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'How AAIC 2015 Will Impact On Africa Businesses'

By Onyedika Agbedo
10 October 2015 | 12:22 am

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ORGANISER's of the Africa Australia Infrastructure Conference (AAIC) have announced speakers for this year's edition of the event, which will hold from November 16 to 17 at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, Victoria, Australia.

The programme, which is in its third edition, is a two-day international event designed to create win-win outcomes that advance prospects in both Africa and Australia. The international event is a great business-enabling forum focused on presenting opportunities, discussing key issues and boosting partnerships between African and Australian Infrastructure stakeholders.

According to the Conference Directors, Diana Lauzi and Frank Aneke in a statement, AAIC 2015 provides a unique platform for participants to gather priceless intelligence, meet key stakeholders and learn how and where to position their businesses in Africa for maximum return on investment.

They noted that the key objectives at the AAIC 2015 is to provide participants with an excellent opportunity to discover new opportunities for their business growth in Africa, help them to engage their businesses with effective an Africa strategy and establish partnerships with African decision makers that are ready for Australian investors. Delegates will also meet Africa/Australian Government representatives, entrepreneurs, investors, experts and decision-makers leading the infrastructure drive in both continents.

To realise these objectives, the Victorian Minister for Finance and Multicultural Affairs, Robin Scott, would provide the formal opening address to kick off proceedings while other speakers as announced by the Conference Directors would include Professor Colin Roberts, Natural Resource Geo-strategy/MIGA-World Bank Group; Gideon van der Westhuizen, Head of Risk Management, Ondate; James Hoskins, Director, Corporate and Infrastructure Ratings, Standard & Poor's; Ebere Ibetu, Managing Director, ENA Consulting, Dubai; Conrad Marais, Partner, Trinity International LLP; Phil McKeiver, Consultant, Gilbert & Tobin; Clive Smith, Project Manager; Logistics Hub, Walvis Bay Corridor Group, Namibia; and Virginie Ticha, Présidente, Fédération Internationale des Chambres Consulaires & de Commerce d'Afrique.

Others are: Mawuena Trebarh, CEO, Ghana Investment Promotion Centre; Fadzai Matambanadzo, Founder and Director, PanarQi Consulting; Michael Neylan, Partner, K&L Gates; Michael Kilgarff, Managing Director, Australian Logistics Council; Mark Jordan, Manager Asset Management, Australia & New Zealand Banking Group; Mr Roy Adair, Chairman & Managing Director, Sustainable Energy Services Pty Ltd; Di Fleming, Executive Director, Dooree; and Frank Aneke, Founder, Africa Australia Infrastructure Conference.

Supported by the Victoria State Government, Australia, Export Council of Australia and Australian Institute of Export, the organisers added that the conference offers each delegate a unique platform to discover, engage and establish connections with potential business partner(s) in Australia and participating African countries.

They further explained that the range of interactive/learning opportunities at the conference include but not limited to: Understand how to overcome market entry hurdles in key infrastructure sectors in Africa; network and share practical experiences with other investors in Africa; improve the prospects of your business in Africa; mitigate business and operational risks for your business in Africa; and learn how to better ensure a win-win solution for all stakeholders.

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