The Prime Minister Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda was on a working visit to India where he held meetings with business leaders, captains of industry and political leaders looking to explore new potential areas of cooperation. Accompanied by several Uganda-based Indian businessmen, Dr Rugunda met and discussed with several Indian investors. He met with automobile giants Tata Group, pharmaceutical companies, makers of solar powered irrigation solutions, seed producers and those involved in light manufacturing among others. The Premier told his hosts about the investment opportunities in Uganda, including sectors such as agro-processing, ICT, infrastructure, tourism and medical services.

To buttress the point that Uganda considers India, and Mumbai in particular, as a priority, the country has recently established a consular office in Mumbai and appointed a highly regarded businessman Mr Agarwal to lead the office. The GDP of India and Africa would be close to $35 trillion by 2050, with a combined population of close to four billion people.

While in Mumbai, Prime Minister Rugunda also sought to appreciate India’s cultural tourism by visiting some historical sites such as the Elephanta Caves on an island off the coast of Mumbai. This historical site of religious importance has been preserved for centuries and was recognized by UNESCO as a Heritage Site. Prime Minister Rugunda concluded his Mumbai visit by paying a courtesy call on the Governor of Maharashtra, Rao at his palace in Mumbai. Dr Rugunda was also a guest speaker at the 12 CII-Exim Bank Conclave on India-Africa Partnership Project at Taj Palace Hotel in New Delhi.

Speaking alongside King Mswati III of Swaziland and India’s President Pranab Mukherjee, PM Rugunda told a hugely packed room that Africa was open to partner with their Indian counterparts to deliver prosperity to the citizens of the two regions.

He assured Indian businessmen that their investments in Africa would be safe, secure and bring impressive returns. He also welcomed the move by the organizers of the conclave to convene the 13th edition in Africa and offered Uganda’s readiness to host it on behalf of the continent. The President of India, Pranab Mukherjee said that a new spirit of awakening and cooperation with African countries had begun, and called upon the participants of the business forum to take full advantage of it. King Mswati III of Swaziland observed during the conclave that Indian industries could play a key role in helping Africa’s manufacturing sector move up the value chain.

Dr Rugunda met several other business people in New Delhi and visited some service providers such as the visa and passport processing centres with a view to picking lessons for Uganda.
He also paid courtesy calls on President Pranab Mukherjee and Vice President Ansari, who had just left Uganda on a state visit.

PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA VISITS INDIA

The Prime Minister of Malaysia, His Excellency Dato Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak, visited India between 30 March – 04 April 2017 accompanied by his spouse Datin Sri Rosmah Mansour. This was his third visit to India as Prime Minister, the last one in 2012. His visit follows the highly successful visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Malaysia in November 2015.

Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak’s high level delegation consisted of several Cabinet Ministers and Senior Officials. He was also accompanied by a large business delegation consisting of many of the top companies and businessmen in Malaysia. The Prime Minister visited Chennai and Jaipur in addition to New Delhi.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated on the occasion, “India and Malaysia have built a thriving economic partnership. In our efforts to scale this up, as the fastest growing large economy in the world, India offers unparalleled opportunities. And, to build new avenues of prosperity in our societies we are ready to expand trade and capital flows between our two economies. Infrastructure has been an area of fruitful partnerships between us. But, we can do much more. India’s infrastructure needs and our ambitious vision of developing Smart cities match well with the Malaysian capacities. Malaysian companies are participating in many of our infrastructure projects across different states in India. Indian companies too are extensively engaged and invested in the Malaysian economy. We are pleased that a high level business delegation is accompanying Prime Minister Najib. I am confident that the business partnerships that they forge will enhance the level and momentum of our commercial engagement. We are also converging efforts aimed at food security that are linked to the wellbeing of our farmers. The MOU on proposed development of a fertilizer plant in Malaysia and off-take of surplus urea from Malaysia to India is a welcome development.”

The U.T.A.R. University of Malaysia has started Ayurveda degree courses in Malaysia for the first time. An Ayurveda Chair in the same University is in the pipeline. Educational exchanges have always been a strong promoter of people to people ties between India and Malaysia. During this visit of Malaysian Premier Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak, an MOU on Mutual Recognition of Degrees was signed by India and Malaysia. This will prove to be a landmark development that will benefit the students and societies of both the countries.

During this visit, Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak and PM Modi welcomed the signing of the MoU between the Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB) and the Association of Food Scientists and Technologies (India) – Mumbai Chapter; the MoU between MPOB and Institute of Chemical Technology (ICT), India; the MoU between Malaysian Palm Oil Council (MPOC) and Solvent Extractors’ Association of India; and the MoU between MPOC and Mumbai Dabbawala Association. Both leaders recognized the importance of further strengthening bilateral economic cooperation and the many complementarities that exist and opportunities that could be derived from the close relations between the two countries. In this regard, they noted that regular meetings between the Trade Ministers of both countries are important and could act as the platform as envisaged under the Malaysia-India Strategic Partnership. The visit of Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed, Honourable Minister of International Trade and Industry to India in May 2016, and his meeting with Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Honorable Minister of Commerce underlines such importance. Both Prime Ministers welcomed the reconstitution of the high-level India-Malaysia CEOs’
Forum as agreed upon earlier with a view to re-energizing it and applauded their meeting held in New Delhi on 31 March 2017. Both Prime Ministers took note of the specific recommendations by the CEOs and urged for time-bound meaningful follow-ups and implementation of these recommendations. They recognized the importance of the bilateral Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) in providing the foundation for economic cooperation.

Both sides agreed to explore the possibilities of enhancing cooperation in the financial sector including through participation on each other’s capital market. Both sides look forward to grant commercial banking licenses to each other’s banks. The Prime Ministers emphasized the importance of collaboration for greater opportunities between the SMEs of the two countries.

Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) and Indian Air Force (IAF) are working on the terms of reference for the setting up of the Aircraft Safety and Maintenance Forum for cooperation in training, maintenance, technical support and safety-related issues. During this visit too, both leaders welcomed the proposal for Navy to Navy field exercise between the two countries and also welcomed the outcome of the joint Army exercises HARIMAUP SHAKTI and agreed to hold the exercises to company level, and subsequently as tri-services exercises.

Noting the visit of Indian Director General of Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA) in February 2017, both leaders welcomed the operationalization of mechanism for sharing information including for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) and white shipping.

India and Malaysia also agreed to finalize at an early date the MoU between Ministry of Shipping, Government of India and Ministry of Transport, Government of Malaysia on cooperation in Merchant Shipping. The two countries also agreed to enhance defense exchanges through regular dialogue at various levels, including between the Defense Ministers, senior officials, Chiefs of Services Talks and through military-military talks.

120th CII-EXIM BANK CONCLAVE ON INDIA-AFRICA PROJECT PARTNERSHIP

The first CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India Africa Project Partnership was held in the year 2005. The initiative was launched by CII in partnership with EXIM Bank of India and with the support of the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India. Over the last eleven editions, it has emerged as the pioneer event in building partnerships and enhancing the economic engagement between the two regions.

The 120th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership, held from 9-10 March 2017, witnessed the participation of high-level officials and business delegations from African countries. This year, the King of Swaziland His Majesty, Mswati – III, and the Prime Minister of Uganda Dr Ruhakana Rugunda, were the Guests of Honor. 33 Ministerial level participants and 400 international delegates from 37 African countries participated in the Conclave.

The Conclave was inaugurated by Hon’ble Rashtrapatiji on March 9, 2017.

At the inaugural, there were special addresses by Minister of State for External Affairs, Gen Dr. V.K. Singh (Retd.) and Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman. The Guests of Honour also addressed the Conclave.
Business-to-business meetings were organized as part of the Conclave apart from several sessions covering various sectors such as Trade & Investment, Development Partnership, Agriculture, Health, Infrastructure, Power, Skill Development, Irrigation, Water Supply, Small & Medium Enterprises, Rural Electrification, Railways etc.

Minister of State for External Affairs Shri M.J Akbar, addressed the Valedictory Session on March 10, 2017 while the Speaker of Parliament, Republic of Ghana Rt. Hon. Prof. Aaron Mike Oquaye, was the Guest of Honour.

The Event was a success and many business delegations returned to their native countries with valuable take-aways and prospects of future deals from this event.

The decision this year to stage a high-level summit in Jakarta has no doubt raised the organization’s prominence. With heads of state and government in attendance, IORA 2017 drew attention to a range of issues of regional interest in the greater Indian Ocean region, including maritime security, fisheries management, disaster relief and humanitarian assistance, people-to-people exchanges, trade and investment, and tourism.

The 21 member states issued a strategic vision document, known as the Jakarta Concord, that “sets out a vision for a revitalized and sustainable regional architecture,” according to a statement from the IORA secretariat. The concord builds on a ministerial meeting earlier in March, which resulted in an action plan document setting out numerous initiatives for the organization in addition to the adoption of a Declaration on Preventing and Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism.

On 7 March the Vice President of India Sri Hamid Ansari attending the summit, stated that “The IORA Concord we sign today is a milestone document that underscores the criticality of maritime safety and security. India shares the vision for a peaceful region and the seas around us. We believe that our ocean must be protected from traditional and non-traditional threats, particularly piracy. All using these international waters must act with responsibility and restraint. We have an imperative need for open trade and open sea lanes that carry it. I call upon the IORA member states to ensure that the freedom of navigation and over-flight in the Indian Ocean is respected by all, as an expression of our commitment to UNCLOS. Maritime safety and security can be
reinforced by institutionalizing Cooperative mechanisms such as White Shipping Agreements and by setting up an Information Fusion Centre for strengthening Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA). My Government would be happy to host such a center in India, with our in-house expertise supplemented by support from IORA member countries. We will also be happy to share our hydrographical capability with the member states for better navigation and understanding of marine topography. Today, terrorism has become the major impediment to development and threatens all pluralist and open societies. No cause justifies the indiscriminate killing of innocent civilians. IORA must show zero tolerance for State sponsored terrorism. The perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of terrorism must be isolated and face strong sanctions.

Vice President of India Shri Hamid Ansari (fifth from left) during the opening ceremony of the summit

Shri Ansari also proposed a network of think tanks to enable the collation of available resources with member countries. This would help synergize the efforts of individual member States. In this context, he announced the intention of the Government of India to establish “IORA Centre of Excellence (ICE)” in one of the coastal cities of India. The objective would be to provide academics and researchers access to a collective source of data and resource material. India will shortly be circulating a concept note on the proposed Centre through the IORA Secretariat.

He also emphasized that IORA members have to help each other by sharing intelligence, securing our cyber space, and minimizing the use of internet and social media for terrorist activities. There is a pressing requirement to work out the modalities for institutionalizing an IORA cooperation mechanism to this end by pooling the resources available with the member states. The Indian Ocean is at the crossroads of global trade. The Ocean and its littoral are rich in natural resources and is home to more than 2.3 billion people. This creates limitless opportunities for growth and prosperity. This is a region marked by great diversity of cultures and levels of economic development. The sea does not separate; rather it is a bridge that connects.

SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF NAMIBIA VISITS INDIA

Prof. Peter H. Katjavivi, Speaker of the National Assembly of Namibia, paid an official visit to India from 27-31 March 2017 at the invitation of the Hon’ble Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan. Speaker Katjavivi was accompanied by several Members of Parliament and Parliamentary officials, including Hon. Bernadette Jagger, MP, Hon. Clara Gowases, MP, Ms. Lydia Kandetu, Secretary to the National Assembly, Ms. Elizabeth De Wee, Parliamentary clerk, Ms. Ripuree Tjitendero, PA to Speaker. Speaker Katjavivi met with his counterpart Mrs. Sumitra Mahajan on 27 March.

During the meeting, the two speakers also shared experiences in Parliamentary practices and civil society engagement.

He called on President of India and Vice-President of India on 28 March, 2017. His programme included meetings at IGNOU with the Vice-Chancellor & other
April 2017 to discuss the establishment of a Centre of Excellence in Information Technology (CEIT) at the Namibia University of Science & Technology (NUST). The delegation held intensive discussions with officials of Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation, Government of Namibia and the NUST during their visit.

During the visit of Hon’ble President Pranab Mukerjee to Namibia in June 2016, the same had been discussed and deliberated upon. This visit by the Indian delegation was an executive follow-up to pursue the goal of cooperation between India and Namibia in the field of IT education and training at University level. Namibia University of Science and Technology hosted the visiting delegation. The establishment of the CEIT at NUST will further strengthen cooperation between India and Namibia in the field of education and training.

INDIA TO ESTABLISH CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE IN IT AT NAMIBIA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

A 4-member delegation comprising Shri Dinkar Asthana, Joint Secretary (DPA-II), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, Shri Shiv Narain, Director (Training), Ministry of Communication and IT, Department of Telecommunications, Shri Abhinav Dixit, Joint Director, Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, Delhi, and Aditya Kumar Sinha, Joint Director, Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, Pune visited Namibia from 29 March to 1

faculty members and a visit to Agra. Speaker Katjavivi went to Dhaka for the IPU summit from 1-4 April, 2017. India and Namibia look forward to renewed vigour in the field of parliamentary cooperation between the two nations and training as well as capacity building of Namibian parliamentarians as well as parliamentary officials in India.

UPCOMING BUSINESS EVENTS IN INDIA

Largest Showcase for Hospital Infrastructure Equipment, Machine, Furniture, Rehabilitation, Disposable and Diagnostic Equipments.

About the India Med Expo 2017 Bengaluru: India Med Expo 2017 Bengaluru is India's No. 1 Trade Fair for hospitals, health care centres and clinics. It will be held at Dr Prabhakar Kore Convention Center, Opp. Peenya Metro Station Bengaluru, Karnataka from 1 to 3 July 2017. It provides best opportunities to cover the enormous Indian healthcare market as well as considering the special potential of the big metropolitan areas with its growing demand and rising investments in the public and private healthcare sector. To register logon to http://tradeshows.tradeindia.com/indiamedexpo/
WELCOME TO 3RD EDITION OF THE ARCHITECT & INTERIOR EXPO-2017

The Architect & Interior Expo-2017 exhibition is organized by Big3 exhibitions which is going to be held from 26th to 28th May-2017, at Hall-1, Chennai Trade Center, Chennai, India. The aim of Architect & Interior Expo is to integrate various communication tools to build and everlasting relationship between their clients and their customers. "The Architect & Interior Expo is a great way to advertise to a target market & create brand awareness. This provides you with a platform to promote your product or service to a broader group which will leads you towards the business growth.

To Register please log on to http://tradeshows.tradeindia.com/the-architect2017/

DATE: MAY 26,27,28 - 2017
VENUE: HALL-1, CHENNAI TRADE CENTRE, NANDAMBAKKAM, CHENNAI