



NIGERIA NEWSLETTER

NIGERIAN EMBASSY IN FRANCE GETS SET FOR NIMEX 2002

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Ambassador Edward A. Aina

The Ambassador of Nigeria to France, Mr. Edward A. Aina, has stated that bilateral and economic relations between Nigeria and France will be given a new impetus with the staging of the largest exhibition in Europe of Nigeria's non-oil resources, tagged Nigeria Investment Forum and Manufacturing Exhibition, NIMEX 2002. The event is scheduled to hold in Paris from June 3rd to 6th 2002. NIMEX 2002 is being organised by the Nigerian Embassy in France with the collaboration of the Franco-Nigeria Chamber of Commerce, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Paris, Koinonia Ventures Ltd., as well as organisations in the public and private sectors of the two countries. Nigerian's Envoy to France said that staging the event in France is significant because of her strategic location in Europe. He pointed out that the objective of NIMEX 2002 is in tandem with Federal Government's policy to promote business in Nigeria's non-oil and gas sectors. Ambassador Aina explained that the Forum will attract business leaders from Nigeria and Europe who will identify and take advantage of the new business opportunities opened to them. The Envoy said that the four-day event would comprise a two-day Investment Forum, a day of seminars on priority trade sectors, and a four-day exhibition of Nigerian goods and services.

NIGERIA TO HOST COMMONWEALTH SUMMIT

Nigeria will host the next Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), in its capital city, Abuja early next year. Consequent upon the granting of hosting rights to Nigeria, the Federal Government has raised a committee to prepare for the CHOGM in 2003. The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting is convened every two years and centres on formal and informal meetings of the Heads of Government of Commonwealth countries. A key feature of the meeting is the opportunity during the retreat, for national leaders to discuss issues of common concern through personal interaction. The CHOGM which held in March this year in Coolum, Queensland Australia, was due to have taken place in 2001, but was re-scheduled following the September 11 attacks on the United States of America. The Commonwealth is made up of 54 nations and about 1.7 billion people.



International Conference Centre, Abuja.

NIGERIA TO BENEFIT FROM GERMAN ASSISTANCE

The German government has announced its intention to grant technical assistance worth 350.4 million naira (7.5 million Deutsche marks). The technical programme is designed to create employment opportunities by training youths in vocational skills and supporting Nigeria's economic reforms. The technical assistance will be directed at small and medium scale enterprises and industrial training. Officials in the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development in Bonn also disclosed that under Germany's new development policy concept, Nigeria is one of thirty nations in Africa, Asia and Latin America listed in the second main group of Germany's future development partners.



German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder

PRIORITIES OF NEPAD LISTED

The Minister of Cooperation and Integration in Africa, Chief Bimbola Ogunkelu, has listed infrastructure, information, communication, agriculture, diversification of production and exports, and human development among the top priorities of the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD). Others include the promotion of mobilising resources through increased savings and capital flow via further debt relief, as well as better management of public revenue as part of its priorities too. Chief Ogunkelu stated this at the 3rd African Development Forum on regional integration and the implementation of NEPAD, which took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Minister emphasised that for NEPAD to achieve and sustain development, a new relationship should be established with industrial countries and multilateral organisations.

NIGERIA RATIFIES OAU CONVENTION ON TERRORISM

The Federal Government of Nigeria has ratified the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) convention on combating terrorism on the African continent. The OAU convention was adopted at the 35th Ordinary Assembly of Heads of State and Government held in Algiers. The convention has been ratified by Algeria, Egypt and Mauritania. Other countries are expected to follow suit so that the signature of 15 members needed for the convention to come into force, will be met.



O.A.U. Insignia



*From right:
Nigeria's President, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo with the Foreign Affairs Minister of Nigeria, Alhaji Sule Lamido and Senegalese President, Abdoulaye Wade, at the end of the meeting of Heads of State and government implementation committee of the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) in Abuja, recently.*

PRESIDENT OBASANJO COMMISSIONS NSPMC PLANT

President Olusegun Obasanjo has commissioned the Abuja plant of the Nigerian Security and Minting Company (NSPMC), otherwise referred to as the 'MINT.' President Obasanjo described the occasion as a "milestone towards the administration's policy of industrialisation and self sustenance," introduced early at the administration's inception. He said that the new MINT was the first of its kind in Africa, and advised that the services of the NSPMC should be marketed to sister neighbouring African countries. Commencement of production of bank currency notes in the Abuja plant would complement production in the Lagos plant, bringing the combined capacity to a total of 3.7 billion currency notes per annum. The MINT is currently listed for sale under the ongoing privatisation and commercialisation exercise.



A Specimen of a Five Hundred Naira Note

NIGERIA'S OIL RESERVE HITS 30 BILLION BARRELS



Rilwanu Lukman, Presidential Adviser on Petroleum & Energy Matters

The Presidential Adviser on Petroleum and Energy Matters, Dr. Rilwanu Lukman, has disclosed that after 46 years of exporting its oil resources, Nigeria has attained a crude reserve of 30 billion barrels. Dr. Lukman made this disclosure at the opening of the 6th Offshore West Africa Oil and Gas Conference/Exhibition. He noted that the country may not reap the benefits of the reserve if problems posed

by the paucity of funds, price instability, local content and capacity building as well as poor infrastructure are not addressed. The Presidential Adviser said that production growth which started with 5,000 barrels per day in 1956 peaked to 2.4 million barrels per day in 1979 but declined to 2 million barrels in 2002. Dr. Lukman observed that the West African sub-region has potentials for more oil discoveries offshore and onshore in future. He said that a number of deep-water field developments were currently under way. They are the Ado field operation by Agip, Bonga of Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria, Erha field of EXXON Mobil, Agbani field of Texaco/Famfa and Akpo field of South Atlantic among others. He pointed out that these fields targeted for production between 2003 and 2004 will add another one million barrels per day to production. This will bring the daily production output by 2004 to about 3.4 million barrels.

60 MILLION NIGERIANS TO REGISTER IN ID CARD PROJECT

The Director of National Civic Registration, Mr. Ike Odoe, has disclosed that in the forth-coming National Identity Card Project, 60 million Nigerians would be registered at 60,000 registration centres nation wide, under a two-week mass registration exercise scheduled for May this year. To ensure the successful and timely implementation of the programme, the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs has released the sum of 560 million naira to the National Population Commission and has constituted inter-ministerial sub-committees to handle various aspects of the project. The sub-committees include, logistics, publicity, recruitment, training and office accommodation.



Human Resources, one of Nigeria's Assets.

KOLADE ASSUMES DUTY AS NIGERIA'S ENVOY TO LONDON

Dr. Christopher Kolade, 70, a classics graduate of the University of Ibadan, has assumed duty as Nigeria's High Commissioner to London. Dr. Kolade who is a veteran broadcaster, retired as the Director-General of the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria. He then joined Cadbury Nigeria Limited and was for five years, the Managing Director before assuming the position of Chairman. He was also one of the Directors and teachers at the Lagos Business School. Dr. Kolade took over from Prince Bola Ajibola who relinquished his post as High Commissioner to be able to return to his seat at the International Court of Justice at the Hague.

BROADCASTERS TO MEET IN ABUJA



NBC Director-General,
Nasir Danladi Bako

The 4th Biennial Conference of African Broadcasters and Exhibition, known as AFRICAST 2002, is scheduled to take place in the third week of October at the Sheraton Hotel and Towers Abuja. The conference is being organised under the auspices of the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC). The Director-General of the Commission, Nasir Danladi Bako, said that AFRICAST 2002 is fast emerging as the most attended meeting point, for intellectual exchanges, broadcast of programmes and hardware exhibition. The theme of this year's conference is, *Broadcasting and the Emerging African Union*.

KANU RAISES FUNDS FOR HEART FOUNDATION

Miss World 2001, Agbani Darego, as well as several other celebrities have been invited to the awards night of the Kanu Heart Foundation, a charity founded by Nigerian international football star, Nwankwo Kanu. The soccer star, who plays for British premier league football club, Arsenal, set up the Foundation two years ago to help heart disease sufferers. The event will include a fund raising dinner, which will take place at the London Hilton Metropole. The guest list on the occasion include world heavyweight champion, Lennox Lewis, several members of Arsenal and the wife of England's captain, David Beckham, Victoria



International Soccer Star, Nwankwo Kanu

'Posh Spice.' Kanu who was twice voted African Footballer of the Year, successfully underwent surgery for a heart ailment in 1996 to stage a dramatic comeback.

FOUNDER OF FRANCO-NIGERIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PASSES ON

Mr. Joseph Jacques Engels, the founder and former chairman of the Franco-Nigerian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, has passed away at the age of 78. Mr Engels left a legacy which we shall always treasure. He will be deeply missed.



NIGERIAN STUDENTS ON AN EXCHANGE PROGRAMME IN FRANCE

Students of Atlantic Hall School Ikeja, Lagos visited the Nigerian Embassy in Paris recently. They were received by the Minister, Mr. S. O. Willoughby, on behalf of the Ambassador, Mr. Edward A. Aina. The students were in France on a ten-day exchange programme between their school, and College J. Monnet. Mr. Inam Ak-rasi, the initiator of the exchange programme, who is an education-ist, said that the objective of the exercise, was to promote educa-tional and cultural interaction among youths and encourage them to appreciate the diversity of their customs. This year's exchange pro-gramme was the second edition.



From left to right: Dr. Emmanuel Igah, Mr. Georges Val, Mrs. D. Ume-Ezeoke, Mr. S. O. Willoughby, Mrs. A.O. Adesugba, Mr. I. Ak-rasi and Mr. O.M. Oni. Back row (first right), Mr. D. Botoko and students of Atlantic Hall take a photo in the Embassy.



The Minister, Mr. S.O. Willoughby, displays a painting and some publications, presented to the Ambassador by the students of Atlantic Hall.

BE PART OF AFRICAST 2002

Are you interested in exchanging views with some of the finest broadcasters and journalists on the African continent and beyond? Do you want a market for your communications equipment? If the answer is yes, then keep October open for the 4th Biennial Conference of African Broadcasters / Exhibition/Veterans' Award, taking place at the Sheraton Hotels and Towers, Abuja. For further details contact: The Director-General, National Broadcasting Commission, Plot 807 Ibrahim Taiwo Road, Asokoro. P.O. Box 5747, Garki Post Office, Abuja. Telephone 2349 3147525, Fax: 234 9 3147522. You can also visit the Commission's web-site at www.nbc-ng.org or contact the Nigeria Information Service, Embassy of Nigeria Paris.