

Friday, August 26 16:00–18:00 | Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), Times Tower “KRA Auditorium”

Boosting Intra-African Trade: A Key for Regional Economic Integration and African Competitiveness

Cohosted by New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Planning and Coordination Agency, World Customs Organization (WCO), and East African Community (EAC)

1. Background

Regional economic integration is indispensable to ensure sustainable growth of industries including agriculture, minerals, manufacturing, and tourism, in that it promotes trade facilitation as well as intra-African trade expansion. However, the amount of intra-African trade is much lower than the average in other regions, accounting for only 12% of the total trade in Africa in 2015.

In this context, One Stop Border Posts (OSBPs) have been introduced on the continent for the trade facilitation through reducing the daily border crossing time/cost with a sleek and efficient system embracing all border procedures, such as customs, immigration, and vehicular clearance. Several OSBPs have already begun or are about to begin operations, including Rusumo (Tanzania/Rwanda), Namanga (Kenya/Tanzania), Malaba (Uganda/Kenya), Holili/Taveta (Tanzania/Kenya), Chirundu (Zambia/Zimbabwe), and Cinkanse (Burkina Faso/Togo).

Equally important for regional economic integration through stimulated intra-African trade is to boost the production side, which must accompany or precede transport infrastructure development. It is from this perspective that in recent years, some key initiatives have been launched aiming at industry and economic development along "development corridors."

2. Objectives

- To present an overview of ongoing and planned interventions for the trade facilitation in Africa and discuss issues surrounding trade facilitation to provide future directions, including collective policy actions to be taken by key stakeholders.
- To review recent initiatives regarding industry development and economic development along corridors and to provide the division of roles as well as the model of cooperation among key stakeholders, such as public-private partnership (PPP), toward regional economic integration.

3. Key Questions

- What are major achievements in trade facilitation and challenges to be addressed by key stakeholders?
- What are necessary actions and effective approaches to stimulate intra-African trade for realizing regional economic integration?

4. Speakers

- Mr. Masaaki Kato, Senior Special Advisor, JICA
- Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Chief Executive Officer, NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency
- Dr. Kunio Mikuriya, Secretary General, World Customs Organization
- Dr. Enos S. Bukuku, Deputy Secretary General, East African Community
- Representatives of the private sector

