

# NEWSLETTER

N° 21



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AFRICA FREE ZONES

MAY 2018



[www.africafreezones.com](http://www.africafreezones.com)  
Based in Tangier Morocco



AFRICA FZO



AFZORGANIZATION



AFZO

# LEADERS OF THE FUTURE

## 29-27 APRIL 2018 || DUBAI, UAE

### ADVANCED LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

World Free Zones Organization opened a regional branch office for Africa at Africa Free Zones Organization, in Tangier, to recognize the positive potential of Free Zones all over the country" à remplacer par "Africa Free Zones Organization, in its capacity as official representative for Africa, opens the World Free Zones Organization regional office for the continent"



Ambitious and determined to establish a common strategy for sustainable development of Free Zones all over the world, World Free Zones Organization (WFZO) and Africa Free Zones Organization (AFZO) co-organized and held a 3 days-customized program to train Economic zones' leaders. This personalized training and development program was intended for 12 african countries, namely, Mali, Nigeria, Chad, Gabon, Togo, Ghana, Senegal, Mali, Uganda, Kenya, Ivory Coast, Ethiopia. The training was aimed to develop basics skills about free zone ecosystem and helps participants to learn different ways to operate free zones with innovative and original ideas. It learned how to become a smart leader in free zones and also how to develop effective strategies about running free zones. Senior Manager and functional heads was also introduced in this training program to other interesting topics like how to design a free zones taking into account trade facilitation, Customs and regulatory framework. This seminar has strengthen the pre-acquired skills of participants in leadership positions, as well as professionals in legal, finance, IT, infrastructure and related disciplines to free zones.

# DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT IN AFRICA FREE ZONES



Rwanda has defended its best ranking in ease of doing business by attracting more foreign investment tapping into her yet untapped opportunities. The Rwanda Development Board (RDB) in 2017 registered investments in Rwanda worth \$1.675 billion, an increase of \$515 million compared to the year 2016 with \$1.160 billion worth of investments. In terms of the origins of the investments, says RDB, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) dominated, with investments worth \$1.041 billion or 62.26% of all investments registered by foreign investors.

This was followed by local investments registered worth \$470.98 million or 28.15% of all investments registered. Joint ventures (local and foreign investors) worth \$160.47 million were registered; they were worth 9.59% of all total investments registered by RDB. In comparison, in 2016, foreign investments worth \$650.4 million, local investments worth \$479.5 million and joint ventures investments worth \$160.47 million were registered respectively. Commenting on the investments registered in 2017, RDB Chief Executive Officer, Clare Akamanzi said:

"In the last 10 years, registered investments in Rwanda have jumped from \$800 million in 2007 to \$1.67 billion in 2017. This is an increase of more than 100% in only a decade. This is evidence that Rwanda is being seen more and more as great place to do business"

Source : <http://venturesafrica.com/>

The European Investment Bank (EIB) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) announced a joint investment in the newly created development bank in Nigeria; \$20 million equity stake by the EIB with an added \$50 million equity investment from the AfDB, to strengthen private-sector investment in Africa's largest economy. These investments seek to help the DBN address the financing challenges of the private sector. It is critical to the development of the Nigerian economy as they possess huge potential for employment generation and output diversification. Nevertheless, there has been an under-performance of these businesses and this has undermined their contribution to economic growth. Among the issues affecting their performance, the shortage of finance, particularly investment finance, occupies a very central position. The Development Bank of Nigeria is expected to contribute to mobilizing significant long-term financing to an important yet underserved sector with high development potential.



Source : [HTTP://VENTURESAFRICA.COM](http://VENTURESAFRICA.COM)



# INVESTMENTS IN AFRICAN FREE ZONES

German power producer Siemens is considering expanding to Burkina Faso. This was revealed by André Bouffioux, MD of the Siemens' Belgian subsidiary, charged to develop the company's activities in West Africa, during a visit with the Burkinabe president Roch Marc Christian Kaboré. Siemens will help Burkina Faso develop in electricity supply and efficiency in the framework of the country's master development plan. Talks focused on Burkina Faso's energy needs as well as the different ways to meet them. If ongoing negotiations are successful, renewable energy will be the prioritized form of energy as Siemens specializes in this type of energy. The company also wants the partnership to be profitable to Burkina Faso, "otherwise we won't invest," said the company representative.

Source : [www.constructionreviewonline.com](http://www.constructionreviewonline.com)



Russian biotechnology company BIOCAD and Moroccan pharmaceutical company Sothema Labs announced the launch of medicines derived using the technology provided by the Russian manufacturer into the North African market. The manufacturing of Russian biosimilars of rituximab and bevacizumab will be based in Morocco. Besides Morocco, these biosimilars are planned to be marketed in Senegal, Gabon, and Côte d'Ivoire. "The efforts of our company combined with the eager enthusiasm of our Moroccan colleagues in transferring the production of biosimilars to North Africa has brought remarkable results," says Dmitry Morozov, the CEO of BIOCAD. This is the first successful case of transferring technologies of the mAb medicines products manufacturing to North Africa amid the refusal of western companies to implement such projects.

Source : [www.trademarka.com](http://www.trademarka.com)

Sika Abyssinia, known for supplying construction finishing materials and chemicals for the past 11 years, stepped into manufacturing its products locally after setting up a plant in Alemgena, Oromia Regional State. The new plant will manufacture waterproofing, roofing, flooring, sealing, bonding and refurbishment products. The new plant, which will manufacture waterproofing, roofing, flooring, sealing, bonding and refurbishment products, is located 500m off Sebeta road, on the way to Welete, the plant lies on a 6,500sqm plot of land. The company has also rented a warehouse from Tana Plastic Factory Plc.

Source : [www.ecofinagency.com](http://www.ecofinagency.com)

