

## **India – Republic of Gabon Relations**

India and Gabon have enjoyed warm and friendly relations dating back to pre-independence era of Gabon. Gabon has supported India's candidature at various international forums.

2. Mr. Ali Bongo Ondimba, Senior Minister for National Defence of Gabon and the incumbent President of Gabonese Republic visited India in November, 2007. He held bilateral talks with Raksha Mantri and visited defence training centres and production facilities.

3. Minister for Mining, Oil, Energy and Hydraulic Resources, Mr. Richard Auguste and Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Regional Integration, Mr. Jean Ping visited India in May, 2007.

4. Minister for Mines, Petroleum and Hydrocarbons, Mr. Julian Nkoghe Bekalen visited India in December 2009 to participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> India-Africa Hydrocarbons Conference held in New Delhi.

5. Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs visited New Delhi from 27-29 March, 2011 to participate in the 7th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India Africa Project Partnership.

### **India's Economic Assistance:**

6. (i) GOI has extended a Line of Credit worth US\$14.5 million in January, 2008 for a housing project in Bikele near Libreville. The project consists of construction of 300 houses and 4 amenities. The project remains incomplete due to differences between the Government of Gabon and the Indian consortium engaged for the project on various issues such as further release of funds, grant of visa/residence permit to Indian workers, etc. Exim Bank has released US\$ 4.35 million for this project.

(ii) Gabon was allocated 25 slots under ITEC and 8 ICCR Scholarships for 2012-13, out of which 4 ITEC slots were utilised. 3 officials have received training under AIFS.

(iii) Gabon is one among the first 15 African countries to implement the Pan African e-network project. Tele-education, Tele-medicine and VVIP connectivity has been set up in Libreville under this project.

(iv) A Vocational Training Centre would be set up in Gabon, under the Plan of Action agreed with the African Union as a result of the first India Africa Forum Summit held in New Delhi in April 2008.

### **Indian Investments:**

7. (i) Oil India Ltd., in partnership with Indian Oil Ltd. and Marvis Pte. Ltd., Singapore, is conducting oil exploration in Shakthi Block, Lamberele.

(ii) Airtel has taken over Zain mobile network.

(iii) Tata Chemicals [the salt and soda ash arm of the Tata Group] along with Singapore-based Olam International, has acquired 25% stake (worth US\$290 million), in a urea fertiliser project.

(iv) A few other Indian companies e.g. M/s Ramky Infrastructure Ltd. and M/s M3M India Ltd. have won contracts for development of infrastructure sector.

**Commercial and Economic Relations:**

8. Gabon has large oil reserves, mineral as well other natural resources. It is the world's second largest producer of manganese. Principal items of exports from India to Gabon are meat and meat products, pharmaceuticals, cotton, iron and steel. Imports from Gabon are that of wood and articles of wood, ores, slag and ash.

Bilateral trade figures are given below:

	(US\$ million)							
Year	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-12
Exports	10.36	16.58	16.63	25.90	21.65	25.02	37.55	47.00
Imports	42.80	42.09	115.50	120.58	175.12	180.58	307.71	146.26

**Indian community:**

9. There are around 160 Indians living in Gabon. They are engaged basically in infrastructure projects, trading, export of timber and metal scrap.

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**May 2013**