

EVENT REPORT



.....
AFRICA FREE ZONES
ORGANIZATION
WORKSHOP
.....
MARCH 2019

EVENT SUMMARY REPORT



The Africa Free Zone Organization (AFZO) in collaboration with the Nkok Special Economic Zones (NKOK SEZ) organized a training workshop in Libreville, Gabon, on March 27th, 2019, under the theme: **“The Impact of SEZ in achieving Sustainable Economic Development in Africa”**.

The workshop sessions addressed relevant topics related to the Contribution of the African Economic Zones in the Industrialization and Regional Trade Development, in addition to the Implementation of “Green Zone” Policies and Sustainable Economic Growth.

The event gathered more than 170 participants from Economic Zones and Free Zones from Gabon, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Mali, Nigeria.

It aimed to create a unique opportunity for participants to explore and obtain crucial information on the roles, challenges and critical issues related to the development of Economic Zones and Sustainability of Industries and Investment in Ghana.

SPEAKERS AND EXPERTS



Mr GABRIEL NTOUGOU
CEO Nkok SEZ Authority Libreville
Africa Free Zones Organization



Mr AHMED BENNIS
General Secretary
Africa Free Zones Organization



Mr DAUDA FODAY SUMA
Senior Industrial Advisor
Global Green Growth Institute



Mr SAND MBA KALU
Executive Director, Africa International
Trade & Commerce Research



Mr JACQUES FIORELLA
Managing Director,
Furukawa Electric



Dr ADARSH VARMA
Associate Director,
BuroHappold Engineering



Mr AHMED BENLARABI
Head of PV systems
IRESEN

OPENING CEREMONY

The AFZO Workshop Started with Opening speech by Mr. Biendi Maganga-Moussavou, the Gabonese Minister of Agriculture and Livestock.

He commanded the initiative of Africa Free Zones Organization to set up a training program and stated that «The holding in Libreville of this international workshop on free zones gives us the opportunity to assess the operational impact of our various free zones».



Mr Biendi Maganga-Moussavou,
Minister of Agriculture and Livestock,
Gabon



Mr Ahmed Bennis,
General Secretary,
Africa Free Zones Organization

Drawing the parallel with «the goal of building together within the African community a model to emerge Economic Zones and especially to attract FDI», Ahmed Bennis, General Secretary of the AFZO, stressed the importance of «developing one's own model», which should adapt to «constraints» and «environments» and «best meet the expectations of investors». Ahmed Bennis also enumerated the four fundamental pillars to develop nowadays an Economic Zone in Africa.

Mr Gabriel Ntougou, Managing director at Nkok Special Economic Zones highlighted the importance of the Training Program organized by AFZO to support its members in promoting good governance and deploy best practices in the development of African Economic Zones and Free Zones, and stated the following: «We will make a horizon tour across all the free zones in Africa, to review their real contribution to growth, and what a free zone means to the average citizen, also how this phenomenon should be understood».



Mr Gabriel Ntougou,
Managing Director,
Nkok Special Economic Zone

WORKSHOP SESSIONS

THE IMPACT OF SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES IN ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA



Panel Discussion:

Industrialization and regional trade development: Contribution of Economic Zones and Free Zones

Mr ADARSH VARMA, Associate Director, Burohappold Engineering,

Mr Adarsh showcased evidence of Special Economic Zones' performance in the development of regional trade and promoting exports.

He underlined the role of regional trade regimes, and pointed out the importance of an attractive incentive framework to stimulate investments implementation within Special Economic Zones.

Mr SAND MBA KALU, Executive Director, AITCR,

Mr Sand highlighted the remarkable window of opportunity that SEZ are representing to foster Africa's Economic Sustainable advancement, especially with the coming into force of the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement.

He shared successful stories that enabled sustainable industrial development.

JACQUES FIORELLA, Managing Director, Furukawa Morocco,

Mr Fiorella made a short presentation on Furukawa investment in Africa.

He emphasized the contribution of Economic Zones and Free zones in attracting industrial investment through comprehensive incentives schemes, Advanced Logistics and Trade facilitation.

Meet the Expert:

Implementing “Green Zone” Policies within African Economic Zones and Free Zones

Mr AHMED BENLARABI, Head of PV systems, Iresen,

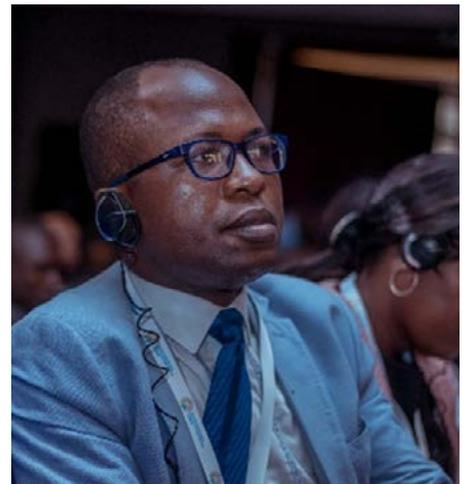
Mr Benlarabi shared the experience of Iresen in R&D in solar energy and renewable energies projects. He described the opportunities for Special Economic Zones in applying Energy Smart Management, Grid stabilization, renewable energy supplies capacities and Energy consumption optimization.

Mr DAUDA FODAY SUMA, Senior Industrial Advisor, GGGI,

Mr Dauda Highlighted the importance of implementing green zone policies. He presented the benefits of Resource Efficiency as major Catalyst to Sustainable Growth.

He also stressed Policy Instruments for Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production in Industries.

CLOSING SESSION



During the closing session of the Africa Free Zones Organization (AFZO)' Workshop in Libreville, Gabon, a panel of Q&A and enriching discussions was held.

Mr Gabriel Ntougou, CEO of Nkok Special Economic Zone Authority, gave the closing speech, reminding the importance of having such an organization in the continent, and commending AFZO efforts implementing its training program to support its members.

Mr Ahmed BENNIS, General Secretary of Africa Free Zones Organization congratulated the organization team, and states: "This workshop session is a good demonstration of the strong relationship between AFZO and its members community. The AFZO workshop in Gabon was a great success for both Africa Free Zones Organization and Nkok SEZ".

SITE VISIT

With a staff of 104 agents and 20 public administrations that make up the single window, the dual mission of NKOK SEZ Authority is to offer investors all the administrative services necessary for the good conduct of their businesses and to make the zone a clean environmental framework and secure space for investment in Africa.



Single Window, NKOK SEZ Authority



Gabon Wood Industries (GWI)

Gabon Wood Industries (GWI) was established in 2012 in the Gabon Special Economic Zone (GSEZ) and owns 400,000 Ha of forest in the southern part of Gabon, near to Mouila, West Central of Africa with an annual production of approximately 400,000m3 of round logs.

NKOK Exhibition room is a show room spread over 9 000 square meters to showcase furniture manufactured in the cluster
Packaging and Logistics: 2 000 square meters packaging and 4 000 square meters logistics facility within cluster for customs clearance.



Showroom, NKOK Exhibition Room

EVENT PHOTO GALLERY

AFZO WORKSHOP CONFERENCES



AFZO WORKSHOP – SITE VISIT



AFZO WORKSHOP ON MEDIA



Économie

Tenue à Libreville de la 10ème édition de l'atelier international des Zones franches d'Afrique

27-03-2019



Industrialisation : L'apport des zones examinée à Libreville

note par *Alla-Ida Mwanza* / dans *ÉCONOMIE* / 28 mars, 2019

Sous le thème "La contribution des zones franches au progrès économique et au développement économique durable en Afrique", l'Association des zones franches africaines (Afzo) et l'Autorité administrative de la Zone économique spéciale de Nkok ont organisé le 27 mars un atelier. L'idée était de renforcer les relations de partenariats entre les zones franches africaines.



**MATIN
EQUATORIAL**

ACCUEIL POLITIQUE SOCIÉTÉ ÉCONOMIE CULTURE SPORT



Zones Franches : Un Workshop Pour Outiller Les Etats Membres



ZONES FRANCHES AFRICAINES : QUEL IMPACT ÉCONOMIQUE POUR LE CONTINENT ?

vendredi 29 mars 2019 Économie



Zones franches africaines : Les experts en conclave à Libreville



Gabonactu.com

ACCUEIL ACTUALITÉS POLITIQUE SOCIÉTÉ NTIC ENVIRONNEMENT

SUR LE FIL

Accueil Économie

Un conclave à Libreville pour promouvoir les zones franches africaines

Publié par Modérateur | Date: mercredi 27 mars 2019





www.africafreezones.com