

EBCAM Secretary General attended the very successful 7th NORDIC-AFRICAN BUSINESS SUMMIT 2017 held in October 26th, OSLO. It was an impressive organisation, with participation of some 400 attendees, with very good speakers and panellists. There were a lot of Networking opportunities though out the summit. The event offered short meetings with Ambassadors, "Meet the experts" and company presentations. Hospitality by authorities included a reception by minister of foreign affairs, separately by the Mayor and a guided tour to the town hall.

The main theme of the event was: "Investing in Africa's Transition: how, not why" – what to expect, Nordic Investments in Africa; learning from competitors China, Japan, US in Africa; Finance: How are we making successful investments in Africa; Africa's energy challenges – and the solutions; Investing in technology

Here is the programme in some more detail:

Welcome remarks by Mr. Eivind Fjeldstad, Managing Director, NABA.

Key note speech by H.E. Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia, Vice President of Ghana.

Keynote conversation: *From why invest in Africa, to how?*

- H.E. Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia, Vice President of Ghana
- Mr. Amadou Hott, Vice President, Power, Energy – African Development Bank
- State Secretary Ms. Tone Skogen, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. Svein Tore Holsether, CEO & President, Yara International

Moderator: Mr. Mark Eddo, Mark Eddo Media Ltd.

Minister panel: *Keys to successful investments – challenges and opportunities*

- H.E. Okechukwu Enelamah, Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Government of Nigeria
- H.E. Mubarak Alfadil, Minister of Investment of the Republic of the Sudan
- H.E. Esther Mbayo, Minister for the Presidency, Government of Uganda

Moderator: Mr. Mark Eddo, Mark Eddo Media Ltd.

Current and future forecast: Africa's Economic Outlook

- Ms. Natznet Tesfay, Director Africa Research, IHS Markit

Investing in Africa's Transition

Panel discussion: *Africa's transition – what to expect*

- Mr. Michael Macharia, CEO, Seven Seas Technologies Group
- Mr. Hans Jochum Horn, Investor, Rendeavour
- Ms. Natznet Tesfay, Director Africa Research, IHS Markit

Moderator: Mr. Mark Eddo, Mark Eddo Media Ltd.

Panel discussion: *Nordic Investments in Africa: how we invest?*

- Mr. Hans Uldall-Poulsen, Senior Advisor, Dalberg Group (will present highlights from a recent report on Nordic Development Finance Institutions)
- Mr. Kjell Roland, CEO, Norfund
- Dr. Jaakko Kangasniemi, CEO, Finnfund
- Mr. Gerth Svensson, Interim CEO, Swedfund

Moderator: Mr. Lanre Akinola, Editor, African Business Magazine

Conversation: China, Japan, US in Africa: learning from our competitors

- Ms. Aubrey Hruby, Africa Investment Advisor, Senior Fellow, the Africa Center at the Atlantic Council
- Ms. Helen Hai, CEO, China – Africa Consulting
- Dr. Christopher Marks, Managing Director and Head of Emerging Markets EMEA, Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group

Moderator: Mr. Lanre Akinola, Editor, African Business Magazine

Session I – Finance

How are we making successful investments in Africa?

The African investment landscape has not been impervious to the consequences of geopolitical events, 2016 saw a slowdown in deal activity (largely due to currency volatility in countries such as Nigeria and Egypt), there were a number of notable and interesting deals that show private equity investors in Africa are still willing to back companies where they see long-term growth opportunities.

A fall in commodity prices last year, which started in 2014 (principally about oil, coal and iron ore), had an even more dramatic impact on the macro economic landscape in sub-Saharan Africa. The region's three largest economies (Nigeria, Angola and South Africa) saw their GDP growth slow and, in some cases, even contract as a direct result of this, leading to falls in the value of their local currencies.

There are a lot of emerging markets competing for investment, and for Africa the shine has come off recently. What has altered the economic and political landscape? Where is investment flowing now, and where are the new opportunities—and risks—appearing?

Panel: How are we making successful investments in Africa? What are the lessons learnt?

- Mr. Tutu Agyare, Managing Partner, Nubuke Investments
- Dr. Pontus Engstrøm, CEO, MTI Investments
- Mr. Christian V. Bernau, Managing Partner, SPEAR Capital
- Mr. Bright Owusu-Amofah, CEO, Appolonia City, Ghana

Panel: Doing business with African currencies

- Mr. Stuart Ponder, Senior Vice-President EMEA Global Payments Division, INTL FCStone
- Ms. Gaimin Nonyane, Head of Economic Research, Ecobank

Moderator: Mr. Lanre Akinola, Editor, African Business magazine

Session II – Energy

Africa's energy challenges – and the solutions?

Whether you work in renewables, oil and gas or with public management, this session will provide you with valuable insights on the latest trends within the energy sector on the African continent.

The first panel will guide you through investment barriers, and how these can be overcome.

The second panel will highlight new business models that can generate power. Can new business models help overcome some of the challenges faced in the sector? What type of business models can work, and how can your company be part of the solution?

The expert panel will guide you through the topic which is key if you want to succeed in the rapidly changing energy markets in African countries.

Panel: Africa's energy challenges – and the solutions?

- H.E. Isaac Musumba, Minister of State for Lands, Housing and Urban Development
- Mr. Amadou Hott, Vice President, Power, Energy – African Development Bank
- Ms. Tas Anvaripour, Partner in the Clean Energy, The Abraaj Group
- Mr. Mark Davis, Head of Clean Energy, Norfund
- Mr. Al Cook, Senior Vice President, Statoil

Moderator: Ms. Mari Sofie Furu, Senior Advisor/Energy Economist, Multiconsult

Panel: The new business models that will generate power

- Mr. Raymond Carlsen, CEO, Scatec Solar
- Mr. Chad Larson, co-founder, Mkopa
- Mr. Georges Beukering, Head Investor Relations and Business Development, Climate Investor One
- Mr. Ivar Slengesol, Export Credit Norway
- Prince Randy Koussou A. Sogan, Chairman, Black Lion Holdings

Moderator: Ms. Hanna C. Wirschke, Head of Communication Operations, Technology & Partner-Operated Licenses (OTP), DPI – Statoil

Session III – Technology

Investing in technology in Africa – How?

We have seen Tech companies dominate the last decade of business. Learn how these changes are happening on the African continent, where the largest companies still operate in other industries.

The technology session will comprise of two panel conversations which both address technology in Africa. First, four CEOs discuss how they run their innovative technology companies in Africa.

Second panel takes a closer look at how blockchain technology can provide new opportunities for both new and mature companies. Blockchain technology has made its debut with cryptographic currencies, distributed ledgers and has been making an impact across multiple sectors. This panel will dispel the myths behind the blockchain and will give real-life examples of how you can use it in your business.

CEO Panel: Investing in technology in Africa – How?

- Mr. Michael Macharia, CEO, Seven Seas Technology
- Mr. Eric Osiakwan, Managing Partner, Chanzo Capital
- Mr. Herman Chinery-Hesse, Founder and CEO, SOFTtribe
- Mr. Thomas Bech Pettersen, CTO, Computas AS

Moderator: Mr. Alisdair Munro, Director of Knowledge and Technology, Virke

Conversation: New technologies changing the landscape? How will blockchain change how

we are doing business in Africa?

- Mr. Finn Erik Kolnes, Strategy, Financial Services, Accenture
- Ms. Juulia Laakso, Regional Market Access Manager, Ferratum Group
- Wilfried Pimenta, Business Development Director, IOTA Foundation

Moderator: Ms. Cathrine G. Jansen, Executive Programme Manager, Virke