

India-Ghana Relations

Indo-Ghanaian relations have traditionally been warm and friendly. The strong foundation of our bilateral relations was laid by India's first Prime Minister, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, and Ghana's first President, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah. The two great leaders also enjoyed a close friendship.

2. **Major visits from Ghana** in the past include the visit of President Nkrumah in 1961 and President Limann in 1981. President Rawlings made a stop over in Mumbai on his way from Beijing in 1993, and again visited India in 1997 to attend the funeral ceremony of late Mother Teresa. In addition, there were several Ministerial visits, including that of the Foreign Minister for the NAM Ministerial Conference in April 1986.

3. President Kufuor, accompanied by a high level delegation visited India in August 2002. Four bilateral agreements were signed including one which relates to the setting up in Accra of a Centre of Excellence for Training in Information Technology (which became operational in December 2003); and Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement; Protocol on Consultations between MEA and Ghana's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and a Cultural and Scientific Exchange Programme. The Vice President of Ghana H.E. Alhaji Aliu Mahama, led a large Ghanaian delegation to the CII conclave held in New Delhi in March 2008. In April 2008, President Kufuor visited India to participate in India Africa Forum Summit held in New Delhi.

4. Vice President John Dramani Mahama accompanied by Minister of Trade & Industry Ms. Hanna Tetteh visited India to participate in the CII-Exim Bank Conclave in March 2010. Minister of Youth and Sports, Hon'ble Ms. Akua Sena Dansua visited India in October 2010 as head of the Ghanaian contingent to the XIX Commonwealth Games 2010 in Delhi. The Minister of Trade and Industry of Ghana Ms. Hanna Tetteh led the Ghanaian delegation to the Joint Trade Committee in January, 2011 and in January, 2012 for the 18th Partnership Summit (New Age Innovation Partnership, 2012) held at Hyderabad. Mr. Kwesi Ahwoi, Minister of Food and Agriculture, led a Ghanaian delegation to India from 21-26 March, 2011 for discussions on the joint venture fertilizer project. Dr. Joseph S. Annan, Deputy Minister of Trade & Industry led the Ghanaian delegation to the 7th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership held in Delhi on 27-29 March, 2011. Ms. Samia Nkrumah, MP, was also part of the delegation.

5. **Major visits from India** include the visit of the then Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, accompanied by a high level delegation on 8-9 November 1995 on his return from Burkina Faso. During the visit, an agreement to form the Joint Commission between India and Ghana was signed. The then Minister for State for External Affairs, Shri Anand Sharma, led a high level delegation to Ghana from 24-26 May 2006 for the CII-EXIM Regional Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership and TEAM-9

Ministerial Meeting. Subsequently, MOS(AS) visited Accra: on March 4-7, 2007 to attend the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Ghana's Independence; in July 2008 as Special Envoy of Prime Minister; on Nov. 9-11, 2008 for the inauguration of the Presidential Complex financed partly through a Line of Credit provided by EXIM Bank of India; in Jan. 2009 as Special Envoy of Prime Minister to convey good wishes of the Government and people of India to new Government headed by President John Evans Atta Mills. Shri Anand Sharma visited Ghana as Minister of Commerce and Industry (CIM) from 1-3 September 2010 as leader of a high level business delegation for the India-Ghana CEOs Round Table held in Accra. The visit formed part of India's "Focus Africa" policy.

6. Minister of State for External Affairs Dr. Shashi Tharoor made a short transit halt in Accra en route India from Liberia on Saturday 19 Sept 2009. He called on President Atta Mills and discussed with him matters of mutual interest. Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA), Shri Vayalar Ravi visited Ghana on 1-3 February 2010 as part of his visit to some African countries. During the visit MOIA called on President Atta Mills and also met with Interior Minister Cletus Avoka and Dy. Foreign Minister Chris Kpodo.

7. Ghana was included as one of the nine West African countries under the GOI's TEAM 9 initiative. In recent years, India-Ghana relations have been enriched by enhanced South-South cooperation efforts between the two countries. India has been participating in Ghana's development by providing assistance in setting up projects in the spirit of South-South cooperation through provision of Lines of Credit or grants. Amongst recent projects are the India-Ghana Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence for ICT; the Flag Staff House; the Pan African E-Network Project and rural electrification. Currently a number of projects are at various stages of process, including sectors such as fisheries, waste management, railway equipment, agro-processing, fire-tenders, etc. Ghana has also been a participant in India's contribution to the human resource development in developing countries through programmes such as the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC). In 2010-11, Ghana utilized over 90 ITEC slots and 21 slots under various other schemes, including ICCR scholarship, capacity building courses by IIFT and India-Africa Forum Summit Plan of Action. For the financial year 2011-12, Ghana has been allotted 125 slots under the ITEC scheme.

8. A memorandum of understanding was signed on 6 July, 2010 between India and Ghana for the setting up a US\$ 1.2 billion Joint Venture Fertilizer Project using gas to manufacture fertilizer. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Government of India's financial and technical assistance of Rs. 38.53 million (US\$ 0.86 million approx.) to the India-Ghana Kofi Annan Center for Excellence in IT was signed by the Ghanaian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Alhaji Muhammad Mumuni and the High Commissioner, Mrs. Ruchi Ghanashyam on 30.3.2011. The two-year technical assistance in the field of Information Technology and related services are to be executed by the Centre for Development of Advanced

Computing (C-DAC) of India. India has also been providing concessional credit for development projects. The projects include supply of tractors, rural electrification, construction of Presidential complex etc. India has also offered to set up two projects, viz. India-Africa Institute of Information Technology (IAIIT) and Food Processing Business Incubation Centre in Ghana under the India-Africa Forum Summit.

9. According to available statistics, the trade turnover between the two countries stands stood at US\$ 537.53 million during 2009-10 and US\$ 818.10 million in 2010-11, an increase of 52% over the preceding year with India's exports to Ghana at US\$ 658.35 million as against an import figure of US\$ 159.75 million. Ghana's main (traditional) exports are gold, cocoa and timber products. India's major exports to Ghana include pharmaceuticals, telecommunication, agricultural machinery, electrical equipment, plastics, steel, cement etc.

10. The exchange of business delegations have led to an increase in investments by Indian companies in Ghana in sectors like construction, manufacturing, trading, services and tourism and in areas such as steel, cement, plastics, pharmaceuticals, ICT, agro-processing and agricultural machinery, electrical equipments, chemicals, etc. A number of Indian companies are establishing their presence in Ghana, both from the public and private sector including the Bank of Baroda, Tata, Bharti Airtel, Ashok Leyland, Mahindra & Mahindra, Escorts, Larson & Toubro, Shapoorji Pallonji & Co, NIIT, DSC Ltd. as well as several pharmaceutical companies. Indians are the largest foreign investor in Ghana in terms of number of projects.

11. The CII in partnership with the Association of Ghana Industries (AGI) held the 12th Regional Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership on 3 June 2010 in Accra. The Conclave saw participation from several West African countries including Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso and Togo. A CEO's Roundtable was held in Accra on 3rd September, 2010. Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Anand Sharma led the Indian delegation, while Ghana's Minister of Trade and Industry led the Ghanaian delegation. A 35-member Indian business delegation of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FICCI), led by Mr. Harpinder Singh Narula, visited Accra on 21 February, 2011 and participated in the "Business Meet" organized by the Mission in coordination with the Association of Ghanaian Industries (AGI).

12. India was the "country of focus" in the 10th Ghana International Book Fair held at the Ghana Trade Fair Centre, Accra, from 1-6 November, 2011. Shri Sunil Gangopadhyay, President, Sahitya Akademi, led a 10-member official delegation, and over 30 Indian book publishers participated in the Fair.

13. To continue building on the close people-to-people links between the two countries and to commemorate the 140th birth anniversary of Mahatma

Gandhi in October 2009, a festival of Indian films was held which was inaugurated by the Vice President of Ghana. A two-day Festival of Indian Feature Films for Children was organized by the High Commission at the Silverbird Cinema in Accra from 19-20 March 2010. Another festival of Indian films was organized from 28th January to 3rd February, 2011 in Accra which received large popular support. A day-long festival of Indian films was organized by the High Commission in collaboration with the Keta Municipal Assembly at Keta in the Volta Region of Ghana on 26.3.2011.

14. The High Commission celebrated the 150th birth anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore with various programmes in Accra. The salient feature of the celebration was the “Cultural Evening” of music, dance, poetry recitation based on the works of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore organized by the High Commission with the participation of local Indian artists and Ghanaian artists which was attended by over 400 invited dignitaries, including political leaders, academicians, artists and diplomats. The function was highly appreciated by the audience and widely covered in the media.

15. An 8-member Ghanaian dance troupe of Noyam Dance Institute, Accra, sponsored by the Government of India, participated at the 2nd India Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-II), at Addis Ababa in May 2011. A Ghanaian craft artist also participated at the event.

16. There is substantial Indian community in Ghana numbering about 7000-8000. Some of them have been in Ghana for over 70 years. The business activities of Indians in Ghana have contributed in a major way to India being the second highest investor in Ghana in terms of number of projects.

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