



World SME Update

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ARGENTINA



Fund of Funds: co-investment tools to promote innovation

Before more than 25 leading Argentine companies, the Ministry of Entrepreneurs and SMEs Ministry of Production presented the first fund public-private co-investment for the acceleration and expansion projects.

The initiative seeks to generate Argentine technology companies with high growth potential and employment of quality and innovation and encourage the creation of venture capital funds to increase resources available to scale enterprises.

The meeting was headed by Secretary of entrepreneurs and SMEs, Ms. Mariano Mayer, who said that "*these instruments aim to promote innovation within companies with the challenge of enhancing its human capital,*" said Mayer.

In addition, the national director of Venture Capital, Mr. Arturo Torres, said that "*there is a global demand relative to innovation and one of the ways to address it is through projects include financing for entrepreneurs who then incorporated companies.*"

Were representatives of the following companies: Amadeus; Cortesi Angeles; Galicia Bank; Industrial Bank; Banco Macro; Banco Patagonia; Banco Supervielle; He CITES; Clarion; CLEAR; Comafi; DOW; Globant's; MasisaLab; Free market; Mondelez; Newsan; Nxtplabs (Speaker); Sancor Seguros; Wayra (Speaker); YPF, among others.

Fund of Funds and Accelerators

The program Fund of Funds is a legal instrument to channel public funds to co-invest with private equity funds. These funds, managed by professional managers previously selected, will focus on investing in technology companies, high - impact and global markets that have a base of operations in Argentina.

The contribution to these companies is done through a capital increase, through which the investment fund acquires shares in companies and fund managers are actively involved in their management.

Meanwhile, the Undersecretary of Entrepreneurs also has a program that encourages the creation of Accelerators specialized in the launch, support and investment in new companies with high impact and potential global expansion would enhance and strengthen the process of business creation innovative in Argentina.



BAHRAIN

Bahrain Chamber Drafting an Investment Law

The second vice-chairman of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) Mr. Abdulhameed Alkooheji has revealed that the Chamber is in the process of finalizing a draft law for investment in Bahrain, which mainly aims to reinforce the competitiveness and attractiveness of the Bahraini market, remove impediments for foreign and domestic investments, and enhance confidence in the investment and business climate of Bahrain.

Providing details on the same, Mr. Al Kooheji said *"It is important to have a unique investment law that stimulates the flow of investments and puts Bahrain on the map of attractive investment destinations in line with the economic reforms initiated by the wise leadership, the ambitious economic vision 2030, and the aspirations of the business community"*. Mr. Al Kooheji added *"The law is to safeguard investors' interests, encourage their growth, and grant them the liberty to leave the market should they chose to"*.

Speaking on the same, the director of the Legal and Arbitration of the Chamber Mr. Mohammed Al A'amer revealed *"We have completed a first draft of the law and sent it to the legal committee of the chamber for editing and reviewing, the committee is to send it to the relevant internal sectorial and joint committees, and then to relevant external bodies such as the Ministry of Industry Commerce and Tourism, Bahrain Economic Development Board, and the Council of Representatives for editing and reviewing. After accommodating the proposals of all the relevant bodies, the draft law is to be raised to the Chamber's board for approval and from there to the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Tourism to take the legislative and executive procedures to have the law issued and implemented"*.



BRAZIL

Brazil and the United Kingdom sign memorandum for bilateral cooperation in innovation

The Minister of Industry, Trade and Services, Mr. Marcos Pereira, and the Minister of Commerce and UK Investment, Mr. Mark Price, signed today at the Ministry, in Brasilia, a memorandum for bilateral cooperation in innovation.

Soon, MDIC and Innovate UK, the UK's innovation agency, will launch a call for Brazilian and British companies financed by Newton Fund, British fund for scientific development, the BNDES and the Brazilian Company of Industrial Innovation (EMBRAPII).

The call will be focused on technology development projects to smart cities and sustainable urban environments, and involves internet of things, big data, smart grids, multimodal transport technologies and traffic control, clean energy, control and use of water and infrastructure blue-green.

"For a number of activities that involve scientific research, how to plan smart cities, and develop clean energy, international collaboration is crucial. With partnerships among the best researchers from Brazil and the United Kingdom, we will be better prepared to face the challenges of the world and improve lives of millions of people," said Mr. Lord Price.

Bilateral trade relations: Mr. Lord Price said the window of opportunity to strengthen bilateral trade relations between Brazil and the United Kingdom, following a decision of his country to leave the European Union. Marcos Pereira took the Lord Price visit to demonstrate the interest in deepening the bilateral dialogue. "I thank the UK initiative to start by Brazil talks to expand trade with South America. I think important to promptly begin initiatives to boost trade and investment flows between our countries."

Mr. Lord Price confirmed that the output of the United Kingdom of the European Union is a fact. He reaffirmed the importance of Brazil as one of the major trading partners of the continent, and hopes that the two countries further deepen their trade and investment relations.

Mr. Marcos Pereira put the technical team of MDIC available to the Ministry of Trade and Investment in the United Kingdom and said that this will also be a great opportunity for Brazil to increase its exports to that country. In 2015, only 1.5% of total Brazilian exports were destined for the British market.

Also attended the meeting the British Ambassador in Brazil, Mr. Alex Ellis, and the Trade Policy Coordinator of the UK Department for International Trade, Mr. Paul Walters. On the Brazilian side, also attended the Executive MDIC Secretary Mr. Fernando Furlan, the Secretary of Trade and Services Mr. Marcelo Maia, the Secretary for Development and Industrial Competitiveness, Mr. Igor Calvet, and the Secretary of Foreign Trade substitute, Mr. Abram Neto and Adviser for Affairs Mr. Marcela Carvalho.

Trade exchange: In 2015 Brazil exported to the UK market US \$ 2.9 billion in goods and imported \$ 2.8 billion, with a surplus of US \$ 106 million to Brazil. The main Brazilian products exported to the United Kingdom last year were gold, iron ore, coffee, soy and meat. We bought in 2015 from the UK, especially medicines for human and veterinary medicine, automobiles, insecticides and heterocyclic compounds. The UK was the 15th biggest market for exports and 14 for Brazilian imports in 2015. The expectation is to increase bilateral trade from the agreement that should begin to be negotiated in the coming months.

CHILE



Mr. Céspedes Minister: "We have to give SMEs the ability to increase their sales and jobs"

During the inauguration of the Business Development Center of San Antonio, the authority said these initiatives foster decentralization, essential to generate more

growth in the economy process. The Business Development Center deliver free advice and specialized SMEs.

This afternoon the Minister of Economy, Development and Tourism, Mr. Luis Felipe Céspedes, next to General Manager Mr. Sercotec, Bernardo Troncoso, came to San Antonio to open the third Center of Business Development in the Region of Valparaiso, an initiative that seeks to provide expert advice and free for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the commune.

On the occasion, the Secretary of State stressed that this program seeks *"that SMEs can grow their sales, which can grow employment," adding that "they will provide marketing support, logistics, in the search for better suppliers and the development of new markets. All this will be a specialized, free for up to a period of one year "advice.*

In addition, Mr. Céspedes appreciated the role these businesses in the economy. *"SMEs are one of the sectors that provides the most employment. We need this even more and we must give them the ability to increase their sales and jobs. "*

With this opening, there are now 35 centers are run in different parts of the country, which are part of the commitment of the government program of President Michelle Bachelet. A 2017 is expected to complete the network of 50 spaces, where SMEs and entrepreneurs, receive technical advice, individually and free of charge, through expert mentors to strengthen their capabilities and develop their business in areas such as logistics, marketing, management etc. In addition, the center will accompany steadily over time to ensure effective business results.

Finally, the Secretary of State highlighted the contribution made by the regions to diversify the country's productive matrix through talent present throughout Chile.

*"Decentralization a key to generate further growth in our economy process. That's why we created these centers, as the commitment to the regions is very clear, we will have a center in each province because we want to reach the whole country, all micro and small entrepreneurs,"*said the authority.

The Business Development Center San Antonio will be operated by the University of Valparaiso in partnership with five business organizations and six municipalities. Given the productive vocation of San Antonio, it is expected to attend the center entrepreneurs and SMEs in sectors such as trade, tourism and complementary services to port activities and manufacturing.

FIJI



The ICT Outsourcing Industry's Best Kept Secret

The ICT sector has been identified as a potential growth sector for Fiji, noting the availability of world-class ICT infrastructure. It has been the Fijian Government's foresight to invest in the ICT infrastructure and capitalise on Fiji's hub status. Consequently, this increases Fiji's potential to attract investments in ICT-based

industries, including call centres and Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) operations.

The Minister for Industry, Trade and Tourism, Hon. Faiyaz Siddiq Koya, Permanent Secretary, Mr. Shaheen Ali and the Fiji Consul General/Trade Commissioner to Australia, Mr. Zarak Khan visited the Mindpearl Call Centre operations earlier today. The Hon. Minister also met with Lyndhurst Ltd, who have plans to develop an international business park at the Kalabu Tax Free Zone.

In terms of job creation, a recent report by the World Bank Report titled, Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for Jobs in the Pacific (December, 2015), indicates that 10,000 jobs could be created between Fiji, Samoa and Tonga with optimistic scenarios increasing that number to 27,000, representing 3% of GDP.

Minister Mr. Koya during his visit to the Mindpearl Call Centre earlier today stated that *“the Fijian Government has positioned Fiji as an attractive location for BPO operations. It’s convenient time-zone, world class IT infrastructure, attractive investment incentives, dynamic, vibrant, customer service driven workforce and a low cost business environment has drawn international interest to Fiji’s doorstep. International companies such as Mindpearl has created a new avenue for employment for our first time job-seekers. Approximately 1,200 young Fijians have been employed by Mindpearl within a short timeframe.”*

He further added that *“for Fiji alone, the Government is committed to creating between 40,000 to 50,000 direct jobs as part of its long term vision in the ICT sector and other value adding sectors. These figures are supported by the findings contained in the recently completed World Bank Report and is also demonstrated by the robust ICT investments that Fiji has managed to attract over the last 10 years. The Fijian Government will develop a manufacturing and services zone in the Western Division, which will focus on the ICT and light manufacturing industries. Preparatory work for this zone is already underway. This project will build on the successes achieved by the international companies based at the Kalabu Tax Free Zone and elsewhere in Fiji.”*

Minister Koya also highlighted that *“in order to capitalise on the rapid increase in BPO interest and activity, the Fijian Government hosted a BPO Mission last month for Australian businesses scoping BPO opportunities here in Fiji. The visitors were collectively impressed with our world class facilities and the maturity of this sector.”*

Fiji has already shown tremendous potential with over 3,000 direct jobs created through the outsourcing operations of ANZ Suva Hub, Centrecom, Packleader and Mindpearl to name a few. There is potential to increase these figures to more than 15,000 people once the international business park being developed by Lyndhurst and the Government’s Manufacturing and Services Zone are fully operational in the next few years.

“Fiji is a country with a strong potential for outsourcing online and customer-oriented services,” said Ingo Schulz, General Manager –Mindpearl Suva. “The findings demonstrate

many of the key reasons we opened operations in Fiji six years ago – friendly and customer-oriented people and a compelling cost advantage.”

In 2014, Fiji won the European Outsourcing Association’s Offshoring Destination of the Year Award acknowledging its successful service to the UK and other European outsourcing markets.

GHANA

Parliament Passes Bank of Ghana Amendment Bill



On August 2, 2016, the Parliament of Ghana passed the Bank of Ghana Amendment Bill. The objective of the amendment is to significantly strengthen the Central Bank’s functional autonomy, governance and ability to respond to banking sector crises.

The Bill seeks to plug the loopholes identified in Act 612. These loopholes were identified in consequence of an examination of current international trends and what pertains in other jurisdiction. The amendment also seeks to separate the autonomy provisioned from other objectives of the bank to strengthen the autonomy of the Bank of Ghana in the performance of its functions.

INDIA

MSME Databank and Finance Facilitation Launched at 14th Meeting of National Board



Mr. Arun Jaitley, Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs launched two important initiatives of the Ministry of MSME, viz. MSME Databank Portal and Online Finance Facilitation Web Portal on the sidelines of 14th Meeting of the National Board of MSME at Vigyan Bhawan, today (August 11, 2016). Mr. Kalraj Mishra, Union Minister for MSME, Mr. Giriraj Singh and Mr. Haribhai Parthibhai Chaudhary, Minister of State for MSME were present on the occasion.

Mr. Mishra speaking on the occasion said that the Ministry of MSME is making online Census of the MSMEs in the country for the first time by launching a comprehensive databank on <http://www.msmedatabank.in> This will not only save the efforts and money required for physical Census but will also enable the MSME units and the various Associations to furnish data on click of the button and sitting in their units. The MIS dashboard of the databank will provide real time information on various types of the MSMEs registered on the databank. The databank will eventually will be used for public procurement purposes and the PSUs will make use of the data for procuring from MSMEs. MSME Development (Furnishing of Information) Rules, 2016 have also been notified making it compulsory for MSMEs to give the required information.

Mr. Kalraj Mishra also stated that the objective of the databank is to have one-stop source of information of MSMEs of India, including their credit and technology,

requirement in terms of raw material and marketing, etc. A decision has also been taken that no grant or subsidy will be given to any MSMEs unless the data is captured on the MSME Databank.

The NSIC, which provides suitable credit support to the various MSME units for purchase of raw material, has started an online Finance Facilitation Centre on <http://www.nsicffconline.in> To start with, the Finance Facilitation Centres will become operational at Jalandhar, Peenya, Ludhiana, Guwahati, Lucknow and Delhi from today onwards. The portal will allow the MSMEs to apply for loans from the various banks on the NSIC portal itself. NSIC has also signed MoUs with 33 banks, 14 of whom have agreed to associate with online Finance Facilitation Web Portal.

Mr. Arun Jaitley, Union Finance Minister appreciated the efforts of Mr. Kalraj Minister in taking various initiatives towards ease of doing business. He also appreciated that the main scheme of the Ministry, namely, Prime Ministers Employment Guarantee Programme has also been brought online. He also congratulated Mr. Kalraj Mishraji on early implementation of National SC/ST Hub, which was announced in the Union Budget.

Mr. Jaitley stated that the Government of the day is committed to Ease of Doing Business and passing of GST will also be a step towards this direction. He also stated that all financial support will be provided to MSMEs to improve their competency in various fields. He welcomed the suggestions of MSME fraternity on the issue.

IRELAND



Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation Joins Jazz Pharmaceuticals in Official Opening of New Manufacturing and Development Facility in Co. Roscommon

New €50 Million Facility Will Employ Up to 50 People

Jazz Pharmaceuticals today (August 2, 2016) announced that the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Ms. Mary Mitchell O'Connor and the Global Head of Life Sciences of IDA Ireland, Mr. Barry Heavey joined the Chairman and Chief Executive of Jazz, Bruce Cozadd, at a ceremony today to mark the official opening of a new Jazz manufacturing and development facility on a 17 acre site in Monksland in Co. Roscommon, near Athlone, Ireland. The opening was also attended by local Independent TD and Minister for Communications, Climate Change and Environment, Mr. Denis Naughton TD.

This is the first directly owned, managed and operated manufacturing facility built by Jazz and the company has invested approximately €50 million in its development, which commenced in February 2014 and was supported by IDA Ireland. The facility has recently secured full regulatory approval from the United States (U.S.) Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) and the Health Products Regulatory Authority in Ireland. The company expects to employ up to 50 people within three years. Jazz is a global pharmaceutical company with its headquarters in Dublin, Ireland where it

employees approximately 100 people, and with operations in multiple cities in the U.S., in Oxford, England and in Villa Guardia, Italy.

Speaking at the event, Mr. Cozadd said, *"This new manufacturing and development facility is an investment in Ireland and also an investment in our growing global infrastructure, which will enable us to more closely oversee and control the process of bringing high quality products to patients. It is particularly meaningful for us to open it in Ireland, close to our global corporate headquarters in Dublin,"* said Mr. Cozadd. *"We were encouraged to come to Roscommon because of the excellent track record of this community in supporting the pharmaceutical industry and the pool of local talent available. We would like to acknowledge the local community, the Roscommon Country Council and IDA Ireland for their continued support and collaboration, and note the remarkable pro-business environment in Ireland that facilitates investments like this one."*

Speaking at the event, Minister Mary Mitchell O'Connor said, *"I'm delighted to be present today to mark the official opening of Jazz Pharmaceuticals' first manufacturing plant in Ireland. Having a global pharmaceutical company of this calibre establish such a facility in Co. Roscommon is hugely significant, demonstrating serious commitment by the company to the region. The jobs created when the facility is operating at full capacity will be of great benefit to the local area and economy."*

"Today's opening and significant investment by Jazz Pharmaceuticals is hugely important for Monksland. It is a testament to the talent and expertise of the people of Roscommon. We welcome the new facility and greatly appreciate the investment and loyalty to the region shown by Jazz Pharmaceuticals and to the people of Roscommon," said Minister Naughten.

Barry Heavey, IDA Ireland's Global Head of Life Sciences said, *"IDA Ireland is very pleased to see this significant and strategically important development for Jazz Pharmaceuticals come to fruition. It demonstrates Ireland's ability to support manufacturing for this sector in regional locations and confirms the company's commitment to expanding its presence in Ireland."*

PAKISTAN



Pakistan Stock Exchange to get SMEs on Board

Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) has announced to facilitate the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) by providing them investment opportunities in stock market. For this purpose, PSX has decided to form a SME Board to provide SME a platform for their business activities.

"PSX intends to launch the SME Board soon which would provide a platform for the SMEs whereby they would be able to access potential investors for raising capital at a lower cost. A public company with post issue paid-up capital of not less than Rs25 million and not more than Rs200 million shall be eligible for listing on the SME Board", said the Chairman of SME Foundation, Waliullah Khan following a meeting with the PSX officials.

In the meeting, SME Foundation's chief has expressed his desire to get SME Business Solution Ltd as a first company to be listed on the SME Board. Moreover, they also expressed their desire to apply for a licence as an 'Adviser and Consultants to the Issue'.

SME Sector Pinning Hopes Of Getting Contracts Under CPEC



Karachi—SMEs looking forward for an opportunity of rapid growth in the face of ongoing CPEC project across the country. In this respect, the SME Foundation has demanded of the government to provide opportunities to the local SME sector whenever awarding contracts to various major and small projects in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

In a statement, the Chairman SME Foundation and Chief Executive SME Business Solutions, Wali Ullah Khan said that in order to give level playing field to all, SME Sector should also be given opportunities in constructing and building of \$46 billion project that will change the socio-economic scenario of the region. He said that SME sector can play a major role in CPEC as our medium and small industries are keen to participate in the development and prosperity of the two friendly countries and wished its earliest completion.

He urged the government to reframe the Article-II of the CPEC's Framework Agreement that allowed only the Chinese Companies and workers to be awarded the projects. He said that at least in sub-contracting of the projects, the local firms should be considered.

The two projects of the CPEC earmarked for early completion- \$2.6bn Karachi-Lahore Motorway and \$920 million Karakorum Highway Phase-II-have been included in the current year's Public Sector Development Programme for their completion in 2017-18 and are purely Pakistani projects included in CPEC, local workers should be considered. CPEC is a mega project taking the bilateral relationship between Pakistan and China to new heights. The project is the beginning of a journey of prosperity of Pakistan and China. The economic corridor is about 3000 kilometers long consisting of highways, railways and pipelines that will connect China's Xinjiang province to rest of the world through Pakistan's Gwadar port.

PHILIPPINES



DTI encourages companies to support MSME through Inclusive Business

The Department of Trade and Industry has encouraged chief executives of big companies to develop and promote the involvement of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the ASEAN region's production network and supply chain.

"I enjoin you to continue partnering with us, this time with single-minded focus on MSMEs to develop and promote their involvement in mainstream business."

Secretary Mr. Ramon Lopez told the participants of the 47th National Marketing Conference at Pasay City.

Secretary Mr. Lopez underscored the Inclusive Business model, which proved to significantly enhance business bottom lines through supply-demand gap linkages, while contributing substantial impact to the poor and low-income segment.

“The integration of these communities into global value chain improves their quality of lives and makes for better business with diversified supply and distribution systems. For business and investors, Inclusive Business is not only the new mindset for innovation and market leadership, but a key contribution of the private sector to communities and sustainable development goals.” Secretary Mr. Lopez said.

Noting MSME’s crucial role in ASEAN Economic Integration, Secretary Lopez shared DTI’s plan to strengthen this sector to be able to join the global value chain.

“We intend to increase the competitiveness of MSMEs so they can be part of the domestic, regional, or global value chain as manufacturing entities in their own right, whether involved in the production of parts and components that have backward linkages within the production network, or through the provision of services in manpower, logistics, transportation, or communications.” He told.

MSMEs serve as the backbone of most Asian countries, accounting for more than 96% of all enterprises and contributing between 30%-53% to gross domestic product (GDP). To be able to support MSMEs, Secretary Lopez outlined the 7Ms, DTI’s comprehensive program covering the following interventions:

Mindset change towards entrepreneurial attitude; Mastery and competence on entrepreneurship; Mentor access consisting of management and technical requirements; Market link improvement which entails creation of networks and links with big business (Inclusive Business); Money Access comprised of microfinance programs; Machine, addressed by Shared Services Facilities (SSF); and lastly, Models of Negosyo Concept as supported by Negosyo Centers nationwide.

“Our guiding principle therefore is to provide opportunities for our MSMEs to participate in the region’s production network and supply chains to unlock the benefits of integration.” Secretary Mr. Lopez added

RUSSIA



The Ministry of Finance offered almost tripled in 2017 to reduce funding for SME support program

The Ministry of Finance offered almost tripled in 2017 to reduce funding for programs to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

About how underfunding impact on the country's economy in general and the situation of businesses, said Mr. Sergei Fakhretdinov, a member of the Public

Chamber of the Russian Federation on the investment climate, the head of the Committee of "Business Russia" on development of cooperation between business and state-owned companies.

Reducing the financing of small and medium-sized businesses is unacceptable. During the ten years of the SME Support Program more than once proved its effectiveness. Instead of one ruble invested in the budget returns seven. Employers repeatedly increase revenue, and accordingly deduct more tax. Position Ministry of Economic Development Corporations and SME businessmen themselves say that if the SME financing in the amount of 22 bln. Rubles to the treasury back 153 billion., Then in times of crisis is the contrary to continue the strategy of increasing financing of the SME sector.

Proposals Ministry of Finance, responsible for savings did not take into account that it is necessary to leave the oil resources of the economy and move on to the development of innovative production, industry and agriculture. Small and medium-sized businesses - the representatives of these industries. According to Rosstat, the Russian Federation is registered and operates 4.5 million. Small and medium-sized businesses, which employ more than 18 million. People, accounting for 25% of total employment in the economy. The dynamics of growth in the number of SMEs has grown thanks to the support program. Reduced funding could lead to disastrous consequences: the destruction of existing businesses, rising unemployment, increased the crisis.

Also it is impossible to consider a proposal to the Ministry of Finance that the missing funds for the additional financing from the budget of the Corporation to take SMEs. Besides the fact that this approach is contrary to the Budget Law and the Development Strategy until 2030, the Corporation SMEs will shift the burden of the Ministry of Economic Development. The objectives of these two structures should not duplicate each other, but complementary. The funds of the Corporation should be distributed, opening up new possibilities for the provision of measures of guarantee support to SMEs, thereby increasing the total number of new projects and productions, created and implemented by small and medium-sized enterprises.

UGANDA



“Industrialization, integration will create an independent Africa” - President

President Mr. Yoweri Museveni has said that Africa will become independent through integration and industrialization.

“Industrialization must go hand in hand with market integration. You cannot industrialize without infrastructure,” he said.

President Museveni was speaking during a meeting he held with the visiting Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Wang Li, who called on him yesterday at State

House, Entebbe. The Minister was accompanied by the Chinese Ambassador to Uganda, Mr. Zhao Yali.

The President noted that whereas its Emperors united China long ago, Africa is still trying to get united after colonialism had fragmented its market.

"We are doing this through EAC, COMESA, SADC so that we not only industrialize but also create a market to absorb what we produce," he said.

President Museveni commended the Chinese for allowing over 440 Ugandan products to enter China without taxes. He also called upon the visiting Chinese Minister to encourage more Chinese investors to come to Uganda and do business in the country. *"The most important collaboration is tourism, trade access and infrastructure,"* he stressed.

On his part, Mr. Wang pledged that China will continue to provide help and support to Uganda in exploring a successful path to development. He also reaffirmed his country's support to IGAD's efforts on South Sudan saying that without peace there can be no development.

"China fully supports IGAD's efforts in South Sudan and will continue the support at the UN. African issues must be resolved by African people in an African way so that conflicts can be resolved and peace maintained," he said.



World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises (WASME) is a global non-profit organization headquartered at Noida, India that has been spearheading the cause and development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) world over since its inception in 1980. Over three decades, WASME has emerged as one of the most representative, effective and leading international organizations, working towards the promotion of SMEs worldwide through policy advocacy, information dissemination, conferences, seminars, events, trainings, publication, network linkages and many **more**.

WASME enjoys consultative status with concerned agencies in UN system such as **ECOSOC, UNCTAD, ITC, WIPO, UNIDO, UNESCO, UNCITRAL, UNESCAP and ILO**, several intergovernmental and international organizations like **WCO, OECD, ICSB, APEC, APCTT, etc.**

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We always welcome your valuable feedback/comments on the SME e-Bulletin to further enhance our services on information dissemination. Hence, please send us your valuable guidance and meaningful articles as a regular contribution to SME e-Bulletin and our website in the larger interests and benefits of SMEs world over.

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