

World Investment Forum

Accra, Ghana
18-22 April 2008

The **World Investment Forum** will take place on the occasion of UNCTAD's 12th ministerial conference, to be held in Ghana in April 2008. The event will provide an unprecedented opportunity for senior policy-makers, investors and investment promotion agencies from 192 countries to meet and interact through a series of conference, networking and social events. The Forum will focus on trends in the investment-led globalization process and future prospects. Particular emphasis will be placed on how companies, countries and regions can maximize the opportunities generated by this process.

As befits a gathering of this kind, many prominent figures from the worlds of politics, business and policy-making will be in attendance, including John Kufuor, President of Ghana; Tarja Halonen, Co-Chair of the UN Millennium Summit and President of Finland, Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Supachai Panitchpakdi, Secretary-General of UNCTAD. These figures will participate in the various events taking place during the **World Investment Forum** and UNCTAD XII, many of which will allow for audience interaction.

To complement the practical experiences and insights presented by participating business and political leaders, perspectives on globalization will be provided by some of the world's foremost advisors on, and analysts of this process, such as Goldman Sachs International, Tata Consultancy Services and McKinsey&Co. Discussion and debate during conference sessions will be moderated by high-profile figures from the international media, including the Financial Times, the BBC and CNBC.

WIF Interactive Sessions

Three interactive panel sessions will bring together corporate executives, ministers, senior officials and thinkers on the globalization process for future-orientated discussion of trends in foreign direct investment (FDI). The sessions will be co-organized by UNCTAD and the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA). The session on *Prospects for Global FDI and New Business Opportunities* will explore future patterns in investment flows; which sectors and industries will account for these flows, and what the features of the corporate strategies driving the trends will be. The session on *Global Value Chains: Opportunities and Challenges*, which is to be held in collaboration with the International Trade Centre, will examine how international and local firms can seek efficiencies as production patterns change and services provision becomes ever more globalized. The third session—*Africa: a New Emerging Market for FDI*—will consider the emerging opportunities on the African continent and the lessons for global companies and African countries as they interact more closely.

Investment Advisory Council

An informal gathering (a luncheon event) of senior business executives, high-level government officials and experts will interact on questions related to attracting FDI and maximizing its benefits. This meeting will also address the challenges of FDI and climate change. Invitees will share their views on how FDI can contribute to sustainable development in the interest of nations and stakeholders.

Awards Ceremonies

A social highlight will be the annual WAIPA Awards and gala dinner, to be held on the eve of the Forum's opening. WAIPA, in collaboration with UNCTAD, will recognize three investment promotion agencies (IPAs) for achieving excellence in policy advocacy. The 2008 winners will be chosen for their dedication and creativity in identifying problems, raising awareness among stakeholders, formulating policy remedies and affecting change.

On April 21st, the first Women in Business Awards will be presented to women-owned businesses that have benefited from the business development services of EMPRETEC Centres in their respective countries. A panel of distinguished experts from the private and public sectors, academia and civil society will select the 10 finalists. Prominent persons will present the prizes to the winner and runners-up, along with the UNCTAD Secretary-General.

HIGH-LEVEL INVESTMENT-RELATED EVENTS AT UNCTAD XII

The Global Leaders' Investment Debate

This event, to be opened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, will bring together leaders at the highest level, including Heads of State and Government. They will discuss the international investment climate and how it is being affected by technological change, the globalization of production and the rise of transnational corporations (TNCs) from the South. The leaders will assess the impact of these changes on economic development, poverty reduction and policy-making. In addition, participants will address the role of the United Nations in working with governments, TNCs and other stakeholders to assist poor countries take advantage of the opportunities presented by the changing investment environment.

Interactive Thematic Roundtable

The maximization of the gains from FDI is an imperative. From increasing domestic productive capacity to reaping the full range of spillover benefits, the right policy mix is essential if the many benefits of FDI are to be reaped. Among the greatest challenges facing policy-makers is the creation of an institutional environment conducive to increasing foreign investment and enhancing sustainable development. Ministers and senior policy-makers will participate in the event.