

Friend of Africa 2013 Economic Development Conference- Event Report

The Friends of Africa Economic Development Conference held on the 5th of October 2013 at the Ball Room of the Sheraton Hotel And Conference Centre, Toronto.

Pre- Conference Meetings

The Conference started with Pre-conference infrastructure development strategy meetings of the Public Sector delegates from Nigeria and the Ontario government on the 4th of October 2013 at The Persian, **Westin Prince Toronto**. Leading the Ontario government was MP Micheal Coteau, Minister for Citizenship and Immigration, while his counterpart in the Economic, Investment and Trade Ministry; Mr. Debo Ajayi led the Nigerian delegation.

Economic Development Conference

The Economic development conference opened on the 5th October 2013 with welcome remarks delivered by the Premier of Ontario, represented by PA Monte Kwinter of the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade. The High Commissioner of Nigeria, Consular General of Ghana- HE, Kodjo Mawutor and Consul General of Uganda- HE Navin Chandaria and President Casa Foundation all brought good will remarks from Africa.

The full day event witnessed a gathering of professionals and business owners from various parts of Canada and the USA participating at the roundtable sessions on the theme Transforming Africa. Presentations focused on opportunities for business development in Africa and Ontario.

Session One featured:

Navin Chandaria- President of Conros Corporation, USA & Canada and Director at Element Capital- A Toronto Stock Exchange listed Private Equity Fund with investment Focus on Africa.

C. J Shah- Managing Director of Midland Galvanizing Steel-Africa, Asia. A Steel manufacturing plant started in 1975, which grew to employ 10,000+ staff in Nigeria, Kenya & Hong Kong.

Lucien Bradet- President, Canadian Council on Africa discussed the giant strides made by Canadian businesses in Africa

Olutoyin Oyelade-President of Casa Foundation spoke on the recent investment ventures in Africa and how businesses can leverage these opportunities to expand.

Session Two featured:

PA Monte Kwinter- MP, Minister of Financial Institutions 2007, Chair Ontario Trade and Development Council discussed policy and growth opportunities in Ontario for business owners.

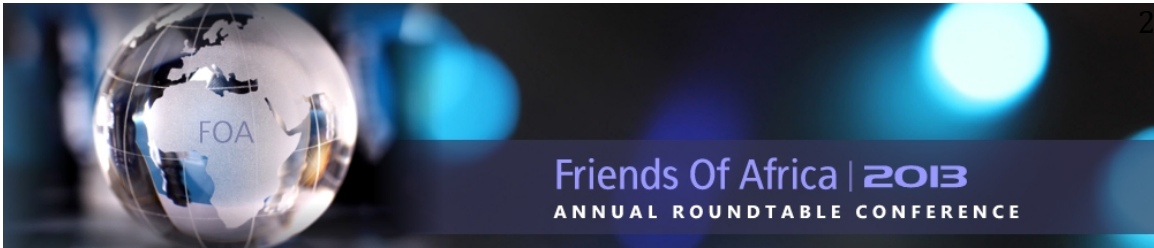
Debo Ajayi-represented the Governor of Ekiti (who was inadvertently absent due to an air mishap) and presented opportunities for Partnership and technical agreements for Professionals.

Jim Karygiannis- Federal MP, Chair of house committee on Nigeria, Coptics Egypt and democratic republic of Congo reported ways to collaborate for growth in Africa.

Session Three featured:

HE Kodjo Mawutor- Consular General of Ghana spoke on business integration initiatives by the Economic and Trade departments of African embassies- focus on Ghana

HE Navin Chandaria- Consul General of Uganda presented a paper on opportunities for Small business owners Kenya and Uganda.



Umar Nataala- Minister of Economic Development, Nigeria High Commission was also at the discussions.

Session Four: Friend of Africa (FOA) Awards 2013

Dr.Tanya Pelcher- Herring, renowned Speaker with the US anchored the Friend of Africa awards.

The Consular General of Ghana- HE Kodjo Mawutor presented the following shortlisted nominees to participants for induction into the Friend of Africa- Hall of Fame:

1. Ms. Betty Makoni

2. Dr. Mary- Anne Chambers

Dr. Mary- Anne Chambers emerged the Friend of Africa- 2013 and was presented with the Award.

Full Details and Reports of the FOA 2013 Conference do click the following links:

For Conference Materials & Highlights	clickhere
For Nominees into 'FOA' Hall of Fame	click here
For A Profile of Casa Foundation	click here
For Conference Pictures	click here
For Conference Videos	click here
For News Reports	click here

(Note that registration is required to access conference documents. Click the 'register' link at the top of the page to register)