

The AFRICA JOURNAL

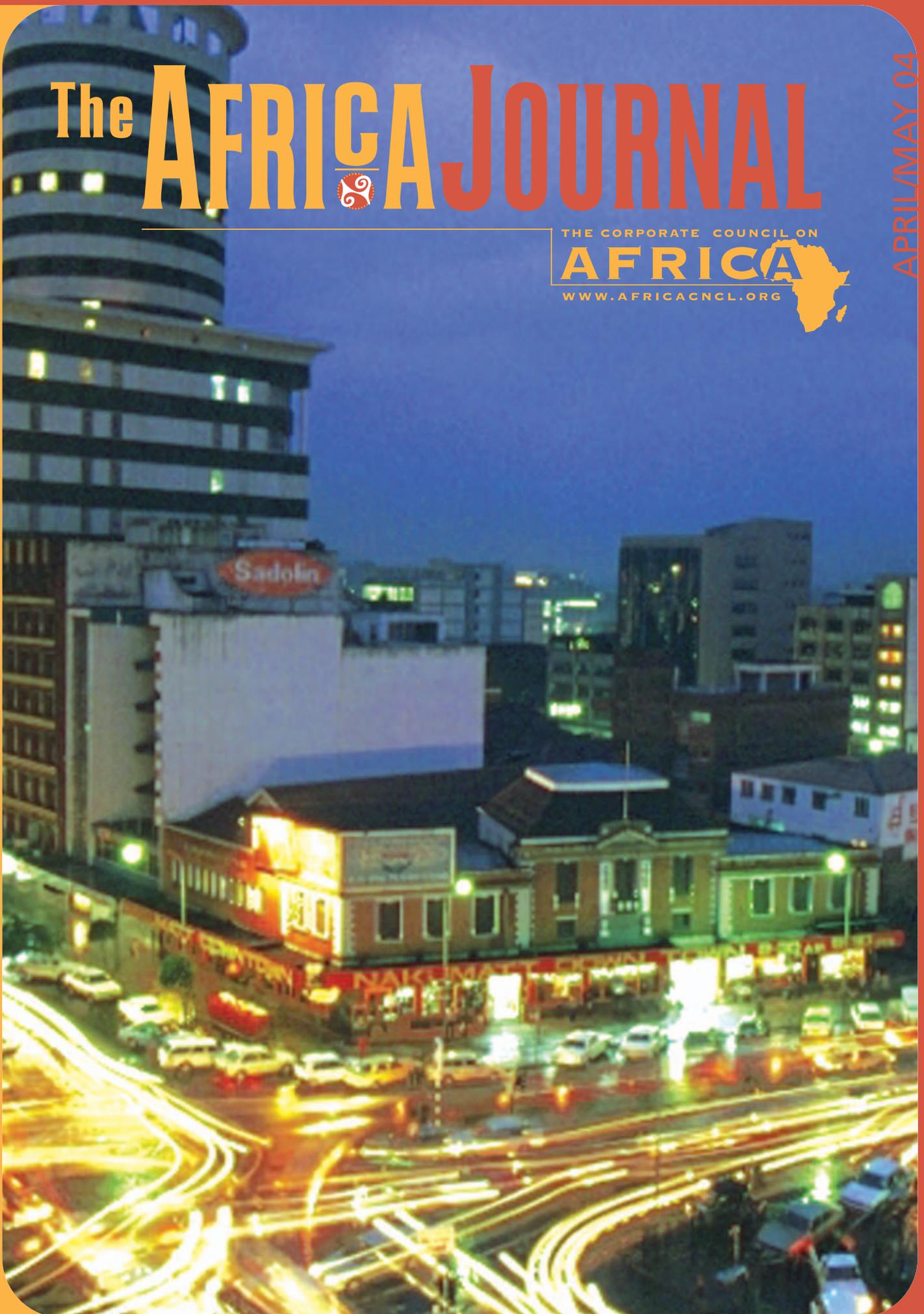
THE CORPORATE COUNCIL ON

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Currently, the most prolific investors in Africa are South Africa and China. It is no coincidence that these countries have a national plan for investment that has been crafted in close cooperation between the public and private sectors of their respective countries. The United States should follow this example. When the public and private sectors begin to work more closely in developing economic policy towards Africa, US investment in Africa will begin to thrive.

For American businesses to be successful investors in Africa, government and business must work together to plan a coherent policy for investment on the continent. We need to learn to appreciate each others' strengths and acknowledge our own limitations. If we begin to truly cooperate in developing a plan for Africa, individual American businesses will gain advantage in the competition with European and Asian businesses already enjoying their governments' active support. No significant economic development plan has worked without integral private sector involvement. This was a major reason for the success of the Marshall Plan and of the Asian 'tigers'.

Similarly, African countries, especially those with a history of antipathy towards private business, cannot expect to grow economically without a vital private sector. A private sector cannot expect to grow in barren ground. The fledgling private sector, and perhaps the international private sector investing in Africa, must be included in national plans for private sector development.

This is one reason that CCA is involved with the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). It is an organization that is seeking a closer working relationship between the private and public sectors of their 19 member countries. It is a regional organization actively reaching out to the private sector community.

We are proud to be involved in helping to plan their first COMESA Business Summit, to be held in Uganda in June, 2004.©

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The Corporate Council on Africa

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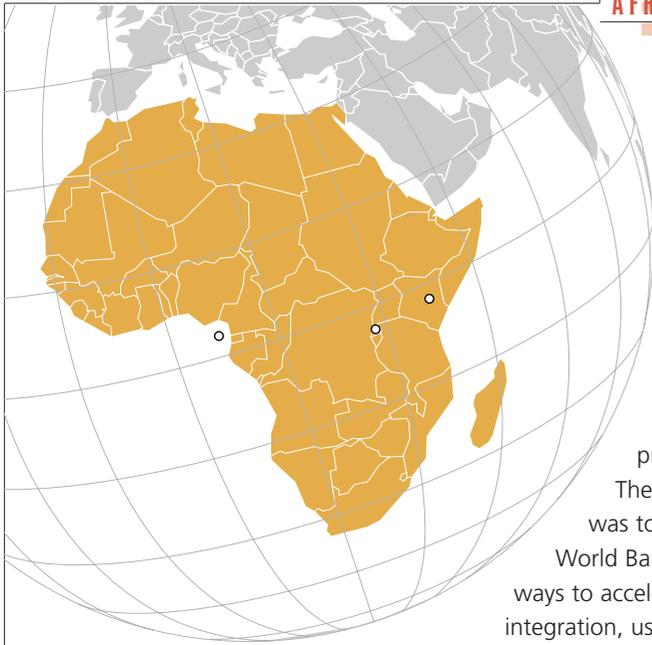


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EQUATORIAL GUINEA

March witnessed another coup attempt in Equatorial Guinea, the fifth failed attempt since 1996. An old Boeing 727 jet was stopped in Harare, Zimbabwe on March 6, 2004. The government arrested 70 suspected mercenaries, allegedly planning to kill Equatorial Guinea's president Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo. President Obiang has held power since 1979 when he overthrew the last president, Francisco Macias Nguema.

President Obiang and his government asserted that the alleged coup plot was funded by "enemy powers and multinational companies." Specifically, blame has been directed to the head of the opposition party Severo Moto. Moto and the Progressive Party deny any involvement.

While Equatorial Guinea has seen many previous coup attempts over the years, the country and its activities have gained more attention since American drillers struck oil in the mid 1990s. Now, the tiny country has \$5 billion in American oil rigs and offshore drilling gear; 350,000 barrels of petroleum are pumped daily.

ECOWAS

At a special summit of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) on March 20, 2004, the World Bank committed \$4.9 billion to funding projects in West Africa.

The purpose of the meeting was to convene ECOWAS and World Bank leaders to discuss

ways to accelerate regional integration, using trade, infrastructural development and improvements to key sectors. Key to the discussion was the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

The World Bank placed special emphasis on infrastructure development; \$1.7 billion of the funding has been earmarked for infrastructure projects. An additional \$450 million, not originally included in the financing, was added for regional projects.

World Bank funding to West Africa has increased in recent years. In 1999, total Bank spending in West Africa was only \$2 billion.

KENYA

Kenya is in the process of establishing a new constitution. This month, questions have arisen regarding how the draft constitution should be approved and/or amended. Kenyan Justice Kubo pointed out that "to the best of my knowledge, the question of how the making of a new Constitution should be undertaken has not come before the Kenyan Courts for adjudication before." The draft constitution and process surrounding it is especially controversial as, if adopted, it would reduce the president's powers and create an executive prime minister. The constitution was by more than 600 delegates representing a cross-section of Kenyans.

Politicians aligned with Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki prefer a constitution that would have a strong presidency and weaker prime minister.

President Kibaki has called for more tolerance on the issue, asking ministers in his cabinet to set aside division and work together. He has reiterated that the government will deliver a new constitution by June 2004.

RWANDA

April marks the 10th anniversary of the start of the genocide in Rwanda during which approximately 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed in 100 days. Leading up to this date, more attention has been focused on the involvement, or lack thereof, of foreigners during the period of genocide.

At a memorial conference at the UN in late March, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan expressed regret, saying that he could have done more to prevent the genocide. At the time, Annan was head of UN peacekeeping forces. He lamented, "The international community failed Rwanda and that must leave us always with a sense of bitter regret....I believed that I was doing my best...but I realized after the genocide that there was more that I could and should have done to sound the alarm and rally support."

At the other end of the spectrum, Rwandan President Paul Kagame has said that he might set up a commission of inquiry to investigate foreign involvement in the genocide. Specifically, in mid-March, Kagame accused the French of being "directly involved". This accusation could add fuel to already heated relations between Rwanda and France.

April 7 has been designated by the UN as international day of reflection on the genocide in Rwanda. ©

TEN YEARS OF SOUTH AFRICA

< By Joshua Katz >

As the New South Africa turns double digits, there is much to celebrate and more to anticipate. Few countries have experienced such a radical transition, and with so little unrest and instability.

The world feared the worst for the transition of power from the market dominant white population to the largely impoverished and excluded black population. Instead, with refined and adaptive leadership, South Africa has become Africa's dean and economic engine.

It did not have to turn out this way. South Africa was a country in turmoil, especially following the murder of Hector Peterson and the Soweto uprisings beginning in 1976. The police force was dedicated to squashing opposition, leaving crime largely unchecked. The majority of schools were barely operational. The international community- including fellow African nations- had shunned the apartheid government. Worker strikes were constant. Kwa-Zulu Natal province was engulfed by daily violence. The country was burning, and the future was tenuous.

South Africa demonstrates that a country can overcome a troubled past. Mandela's magic smile, thoughtful gestures, insightful policy, and emanating grace began the reconciliation process. Mandela emerged from prison in

1990 not bitter but anxious, shaking hands and forgiving the prison guards on his path to freedom. He happily donned the South African rugby Jersey upon the Springboks victory in the 1995 World Rugby championship. He changed his mind and accepted that a nationalization program would be economic devastation.



THE NEW



And most importantly, he embraced and included the opposition in rebuilding South Africa. Mandela proved that a powerful personality, backed by wise decisions and charm, can beat the odds.

South Africa has continued on this bright path. Free and

fair elections in 1999 safely and peacefully transferred the Presidency from Mandela, to an adept and visionary successor in Thabo Mbeki. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission, under the leadership of Nobel Laureate Desmond Tutu, released its final report documenting many of apartheid's worst atrocities. This document

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reminds citizens daily of the past and is a therapeutic and inspirational tool for the future. Policy choices as well as institutions and well-managed elections have solidified South Africa's stake in the future.

Prudent economic policy has spurred growth and opportunity. For example, the Motor Industry Development Programme has attracted substantial foreign investment and propelled South Africa to one of the world's largest automobile producing countries. The innovative policy has attracted producers by lowering tariffs on components and offering duty rebate credits for exported vehicles and components. Mercedes and BMW are well entrenched, producing significant segments of their fleets in South Africa and GM has recently re-entered the South African market. Economic capacity is expanding to meet the demands of this industry and others. The Coega Deep Water Port and Duty Free Industrial Development Zone, for example, will foster and expand growth into the deeply impoverished Eastern Cape province.

The statistics confirm the anecdotal evidence: 10 years ago, South Africa was in its 21st consecutive year of double digit inflation, the economy was experiencing negative growth, and the South African Reserve Bank was in shambles with a \$25 billion dollar deficit regarding its net forward open position. Today, South Africa's inflation is under 4%, the country is enjoying its longest period of economic expansion in its history, and the net open forward position of the South African Reserve Bank rose to \$4.7 billion in surplus by the end of last year.

Apartheid bequeathed an education system that was segregated, unequal, and inefficient. South Africa had 19 different education departments working disparately. A successful consolidation is now producing results. The number of underqualified teachers is down from 36% ten years

ago to 26% and secondary school enrollment, a dismal 70% in 1994, is now 85%. The overstretched university system is consolidating and improving as well, and South African ingenuity has produced the world's lowest cost university.

As is the case for every country challenges and problems remain. HIV/AIDS devastates South Africa and had been left virtually unchecked for several years. However, treatment and prevention policies have been implemented more recently and experts predict that the crisis will be less acute. The ancillary effects of the pandemic- such as decline in worker productivity- will also be minimized.

Despite a growing economy, unemployment and a "brain drain" plague the country. Unemployment is roughly 40%, and some of South Africa's most talented graduates flow to Europe, Australia, Asia, and America. The exit of talent and wealth buttress the country's poverty.

In the past ten years, the new government has aggressively commenced this battle connecting nine million people to clean water, 3.8 million to the electricity grid, and provided subsidized housing for 1.6 million. Such strong progress has likely alleviated some other problems, notably criminal activity.

Crime and corruption are on the decline, thanks to well-planned and executed government initiatives. Between 1994 and 2001 the murder rate fell by one third, but the police force remains top-heavy, with significantly more inspectors than constables. Efforts thus far are to be commended, but more work adjustments in the police force remain.



Perhaps most importantly for South Africa's immediate future, Thabo Mbeki has grown into his role as President, showing bravery, boldness and practical know how. The NEPAD initiative- largely Mbeki's creation- is beginning to bear fruit. A framework is in place for Africa's countries to review one another; institutions are already inducing finance; and the G8 has embraced the partnerships. New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is not another failed bold vision, but a succeeding one.

During his recent State of the Nation address President Mbeki concluded: "During this First Decade, we have made great progress towards the achievement of the goals we enunciated as we took the first steps as a newborn child. We also laid a strong foundation to score even greater advances during the exciting and challenging Second Decade ahead of us, as a people united to build a better South Africa and a better world."

The President is correct: South Africa is a well raised and confident ten year old. For many, the second decade is the most formative and determinate of the future. Building on the first decade of liberation and backed by unified people, proficient leadership, and the world's support, South Africa's future is promising. ●

Joshua Katz is a research analyst for the Corporate Council on Africa.

Libya: Awaking a Giant < By Sonya Penn >

So far, 2004 has witnessed historic advancement in U.S.-Libya relations. In January, Congressman Curt Weldon (R-PA) led a seven member Congressional delegation to Libya, becoming the first elected U.S. officials to visit Libya in nearly four decades. The U.S. special envoy to the Middle East William Burns visited in March, making headlines as the highest-ranking U.S. official to enter the country since before the 1969 coup that brought Libyan leader Colonel Moammar Gaddafi to power.

These visits are testament to the United States' efforts to develop its renewed relationship with Libya. Since Colonel Gaddafi announced his decision to rid his country of its weapons of mass destruction in December 2003, the U.S. and a number of European countries have started to reengage the enigmatic North African oil giant.

The U.S. first imposed travel and other sanctions on Libya in the early 1980s. These sanctions were expanded in 1986 when Libya was blamed for a disco bombing that killed two U.S. soldiers and a Turkish woman and wounded 229 others. The extended sanctions included a ban on commercial contracts and direct trade with Libya. Sanctions were expanded again in 1996 with the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act, legislation passed in response to Libya's support of terrorism, efforts to acquire weapons of mass destruction and disregard for UN resolutions.

In early March, Colonel Gaddafi detailed his government's decision to renounce terrorism and weapons of mass destruction, declaring that a "new era has started" of openness and cooperation with the United States. Gaddafi acknowledged that Libya has isolated itself from the global community, and paid a high price for its adventures. Admitting that Libya did

have a nuclear weapons program, Gaddafi said that he was dismantling it because "it's in our own interest and security." He explained, "There are new realities. We are adapting to the new realities." He emphasized his desire to foster commercial ties with the U.S. which he hopes will include developing joint ventures with U.S. firms.

The U.S. Congressional representatives who met with Gaddafi expressed their optimism, but exhibited caution. Representative Solomon Ortiz (D-TX) offered qualified praise of the Libyan leader: "I have lots of respect and admiration for a man who publicly admits his mistakes. It takes a lot of guts to say what he said...but now he must live up to it."

A White House press announcement released February 26th lifted some travel restrictions to Libya and signified the first U.S. step towards reengagement. Americans are now authorized to travel to Libya for tourism, academic research and family visits. However, business deals may not yet be executed. The announcement also invited Libya to establish an interest section in Washington, D.C. Next steps of U.S. reengagement include establishing policy review by the U.S. Government to create benchmarks and U.S. responses. This process is already underway. The U.S. will increase its personnel presence in Tripoli and Libya will reestablish its diplomatic presence in Washington. Finally, U.S. sanctions will be relaxed further. Up to now, however, a number of sanctions remain, notably a ban on imports of Libyan crude oil.

U.S. and European firms are encouraged with the course of events so far, and are quickly positioning themselves to reactivate operations in Libya. In mid-March, Occidental Petroleum Corporation became the first U.S. company to reopen its Tripoli



office. While operations must remain dormant for the time being, Occidental is pursuing negotiations with Libya's National Oil Corporation.

The Anglo-Dutch oil company Shell, signed an agreement to re-enter Libya only a week later. According to company representatives, the deal will develop a long-term strategic partnership with Libya's national oil company.

Other firms already in Libya include Eni (Italy), Repsol (Spain), OMV (Austria), Woodside (Australia) and Gellenic (Greece).

Libya has always been attractive to the world's oil and gas industry; it is estimated that the country has some of the largest oil reserves in the world, and is well positioned to export to Europe and the United States. Libya has 36 billion barrels of total proven oil reserves; it has 12 oil fields, each with reserves of 1 billion barrels or more, and two additional oil fields with reserves of 500 million - 1 billion barrels. Further, partially due to the decades of sanctions, Libya remains largely unexplored and is thought to have excellent potential for new oil discoveries. Libya aims to increase its oil production to two million barrels per day by 2010 from the 1.48 million reported in February. Relaxed sanctions would prove extremely profitable for all parties involved.

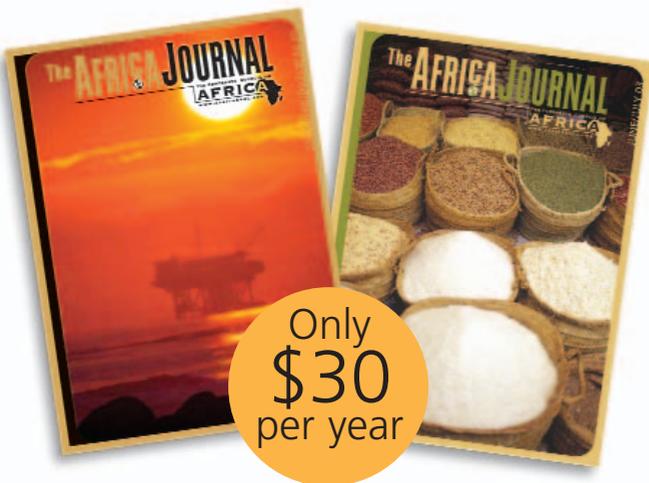
The initial steps have been taken, now the onus is on the U.S. and Libya to set the playing field. ☉

Sonya Penn is the Corporate Council on Africa's Manger of Communications and Editor of The Africa Journal.

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“Thinking positively is always the best thing to do. One should never give up no matter what the situation.”

— Nischal Patel

SAIBL Program Manager Nischal Patel passed away on February 28, 2004, after a yearlong battle with colon cancer. He was 31.

In honor of Nischal's legacy, Dirk Dijkerman, director of the South African Mission of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), proposed to rename SAIBL's Technical Assistance fund in honor of Nischal Patel. The Nischal Patel Memorial fund will utilize USAID resources to assist emerging businesses across South Africa and in Southern Africa. Through the fund jobs will be created and livelihoods will be enhanced.

“Nischal was an ardent advocate for small business development in Southern Africa. He was convinced that both the United States and Southern Africa needed one another and both could benefit economically through more active business relationships,” said Stephen Hayes, CCA's president.

Ambassador Barbara Masekela from the South African Embassy in Washington D.C. said Nischal's enthusiasm and commitment for Africa and South Africa were exemplified in his work. “He has made a significant contribution to and impact on the lives of many South Africans,” the Ambassador said.

Nischal, a native of Tanzania, leaves a wife, Manjula, an eight-month old daughter Shreya and many friends and admirers in the U.S. and throughout Africa.

In February 2003, the Corporate Council on Africa appointed its 2004-2005 Board of Directors. This year, due to term completions, ten new members joined CCA's Board of Directors. Below is a summary of the new Board Members. A full listing of CCA's Executive Committee and full Board of Directors can be found on the last page of The Africa Journal.

Robert Dintruff, Director of International HIV/AIDS Initiative, Abbott Laboratories

Abbott Laboratories focuses on advancing medical science and the practice of health care with expertise in the therapeutic areas of diabetes, pain

management, respiratory infections, HIV/AIDS, men and women's health, pediatrics and animal health. Abbott Laboratories has evolved into a diversified health care company that discovers, develops, manufactures and markets innovative products and services that span the continuum of care—from prevention and diagnosis to treatment and cure. Headquartered in north suburban Chicago, Abbott helps people around the world in the more than 130 countries.

William Guyton, President, World Cocoa Foundation

The World Cocoa Foundation is a comprehensive program which “takes

science into the field”, improving production efficiency, increasing farmer yields, and using cocoa to promote production reforestation of degraded tropical lands- all in a sustainable, environmentally responsible manner.

Peter Hayes, Vice President for Africa & the Middle East, Microsoft

Microsoft was founded upon the idea that if you give people the right tools they will do great things. Throughout Europe the Middle East and Africa Microsoft's close collaboration with public and private sector partners has helped children from Madrid to the Mahlungulu village in rural South Africa use the Internet to learn in unprecedented ways. In North Africa and the Netherlands people are finding new careers in fields they thought inaccessible before. And those are just a few of the accomplishments.

Walter Kansteiner, Principal, The Scowcroft Group

The Scowcroft Group is an international business advisory firm. By offering a wide range of services and area expertise tailored to meet individual client needs, The Scowcroft Group supports the client at every stage of strategic planning, risk management, market development, and ongoing operations. The Scowcroft Group helps business succeed by assigning project teams tailored to the specific business or investment opportunity and the country involved.

Henry McGee, President for Africa & the Middle East, ConocoPhillips

ConocoPhillips is an international, integrated energy company. It is the third largest integrated energy company in the United States, based on market capitalization, and oil and gas reserves and production. Worldwide it is the sixth

largest publicly owned energy company, based on oil and gas reserves, and the fifth largest refiner. Headquartered in Houston, Texas, ConocoPhillips operates in 49 countries. The company has approximately 57,000 employees worldwide and assets of \$77 billion. ConocoPhillips stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "COP."

John Noel, Chairman & CEO, The Noel Group

The Noel Group is a vertically integrated global organization that provides travel insurance, assistance and specialized services for corporate clients and individual consumers. Headquartered in Steven Point, Wisconsin, Noel Group member companies have more than 840 employees in 20 worldwide locations. "Make a Mark" is a humanitarian foundation established in 1993 by Noel Group founders John and Patty Noel. "Make a Mark" funds sustainable building projects in developing countries. Currently, "Make a Mark" is supporting the Nyumbani Village, a unique project in Kenya that will be a self-sustaining community to assist AIDS-affected children and seniors.

George Otchere, Senior Vice President of Corporate Development, Science Applications International Corporation

Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), is the nation's largest employee-owned research and engineering company, providing information technology, systems integration and eSolutions to commercial and government customers.

Phillip de St. Aubin, President, The Boeing Company

The Boeing Company is the world's leading aerospace company, with its heritage mirroring the history of flight. It is the largest manufacturer of satellites, commercial jetliners and military aircraft. The company is also a global market leader in missile defense, human space flight and launch services. In terms of sales, Boeing is the largest U.S. exporter. Total company revenues for 2003 were \$50.5 billion.

Kadita Tshibaka, Managing Director, Emerging Markets, Credit Risk Management, Global & Corporate Investment Bonds, Citigroup

For financial reporting and internal operational purposes, Citigroup is largely organized into five groups: Citigroup

Global Consumer Group, Citigroup's global corporate and investment bank, Citigroup Global Investment Management, Citigroup International, and Smith Barney. Citigroup, principally through Citibank, has a long and unrivaled history as a provider of financial services throughout the world. Our global footprint includes more than 100 countries in North and South America; Asia and the Pacific; Western, Central, and Eastern Europe; the Middle East; and Africa.

Stephen Witort, Vice President for Governmental Relations, 3M

3M is a \$18 billion diversified technology company with leading positions in health care; industrial; display and graphics; consumer and office; safety, security and protection services; electro and communications; and transportation. Headquartered in St. Paul, Minnesota, the company has operations in more than 60 countries and serves customers in nearly 200 countries. 3M is one of the 30 stocks that make up the Dow Jones Industrial Average and also is a component of the Standard & Poor's 500 Index ©

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COMESA Into The 21st Century < By Erastus J.O. Mwencha >

On October 31st 2000, COMESA became the first regional grouping in Africa to launch a Free Trade Area. COMESA, with over 360 million people, is now moving towards a Customs Union. It is against this solid background that over 300 policy makers and business leaders will attend the COMESA Business Summit in Kampala Uganda from 6-8th June 2004. COMESA Heads of State and Government, Ministers and international and regional business leaders will attend the Summit.

COMESA Free Trade Area is working! Over the last three years, average annual intra-regional trade grew by 25%. The level of trading has increased and there has been a diversification of region exports. We pride ourselves on having trade facilitation instruments that work. The region uses one single Customs Document, we have a successful third party intra-regional insurance scheme, a political insurance scheme (African Trade Insurance) is operational, and a regional payments settlement scheme will soon be operational. We have also embarked on more challenging ventures, for example, we are about to establish an inter-connectivity telecommunication network system for the COMESA region.

COMESA region is rich in all resources that make it a viable economic region and a natural partner for trade and investment. Our mission is clear: "To achieve increased co-operation and integration in all fields of development, particularly in trade, customs and monetary affairs; infrastructure; industry; agriculture; environment; investment." Our integration program is comprehensive and defined. COMESA is serious about making the region competitive, and the decision to move to a Customs Union and create a Common Investment Area signals to international investors that the region is ready to compete in the global market.

As a rule-based organisation that

believes in predictability and transparency, COMESA became the first regional grouping to establish a functioning Court of Justice. Having established our own strong foundation, we created a platform to co-operate with the United States through a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement signed in 2001. COMESA is actively involved as part of the larger Eastern and Southern African group negotiating an Economic Partnership Arrangement with the European Union. These vehicles will ensure that our partnerships and co-operation move from strength to strength.

COMESA Membership

COMESA has 20 member countries: Angola, Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

COMESA Programs

Trade liberalization:

COMESA became the first Regional Economic Community to launch a Free Trade Area in Africa. The FTA became effective in October 2000. By end of 2003, 11 member States with a combined GDP of US\$160 billion representing 70% of COMESA GDP and a population of 120 million will be trading free of customs duty. Intra-regional trade has grown by over 30% a year since the launch of the Free Trade Area. To facilitate the trade liberalization program, the following are some of the key activities being implemented:

- Common procedures for issuance of Certificate of Origin by Member States;
- Trade Remedy Regulations;
- Elimination of Non-tariff Barriers; and
- Transportation Facilitation.



Erastus J.O. Mwencha is Secretary General of COMESA

Customs Co-operation

On December 8, 2004, COMESA will launch a countdown to a Customs Union with a common external tariff for all its members. In preparation for the launch, COMESA has set up a program of activities including:

- Enacting legislation on Customs Management Act
- Undertaking capacity building at Secretariat and member State level
- Adoption of a Common Tariff Nomenclature (CTN)
- Harmonization and improvement of national customs systems

Transport and Communications

Transport and Communications is crucial for effective integration of COMESA into a Common market and eventually an Economic Community. Key operating instruments and programs include:

- Yellow card scheme (A regional third party motor insurance scheme);
- COMESA Carriers License;
- Advanced Cargo Information System (ACIS) for tracking cargo;

- Regional Customs Bond Guarantee Scheme;
- Harmonised axle load limit and control;
- COMTEL (A telecommunication interconnectivity project to be managed by the private sector);
- Great Lakes Railway project (Building and connecting railways in the Great Lakes region);
- Privatization and concession of ports and railways companies; and
- Air Transport Liberalisation and adoption of Air Transport Competition Rules for COMESA, EAC and SADC.

Common Investment Area

The COMESA region was declared a Common Investment Area in 1998 and COMESA will soon have a legal framework to facilitate the creation of one large economic space allowing for freer movement of capital, labor goods and services. This will enable companies to maximize scale of production as they take advantage of the harmonized investment policies, laws, regulations and procedures.

To support trade liberalization, investment and private sector development, COMESA created several institutions that operate autonomously throughout the region. Institutions include:

- PTA Bank (A Trade and Project Finance Bank based in Nairobi Kenya);
- African Trade Insurance Agency (ATI);
- ZEP-RE (A reinsurance company);
- COMESA Court of Justice; and
- Leather and Leather Products (LLPI - BASED IN Addis Ababa, Ethiopia).

Monetary

COMESA embarked on a Monetary Harmonisation Programme to

eventually achieve monetary union. Major programs and activities include:

- Harmonization of monetary and fiscal policies;
- Attainment of limited currency convertibility;
- Regional financial stability;
- Modernization of domestic payment systems; and
- Introduction of a regional payment and settlement system.

Agriculture

Agriculture is the backbone of almost all the COMESA countries. In many COMESA countries, agriculture contributes more than 32% of gross domestic product (GDP), employs about 75% of the active labor force, accounts for about 65% of foreign exchange earnings and contributes more than 50% of raw materials to the industry sector. COMESA therefore takes discussions under WTO especially on subsidies on agriculture very seriously as subsidies from the developed world have negatively impacted the African farmers. COMESA has the following programs:

- Capacity Building on Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary measures;
- Implementing International Standards for Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary Measures;
- Regional Food Security;
- Bio-diversity and crop production;
- Upgrading Quality and Safety of Fish and Fishery Products; and
- Formulation of the COMESA Common Agricultural Policy.

COMESA Support Programs

To speed up the integration process, COMESA instituted a number of key support programs including:

- COMESA Regional Competition Policy;

- COMESA Public Procurement Reform;
- COMESA Gender Policy;
- Protocol on Free Movement of Persons, Labour and Services;
- Protocol on Free Movement of Persons Labour Services, Right of Establishment and Residence;
- Protocol for Establishment of the Fund for Co-operation, Compensation and Development
- Harmonization of ICT Policy and Regulatory Framework

Key COMESA Projects

COMESA has an infrastructure master plan outlining priority regional infrastructure projects in key sectors including energy, roads and railway, and telecommunication. Projects include:

- COMTEL Project;
- Great Lakes Railway Project (Burundi, D.R. Congo, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Sudan, Uganda and Zambia);
- Rehabilitation of Ethiopia- Djibouti Railway;
- Road network Kenya-Ethiopia and Zambia-Tanzania- Kenya;
- Commercialization of railway systems and ports e.g. Seychelles
- Electricity Generation: (INGA Dam DRC);
- Electricity Transmission (DRC- Zambia- Zimbabwe) and (Zambia- Tanzania-Kenya), (Sudan -Ethiopia); and
- Conversion of Djibouti Port to a Free Port. ☉

Erastus J.O Mwencha is Secretary General of COMESA.

For additional information, visit COMESA's website at www.comesa.int.

Expanding Information Technology and Manufacturing in Africa

< By Cheryl Warner >

The Ambassador of Uganda to the United States, H.E. Edith Grace Ssempala recently visited The Boeing Company and UGS PLM Solutions, the product lifecycle management (PLM) subsidiary of EDS, in St. Louis in January 2004. The visit was part of a public private alliance with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), EDS and Makerere University of Kampala Uganda. The public-private alliance was designed and is currently being implemented by Computer Frontiers, Inc. under the USAID Leland Initiative.

Enhancing Regional Manufacturing and Economic Development

The goal of the alliance is to enhance the current mechanical engineering program at Makerere University by integrating UGS PLM Solutions' software into the university's engineering curriculum. The PLM software will provide Uganda's university students with real-world, hands-on design and advance training in computerized manufacturing. This leading-edge software, which is used by Boeing and over 41,000 global manufacturers to enhance productivity and product innovation, is expected to help regional manufactures improve competitiveness and economic development in Uganda.

"UGS PLM Solutions, has provided a USD \$4.2 Million grant of PLM software for Makerere University to assist in establishing Uganda as a future hub for manufacturing," said Pat Kruse, Executive Vice President, UGS PLM Solutions. AMIE institutions (Prairie View A&M University, Texas Southern, and Tuskegee University) complement this effort by providing on-site PLM training for Makerere University faculty in Uganda. Strengthening the engineering program at universities in Uganda helps

elevate the country's technology base. It creates expanded career opportunities for the graduates, and a means for Ugandan manufacturing companies to increase their global stature".

Ambassador Ssempala said she wanted Uganda to be at the forefront of information technology and manufacturing in Africa. The ambassador praised Computer Frontiers and the alliance partners for the opportunities they are providing to improve technology in the engineering community. She noted "last year, the strategy to further develop the technical stature of engineering education in Uganda and increase the competitiveness of Ugandan manufacturers was part of President Yoweri Museveni's vision." The alliance's commitment and support is helping to move forward Uganda's vision to reality.

Support from the U.S. Engineering Community

The ambassador was warmly welcomed to Boeing by Allen Atkins, General Manager of Technology for Phantom Works and Chairman of the Board for Advancing Minorities' Interests in Engineering, (AMIE). AMIE is a coalition of representatives and engineering professionals from Fortune 500 companies and the ABET accredited Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU's) who see a diversified workforce as a competitive advantage.



Ugandan Ambassador to the United States, Edith Grace Ssempala, is guided through Boeing's Prologue Road by Dr. Allen Atkins, General Manager of Technology for Phantom Works. Dr. Atkins is showing her a Gemini capsule, used in the U.S. space program in the 1960s and built by McDonnell Douglas.

Also joining is this effort is the National Society of Black Engineers (NASBE). The NSBE—Gateway Chapter is working with Uganda to develop feeder programs for next generation Engineers (ages 11 -18). "NSBE is a leader in developing Engineering curriculum for 6-12th graders," said Nicholas Gardner, President -NSBE Gateway Chapter. "We are proud to team with UGS PLM Solutions, Boeing, AMIE and USAID in motivating our young, Ugandan Brothers and Sisters to seek careers in engineering & science."

The initiative is seen as a pilot program that could be successfully expanded to other countries in Africa. ●

Cheryl Warner is Vice President of Computer Frontiers Inc. Computer Frontiers has been instrumental in facilitating and implementing public private alliances in information technology under the USAID Leland Initiative. Computer Frontiers has successfully collaborated with leading corporations, universities, and government entities to forge ten IT alliances in Africa totaling more than \$15 million. For additional information please contact Tom Chesney, Manager of Public-Private Alliances, at 301-601-0624 or info@computer-frontiers.com

Telecommunications Development in Africa < By Tania Hanna >

Africa Today

Africa has emerged as one of the fastest growing regions for investment in telecommunications after many years of stalled development. African nations have embarked on regulatory policy changes that have brought a combination of market competition, private sector participation and independent regulation to the region. Africa became the first region in the world where mobile services surpassed services provided over fixed-lines. Africa currently has the fastest growing mobile communication sector of all regions, with some of the highest levels of revenue per user. In addition, the telecom sector on the African continent has seen tremendous growth over the past few years, 85%¹ per annum growth between 1995 and 1999. The high growth rates were not limited to the more developed markets such as South Africa and Egypt. They were achieved in countries where the sector has recently been liberalized, such as Senegal and Uganda².

Generally speaking, teledensity is low in Africa. According to the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), in Northern Africa the overall average teledensity in 2001 was 13.652%. In sub-Saharan Africa, the overall average teledensity in 2002 was 9.74%. Of the 55 African economies cataloged by the ITU in 1997, only 17 had teledensity rates above the average of two. The increase in teledensity over the last seven years is the result of African governments liberalizing telecommunications markets, promoting competition, and adopting transparent regulatory policies.

Regulatory Policies

The means by which each country creates, structures and implements its regulatory body is one of the most important factors in creating effective

telecommunications regulatory process. The majority of African countries now have independent regulatory agencies, most of which have been established in the last five years. However, the typical regulatory model focuses on the telecommunications service of the past, one based on traditional fixed line voice services. Current data shows that most of the sector growth will come from an increase in data traffic relative to voice traffic. Also, demand is increasing for networks capable of supporting high-speed data. Given these developments, the regulatory policy initiatives, in those African countries that have enacted telecommunications laws, must be revisited to ensure that mechanisms are in place to support the innovative provision and use of new technologies.

Many African nations are in the process of considering various approaches to telecommunications regulation. In such cases, the legal infrastructure ultimately adopted should encourage dynamic technological advances and provide a mechanism to support rather than hinder development of new services in the sector. African governments must be cognizant of laws and regulations that may ultimately impact the growth of the telecommunications sector.

The primary objective of telecommunications laws and regulations should be to allocate spectrum for public and private purposes and to ensure that citizens have access to telecommunications service at fair and reasonable rates (basic universal service obligation). It should not be charged with evaluating new technologies and promulgating new regulations by which such new technologies will be governed.

Growth of Wireless Solutions

The growth of the wireless networks in Africa has outpaced that of the wired

networks. In addition, interest in and demand for more advanced value-added services, such as multimedia messaging and data services, are on the rise. Thus, it is paramount that mobile operators ensure their initial infrastructure is scalable, and can grow and cope with these new technologies.

Fixed-line companies are also able to establish themselves via wireless solutions such as wireless local loop (WLL) technology. WLL technology is a cost-effective alternative to laying copper or fiber-optic cable throughout a country. An emerging African nation would be able to deploy WLL technology to provide services to significant portion of the population. WLL technology uses radio links as a substitute for copper lines for all or part of the connection between the subscriber and the switch, resulting in a rapid deployment of quality services with a minimal initial investment.

Conclusion

Many African nations have suffered, until recently, from a lack of investment in the telecommunications sector. However, the tide has turned and many African nations are in the process of rolling out a wide variety of telecommunications services to their citizenry. In doing so, African nations are laying the foundation for true democracy. Voice, video, and data communications, when sufficiently available, will be used to inform citizens of their rights and responsibilities, provide information on the electoral process, and offer important training in critical areas such as education and health care, thereby ensuring sustainable economic growth and viable democracy.®

Tania Hanna is the Director for Government Relations at Harris Corporation.

From Wall Street to Africa < By Stephanie Sheridan >

African financial markets were the subject of a groundbreaking day-long conference at Citigroup headquarters in New York on February 26th. The Corporate Council on Africa (CCA) organized the meeting of over 200 leading financial representatives for the *Increasing Capital Flows to Africa* conference. Topics of discussion included the vibrancy of Africa's private sector, diligent government reforms and stable economic growth.

CCA President Stephen Hayes opened the conference with reference to the foresight and strength of the nearly 200 CCA member companies that represent roughly 85% of U.S. investment in Africa. Mr. Hayes spoke to the vast opportunities available on the continent, pointing out that the companies in attendance, those already doing business on the continent, held an advantage, "The best and most profitable opportunities are those that are tapped early. Africa is emerging now. Today, let us profit from and accelerate that emergence. It is good for American business, the

The best and most profitable opportunities are those that are tapped early. Africa is emerging now.

African people and your bottom line."

Mr. Stanley Fischer, Vice Chairman of Citigroup and President of Citigroup International, followed with a plenary speech highlighting the array of investment opportunities throughout specific areas of Africa.

"Timing is everything" were the words of a number of speakers referencing

African investment markets and projects. The conference offered participants insight into specific tools that will aid investment decisions in Africa. Workshops topics included trade finance, debt markets and equity investment. Discussion also focused on the benchmark credit ratings assigned to a growing number of African countries, fifteen as of December 2003.

The conference proceedings reflected the work of the CCA Financing Task Force, a group of forty representatives from leading financial institutions that meet at CCA's offices to offer recommendations on how to develop the world's last great emerging markets. ©

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In unveiling the Destination:Gabon Eco-Tour July 31-August 8, 2004, Wildlaw, an Alabama-based nonprofit law firm, is helping protect the Congo Basin's Rainforests and introduce American business owners and professionals to a new land of profitable investment potential in central Africa.

Offering private charter jet service with freight space available from Atlanta to Libreville at below market rates will provide a template for future growth. The organizers expect heavy demand for this unique trip.

Destination:Gabon is now available at www.wildlaw.org/gabon or by contacting Joe Turnham at 334-396-4729 or at joeturnham@aol.com



The New Corporate Responsibility: Working with Developing World Partners to Build A Better Tomorrow < By Jonathan Lifa and Joseph Lorenz >

Chevron Texaco has long sponsored traditional “bricks-and-mortar” community development programs - building schools, roads, hospitals and clinics—in countries where it operates. In Nigeria, for example, our company has invested some \$90 million since 1991 to improve education, healthcare and job skills; more than 5,000 Nigerian students a year receive Chevron Nigeria Ltd. (CNL)—sponsored scholarships.

As meaningful as such efforts have been, however, today a new philosophy is emerging. Called “Corporate Responsibility,” this approach emphasizes the growing role of business in addressing global environmental, social and economic issues. Most especially, it impels companies to make certain their activities help reduce developing world poverty—an issue ChevronTexaco Chairman Dave O’Reilly has identified as the defining challenge of the 21st Century.

At ChevronTexaco, we believe that global poverty must be addressed by broadly-based, private-public partnerships that generate sustainable and widely-shared economic growth. Such partnerships emphasize “engagement,” respect for local values and sensitivities, and the views of all stakeholders. They lead to deeper dialogue, commitment and interaction with our community partners. At their most successful, they can empower populations—through job training, micro-loans, and improved education, for example.

What do these new partnerships look like? A few illustrations:

- In Angola, ChevronTexaco joined a diverse group of partners, including the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to form a \$50 million partnership aimed at spurring sustainable investments. We turned to

Non Government Organizations with expertise in agriculture, finance and education—even seed multiplication and goat raising. We worked with international banks and development agencies, the government of Angola and with communities and rural villagers. One initiative alone, aimed at reviving the nation’s small farms, will have helped nearly 900,000 Angolans by the end of the current year [2004].

- In Nigeria, CNL and the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) established the Local Business Development/Global Procurement Unit in 1999 to help implement a local Content Development (LCD) policy. The goal? To promote indigenous businesses, and the purchase of local goods and services by CNL. By 2002, the latest year for which data is available, CNL contracts for goods and services from Nigerian—owned firms had more than tripled—to 90%—compared to five years earlier.
- In South Africa, Caltex Oil (S.A.) established a task force to support the South African government’s Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) program. As part of these efforts, Caltex gives preferential treatment to Historically Disadvantaged South Africans; provides support and training to small, medium and micro enterprises; and supports companies that actively promote skills training for their employees. Between 2001 and 2003, the company increased its business with BEE program suppliers from 5% to 23% of total spending for goods and services. In 2003, purchases of BEE goods and services



In Angola’s agriculturally-rich interior provinces, ChevronTexaco is working with a consortium of relief agencies and USAID to promote food security, including the distribution of seeds, tools, water resource expertise, and small business incubator training. By the end of 2004, nearly 900,000 people will have been impacted by this program.

topped 25% of total spend.

No one can doubt that, in too many places on our planet, too many people are being left behind. In Africa, upwards of 300 million people—half the continent’s population—live on less than US \$1 a day. Africans suffer 70% of the world’s HIV/AIDS cases. They account for half of all people who lack clean drinking water.

Clearly, no single entity can address such challenges alone. Success will require coalitions that can leverage the separate strengths of private and public organizations. But make no mistake: only through such unions can human capacity be expanded in ways that permanently convert resource wealth into sustainable benefits. Thus, partnership and working together become much more than desirable business goals. They are crucial to improving the lives of tens of millions of people in developing countries.

In the past, our industry forged a strong record of making positive contributions where we operated. As we embrace new notions of partnership, informed by our heightened sense of Corporate Responsibility, these contributions can and should grow substantially. ●

Jonathan Lifa is Africa Regional Manager and Joseph Lorenz is International Relations Advisor for ChevronTexaco.

New Approach to HIV/AIDS Unites Business, Labor, and Government

< By Gregory R. Niblett >

HIV/AIDS causes workplace problems as complex as the HIV virus itself.

That's why the Academy for Educational Development (AED) is partnering with business and labor in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and the Caribbean to offer affordable training designed to prevent HIV transmission. Employers and employees share a common work-related goal: they want to work and stay healthy and productive.

AED's SMARTWork (Strategically Managing AIDS Responses Together in the Workplace) initiative is just one of the programs provided by this international human and social development nonprofit that approaches AIDS innovatively and offers workplace HIV/AIDS interventions that enrich the individual, the workplace, and the community.

"Businesses increasingly recognize the importance of dealing with AIDS in the workforce to maintain productivity and reduce the financial load of high medical costs, death benefits, absenteeism, and having to hire and re-train new workers," said Frank Beadle de Palomo, AED Senior Vice President.

SMARTWork recognizes that health and business communities cannot, by themselves, stop this epidemic. Too often, businesses or unions have been asked to carry the burden of workplace interventions alone. Workplace HIV/AIDS programs are most successful when tripartite collaborations—an equal partnership of businesspeople, labor representatives, and government—work together to address the disease.

Stemming a highly transmittable disease like AIDS in African countries requires more than providing treatment. SMARTWork employers demonstrate that by opening up the workplace to discuss and focus on HIV/AIDS issues - including prevention and access to

treatment—once this occurs, it facilitates the community opening up to HIV/AIDS issues.

SMARTWork assesses attitudes and behavior, and then customizes a plan, taking into account affordability for the company. Large and small companies partner with AED SMARTWork, including Cadbury, Sheraton Hotels, Brew, and Nestle.

SMARTWork coordinates and provides technical assistance to companies, as well as their labor unions, and government. In Africa, SMARTWork is active in Nigeria and Zimbabwe where Tripartite Advisory Boards have been formed which also include media.

"Peer-to-peer training is one of the most practical and rewarding aspects of this approach," said Matthew Roberts, AED's SMARTWork project director. "It's gratifying to see peers—employees teach other employees—interact across artificial boundaries such as manager and employee."

Although AIDS is epidemic in Africa, it is still shrouded in silence. Although family, friends, and colleagues are infected and dying, AIDS is all too often thought of as affecting "others." While 6% of Nigerians are HIV-positive, "Most don't think they know someone with HIV," said Roberts. Through SMARTWork, AIDS issues can be discussed in the workplace, which can provide a setting for open and frank discussion.

In Zimbabwe, where AIDS affects one-third of the 15- to 49-year-old workforce, the already devastated economy is further crippled by the disease. A large number of Zimbabweans know about HIV/AIDS transmission and disease progression, however, fear of discrimination inhibits Zimbabweans from getting tested or seeking counseling. SMARTWork's workplace programs provide options that help them learn what they need



AED partners with African businesses in its SMARTWork Initiative.

to do without having to divulge their status.

A leader in HIV/AIDS programs worldwide, including science-based interventions that prevent transmission from mothers to children and populations most affected by HIV, including adolescents and other at-risk groups, programs that focus on prevention with HIV-positive individuals and care and support, and anti-HIV stigma and discrimination, AED believes that prevention activities must be the cornerstone of HIV/AIDS education—not just treatment and care.

"Programs must be integrated and comprehensive, use tested methods, yet be individualized for the country, culture, company, and community," said Beadle de Palomo. "We've developed a successful framework, but we continue to focus on identifying the nuances of each partner and audience and helping to customize a program that accomplishes all its goals smoothly."

SMARTWork is funded by the U.S. government. ●

Gregory R. Niblett is Senior Vice President for AED Social Change Group.

For more information on SMARTWork, contact Matthew Roberts, Project Director, at AED, (+1) (202) 884-8646, smartwork@aed.org, or visit www.smartwork.org. For information about AED HIV/AIDS programs or to partner with AED, contact (Frank Beadle de Palomo, Senior Vice President, (202) 884-8862, fbeadle@aed.org). AED's website is www.aed.org.

Computer Frontiers, Inc.

Computer Frontiers, Inc. is an international consulting firm with affiliated companies in the U.S., Uganda, Kenya, South Africa, and Senegal. Computer Frontiers aspiration is to use technology and free market principles to further development goals in all countries.

Since its founding in 1993, Computer Frontiers has accumulated over 10 years experience implementing information technology projects in 21 countries in Africa. An early pioneer of information communications technology in Africa, Computer Frontiers helped install some of the original Internet nodes and electronic networks in Africa. Today, Computer Frontiers offers a full compliment of Internet and telephony solutions, network design and security, systems integration, database and web applications, and knowledge management.

Computer Frontiers current service offerings include call center operations and technical computer help desk support for over 160 corporate clients in East and Southern Africa. Our call center operation has the capacity to deliver customer service and data processing requirements for the North American and European markets as well.

Computer Frontiers advises African governments on telecommunication policy and regulatory environments, national ICT strategies, and the delivery of advanced e-government and e-commerce services. Computer Frontiers works to strengthen IT Business Associations in shaping a pro-competitive policy environment in which the private sector can take the lead in advancing the import/export of ICT products and services, market competitiveness, and access to global markets.

For additional information please contact Cheryl Warner at (301) 601-0624 or cawarner@computer-frontiers.com

Microsoft

Microsoft West, East and Central Africa (MS-WECA) is dedicated to Sub-Saharan Africa. It spans 46 African countries with a combined population of over 600 million citizens. MS-WECA has one common vision: "To empower people, businesses and governments in WECA to realize their full potential through the use of information technology" Sub-Sahara African countries offer many challenges; these include sub-optimal infrastructure (Telecommunication/Electricity), low IT literacy; a multitude of local languages, various cultural practices and differing economic priorities. To address unique African needs, MS-WECA has developed programs which go beyond just providing business solutions. With its Partner's in Potential Program, Microsoft is partnering with both Governments and NGOs to bring IT into the heart of African communities.

MS-WECA covers the vast region by dividing it into 5 territories, each with a local office; namely, West and Central Africa (from Côte d'Ivoire), East Africa (from Kenya), Nigeria, South East Africa (from Namibia), and Indian Ocean Islands (from Mauritius). As elaborated by Ali Hoballah, General Manager of MS-WECA: "Each Microsoft local office develops and leverages local expertise to best understand the unique market requirements so as to deliver the solutions that suit local African needs".

For additional information, contact Cetin Uygun at cetinu@microsoft.com or (011) 90 532 314 11 83.

Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI)

Founded in 1865, WPI is a pioneer in technological higher education. WPI students, working in teams at more than 20 project centers around the globe, complete professional-level work. This innovative, globally focused curriculum has been recognized by leaders in industry, government and academia as a model for the technological education of tomorrow.

WPI's Global Perspective Program plays a key role in the university's project-based curriculum by overseeing society-technology projects at its global project centers. These project experiences are unique among engineering and science universities because they require students to go off campus, including to remote locales. The projects, overseen by faculty advisors, count as a full term's academic credit. No other university sends more engineering and science undergraduates overseas.

WPI's newest project center opened in Windhoek, Namibia in early 2002. In May 2002, WPI signed MOUs with two African universities, Kenyatta University of Nairobi and the Polytechnic of Namibia. The university and CCA co-hosted the first-ever New England Africa Business Conference that same month.

The university awarded its first advanced degree in 1898. Today, its first-rate research laboratories support masters and Ph.D. programs in more than 30 disciplines in engineering, science and the management of technology. Located in the heart of the region's biotechnology and high-technology sectors, WPI has built research programs—including the largest industry/university alliance in North America—that have won it worldwide recognition.

For additional information about WPI visit www.wpi.edu; more information about the Global Program may be found at <http://www.wpi.edu/Academics/Depts/IGSD/>.



Baucus Pleased by Completion of U.S.-Morocco Free Trade Agreement Negotiations < By Max Baucus >

Senator Presses for Further Engagement with Middle East, Increased Trade Opportunities

On March 2, 2004, the United States successfully concluded a free trade agreement with Morocco, and I congratulate our trade negotiators. Morocco is an important ally in a region that needs our support. We must continue to do more to improve our economic relationship with the Middle East.

I support the long-term goal of increasing free trade with the Middle East. That said, we need a comprehensive, short-term policy to help increase trade and create jobs in that region. Last year, Senator McCain and I introduced S.1121, the Middle East Trade and Engagement Act, which would accomplish that goal.

Our legislation will build stronger and more effective commercial relationships in a region of the world where economic hope is unfortunately non-existent. It is in our interest, as well as theirs, to reach out and build a common future.

As for the agreement itself, I am pleased that the agreement secures access into Morocco for U.S. products that is at least as good as the European Union enjoys, and in some cases better. This is an important principle, and reflects the ambitiousness of both parties.

In particular, Morocco has agreed to establish tariff-rate quotas for beef that grow over time, providing

significantly increased access to the important market in high-quality beef. In this respect, the U.S. will have superior access than not only the European Union (EU) but virtually every one else as well.

I am further satisfied that this agreement ultimately levels the playing field between U.S. wheat producers and the EU, though the transition to parity is longer than I prefer. Importantly, the agreement guarantees that



Senator Max Baucus (D-MT)

U.S. wheat, beef, and other agriculture products will always enjoy preferential access versus future Moroccan FTA partners.

I welcome Morocco into the larger network of U.S. free trade partners, and I applaud Ambassador Zoellick for continuing to move ahead on free trade. But I must reiterate my concern over the prioritization of USTR resources. As we move ahead, we need to focus on trade agreements with larger markets and improve the enforcement of existing agreements. We need to ensure that we are using trade to create opportunities for American exports, American companies, and American jobs. ☉

Senator Max Baucus (D-MT) serves as Ranking Member on the Senate Finance Committee. He is also a senior member on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, the Senate Agriculture Committee, and the Joint Committee on Taxation. He has served in Congress since 1974.

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Commerce Department Announces African Healthcare Infrastructure Training Program < By Alicia Robinson-Morgan >

In light of the large-scale needs to improve healthcare delivery systems on the African continent — and the related market opportunities for U.S. exporters, Commerce Secretary Donald Evans recently announced funding for a second Management Training for Africa (MTA) trade capacity building program focused on healthcare infrastructure.

The Commerce Department's International Trade Administration will provide an intensive training session in the United States, August 16-27, 2004, for 15-18 hospital and medical facility management specialists from across sub-Saharan Africa. The MTA program will concentrate on hospital administration, and highlight essential components of African healthcare needs from insurance to alternative medicine to telemedicine to medical equipment.

MTA Participants will consist of mid-level government, parastatal and hospital officials from each region in Sub-Saharan Africa. Likely countries will include Benin, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Swaziland, Uganda and Zambia. The program will include visits to medical companies and facilities, hospitals and universities offering medical science programs, and governmental organizations throughout the United States. Participants will meet with U.S. companies and associations in the medical equipment and devices industry, and may have the opportunity to attend the Florida International Medical Expo in Miami, Florida.

The Department of Commerce conducted a pilot MTA Program in July 2003 for the Southern African

Customs Union (Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland) focused on transportation infrastructure, with a special emphasis on intermodal logistics. The program gave participants an opportunity to visit ports and railways in Baltimore and New Orleans and afforded a site visit to FedEx at its world headquarters in Memphis. The 19 participants came away from the training with a greater understanding of transportation logistics issues both on a regional and global scale.

The Department of Commerce will work with American Embassies in Africa to select officials with experience or current portfolios relevant to the healthcare infrastructure industry. The participant countries have all demonstrated commitment to further

developing and strengthening their healthcare sectors.

Alicia Robinson-Morgan is Deputy Director at the Department of Commerce's Office of Africa. Companies and organizations interested in learning more about the MTA Program, and possibly playing a role, are encouraged to contact Ms. Robinson-Morgan at Alicia_Robinson@ita.doc.gov or (202) 482-4927. ©

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Building Community in the Eastern Cape, South Africa

< By Judith A. Hermanson >

In 1996, when CHF International began working in the township of Motherwell in the Eastern Cape, housing was woefully lacking, there were virtually no employment or other economic opportunities for the thousands of residents, and the quality of life for the vast majority was poor. The socio-economic divide was as wide as the physical divide that separated this area from the rest of Port Elizabeth.

Now, seven years later, a comprehensive community building program delivered to the Eastern Cape's poor residents has helped significantly to bridge that divide. This program consists of affordable housing, entrepreneurship and business services, and mitigation of the effects of HIV/AIDS. We are proud that today CHF International's program is continuing to help people to improve their own quality of life and economic circumstances.

Working in partnership with the community associations within Motherwell and many other former townships, thousands of affordable houses have been built. Using an "assisted self help" method, by which community members themselves contribute to and participate in the construction process, not only are houses built but skills are transferred, emerging enterprises are formed, and communities are strengthened. As a continuing legacy to affordable housing in the Eastern Cape, CHF International founded and today works closely with the South African non profit housing organization, Isandla.

The Community Entrepreneurship and Business Initiative (CEBI) has helped to create and strengthen over a thousand small businesses, which provide a wide range of services and products and enhance local wealth and create local employment. Many are group owned or cooperative ventures.

CEBI works through business support centers, which are located in the

communities and are easily accessible to community members. The Business Support Centers provide "drop in" advice and offer skills and management trainings to entrepreneurs. In addition, they provide some financing. One of CEBI's key strategies is linking community businesses with large private enterprises outside of the former township areas, to provide goods and services and creating a "win win" proposition.

The third aspect of CHF International's Eastern Cape community building initiative is to integrate mitigation of HIV/AIDS explicitly into the program. Both the housing and the economic opportunity programs are instruments:

- Through the housing initiative, the community improves the physical environment and mitigates the impact of opportunistic infections on those whose immune systems are compromised. Such mitigation is critically important since large numbers of people are often dependent upon a single breadwinner. Prolonging productive life means that more children will stay in school, more families will stay together, and a healthier, better quality of life is enjoyed by the entire community.
- Through the entrepreneurship and economic opportunity initiative, the community's economic base is strengthened. The economic devastation from the loss of a breadwinner may be mitigated by opening other income sources.

An important aspect of CHF International's work in the Eastern Cape is partnership—with community organizations, South African non-profits, and the South African private sector. In the HIV/AIDS component of our program, CHF International has extended its partnership to international



Four young residents of Motherwell, South Africa, where more than 1000 homes were built, more than 1000 small enterprises have emerged, and the quality of life of many thousands of people living with HIV/AIDS has been improved with assistance from CHF International.

organizations as well. We have joined with the Pratt Centre and the American Public Health Association to form the African Alliance to Combat HIV/AIDS.

In addition to the mitigation of opportunistic infections through the built environment and the creation of economic opportunity, the Alliance also bases its approach on treatment, including enhanced medical infrastructure, and education, awareness and prevention. Through a highly participatory process, the Alliance has identified a multitude of community level "investment opportunities," within each program component.

In order to enhance the impact of our program, CHF International, and the Alliance actively solicit financial participation from multinational corporations and others concerned about and doing business in South Africa. Financial participation may be targeted to specific interventions chosen from a "menu" of community "investment opportunities."

CHF International's comprehensive community building program in the Eastern Cape continues to help thousands of families to overcome their impoverished circumstances and to invest in a healthier, happier future for themselves and their families. ☺

Judith A. Hermanson, PhD, is Vice President of CHF International. For additional information, visit CHF's website at <http://www.chfhq.org/index.html>.

Children's Masquerades Focus of National Museum of African Art Exhibition

< By Janice L. Kaplan >

This spring the Smithsonian's National Museum of African Art presents a groundbreaking exhibition on children's masquerades in Africa. "Playful Performers" is the first exhibition to look at the immense creativity of African children as they explore through playful activity the world of masquerade performance. The exhibition opens April 9 and continues through December 12.

"Masquerades are dramatic and compelling events in many parts of Africa," said Museum Director Sharon F. Patton. "With this exhibition, we are exploring for the first time how children not only mimic adult behavior but initiate their own masquerades, ranging from brief performances to very sophisticated ones."

"Playful Performers" also marks the first time the museum has mounted an exhibition that is both about children and for children. "It is our hope that children of all nationalities visiting the museum will see themselves in this exhibition and that the child-centered presentation will draw more families to the museum," said Patton.

Masquerades are performed throughout west and central Africa, in both rural and urban settings. The very nature of the African masquerade—encompassing a disguise of the human face, elaborate costuming, choreography and musical accompaniment—imbues the performance with aesthetic power and mystery that appeals to adults and children alike. While festive and entertaining, masquerades also play a critical role in the aesthetic interpretation of a community's history, culture and identity. Masked dancers disguised as animals, spirits, ancestors or ordinary human beings

enact well-known legends and stories and celebrate important community events. Masquerades are frequently part of serious religious ceremonies, such as those relating to initiation and funerals. Humorous masquerades that poke fun of individuals and groups are also common. At the same time, masquerades address important contemporary issues such as those relating to health, education and the prevention of HIV/AIDS.

Most adult masquerades permit young children (ages 4-12) to participate only in very limited roles. However, the appeal of the masked performer to children remains strong, leading many youngsters to invent masquerades that are entirely their own.

"Playful Performers" not only shows how children acquire the aesthetic sensibilities and performance skills needed to participate in adult masked performances, but it also demonstrates the importance and universality of play for children as a means to experiment and learn. "As they mature, children explore and come to more fully understand the world around them and discover their particular abilities and uniqueness in the process," said curator David A. Binkley. "Playful Performers" underscores the nature of play as both entertainment and as a means by which children learn important skills that help them to succeed in the adult world."

The diversity and range of masquerades explored in the exhibition testify to African children's inventive spirit and impulse to play—and to the sheer power of masquerade as an enduring part of African expressive culture. Through objects, photographs and video presentations, the exhibition will focus on: the role of children in some adult



masquerades; children's masks, costumes and performances that are direct imitations of adult forms; and masquerades created by children that are uniquely their own.

The exhibition's innovative design plays to the show's title. Several highly imaginative masks and complete costumes will be installed as if they are in performance. The galleries will be filled with life-sized color photographs of children making masks and participating in masquerades. In addition, the exhibition includes videotaped performances and the sounds of African masquerades. ●

Janice L. Kaplan works for the National Museum of African Art.

The Smithsonian's National Museum of African Art is America's only museum dedicated to the collection, conservation and exhibition of traditional and contemporary African art. Hours are from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily and admission is free. The museum is located at 950 Independence Ave. SW, near the Smithsonian Metrorail station on the Blue and Orange lines. For information call (202) 633-4600 or TTY (202) 357-1729, or visit the museum's Web site at www.nmafa.si.edu.

Ethiopia, The Land of Timeless Appeal < By Tewolde Gebremariam >

Ethiopia, often called the land of the Queen of Sheba, although materially poor, possesses many historical, cultural, and natural resources that appeal to the international traveler.

Historical

Historical highlights include Ethiopia's legacy as the longest archaeological record of any country on earth as well as the home of the Queen of Sheba and some say the original site of the Garden of Eden.

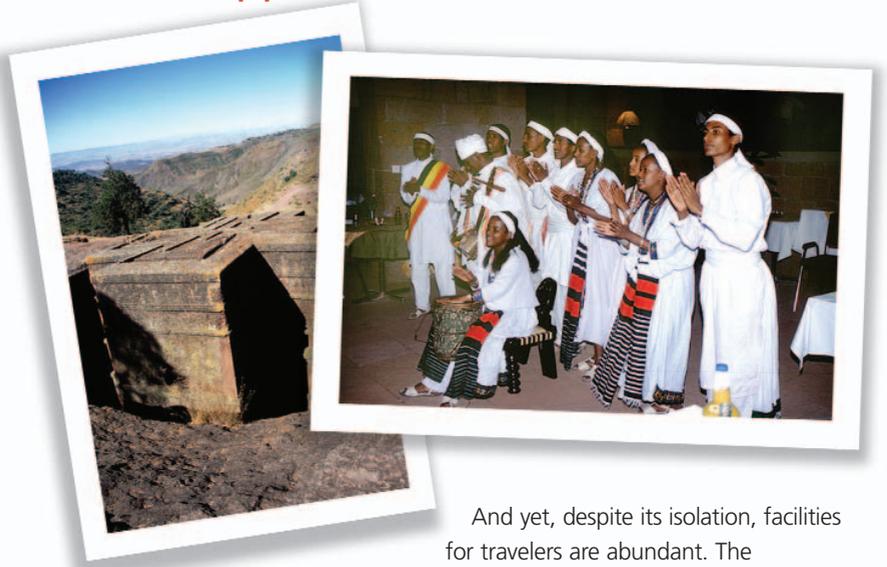
Among its many attractions are the seventeenth century castles of Gondar and the beautiful thirteenth century churches of Lalibela. The eleven, seven-hundred year old churches were carved entirely out of solid red rock and were constructed by the king so that the faithful would not have to journey to Jerusalem. Deep inside these churches, linked by a maze of tunnels are chapels full of pilgrims. The two thousand year old city of Axum has been described as one of the last of the great civilizations of antiquity to be revealed to the modern world.

Cultural

Ethiopia is a mosaic of people with more than 80 languages, different lifestyles, costumes, and cultural dances. It offers a harmonious co-existence of the world's three great religions (Christianity, Islam, and Judaism).

Natural

With its landscape ranging from alpine moorland to Savannah's and deserts which has given rise to a rich diversity of animal and plant species, Ethiopia is one of the most physically and biologically diverse countries in the world. Among its many parks and natural attractions, Ethiopia boasts more species birds than any other



African country except South Africa.

- **Sof Omar Cave** is a spectacular and extensive underground cave systems, where nature has worked a marvel of architecture.
- **Simien Mountain National Park** hosts rare indigenous animals like the Walia Ibex and Simien fox and several species of birds.
- **Bale Mountains National Park** is rich in unique wildlife, birds and flora.
- **Omo National Park** has more than 306 species of birds identified. In addition, herds of buffalo, elephants, giraffe, cheetah, lion, leopard are common.

Ethiopia's isolation has ensured that its culture has remained remarkably intact, unpolluted, and undiluted by outsiders. The country has kept its traditions: it still observes a pre-Julian calendar with thirteen month per year and the New Year's celebration in September. The Ethiopian Orthodox Church is unique; the congregation observes a practice of prayer singing and dancing dating back to King David's time. The churches, crammed with ancient text and treasures and art, exist as breathing, pounding chanting spaces with an all encompassing sense of worship.

And yet, despite its isolation, facilities for travelers are abundant. The country's hotels include the grand and luxurious Sheraton Addis Ababa, professional tours operators with great local guides, comfortable buses, and a world class air carrier: Ethiopian Airlines.

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In 2003, Ethiopian Airlines spread its wings as a global air carrier by introducing new destinations, aircraft, and a corporate identity. From our hub in Addis Ababa, Ethiopian Airlines serves 44 international destinations and as Ethiopia's national flag carrier 30 domestic destinations. New destinations include Paris, Stockholm, and Guangzhou.

Ethiopia is one the world best kept travel secrets. We highly recommend that you experience what Ethiopia has to offer before it is discovered. ●

Tewolde Gebremariam is the Regional Director for Americas for Ethiopian Airlines.

For additional information, please contact Ethiopian Airlines at 212 867-0095, toll free 800 445-2733, nycsm@ethiopianairlines.com, or visit its website: www.ethiopianairlines.com.



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Photographs by Doran H. Ross (top and bottom) and Eli Bentor



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