

**AFRICA RECRUIT EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN  
RESOURCE SHARING/EXCHANGE SEMINAR.**  
**Engaging with the African Diaspora London, United  
Kingdom. 10/11<sup>th</sup>. March, 2005.**

There is a need for Africa to upgrade; including attracting skills from the Diaspora to achieve its domestic international growth and its developmental goals.

As Executive President of the Africa Business Roundtable and Chairman of the NEPAD Business Group, we are committed to helping the continent realise its full economic potential.

The skills of Africans in the Diaspora and the skills within Africa create opportunity for diversity and partnership.

It makes good business to have skills in Africa that are able to translate the very many natural resources to wealth for the majority, to create a sustainable public sector that enables and attracts investment to Africa.

Given the very many skilled Africans who have left the continent over the last decades and have gained invaluable skills and knowledge, the debate on how to capture the benefits for the development of Africa is critical. More importantly how these skills can be

tapped into and the constraints and challenges that present itself are areas to be explored.

Africans in the Diaspora have a major role in the transformation and regeneration of Africa as His Excellency President Obasanjo said the experience; values, knowledge and creativity are required to join with skills in Africa to enable its improvement.

As I travel the world I come across many African Diaspora with invaluable skills that can act as a resource for Africa's growth. Skills that will attract foreign direct investment and run large corporations.

India has used its skills base to gain competitive advantage in the global economy; likewise Africa needs improved strategic thinking to enhance the synergy between skills and economic policy, link skills strategy with trade and industry and provide opportunities for innovation. Innovation creates new businesses and present new challenges and opportunities. The arrival of telecommunication to Africa created new opportunities for businesses that are now thriving as well as employment for its citizens.

The indigenous knowledge, creativity and durability of Africans to defy all odds are uniqueness that facilitate its competitive advantage in a global world.

It is timely that this event is taking place at the same time as the launch of the Commission for Africa. The ultimate success of the Commission will depend on its implementation, which eventually will require skills.

It is my belief that Africans in the Diaspora are not only able but willing to participate in its growth. The challenge of information and opportunity access is vital to both. To enable this various medium of communication must be exploited such as a seminar like this, internet such as Findajobinafrica.com and broadcast that target the Diaspora such as Ben T.V. on Sky Channel 184.

I hope you take this opportunity to engage and put forward ideas to enable your skills to be deployed in the development of Africa.

**Private Sector is the Saviour of Africa.**

**Partnership is the Lifeline that Africa in Diaspora should grab in order to exit from the vicious circle of Hunger, Ignorance and Poverty.**

Alhaji Bamanga Tukur.

Chair and Executive President

Africa Business Roundtable.