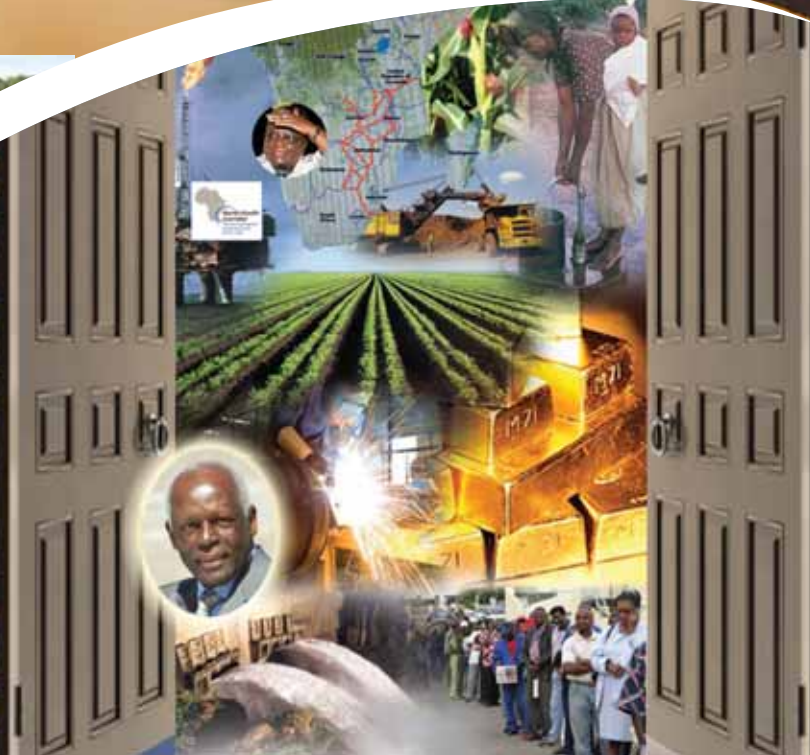




SOUTHERN AFRICA TODAY



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The Year 2011

SOUTHERN AFRICA took another step towards regional integration this year, with achievements as well as challenges in trade integration, energy, conservation, and gender equality.

The main indicator of trade integration was the formal launch of negotiations by SADC, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the East African Community (EAC) to establish an integrated market covering 26 countries, half of Africa.

The proposed Tripartite Free Trade Area is expected to boost intra-regional trade by creating a wider market, more investment flows, stronger competition, and the development of cross-regional infrastructure.

This “Grand” FTA would offer a combined market of more than 600 million people and a Gross Domestic Product of about US\$1 trillion, opening borders to literally half of the continent, spanning the entire southern and eastern regions of Africa – from the Cape to Cairo.

Major infrastructure projects planned by the three Regional Economic Communities

(RECs) include those along the North-South Corridor, which traverses eight countries in southern and eastern Africa, stretching between the ports of Dar es Salaam and Durban.

An initial US\$1.2 billion was raised in April 2009 to upgrade regional infrastructure, including more than 8,000 kilometres of roads and 600km of rail, as well as ports and energy transmission lines.

SADC continues to experience serious energy shortfalls as it advances toward the desired surplus power generation, expected in 2014 if short term power projects are implemented on time.

Power utilities who are members of the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) have identified priority projects for commissioning over the next few years, and the region is slowly turning to renewable energy as the move towards cleaner, alternative energy gains momentum through development of renewable energy sources such as solar, hydro and wind.

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The Year 2011

The 2011 Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government reviewed the implementation of infrastructure programmes including the Zimbabwe-Zambia-Botswana-Namibia (ZiZaBoNa) interconnector for electricity and underscored the importance of infrastructure, urging speedy conclusion of the Infrastructure Master Plan.

In 2011, SADC established the world's largest Trans Frontier park when five countries signed the treaty for the Kavango-Zambezi Trans Frontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA), involving Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe and covering an area of some 444,000 square kilometres.

As the year drew to a close, South Africa hosted a major global conference on climate change tasked with negotiating a consensus on the future of the Kyoto Protocol that expires in 2012.

The 17th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (known as COP17) offered an opportunity for the global community to reach agreement towards a common goal. By the end of the conference, they had agreed to continue talking for another three years.

SADC Summit had urged all Member States to support the African common position.

2011 was the year that the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development received enough ratifications to enter into force, although delays in depositing documents with the SADC Secretariat may move that milestone into 2012.

The challenge remains in domestication and implementation of the Protocol, and SADC gender ministers have initiated a process towards a regional action plan,

although some countries will not participate. Nine member states have ratified the Protocol, leaving four signatories to do so, while Botswana and Mauritius continue to refuse to sign, saying respectively that they cannot meet the targets or have reservations about certain clauses.

The SADC region had made significant advances in equal representation of women and men in politics and decision-making, towards the SADC and African Union target of "50-50 by 2015", however the past two years have seen a serious reversal in progress with the number of women in parliament and cabinet actually going down in most countries that held elections.

In Zambia, only two women were appointed ministers in a trimmed 19-member Cabinet, representing just 10.5 percent.

Five SADC Member States held elections this year, based on the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections, and a SADC Elections Observation Mission (SEOM) was dispatched to each election to determine conformity with regional and international standards.

The people of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Mauritius, Seychelles and Zambia went to the polls for national elections, while South Africans voted for municipal councillors in local elections.

In Madagascar, SADC continued with its mediation efforts and in a major breakthrough, the Malagasy parties have agreed to hold general elections in 2012. Madagascar slid into political turmoil in March 2009 when opposition leader Andry

Rajoelina seized power from President Marc Ravalomanana in a public demonstration backed by the military.

SADC mediation efforts in Lesotho were successfully concluded, and ongoing in Zimbabwe, where elections are expected next year following a referendum on a new Constitution.

The SADC Summit held in Luanda, Angola in August reviewed the socio-economic situation in the region, noting improvement in the macro-economic performance indicators in 2010 over 2009, such as growth in real average GDP which stood at 4.9 percent, investments which improved to 24.9 percent of GDP, and a decline in inflation to 7.5 percent.

called on the Ministerial Task Force on Regional Economic Integration to deepen debate on how to protect the region from external shocks.

The Ministerial Task Force was established this year to identify priorities to reorient the SADC integration agenda, and Summit urged the Task Force to engage in strategic discussions in this regard in the context of review of the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP).

The proposed SADC Customs Union, postponed since 2010, is one of the subjects for study by the Task Force to expedite work leading to a common understanding and agreement on the proposed customs union, which would allow



President José Eduardo Dos Santos of Angola (left) is the current chair of SADC from August 2011 to August 2012, and President Jacob Zuma of South Africa chairs the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation during the same period.

Most SADC countries continued to make a steady recovery from the global financial crisis that has affected most of the world since 2008 and most are expected to record economic growth rates well above 5 percent in 2011 on the back of strong performance by the key sectors of agriculture, mining and manufacturing.

However, Summit noted the need to remain alert to the risks posed by financial and economic volatilities in developed economies and

SADC Member States to have a common external tariff.

Summit also reviewed HIV and AIDS in the key focus areas of prevention, treatment, care and support, and noted that the region has recorded a significant decline in new infections since 2009.

Summit noted progress in the regional food security situation, in cereal, non-cereal, and livestock production, and urged Member States to increase production, diversity and promote income-generating opportunities. r

SADC approves plan to cut emissions from forest degradation

SADC MINISTERS responsible for environment and natural resources have approved a regional plan to help Member States to tap into benefits derived from reducing emissions from deforestation.

The programme document on “SADC Support Programme on Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD)” was approved during a meeting in Windhoek, Namibia.

In the document, Member States have agreed to coordinate inter and intra-sector activities and to push for policy harmonization of national REDD programmes, as well as to develop monitoring systems for forests and carbon emissions and aim for the establishment of reference emission and other REDD targets.

The programme creates a common regional framework on how to implement “REDD+” activities on similar forest ecosystems, including those whose distribution straddles political boundaries. “REDD+” goes beyond what REDD is preoccupied with, that is deforestation and forest degradation, to include the role of conservation and sustainable management of forests.

The framework will enable Member States to address issues of illegal trade in forest products and concerns about “leakages” where forest protection or sustainable forest management in one country may result in illegal activities or unsustainable practices being exported elsewhere.

This will strengthen capacities of countries to design REDD+ policies and programmes, while at the same time providing a framework for strategic cooperation among SADC Member States on issues of regional interest.

Implementation of REDD+ is expected to complement, facilitate and enhance the existing regional policies and protocols on Forestry, Wildlife Management and Trans Frontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs) for management of biological diversity.

SADC becomes the first regional organization in Africa to agree on a comprehensive programme to support Member States in their efforts to combat climate change and achieve their development goals through reduced emissions in the forestry sector.

Climate change is threatening the ecosystems and livelihoods in the SADC region and its impacts are already being felt in many areas that are affected by droughts, floods, cyclones and rising sea levels.

Since 1990, southern Africa has witnessed high rates of deforestation contributing approximately one-third of the forested area lost in Africa over the past 20 years. Between 1990 and 2000, forest cover in the region dropped from 3.8 million sq km to 3.57 million sq km, representing an average decrease of 0.6 percent per annum.

The major drivers of deforestation in the region have been identified as the expansion of agriculture, shifting cultivation and

unregulated logging. All these are connected to high population growth, persistent poverty, increased energy demand and weak regulation and management of forests.

According to the SADC REDD programme document, biomass carbon losses from deforestation in the region amount to 54 percent of those from the entire continent.

Rural and urban demand for wood fuel has increased and is expected to continue rising due to growing populations and macro-economic changes. Most urban areas in the SADC region are surrounded by cleared land, the result of intensive woodcutting to supply the urban demand for fuel wood.

Carbon emissions from combined deforestation and degradation are over five times larger than those from all

other sources, making sustainable management and conservation of SADC forests as well as fire management particularly urgent mitigation measures.

There is also pressure to increase the area under agriculture to meet the food requirements of the growing population at the expense of forestry.

Rural industries use substantial amounts of wood to burn bricks, smoke fish, cure tobacco, brew beer and to dry salt. The equivalent of one hectare of woodland is cut to cure each hectare of tobacco.

The SADC REDD programme is in line with the region’s focus on adaptation, which has been the region’s position going into the climate change negotiations at COP17 in Durban, South Africa. r

Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation REDD Programme Priorities

MEMBER STATES agreed to coordinate inter and intra-sector activities and policy harmonization for national REDD programmes, as well as:

- ◆ International engagement on REDD and climate change processes;
- ◆ Capacity development to manage regional and national REDD programmes;
- ◆ Systems to monitor forests and carbon;
- ◆ Establishment of reference emission and reference levels for REDD;
- ◆ Knowledge management for REDD; and
- ◆ Sustainable funding mechanisms for REDD. r

Climate change negotiations to continue

THE 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change meeting in Durban, South Africa, has failed to produce an international agreement to address climate change.

Instead, negotiations are expected to continue until a global solution is found “not later than 2015”. In the meantime, a compromise deal called the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action, will guide negotiations towards a global agreement.

The Durban Platform, though representing a small step towards a global deal, falls short of the expectations of most developing countries as it does not address their concerns on a number of issues, including cuts in carbon emission levels as well as increased finance, technology and capacity building for adaptation and risk management.

Chairperson of the African Group of Negotiators, representing 53 African countries in the climate change negotiations, Tosi Mpanu of the Democratic Republic of Congo, said the Durban declaration does little to address climate change.

“It (outcome) has attempted to reach some middle ground, but the outcome lacks balance,” he said.

For example, Durban provided nothing of substance on finance required to capacitate developing countries to deal with climate change.

Whilst there was talk to operationalize the Green Climate Fund, there was no clarity on how the fund would be capitalized.

Furthermore, developing countries are sceptical about

the magnitude of these figures, and there are only pledges that are not binding on developed nations.

The fund, which is currently empty, intends to raise and disburse US\$100 billion a year by 2020, starting with US\$30 billion by 2012.

The funds are meant to assist developing countries to adapt to floods, droughts and other effects caused by climate change, while supporting developing countries to limit and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt economies and infrastructure to a changing climate.

Climate experts note that developing countries, particularly those in Africa, are already experiencing changes in the cycle of floods and droughts due to rising temperatures, even though their combined share of carbon emissions is insignificant.

On the Kyoto Protocol, which is a critical instrument in addressing climate change, the global community agreed to a second commitment period.

The second period is expected to start in January 2013 after parties turn their economy-wide targets into quantified emissions limits or reduction objectives. Parties to the agreement are expected to submit these targets for review by May 2012.

While this signals a positive step towards a climate change deal, there are concerns that the Protocol could only be implemented in 2015.

The Kyoto Protocol is the only legally binding treaty the world presently has to combat climate change.

However, some major polluters have either not acceded to the Protocol or



establishment of a group called the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action, designed to improve the coordination of adaptation actions on a global scale, as well as the creation of a Technology Mechanism. Both are to become operational in 2012.

The global community also agreed to set up an Adaptation Committee, composed of 16 members, which will report to the COP on its efforts to improve the coordination of adaptation actions at a global scale.

Governments agreed to set up a registry to record mitigation actions by developing countries that access financial support.

The conference adopted procedures to allow carbon-capture and storage projects. These guidelines will be reviewed every five years to ensure environmental integrity.

COP17 was held from 28 November to 10 December. There was high expectation that the conference would provide an opportunity for the global community to reach a binding agreement on addressing climate change. r

threatened to pull out. The United States is not a party to the Protocol while Canada has just pulled out.

While the text adopted recognises that deeper cuts in carbon emissions are needed, these are not legally binding and experts suggest that the latest pledges would lead to a 3.2°C rise in temperature, far higher than the 2°C generally considered by the Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change to be a safe level of warming.

This explains why Africa has insisted that the developed countries must cut emissions to at least 40 percent below the 1990 levels by 2020, and reach at least 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050 since they are the biggest emitters.

Other significant outcomes from Durban included the

Another good harvest forecast, despite late start to rains

HALFWAY THROUGH the 2011/12 farming season, the average rainfall situation looks bright for most of southern Africa, pointing to the prospects of another good cereal harvest for the region.

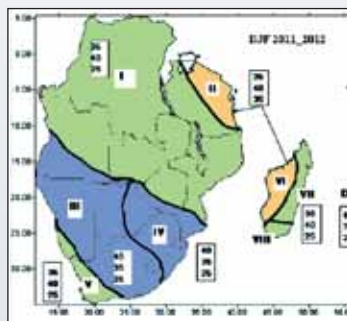
Enhanced chances of normal to above-normal rainfall are forecast between December 2011 and February 2012 in the north-eastern half of Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, most of Mozambique, south-western United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and most of Zimbabwe.

Similar conditions are forecast for the extreme south-western part of South Africa, extreme south of Namibia and the extreme

southern part of Madagascar, according to the latest climate outlook published by the SADC Climate Services Centre in December.

The south-western half of Angola, most of Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho, central

December 2011- February 2012 Outlook



South Africa, extreme south-western Zimbabwe, southern Mozambique and Swaziland are expected to have increased chances of receiving above-normal to normal rainfall during the forecast period.

In contrast, the northern half of Tanzania and western Madagascar are forecast to have increased chances of normal to below-normal rainfall.

The SADC Climate Services Centre attributed the favourable rainfall forecast to the presence of La Nina conditions which are associated with heavy rains in southern Africa.

“The current La Nina event is expected to contribute to the shifting of rainfall conditions into the normal to above normal conditions for most of the contiguous SADC region. However some parts, particularly the north-eastern portions, should get below normal rainfall,” the centre said.

Assessments by the SADC Food Security Early Warning System in October showed that most SADC Member States should record good

harvests during the 2011/12 farming season despite the late start to the rains and initial problems in accessing inputs by farmers in some countries.

“Latest rainfall forecasts indicate that most parts of the region may receive normal to above normal rains during the period November 2011 to January 2012. Should this be realized and farmers are able to timely access inputs, the region may have another good harvest in 2012,” said the update released in December. r

SADC seeks to improve regional seed supply

SOUTHERN AFRICA has launched a Seed Centre housed at the SADC Plant Genetic Resources Centre in Lusaka, Zambia to facilitate implementation of the SADC Harmonised Seed Regulatory System.

Launched in November, the Seed Centre aims to improve the use of improved seed varieties by smallholder farmers in the region.

According to Simon Mwale, a Programme Officer for Cereals Production at the SADC Secretariat, the use of improved seed among small-scale farmers is low in most SADC Member States, yet these farmers produced up to 80 percent of the main food crops in the region.

The SADC Harmonised Seed Regulatory System aims to increase the seed varieties available to farmers, promote investment in the seed sector and make it easier and cheaper for seed companies to introduce seed varieties in Member States. r

Slight drop in 2011 cereal harvest

FINAL REGIONAL estimates indicate a 2011 SADC cereal production of 33.06 million tonnes, which is down five percent on the 2010 harvest of 34.64 million tonnes.

The SADC Food Security Update in October attributed the decline to a 12 percent reduction in cereal production in South Africa.

“Individually, productions of both maize (26.63 million tonnes) and sorghum/millet (2.26 million tonnes) went down by eight percent each in 2011 compared to 2010, while productions of wheat and rice increased by 33 percent and 22 percent to 2.35 million tonnes and 1.82 million tonnes, respectively,” the update said.

Significant reductions in cereals in Angola and Namibia were due to destruction of crops by floods while in Lesotho production was negatively affected by water-logging conditions.

The update also showed that at least 2.86 million people in the region have poor access to food this year.

“The number of food insecure populations had increased in most countries, with the exception of Malawi and Swaziland,” it said. r

Comparison of Cereal Production for 2010, 2011

	Cereal Production (000 tonnes)		
	2010	2011	% Change
Angola	1,178	677	-42
Botswana	55	42	-24
Lesotho	137	73	-47
Malawi	3,572	4,080	14
Mauritius	2	2	0
Mozambique	2,641	2,935	11
Namibia	155	117	-25
South Africa	15,122	13,277	-12
Swaziland	75	89	18
Tanzania	7,095	6,787	-4
Zambia	3,078	3,346	9
Zimbabwe	1,534	1,652	8
SADC	34,643	33,057	-5

*No data for DRC, Madagascar and Seychelles.
Source: SADC Food security update

SADC prioritises 23 water projects

SADC MEMBER States have prioritised 23 projects for the promotion and development of water infrastructure within the region.

According to the SADC Regional Portfolio of Water Infrastructure Priority Projects Report, the 23 projects have been identified as critical and of highest priority to Member States and the region’s overall integration agenda.

The selected projects, chosen from 66 proposals submitted by Member States, will focus on hydropower generation, and improved agricultural production through irrigation, as well as water supply and sanitation.

The projects will be implemented by two or more countries that share a river basin. These include the US\$3.5 billion Batoka Gorge Hydropower

Project being developed by Zambia and Zimbabwe, and the Songwe River Basin Development Programme, an eight-year US\$329 million project jointly proposed by Malawi and the United Republic of Tanzania. (See Table)

“The outcomes developed in consultation with the Member States highlight and clearly demonstrate that there are significant opportunities

regionally, across borders and in each of the water infrastructure sectors,” SADC Executive Secretary, Tomaz Augusto Salomão, said in a Foreword to the report.

He noted that most of the projects can be developed in an integrated manner to support the commitment to Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) which has been adopted by SADC. r

SADC Priority Water Projects

Project	Countries	Status	Duration	Funding (US\$)
A. Regional Projects				
Inga 3 Hydropower	DRC – shared regional electricity	Pre-feasibility study done	24-36 months	7.6-10 billion
Lesotho Highlands Phase Two	Lesotho, South Africa	Agreement reached to commence Phase 2	Under discussion	2 billion
Batoka Gorge Hydropower	Zambia, Zimbabwe	Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Feasibility Study (FS) done	24-36 months	3.5 billion
Songwe River Basin Development Programme	Malawi, Tanzania	FS and detailed design being done	8 years	329 million
B. Cross Border Projects				
Food Security Project – Upper Okavango	Angola, Namibia	Pre-FS done	12-18 months	66 million
Vaal-Gamagara Water Supply	Botswana, South Africa	Concept note	12 months	Not specified
Resano Garcia Weir Water Supply Project	Mozambique, South Africa	Preliminary detailed design and EIA done	6-12 months	6 million
Lomahasha/Namaacha Water Supply Project	Swaziland, Mozambique	Pre-FS done in Swaziland	12 months	13 million plus cost for Mozambique
Water Supply and Sanitation for 12 Border Locations in Eight Countries	Angola, Botswana, DRC, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe	Concept supported; some pre-FS done	9-12 months	600,000
C. Member State Priority Projects				
Lubango Phase 2 Water Supply & Sanitation Project	Angola	Phase 1 funded and work underway	12-18 months	126 million
Limpopo Basin Joint Water Monitoring Project	Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa, Zimbabwe	Parties agreed on doing project	6-12 months	700,000
Kinshasa Water Supply and Sanitation	DRC	Pre-FS partially done	Unknown	220 million (estimated)
Lesotho Lowlands Water Supply Scheme Zone 1	Lesotho	Construction phase; tender to be prepared	24-36 months	78 million
Mombezi Dam (Multipurpose)	Malawi	FS done; pre-design underway	16 months	209 million
13 Housing Estates –Water Supply	Mauritius	Completed FS	21-24 months	10 million
Movene Dam (Multipurpose)	Mozambique	Concept note done	12-18 months	10 million
Windhoek Managed Aquifer Recharge	Namibia	Recharge infrastructure and wells in place	18 months	55 million
Non-Revenue Water & Use Efficiency Project	Seychelles	Master development plan done	18 months	69 million
Water Demand Management Project	South Africa setting	Expansion of scope needed	24-36 months	Varies according to final
Nondvo Dam (Multipurpose)	Swaziland	Pre-FS done	12-18 months	143 million
Ruhuhu Valley Irrigation Project	Tanzania	Concept note done	12 months	12.3 million
Climate Change Adaptation Project	Zambia	Project planned	24-48 months	13 million
Bulawayo Water Supply from Zambezi River	Zimbabwe	FS and EIA completed	12-18 months	1.25 billion

Source: SADC Secretariat

Grand FTA negotiations to begin in December

by Kizito Sikuka

FIRST ROUND negotiations to establish a Tripartite Free Trade Area covering 27 countries in eastern and southern Africa are scheduled to start in December.

This follows the adoption of principles, modalities and a roadmap for negotiations that were agreed at the second Tripartite summit of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC) and SADC held in South Africa this year.

Chairperson for the Tripartite Taskforce, which is spearheading the implementation process, Sindiso Ngwenya said a lot of ground has been covered to begin negotiations.

“Pursuant to the roadmap decided upon by the Summit, it is now planned that the first round of negotiations for the Tripartite Free Trade Area will take place in Nairobi, Kenya in December,” said Ngwenya, who is also the COMESA executive secretary.

“It is envisaged that the negotiations for establishing the Tripartite FTA would be completed within the timeframe of 36 months (or three years) as decided by the Tripartite Summit in June,” he added.

According to the roadmap, negotiations for the so-called “Grand” FTA will be conducted in different phases.



The preparatory phase mainly involves the disclosure and exchange of all relevant information, including existing national tariffs and trade data and measures. This stage should also see the adoption of terms of reference and rules of procedure for the establishment of a Tripartite Trade Negotiating Forum.

The preparatory phase is expected to last between six and 12 months, after which phase one of the negotiations will commence.

At this stage, negotiations will cover core FTA issues of tariff liberalization, rules of origin, customs procedures and simplification of customs documentation, transit procedures, non-tariff barriers, trade remedies and other technical barriers to trade and dispute resolution.

Phase two of negotiations is expected to cover trade in services and other trade-related issues such as intellectual property rights, competition policy, and trade development and competitiveness.

This Tripartite framework was born out of a realization that the regional integration processes of the three regional communities were similar and in some cases identical.

Thus, it was deemed prudent for the three Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to cooperate and harmonize their trade, infrastructure and other regional integration programmes.

The establishment of the Tripartite FTA is expected to boost intra-regional trade by creating a wider market, increased investment flows, enhanced competitiveness, and the development of cross-regional infrastructure.

It will create an integrated market with a combined population of approximately 600 million people and total Gross Domestic Product of more than US\$1 trillion.

This would open up borders of literally half of the continent, spanning the entire southern and eastern regions of Africa – from Cape to Cairo.

The FTA will serve as one of the building blocks of the

proposed African Economic Community, which has been a longstanding vision of the continent’s leaders since 1963 at the formation of the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

Thus, the creation of a “Grand” FTA is expected to become a new benchmark for deeper regional and continental integration in Africa.

Some of the major infrastructure projects planned by the three RECs include those along the North-South Corridor, which traverses eight countries in southern and eastern Africa.

An initial US\$1.2 billion was raised in April 2009 to upgrade regional infrastructure including over 8,000 kilometres of road and 600km of rail as well as upgrading of ports and energy transmission lines.

However, there is need for more effort in areas such as energy generation and transmission as well as road infrastructure to ensure that the process of deeper integration is fully achieved.

COMESA-EAC-SADC initiated their joint cooperation programme just three years ago in Kampala, Uganda at their First Tripartite Summit, where leaders agreed on a programme of harmonization of trading arrangements to promote the smooth movement of goods and services across member states. sardc.net



Major reserves of natural gas

RECENT FINDINGS of natural gas reserves in a number of southern African countries may point to a huge potential for exploitation of the resource in a region presently grappling with a crippling energy deficit.

The east coast of Africa has emerged in the past few years as one of the brightest spots on the global energy landscape, with large natural gas finds in Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania. Exploration has also taken place in all the other SADC Member States although the exact amounts of reserves are unknown for these countries.

Some of the major natural gas findings in the region are highlighted here, as well as the potential impact this has on the energy situation in SADC.

Mozambique

New offshore natural gas finds along the Mozambique coast are expected to be a "game changer" for the country and the southern African region.

United States-based firm Anadarko Petroleum Corporation has sharply raised its estimate for the amount of natural gas contained in a big field it has found off the coast of Mozambique.

Anadarko announced in November that it had increased the estimate of recoverable natural gas resources from the four discoveries made in its Offshore Area One block to between 15 trillion and 30 trillion cubic feet (tcf) of gas.

The Texas-based company had initially said the field contained 6 tcf of gas, a figure it later raised to 10 tcf in October, before going to 15 tcf in November.

To put the figures into context, the amount of gas discovered in the Anadarko block would be enough to meet one year's gas consumption by the US which requires about 30 tcf per annum.

Anadarko's chief executive, James Hackett, said the revised estimate increased the company's confidence that "this could be one of the most important natural-gas fields discovered in the last 10 years."

The announcement came just a month after Italian energy giant, Eni SpA, announced that it has found 22.5 tcf of gas off Mozambique's coast—the biggest such exploration discovery in the company's history.

These large findings are big enough to sustain the construction of a large Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) plant in Mozambique, which would catapult the SADC Member State into the league of the world's largest gas exporters.

United Republic of Tanzania

The gas-rich waters offshore of the United Republic of Tanzania have recently attracted a number of big players, including Exxon Mobil, Statoil ASA of Norway and BG Group PLC.

Tanzania's current natural gas reserves have risen to more than 10 tcf from a previous estimate of 7.5 tcf following major gas discoveries in the country's deepwater offshore region.

Energy and Minerals Minister William Ngeleja announced in September that the SADC Member State had earmarked some of its gas deposits for export.



Natural gas – the future of energy

"Three offshore gas fields have been discovered in the deep waters and plans are underway to appraise the gas fields for possible development," Ngeleja said.

This brings the total number of gas fields found in the country's offshore area to seven.

Tanzania had previously discovered gas deposits in four areas - Songo Songo Island off the east coast, in nearby West Songo Songo, Mnazi Bay in southeastern Tanzania, and Mkuranga near Dar es Salaam.

"Preliminary indications show that Tanzania may have sizeable gas reserves of more than 10 trillion cubic feet which can beneficially be developed



to meet our local demand and for export," he said.

Two of the natural gas discoveries are already supplying gas to the country's commercial capital, Dar es Salaam, to produce electricity and to power industries.

South Africa

South Africa, like Tanzania, already has a gas market and is actively promoting the use of natural gas as an alternative source of energy.

According to South African Minister of Energy, Dipuo Peters, coal-bed methane was no longer regarded "as an obstacle in the coal mining sector but was instead fast becoming known as a commercially viable energy source."



ENERGY AFRICA

in southern Africa?

“It is also increasingly important that we collaborate with our neighbours such as Mozambique (with whom we already have long term cooperation on gas supply), Namibia, Angola, Botswana and Zimbabwe,” Peters told journalists on the sidelines of the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that took place in Durban, South Africa from 28 November to 9 December.

She said regional cooperation similar to that which is well-established in Europe is essential if southern Africa is to tackle energy development successfully.

South Africa already imports a substantial amount of gas from Mozambique, which is



primarily used for gas-to-liquid plants and other industrial processes.

Peters said plans are currently underway to construct a gas-fired power plant with 140 megawatts capacity through a joint venture between Sasol and Mozambique’s power utility Hidroelectrica de Cahora Bassa.

Botswana

Botswana announced in January that preliminary findings pointed to 196 tcf of coal bed methane in the Central Kalahari Karoo Basin.

A Coalbed Methane Exploration Study initiated by the country’s Department of Geological Survey revealed that the coal

beds within the Kalahari Karoo Basin area contain a significant amount of gas reserves, which have potential to be further developed.

The government of Botswana is encouraging the private sector to come onboard and continue with the exploration and further development of the gas fields.

Angola

According to the state-owned Angolan natural gas exploration company, Sonagas, the exact amount of natural gas reserves in Angola is unknown but estimated at above 11 tcf. As in most SADC Member States, the lack of accurate data on natural gas reserves in Angola is due in part to the absence of dedicated investment as well as non-existence of a legal and contractual framework that promotes the exploration and development of natural gas in the country.

Conclusion

While current discourse in the SADC energy sector, and indeed globally, has focused on renewable energy sources, the recent findings of huge natural gas reserves point to a stronger case for substituting the existing coal and oil sources with natural gas.

The discoveries come at a time when the importance of natural gas in the global energy balance is rising. Concerns about climate change are pushing power companies to switch from coal and oil to cleaner-burning gas in electricity generation, and its potential as a transport fuel is also being widely explored.

According to the International Energy Outlook (IEO) of 2000, natural gas is the fastest growing component of primary global energy consumption.

Gas utilisation is projected to more than double between 1997 and 2020, reaching 167 tcf per annum.

The forecast within this period is that the share of total energy consumption will increase from 22 percent in 1997 to about 29 percent by 2020. At present, gas accounts for a very small percentage of energy usage in southern Africa.

Natural gas is not only beneficial in that it has less carbon content than coal and crude oil, but gas-fired plants require less water, have shorter construction times, and have lower capital costs per unit of capacity when compared to coal-fired plants.

The transition towards gas usage also has social benefits. It presents an excellent opportunity to reduce dependence on biomass.

More than 70 percent of the 270 million people in SADC presently depend on biomass such as woodfuel for their energy requirements.

Energy reforms in the region also provide the underpinnings of a vibrant future gas industry, as the reforms are increasingly leading to a distinction between public policies and private investment and operation.

The reforms have mainly focused on strengthening energy strategy formulation, with increased focus on environmental sustainability, involvement by local communities, and gender equality. r

Southern African Power Pool

SAPP to add 1,600MW of new power in 2012

THE SOUTHERN African Power Pool (SAPP) expects to commission projects that will add about 1,600 Megawatts (MW) of new power in 2012, rising to a cumulative 17,000MW by 2015.

This is slightly higher than the 1,250MW planned

for commissioning this year.

According to SAPP, new power is expected to come from Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Namibia, Republic of Tanzania, South Africa and Zambia. (see Table) r



Mozambique plans to increase output of Cahora Bassa power

MOZAMBIQUE PLANS to raise output at the Cahora Bassa hydroelectric dam from 2,100MW to about 3,200MW over the next five years to meet rising demand in the country and in the southern African region.

Cahora Bassa's chief executive Paulo Muxanga said the project will cost around US\$1 billion and is expected to be funded both by Hidroelétrica de Cahora

Bassa (HCB) and private investors.

"The main project we have is the north-central part of Cahora Bassa dam, which will bring an additional 1,245MW of power," Muxanga said. Currently, power is generated only at the southern part of Cahora Bassa.

Geological and hydrological studies will be concluded by January 2012 with construction expected to start in 2013. r

No	Country	NEW GENERATION CAPACITY, MW					TOTAL
		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
1	Angola	150	0	260	260	0	670
2	Botswana	120	600			300	1,020
3	DRC	75	430	25	150		680
4	Lesotho		25		110		135
5	Malawi			64	150	100	314
6	Mozambique			150	600	750	1,500
7	Namibia	23	83	103		800	1,009
8	RSA	530	288	3,105	1,721	2,890	8,534
9	Swaziland					300	300
10	Tanzania	60	160		740	600	1,560
11	Zambia		6	360	120	34	520
12	Zimbabwe	290		20	55	355	720
TOTAL		1,248	1,592	4,087	3,906	6,129	16,962

Source: SAPP

Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA)

THE APPROVAL of a plan of action to establish an energy fund for Africa is expected to promote the exploration of various energy sources to ensure that demand and supply is evenly matched on the continent.

Africa is highly endowed with energy resources such as hydropower, solar energy and wind power. However, limited finances and other challenges continue to hinder progress towards full exploitation of the resources.

For example, the African Development Bank (AfDB) estimates that hydropower alone represents about 45 percent of Sub-Saharan Africa's electric power generation, but only four percent of the sub-continent's commercially exploitable potential has been tapped.

The recent decision by the AfDB and the government of

Denmark to set up a Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA) is set to help unlock the much-needed investment in the energy sector.

According to the agreement between the two sides, the energy fund would be used for capacity building and investment in sustainable energy projects over a five-year period.

The budget for the fund is DKK 300 million (about US\$57 million). Ultimately, SEFA would become a multi-donor fund as soon as additional partners agree to join.

SEFA would provide two financing windows, with the first one aimed at supporting the development and design of renewable energy generation and distribution projects worth more than US\$30 million.

The second one will support small to medium

enterprises on a mixed grant and equity investment basis. The total amount set aside for this component is about US\$30 million.

The creation of the energy fund for Africa is in line with new trends in the global energy sector, which is slowly changing to wider adoption of cleaner energy sources that result in less carbon emissions to protect the environment.

Southern Africa has recorded steady progress towards increasing its uptake of renewable energy, with a number of priority projects on cleaner and alternative energy being identified for commissioning over the next few years.

These projects include the Mphanda Nkuwa hydropower project in Mozambique and the Inga Dam project in DRC, which has the potential to produce

about 40,000 megawatts (MW) of electricity.

Expectations are high that these projects would be strong contenders for SEFA, although accessing such funds may prove to be complex.

To ensure that the region fully benefits from the fund, SADC needs to adopt a proactive approach to access the energy fund in order to boost its energy generation and production capacity.

This may include early preparation and identification of projects that would be suitable for financing under SEFA.

The region stands a better chance of accessing the fund if it identifies projects with a regional appeal instead of individual country projects that do not promote regional integration since most financiers prefer projects that have a regional impact. r

BRICS ... South Africa backs common currency

SOUTH AFRICA is backing plans for a single currency unit within the BRICS grouping that the emerging economies could use to trade among themselves and circumvent the need for Euro and dollar conversions.

The idea, proposed in April when South Africa joined Brazil, Russia, India and China as a member of the BRICS grouping, could cause consternation in Europe given the Euro-zone crisis which has brought into question the wisdom of single monetary units not backed by a centralized fiscus.

Botswana dam completed ahead of schedule

CHINESE CONSTRUCTION firm Sinohydro Botswana says it has completed construction of the Dikgatlong dam ahead of schedule and has submitted a request for acceptance to the Botswana government to assess the project before the end of this year.

The project, which commenced in March 2008, was expected to be completed by February 2012 and commissioned the following month.

"I am very proud to say that this dam project is one of the few projects that were completed ahead of contractual timeframe. And this is despite the challenges we encountered during the construction," the dam resident engineer, Boikanyo Mpho, said.

Dikgatlong will be the largest dam in Botswana with a capacity of 400 million cubic metres. r

BRICS, an acronym of the five member states Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, meets regularly to discuss economic issues of interest and also political concerns that each of the nations share.

It is estimated that the group holds nearly half of the world's foreign reserves at a time when the reserves in

Mozambique dependence on foreign aid declining

MOZAMBIQUE'S DEPENDENCE on foreign aid is declining, Finance Minister Manuel Chang told the country's parliament when presenting the national budget for 2012.

Chang said only 39.6 percent of public expenditure will be covered by foreign grants and loans next year, with 60.4 percent of the budget to be met from domestic resources.

Lesotho to revive textiles sector

THE LESOTHO government plans to spend 100 million maloti (about US\$12.7 million) over the next two years in an effort to breathe life into the crucial textile industry.

"The objective... is to stabilize employment in the textile industry and provide capital for companies so that they can take advantage of the global [economic] recovery," Timothy Thahane, Minister of Finance and Development Planning said.

"It's harder for African countries to stay competitive, but this industry is really important to the Lesotho econ-

omy, so we have to do what we can."

Lesotho's textile industry grew rapidly in the 1990s and early 2000s, partly thanks to the credit certification scheme of the Southern Africa Customs Union (SACU) that allowed textile-exporting companies to earn rebates on duties paid on imports used for production.

However, the industry has been hit hard in recent years. The SACU scheme ended in March 2010, while its main markets in the United States have reduced the import of textiles. r

In the 2011 budget, 44.6 percent of expenditure was covered by foreign aid while the figure was 51.4 percent in 2010.

Chang said the expected decline in foreign aid, in percentage terms, was due mainly to "cautious calculations" by donor countries, who are themselves under enormous budgetary pressure. *AIM* r

Europe and the United States are being eroded. Although creating a single currency could have its challenges, the development would boost trade and relations among the member countries who would no longer have to use dollars or Euros to trade. *Mail & Guardian* r

EPA talks progressing well

THE LONG-STALLED trade negotiations between the European Union and southern African countries to create Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) are picking up pace again.

Following an EU-South Africa summit in September, José Manuel de Morais Briosa Gala, personal representative for Africa to the president of the European Commission, said there was "now willingness to close the negotiations".

The EPA negotiations have run into trouble across Africa and especially in southern Africa, which is demanding better access to European markets for its agricultural products.

African countries have been reluctant to sign the EPAs, which target six regional groups of former European colonies.

The EU announced that countries that had not signed or ratified EPAs by 1 January 2014 would lose duty-free access to European markets. r



China-Africa Think Tank Forum aims to strengthen dialogue

by Joseph Ngwawi

CHINA AND Africa have taken another step to strengthen relations with the launch of a forum to promote research and exchanges among think tanks.

Representatives of research institutes, political and business leaders from China and 27 African countries gathered in the Chinese cities of Hangzhou and Jinhua at the end of October for the first meeting of the China-Africa Think Tank Forum (CATTF).

The new forum establishes a mechanism for Chinese and African think tanks to exchange ideas and conduct cooperative work toward deeper understanding and potential of China-African relations.

Held under the theme "Sino-African Relations in the



Second Decade of the New Century", the meeting reviewed the achievements of the development of Sino-African relations in the past decade, analysed the existing problems and challenges in current Sino-African relations and the outlook for development and areas of potential innovation in the next decade.

"We regard the China-Africa Think Tank Forum as a positive initiative and believe that it is timely and necessary

to convene its 1st meeting at this time," the participants said in a statement at the end of the meeting.

"We also believe it should be a shared platform and regular institution for dialogue and exchanges between Chinese and African think tanks in the new era."

Sino-African cooperative relations have experienced rapid development since 2000 and, powered by the core engine of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), the growing ties have become one of the most significant areas in international relations in the past decade.

"We are experiencing an accelerated shift in global power structures, with the long-established dominance of the West in structures of power, trade and economy being challenged by the South and East," Essop Pahad, the former Minister in the Presidency in South Africa under Thabo Mbeki, said during the launch of the forum.

Chinese Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Zhai Jun hailed the expanding relations between China and Africa and said CATTF should be the catalyst for moving the existing ties forward during the second decade of FOCAC.

"The think tanks have a role to promote China-Africa relations and together we will work with African governments to cultivate a win-win situation," Zhai said.

CATTF will be instrumental in setting up links among Chinese and African think tanks as well as scholars from other parts of the world with an interest in Sino-African relations to conduct dialogue, exchanges and studies on the blossoming ties between China and Africa in a bid to promote mutual understanding and offer policy recommendations.

The forum has the full support of the FOCAC Follow-up Committee as a further step to implement the China-Africa Joint Research and Exchange Programme, one of the eight measures announced by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao at the Fourth Ministerial Meeting of FOCAC in Sharm el Sheik, Egypt in November 2009.

Participants at the launch came from Angola, Botswana, Cameroon, China, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Zimbabwe and the African Union.

The launch was followed by an extended seminar of Chinese and African think tanks hosted by the Institute of African Studies at Zhejiang Normal University in Jinhua. *sardc.net* r

Key highlights of FOCAC

THE CENTRAL focus of China-Africa relations is on the economic development of both Africa and China and the key priority areas are:

- Infrastructure development in Africa;
- Agriculture;
- Natural resources and energy exploration and extraction;
- Investment and business cooperation;
- Trade;
- Finance;
- Transport; and
- Science, technology and information communication technology. r

Kabila elected DRC President for second term

PRESIDENT JOSEPH Kabila was elected for a second term after winning a hotly contested presidential election in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in November.

According to final results released by the DRC's Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) on 9 December, the youthful Kabila of the People's Party for

Reconstruction and Democracy got 48.9 percent of the more than 17.3 million Congolese who voted in the 28 November presidential election.

His nearest rival, veteran politician Etienne Tshisekedi of the Union for Democracy and Social Progress Party, got 32 percent of the valid ballots.

Tshisekedi disputed the poll results, insisting he was the democratically elected leader of the DRC.

Under Congolese law, the presidential results must be certified by the Supreme Court, but the certification is generally considered a

formality. The inauguration of the president-elect was set for 20 December.

A total of 11 presidential candidates took part in the elections, including Vital Kamerhe, a former election campaign manager for Kabila who now heads the Congolese National Union.

Kabila has been in power since 2001 following the death of his father the same year. In 2006, he won the country's first democratic elections after years of conflict.

The victory gave Kabila another chance to continue with economic and political reforms that have so far ensured relative peace in the DRC.

This was the first time the elections were held under the recently promulgated Electoral Reform Act, which scrapped the requirement for a second round of voting in the event that none of the presidential candidates scored an outright victory.

In the previous election, a candidate needed to win 50 percent-plus-one votes to be elected president. A second round of voting was previously required pitting the top two candidates to determine the winner in the event that none of the presidential candidates garnered more than half of the votes.

In the 2006 election, Kabila won 44.81 percent of votes in the first round poll in July while his closest rival, Bemba, had 20.03 percent. This prompted the holding of a runoff poll in October of the same year in which Kabila won 58.05 percent of the ballots against 41 percent for Bemba.

More than 18,500 candidates contested for 500 seats in a parallel parliamentary election. Provisional parliamentary results are due in mid-January.



Joint Declaration

On the Presidential and Parliamentary Elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo

FOLLOWING THE conclusion of the Presidential and Parliamentary elections held on 28 November 2011 an in-depth discussion took place between the below mentioned observer missions. In view of the July 2002 Durban OAU Declaration on The Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections in Africa, the missions agreed on the following joint Declaration:

“The African Observer Missions to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (African Union (AU), Southern African Development Community (SADC), International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), Economic Community of the Central African States (ECCAS), Common Market of East and Southern Africa (COMESA):

1. Hail the Congolese people's determination to hold the second democratic elections on 28 November 2011, as this will consolidate peace, enhance national reconciliation, boost the democratic process and lay the foundation for lasting peace, economic and social development;
2. Further appreciate the will, enthusiasm and large turnout by the Congolese people during the elections;

3. Welcomes the successful holding of the elections despite the numerous challenges which the country is confronted with and have noted the technical and logistical challenges that overshadowed the holding of the elections;
4. Welcome the efforts made to help the Congolese people to freely exercise their right to vote;
5. Regret some isolated acts of violence during the elections;
6. Appeal to all the Congolese political stakeholders to continue to show a high sense of responsibility by accepting the outcome of the polls, and should there be any dispute due legal processes should be pursued;
7. Welcome the spirit of cooperation and solidarity among themselves while observing the current elections and strongly urge all the stakeholders including the partners to contribute meaningfully to the democratic process in the DRC.

Head of Delegations for AUEOM; SEOM; ECCAS; ICGLR; COMESA “ r

Southern Africa ready for AFCON

THREE SOUTHERN African countries will raise the regional profile at the 2012 African Cup of Nations (AFCON) finals to be co-hosted by Equatorial Guinea and Gabon in January-February.

Angola, Botswana and Zambia booked their places at next year's finals as group winners and they join 13 other African countries that will participate in the biennial tournament.

Angola, who hosted the previous finals in 2010, took their place only on the final day of qualification when they beat Guinea-Bissau

two-nil. Botswana took their opponents by surprise and will be an emerging team to watch, while Zambia has been to the AFCON finals for a record 15 times.

Zambia's best moment in the continental tournament came in 1994 when, against all odds, the Zambian Football Association managed to assemble a strong team that reached the 1994 final match following the loss of the entire team in an air crash the previous year.

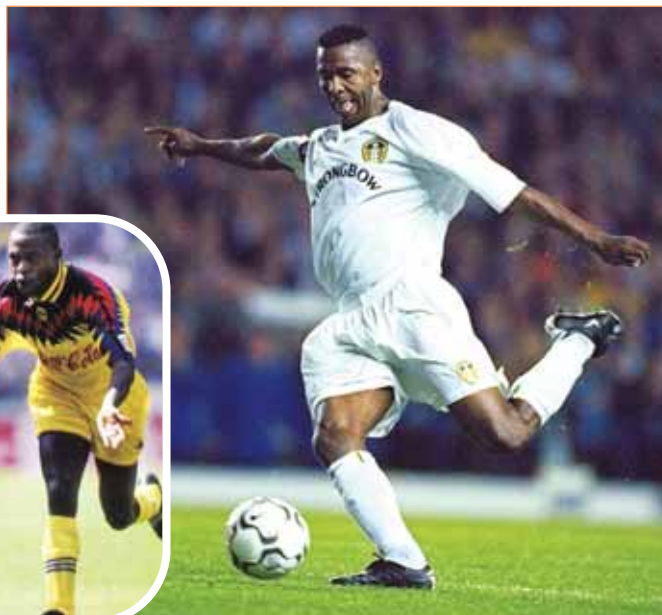
The Zambian team perished in 1993 near Gabon on their way to play Senegal in a World Cup qualifier.

Zambian Football Association chairperson Kalusha Bwalya, who captained the trailblazing 1994 team, expressed optimism that his team will do well at the tournament despite parting ways with their Italian coach on mutual grounds.

"The coach has done a good job," he said, adding that the changes in the coaching department are



Kalusha Bwalya



Lucas Radebe

being done to improve the team.

The draw for the 2012 AFCON finals saw Angola being paired with Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso and Sudan in

Group B, while Botswana was grouped together with Guinea, Ghana and Mali in Group D. Zambia will do battle in Group A, along with hosts Equatorial Guinea, Libya and Senegal.



Peter Ndlovu

The top two teams in each of the four groups will qualify for the second round.

The Africa Cup of Nations has remained an influential tournament since 1957 when the initial tournament was held in Khartoum, Sudan.

South Africa is the only southern African country to have won the Africa Cup of Nations when it hosted the finals in 1996.

Angola was the second SADC country to host the finals, in 2010, when four southern African teams participated: Angola, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia. *sardc.net* r

SADC launches African Cultural Renaissance campaign

SOUTHERN AFRICA has launched the African Cultural Renaissance Campaign aimed at promoting the Pan Africanist spirit, cultural renewal and identity as part of the African continent's shared values.

The campaign – a two year programme of the African Union (AU) Commission – has the following key components:

- Promotion of the AU symbols (the flag, the anthem and the logo);
- Promotion of African cultural values, including African languages; and
- Promotion of the ratification of the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance to ensure its entry into force.



The primary aim of the campaign is to popularize the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance in the SADC region to enable better understanding of this continental tool and promote its ratification.

The Charter was adopted at the Sixth Ordinary Session of

the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the AU in January 2006 in Khartoum, Sudan.

Speaking at the launch of the SADC campaign, South African Minister of Arts and Culture, Paul Mashatile, said Member States must use the Charter to promote unity in the region. He urged member countries to ratify the charter in 2012.

"Our common heritage, our rich and diverse cultures as well as our artistic expressions must be used to cement the bonds of friendship and solidarity that have existed among our peoples for many years." r

EVENTS DIARY December 2011-February 2012



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December 29 Nov-9 Dec, South Africa	COP17 Summit on Climate Change The 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) convenes in Durban, South Africa to discuss solutions to the rise in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice, and rising sea levels due to increased emissions of greenhouse gases.
1 December, UN	World Aids Day On December 1 each year SADC joins the rest of the world in commemorating UN World Aids Day. The theme for this year is "Getting to Zero".
6-7, December, TBA	SADC Infrastructure Development Master Plan Workshop Experts will meet to discuss plans to accelerate the development of regional infrastructure. The SADC Infrastructure Development Master Plan is expected to guide development of key infrastructure such as road, rail and ports.
12-16 December, Ethiopia	AU Ministers of Mineral Resources Development Conference Running under the theme "Building a Sustainable Future for Africa's Extractive Industry: From Vision to Action", the conference will discuss the implementation of various African action plans.
January 21 Jan-12 Feb, Gabon and E. Guinea	Africa Cup of Nations A total of 16 countries from Africa will compete in the bi-annual soccer tournament. Three teams from SADC – Angola, Botswana and Zambia – will raise the regional profile at the finals.
16 - 19, United Arab Emirates	5th World Future Energy Summit The summit will concentrate on energy innovation in policy implementation, technology development, finance and investment approaches, and existing and upcoming projects.
24-25, South Africa	Climate Finance and Carbon Markets Africa As the first African meeting after COP 17, Climate Finance and Carbon Markets Africa 2012 will seek to address the key challenges of expanding climate projects in Africa.
26-27, Zimbabwe	Southern African ICT for Education Summit The summit will focus on key areas to establish partnerships between the ministries of education and the private sector to improve the use of ICT in education.
29-30, Ethiopia	18th Ordinary Session of the African Union Heads of State and Government will gather for the 18th Ordinary Session of the African Union, preceded by the usual technical meetings and the Council of Ministers. The theme of the summit is "Boosting Intra-African Trade".
February 21-23, South Africa	Africa Energy Indaba The annual conference seeks to explore ways in which Africa could harness its huge energy resources to achieve energy self-sufficiency.
TBA, Zambia	38th SAPP Meeting The meeting is expected to review the power situation in southern Africa. SAPP is made up of 12 electricity utilities in the SADC region.
20-22, Kenya	Global Ministerial Environment Forum The forum will explore ways in which the global community could halt climate change. The theme is "Green Economy and International Environmental Governance and Emerging Issues". UNEP will launch the Global Environment Outlook (GEO-5) Summary for Policy Makers.

50 Years

1961 – 2001



Tanzania @ 50: “There is no shortcut to our aspirations”

DECEMBER 9 is a day that should be celebrated throughout southern Africa, as it is the date that Tanganyika (now Tanzania) achieved independence, 50 years ago, in 1961, and without this date, the rest of southern Africa might not yet be independent.

The priority of the newly independent nation and its then Prime Minister, Julius Kamburage Nyerere, was national development, but he saw this as unachievable without the independence of the neighbouring states.

Nyerere, known by the Swahili word for teacher, *Mwalimu*, was the father of southern African liberation and one of the founding fathers of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

None of the countries that now make up SADC was independent at that time, the next were Malawi and Zambia in 1964.

Although South Africa was technically considered independent of the colonial power, Britain, it was governed under the apartheid system of separate development that denied the vote and other human rights to the black majority.

One year after formal independence from Britain, Tanganyika became a Republic with Nyerere as its first President. Following the revolution in Zanzibar just one year later, Nyerere negotiated the union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar as the United Republic of Tanzania in April 1964.

Nyerere pursued the ideals of liberation, democracy and common humanity into the rest of the continent and, with the leaders of the other few African countries that were independent in 1963, established the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), which later became the African Union.

The main objective was political liberation for the rest of the continent. Their tool for achieving this, the OAU Liberation Committee, was hosted by Tanzania, and most liberation movements were based there at one time or another.

He believed unity of the continent was possible, although long term, starting with political independence and economic integration.

“There is one sense in which African unity already exists,” he said. “There is a sentiment of ‘African-ness’, a feeling of mutual involvement, which pervades all the political and cultural life of the continent.”

Although he supported and agitated for negotiated independence through non-violent means, he also understood that arms would be required to dislodge the white colonial rulers in the south of the continent, and Tanzania hosted the OAU Liberation Committee for this purpose for the next 30 years.

When some of the other countries were forced into wars of liberation to eventually achieve the same end, Tanzania provided political, material and moral support until independence and majority rule were achieved in 1975 (Mozambique, Angola), 1980 (Zimbabwe), 1990 (Namibia) and finally, 1994 (South Africa).

Nyerere was one of nine leaders who came together just before Zimbabwe’s independence in 1980 to establish the Southern Africa Development Coordination Conference (SADCC), which later became SADC.

The leaders of Tanzania, Zambia and Botswana had formed the Front Line States in 1974 to work together in a united front for common security, under the chairmanship of Nyerere, and this was the basis of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation.

Nyerere passed away in 1999 having seen most of his vision achieved in east and southern Africa, though he felt that Tanzania’s national development had lagged behind.

The contribution by the United Republic of Tanzania to the liberation of southern Africa is not well known or quantified, in cash, human lives and delayed development.

Although it was Nyerere’s leadership that mobilised an entire nation behind this vision, it was not the achievement of one person as individual Tanzanians in both rural and urban areas contributed a few shillings each in people-to-people support, although they did not have extra themselves.

Just before he became President, Nyerere was asked what was his country’s most important accomplishment to date. “We have learned this hard fact of life,” he replied, “that there are no short cuts to our aspirations.” *sardc.net*

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN SADC

December 2011-February 2012

8 December	Immaculate Conception	Seychelles
9 December	Independence and Republic Day	Tanzania
10 December	Human Rights Day	Namibia
16 December	Day of Reconciliation	South Africa
22 December	National Unity Day	Zimbabwe
25 December	Christmas Day	SADC
	Family Day	Mozambique
26 December	Family Day	Namibia
	Day of Goodwill	South Africa
	Boxing Day	Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zimbabwe
27 December	Public Holiday	Some SADC countries
1 January	New Year’s Day	SADC
2 January	Public Holiday	Most SADC countries
4 January	Martyrs Day	Angola, DRC
12 January	Zanzibar Revolution Day	Tanzania
15 January	John Chilembwe Day	Malawi
17 January	Patrice Lumumba Day	DRC
20 January	Taiposam Cavadee	Mauritius
23 January	Chinese Spring Festival	Mauritius
1 February	Abolishing of Slavery Day	Mauritius
3 February	Heroes Day	Mozambique
4 February	National Armed Struggle Day	Angola
	Maulid Day	Tanzania
7 February	Thai Pooasam Kavady	Mauritius
20 February	Maha Shivaratri	Mauritius

Genocide remains returned

NAMIBIA HAS received from Germany the skulls of 20 people that were taken to German research institutions during the 1904-1908 genocide for “scientific measuring”. German scientists tried to prove the “racial superiority” of white Europeans over black Africans by analysing the facial features of the heads. The repatriated remains are of those killed by German troops during the genocide in the former German South West Africa. Historians say German troops killed and starved to death 60,000 of the 85,000 Herero and Nama people. It is not known how many more skulls remain in Europe.