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# JEAN-CLAUDE KASSI BROU CALLS FOR INCREASED TRADE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION **BETWEEN INDIA AND ECOWAS**

he President of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Jean-Claude Kassi Brou, has called for increased and diversified trade and economic relations between India and the West African Community.



Speaking on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2018 in Abuja, Nigeria, at the opening of the

exchanging the signed MoUs

India-West Africa Regional Conclave, he commended the current excellent trade and financial cooperation between the two sides.

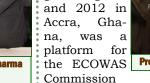
"Trade between India and West Africa has continued to grow in recent years to reach nearly US\$22 billion, against US\$17 billion in 2016/17. This is a sign of the growing strength of our economy and our trade and financial cooperation," Mr. Jean-Claude Kassi Brou said.

He was confident that the conclave, which draws on the previous ones, would result in a higher level of investment and stronger commercial ties between India and ECO-WAS.

He expressed his gratitude to the Indian government for facilitating flexible financing of its investments in West Africa through Eximbank, and also for recently providing a loan of US\$500 million to the ECOWAS Investment and

Development Bank (EBID) to support investments by the regional organisation's financial arm in various sectors.

"This is a clear indication of the strong cooperation between our two parties, as demonstrated by the presence at this meeting of India's Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. J. Akbar, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Mr. C R Chaudhary, and a large delegation from the Confederation of Indian Industries led by its President," Mr. Brou said



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Africa"

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**October**, 2018



President Brou Inspecting the exhibition of Mahat Magandhi

President to showcase the economic potential and assets of the regional organisation.

"ECOWAS is a region with a population of nearly 370 million, made up of mainly young people. Gross domestic product is estimated at US\$551 billion in 2017. The economic growth indicated above is expected to reach 3.1% in 2018, compared to 2.3% in 2017, with some countries benefiting from improved international commodity prices," Mr. Brou noted.

The President of the ECOWAS Commission also stated that the Community offers many investment opportunities in agriculture, industry, infrastructure, finance, education and health.

Ahead of the opening ceremony of the conclave, Jean-Claude Kassi Brou met with India's Minister of State for Trade and Industry, C R Chaudhary, to discuss priority

> development areas such as energy, infrastructure, building where health, ECOWAS is seeking to intensify its cooperation with India.

> Along with the two Indian Ministers of State and Nigeria's Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Dr. Okechukwu Enelamah, Mr. Brou watched a documentary and attended an exhibition on the works of Mahatma Gandhi, an Indian political and spiritual leader born



Mr. Brou and Indian ministers Chaudhary and Akbar cutting the ribbon to declare the exhibition open

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on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1869 and murdered the in New Delhi on 30th January 1948.

He also **ECOWAS** manned bv Amamata from Communication Directorate of and signed Memorandum Understanding the Confederation of Indian Industries.

Memorandum Understanding

The

Confederation of Industries.

visited the It should be noted that Jean-Claude stand \*Kassi Brou was at the conclave with Ms. his Executive Assistant, Kadja Sulaiman Eugène Etché, the Commissioner for the Industry and Private Sector Promotion, Mamadou Traoré; the the Commissioner for Infrastructure, regional organisation, Pathé Gueye, and the Commissioner a for Energy and Mines, Sédiko Douka.

of Others were the Commissioner for with Telecommunications and Information Technology, Dr. Zouli Bonkoungou, the Commissioner for Education, Science and Culture, Dr. Leopoldo of Amado, the Director of the Private with Sector, N'Fally Sanoh, and the Acting Indian Director of Communication, Liberor Doscof Aho.

#### **NEW COUNTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS COMMIT TO PROMOTING COOPERATION WITH ECOWAS**

📿 ix new envoys pre-Sented their letters of credence to the President of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Jean-Claude Kassi Brou on the 9th of October 2018, in Abuja, Nigeria.

They were the High Commissioners of Ghana and the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. Alhaji Rashi Bawa and Τ. Raeenthiran respective-

ly, Ambassadors of Egypt, Assem Mohammed Elseify, North Korea, Jon Tong Chol, Mali, Moustapha Traoré, as well as the country representative of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, Suffyan Koroma.

Jean-Claude Kassi Brou with Alhaji Rashid

Bawa

Accepting their letters of credence, Jean-Claude Kassi \* «ECOWAS boasts several investment opportunities in Brou congratulated them on their appointments and agriculture, industry, infrastructure, finance, education pledged his support for successful tour of duty.

He reviewed the status of cooperation between their respective institutions and countries and the regional organisation. He enjoined them to initiate new projects to enhance cooperation towards regional economic integration.

Responding to the President's statement; each of the personalities pledged to foster cooperation between his country or organisation and the region.

ECOWAS Commission hand shake with President Brou President promised to work

closely with them for the attainment of the objectives of the West African organisation.

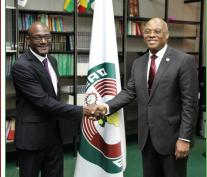
Reacting to the North Korean Diplomat's remarks, Mr. Brou highlighted the enormous economic potentials and resources of ECOWAS.

and

health. Investors therefore stand to benefit from this big market», Mr. Brou stated.

On his part, Mali's new Ambassador to ECOWAS, Moustapha Traoré, held discussions Jean-Claude Kassi

with



Ambassador of Mall, Moustapha Traoré with President Kassi Brou



Egyptian Ambassador, Assem Elselfy with Jean-Claude Kassi Brou



**Claude Kassi Brou** 

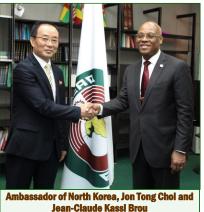


Amb. Recenthiran of Sri Lanka in a

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Brou on regional integration and institutional matters, particularly the ongoing institutional reforms in Community Institutions.

Aside from bilateral cooperation between Egypt and ECOWAS, talks between the Egyptian Ambassador, Assem Mohammed Mahmoud Elseify and Jean-Claude



Kassi Brou, centered on the Intra-Africa Trade Fair scheduled to hold from 11th to 17th December 2018 in Cairo, the Egyptian capital. The President of the ECO-WAS Commission has been invited to the event.

The country representative of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Suffyan Koroma: informed the ECOWAS Commission President of the forthcoming commemoration of the World Food Day on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

The accreditation ceremony was attended by Mr. Brou's Director of Cabinet, Kalilou Traoré, his Executive Assistant, Kadja Eugène Etché, ECOWAS Commission's Commissioner for Social Affairs and Gender, Dr. Siga Fatima Jagne and her colleague for Energy and Mines, Sédiko Douka, as well as by the representative of the Director of Furthermore, the Ministers also recommended that the External Relations, Mr. Babatunde Idowu, and the Ag. Director of Communication of the ECOWAS, Mr. Liberor Doscof Aho.

# **ECOWAS ADOPTS DESIGN SCHEME FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX FOR THE COMMISSION**

inisters for Infrastructure, Works and Housing form Member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) have adopted a design scheme for the development of a new Headquarters complex for the Commission that will be built in the Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria- Abuja by the Chinese government through a \$31.5 million grant.

The meeting of the ad-hoc Ministerial Committee on the construction of Community institutions which held on 22nd September 2018



**Commissioner for General Administration and Conference** 



in Abuja, Nigeria, saw their representatives adopt a design scheme in order to commence the development of the final design which will be produced with the input of the Commission and Member States.

The ECOWAS Commission's commissioner for General Administration and Conferences Vafolay Tulay, who presented three design schemes to the Ministers, stated that criteria such as site optimization, functionality, safety and security and the requirements of the Commission were taken into account while adopting the design scheme.

The Ministers recommended that the final design of the new Headquarters Complex should not only integrate elements of West African culture but must also comply with international and Nigeria's standards and specifications of construction.

design for the new Headquarters complex should have the expansion of the Commission in view while being developed. The design should take into consideration functionalities and coordination consistent with the needs of the Community', they said.

The Commissioner for Infrastructure, Pathe Gueye, in his remarks added that the Commission would enlist a consultant/quality control firm to assist ECOWAS with the final design to ensure that the building meets all the required standards and is of the highest quality.

The Chairman of the meeting of the ad-hoc Ministerial Committee Mr. Musa Nuhu, head of the ECOWAS National Unit, Nigeria, assured the Commission of the full



A cross section of Ministers from Members States or their representatives

support of the Nigerian government in the implementation of the project.

The Ministerial Committee also approved the design for the second and third phase of the development of the ECOWAS Standby Force (ESF) logistics depot in Lungi, Sierra Leone.

The meeting of the ad-hoc Ministerial Committee was preceded by a meeting of experts which held on 21st September 2018 in Abuja.

Also in attendance, Madam Finda Koroma, the Vice President of the ECOWAS Commission reiterated the commitment of the Commission towards the implementation of these two projects as she described them as being of: great importance to the Community.

# **2017 MEMBER STATES' MACROECONOMIC CONVERGENCE ON THE AGENDA OF THE 40<sup>TH</sup> WAMZ COUNCIL MEETING**

he 40<sup>th</sup> statutory meeting of the Council of Ministers of Member States of the West African Monetary Zone (WAMZ) was held on 14th September 2018 in Abuja, Nigeria, and attended by central bank governors, the representative of the President of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and several other dignitaries.



During the meeting, the ministers reviewed the macroeconomic convergence situation

in Member States for 2017 and discussed the achievements and challenges relating to the introduction of the Konadu Apraku, Commissioner for Macroeconomic Policy common currency by 2020.

The meeting also considered the report of the 37<sup>th</sup> session. of the WAMZ Committee of Central Bank Governors and the status of implementation of previous decisions.

On behalf of the President of the ECOWAS Commission, Jean-Claude Kassi Brou, the Commissioner for Industry and Private Sector Promotion, Mamadou Traoré, lauded the collaboration between ECOWAS and WAMZ.

He outlined the progress made by the Commission of the regional organisation in the area of energy, road infrastructure, financial market integration, and private sector: promotion.

Mr. Traoré also highlighted the introduction of a regional payment system, the ECOWAS investment guarantee mechanism, the promotion and liberalisation of trade in: the region, the consolidation of the customs union, the implementation of the Common External Tariff by 14 ing the World Bank, European Union (EU), and other



A group photograph of ECOWAS Central Bank Go

Member States and the creation of a free trade area through the establishment of a trade liberalisation scheme within ECOWAS.

He nevertheless noted that significant challenges remain to be addressed, particularly with regard to the choice of exchange rate regime, the monetary policy framework and the right choice of the central bank model for the future common monetary area.

For his part, the representative of the Nigerian Minister of Finance urged members of the Council to create a robust framework for the implementation of the Community currency to ensure economic growth and well-being of West African people.

It should be recalled that the 37th session of the Committee of WAMZ Central Bank Governors was held the day before in the auditorium of the Central Bank of Nigeria, also in Abuja.

Aside from the Governors, delegates from the Commission of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), the West African Monetary Institute (WAMI), the West African Monetary Agency (WAMA) and the representative of the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) also attended the meeting.

The ECOWAS Commission was represented by Dr. Kofi and Economic Research.

## ECOWAS FORUM URGES MODERNISATION OF **HYDROMET AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

epresentatives of ECOWAS Member States' institu-Ttions, in conjunction with disaster and climate resilience building stakeholders, have urged for a modernization of hydromet and disaster risk management services in West Africa.

The meteorology, hydrology and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) stakeholders are also requesting in this regard, the scaling up of efforts by the development partners includ-

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United Nations (UN) organisations, in line with needs and priorities expressed by ECOWAS, Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), River Basin Organizations as well as national governments in the region.



A set of far-reaching recommendations made at the end of their 3-Day

regional hydromet Forum and DRR platform in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire on the evening of the 21st of September 2018, bordered on the need for firmer political commitment, resource mobilisation and allocation, a workable In the communiqué of the Forum read by the ECOWAS funding strategy as well as increased advocacy on reliable disaster data management best practices.

Specifically, the delegates who also comprise members of the Bureau of African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET), requested the high officials of the ECOWAS Commission who were on hand, to bring their resolutions to the attention of the President of the Com- Bringing the forum to a close, the Minister of Transport mission and of the ECOWAS Parliament "for endorsement and action".

They maintained that since there is an "increasing demand for customized weather, water and climate services to build resilience in communities and economies and provide effective early warning for the ECOWAS region" the modernization of every aspect of the entire value chain of hydromet systems and services with advanced weather prediction techniques, will bring innovation and engender a better response to end user needs in the ECOWAS region.

As part of the envisaged new hydromet order, the more than 200 participants recommended the promotion of a conducive environment for building and exchanging acafessional education on weather, water, climate and disaster risk reduction in the ECOWAS Member States.

Importantly, and in support of sustainable development, gender mainstreaming and the inclusion of youth and



community based organizations" in the design and implementation of integrated approaches for weather, water, climate and disaster risk management services.

Commission's Commissioner for Social Affairs and Gender Dr. Siga Fatima Jagne, the germane issues of safeguarding the environment and human lives in consciousness of the responsibilities of national governments, regional organisations and the people were highlighted.

of Cote d'Ivoire said this is now "the time to shift from words to action" He was supported at the podium by the Chair of the AMCOMET bureau and Minister of Agriculture and Environment of Carbo Verde, Gilberto Correia Silva.

# **ECOWAS HOLDS MAIN PLANNING CONFERNCE** FOR ITS COMMAND POST EXERCISE

he Directorate of Peace Keeping and Regional Security of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in collaboration with demic and research expertise as well as continued pro- Member States, Training Centres of Excellence (TCEs), the African Union (AU) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) conducted the Main Planning Conference (MPC) for its Command Post they urged the promotion of a "robust and meaningful" Exercise (CPX) - JIGUI IV, which aims to test the Full Operational Capacity (FOC) of the ECOWAS Standby Force (ESF).





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The 5-day meeting which ended on 28th September 2018: at the National Defence College in Abuja, Nigeria saw participants develop the Exercise plan, Exercise Structure and further develop the CARANA Scenario which is being used for the CPX.

The conference also availed participants the opportunity to further develop the technical communication plans for

the Exercise, its public information and media strategy and logistic plans also known as 'real life support'.

The Director of Peace Keeping and Regional security Dr. Cyriaque Agnekethom during his remarks at the close of the conference expressed his satisfaction with the input of the participants to improve on the strategies developed during the Initial Planning Conference which held in November 2017.

Commission to ensure that the CPX takes place in line with the Exercise timelines which were also established: during the conference.

The MPC is expected to be followed by the operational headquarters training scheduled to hold in October 2018. at Ecole de Maintien de la Paix Alioune Blondin Beye in Bamako, Mali as part of the build up to the Exercise.

The CPX JIGUI IV scheduled to take place in 2019 aims. to test and enhance the capability of the ESF to conduct strategic and operational level planning for multidimensional operations and to exercise command and control of deployed forces on a simulated ECOWAS/AU mandated Peace and Security Operation in West Africa.

# **ECOWAS COMMISSION DONATES RELIEF ITEMS TO IDPs TO COMMEMORATE WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY**

s part of its commitment to bringing succour to displaced and socially dislocated citizens, the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) donated some relief items to the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Abuja, Nigeria on the 13<sup>th</sup> of September 2018.

The gesture is in commemoration of the World Humanitarian Day (WHD), marked worldwide at the behest of the: United Nations (UN), on the 19th of August 2018, by the Commission in league with other stakeholders such as the Nigerian National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI), and the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (OCHA).



e lheme (m) supported by Mrs Shizzer Bada presenting some of the donations to the IDP women leader Kaltumi Abubakar

He expressed the commitment of the management of the The items donated by the ECOWAS Commission included bags of rice, cartons of oil as well as tons of clothing materials.

> Handing over the items to the IDPs at their camp in Karimajiji, in the Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria, the Commission's Director, Humanitarian Affairs Mrs. Florence Iheme told the recipients that the ECOWAS Commission will continue its humanitarian services to the displaced persons in the region as part of its larger corporate responsibility to the people of West Africa.

> Conveying warm greetings to the IDPs on behalf of the President of the Commission Jean Claude Kassi-Brou, Mrs. Iheme assured them that their deplorable condition is not lost on the Management of the Commission.

> The Director stated that he ECOWAS Commission is helping the government of Nigeria in resolving the insurgency problem that has created humanitarian camps. "ECOWAS is working hard, in support of the Nigerian government and our partners to resolve the problems that brought you here" she added.

> The Head, IDP Department of the Nigerian NCFRMI Mrs. Schizzer Nasara Bada stressed the need for continuous good behaviour by the IDPs noting that international agencies and regional Organisations such as ECOWAS will not abandon them until they are reintegrated into the society.

> The IDPs, mostly women and children were elated by the ECOWAS gesture. The Chairman of the Karimajiji camp Mr. Mohammed Abubakar supported by their Women Leader Hajia Kaltumi Abubakar expressed their appreciation and urged more support and kindness from ECO-WAS.

> Apart from pledging about one million dollars' worth of humanitarian assistance package for the troubled areas of the region, the ECOWAS Commission has continued to

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provide timely assistance to IDPs in the affected communities in Nigeria, Niger and Sierra Leone, among others.

# **EXPERTS CALL FOR EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION AND NETWORKING ON CHILD PROTECTION**

articipants at the technical meeting on the operationalization of the Child Protection Framework of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) The report adopted at the end of the Two-Day meeting among all stakeholders.

Other recommendations of the meeting which ended on and regional legal frameworks. the 27<sup>th</sup> of September 2018 at the ECOWAS Commission Closing the meeting on behalf of the Commissioner for Headquarters, Abuja, Nigeria, bordered on the need for a Social Affairs and Gender – Dr. Fatima Siga Jagne, the harmonized research and data collection, using reliable and validated instruments to plan for and solve problems relating to child protection.

Noting that continuous dialogue and engagement of all distribution, accountability and good governance.

on effective community engagement on the five priorities ments. outlined in the regional child protection framework.

length, relevant child protection issues were identified by child protection.

Some of the issues included peace education, child education in emergencies, food nutrition issues such as



School Feeding, Child Labour in Agriculture as well as protection issues in the Social Media.

Before their recommendations were arrived at, an overview of the "ECOWAS Strategic Framework for Strengthening National Child Protection Systems to prevent and respond to Violence, abuse and exploitation against children in West Africa" was given.

There were also presentations on the situational analysis of child protection system in West Africa.

Issues of relevant and up-to date data, legal framework, resource mobilization as well as the appropriate communication strategy on child protection were also examined.

have called for effective collaboration and networking highlighted the gaps in the political commitment of Member States towards the implementation of international

> Principal Programme Officer for Gender and Child Dr. Bolanle Adetoun, thanked all the participants for their valuable interventions and inputs.

Stressing the need for the continuous mainstreaming of stakeholders on Child Protection have become necessary, child protection issues in their work, she noted that beparticipants further recommended a regime of resource ing a cross-cutting theme involving many professionals and subject areas, an effective child-protection system, In addition to this, they maintained that focus should be calls for action from all segments of society and govern-

In December, 2017 the ECOWAS Heads of State and Having deliberated on the thematic presentations at Government approved the ECOWAS Strategic Framework for Strengthening National Child Protection Systems to the experts and representatives of ECOWAS Partners on prevent and respond to violence, abuse and exploitation against children in the region.

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