

DEVELOPMENT BANK OF MAURITIUS HOSTS SADC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE INSTITUTIONS BIENNIAL MEETING AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS ROUNDTABLE

The SADC DFI Subcommittee and the SADC-DFRC held their bi-annual meeting at the Labourdonnais Water Front Hotel in Port Louis, Mauritius on 30th April 2008.

The Subcommittee Meeting was officially opened by the Honourable Rama Khrishna Sithanen, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economic Development of the Republic of Mauritius. The meeting was attended by Chief Executive Officers from development banks in the SADC region and members of the SADC Senior Treasury Officials (STOs). In his address, the Deputy Prime Minister emphasized the role of DFIs in development, and the need to address the prevailing challenges of food shortages, the rising costs of food and fuel and the attendant adverse impact on developing economies.

The meeting, among other areas, reviewed progress on activities of the SADC Network and the DFRC. Invited guests included Mr T. C. Venkat Subramanian (Chairman and Managing Director of Export-Import Bank of India (GNEXID) who gave a presentation on his organization highlighting the benefits of joining its membership for SADC DFIs. The next SADC DFI Subcommittee Meeting is scheduled for November 2008.

Preceding the DFI Subcommittee meeting was the inaugural SADC DFI CEOs Roundtable on the 29th April 2008, organized by the DFRC in collaboration with the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA). The Roundtable provides an opportunity for DFIs to share experiences, exchange views and interact with experts on topical issues.

Thus, the objective of the Roundtable is to address challenges and opportunities faced by DFIs in the region in fostering economic and social development in line with the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP). Topics covered included the following:

- ◆ Resource Mobilisation for SADC Development Finance Institutions – Opportunities and Challenges;
- ◆ Challenges of Corporate Governance for African DFIs; and
- ◆ Transformation of DFIs; Experiences from Asia.

The discussions were fruitful and provided insights into recent trends in development finance and best practices. Experiences shared and the networking opportunities proved invaluable to the CEOs.



From l—r: Honourable Rama Khrishna Sithanen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Development of the Republic of Mauritius), Dr Vincent Mhlanga (Chairman of the DFRC Board of Trustees and Managing Director of FINCORP), Mr David Nuyoma (Chairman of the DFI Subcommittee and CEO for Development Bank of Namibia), Dr Kheswar Chandan Jankee (Board Chairman for the Development Bank of Mauritius), Mr Benyram Chooramun (Managing Director of the Development Bank of Mauritius), and Mr Stuart Kufeni (CEO for SADC-DFRC) at the official opening.

Vision

"To be the centre of excellence, aimed at catalyzing the SADC-DFI members collective efforts to be at the cutting edge of financial services delivery in the priority areas set by the RISDP".

ADDRESS

You can find us at:

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Mandate

"Through technical and capacity building support, as well as policy research and advisory services, the DFRC's mandate is to promote the effective mobilisation of resources by the DFI's for investment in key areas with the potential to stimulate growth, generate employment and alleviate poverty in the SADC region".



The SADC-DFRC is a subsidiary institution of SADC

TRAINING OF DFIs AND MENTORING



Participants at the J2Ex Workshop for SMEs in Namibia (16 March, 2008)

This project is under implementation using the “Journey to Excellence” (J2Ex) model that was developed jointly with SAFRI HRD Project of Germany. The model is designed to develop and maintain increased competitiveness and sustainability of DFIs. Following announcement of the programme for the year 2007/08 to the DFIs, agreement was reached between the DFRC and DFIs in Botswana (the Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency) and Namibia (the Development Bank of Namibia, National Housing Enterprise and Agribank Namibia) for the programme to be launched in their respective countries. Workshops for Namibia were conducted with the three DFIs during the year, starting with DBN and followed by a joint workshop for Agribank and NHE.

Mentoring started in March 2008 for two DFIs in Namibia, namely the Development Bank of Namibia and Agribank. National Housing Corporation could not be covered as they had a Management retreat during the same week the mentoring took place. It will be covered in the mentoring sessions for the year 2008/09.

Plans to replicate the mentoring programme in the other member states are underway, with marketing visits to DFIs in Botswana and Zimbabwe scheduled for the first Quarter of 2008/09. It is anticipated to have programmes running concurrently in three member states in this year 2008.

Following a very high profile launch of the Excellence Initiative in Namibia on 26 February at an event hosted by the 3 Namibian DFIs, a 3 day workshop was held for DFI clients, suppliers and partners on March 14th-16th, at Heja Game Lodge outside of Windhoek. A total of 15 participants attended the workshop.

Helping DFI clients become more successful is in the interest of the DFIs and available literature confirms that actively promoting the development of suppliers and partners is a justifiably widespread best practice around the world. It is, in fact, at the core of many companies’ competitive advantage.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ Programme on Investment Appraisal and Risk Analysis
Venue: Eskom Leadership Development Centre, RSA
Date: 19th – 30th May 2008
- ◆ Corporate Governance for Board Directors
Venue: Birchwood Hotel and Conference Centre, RSA
Date: 16th - 19th June 2008
- ◆ Executive Development Programme
Venue: Gordon Institute of Business Sciences (GIBS), RSA
Date: 23rd – 25th June 2008

Mission

To be a lean virtual organization providing capacity building and policy research, and advise to the DFI Network and SADC Governments in support of financial and operational effectiveness and efficiency, so as to enhance their contribution to economic growth and development in the SADC region.

Key Focal Areas:

- Financial sector reforms and strengthening, and capital markets development.
- Institutional support, encompassing capacity building.
- SME Development and support.

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