



# **INDO-AFRICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRIES**

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## **IACCI CIRCULAR**

July-August 2005

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IACCI/SR/NV/2005-06  
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2005

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July-August

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## TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS INDIA AND GHANA

Trade and commercial relations between the two countries were governed by the Trade Agreement signed in 1981. Since then, the Government of India has extended one official Line of Credit and two Credit lines through EXIM Bank. These lines were fully utilized and fully repaid. Consideration is being given to another line of credit to help finance projects with poverty alleviation objectives.

### ATTENTION EXPORTERS

#### Indian High Commission Business Centre

The High Commission of India, Accra located at No.9, Ridge Road, Roman Ridge, Accra has established an India Business Centre within its premises for the purpose of further promoting trade and economic relations between India and Ghana. The Centre is conveniently accessible near the main entrance of the High Commission. It is well equipped with trade directories, brochures, catalogues, CD-ROMs etc. on major Indian manufacturing and exporting companies as well as information on Ghanaian businesses and importers. The Centre is manned by two staff members, who are available during office hours i.e., 0900 hrs to 1700 hrs, except during lunch between 1300 hrs to 1330 hrs.

The business centre is, inter alia, currently rendering the following services: assisting Ghanaian businessmen with general information on doing business with India; providing addresses of manufacturers and exporters of specific goods and services; answering trade enquiries and providing assistance to businesses; dissemination of information on major commercial activities in both countries; organising participation in trade fairs/exhibitions; organising Buyer-Seller Meets and making arrangements for visiting delegations; promoting Joint Ventures between India and Ghana, by helping to identify companies/partners etc.

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An Indian delegation had visited Ghana in September 1988. Indian companies have also participated in Ghana International Trade Fairs in 1989 and again in 1992 and 1993. A delegation from the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers also visited in June, 1993, followed by an EEPC delegation later in the year. In the last couple of years, number of officials and representatives of both public and private companies including RITES, PEC, Hindustan Antibiotics, Mohan Exports etc. have visited the country for trade promotion. A Tea festival to promote Indian tea was organized in July 1994 in collaboration with the Tea Board. During the year 2002, delegations from the EEPC, CII, PEC, Ministry of Information Technology & Communications, Jute Manufacturers Association, Ministry of Mines, TCIL, RITES, Water & Power Consultancy Services, Tata International, EXIM Bank, Ashok Leyland have visited Ghana to explore possibilities of expanding bilateral cooperation and/or review on going operations in Ghana. The most recent delegations included those from Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, Mumbai (which started the process of direct purchase of rough diamonds from Ghana by Indian companies). An Indian company won the contract for the supply of jute bags in the cocoa sector (the first in 25 years!). Another Indian company has recently signed an agreement for the supply of transmission lines for the power sector.

Indian companies including RITES and TCIL have been operating in the country for a number of years now in projects worth several million dollars. A number of Indian professionals are also in the country, either on direct deputation or through sponsorship of international bodies like the UN agencies, World Bank etc.

A Joint Trade Committee between India and Ghana exists. Its first meeting was held on 31st August – 1st September 1992. Since then, both sides have expressed their willingness, on more than one occasion, to hold the second session in New Delhi but could not do so due to one reason or the other. It is proposed to hold this meeting in the near future.

#### Trend of trade:

The table below shows the trade between India and Ghana from 2001 through to the first two quarters of the present year.

Year	Exports from India to Ghana (US\$ million)	Exports from Ghana to India * India (US\$ million)	Total volume of trade (US\$ million)
2000-01	56.6	25.6	82.2
2001-02	68.5	20.2	88.7
2002-03 (Apr. to Sept. 2002)	44.2	8.6	52.8

\* Note: These figures do not include internationally financed development contracts awarded to Indian companies (eq. In the Telecommunications and Roads sectors).

As may be seen from the above data there has been a significant increase in India's trade with Ghana in 2002-03 as compared with previous years. The balance of trade which was in Ghana's favour in

1998-1999 and 1999-2000 owing largely to Indian imports of precious and semi-precious stones in two years has now tilted in India's favour.

### Commercial, Trade/Business opportunities

There are lots of business opportunities in Ghana. The government of Ghana is providing facilities to attract investments from abroad. The Government is also trying to develop Ghana as the "Gateway to West Africa" where Ghana is already a leader in economic (and social) development. With the change of government in January 2001, and the new government's aspirations to usher in the Golden Age of business for Ghana, the thrust of the present government is on developing the Ghanaian private sector as the engine of growth for the economy. It is important to state here that on several occasions the Government has emphasized the need for Ghana to look to India for appropriate technology (in the context of South-South Cooperation). Some important sectors for business and trade include agriculture and agro-based industry, establishment of small scale units to produce items for export including garment production and other units to reduce dependence on imports, development of infrastructure facilities such as highways and bus services for mass transportation, rail network, power, telecommunication and IT sector, appropriate technology for manufacturing and industry.

### GOI's Enterprises

The presence of Government of India's enterprises is not very prominent in Ghana but the TCIL and RITES have been here for the past several years and thus have secured contracts/sub-contracts for laying of communication lines in Ghana worth several million dollars and for assistance to the Ghana Railway Company. TCIL have a permanent representative in Ghana. Both companies have a good reputation in Ghana and it should get more contracts in the ever-expanding telecommunication sector and in the railway sector which is to be modernized. Under initiatives taken by the High Commission, some Government of India enterprises have registered their interest as suppliers and consultants for various projects in irrigation, power, and other sectors.

### Private-Sector Companies

The Indian private sector is steadily increasing its presence in Ghana and there are some Indian companies, which have stationed their representatives in Ghana viz.

1. NIIT (Software company)
2. TATA (GH Ltd.), which is under TATA (Africa) Ltd. based in South Africa and a representative of TELCO India Ltd., is also located here and operating through his agent, M/s Yellow Cabs, a Lebanese Enterprise. Tata buses were introduced in Ghana in 80s and it still seems to be the main transport vehicle in this country. Although there has not been bulk import of such vehicles from India recently, due primarily to the lack of credit in the financial system, a large number of TATA buses are seen plying on Ghanaian roads.
3. A show room of Maruti Ltd. Although they are not direct representative of Maruti Ltd. in India but they represent a company in Nigeria (Lagos) owned by one Mr. Raj Bhojwani. They are doing good business in Ghana and have sold several Maruti vehicles in this country.

4. Eskay Therapeutics Ltd. (representative of Dr. Reddy Laboratories).

5. Core Care Health India

In fact, about 70 Indian pharmaceuticals firms manufacturing various pharmaceuticals products have got their products registered in Ghana and sell their products through local agents, which include some Sindhi businessmen. Indian pharmaceutical products in finished dosage now account for over 40% of the Ghana's pharmaceutical imports.

Local companies owned by NRIs/Persons of Indian Origin

There are some NRIs in Ghana who have large businesses importing chiefly from Korea, Taiwan, China and India.

Commodities Traded :

Our major exports to Ghana include drugs and pharmaceutical; fine chemicals; cotton-yarn fabrics, primary & semi-finished iron & steel products; machinery & instruments; manufactures of metals; rubber products; jute manufactures; cosmetics/toiletries; clothing; plastic & linoleum products; paper & wood products; glass-cement and ceramics; paints/ varnishes; wheat, rice (other than Basmati); misc. processed items, dyes, coal tar & chemicals; transport equipment; marine products; sports goods, cosmetics and machine tools.

Imports from Ghana to India included three major items: wood and wood-products; pearls, precious & semi-precious stones; cashew- nuts; others were fruits & nuts, oil seeds, cotton raw and waste, metal scrap, etc. There are prospects for other imports such as cocoa, shea nuts and shea butter.

## INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

With growth being registered by all economic indicators-be it GDP, Per Capita Income, Exports, Foreign Exchange Reserves and with Inflation in control, it may prove to be extremely worthwhile exploring business opportunities in India. Many international groups have already been doing business profitably in India for years. Companies like Lever, Mercedes, Singer, Suzuki, GEC, Honda and Philips are household names in India and in the last few years there has been a quantum leap in international business houses opening shop in India. Here in brief we enumerate some possible areas for investment in India:

### A. Infrastructure Development

The Government of India accords the highest emphasis to the development of infrastructure in the country, particularly through foreign investment. The infrastructure sector has tremendous potential for growth as the huge Indian economy picks up. The opportunities are also heightened given the massive unfulfilled demand, leaving room for large and rapid growth. An expert group constituted by the Government has estimated that investments worth more than \$120 billion are needed during the next five years. In most cases automatic approval is available for investments upto 74% of the cost of

the project while investments upto 100% require special permission which are also easily available. To promote and encourage foreign investment in this sector, tax incentives are also offered. For example, all infrastructure projects get a 5-year tax holiday, with a 30% tax rebate for next 5 years. Import duties have also been lowered for many products related to this sector. Infrastructure investment can be channelled in India into a variety of fields and in diverse modes, depending on the sector and the amount of investment. The Secretariat for Industrial Assistance in the Ministry of Industry in India acts as the nodal agency for promoting infrastructure. While the opportunity are vast and in many fields, details about some of the sectors are given below:

### Roads & Highways

It is estimated that India requires around 30,000 kms of new roads and 10,000 kms of expressways in the next three years. Foreign investment is invited for the construction of new major highways, particularly National Highway projects, which are concerned with inter-state roads under the purview of the Central Government. The Prime Minister has announced the construction of 7000 km of 6-lane expressways along the N-S and E-W corridors of India and also projects to convert all national highways into 4-lane routes. This translates into tremendous opportunities for all willing to invest in roads

### Ports

There are 11 major ports in India. However, demand outstrips capacity by a large amount. It is estimated that handling capacity of major ports will require an augmentation of around 65 million tonnes by 2002 and efficiency improvement. This will involve expansion/ creation of harbours, construction of new piers and berths, warehouses and handling facilities, dry-docking and ship repair facilities, container terminals.

### Railways

Foreign investment is invited in related areas like gauge conversions, doubling of single lines, electrification projects, supply of rolling stock (wagons and passenger coaches, diesel and electric engines), related telecom projects, construction of tunnels/bridges, etc. These projects are awarded on a BOLT system through competitive bidding.

### Power

Demand for electricity, which is one of the most vital infrastructure inputs for economic development, is expected to grow by 9% annually, leading to a requirement of capacity increase by more than 10,000 MW each year. Foreign investment upto 100% is invited in all areas of power production and supply, including power generation, distribution, and modernisation. Private power projects can set up thermal plants, hydro projects, and wind/solar energy projects, as well as captive/co-generation power plants. Surplus power can also be sold to the state grid. Remunerative price setting is allowed. Recently, the Government cleared a mega power policy for the creation of 20,000 MW capacity through large projects, which would be allowed duty free equipment imports.

### Telecommunications

At present, there are only 14.54 million telephone lines in India with a waiting list of more than 2 million. It is estimated that 60 million telephone connections will have to be provided within the next five years. For telephone services the limit for foreign equity participation is 49% while for manufacturing projects, it is 51%. Opportunities for investment also exist through the Government disinvestment of public sector companies like Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited.

### Civil Aviation

India is one of the fastest growing markets in the world in both passenger and cargo traffic. Presently, 40% foreign investment is permitted in domestic air transport services although equity participation from foreign airlines is not permitted. In the area of airport infrastructure, foreign equity participation upto 74% is automatically approved while larger ratios need a case-by-case approval. Five new world class international airports will also be constructed under a project announced by the Prime Minister. The sites for the five airports are being finalised, after which pre-feasibility studies and tender floating will be done. These will allow 100% foreign equity participation.

### Mining

Mining accounts for 11% of India's total industrial production. This sector has been de-licensed, and foreign investment upto 50% is automatically approved in all areas, except gold, silver, and precious stones. Special fiscal incentives like 100% depreciation for some equipment and deduction of expenditure on prospecting/extracting/production upto 5 years also exist.

### Petroleum

Foreign investment in this sector is invited in all areas including exploration, refining, marketing and distribution, natural gas, etc as well as in associated services. Foreign equity upto 100% is allowed for exploration of small fields while the limit is 60% for medium-sized fields. For refining, foreign equity upto 26% is possible while for pipelines (distribution), the limit is 51%.

### Tourism/Hotel Industry

There is high tourist traffic growth (6% compounded over the last 10 years compared to a world average of 3%) and this sector is expected to show excellent growth prospects in future. Tourist arrivals from Spain also have been registering growth and in 1998-99 stood at 25,309 as compared to 22,903 in the previous year. Foreign investment in this sector is approved automatically upto 51%. There are also special incentives like exemption of tax upto 50% on profits in foreign exchange, import duty reductions, etc.

### B. Foreign Portfolio Investment

India invites investment in all securities traded on the primary and secondary markets. Over 525 Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) are registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and cumulative net investment by FIIs exceeded US \$ 8.75 billion by the end of August 1998. There is no restriction on the volumes subject to certain restrictions.

## SPECIAL INCENTIVES FOR NRIs / PIOs

With the launching of the Persons of Indian Origin Cards, Non Resident Indians (NRIs), Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) and Overseas Corporate Bodies (OCBs), opportunities and facilities available for doing business with and in India have opened up like never before (see the PIO Card in the section on consular matters). Like all other Indians they can freely engage in all business activities in India with very few exceptions, and with the PIO Card they do not even need a visa to visit India.

## GHANA: IMPORT/EXPORT PROCEDURES

IMPORT INFORMATION

PRINCIPAL PORT(S): Accra, Takoradi, Tema.

LANGUAGE(S): English. African languages including: Akan, Mossi-Dagomba, Ewe and Ga.

RELIGION: Indigenous beliefs 38%, Muslim 30%, Christian 24%, other 8%.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES: Metric system.

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY: 230/250v. single or 3-phase. 50 cycles AC.

CURRENCY(-IES): 1 cedi (C) = 100 pesewas.

INTERNATIONAL DIRECT DIALING CODE(S): 00 233.

TIME: GMT (1 hour behind BST).

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS: 1, Jan; 6, Mar; 1, May; 4, June; 1, July; 6, 25, 26, 31 Dec; in addition, the following which have variable dates: Good Friday; Easter Monday; Eid Al Fitr, Eid Al Adha.

CHAMBER(S) OF COMMERCE: Ghana National Chamber of Commerce, Standard Chartered Bank Building, Kojo Thompson Road (PO Box 2325), Accra. Tel: 62427 & 62210, telex: 2057 a/b COMM GH.

IMPORT RESTRICTIONS: Certain products require a special permit, these are: specified pharmaceuticals, arms and ammunition, telecommunication equipment, chemicals and explosives. Public sector imports are channelled through the Ghana Supply Commission, PO Box M35, Africa. Tel: 22818, fax: 668452.

EXCHANGE CONTROL: Foreign exchange transactions by the private sector are carried out by authorised banks and Foreign Exchange Bureaus. Foreign exchange for official payments is administered by the Bank of Ghana.

BILL(S) OF LADING: No special regulations. May be made out "to order". Weight/measurement details must be stated in Imperial and Metric units.

Note: The original freight account, officially receipted by the shipping company, must accompany all documents when payment is made through a bank.

CONSULAR INVOICE(S): None.

COMMERCIAL INVOICES: Combined with C/V for all goods. Forms Certificate of Value forms C.61 (No. 722) (prescribed for all goods, irrespective of origin), on the back of which Invoices are printed, or C.61 (No. 522) SITPRO aligned format as prescribed. Imports must be supported by the actual manufacturer's invoices as well as the supplier's/exporter's invoices in cases where the suppliers/exporters are not also the manufacturers, except in the following circumstances:

1. Where the exporter is a stockist he should amend form C.61 to read "stockist" in place of "manufacturer/supplier" and add "EX STOCK" to the heading.
2. Where the exporter submits his invoice and the manufacturer's invoice to his bank for the bank to certify that the exporter's invoice truly represents particulars of the goods and the selling price together with all charges up to the time of landing.

Show on invoices:

- a. rate and amount of freight
- b. individual measurements and weights of packages
- c. freight rebates or discounts as a deduction from gross amount of freight
- d. a certificate that insurance has not been taken out
- e. the exact nature of each discount allowed.

Where goods are not invoiced c. & f. and importer pays freight or other charges in Ghana, details of such charges need not be shown by the supplier on his invoice. Invoices must not bear the clause "E. & O.E". Facsimile signatures are not accepted by Customs. Customs require 2 copies.

SPECIAL CERTIFICATE(S):

1. Pre-shipment inspection (PSI) of imports has been replaced in Ghana by a destination inspection scheme to be operated under government contract by two companies:

Gateway Services Limited (for shipments arriving by sea)

Tel: 00 233 21 775698/779610

Fax: 00 233 27 553522

GSBV Co Ltd (for shipments arriving by air or land)

Tel: 00 233 21 242332/243475

Fax: 00 233 21 242331

2. Whisky importers require a Certificate of Age (minimum 3 years) as issued by HM Customs (C. & E. Form No. 96).

INSURANCE: Must be arranged in Ghana on shipments for government orders.

CONSULAR FEE(S): None.

MARKING OF GOODS: Special regulations now exist for marking of food, drugs and other goods. There is a requirement for all goods to be marked with (among other things) a name or description of the goods, production identification numbers, any special storage or handling precautions, the country of origin/supply and the name of the maker or exporter. Regulations covering the labelling of chemicals, medicines and foodstuffs require special attention and may need to be discussed with the customer before an order is finalised. All labelling must be in English.

PACKING MATERIAL: No restrictions, but the hot and humid climate should be considered when preparing shipments for this area.

MARKING OF CASES: No regulations.

AIR FREIGHT: Foregoing regulations apply.

POSTAL PARCELS: Foregoing regulations apply. Com/I should be despatched in advance of parcels.

SAMPLES: Genuine trade samples are admitted duty free under OGL provided quantities are not excessive. Temporary duty-free admissions of samples of value will be allowed against deposit or security provided re-exportation takes place usually within three months.

BANK(S): Standard Bank of Ghana Ltd, Ghana Commercial Bank, Social Security Bank, Agricultural Development Bank, Cooperative Bank, National Investment Bank, Ecobank Ghana Ltd, Bank for Housing and Construction, Merchant Bank (GH) Ltd, Meridian BIAO Bank.

DUTIES: Assessed ad valorem on the CIF value.

## TRADE INFORMATION

MAIN INDUSTRIES: Gold, cocoa, timber, tuna, bauxite, aluminum, manganese ore and diamonds.

MAIN PRODUCTS EXPORTED: pineapples, peppers, and as above.

INTERNATIONAL TRADING REPUTATION: The exporter will be paid in either US\$ or other foreign currency and the recipient of the goods will wire currency direct to the exporter's bank account.

MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS: UK, Germany, US, Togo, Netherlands and Japan.

TRADE AGREEMENTS: World Trade Organisation (WTO), signatory to the Lome Convention: a trade and aid agreement between the EU and 46 of Europe's former trading colonies. Member of ECOWAS the Economic Community of Western African States, which groups both anglophone and francophone states within the region.

TRADE AND CUSTOMS REGULATIONS: Ghana currently has a harmonising commodity coding

system. Goods arriving in the country may be assessed for liability for import tax based on weight, value or volume. There are certain goods which are rated higher to protect equivalent domestic products. Goods imported into the country must be covered by an Import Declaration Form (IDF). To clear goods through customs the importer must adhere to the formalities of a commercial invoice, Bank of Ghana form and a pre-shipment inspection form. Ghana imposes strict controls on currency exchange and the import and export of gold, diamonds and other natural resources.

VAT: Generally a value added tax is imposed.

*Source:*

- 1) *Government of Ghana*
- 2) *Indian Embassy in Ghana*

## EXPORT/IMPORT PROC

Mauritius has an open economy, with very few restrictions on exports and imports. Trade policies are geared towards securing the import requirements of the population as well as promoting Mauritius as a business centre from where export and re-export activities can fully take place.

Furthermore, Mauritius is a member of various important international organisations as well as regional blocks and it is to be noted that the island is one of the first African countries to be eligible under the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

## PROCEDURE FOR EXPORTS

Exports of almost all items can be conducted freely except for a few controlled items for which export permits are required prior to effecting exports.

The main documents that are relevant to the exporter are listed hereunder:

- Invoice
- Packing list
- Bill of lading / Airway bill
- Bill of entry
- Insurance certificate (if applicable)
- Certificate of inspection (if applicable)
- Certificate of origin (if applicable)
- Certificate of health (if applicable)
- Export permit (if applicable)

### Certificate of origin

The certificate of origin applicable to the exporter's consignment depends on the country of destination and on the possibility for it to benefit from any scheme of preferential tariffs.

### Certificate of health

Most countries require veterinary or phyto-sanitary certificates in respect of animals, animal products and for agricultural products such as fruits and flowers. The exporter and the issuing authority must be aware of the requirements in order to be in a position to satisfy the buyer. Generally, the

authorities in the buyer's country will issue a list of requirements and identify the corresponding authority that can issue the desired certificates. Local exporters are required to contact the Ministry of Agriculture and/or the Ministry of Health as regards those certificates.

Export permits :

These permits are applicable in cases where

- Products of strategic importance and products sensitive to the economy, such as wheat, flour, spices, products containing sugar, cement, silver and gold;
- Products whose market access is regulated, e.g. clothing for the US and Canada.

The Ministry of Commerce issues licenses subject to prior approval by the respective authorities

- The Mauritius Sugar Syndicate for sugar
- The Tea Board for tea
- The Agricultural Marketing Board for spices
- The Ministry of Health for pharmaceuticals
- The Ministry of Agriculture for listed agricultural products

## PROCEDURE FOR IMPORTS

Mauritius has a liberalised import sector, which enables almost all types of goods to be brought into the country, some of which may require special permits or certificates.

The following import documents are required by Customs:

- Invoice, showing the FOB and CIF value of goods
- Packing list
- Bill of lading / Airway bill
- Bill of entry
- Insurance certificate (if applicable)
- Certificate of inspection (if applicable)
- Certificate of origin (if applicable)
- Import permits (if applicable)

### Certificate of origin

Goods originating from a scheduled territory benefit from a preferential rate of customs duties. In order to benefit from this, a certificate of origin must be produced to the Customs Department. It has to be issued in the scheduled territory where the goods originate. This certificate must be signed or visaed by a Government Authority or by a Chamber of Commerce in the originating scheduled territory.

Such certificates must specify that the final manufacturing process has taken place in the scheduled territory and the goods have undergone substantial processing with at least 50% of materials, labour and other manufacturing costs incurred in that same scheduled territory. The manufacturing costs, which are ex-factory costs, have also to be clearly defined. The following certificates of origin are accepted by Customs:

- EUR 1 certificate issued under the Cotonou Convention
- COMESA certificates of origin
- SADC certificates of origin
- IOC Certificates of origin
- Certificates issued by Chambers of Commerce or other approved bodies

### Import Permits

A few products are subject to import permits, mainly for health, security, environmental purposes and national interest. The Ministry of Commerce is responsible for the control of importation of these items in collaboration with other controlling agencies. Import permits normally require clearance from the relevant Authorities, e.g.:

- Ministry of Agriculture for agricultural goods (the Plant Quarantine Service) and for animal products (the Veterinary Division);
- Ministry of Health for prepared foods, drugs, and chemicals with potential adverse effects on health;
- Police for arms and ammunitions;
- Ministry of Information for cinema films;
- Mauritius Telecom for telecommunications equipment.
- Ministry of Fisheries for fish and fish products

### Importation and control of agricultural goods

Import permits from the Ministry of Agriculture are required for grains, plants, or seeds, animal foodstuffs, meat, fish products, and live animals.

- Plants, fruit and vegetables require a phytosanitary certificate;
- Livestock, meat and offals require a health certificate (veterinary control);
- Alcoholic beverages require a certificate of analysis on first importation for Customs and Excise.

### Importation and control of drugs

The Ministry of Health has drawn up a list of essential substances required to meet the country's medical needs. Controlled drugs like psychotropic drugs and narcotics, which are subject to international control under International Conventions, are imported through an import-export licensing system. The quantities of these drugs are strictly controlled in order to ensure their legitimate use.

As regards the import of other drugs for use in the public sector, they are subject to international tenders. Imported pharmaceuticals must be registered for sale in their country of origin. Registered wholesale pharmaceutical establishments import medicines for sale in the private sector. They are required to be registered with the Pharmacy Board prior to importation in accordance with the Pharmacy Act 1985.

### Importation and control of pesticides

The Pesticide Control Act outlines requirements for packaging and marketing of pesticides. The importer has to provide evidence that the pesticide that he proposes to import into Mauritius is registered in the country of origin. Based on the information submitted, the Pesticides Control Board examines the request on a case-by-case basis and decides as to whether or not an import permit can be granted.

### Safety Standards

Arms, ammunition, dynamite and explosives are subject to control. Import and sale of electric water heaters are subject to control. The safety standards applicable are the same as British ones.

### Prohibited Imports

There are a number of products that cannot be imported, mainly due to safety reasons.

### Import Monopoly

For certain strategic reasons, trade in some products is carried out by para-statal organisations. The State Trading Corporation (STC), the Agricultural Marketing Board (AMB), and the Mauritius Meat Authority (MMA) are the main para-statal organisations involved in the procurement and storage of certain products. The retailing is left to the private sector.

The State Trading Corporation is the only authorised importer of ration rice, wheat flour and petroleum products. The importation of luxury rice is entrusted to the private sector, and the importation of cement is shared between the State Trading Corporation and the privately owned Mauritius Portland Cement Company Ltd. The STC manages storage facilities for rice and flour, and it is responsible for the distribution of staple foods. Local oil companies distribute petroleum products.

The Agricultural Marketing Board holds monopoly and, in certain cases, monitors importation of agricultural products which compete with domestically produced goods for which there are marketing schemes and guaranteed prices, such as: potatoes, onions, garlic, maize, turmeric, cardamom.

The Meat Authority is a para-statal body functioning under the aegis of the Ministry of Agriculture. This Authority has the power to establish and manage abattoirs, purchase and import livestock for slaughter, control and regulate the sale of meat and meat products and, with the approval of the Ministry of Commerce, to fix prices.

The Tobacco Board purchases all the local tobacco production, at prices based on production costs. The tobacco is afterwards sold to the sole manufacturer, British American Tobacco Plc Ltd. Imports for blending purposes are effected by the manufacturer who must apply for an import permit obtainable from the Tobacco Board.

The Tea Board issues import and export permits. Imports by manufacturers are permitted for blending purposes while private traders may import those types of teas that are not grown in Mauritius. For tea imports, the payment of a license fee, a statutory levy and a cess are required.

The Mauritius Sugar Syndicate is the sole supplier of sugar for domestic consumption. It is also responsible for the management of all sugar production sold abroad

*Source: Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industries*

## INTERNATIONAL INVITATION OF TENDER

### AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION

No.ADM/ASD/ITP/5/19/08.05

#### Provision of Telecommunication Services by Satellite for the African Union Commission

#### 1.Object

The African union commission is inviting tenders for the provision of telecommunication services by satellite between its headquarters, located in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), and all its decentralized offices in Africa, Europe and the United States of America. These services should also be available for the African Union member states as well as the Regional economic Communities, within the framework of their interaction with the African Union Commission.

This network should allow the African Union Commission to have the following services :

- Voice Over IP
- Video conference
- High rate Internet access

For this invitation to tender, the African Union Commission is only interested by the bids of commercial telecommunication service providers who are satellite owners, or operate the network

#### 2. Participation terms

Participation to the hereby invitation to tender is open to any company, duly formed and specialized in the field, and whose proposal features comply with the criteria defined in the specifications.

The criteria for selection and the documents to be provided are included in the request for proposal documents.

### 3. Collection of the specifications

The specifications of the hereby invitation to tender can be collected at the headquarters of the African Union Commission

### 4. Proposal submission deadline

Proposal should be addressed to the commissioner of Infrastructure and Energy of the African Union at address referred to hereinafter at the latest on October 6,2005 at 17:00hrs

### 5. Bid Opening

The bids will be opened at the headquarters of the African Union Commission, in Addis Ababa on 7 October 2005 at 10:00hrs local time

Duly mandated persons can represent the tenderers.

The African Union Commission reserves the right to make any subsequent modifications to the hereby invitation to tender or to reject part of the bid or all the bids.

### 6. Additional information

Additional information can be obtained at the African Union Commission, at the address hereinafter:

African Union Commission  
Director of Administration  
And Human Resources  
Addis-Ababa Ethiopia  
P.O.Box 3243  
Tel: (251) 1 –51 77 00  
Fax: (251) 1 51 78 44  
Email:AUCVSAT@AFRICA-UNION.ORG

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

### EU/ACP Microfinance Framework Programme

The EU/ACP Microfinance Programme is accepting applications for their Call for Proposals, which aims at strengthening the institutional capacity of microfinance actors in African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries.

They are soliciting applications that meet at least one of the four following objectives:

1. Diversifying financial services for the poor
2. Applying technology to reduce the transaction costs of financial services
3. Assisting the expansion of outreach in underserved markets
4. Enhancing transparency in the microfinance industry

They are looking for proposals from specialised organisations with a proven track record in supporting microfinance development. These organisations can be:

- Retail financial service providers (MFIs, downscaled-banks, credit unions etc) and their associations and networks
- Providers of technical and business services to the microfinance sector
- Providers of wholesale finance keen on building capacity of microfinance suppliers in order to catalyse investments into more risky regions/institutions

The total allocation for the Call for Proposals is 7.2 million EUR. The funding available for co-financing a proposed action is a minimum of 250.000 and a maximum of 1 million EUR.

#### For More Information

If your organisation is interested in strengthening the microfinance sector in ACP countries, Log on to the Web site ([www.euacpmicrofinance.org](http://www.euacpmicrofinance.org)) to learn more about Call for Proposals and how to apply for it.

see also

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/acp/microfinance/docs/guidelines\\_en.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/acp/microfinance/docs/guidelines_en.pdf)).

The dead line for submission of application is 20 October 2005.

If you need further clarification, please contact:

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Programme Coordinator (based in Brussels),

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## INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN NIGERIA

Globe Marketing International Corp, (Globe Corporation) a Canadian company with considerable experience in export-import, manufacturing and business development, particularly in Africa, have identified several highly profitable investment opportunities in Nigeria. Projects that will enable you make good returns on your investment, are everywhere in Nigeria. For business people looking for new market to sell to, invest in and or manufacture in, Nigeria has the right climate today.

Globe Marketing International Corp, Canada is therefore looking for investors who will support the various projects that are currently being considered. (see list below). Each one of these projects is expected to yield a minimum of 25% gross profit per year, over the next 5 years. Some could easily generate over 50% starting with the very first year.

Proposed arrangement. Investor will invest into specific project. For example, if you invest \$100,000 today in any project listed, you should expect a minimum of \$25,000 profit back at the end of 12 months from start of project.

Investors are being sought for these projects in 2005 - 2006.

Project No	Project	Capital (USD)	Target Market
10600	Wholesale distribution	\$1,000,000	Local
10601	Hotel Development	\$5,000,000	Local
10602	Residential & Commercial Real Estate Development	\$5,000,000	Local
10802	Alternate Energy Market Development	\$2,500,000	Local & Export
10501	Food Processing & Packaging	\$1,250,000	Local & Export
10201	Manufacture of Clothing items	\$1,500,000	Local & Export
10209	Manufacture of Furniture	\$600,000	Local & Export
10215	Factory Improvement Engineering Services	\$500,000	Local
10217	Computer Trades Training School	\$300,000	Local
10219	Internet Provider Services	\$300,000	Local

10223	Solid Waste Management	\$600,000	Local
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Hundreds of other opportunities are available. To participate and or seek additional information, please send your project idea or suggestion to us through the address below.

The Director  
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