



Commonwealth Business Council eNewsletter

May 2008

Testimonials

Euro-IB Ltd

CBC events are informative, well organised and well attended by hands on business people looking to grow internationally. CBC membership has helped us build invaluable business contacts in India and develop new relationships. Interaction with CBC has also helped us to develop a better understanding of strategic country issues including government policy effects on the business environment. The Council has helped us with introductions to senior policy makers and market players with common interests. As a small merchant bank these opportunities have been beneficial in developing our business.

New Members

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CBC News

Lord Malloch Brown Addresses CBC Members on Globalisation

Lord Mark Malloch-Brown, Minister for Africa, Asia and the United Nations (UN) spoke on globalisation at an exclusive lunch for CBC members at the RAC.

Pointing towards an unprecedented rise in south-south trade, more than 10 percent per annum since the 1990s – which is more than twice the rate of expansion of global trade, he said, "This benefits a wide range of Commonwealth countries. Take for example the roaring trade in palm oil, furniture and other commodities between Malaysia and Kenya; or the large volume of trade between India and South Africa in a range of goods from pharmaceuticals and textiles to transport equipment and computer software; or the increasing trade in natural and agricultural resources between Bangladesh and Australia. As trade opens up, it's no longer just 'the west' that benefits: 'the rest' too are increasingly enabled to trade their way out of poverty and join the list of rapidly growing economies."

He added that a world-wide contest for countries to become energy secure also benefits the many Commonwealth countries with an impressive stock: energy rich countries such as Nigeria and Trinidad and Tobago, South Africa with its gold, platinum and other reserves, Zambia with its copper reserves, Malaysia with its minerals, and so on.

He said, the Commonwealth may also prove a useful framework in which to negotiate energy security concerns for those of its members which lack their own resources; countries such as India and Singapore.

But what high growth levels risk overlooking, he cautioned, are the challenges that remain, particularly for those Commonwealth members that are left behind. These challenges will only become more pressing as the vulnerabilities of globalisation become more evident: imbalances in wealth, financial turbulence, high and volatile oil and food prices. If the Commonwealth is to keep growing and developing, more will need to be done. The key challenges he pointed out will be representation of more Commonwealth countries for trade negotiations and improving the Commonwealth's own trading regimes.

Meanwhile, Paul Skinner, Chairman, CBC and Rio Tinto, said how CBC has had particular success in attracting prospects for investment in Africa. "Globalisation has been good for Commonwealth diversity and has made it very congenial. You can sense new blood coming into old blood."

Dr Mohan Kaul, CBC CEO urged private sector to play a leading role in economic growth and assisting in achieving the MDGs.

CBC pledges to assist governments on eHealth issues

At the recently held Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting in Geneva, the CBC pledged to the governments that it would work with them in the delivery of electronic health (eHealth) systems through dialogue with its global business networks.

Speaking to the ministers at their annual conference, CBC Director Peter Longworth said that only in collaboration with the private sector and with access to its resources could the needy people of the member countries be brought into effective health care, particularly, since the unique but expensive opportunity offered by eHealth represented the only viable way forward. The difficulties could be



Dr Mohan Kaul, CEO CBC, Lord Mark Malloch Brown, Minister for Africa, Asia and the United Nations (UN) and Paul Skinner Chairman, CBC and Rio Tinto



Lord Malloch Brown, Minister for Africa, Asia and the United Nations (UN) addressing CBC members



Peter Longworth with Senator Jerry Narace, Minister of

and is one of the largest companies within the FTSE 100. At the end of 2007 total group assets were £353 billion and the Group has nearly 70,000 employees. For more information go to: www.lloydstsb.com

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underestimated, cautioned Longworth, who was speaking on behalf of the CBC's healthcare working group.

The development of new technology and the ability of governments in developing countries to finance and extend its application to fundamental issues could only be resolved in dialogue with business.

The CBC offered to set up in consultation with the governments and the Commonwealth Secretariat, a working dialogue in specific countries or regions between ministries, civil society and the business community to address the opportunities and challenges of introducing new technology through public-private partnerships.

After the conference, ministers attended a dinner hosted by the CBC and Unilever global head for external affairs Miguel Pestana presented a case study of the partnership opportunities for social inclusion offered by a principled multinational corporate.

Cameroon Investment Forum focuses on improving business climate

The second Cameroon Investment Forum took place at the Hilton Hotel in Yaoundé, drawing over 200 participants from the public and the private sector. The theme "Achieving Sustainable Long Term Investment in Cameroon" was approached in a highly practical way through sectoral discussions on investment climate, access to finance, trade, government-business cooperation, employment creation and public private partnerships, as well as oil power and gas, agro industry, mining, and Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

Steve Godfrey, Managing Director of CBC, emphasised that corruption remains a major obstacle to sustainable investment in Cameroon. "This theme was discussed in great detail during the first edition of the investment forum in 2006, but a lot more needs to be done to address Cameroon's poor image in international markets. Intense leadership from leaders in every sector is required to effect change, and they must lead by example."

Concerns on climate change were also discussed. In fact, for Cameroon to integrate in the global supply chain, it needs to develop its industry on a large scale, which will inevitably cause environmental problems. Hence requires adequate attention.

A collective approach is required if Cameroon wishes to overcome its main challenges. The Government delivered a clear message that it recognises the role of the private sector to achieve increased growth. The discussions during the forum suggested that the priorities for the next stages of reform should be: Simplify the regulatory burden, examine the application of the tax system as it applies to FDI, simplify and clean up the customs and tax revenue environment, create a coherent commercial legal framework and modernise the banking system.

The Prime Minister of Cameroon, Ephraim Inoni delivered the keynote speech at gala dinner to celebrate the opening of the forum.

Other News

Africa Business Forum to focus on MDGs

The Commonwealth Business Council in association with Business Action for Africa will be holding the Africa Business Forum on the 3rd and 4th of July in London. It will be attended by heads of government, ministers and business leaders.

The theme of the 2008 Forum will be Accelerating Growth: Partnerships for Reaching the MDGs in Africa. It will review the role of business in Africa in addressing the challenges of meeting the Millennium Development Goals and will focus on three key issues.

This annual event convened by CBC and Business Action for Africa (BAA) enables business and government leaders to jointly assess progress in promoting growth and development in Africa, and take steps to meet emerging challenges. The results of the Forum will be communicated to the G8 and will serve as a contribution to the thinking of the MDG "Call to Action". We are pleased that the United Nations Office on Partnerships (UNOP) will be a partner for the ABF 2008.

For more information, contact Daniela.severino@cbcglobal.org

Health Trinidad and Tobago and his wife at the Geneva meeting



Unilever global head for external affairs Miguel Pestana addressing CBC meeting in Geneva



HE Ephraim Inoni Prime Minister of Cameroon

Events Calendar

[Capital Markets Roadshow](#)
30 May 2008
The Civic Centre
Victoria Island
Lagos, Nigeria

[India UK Business Leaders Forum](#)
20 June 2008
London, UK

[Banking & Financial Services Forum](#)
25-26 June 2008
London, UK

[Africa Business Forum](#)
3-4 July 2008
London, UK

Publication News

CBC releases eHealth report

CBC distributed its latest publication eHealth in the Commonwealth at the Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting in Geneva. The report highlights private sector views, case studies and has contribution from TCS, Microsoft etc.

The report is available for free to CBC members.

For more information, contact sean.leno@cbcglobal.org

eHealth in the Commonwealth:
Building Healthcare Systems in the Digital Age
Private Sector Perspectives



Photo Gallery



Staff at the Cameroon Forum



Delegates at the Cameroon Forum



O'Neil Rane, Export-Import Bank of India



Phillipe Luxcey, Orange Cameroon