

WTC Mumbai discusses proposed Africa Conclave with South African High Commissioner

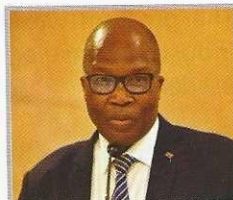


(From left to right): Capt. Somesh Batra, Vice Chairman, MVIRDC WTC Mumbai; Ms. Andrea Kuhn, Consul General, Consulate General of the Rep. of South Africa, Mumbai; Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC WTC Mumbai; H.E. Mr. Sbu Ndebele, High Commissioner of South Africa to India; Ms. Rupa Naik, Executive Director, MVIRDC WTC Mumbai, Mr. Ajoykant Ruia, Vice Chairman, MVIRDC WTC Mumbai.

Africa as a continent is the third largest trade partner of India after USA and China and it contributes 8% to India's total trade. India's merchandise trade with Africa has grown from USD 68.5 billion in 2011-12 to USD 89.5 billion in 2021-22 on the back of strong growth in exports to West Africa, North Africa and Southern African countries.

India is also a partner of Africa in infrastructure development, education, healthcare, agriculture, renewable energy and other areas of sustainable development. In order to promote this partnership further, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai proposes to organize India-Africa Conclave jointly with diplomatic missions of Africa in India and Government of India every alternate year.

H.E. Mr. Sbu Ndebele, High Commissioner of South Africa to India visited WTC Mumbai along with a delegation of consular corps from other African countries to discuss the objective and key highlights of the proposed India-Africa Conclave.



Speaking at this interactive meeting, H.E. Mr. Ndebele remarked, "The High Commission of South Africa in New Delhi and the Consulate General in Mumbai are committed to support the endeavour of WTC Mumbai in organizing this Conclave as best as we can. This Conclave is proposed at an exciting time of the establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area, which harmonizes market of 55 African countries and which will lift 30 million Africans out of extreme poverty."

H.E. Mr. Ndebele pointed out that the Conclave can be a platform to discuss India-Africa partnership in renewable energy, green hydrogen, infrastructure and other future areas.

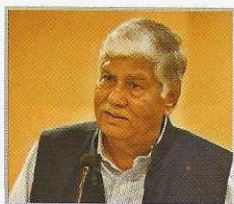
The High Commissioner also shared his views on the growing trade between India and South Africa. He said, "Indian mangoes will soon be making their way to South Africa and South African exporters of pears and apples will soon benefit formally from in-transit cold treatment for their products. India has issued WTO notification for in-transit cold treatment for pears and apples."



Ms. Andrea Kuhn, Consul General, Consulate General of the Rep. of South Africa, Mumbai expressed hope that this proposed Conclave will be a voice of Africa, which is missing in Mumbai, and it will shape our future as Africa and

Asia are the emerging epicenters of economic growth.

Earlier in his welcome remarks, **Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai** pointed out that India and Africa have many areas of common interest. WTC Mumbai and AIAI propose to organize India-Africa Conclave jointly with diplomatic missions of Africa in India and Government of India every alternate year. "The Conclave will also discuss a possibility of trilateral partnership among Japan, India and Africa to optimize each other's strength in surplus capital, skilled manpower and natural resource endowments." Mentioned Dr. Kalantri

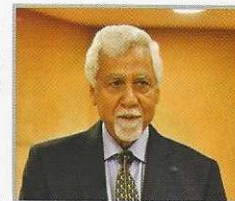


Ms. Rupa Naik, Executive Director, MVIRDC WTC Mumbai made a presentation about the key highlights and objectives of the proposed Conclave. She remarked, "The objective of this proposed



Conclave is to create a forum for dialogue in the commercial capital of India on how India can support Africa's Agenda 2063. This will be the first of its kind Conclave that will focus on promoting gender equality, healthcare, education, clean energy, youth development and other areas of sustainable development goals. WTC Mumbai plans to partner with ITC Geneva, WTO, UNCTAD and WTCs in Africa and India for this Conclave."

Capt. Somesh Batra, Vice Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai proposed vote of thanks.



The event was attended by Mr. Dean Hoff, Consul- Economic, Consulate General of the Republic of South Africa, Mr. Seewraj Nundlall, Counsellor (Investment and Trade), Economic Development Board, Mauritius, Mr. Premal Lokhandwala, Honorary Consul, Consulate of Ghana and other members of consular corps representing different African countries.

The Programme was held on June 28, 2022 at WTC Mumbai.

INDIA-AFRICA Relations

- Centuries old Cultural and Trade Ties
- Large Indian Diaspora (over 3 Million)
- India - 4th largest trade partner for Africa
- India - 5th largest investor in Africa
- Africa - 2nd largest recipient of India's concessional loan
- India's investments in Africa (sectors): Oil And Gas, Mining, Banking, Pharma, Textiles, Automotive And Agriculture.
- India offers Duty Free market access to 38 African nations
- Medical Tourism - 3 fold rise in African tourist arrivals within a decade
- Education - Approx 10% of total foreign students in India are from Africa
- Tourism - Indian Tourists visiting Africa is on the rise.