than 180 nation states have engaged in the multilateral economic process.

The WTO has provided an invaluable institutional forum for countries to find ways of expanding trade and investment. The WTO efforts have also been supplemented by bilateral and/or regional free trade agreements (FTAs). In recent years, the FTAs have increasingly taken the form of comprehensive economic partnership agreements (CEPAs) that cover not only goods, but also services and investment.

Notwithstanding the above, trade liberalisation efforts seem to have been set within fundamentally narrow limits. Sufficient efforts have not been made to ensure “inclusive” outcomes. WTO’s laudable objectives — raising living stan-



dards, full employment and sustainable development — remain unrealised. Negotiations under the Doha Round — called the “Doha Development Agenda” — have not come to fruition more than eight years after its launch, primarily due to lack of commitment.

There is a lack of agreement on issues that would help make the multilateral trading system more “development” friendly.

The G-20 leaders have, in unison, emphasised the need early conclusion of the Doha Round, a step that would not only go a long way towards re-balancing the global trading regime, but would also reinforce the need to keep markets open.

I am happy to note that the WTO Ministerial in New Delhi in September this year succeeded in reviving momentum for the Doha Round negotiations.

The Delhi Ministerial meeting brought together a wide spectrum of interests and positions, with the objective of developing a broad-based consensus and providing clear directions to negotiators to re-energise the process. There was a unanimous affirmation on the need to conclude the Doha Round in 2010.

On their part, India and other developing countries are making significant contribution to the Round. Other members, especially the developed countries, must show the same degree of flexibility so that the Doha Round reaches a successful conclusion. India is ready to engage with all WTO Members to complete the modalities and address any outstanding issues.

Let me now outline some of our specific concerns.

First, easy access to trade finance at reasonable rates is an important lubricant for trade. Increase in the cost of trade finance impacts the emerging and poorer economies proportionately more than the developed ones. Appropriate monetary and risk mitigating policies need to be designed to tackle these challenges.

Second, the assistance provided to developing countries, particularly LDCs, for strengthening their trade-related capacities, that is, ‘Aid-for-Trade’, should help these countries build supply-side capacity and trade-related infrastructure, in order to implement and benefit from WTO agreements.

The principles enshrined in the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness should be rigorously implemented. It should be kept in mind that the process of building internationally competitive economies takes time and is highly country specific.

Lastly, protectionism is a major barrier. The history of economic development has shown that the erection of trade barriers diminishes economic growth and creates instability. Shrinking demand in export markets makes it all the more

important that the market access of developing countries is not further constrained by protectionism. We also need to be cautious about new protectionist measures that impact on trade prospects, either in the name of protecting jobs or introducing environmental standards. I would like to point out here that equitable access to natural resources is seriously hampered by unsustainable patterns of production and consumption in the developed world.

Developed countries must shoulder the main responsibility for preventing and reversing environmental degradation. It is equally important to provide access to developing countries to environmentally sound technologies on preferential terms and to support capacity building for inducting these technologies. Environmental protection cannot be isolated from the general issues of development.

Let me now touch upon some aspects of the role that the Commonwealth can play in promoting more equitable and sustainable growth. The Commonwealth currently generates an annual intra-Commonwealth trade turnover of about \$225 billion, of which India’s share alone accounts for about \$80 billion. Like many of its Commonwealth partners, India too has benefitted immensely from opening up of world trade. For some of the smaller Commonwealth countries, bulk (70 percent) of their global trade is with other Commonwealth countries.

In order to sustain growth, developing countries have to overcome a set of challenges, that are thrown up in the wake of economic development. One such challenge is capacity building. India and Indian industry can set up such capacity building centres in needy Commonwealth countries. There is need to invest in skills and it is here that industry can play a major role. For instance, Indian industry is running successful skill development programmes in the African region.

Another challenge before the developing countries is ‘climate change’. India’s national action plan on climate change accords over-riding priority to maintaining high growth rates for raising living standards while also yielding co-benefits for climate change.

Developing countries including India can benefit from technology transfer in this area from the developed Commonwealth countries.

In conclusion, let me emphasise that the Commonwealth governments and businesses should work closer together to ensure positive outcomes of international inter-governmental mechanisms on pressing issues of the day including climate change, food and energy security and pandemics. Let us resolve to make full use of the Commonwealth mechanisms in order to address these issues frontally and comprehensively, which would help sustain equitable and inclusive development. ■

**The Commonwealth Business Council is doing a commendable job of bringing together the private sector and governments in order to foster a conducive environment for business and investments in the Commonwealth and beyond**



External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna delivering the inaugural address at the 2nd India-Africa Hydrocarbons Conference, in New Delhi on December 7, 2009. Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Murli Deora is also seen.

*Inaugural Address by External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna, at the Second India-Africa Hydrocarbon Conference*

07/12/2009

It is always a pleasure to be amongst friends from Africa. Ladies and Gentlemen, it is with pride that I say that our relations with Africa are sourced in history and that we are neighbours across the Indian Ocean. India acknowledges the role played by Africa in shaping the early outlook of a young Indian lawyer, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, who became the father of our nation.

The solidarity we shared during the period of colonialism and the dark phase of racism is legendary. There is a strong emotive connect between us. I am here reminded of what Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, our first Prime Minister, said at the Asian-Africa Conference at Bandung, Indonesia in 1954:

I quote: "We have met here because of an irrepensible urge amongst the people of Asia and Africa. We have met because mighty forces are at work in these great continents, moving millions of people, creating in their minds urges and passions and desires for a change in their condition... We are determined not to fail. We are determined, in this new phase of Asia and Africa, to make good".  
Unquote

Friends, India continues to be inspired by the same irre-

**The history of economic development has shown that the erection of trade barriers diminishes economic growth and creates instability. We need to be cautious about new protectionist measures that impact on trade prospects**

pressible urge to make good with Africa and its peoples. Our common legacy nurtures a close alignment on major inter-

national issues and an abundance of socio-political goodwill gives our bilateral relations a strong foundation. The future beckons that we build on this solid foundation of goodwill and friendship, a superstructure of mutually beneficial economic and commercial cooperation. To this effect, last year, you will recollect, we successfully hosted the India-Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi.

The Delhi Declaration and the Africa-India Framework for Cooperation adopted at that Summit highlighted our shared political vision and worldview and signaled with full intent, a determination to build a new partnership, with Africa in the 21st century.

The Prime Minister of India had then announced \$5.4 billion in loans for the development of Africa, supported by \$500 million in grants for capacity building processes, doubling of scholarships, increasing capacity building positions under our International Technical and Economic Programme and a Duty-Free Tariff Preferences Scheme. We are happy that many of these are already under successful implementation. I am also pleased to note that after two major business events earlier in the year, this

Conference is the third event with African countries hosted in New Delhi in 2009.

Friends, we meet at a very crucial time. The global economy is yet to fully emerge from its biggest crisis which also caused considerable collateral damage to the global energy and food security. Emerging and developing countries were not the cause, but we were condemned to reap the repercussions of this crisis.

We in India are now past the worst of this global downturn. The fundamentals of the Indian economy are strong and our economic prospects are durable. Our growth is closing in on 7 percent and we are confident that before long our economy would scale the 9 percent growth trajectory achieved before the economic downturn.

Even as we meet here, the Conference of Parties to the UN Convention against Climate Change is kicking off in Copenhagen, an event which could influence global energy production and consumption patterns. We remain hopeful of success at Copenhagen in achieving an outcome, containing substantive and enforceable commitments which are equitable and supportive of economic growth, especially in developing countries.

India has conceived its response to Climate Change, as part of a broader strategy for ensuring sustainable development. Our objective is to bring about changes in the kinds of energy we produce and consume, while remaining mindful of our resources constraints, environmental concerns and imperatives of economic development.

Friends, global energy trends are already suggesting that the demand for oil has peaked in the developed world. The new global claimants for oil are now located in Asia, including India, where a rapidly growing economy is driving our demand for energy. India would need to depend upon 90 percent oil and 60 percent gas imports by 2030-31. Presently, about 15 percent of India's crude oil imports came from Africa, but we can do with more. Apart from being an obvious long-term market for African hydrocarbons, India is also globally recognised as a hub for business opportunities spread across the entire hydrocarbon production cycle. India is a oil refining centre, exporter of petroleum products and home to competitive hydrocarbon multinationals, which have made their presence felt all over the world, including in Africa.

As the fastest growing democracy we offer a complementary and mutually advantageous hand of partnership to our friends in Africa's hydrocarbon sector.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the spread of global hydrocarbon reserves is uneven. Most countries of the world are hydro-

carbon deficit, including many in Africa. From the 20th century crude oil was increasingly seen as a strategic commodity and this vitiated international relations. The choice is in our hands and here I leave a thought with you. Do we continue to treat hydrocarbon assets as a zero-sum game or in the true spirit of globalisation ensure that they become part of a truly global, integrated, open and competitive energy market for the mutual and long term benefit of producers and consumers?

Friends, this is a rich gathering of government leaders, policy makers, senior executives, energy consultants and investors. I would like to conclude by suggesting that during your interactions you may also address issues like – the volatility in the oil and gas markets; promoting energy trade and investments; the information gap between energy suppliers and consumers, and protecting the transportation and transit of oil and gas.

I congratulate my good friend Murli Deora, the Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, his colleagues, our public sector companies and FICCI for organising this important event. I wish the Second India-Africa Hydrocarbon Conference all success. ■

**We have always stood for and with Africa, driven by a primordial commitment. Our links are civilisational yet contemporary. One of the grandest narratives of the anti-colonial movement has been of the brotherly solidarity between India and Africa.**

*Valedictory Address by Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Minister of State for External Affairs, at the second India-Africa Hydrocarbon Conference*

08/12/2009

It is my pleasure and privilege to deliver the Valedictory Address at the conclusion of the second edition of the India-Africa Hydrocarbon Conference.

History, Ladies and Gentlemen, it has been said, is subject to Geology. The bounty of mother earth — in the form of its soil, water, metals and energy resources — has shaped civilizations depending on how these resources were owned and used. Our demand for and appropriation of these vital and finite inputs has, however, always had an unpredictable strategic impact, which has sometimes increased the divide between nations or even redrawn the shape of countries on the map.

This hunger for natural resources and its behavioral consequences, I am happy to note, has never cast a shadow on India-Africa relations. As Sundareshan reminded us with his quotes from Mahatma Gandhi, we have always stood for and we have stood with Africa, driven by a primordial and abiding commitment. Our links are civilisational yet contemporary. Indeed, one of the grandest narratives of the anti-colonial movement has been of the brotherly solidarity between India and Africa. The colonial days of extraneous



Minister of State for External Affairs Dr. Shashi Tharoor delivering the valedictory address at 2nd India-Africa Hydrocarbons Conference, in New Delhi on December 8, 2009.

and overt political domination are behind us. The calling now is for nation-building, economic growth, development and welfare.

However cordial and close state-to-state relations are, they are painted with a broad brush; the gaps and finer touches have to be filled in by civil society and increasingly by private business and economic interests. Agents of business and commerce play a particularly indispensable role in this process. I am pleased that this gathering has brought together government leaders, policy makers, entrepreneurs, corporate leaders and professionals from India and Africa on a common platform to further advance their cooperation in the energy sector. At this juncture of economic globalisation, the role of the private sector and industry becomes more important than ever.

Yet, the forces of globalisation cut both ways. After years of continuous and rapid growth, the global economy hit a speed breaker and lost momentum. Similarly, just over a year ago, when crude oil prices, the main reference driver for other energy sources, touched record highs of \$147 a barrel, energy security was a worldwide and disturbing concern. Today, we derive some comfort as oil prices hover around \$75 to 80 a barrel. But complacency on energy issues has a greater price.

Energy security concerns will continue to challenge us. As the international economy regains its full balance, oil

demand will pick up and suck up the supply overhang. Global crude oil prices are condemned to be volatile until both the oil producers and oil consumers follow the same script. An oil consuming country wants low and assured prices; the oil producer seeks predictability of demand at attractive prices. The oil market is defined by this asymmetry. Strategic and market-unfriendly oil deals further muddy the waters by either over or under-valuing oil assets.

The collective good is best served by enlarging the size of the global energy market so that greater quantities of energy resources, like crude oil, are available through transparent and open transactions.

The imperative of closer cooperation and interdependence between producers and consumers of oil and gas has never been more obvious. I am happy that this Conference serves this broad principle by bringing together the oil and gas producers of Africa and the Indian hydrocarbon market.

Ladies and Gentlemen, India is widely hailed as one of the engines of global growth. But India is, and is also likely to remain, an energy-deficit country for years to come. Friends and guests from Africa, let me emphasise that India is your long-term bet as a partner for cooperation in the energy sector.

Consuming over 2.8 million barrels per day, India is the fourth biggest global consumer of crude oil. In the fiscal year

**Our objective is to bring about changes in the kinds of energy we produce and consume, while remaining mindful of resources constraints, environmental concerns and imperatives of economic development**

2008-09, India imported oil worth about \$75 billion. As a major consumer of crude oil and increasingly of gas, we guarantee demand in the buyer-seller equation.

But, as you would have discovered during this Conference, this is not the complete story of what India brings to the energy table. India is a globally recognised state-of-the art refining centre. Our energy companies, both in the private and public sectors, have proven expertise in the entire oil and natural gas value chain. We offer ourselves as both a huge market for energy products as also an investment and technology partner in the oil and gas sector.

Let me here emphasise that our approach to African resources is not a one-way street. Over the last decade Africa has been seen in a new light by many because its oil yields have “out-produced the North Sea”. But, constrained by the pace of its economic growth, Africa consumes only about 40 percent of the oil it produces. We will draw equal satisfaction when African oil fuels Africa’s own development and growth. Our long standing priority is to serve as a partner in Africa’s economic development. To this effect, capacity building and knowledge and skills enhancement have driven our bilateral assistance to Africa. We are proud to train,

educate and broaden the horizons of African citizens. Between the first and second India-Africa Conference the global oil market has gone through a crisis. It is exactly in such testing times that conferences like ours rebuild confidence in the global energy sector.

Over the last two days, you have had an opportunity to share information, discuss and exchange notes on the whole gamut of issues in the oil and gas sector, including exploration and production, policy and regulations, as well as business opportunities and consultancy possibilities.

I am confident that your deliberations have resulted in identifying mutually beneficial opportunities in a sector which in many ways is the force multiplier for economic growth and development.

I, therefore, congratulate, in full measure, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and FICCI for organising this event. And the Ministry of External Affairs is pleased and honoured to have been associated with this Conference.

I wish our foreign delegates a safe return home.

Let us now focus on the concrete steps to be taken to act upon and give effect to the insights acquired during this Conference. ■

## ■ Contributors

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■ **VRUSHAL GHOBLE** writes on energy issues. Some of his writings include: "The GCC energy market"; "India's Energy Security and the Asian Resources: Prospects and Challenges"; "Oil, Democracy and Terrorism: An Inevitable Nexus in the Gulf"; "Maritime Energy Security and the Hormuz and Malacca Straits"; and, "IT Solutions for Energy Market". He is the author of *EU and India: Contesting for Gulf Energy* (2009). He has presented papers in national and international conferences on energy issues. His areas of interest are energy, technology, globalisation, maritime energy transits, CSR and global capital. He specialises in energy security issues and oil corporations.

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Articles submitted to *Africa Quarterly* should be original contributions and should not be under consideration by any other publication at the same time. The Editor is responsible for the selection and acceptance of articles, but responsibility for errors of facts and opinions expressed in them rests with authors. Manuscripts submitted should be accompanied with a statement that the same has not been submitted/accepted for publication elsewhere. Copyright of articles published in the *Africa Quarterly* will be retained by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).

Manuscripts submitted to *Africa Quarterly* should be typed double space on one side of the paper and two copies should be sent. A diskette (3 ½" ) MS-Dos compatible, and e-mail as an attachment should be sent along with the two hard copies. Authors should clearly indicate their full name, address, e-mail, academic status and current institutional affiliation. A brief biographical note (one paragraph) about the writer may also be sent.

The length of the article should not normally exceed 7,000 to 8,000 words, or 20 to 25 (A-4 size) typed pages in manuscript. Titles should be kept as brief as possible.

Footnote numbering should be clearly marked and consecutively numbered in the text and notes placed at the end of the article and not at the bottom of the relevant page. Tables (including graphs, maps, figures) must be submitted in a form suitable for reproduction on a separate sheet of paper and not within the text. Each table should have a clear descriptive title and mention where it is to be placed in the article. Place all footnotes in a table at the end of the article. Reference numbers within the text should be placed after the punctuation mark.

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