



“POWER AFRICA” & PARTNER COUNTRY ENERGY IN THE NEWS
July 27 – August 09, 2014

Article Summaries & Full Clips

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IN THE NEWS: Featured “Power Africa” Articles

July 27 – August 09, 2014

POWER AFRICA DEVELOPMENTS

[Barack Obama touts Africa deals in U.S. catch-up game](#)

August 5 | POLITICO

President Barack Obama announced on Tuesday that the U.S. government, World Bank and businesses will invest a combined \$33 billion in Africa’s economy, showcasing America’s economic ties to a continent where trade and investment are increasingly dominated by China and Europe.

[US-Africa Summit: US firms to invest \\$14bn in Africa](#)

August 6 | BBC

The US-Africa summit is intended to strengthen ties as China ramps up its investment in the continent.

US companies have pledged \$14bn (£8.3bn) of investment in Africa in areas such as energy and infrastructure.

[Billions promised to Africa - here's how it would be spent](#)

August 6 | Mail & Guardian

Summit season comes with degrees of "equal partnership" talk, but despite this the headlines are usually around promised money. It is summit season in Africa. The US-Africa Leaders Summit is the second major meeting this year, following the EU-Africa summit in March, and comes hot on

the heels of similar summits with France, Japan and Arab nations last year.

[Citi Bank to Source U.S.\\$2.5 Billion for 'Power Africa'](#)

August 6 | This Day

Citi has pledged to source \$2.5 billion in incremental capital to improve access to electricity for millions of people across Africa as part of the 'Power Africa' initiative.

[GE to invest \\$2 billion to boost African energy, infrastructure](#)

August 4 | Reuters

General Electric Co on Monday pledged to invest \$2 billion in Africa by 2018 to boost infrastructure, worker skills and access to energy, an announcement timed to coincide with a U.S. summit meeting of nearly 50 African leaders.

[Momentum gathers in Power Africa initiative](#)

August 6 | BiztechAfrica

Standard Bank Group, Africa’s largest lender by assets, has renewed its commitment to the Power Africa Initiative, a multi-stakeholder project driven by US President Barack Obama, which aims to double access to power in Africa by significantly accelerating investment in the sector over

the next five years.

[Obama announces \\$12B in new aid to Africa power sector](#)

August 5 | The Hill

President Obama unveiled \$12 billion in new pledges from the private sector and government institutions on Tuesday to help strengthen Africa's electric power infrastructure. The new commitments to Obama's Power Africa initiative, which the president launched last year, bring total funding of the program to more than \$26 billion, according to a White House fact sheet.

[Obama announces more investment in Africa by U.S. firms during leaders' summit](#)

August 5 | The Washington Post

President Obama announced Tuesday that private companies are providing an additional \$12 billion in aid to the administration’s electrification program for Africa, while U.S. firms will invest more than \$14 billion on the continent in sectors including banking, construction and information technology.

[Obama to announce expansion of electrification in](#)



[Africa](#)

August 5 | The Washington Post

President Obama announced Tuesday afternoon that private companies and government institutions are providing an additional \$12 billion in aid to the administration's electrification program for Africa, while the federal government is adding \$300 million a year to the initiative.

[Standard Chartered Raises 'Power Africa' Stake to U.S.\\$5 Billion](#)

July 30 | The Guardian (Lagos)

Standard Chartered Plc. has pledged a further \$3 billion to the White House initiative-Power Africa, which was aimed at improving access to electricity in Africa. With the development, the lender has become the largest private sector partner in President Barack Obama's initiative, after it spent \$2 billion on the same project during the past 12 months.

[U.S. moves to cash in on African economic promise](#)

August 6 | LA Times

Sub-Saharan Africa still struggles with political unrest, poverty and disease, including the current Ebola outbreak in West Africa. But the last decade has brought a sea change in its economic performance and perceptions of its future promise. In 2000, Economist magazine dubbed Africa "the hopeless continent." Today, scholars

talk about the "African growth miracle."

[Why Obama is spending billions on clean energy to 'Power Africa'](#)

August 8 | CSMonitor.com

If successful, Africa could serve as an example of how developing populations can boost quality of life without relying on the carbon-heavy coal that fueled growth in the industrialized world. Many parts of rural Africa are naturally well equipped for a power grid that is more decentralized and renewable-based than Europe's or North America's.

[The U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit: Africa's Dramatic Development Story](#)

July 28 | Brookings Institution

With the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit taking place on August 4, now is a good time to reexamine the storyline around Africa. The continent has made progress in economic and social development well beyond expectations, but still has obstacles to overcome. It is time we approach the Africa narrative with enthusiasm, maybe cautious enthusiasm, but enthusiasm nonetheless.

[African leaders to convene in D.C. for summit focused on economic potential](#)

August 2 | Washington Post

Nearly 50 African heads of state and government will gather this week for an unprecedented meeting in

Washington that holds the prospect of reframing the continent's image, from one defined by conflict and disease to one ripe with economic promise.

[New Africa in sight – Obama](#)

August 7 | Business Report

Africa's fast-growing economies represent a great opportunity for US companies to expand their investments as long as governments curb corruption and human rights abuses, according to US President Barack Obama.

OPINION

[Tony O. Elumelu: Africa Is Open for Business, Ready for Investment](#)

July 31 | Wall Street Journal

The three-day U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit being convened by President Obama in Washington next week could be a defining moment for the African continent as it emerges on the world stage. The gathering could also be a defining moment for the United States as it formally recognizes the strategic importance of Africa in a multipolar world to its own future growth.

[More to Africa than Ebola, there's also optimism](#)

August 8 | Reuters

The conversations at the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit in Washington this week, Secretary of State John Kerry said on the first day, are very



different from discussions about Africa 10 to 15 years ago. He's right — and he should know.

[Obama doesn't have an Africa problem](#)

August 8 | *theguardian.com*

Politicians can only do so much to boost business ties between nations, but they certainly have the power to screw things up both diplomatically and economically. President Obama has faced harsh criticism for what some

perceived as a minimalist approach to Africa, despite the fact that six of the world's fastest-growing economies of the past decade are African nations. The US president is now trying to make amends.

IN THE NEWS: Featured Partner Country Energy News

July 27 – August 09, 2014

ETHIOPIA

[Transmission Line Built With Br273 Million Complete](#)

August 1 | *Ethiopia Radio and Television*

The Alamatta-Mehoni-Mekelle transmission line built with an outlay of over 273 million Birr is completed, said the Ethiopian Electric Power (EEP).

GHANA

[ACEP lauds power sector reforms](#)

August 5 | *Ghana Web*

The Africa Centre for Energy Policy (ACEP) has commended the current reforms in Ghana's power sector following the country's qualification to receive the Second Compact of the United States Millennium Challenge Corporation. Describing that as appropriate and timely, the energy think-tank indicated that the reforms will enhance government's efforts at injecting efficiency into the operations of the power utilities

KENYA

[Electricity Prices to To Come Down – Kengen](#)

July 31 | *The Star (Kenya)*

Consumers will soon see a drop in the electricity bills, Kenya Electricity Generating Company has promised consumers, after adding 140MW to the national grid from the 280 megawatt (MW) Olkaria geothermal project.

[Sh60 Billion to Expand Kenya's Electricity Access](#)

July 28 | *Capital FM*

Kenya is negotiating a Sh60 billion loan from the African Development Bank (ADB) to finance an ambitious plan to expand the country's electricity access from the current 32 percent to 70 percent in five years.

[Tripartite Pact Makes Power Connection Easier, Faster](#)

July 31 | *Capital FM*

Kenya Power has signed a tripartite agreement with Rapid Communications Limited and Jamii Bora Bank that will see use of technological solution to address the issue of

connecting potential customers to the national grid.

LIBERIA

[Liberia, Others Get U.S.\\$5Billion Electricity Boost](#)

August 7 | *The New Dawn (Monrovia)*

Liberia and five other African countries, including Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, Ethiopia and Tanzania are to benefit from a World Bank Group US5 billion support towards their energy projects, which have partnered with President Obama's Power Africa initiative.

NIGERIA

[Records Over 10,000 Deaths Through 'Generator' Fumes](#)

August 8 | *Vanguard*

Alarmed by the increasing death of Nigerians through inhalation of fumes from electricity generating sets popularly known as generators, the President, Good Governance Initiative, GGI, Mr. Festus Mbisiogu, has called on the Federal Government to urgently take steps to halt the trend. At last count no fewer than 10,000



Nigerians have over the years died from poisonous 'generator' fumes, especially in the years between 2008 and 2014.

[Anambra Gets \\$2.5bn 1500mw Power Plant under Power Africa Initiative](#)

July 29 | THISDAY LIVE

Nigeria's formal agreement to work with the government of the United States (US) to increase access to and availability of electricity in Nigeria through the US-backed Power Africa initiative will bequeath to Anambra State, a brand new 1500 megawatts (MW) thermal power plant.

[Company Plans to Inject 300mw to National Grid By 2015](#)

August 6 | Daily Independent
Hydro Power Ltd. announced that 30 megawatts of electricity would be generated and added to the national grid by 2015. The megawatts will be generated from Kwali River in Bassa Local Government Area in Plateau.

[Lagos to Roll Out Solar Power in Schools](#)

August 7 | CAJ News Africa

THE Lagos State Government has announced plans to provide solar power to all public schools in the state.

172 schools will benefit in the first phase, which will run

between now and May next year.

TANZANIA

[Low power generation Africa's biggest hurdle to development, says Kikwete](#)

August 8 | The Guardian (Tanzania)

President Jakaya Kikwete has said one of the challenges hindering the African continent from achieving economic growth is low production of electricity coupled with low usage of the energy. The President said the continent only uses three percent of the world's generated electricity and the average usage of the energy is perched at 31 percent.



IN THE NEWS - Full Clips

Power Africa

1. Barack Obama touts Africa deals in U.S. catch-up game | August 5 | POLITICO
2. US-Africa Summit: US firms to invest \$14bn in Africa | August 6 | BBC
3. Billions promised to Africa - here's how it would be spent | August 6 | Mail & Guardian
4. Citi Bank to Source U.S.\$2.5 Billion for 'Power Africa' | August 6 | This Day
5. GE to invest \$2 billion to boost African energy, infrastructure | August 4 | Reuters
6. Momentum gathers in Power Africa initiative | August 6 | BiztechAfrica
7. Obama announces \$12B in new aid to Africa power sector | August 5 | The Hill
8. Obama announces more investment in Africa by U.S. firms during leaders' summit | August 5 | The Washington Post
9. Obama to announce expansion of electrification in Africa | August 5 | The Washington Post
10. Standard Chartered Raises 'Power Africa' Stake to U.S.\$5 Billion | July 30 | The Guardian (Lagos)
11. U.S. moves to cash in on African economic promise | August 6 | LA Times
12. Why Obama is spending billions on clean energy to 'Power Africa' | August 8 | CSMonitor.com
13. The U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit: Africa's Dramatic Development Story | July 28 | Brookings Institution
14. African leaders to convene in D.C. for summit focused on economic potential | August 2 | Washington Post
15. New Africa in sight - Obama | August 7 | Business Report
16. Opinion - Tony O. Elumelu: Africa Is Open for Business, Ready for Investment | July 31 | Wall Street Journal
17. Opinion: More to Africa than Ebola, there's also optimism | Reuters
18. Opinion - Obama doesn't have an Africa problem | August 8 | theguardian.com

Energy In Africa

19. Ethiopia: Transmission Line Built With Br273 Million Complete | August 1 | Ethiopia Radio and Television
20. Ghana: ACEP lauds power sector reforms | August 5 | Ghana Web
21. Kenya: Electricity Prices to Come Down - Kengen | July 31 | The Star (Kenya)
22. Kenya: Sh60 Billion to Expand Kenya's Electricity Access | July 28 | Capital FM
23. Kenya: Tripartite Pact Makes Power Connection Easier, Faster | July 31 | Capital FM
24. Liberia: Liberia, Others Get U.S.\$5Billion Electricity Boost | August 7 | The New Dawn (Monrovia)
25. Nigeria Records Over 10,000 Deaths Through 'Generator' Fumes | August 8 | Vanguard
26. Nigeria: Anambra Gets \$2.5bn 1500mw Power Plant under Power Africa Initiative, Articles | THISDAY LIVE
27. Nigeria: Company Plans to Inject 300mw to National Grid By 2015 | August 6 | Daily Independent
28. Nigeria: Lagos to Roll Out Solar Power in Schools | August 7 | CAJ News Africa
29. Tanzania: Low power generation Africa's biggest hurdle to development, says Kikwete | August 8 | The Guardian (Tanzania)



1. Power Africa - Barack Obama touts Africa deals in U.S. catch-up game | August 5 | POLITICO

URL Source: <http://www.politico.com/story/2014/08/obama-invest-14b-africa-109718.html>

By ERIC BRADNER | 8/5/14 6:37 AM EDT

President Barack Obama announced on Tuesday that the U.S. government, World Bank and businesses will invest a combined \$33 billion in Africa's economy, showcasing America's economic ties to a continent where trade and investment are increasingly dominated by China and Europe.

Obama said the United States will finance \$7 billion in business exports and investments in Africa, while U.S. companies have inked \$14 billion in deals with the continent.

And the World Bank, Sweden and private sources have pledged another \$12 billion in funding for Obama's Power Africa energy initiative, bringing the electrification program's total funding to \$26 billion.

The pledges were the highlight of Obama's three-day U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit, which brought nearly 50 African heads of state to Washington this week.

In a speech at the summit's business forum on Tuesday, Obama pointed to a "new Africa that's emerging," with an exploding middle class, developing manufacturing and retail sectors, the fastest-growing telecommunications market and the world's youngest population.

But he said the United States' trade with the entire continent is equal only to trade with Brazil. The three African countries that trade the most with America are South Africa, Nigeria and Angola, and that's mostly tied to oil.

"We've got a lot of work to do. We have to do better — much better," Obama said. "I want Africans buying more American products and I want Americans buying more African products."

The forum also featured former President Bill Clinton, business executives and African leaders, all of whom pointed to an economic relationship with room to grow.

"We kind of gave Africa to the Europeans first and the Chinese later. Today [it] is wide open for us," said Jeff Immelt, General Electric's chief executive officer.

The business forum was aimed at making up ground lost to China, which surged past the United States to become Africa's top trading partner in 2009 and has since gained more than twice the U.S. share of two-way trade there. European and Chinese officials have held similar summits in recent years, with a particular interest in Africa's natural resources.

Obama pitched the United States as a different kind of partner. "We don't simply want to extract mineral from the ground for our growth. We want to build genuine partnerships to create jobs and opportunity for all our peoples," he said.

In that vein, the U.S. government is pumping more than \$7 billion into efforts to increase exports and investment in Africa, the president said.



That includes \$3 billion in Export-Import Bank financing to promote U.S. sales there. The bank will help General Electric sell about \$560 million in locomotives to Transnet, South Africa's largest freight transporter, the White House announced.

In addition, the government's Millennium Challenge Corp. is devoting \$2 billion to new compacts in Africa aimed at spurring private-sector growth and poverty reduction, including almost \$500 million over the next five years to help Ghana's energy sector.

The Overseas Private Investment Corp. is committing \$1 billion to finance and insure business investments in Africa, and the Agriculture Department will guarantee \$1 billion in agricultural exports to the continent over the next two years.

The \$14 billion in business commitments include deals in sectors such as banking, construction, clean energy and information technology.

Immelt and executives from IBM, Marriott and other leading corporations unveiled the specifics at the daylong event, where U.S. officials touted the business opportunities on a continent that is home to six of the world's 10 fastest-growing economies.

General Electric announced it will pump \$2 billion into Africa by 2018 to develop the facilities and skills training it will need to land more infrastructure and energy contracts there.

IBM, meanwhile, said it has struck a \$100 million deal to handle information technology for Fidelity Bank of Ghana.

Obama's Power Africa initiative, which is aimed at helping 600 million sub-Saharan Africans gain access to electricity, got a boost as well when World Bank President Jim Yong Kim announced \$5 billion in financing guarantees for the project. The private equity firm Blackstone Group and business conglomerate Dangote Industries also vowed to invest \$5 billion into African energy projects over the next five years.

Obama also announced the U.S. was increasing its annual commitment to \$300 million, which, combined with a \$1 billion pledge from Sweden, brought the program's total commitments to about \$12 billion.

The forum heard several pitches on trade measures favored by the American business lobby, including extending the charter of the Export-Import Bank, which finances sales in developing markets like sub-Saharan Africa, past September and renewing the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act, which waives import tariffs on products from the continent, before its expiration date at the end of fiscal 2015.

Support for the Export-Import Bank came from former President Bill Clinton, who said he has "heard more ridiculous things about the Ex-Im Bank in the last six months than I have in my adult life" and rebuffed a push by conservatives to abolish it.

"Economics is not theology, and if you're running a country, you've got to try to create an opportunity for all your businesses to be competitive," Clinton said while moderating a forum panel.

Tuesday's forum also gave other obscure U.S. agencies like the Overseas Private Investment Corp. a chance to tout their roles financing several new deals.



Still, many of the more than 300 government officials and business executives in attendance acknowledged that the United States needs to catch up, with Clinton noting, "This is probably something we should've done a long time ago."

Rosa Whitaker, a former assistant U.S. trade representative for Africa, called the summit "a defining moment in U.S.-Africa relations."

"It really provides an opportunity for President Obama to really solidify his legacy on Africa, which he really couldn't do in his first term," Whitaker said. "Africa has been in America's blind spot for too long."

2. Power Africa - US-Africa Summit: US firms to invest \$14bn in Africa | August 6 | BBC

Source URL: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-28668533>

The US-Africa summit is intended to strengthen ties as China ramps up its investment in the continent

US companies have pledged \$14bn (£8.3bn) of investment in Africa in areas such as energy and infrastructure, US President Barack Obama has said.

The announcement came at the first US-Africa Leaders' Summit, attended by over 40 African heads of state.

The summit is an effort to strengthen US ties with Africa as China increases its African investments.

Mr. Obama also hosted a dinner for African leaders at the White House.

The deals announced on Tuesday included a \$5bn partnership between private-equity firm Blackstone and Aliko Dangote, Africa's richest businessman, for energy infrastructure projects in sub-Saharan Africa, as well as more investments in Mr Obama's Power Africa initiative.

According to the White House, Power Africa received an additional \$12bn in pledges towards its effort to develop energy supplies on Africa through a mix of investment and state involvement. 'Unlocking growth'

The World Bank announced a \$5bn investment in Power Africa and General Electric said it had committed \$2bn to help boost infrastructure and access to energy.

"We gave it to the Europeans first and to the Chinese later, but today it's wide open for us," said General Electric chief executive Jeff Immelt.

Mr Obama also said that the US would offer an additional \$7bn of financing through the Doing Business in Africa (DBIA) Campaign, bringing the total new US commitments to investment in Africa announced on Tuesday to \$33bn.

"Up to tens of thousands of American jobs are supported every time we expand trade with Africa", said Mr Obama.



"As critical as all these investments are, the key to unlocking the next era of African growth is not going to be here in the US, it is going to be in Africa, " he added.

The three-day summit ends on Wednesday.

3. Power Africa - Billions promised to Africa - here's how it would be spent | August 6 | Mail & Guardian

Source URL: <http://mg.co.za/article/2014-08-05-the-billions-they-promised-africaand-how-they-would-be-spent>

06 Aug 2014 Lee Mwiti

Summit season comes with degrees of "equal partnership" talk, but despite this the headlines are usually around promised money.

IT is summit season in Africa. The US-Africa Leaders Summit is the second major meeting this year, following the EU-Africa summit in March, and comes hot on the heels of similar summits with France, Japan and Arab nations last year.

Later this year India will hold its second triennial summit with African leaders, as Beijing's flagship Forum on China-Africa Co-operation waits in the wings for next year.

These summits have recently been similar in that they are carefully wrapped in varying degrees of "co-operation" and "equal partnership" talk, but despite this the headlines are usually around the money and investment promised.

We take a look at the numbers announced so far: (Quoted exchange rates reflect the time the deal was announced.)

1: United States, (\$33-billion), August 2014

President Barack Obama has become the first American leader to convene a summit of such magnitude with African heads of state, with the US-Africa summit themed around investment, security and rights issues.

On Tuesday, Obama announced \$33-billion in commitments, with American companies planning \$14-billion worth of investments in Africa, and his Power Africa drawing an additional \$12-billion in commitments to go with the initial \$7-billion it had attracted.

An official said the investments will span a range of industries, including construction, clean energy, banking and information technology.

While the US remains the largest source of investment on the continent, this has been largely in the oil and gas sector.

China's trade with Africa overtook US volumes in 2009, and was estimated to have reached \$210-billion last year; double that of its rival.

China and Europe have built stronger positions in infrastructure, manufacturing and trade, but the US is angling for big energy contracts, especially on the back of Obama's \$7-billion Power Africa plan.



Africans criticise US businesses as bound too deeply to old stereotypes and too risk-averse to plunge into business with them, even though the continent is growing faster than any other region on the globe.

Read: Seven startling facts you didn't know about US-Africa trade

2: European Union, (\$39-billion), March 2014

The fourth EU-Africa summit in March struggled with the sideshows of who was not invited, including Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe's wife. South Africa president Jacob Zuma did not also attend in protest over the Mugabe saga.

However when the summit got down to business in Brussels some 50 African countries were represented, including 36 heads of state. The EU is far and away Africa's biggest development partner, providing more than 140-billion euros (\$187-billion) in aid between 2007 and 2013, including 18-billion euros in 2012 – nearly half the world's aid to the continent.

The EU also had more bilateral trade with Africa than China did with Africa, at \$321-billion last year, despite a decline in 2012.

At the end of the summit officials announced they would offer 28-billion euros (\$39-billion) in grants over six years to fund a range of projects, including peacekeeping, agriculture and development. Some of the cash would also promote regional integration.

3: France, (unquantified), December 2013

While no headline billions were announced when French president François Hollande met 40 African leaders in Paris in December 2013, analysts noted that the country had lost market share across the region, despite wielding significant influence on account of its security operations.

The European power's share of African trade has fallen from 10% to 4.7% over the last decade.

Hollande said France "must double trade with Africa" over the next five years, noting that this could add at least 200 000 jobs to the French economy. France's current trade with Africa is 30-billion euros (\$40-billion).

Paris will also double aid to Africa from 10-billion euros (\$13.6-billion) to 20-billion euros over the next five years.

The final communiqué zeroed in on integration, financial transparency, skills training, Economic Partnership Agreements. An Africa-France business meeting is also on the cards, in addition to other major economic meetings.

4: Japan, (\$32 billion), June 2013

The fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development in June 2013 saw prime minister Shinzo Abe offer 3.2-trillion yen (\$32-billion) in aid and investment to Africa over the next five years.

Of this, official development assistance (aid) was 1.4-trillion yen (\$14-billion), with the balance being public and private resources. Some 200-billion yen would also be used to underwrite trade insurance, while 650-billion yen (\$6.5 billion) would be allocated to infrastructure. Of note was that the cash would be used as African nations saw fit.



Other areas would be scholarships for 1 000 African nationals over five years, and cash towards a Japanese-style healthcare plan.

About 40 African heads of state and government officials attended the opening of the summit that is held every five years.

To follow up, Abe visited Africa in January, the first Japanese premier to do so in eight years, stopping at the AU headquarters in Ethiopia and in Cote d'Ivoire and Mozambique.

Japan trades only 2.7% with Africa, compared to 13.5% for China.

5: China, (\$20-billion), July 2012

The Fifth Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Co-operation in July 2012 was, as expected, a spectacle.

Then-president Hu Jintao offered \$20-billion in loans to African countries over three years, twice the amount pledged in the preceding three years. The new loans would mainly go into infrastructure, manufacturing and agriculture, he said.

In July this year, China released a new white paper on its foreign aid, the second such document in its history. Aid to Africa saw the largest increase since the previous document published in 2011, to reach 51.8% in 2012.

Analysts have also noted that concessional loans now make up the majority of China's aid financing, while zero-interest loans are down to single digits – 8.1% from close to 30% three years earlier.

China is now Africa's biggest trading partner, with 2013 trade figures of \$211-billion.

China's "cheque-book" model has, however, been coming in for criticism by those who see it as short-term and resource driven. But at the 2012 summit Hu said China firmly supported Africa's chosen development path, a position that resonates with many on the continent.

"We are certainly convinced that China's intention is different to that of Europe, which to date continues to intend to influence African countries for their sole benefit," South Africa president Jacob Zuma said.

6: Arab-Africa, (unquantified), November 2013

The third Arab-Africa summit in Kuwait saw the host country announce \$2-billion in development and investment on "easy terms".

Kuwait is the largest investor from the Arab region in Africa.

Saudi Arabia signed a clutch of economic deals with specific African countries that were valued at \$140-million, as did other Arab countries. A lot of the cash will go into energy infrastructure development.

The oil-rich Gulf countries, which are mostly arid, appreciate Africa as a source of food and arable land.

It was agreed that the summit, held after every three years, will be hosted in Africa in 2016.

7: India, (\$5 billion), May 2011



Ahead of the second-ever India-Africa summit this year, New Delhi will be looking to improve on its last deal with the region which saw then leader Manmohan Singh offer \$5 billion.

This deal was mainly as lines of credit over the next three years. The amount was double the previous \$2.15 billion.

Singh also offered an additional \$1-billion for new training institutions and country-specific infrastructure, leveraged on India's "soft-power approach" model.

At Addis Ababa 15 African heads of state attended, with 45 countries represented, but New Delhi will look to improve on this, using its deep historical links with the continent as an effective bargaining card.

India imports 70% of its crude needs, and the International Energy Agency expects internal demand to double by 2030, while it has also been active in growing its food on African land.

The Asian country's bilateral trade with Africa in 2013 reached \$93-billion, up from \$3-billion in 2001, beating projections of \$70-billion by 2015.

Consultants McKinsey report that Indian companies should quadruple their revenues from Africa to \$160-billion by 2025.

Twitter @LMAfrican

4. Power Africa - Citi Bank to Source U.S.\$2.5 Billion for 'Power Africa' | August 6 | This Day

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201408060766.html>

By Obinna Chima

Citi has pledged to source \$2.5 billion in incremental capital to improve access to electricity for millions of people across Africa as part of the 'Power Africa' initiative.

The Power Africa is a multi-stakeholder partnership between the United State government, governments of several African countries as well as other public and private sector entities, working to accelerate investment in Africa's power sector over the next several years.

Citi, a global bank, in a statement yesterday said it would also leverage its financing expertise in renewable energy to encourage the adoption and implementation of the appropriate technologies for specific markets. The financial institution also pledged to work with key stakeholders in local capital markets to introduce innovative debt securities and to enhance financial infrastructure.

It noted that accelerating the development of local capital markets would help to mobilise domestic savings and attract greater international financial resources to the power sector in Africa. In addition, by deploying its systems and technology to enhance the payment and collection capabilities of the various providers in the Power Africa initiatives, Citi said it also aims to increase efficiency and transparency along the entire supply chain.



The Chief Executive Officer of Citi for the Europe, the Middle East and Africa region, Jim Cowles was quoted to have said: "We are proud to be a partner in this phenomenal project, an initiative to double the number of people who have access to electricity across Africa.

"Citi has a unique footprint in Africa and a commitment to enabling progress on the Continent through our technical expertise, financing and risk mitigation tools."

Citi operates in over 40 countries in Africa with offices in 16 countries, including key markets such as, Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania and South Africa. Over the past two years, Citi has enabled over \$1.5 billion in funding for the power sector in Africa.



5. Power Africa - GE to invest \$2 billion to boost African energy, infrastructure | August 4 | Reuters

Source URL: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/04/us-africa-summit-general-electric-idUSKBN0G41DE20140804>

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - General Electric Co (GE.N) on Monday pledged to invest \$2 billion in Africa by 2018 to boost infrastructure, worker skills and access to energy, an announcement timed to coincide with a U.S. summit meeting of nearly 50 African leaders.

U.S. companies still have opportunities to catch up to China, Europe and Japan, who have made bigger strides in investing in the fast-growing continent, GE Chief Executive Officer Jeffrey Immelt said.

"The growth is real. I think, for American companies, this is an opportunity to seize upon," Immelt told reporters at a summit-related event in Washington. "This is a good catalyst for growth and a big opportunity for the company."

Immelt said Africa's rich natural resources and potential swell in local demand for electricity primed the region for investment.

"What you have is huge demand and actual supply, and what's in the middle is gaps in financing and technology and localization," Immelt said. He also cited political volatility as a risk.

But the CEO said the rewards outweigh the risks.

U.S. officials said the summit is aimed at showcasing American interest in the region through a series of government-private partnership deals. [ID:nL2N0Q40EF]

GE's investments include deals to work on increased electric grid reliability during peak power demands in Algeria and to generate uninterrupted power for the Nigerian National Petroleum Corp's state oil refinery.

The company also extended for five years a "country-to-company" agreement with Nigeria to spur the development of infrastructure projects and the transfer of skills and technology, and an investment of \$1 billion in railway and power equipment in Angola.

That deal was signed under a bilateral agreement between the U.S. Export-Import Bank and Angola's Ministry of Finance to finance infrastructure projects in the country.

Immelt reiterated his support for the Ex-Im Bank, which will be forced to close if Congress does not renew its charter by Sept. 30. [ID:nL4N0QA2X6]

The bank provides loans, loan guarantees and credit insurance to help private companies export goods overseas.

GE shares were down 0.4 percent at \$25.25 in midmorning U.S. trading.



6. Power Africa - Momentum gathers in Power Africa initiative | August 6 | BiztechAfrica

Source URL: <http://www.biztechafrica.com/article/momentum-gathers-power-africa-initiative/8561/>

By BiztechAfrica - Aug. 6, 2014

Standard Bank Group, Africa's largest lender by assets, has renewed its commitment to the Power Africa Initiative, a multi-stakeholder project driven by US President Barack Obama, which aims to double access to power in Africa by significantly accelerating investment in the sector over the next five years. The US government has committed more than US\$7 billion dollars in financial support to Power Africa over five years.

Power Africa aims to add more than 10 000 megawatts of cleaner, more efficient electricity generating capacity, and in the process electrifying at least 20 million new households and commercial entities with on-grid, mini-grid, and off-grid solutions. The six initial partner countries - Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria and Tanzania - have set ambitious goals to boost their power generating capacity with the ultimate aim of enhancing energy security, decreasing poverty and fostering economic growth.

"We are seeing an increasing pipeline of power projects across sub-Saharan Africa," said Mr Sim Tshabalala, Chief Executive of Standard Bank Group. "In 2013 we committed to arrange funding of at least \$150m of debt in the near term across the Power Africa countries, while more recently that amount has risen to over \$400m, principally in Kenya and Nigeria, with smaller transactions in Ghana and Tanzania."

Standard Bank is using its extensive balance sheet and on-the-ground presence across 20 markets across sub-Saharan Africa to help finance projects under the Power Africa initiative while at the same time actively leading the policy reform process required to facilitate increased private sector investment in Africa's power sector. The bank expects more than \$1bn in commercial projects to be realised across the six Power Africa partner countries by 2018, and as much as \$5bn when one includes the rest of sub-Saharan Africa.

"Standard Bank will strive to arrange or underwrite at least half of the debt required for these projects," said Mr Tshabalala. "As such, our commitment to Power Africa is to help fund an additional \$600m of debt in the Power Africa countries through 2018, taking our total since joining the initiative a year ago to \$1bn, and another \$2bn across the rest of sub-Saharan Africa over the same timescale."

The Ghana Power Compact (GPC) is the largest US Government transaction to date under the Power Africa banner. The GPC takes a system-wide approach to Ghana's energy challenges with six projects across three areas: distribution, generation and access to energy.

The GPC also supports Ghana's efforts to mitigate climate change by funding major energy-efficiency initiatives and improving the investment climate for renewable energy. At the heart of the GPC is a strong commitment from the Government of Ghana to change the laws and regulations needed to transform its power sector and put it on a path to profitability and sustainability.



The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) will invest up to \$498m over the next five years, to support the transformation of Ghana's energy sector, helping the country provide a safe, reliable source of power to households and businesses. The Government of Ghana will contribute an additional \$37m, bringing the total investment to \$535m. This initial investment is expected to catalyse at least \$4.6bn in additional private sector energy investment and activity from American firms in the coming years.

"Ghana is one of Africa's most dynamic and exciting economies and the GPC will make a significant contribution towards putting the country on a sustainable long-term economic growth path," said Mr Tshabalala. "Standard Bank will use its presence in Ghana and the rest of the continent to further support the Power Africa Initiative as well as other power projects across the continent."

7. Power Africa - Obama announces \$12B in new aid to Africa power sector | August 5 | TheHill

Source URL: <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/214390-obama-announces-12b-in-new-aid-to-africa-power-sector>

By - 08/05/14 05:25 PM EDT

President Obama unveiled \$12 billion in new pledges from the private sector and government institutions on Tuesday to help strengthen Africa's electric power infrastructure.

The new commitments to Obama's Power Africa initiative, which the president launched last year, bring total funding of the program to more than \$26 billion, according to a White House fact sheet. The initiative is meant to make sure the continent adds 30,000 megawatts of additional capacity and expand access to electricity to at least 60 million households and business.

On Tuesday, new investors included the World Bank, which will commit \$5 billion in direct financing, guarantees, and advisory services to Power Africa. The Swedish government is also contributing to the energy program.

Additionally, Secretary of State John Kerry and Ghana President John Dramani Mahama participated in a signing with the Millennium Challenge Corporation over a contract that will help Ghana overhaul its power sector.

In the compact, the U.S. foreign aid agency committed \$498 million over the next five years to build Ghana's electric power sector and boost investments. It's the largest U.S.-funded compact of the administration's Power Africa initiative.

"The compact invests in projects focused on distribution to make the country's power utility financially viable and capable of attracting private investment while it also funds initiatives supporting greater energy-efficiency and cleaner renewable energy," the CEO of Millennium Challenge Corporation, Dana J. Hyde, said in a statement on Tuesday. "These investments will provide Ghanaian homes, schools and hospitals with the access to the reliable electricity they need to thrive."

Ghana's president praised the compact as a show of cooperation between Ghana and the U.S., adding that it would benefit millions in his country.



More than 600 million Africans are without a reliable electricity supply, Kerry said on Tuesday. That's nearly twice the population of the U.S.

According to the World Bank while Africa has an increasing number of fossil fuels and renewable resources they are not evenly distributed, resulting in rolling blackouts across some 25 countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

8. Power Africa - Obama announces more investment in Africa by U.S. firms during leaders' summit | August 5 | The Washington Post

Source URL: http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/obama-announces-more-investment-in-africa-by-us-firms/2014/08/05/bb3a9e98-1cd5-11e4-82f9-2cd6fa8da5c4_story.html

President Obama announced Tuesday that private companies are providing an additional \$12 billion in aid to the administration's electrification program for Africa, while U.S. firms will invest more than \$14 billion on the continent in sectors including banking, construction and information technology.

The new pledges — which came during a day-long program at the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit focused on business opportunities, trade and development — reflect some of the most concrete outcomes of this week's gathering of nearly 50 African heads of state and government in the District. Speaking to delegates at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Obama said that this willingness to help Africa grow — rather than simply extract resources — is “what America offers” the continent.

“The United States is determined to be a partner in Africa's success, a good partner, an equal partner and a partner for the long term,” he said.

Now boasting more than \$26 billion in commitments, Power Africa aims to add 30,000 megawatts of additional capacity and expand electricity access to at least 60 million households and businesses. World Bank President Jim Yong Kim said Tuesday that his institution will commit \$5 billion in direct financing, investment guarantees and advisory services to Power Africa, while the Swedish government is also contributing to the initiative. The U.S. government is adding \$300 million a year to the initiative, which began as a \$7 billion, five-year federal program in June 2013.

Tuesday's announcements highlighted a dichotomy Africa now faces: Even as the administration touted the business opportunities beckoning there, experts and government officials say an adequate power supply remains the biggest obstacle to economic development.

More than 70 percent of Africans lack a reliable electricity supply. Power outages cost more than 5 percent of the gross domestic product in Malawi, Uganda and South Africa, according to Standard Bank, and between 1 and 5 percent of GDP in Senegal, Kenya and Tanzania.

Vera Songwe, a nonresident senior fellow in the Brookings Institution's Africa Growth Initiative, noted that even rapidly expanding sectors, from Internet to mining and the service industry, are energy-intensive.

“So, for every place you turn on the continent, for production, we need power,” Songwe said.

Sen. Christopher A. Coons (D-Del.), who chairs the Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee on African affairs, said American chief executives have identified three primary obstacles to investment



when it comes to Africa: “The physical infrastructure, the lack of transparency and the lack of electricity.”

“It’s really hard to refrigerate your products, to manufacture at any significant level, when you don’t have reliable electricity, and the vast majority of Africa does not have affordable, reliable electricity,” he added.

In a little more than a year since Obama launched the program during a visit to Africa, the initiative has spurred signed agreements that will generate 2,800 megawatts of electricity, while deals for an additional 5,000 megawatts are being negotiated.

The president called the response to the initiative overwhelming. “Today we’re raising the bar,” he said.

The administration has earmarked \$1 billion of the program’s funds for off-grid and small-scale energy solutions over the next five years, which are overwhelmingly renewable. And Tuesday, Secretary of State John F. Kerry and Ghana President John Dramani Mahama oversaw the signing of a Millennium Challenge Corp. compact in which the independent U.S. foreign aid agency pledged to invest as much as \$498 million over the next five years to help overhaul Ghana’s power sector.

At a breakfast meeting with reporters Monday, General Electric chief executive Jeffrey Immelt — whose company, along with Standard Bank, has a \$350 million financing agreement for power projects in Africa — said the administration’s involvement has accelerated the pace of deals on the continent because it provides “a seal of approval” that reassures investors.

“Whenever the U.S. is even a small partner in a deal, it brings a lot of investors with it,” he said.

Still, lawmakers on Capitol Hill are pressing to institutionalize the initiative through legislation, a task that has become complicated in part because of the political debate on climate change. The administration funds Power Africa by taking money away from existing programs at the U.S. Agency for International Development, including ones supporting democracy and governance efforts on the continent.

House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Rep. Edward R. Royce (R-Calif.), whose bill to make the program permanent has passed the House by a wide margin, said the administration’s electrification effort “doesn’t have any real long-term strategy or oversight. Trying to get these projects up and running will take much longer than two years — longer than the administration’s clock.”

Coons, who has a companion bill in the Senate with Sen. Bob Corker (R-Tenn.), said the reason to pass legislation in both chambers is “to send signals to our African partners, to the markets and to American investors that this is a sustained, serious and long-term intervention to support the development of a modern electricity infrastructure and generating capacity across more than a few of our principal allies in Africa.”

While Coons said he remained optimistic it would reach the president’s desk by the end of the year, he cautioned, “Any bill that touches on energy, on power generation, has become very difficult to get passed in this Congress because of the issues around coal and climate change.”

Even in the absence of a permanent program, African and American corporate executives made it clear this week they are eager to strike deals to expand Africa’s power sector. During a panel with Immelt and former president Bill Clinton on Tuesday, Aliko Dangote, president and chief executive of



the Dangote Group, a Lagos-based business conglomerate, announced a \$5 billion deal with Blackstone to invest in power and power infrastructure in sub-Saharan Africa.

“With this, we will definitely close the gap,” Dangote said. “There’s quite a lot of gap. We know about the gap, and it’s there, and we’re going to be very serious and very aggressive, and the two organizations will really make it work.”

At that point Immelt piped in. “Just remember who sells power-generating equipment,” he said to laughs, prompting Clinton to quip, “I should have been your agent.”

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Katie Zezima covers the White House for Post Politics and The Fix.

9. Power Africa - Obama to announce expansion of electrification in Africa | August 5 | The Washington Post

Source URL: http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/obama-to-announce-expansion-of-electrification-in-africa/2014/08/05/5b241554-1cab-11e4-82f9-2cd6fa8da5c4_story.html

At the U.S.-Africa Business Forum on Tuesday, President Obama announced that the U.S. plans to expand its business presence in Africa, investing billions into banking, trade, construction and technology. (AP)

President Obama announced Tuesday afternoon that private companies and government institutions are providing an additional \$12 billion in aid to the administration’s electrification program for Africa, while the federal government is adding \$300 million a year to the initiative.

The new pledges, which bring Power Africa’s total funding to more than \$26 billion, will help ensure the continent adds 30,000 megawatts of additional capacity and expands electricity access to at least 60 million households and businesses. World Bank President Jim Yong Kim said Tuesday that his institution will commit \$5 billion in direct financing, investment guarantees and advisory services to Power Africa, while the Swedish government is also contributing to the initiative.

Even as the administration has touted the business opportunities beckoning in Africa during this week’s U.S.-African Leaders summit, experts and African officials say an adequate power supply remains the biggest obstacle to economic development there.

More than 70 percent of Africans lack a reliable electricity supply. Power outages cost more than 5 percent of the gross domestic product in Malawi, Uganda and South Africa, according to Standard Bank, and between 1 and 5 percent of the GDP in Senegal, Kenya and Tanzania.

Vera Songwe, a nonresident senior fellow in the Brookings Institution’s Africa Growth Initiative, noted even rapidly-expanding sectors ranging from Internet to mining and the service industry are energy-intensive.

“So, for every place you turn on the continent, for production, we need power,” Songwe said.



Sen. Christopher A. Coons (D-Del.), who chairs the Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee on African affairs, said American chief executives have identified three primary obstacles to investment when it comes to Africa: “The physical infrastructure, the lack of transparency and the lack of electricity.”

“It’s really hard to refrigerate your products, to manufacture at any significant level, when you don’t have reliable electricity, and the vast majority of Africa does not have affordable, reliable electricity,” he added.

In a little more than a year since Obama launched the program during a visit to Africa, the initiative has spurred signed agreements that will generate 2,800 MW of electricity, while another 5,000 MW of deals are under negotiation.

One senior administration official, who asked to remain anonymous because the president had not yet made his announcement, said the program has allowed U.S. officials to “figure out where the gaps are and fill them” when it came to sealing new power agreements.

“We know the demand is high. What we are doing is answering that demand,” the official said. “We think this is an idea whose time has come. It benefits Africa, which benefits us. It also benefits the U.S., in terms of investments.”

The administration has already earmarked \$1 billion of the program’s total funds for off-grid and small-scale energy solutions over the next five years, which are overwhelmingly renewable. And on Tuesday, Secretary of State John F. Kerry and Ghana President John Dramani Mahama oversaw the signing of a Millennium Challenge Corporation compact in which the independent U.S. foreign aid agency pledged to invest up to \$498 million over the next five years to help overhaul Ghana’s power sector.

At a breakfast meeting with reporters Monday morning, General Electric chief executive Jeffrey Immelt — whose company, along with Standard Bank, has a \$350 million financing agreement for power projects in Africa — said the administration’s involvement has accelerated the pace of deals on the continent because it provides “a seal of approval” that reassures investors.

“Whenever the U.S. is even a small partner in a deal, it brings a lot of investors with it,” he said.

And for U.S. corporations pressing for regulatory changes in Africa, larger power agreements allow them to be more persuasive when they’re making their case.

“If you’re talking about a 1,000-megawatt project, then the policy discussion becomes a lot easier because you’re not trying to change policy over a 200-megawatt plant,” said GE Africa chief executive Jay Ireland.

Still, lawmakers on Capitol Hill are pressing to institutionalize the initiative through legislation, a task that has become complicated in part because of the ongoing political debate over climate change. Currently the administration funds Power Africa by taking money away from existing programs at the U.S. Agency for International Development, including ones supporting democracy and governance efforts on the continent.

House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Edward R. Royce (R-Calif.), whose bill to make the program permanent has already passed the House by a wide margin, said the administration’s electrification effort “doesn’t have any real long-term strategy or oversight. Trying to get these



projects up and running will take much longer than two years — longer than the administration’s clock.”

Coons, who has a companion bill in the Senate with Bob Corker (R-Tenn.), said the reason to pass legislation in both chambers is “to send signals to our African partners, to the markets and to American investors that this is a sustained, serious and long-term intervention to support the development of a modern electricity infrastructure and generating capacity across more than a few of our principal allies in Africa.”

While Coons said he remained optimistic it would reach the president’s desk by the end of the year, he cautioned, “Any bill that touches on energy, on power generation, has become very difficult to get passed in this Congress because of the issues around coal and climate change.”

Even in the absence of a permanent program, African and American corporate executives made it clear this week they are eager to strike deals to expand Africa’s power sector. During a panel with Immelt and former president Bill Clinton on Tuesday, Aliko Dangote, president and chief executive of the Dangote Group, a Lagos-based business conglomerate, announced a \$5 billion deal with Blackstone to invest in power and power infrastructure in sub-Saharan Africa.

“With this we will definitely close the gap,” Dangote said. “There’s quite a lot of gap. We know about the gap and it’s there and we’re going to be very serious and very aggressive, and the two organizations will really make it work,”

At that point Immelt piped in. “Just remember who sells power generating equipment,” he said to laughs, prompting Clinton to quip, “I should have been your agent.”

Katie Zezima contributed to this report.

10. Power Africa - Standard Chartered Raises 'Power Africa' Stake to U.S.\$5 Billion | July 30 | The Guardian (Lagos)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201407311115.html>

By Chijioke Nelson

Standard Chartered Plc has pledged a further \$3 billion to the White House initiative- Power Africa, which was aimed at improving access to electricity in Africa.

With the development, the lender has become the largest private sector partner in President Barack Obama's initiative, after it spent \$2 billion on the same project during the past 12 months.

The governments of Nigeria, Ghana, Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia and Liberia and a group of private-sector firms are taking part in the initiative to improve access to clean, reliable power in Africa, and ultimately deliver electricity to more than 20 million new households and companies by 2018.

More than two-third of the population of sub-Saharan Africa is without electricity, with about 85 per cent of people living in rural areas lacking access entirely.

These countries have however, set ambitious goals in electric power generation and are making the utility and energy sector reforms to pave the way for investment and growth.



The bank's Group Chief Executive Officer, Peter Sands, said: "Over our 150 years of history in Africa, we have always strived to contribute to social and economic development, financing trade and investment across the continent.

"A lack of access to electricity is one of Africa's most critical infrastructure challenges. With our extended commitment to the 'Power Africa' initiative, we expect to add around 7,500 megawatts to Africa's power grid- equivalent to the electricity production capacity of Nigeria and Cote d'Ivoire."

Already, Standard Chartered is helping fund the Azura-Edo and Okija power projects that will add more than 900 megawatts of capacity to Nigeria's power grid.

In a statement from the bank, it noted that "this privately-owned and funded greenfield Independent Power Plant (IPP) is setting an industry standard in legal and regulatory frameworks for other developing power plants to follow, progressing the Nigerian Government's power sector reform.

"The Azura-Edo plant will harness the country's domestic gas resources to generate 450MW of power as the first non-captive IPP in Nigeria in more than 10 years."

Also, the bank invested in Okija power project, a privately-owned and funded greenfield IPP that will be the second to seek long term debt financing on a limited recourse basis.

The plant, which will boast of 495MW installed capacity, will also utilise domestic natural gas to generate electricity in south-eastern Nigeria and Standard Chartered is the mandated lead arranger and structuring bank for both projects.

The lender's African private-equity unit has also invested funds in Zambia Energy Corp., while its CEC Africa unit bought the 600-megawatt Shiroro hydropower plant in Niger State and the Abuja Electricity Distribution Company.

Over the last two decades, academic research has shown that the under-performance of Africa's power infrastructure has restricted economic growth, reducing per capita GDP growth by 0.11 per cent per year for the continent as a whole.

It has also affected in Southern Africa, with as much as 0.2 per cent, where mining and manufacturing- the big industrial users of electricity have traditionally been more important.

In Nigeria, current power output is approximately 4,000 megawatts, but the country's demand is sitting at 10,000 megawatts.

It is estimated that if Nigeria could close this infrastructure gap, it would raise economic growth by three percentage points, equating to just over \$15 billion yearly.

11. Power Africa - U.S. moves to cash in on African economic promise | August 6 | LA Times

Source URL: <http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-us-africa-business-20140806-story.html>

When Kevin Smith and his partners started a solar energy firm in Santa Monica in 2008, they expected to sell their technology to advanced economies in Europe and the United States.

But much of the action has been in a part of the world Smith initially wrote off: Africa.



Not only are some of SolarReserve's biggest projects in South Africa, but by year's end the continent is also likely to generate the bulk of the company's sales. "We're now spending a whole lot more time" in Africa, he said, mentioning Ghana, Nigeria and Mozambique, among others.

Sub-Saharan Africa still struggles with political unrest, poverty and disease, including the current Ebola outbreak in West Africa. But the last decade has brought a sea change in its economic performance and perceptions of its future promise. In 2000, Economist magazine dubbed Africa "the hopeless continent." Today, scholars talk about the "African growth miracle."

We are at risk of having the Chinese capturing market share away from American companies. - Kevin Smith, SolarReserve executive

On Tuesday, President Obama acknowledged the transformation, kicking off the first U.S.-Africa leaders summit in Washington by announcing \$14 billion in American private investment in Africa for construction, clean energy, banking and information technology. Federal and industry commitments now total about \$33 billion.

"I don't want to just sustain this momentum. I want to up our game," Obama told a crowd of U.S. and African business leaders, praising the virtues of vibrant markets that offer opportunities "not just for aid, but for trade."

In many ways, Washington and corporate America are playing catch-up to the Chinese, who for years have held summits with African leaders and have sent armies of workers to cut deals for oil and resources, construct roads and buildings and, more recently, establish shoe and other manufacturing operations.

"It's clear from being there that we're significantly behind China, Korea, Germany," said Robert Blackwell Jr., chief executive of Electronic Knowledge Interchange in Chicago.

At the summit Tuesday, he said his firm recently partnered with an electric company in Nigeria, Africa's largest economy, to provide software and technical systems to better distribute electricity and manage Nigeria's grid.

"It reminds me of China when I first went there in 2001," Blackwell said, conceding that it's far from risk-free. "But I think it's a huge opportunity."

China's footprint in Africa is huge.

"Its presence can be seen and felt almost everywhere one goes in Africa these days," said Howard French, author of "China's Second Continent: How a Million Migrants are Building a New Empire in Africa."

SolarReserve's push in Africa is now focused on staying a beat ahead of the Chinese, who are moving to expand into technology opportunities there.

"We are at risk of having the Chinese capturing market share away from American companies," Smith said.

China designated Africa as a priority region for expansion in the mid-1990s, French said. Chinese construction firms have been undertaking large state-financed infrastructure projects, sending 200 to 2,000 workers at a time, often on two-year contracts.



Many of those workers are staying on in Africa, he said, "to seek their own fortunes in a new land that they have discovered seems to be wide open for business and full of opportunity."

To be sure, American commodity firms and corporations such as General Electric and Ford Motor have been in Africa for years, as have U.S. missionaries, relief workers and humanitarian agencies. But many U.S. companies have been queasy about entering Africa, given its less-developed markets, poor infrastructure, unskilled workforces and especially its violence and war.

Some of Africa's economic ascendance may be part hype. Obama noted Tuesday that six of the world's fastest-growing economies are now in Africa, but such growth rates are easier to achieve because the countries are coming from very low baselines.

Nevertheless, there have been clear improvements in areas of governance, health and farming, experts said. As a whole, sub-Saharan Africa's economy is expected to grow at nearly 6% a year on average over the next decade, the fastest of any region in the world.

Companies such as Wal-Mart, Marriott and IBM are expanding in the continent, especially in the biggest and fastest-growing economies — Nigeria, South Africa, Angola and Ethiopia.

Africa's middle class is budding, and it is entering a so-called demographic sweet spot in which better health and declining fertility rates — which allows more women to have jobs — are boosting Africa's working-age population, said Margaret McMillan, a Tufts University economics professor who specializes in Africa.

An extensive traveler in the sub-Saharan region, McMillan noted that there's a Four Seasons in the middle of Serengeti in Tanzania. Africa has the largest penetration of cellphones in the world.

"It's just amazing," she said of the capital of Rwanda, a nation once torn by ethnic conflict. "The city is clean. They don't allow plastic bags."

So dramatic has been the turnaround that some experts have likened Africa's growth to the remarkable rise of China and other Asian nations that harnessed manufacturing capabilities to become global export powerhouses.

Africa's income has long been derived mainly from two sources: commodities and foreign aid. Africa ships all kinds of things farmed or extracted from the land — oil, copper, cotton, coffee. Ethiopia is the largest source of top-notch sheepskin, a key reason the Chinese firm Huajian opened a shoe factory near Addis Ababa.

But over the last decade, much of the economic growth has come from outside the commodity industries, mostly in construction and services such as retail and transportation.

With many countries still lacking adequate roads, rail and electric power, it remains to be seen whether Africa will replicate Asia's growth model through manufacturing and exports.

For the American economy, Africa represents just a speck of business at the moment.

American exports of goods to Africa totaled about \$35 billion last year, largely machinery, vehicles and wheat. That was up from \$28 billion in 2010. But it was still a fraction of total U.S. shipments of \$1.6 trillion worldwide.

Meanwhile, American imports from Africa have fallen sharply, to \$51 billion last year from \$87.5 billion in 2010, mainly because of the plunge in U.S. demand for African oil.



Still, for individual American companies, the potential is huge, particularly for those in the energy business. About 70% of sub-Saharan Africans live without access to electricity, and more African nations, including Nigeria, recently have moved to open up opportunities to the private sector.

12. Power Africa - Why Obama is spending billions on clean energy to 'Power Africa' | August 8 | CSMonitor.com

Source URL: <http://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/Energy-Voices/2014/0808/Why-Obama-is-spending-billions-on-clean-energy-to-Power-Africa>

Jared Gilmour, Staff writer August 8, 2014

Washington — Can a developing continent leapfrog dirtier fuels on its way to providing electricity for 600 million inhabitants without it?

The Obama administration hopes Africa can, and is spending billions to support access to cleaner energy on the continent. But not everybody is convinced the administration's "Power Africa" plan – with its emphasis on intermittent resources like wind and solar – is an effective way to combat energy poverty.

If successful, Africa could serve as an example of how developing populations can boost quality of life without relying on the carbon-heavy coal that fueled growth in the industrialized world. Many parts of rural Africa are naturally well-equipped for a power grid that is more decentralized and renewable-based than Europe's or North America's.

If, on the other hand, African nations and other emerging economies follow their predecessors into fossil fuel-based economies, there would be little hope of reining in the runaway global emissions of heat-trapping gases that cause climate change.

As they look to the future, African nations will have to strike a balance between global climate concerns and local economic prosperity.

"We cannot meet the continent's needs with just green energy," says Mwangi Kimenyi, director of the Africa Growth Initiative at the Brookings Institution, a Washington-based think tank.

"The fact that the US and some investors are focusing on clean energy should not preclude other investors from going toward oil, coal, and other energy," Mr. Kimenyi says in a telephone interview Thursday.

At this week's US-Africa Leaders Summit in Washington, President Obama pledged an additional \$300 million to expand energy access throughout sub-Saharan Africa. That's on top of a \$7 billion Power Africa initiative Mr. Obama unveiled last summer. The aim? Double access to electricity in six African countries, powering 60 million homes and businesses.

Power Africa has already garnered \$26 billion in commitments from public and private investors, according to the White House, with hopes of adding 30,000 megawatts of capacity on the continent. It's all a part of Obama's broader climate agenda, and a significant chunk of energy support will funnel into renewables.



“Power Africa is helping drive a clean energy revolution that takes advantage of Africa’s abundant wind, solar, geothermal, and hydropower resources,” wrote John Podesta, counselor to the president, in a blog post Tuesday.

That's not to say US investment is exclusively in renewables, though. General Electric – a key participant in the US Africa initiative – has also invested in aeroderivative gas turbines and rail infrastructure. Monday, GE announced it will invest \$2 billion in energy access, worker skills, and infrastructure by 2018.

The administration hopes Africa can develop and industrialize without relying heavily on carbon-intensive coal – the power source that fueled industrialization in the US and elsewhere, but is also a major contributor to global warming.

Skeptics of Obama’s clean energy agenda say it’s not feasible – or even ethical – to expect Africa to altogether leapfrog coal, which is a relatively cheap and abundant fuel for power plants.

“[T]he president’s newest quest to bring his costly climate agenda onto the global scale will quash any opportunity for meaningful economic prosperity in Africa,” said Mike Duncan, president and CEO of American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity, in a statement Tuesday.

World Bank President Jim Yong Kim said at the summit that the bank would “try to avoid” investing in coal, but indicated the World Bank may invest in coal projects to meet Africa’s “demand for access to power.” Last year, the World Bank announced that it would stop supporting coal-intensive projects, except in rare cases.

“We are very sensitive to the idea that Africa deserves to have power,” Dr. Kim said, according to Bloomberg, signaling it’s possible the bank would give limited support to coal – sometimes seen as a more reliable power source than renewables.

“There’s never been a country that has developed with intermittent power,” Kim said.

Such a mentality is stuck in the 20th century, environmental groups contend, and does not take into account the possibilities of 21st-century innovation. Centralized grids relying on coal-fired power are a thing of the past, according to Justin Guay, associate director for the international program at the Sierra Club.

Guay says it’s conceivable that renewables could leapfrog coal on the continent, just as cell phones have spread through parts of Africa ahead of landline telephones.

“It’s ironic that people like Dr. Kim at the World Bank can be taken seriously when they say the equivalent of ‘landlines for all,’ in an age where mobile phones have 100 percent leapfrogged the landline,” Guay says in a telephone interview Thursday.

13. US - Africa Summit - The U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit: Africa’s Dramatic Development Story | July 28 | Brookings Institution

Source URL: <http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/africa-in-focus/posts/2014/07/28-us-africa-leaders-summit-development-ingram>

Editor’s Note: The U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit blog series is a collection of posts discussing efforts to strengthen ties between the United States and Africa ahead of the first continent-wide summit. On



August 4, Brookings will host “The Game Has Changed: The New Landscape for Innovation and Business in Africa,” at which these themes and more will be explored by prominent experts. [Click here](#) to register for the event.

With the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit taking place on August 4, now is a good time to reexamine the storyline around Africa. The continent has made progress in economic and social development well beyond expectations, but still has obstacles to overcome. It is time we approach the Africa narrative with enthusiasm, maybe cautious enthusiasm, but enthusiasm nonetheless.

Poverty and Development: The Pessimist’s Narrative

The two maps below reveal the story of the locus of extreme poverty shifting in a generation (1990 – 2010) from Asia and Africa to principally Africa. While there remain millions of people in Asia living in extreme poverty, the vast number of countries with extreme poverty affecting over 40 percent of the population are in Africa.

These maps reflect disturbing statistics. Africa is home to over 400 million people living in extreme poverty and three-quarters of the world’s poorest countries. One African in three is malnourished and over 500 million suffer from waterborne diseases. Twenty-four million Africans, nearly 70 percent of the global burden, are afflicted with HIV. Thirty million (one in four) primary-school-age African children and 20 million adolescents, are not in school.

According to the 2014 Fragile States Index the five countries in the highest category of fragility are all in Africa (South Sudan, Somalia, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sudan), and 10 of the 16 in the top-two most fragile categories are in Africa.

Turning the Page on the Past

But that is only part of the story. It would be easy to focus on these statistics and see Africa as hopeless, as has been all too common. But a more holistic picture reveals trends that are cause for considerable optimism. That picture is drawn by the maps presenting the level of absolute poverty in countries in Africa over the same period.

What is striking is that the space representing poverty above 40 percent has shrunk, from 31 countries in 1990 to 22 countries in 2010. Delving deeper reveals a host of encouraging data.

Seventeen countries in Africa, accounting for over 40 percent of the population of the continent, have experienced a level of economic growth over 3 percent per capita since 1996. From 2000 to 2010, six of the world’s 10 fastest-growing economies were in Africa. Africa was the fastest-growing continent at 5.6 percent in 2013, and that momentum is expected to be sustained this year.

The poverty rate in Africa, estimated at 56.5 percent in 1990, is projected to fall to 42.3 percent in 2015. Most countries have achieved universal primary enrollment rates of 90 percent or higher. The primary school completion rate has risen from 53 percent in 1993 to 70 percent in 2011.

Almost half the countries of Africa have achieved gender parity in school. The proportion of women in national parliaments has reached nearly 20 percent, a milestone that only developed countries and Latin America have achieved.

Improvements in health have been dramatic. The under-five mortality rate declined by 47 percent, from 146 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 91 deaths in 2011. Maternal mortality fell by 42 percent, from 745 deaths per 100,000 live births to 429 deaths over the same period. The once



seemingly unstoppable HIV/AIDS rate has, in fact, been reversed, with prevalence rates dropping from 5.9 percent in 2001 to 4.9 percent in 2011. Tuberculosis and malaria remain serious problems, but their spread has been largely stopped.

U.S. Assistance to Africa: Writing the Next Chapter

While external private investment flows have been a growing source of capital for Africa—a fivefold increase from major partners in the past decade as explained in a recent blog by my Brookings colleagues—for many countries in Africa foreign assistance remains an important source of development finance. One way to get a crude indication of the relative importance of foreign assistance is to compare it to the size of government revenues. The map below shows 20 countries in Africa for which total foreign assistance is equivalent to more than 40 percent of the national budget.

If one wonders whether Africa is a priority for U.S. assistance policy, just look at the numbers. At the 2005 Gleneagles Summit, the G-8 committed to increase assistance by \$50 billion, half for Africa. The U.S. subsequently more than doubled its aid to Africa. Today, the U.S. and World Bank IDA (International Development Agency) vie as the largest donor to Africa, with shares at 17 percent of total assistance flows to Africa each. The next biggest donor is the European Union at 10 percent, followed by France, the United Kingdom and Germany, in that order. In fact, aid to Africa from European nations has declined the last several years while the U.S. has maintained its Gleneagles commitment.

The U.S. priority for Africa has grown over the past decade. In 2002 U.S. economic development assistance (not counting humanitarian assistance) to Africa was 17 percent of total U.S. economic assistance. That percentage has steadily grown over the past decade to 40 percent for both FY2014 (estimated) and the budget request for FY2015. The priority given to Africa is even more impressive when you consider that U.S. budget levels for foreign assistance peaked in 2010, in which year 32 percent of U.S. economic development assistance was devoted to Africa. Despite a decline of approximately 20 percent of budget levels for all development assistance from 2010 to 2014, the magnitude of assistance for Africa has remained above \$6 billion per year, accounting for Africa's continued rise in percentage of total U.S. economic development assistance.

As with the U.S., Africa is a rising priority for China As reported by Yun Sun in a companion blog, Africa represented 46 percent of Chinese aid in 2009 but 52 percent in 2010-2012. The major difference between U.S. and Chinese assistance to Africa is that Chinese assistance is principally for infrastructure and economic activities, with negligible amounts for humanitarian purposes, and is mostly loans. In contrast, U.S. assistance is concentrated in the social sectors and is almost all grants. In addition, the U.S. is the major provider of humanitarian assistance to Africa.

For the past decade, health has been the main focus of U.S. assistance to Africa, accounting for approximately 80 percent of total U.S. economic assistance in recent years. But after a decade of growth, that focus may be begin to change to reflect the 2012 White House strategy statement on U.S. policy toward Africa. That policy document emphasizes governance, economic growth and trade, and peace and security. The accompanying chart shows the proposed shift in funding into those accounts in the FY2015 budget request. Whether Congress will go along with that shift remains to be seen.

Power Africa

One particularly recent innovative U.S. program is Power Africa, announced by President Obama in June 2012. Some 600 million Africans live without electricity. The goal of the program is to double



access to power in sub-Saharan Africa by adding 10,000 megawatts to output. The innovations in the program are multifold. Rather than the typical sequence of designing the program and then inviting in the private sector, the design started with canvassing the needs of private sector energy investors. Furthermore, the program joins together a focus on both governance and finance and operates across the U.S. government.

The initiative, led by USAID, involves 12 U.S. government agencies, some 40 private companies, and six African countries (Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria and Tanzania). The U.S. government has committed \$7 billion in financing over five years, and private companies have committed another \$ 14 billion. Development of the program involved identifying specific private sector investments that have not moved beyond the planning phase because of inhospitable host government regulations and policies, or inaction, and/or insufficient financing. In addition to providing financing, the equally important part of the program is the effort to help remove restrictive host country policies and regulations, and institute policies that more rationally regulate and encourage private investment.

Interest in Power Africa has grown in the U.S. Congress since it was announced. Congress may even up the ante on the president. HR 2548 (Electrify Africa Act) passed the House on May 5, and the companion Senate bill S 2014 (Energize Africa Act), would double the goal of Power Africa to 20,000 megawatts.

The development story in Africa is still being written. The African leaders who come to Washington in early August will have a large voice in how that story plays out. There remain many causes for concern, but more reasons for optimism.

Let's forget about pledging a host of deliverables and hope that the result of the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit is a frank exploration of the needs and potential for Africa, and a no-nonsense appraisal of how the U.S. can be most helpful. Let's hope that the impact is to expand the priority that Africa holds for U.S. policy and show that this is a story in which the U.S. is determined to play its part.

14. US - Africa Summit: African leaders to convene in D.C. for summit focused on economic potential | August 2 | Washington Post

Source URL: http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/african-leaders-to-convene-in-dc-for-summit-focused-on-economic-potential/2014/08/01/b64ed4d8-1813-11e4-85b6-c1451e622637_story.html

Nearly 50 African heads of state and government will gather this week for an unprecedented meeting in Washington that holds the prospect of reframing the continent's image, from one defined by conflict and disease to one ripe with economic promise.

The U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit — which will mark the first time an American president will convene Africa's leaders at one conference — faces major hurdles, including the ongoing distraction of conflicts elsewhere and domestic budget constraints. Obama administration officials have deliberately played down their expectations, saying the event will not conclude with the sort of flashy financial commitments that Chinese leaders have announced at African summits in Beijing.

Instead, the meeting will focus largely on the economic potential that Africa offers the United States — provided that the two can solve ongoing problems around electricity supply, agriculture, security threats and democratic governance. It could allow President Obama to establish a broader legacy in Africa.



“We want to do business with those folks,” Obama said Friday at a news conference, noting that the United States is no longer providing aid only to countries on the continent to stave off malnutrition and the spread of HIV/AIDS. “And we think that we can create U.S. jobs and send U.S. exports to Africa. But we’ve got to be engaged, and so this gives us a chance to do that.”

Sen. Christopher A. Coons (D-Del.), who chairs the Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee on African affairs, noted that the United States still has strong ties based on years of development assistance.

“I think history will show Africa is the continent of the greatest opportunity this century,” he said. “We have a moment that is passing us by, and we should build on these relationships.”

The event “is not a donor conference,” said Linda Thomas-Greenfield, assistant secretary of state for African affairs. In fact, it’s a sprawling networking affair that will bring together foreign dignitaries, American and African chief executives, policymakers and activists for several days of business deals and panel discussions, as well as private dinners and at least one dance party.

There are close to 100 side events, on top of a three-day formal conference that includes one day devoted to business issues. Another day will cover more traditional development issues, including food security, health, women’s empowerment and wildlife trafficking.

Although the recent Ebola virus outbreak in Africa is not specifically on the agenda, Gayle Smith, the National Security Council’s director for development and democracy, said, “We will obviously adapt as needed and in consultation with our partners, depending on their requirements.”

The presidents of Liberia and Sierra Leone — two of three nations experiencing the outbreak — have canceled their plans to attend the conference.

The less-formal nature of the gathering — especially compared with ones in countries such as Japan, where the prime minister sits down with each visiting head of state — has raised concern in some quarters. Some African leaders were surprised when they learned that they would not deliver individual speeches, and Obama has opted for large group discussions rather than one-on-one meetings.

House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Edward R. Royce (R-Calif.) said in an interview that although he recognizes the problem of favoring some politicians over others, the administration risks offending “some of our allied partners” by not providing private audiences with the president.

Do you know Africa?

But Ben Rhodes, Obama’s deputy national security adviser, told reporters that given the number of leaders coming to town, “the simplest thing is for the president to devote his time to engaging broadly with all the leaders. That way we’re not singling out individuals at the expense of the other leaders.”

State Department officials have been scrambling to prepare for the event. The department’s first-floor bathrooms are being renovated ahead of the conference, and a breakdown in its computer system has delayed the issuance of visas for some delegations.

Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker, who will lead the business segment along with former New York mayor Michael R. Bloomberg (I), is slated to announce new deals between the United States and Africa totaling \$1 billion. Rep. Gregory W. Meeks (D-N.Y.), who will co-host a reception at the



Capitol on Monday night and will hold a second networking event with more than 100 chief executives and senior U.S. trade officials Wednesday, said his goal is “to have some real deals that are cut” before Wednesday is over.

Jennifer G. Cooke, who directs the Center for Strategic and International Studies’ Africa program, said the larger question facing the administration is to what extent the summit can deliver results. “There will certainly be some leaders who walk away and say, ‘What was that all about?’ ” she said.

Obama’s two immediate predecessors had a single policy achievement that defined their approach to the region. In the case of Bill Clinton, it was the African Growth and Opportunity Act, which reduced some trade barriers between the two partners. For George W. Bush, it was the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. The administration has continued those two programs while beginning initiatives to promote food security, electrification, training for young leaders and regional trade between African nations.

As the son of a Kenyan father, Obama faced high expectations from Africans and specialists in the region when he became president. His friends and foes say he disappointed many Africans in his first term when he focused largely on the struggling U.S. economy and on passing a far-reaching health-care law.

“Today the consensus among those same people is that he missed the mark,” Royce said, adding that Obama has not moved swiftly enough to address instability in places such as Sudan or terrorist threats such as Boko Haram. “The president’s approach to Africa has been more reactive than proactive.”

But even Royce said Obama has elevated the issue in his second term, and administration officials and several outside experts said the president and his top deputies want to foster closer ties with Africa at a time when many other countries — including China — are increasingly focused on the continent. The United States still invests more in Africa than any other country, but trade between China and Africa has now surpassed that of the United States and the continent. The European Union, Brazil and others are watching a region that boasted six of the world’s 10 fastest-growing economies in the past decade.

“Africa also has strong ties with other regions and nations, but America’s engagement with Africa is fundamentally different,” national security adviser Susan E. Rice said at the U.S. Institute for Peace. “We don’t see Africa as a pipeline to extract vital resources, nor as a funnel for charity. The continent is a dynamic region of boundless possibility.”

Business leaders are intensely focused on the summit. The chief executives of Coca-Cola, General Electric and other major firms will be in town, while the U.S. Chamber of Commerce is hosting 11 heads of state at seven events. One is a banquet dinner at the Grand Hyatt hotel honoring Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan; another is a much smaller dinner at the Chamber’s headquarters with the Ivory Coast’s president, Alassane Ouattara.

Scott Eisner, the Chamber’s vice president of African affairs, said he and others had been pressing the administration to hold such a summit for years, because “if you want to get CEOs to pay attention, you need to have your commander in chief leading the charge.”

Human rights groups have questioned why the administration is not integrating members of civil society more fully into the sessions involving African leaders, given that about a dozen African nations have moved in recent years to crack down on dissent and minority groups, including gays.



Separate sessions on civil society will take place Monday, while 500 young African leaders meet with Obama.

Sarah Margon, Human Rights Watch's Washington director, said the fact that African activists will not have a chance to speak directly when the leaders are gathered together "really contradicts the administration's rhetorical commitment to civil society, independent voices and independent media throughout the continent."

Thomas-Greenfield said organizers decided to keep the activists on a separate program because "the actual summit is a summit between leaders," but she added, "We want to have frank discussions with those leaders on the issues that civil society brings to the table."

Only a handful of heads of state — from the Central African Republic, Eritrea, Sudan and Zimbabwe — were not invited to the summit, and Margon noted that leaders such as Equatorial Guinea President Teodoro Obiang would be feted by corporate groups even though his administration has faced serious corruption and human rights charges during his nearly 35 years in power.

"Then they've made the circuit, they've made new friends, and they don't have to answer any questions about their blemished records," she said.

And even as there is growing corporate interest in Africa, the continent still faces huge economic challenges. More than 70 percent of Africans do not have reliable access to electricity: Obama has pledged \$7 billion in federal assistance and loan guarantees through his Power Africa program and the private sector has matched that with \$14 billion, but a House-passed bill to make the program permanent has not made it through the Senate.

Amadou Sy, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution's Africa Growth Initiative, noted that the gross domestic product for all of Kenya is smaller than the size of the economy in Madison, Wis., while the amount of electricity used on game night at the Dallas Cowboys' stadium is equal to that consumed nationwide in Liberia.

Still, there are signs of a change even when it comes to the push for development. Three decades ago, Western pop stars recorded "We Are the World" to raise money in response to the Ethiopian famine; recently the ONE campaign helped gather 2.2 million signatures from Africans urging more investment in agriculture, in part through the song "Cocoa na Chocolate," which featured only African musicians.

Sipho Moyo, ONE's Africa director, said this shift "does mean that Africans, and African leaders, become more responsible for the health challenges, the education challenges and the development challenges."

Perhaps Obama, she added, "will be remembered as the president who changed the narrative about how we view Africa."

15. US - Africa Summit: New Africa in sight - Obama | August 7 | Business Report

Source URL: <http://www.iol.co.za/business/international/new-africa-in-sight-obama-1.1731644#U-S96mQW1-g>

August 7 2014 at 08:00am By Margaret Talev and Roger Runningen



Reuters

US President Barack Obama (right) is interviewed by Zimbabwean entrepreneur Takunda Ralph Michael Chingonzo, during the US-Africa Business Forum in Washington on Tuesday, which was part of the three-day US-Africa Leaders Summit. Photo: Reuters

Washington - Africa's fast-growing economies represent a great opportunity for US companies to expand their investments as long as governments curb corruption and human rights abuses, according to US President Barack Obama.

"Even as Africa continues to face enormous challenges, even as too many Africans still endure poverty and conflict, hunger and disease, even as we work together to meet those challenges, we cannot lose sight of the new Africa that's emerging," he said at the US-Africa Business Forum in Washington on Tuesday.

Obama highlighted \$33 billion (R353bn) in commitments to Africa: \$14bn in investments by firms including General Electric and Coca Cola, \$7bn in financing to promote US exports and \$12bn for an initiative to double availability of electricity in sub-Saharan Africa.

He is seeking to shift the US focus in Africa toward fostering investment and trade, instead of the traditional emphasis on providing aid. Tuesday's forum, which included more than 90 US companies, was part of a three-day summit, which concluded yesterday, with more than 40 African leaders.

To draw more US investment, the administration is pressing the African leaders to protect human rights, especially for women, curb corruption and implement more transparent financial systems.

"Capital is one thing," Obama said. "Rule of law, regulatory reform, good governance? Those things matter even more" because investors want to be able to do business without "paying a bribe or hiring somebody's cousin".

Africa's biggest need, he said, was "laws and regulations and structure that empower the individual" and do not simply preserve "power for those at the very top".

The administration is seeking more robust commercial ties in Africa to tap some of the fastest-growing economies.

The International Monetary Fund estimated sub-Saharan Africa's growth at 5.4 percent this year and 5.8 percent next year, compared with 1.7 percent and 3 percent in the US for the same two years.

The world's largest economy faces competition. China has overtaken the US as Africa's biggest trading partner with a relationship that exceeded \$200bn last year, more than double that of the US.

China's state-owned enterprises have rolled out projects in every country on the continent, including hydroelectric dams, highways and rail lines linked to the extraction of natural resources.

"The US is determined to be a partner in Africa's success," Obama said. "We don't simply want to extract minerals from the ground for our growth," he added, drawing an indirect contrast to China's approach.

The administration's strategy leans heavily on companies investing in Africa, which Obama said would increase employment in the US as well.



General Electric announced plans earlier this week to invest \$2bn in the region by 2018 and double its workforce on the continent.

Ford is looking to expand its car manufacturing in Africa.

“Everything is pointing toward a surge in the African economy,” Jim Benintende, Ford’s head of operations in the Middle East and Africa, said.

Energy shortages remain an obstacle. About 70 percent of the population lacks electricity, according to the International Energy Agency.

The Obama administration has proposed a five-year programme dubbed Power Africa. The \$7bn plan to double access to power in Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria and Tanzania still requires action by Congress.

Private equity firm Blackstone Group is in a \$5bn partnership with Aliko Dangote, the president of Dangote Group and Africa’s richest man, for power projects in sub-Saharan Africa.

Carlyle Group is also investing an unspecified amount with Dangote in Nigerian oil and gas ventures and other projects in sub-Saharan Africa.

The US would add 10 trade missions and expand its presence in other parts of Africa, Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker said. – Bloomberg

16. US - Africa Summit: Opinion - Obama doesn't have an Africa problem | August 8 | theguardian.com

Source URL: <http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/aug/08/obama-africa-problem-human-rights-economic-ties>

Supporting human rights in the continent and boosting economic ties do not have to be mutually exclusive

If Obama held African leaders to lower human rights standards, it would imply an acceptance of the inevitability of Africans having to live under often repressive regimes. Photograph: Yin Bogu / Xinhua Press / Corbis

Politicians can only do so much to boost business ties between nations, but they certainly have the power to screw things up both diplomatically and economically. President Obama has faced harsh criticism for what some perceived as a minimalist approach to Africa, despite the fact that six of the world’s fastest-growing economies of the past decade are African nations. The US president is now trying to make amends.

The first-ever US-Africa summit, which ended Thursday, was attended by nearly every African head-of-state, along with numerous business delegations. During the summit, President Obama announced a total of \$33bn in US investment commitments, including \$7bn in financing to promote US exports and investments in Africa, \$12bn to boost power supply with help from private-sector partners and \$14bn pledged by American businesses for investments in energy, aviation, banking and construction.



“The United States is determined to be a partner in Africa’s success,” Obama said, adding that America doesn’t look to Africa “simply for its natural resources”. The latter was an obvious swipe at China, which has forged close economic ties with Africa (last year, Chinese-African trade reached \$200bn – more than double the amount of business the US did with Africa) but which is sometimes accused of exploiting the continent’s natural resources in a colonialist fashion.

Some observers say that Chinese leaders are more effective than Americans at doing business with Africa’s leaders because they are respectful and don’t “lecture” Africans on human rights. It’s true that the Chinese don’t give a damn whether an African president is a gross violator of human rights, as long as there is a deal to be made – hey, why spoil the mood in the room?

But if President Obama, a much admired figure in Africa, stops talking to its leaders about human rights in order to secure better business deals, then just who will press the issue? I have no doubt that human rights violators prefer dealing with politicians and business leaders who never question their actions, but then it becomes difficult to understand who, other than those violators and their favored friends, stands to benefit from any profits such deals can bring.

If Obama held African leaders to lower human rights standards than other countries – like China, for instance – it would imply an acceptance of the inevitability of Africans having to live under often repressive regimes.

But it’s not as though there is zero existing framework for forging economic ties between America and African nations while holding countries to certain standards for human rights. The American Growth and Opportunity Act (Agoa), which is due for renewal in September 2015, offers duty-free access to America’s market for roughly 96% of African product lines – as long as the countries utilizing it show that they are making progress toward democracy, the rule of law, improved human rights and market-based economies.

Thirty-nine African countries currently qualify, and Agoa helped boost US-Africa trade from roughly \$26bn in 1999 to \$85bn last year. But the renewal could be held hostage by House Republicans, if they decide to block its extension because Obama supports it.

However, even if it is renewed, Agoa is just a trade agreement. African nations’ most pressing need is capital investment: overall, they face a capital funding shortfall of roughly \$50bn a year for much-needed improvements to their energy and transport infrastructures, according to the World Bank.

Obama’s announcement of coming investments notwithstanding, the US has not been very active on this front – but China invested \$13bn in African infrastructure in 2012 alone. Without improvements to the infrastructure in these sectors, further economic development is going to proceed at much slower than its potential pace.

It’s not helpful that some Republican lawmakers are now threatening to eliminate the Export-Import Bank, which provides credit to foreign buyers of US products and whose charter expires this September. For example, Nigeria – Africa’s biggest economy – is receiving this credit as part of its deal with General Electric to increase its electrical power supply in the country. That and other similar deals would be in jeopardy if Exim’s critics make good on their threats, creating lost opportunities for both Africa and the US.

But for now, the Obama administration and American businesses seem to be serious about growing economic ties with Africa – and that is more important than potential squabbles in Congress. As long as the momentum for more investment lasts, significant progress is possible on all fronts.



Most Africans, catchy headlines to the contrary, are not disillusioned with President Obama: Pew opinion polls show clear majorities in at least six countries believe that he'll "do the right thing in world affairs". Their other research shows the US in general is viewed favourably by 72% of South Africans and 69% of Nigerians – and in Ghana, Senegal and Tanzania, America's favorability ratings are even higher.

Supporting human rights in Africa and boosting economic ties with the continent do not have to be mutually exclusive. But, if the US wants to be regarded as a country that is sincerely committed to defending the fundamental rights of *all* people to freedom and dignity, then it cannot copy the Chinese model of "business first and only" in its dealings with Africa's leaders.

17. US - Africa Summit - Opinion - Tony O. Elumelu: Africa Is Open for Business, Ready for Investment | July 31 | Wall Street Journal

Source URL: <http://online.wsj.com/articles/tony-o-elumelu-africa-is-open-for-business-ready-for-investment-1406849188>

The U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit in Washington next week should be about much more than aid.

July 31, 2014 7:27 p.m. ET

The three-day U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit being convened by President Obama in Washington next week could be a defining moment for the African continent as it emerges on the world stage. The gathering could also be a defining moment for the United States as it formally recognizes the strategic importance of Africa in a multipolar world to its own future growth. With over 45 heads of state and the continent's leading industrialists in attendance, how can the U.S. make the most of this historic summit?

First, the Obama administration and U.S. private sector should recognize the new Africa they are engaging with. No longer exclusively a natural-resource play, the continent holds great potential for a wide range of sectors, from manufacturing, retail and agribusiness to hospitality and financial services. Next week's summit offers an opportunity to move beyond the usual conversations on aid and instead to explore new opportunities to collaborate and co-invest in initiatives that generate value on both sides of the Atlantic.

America's generosity will always be welcome, but today we in Africa are most interested in your capital, ideas and innovations. U.S. corporations recognize this shift. General Electric has chosen Nairobi as its hub for an aggressive African expansion strategy. U.S. corporations are not alone. There is a level of world-wide competition for Africa—political, commercial and cultural—that we have not seen before. At the same time, African leaders are now able to negotiate from a stronger position and articulate and deliver what is best for our continent.

Recognizing the need for a more strategic approach to Africa amid increasing competition, the Obama administration last year designed the Power Africa Initiative, harnessing the resources and influence of multiple U.S. government agencies to address a major impediment to the economic transformation of Africa, the power sector. The initiative aims to double access to power in sub-Saharan Africa by 2018, and it is supported by enabling legislation moving through Congress. Power Africa has put a spotlight on the urgent need for massive transformation in the African power sector.



It sends a clear message that America means business with Africa, facilitating billions of dollars of investment and ultimately generating value both for American stockholders and African consumers.

Africa's one billion consumers are an increasingly compelling market. The continent's consumer spending per capita already matches that of India or China and is expected to reach \$1.4 trillion in 2020. Some of Africa's most exciting and successful businesses—such as the United Bank for Africa, with operations across 19 African countries, and Dangote Industries—have produced phenomenal returns by understanding, and catering to, the African consumer. Their respective founders are now focusing on how to invest in communities to build the growing African middle class.

An increasing number of African business leaders are channeling their wealth into philanthropic ventures. These leaders include South African mining magnate Patrice Motsepe, whose family was inspired to join the Giving Pledge initiated by Warren Buffett and Bill and Melinda Gates to encourage wealthy families world-wide to give at least half of their wealth to charity. My own Tony Elumelu Foundation is developing and backing new models of entrepreneurship to create the jobs and inclusive growth that the continent so badly needs. This trend also signals that Africa now has increasing capacity to fund its own development projects and chart its own development agenda. We are not waiting for donors; we are taking the lead in developing our continent.

Beyond the continent, Africans are also taking stronger leadership roles within the global business community. Tidjane Thiam is CEO of Prudential one of the U.K.'s largest insurance businesses, and Bayo Ogunlesi's Global Infrastructure Partners controls leading infrastructure assets globally. They—and their counterparts on the continent—understand that the macroeconomic story of Africa is aligned to a long-term investment cycle focused not on extraction but on local value addition and job creation.

In this light, the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit beginning on Monday should be less about Washington's commitments during a time of fiscal constraint, and more about the platform that is created for partnerships between the U.S. and African governments, and U.S. and African companies. Perhaps most important, the summit will encourage relationships between American and African business leaders as partners, colleagues and friends, creating the conditions for this new Africa to bloom.

Mr. Elumelu is chairman of Heirs Holdings and founder of the Tony Elumelu Foundation in Lagos, Nigeria.

18. US - Africa Summit - Opinion: More to Africa than Ebola, there's also optimism | Reuters

Source URL: <http://www.japantimes.co.jp/opinion/2014/08/08/commentary/world-commentary/more-to-africa-than-ebola-theres-also-optimism/>

by Michael Elliott

Reuters

LONDON – The conversations at the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit in Washington this week, Secretary of State John Kerry said on the first day, are very different from discussions about Africa 10 to 15 years ago. He's right — and he should know.



In the early 2000s, then-Sen. Kerry, a Massachusetts Democrat, was one of the leaders in the bipartisan effort to scale up U.S. funding for the HIV/AIDS pandemic through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria — just as both programs were gaining their footing in Africa.

As recently as 2000, "The Economist" had featured a notorious cover story calling Africa "the hopeless continent," and debating its future of war, disease and endless poverty.

The representatives from some 50 African nations who arrived in Washington this weekend, by contrast, brought with them a ringing sense of optimism and hope — to say nothing of style and flair. In this miserable political year, the city could do with all those attributes.

The outbreak of the Ebola virus in West Africa is making headlines, but recent progress on health issues in Africa has been little short of miraculous.

As U.S. President Barack Obama said to members of the Young African Leaders Initiative last week: "Over the last 20 years, HIV occurrence has been cut in half in Africa. Tuberculosis and malaria deaths have been reduced by 40 percent and 30 percent, respectively."

Africa is now home to many of the world's fastest-growing economies, a burgeoning middle class and a vibrant technological sector, including mobile banking.

That is why so many of the African leaders attending the summit want to talk about their home not as a continent in crisis but as one of opportunity. They have come to discuss investment, trade — especially the tariff-free provisions of the African Growth and Opportunity Act, due to be renewed by Congress next year — and infrastructure, all vital to the continent's continued economic development.

They want their economies to grow and know what is needed to make that happen — jobs and education. In a recent survey of nine African nations that the ONE Campaign conducted with the firm GeoPoll by mobile phone (a sign of the times), these two concerns were the clear winners when respondents were asked to list their priorities.

Both the U.S. private sector and government have responded. During the summit, U.S. corporations are set to announce deals worth billions of dollars.

The Obama administration, meanwhile, will scale up its Power Africa initiative, which aims to leverage energy-sector investment to provide power to 20 million Africans.

It is a measure of how the terms of the debate on Africa have changed that energy access, barely a blip on the development agenda two years ago, is now front and center in U.S. policy. The administration's initiative is being matched and supported — in a rare bipartisan display — by legislation in Congress that has already passed the House of Representatives.

Yet as Mo Ibrahim, the African philanthropist and former telecommunications executive, said at a session on Monday, the point is not to be for "Africa-pessimism or Africa-optimism" but for "Africa-realism."

Fine words and Washington lunches will not transform the economic prospects of the continent overnight. Today, a little more than 400 million Africans live in extreme poverty, defined as an income of less than \$1.25 a day, and they make up about a third of all those in the world who are extremely poor.



The African proportion of the worldwide total is almost certain to rise by 2030, as Asian economic growth continues strong. What happens to the number of poor people in Africa, however, will depend on what policies are adopted between now and then.

We have a chance to virtually end worldwide poverty. But if we do not get things right, the number of Africans in extreme poverty could easily rise in the next 15 years.

That's why it's key to avoid slipping into a discussion of African policy that is riddled with false dichotomies — as if then it was about tackling health and poverty, while now it should be about growth and opportunity. The truth is, these are two sides of the same coin.

A recent report commissioned by "The Lancet," for example, found huge economic gains from investing in health. It shows why funding for programs fighting AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria is crucial. A successful replenishment next year of the coffers of the GAVI Alliance, the international public-private partnership that helps fund immunization programs, is also vital.

By the same token, for all the exciting talk of mobile banking, funding to support smallholder farmers, improve food security and modernize the agriculture sector is critical to building sustained economic success in Africa. Mining, oil, gas and other extractive resources may provide the most revenue for many African governments, but as investor and philanthropist George Soros argued in Washington this week, it is agriculture that provides the jobs. Roughly 70 percent of Africans rely on farming for their livelihood. Developing agriculture is the fastest and surest way out of poverty.

The best news coming out of the summit is that policymakers understand these old and new narratives are part of the same story. Through hard work, skill and determination, Africans are building something new and exciting. But as homeowners everywhere know, while the balustrades get designed, it's always worth making sure the brickwork is sound and foundations secure.

In the last two decades, funding to tackle Africa's health crises, poverty and hunger have been essential to provide the wherewithal for growth and prosperity. Now is not the time to forget that truth.

Michael Elliott is president and CEO of The ONE Campaign, a global advocacy group fighting poverty and preventable disease. The opinions expressed are his own.

19. Ethiopia: Transmission Line Built With Br273 Million Complete | August 1 | Ethiopia Radio and Television

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201408010844.html>

By Zerihun Getachew

The Alamatta-Mehoni-Mekelle transmission line built with an outlay of over 273 million Birr is completed, said the Ethiopian Electric Power (EEP).

EEP External Relations Head, Misikir Negash said 141km long transmission line carries 230 kilovolt. The project, which is part of the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP), would help channel the 300 mega watt generated from Tekeze and the 120 MW from Ashgoda Wind Farm to other lines. Of the over 273 million Birr allotted to the project, 85 percent was obtained from the Africa Development Bank as a long-term loan and assistance, and the remaining covered by the Ethiopian government.

The project was executed by Kalpatur, an Indian company, the head said. According to Misikir, the electric power demand of Ethiopia is growing on average by 35 percent as its economic growth is rapid and continuous. Electric power generating infrastructures are being expanded to meet this, he added. The goal of the GTP is to increase the electricity coverage of the country, which is 55 percent, to 75 percent, he noted. Ethiopia has the potential to generate over 1 million MW from water, wind and as geothermal energy.

Source: ENA

20. Ghana: ACEP lauds power sector reforms | August 5 | Ghana Web

Source URL: <http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/artikel.php?ID=319844>

The Africa Centre for Energy Policy (ACEP) has commended the current reforms in Ghana's power sector following the country's qualification to receive the Second Compact of the United States Millennium Challenge Corporation. Describing that as appropriate and timely, the energy think-tank indicated that the reforms will enhance government's efforts at injecting efficiency into the operations of the power utilities. A statement issued in Accra and signed by Mohammed Amin Adam, Executive Director said, "ACEP supports the proposal for a private sector participation in the Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG) and the Northern Electricity Company (NEDco). "We, however, recommend that government should take the option of a management contract rather than trading the shares of ECG to private companies." It also asked government to be comprehensive and transparent about the performance benchmarks that will constitute the terms of the contract in order to build public confidence in the policy. It added: "The public apprehension about private sector participation in the downstream power sector is as a result of recent dubious Public Private Partnership (PPP) arrangements, which have eroded confidence

in government partnering the private sector." ACEP noted that the main challenge facing ECG was financial viability. "We expect that apart from the grant from the US, the new management must put ECG in the position to attract long-term financing within three years from signing the contract. ECG's debts are not only due to low tariff and collection rates but are also largely attributed to the large procurements by ECG with short-term financing." Furthermore, it said the new management must put the right mechanisms in place to reduce the distribution losses, improve on connection rate, metering and the general customer service. As required by regulation, it said ECG and NEDco must develop and publish new Customer Charters based on which consumers could hold them to account. "Consumers demand for quality of service is a legitimate one and must be sustained. Private participation in the utilities therefore puts greater responsibility on PURC, which still has responsibility for tariff setting and quality regulation to rise to the challenge. "Continuous tariff adjustments without improvement in quality of service will undermine consumer confidence in our utility institutions. The need to privatize ECG must therefore be complemented with tariff reforms set within transparent benchmarks," it added.

21. Kenya: Electricity Prices to To Come Down - Kengen | July 31 | The Star (Kenya)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201408010500.html>

By Mercy Gakii



CONSUMERS will soon see a drop in the electricity bills, Kenya Electricity Generating Company has promised consumers, after adding 140MW to the national grid from the 280 megawatt (MW) Olkaria geothermal project.

Managing Director Albert Mugo said that another 140 MW will be fully commissioned and connected to the national grid by end of year, as geothermal power gradually replaces thermal power, and hopefully bring down the cost of electricity.

The 140MW is generated from two units, one of which completed reliability tests. The other unit is expected to complete the test by mid August.

Two more units are expected to commence reliability tests in September and October, as the power generating company continues implementation of the 280 MW geothermal project.

Mobile geothermal wellhead power plants are being installed and are expected to generate an additional 70MW, bringing to 350MW the total additional output from Olkaria.

"This year alone, 25.6 MW that was generated using the mobile wellhead power plants method has been added to the national grid," said Mugo.

Only 2.8 million Kenyans have access to electricity. This week, the government announced plans to increase electricity connections from the current 32 per cent to 70 per cent in the next five years.

22. Kenya: Sh60 Billion to Expand Kenya's Electricity Access | July 28 | Capital FM

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201407290533.html>

Nairobi — Kenya is negotiating a Sh60 billion loan from the African Development Bank (ADB) to finance an ambitious plan to expand the country's electricity access from the current 32 percent to 70 percent in five years.

Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Energy and Petroleum, Davis Chirchir, has revealed that the negotiations are at an advanced stage with the deal expected to be completed by December this year to pave way for the first tranche of the loan amounting to Sh12 billion to be disbursed this financial year.

Chirchir was speaking during a media briefing at Kenya Power's Stima Plaza highlighting the company's on-going power upgrade project under implementation in various parts of the country.

He said the money will be used to take electricity closer to potential electricity users and increase number of customers from the current 2.8 million to approximately eight million in five years.

"Even as we speed up generation projects that will inject 5,000 megawatts of additional electricity capacity, I am glad that Kenya Power is working hard to upgrade the transmission and distribution systems in readiness to evacuate the power to consumers in an efficient manner," he said.

Speaking at the event, Kenya Power Managing Director & CEO, Ben Chumo, said the on-going countrywide power upgrade projects will help manufacturers increase their productivity and create jobs, while at the same time increasing the country's gross domestic product.

Reduction in power supply interruptions will also translate to better unit sales for Kenya Power," he added.

23. Kenya: Tripartite Pact Makes Power Connection Easier, Faster | July 31 | Capital FM

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201407311419.html>

Nairobi — Kenya Power has signed a tripartite agreement with Rapid Communications Limited and Jamii Bora Bank that will see use of technological solution to address the issue of connecting potential customers to the national grid.

Rapid Communications Limited, a mobile telecommunications solution provider, will provide a mobile application platform to aid in loan application and processing.

The agreement obligates them to process loan applications from Kenyans seeking to obtain power connection from Kenya Power under a loan facility dubbed "Stima Bora Loan".

Upon approval of loan applications, Jamii Bora will issue confirmation letters to Kenya Power for the connection process to commence.

The Chief Executive Officers of Jamii Bora and Kenya Power, Samuel Kimani and Ben Chumo, respectively, signed the contract which was witnessed by Anwar Majid Hussein the CEO of Rapid Communication Limited.

Under the Stima Bora Loan facility, the customer shall apply for the loan facility through the mobile, the bank shall then accept deposits from customers only once Kenya Power has confirmed way leave acquisition.

Thereafter, the bank will disburse the loan proceeds to the customers and make payment on behalf of applicant direct to KPLC for necessary power connection.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Jamii Bora Chief Executive Officer, Samuel Kimani, said the agreement was intended to make it easy for Kenyans to obtain electricity on convenient and affordable terms.

Hussein also reiterated the need to have 70 percent of Kenya connected to the national grid by 2015 and applauded the effort by Jamii Bora and Kenya Power to make this possible.

"Rapid Communication is honoured to be part of this agreement that will see power connection go up to 70pc by 2015. Rapid has made the connection easier and convenient by enabling Kenyans apply for power and loan facility through their mobile phones wherever they are," said Hussein.

24. Liberia: Liberia, Others Get U.S.\$5Billion Electricity Boost | August 7 | The New Dawn (Monrovia)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201408070800.html>



Liberia and five other African countries, including Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, Ethiopia and Tanzania are to benefit from a World Bank Group US\$5 billion support towards their energy projects, which have partnered with President Obama's Power Africa initiative.

Making the announcement on the second day of the 1st US-Africa Summit, World Bank Group President, Dr. Jim Yong Kim, said the new financial commitment was urgently needed to generate more electricity for the people of Africa, 600 million of whom have no access to electricity, despite the fact that Africa possesses some of the world's largest hydropower, geothermal, wind and solar potential, as well as significant oil and natural gas reserves.

"We think that the U.S. Power Africa initiative will play an extremely important role in achieving the goal of providing electricity for Africa. So today I'm very pleased to announce that the World Bank Group, following President Obama's lead, will partner with Power Africa by committing \$5 billion in direct financing, investment guarantees, and advisory services for project preparation in Power Africa's six initial partner countries, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, and Tanzania.

The U.S. Government and the World Bank Group are working now on specific tasks and milestones which could help to achieve one quarter of Power Africa's goal of generating 10,000 megawatts of new power in Sub Saharan Africa," Kim said. Africa's power crisis forces families and communities to spend significant amounts of their income on costly and unhealthy forms of energy, such as diesel generators or wood for indoor cooking fires.

Africa has vast hydropower potential but uses just 8 percent of this untapped water force. In comparison, Western Europe uses 85 percent of its available hydropower potential, which has contributed to their economic development and industrialization.

"Like Europe and the rest of the world, Africa deserves the same opportunity to exploit this green source of power to improve the lives and economic prospects of its people," said the World Bank's Vice President for Africa, Makhtar Diop.

"Beyond building up power generators, they must be connected to the market, which calls for regional cooperation to build the transmission network. We are working with African leaders and their development partners to create power pools in Africa's East, West, Central, and Southern sub-regions.

Those countries with abundant geothermal, gas, hydro, solar, and wind resources can feed their excess power supply into a common pool, while neighboring states with less energy and generation capacity can benefit from this integrated approach to delivering electricity to their people. "

25. Nigeria Records Over 10,000 Deaths Through 'Generator' Fumes | August 8 | Vanguard

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201408080239.html>

By Vera Samuel Anyagafu

Alarmed by the increasing death of Nigerians through inhalation of fumes from electricity generating sets popularly known as generators, the President, Good Governance Initiative, GGI, Mr. Festus



Mbisiogu, has called on the Federal Government to urgently take steps to halt the trend. He said at the last count no fewer than 10,000 Nigerians have over the years died from poisonous 'generator' fumes, especially in the years between 2008 and 2014.

Attributing this unfortunate situation to the massive use of generators in the country, he urged government to intensify efforts towards energy improvement.

This, he said, will ensure that lives and property are secured, adding that consistent usage of power generating machines in the country is like a time bomb waiting to explode.

Recounting the number of Nigerians who lost their lives as a result of fumes and or explosions from power generating machines within the past two decades, Mbisiogu suggested that the Nigerian government should make it a point of priority to design a progressive model to achieve uninterrupted power generation in the country.

Although, the GGI President commended the Jonathan administration for initiating the process for achieving sustainable electricity in the country, he also stated that responsible Nigerian authorities should be committed to the concerted efforts made by President Jonathan towards sustainable power generation, adding that the National Assembly, stakeholders, political parties and well-meaning Nigerians should arise and fight the terror of power failure and avoid the docile approach and weakness presented.

"President Goodluck Jonathan is the only President who succeeded in privatizing the power sector and his effort towards ensuring consistent electricity in the country should not be thwarted, either by vandals and or corrupt minded Nigerians. Fact is that uninterrupted power supply would reduce poverty, unemployment, massive foreign Direct Investments (FDIs), and improve standard of living an growth of indigenous human capital," Mbisiogu argued.

According to him: "The poor state of power and electricity in the country, and the suffering of common Nigerians are unimaginable. On a daily basis, most homes, businesses and institutions spend a huge part of their income on generator purchase, service and maintenance. Manufacturing industries end products cost prices have increased and consumers are struggling to stay above the water.

"The story is also the same in the health sector, where many lives were lost due to the epileptic nature of electricity and power generation in the country. Everyday, we hear stories on how the country would progress if there was constant power supply and I strongly believe it's the duty of Nigerians to make it a reality."

Similarly, he said that 2000 factories in the country were forced to shut down between the year 2000 and 2014 as a result of unsteady power supply and high cost of running generators, adding that research statistics recently obtained by GGI showed that over 10,000 Nigerians have lost their lives as a result of fumes and explosions from generators.

26. Nigeria: Anambra Gets \$2.5bn 1500mw Power Plant under Power Africa Initiative, Articles | THISDAY LIVE

Source URL: <http://www.thisdaylive.com/articles/anambra-gets-2-5bn-1500mw-power-plant-under-power-africa-initiative/184799/>



Chineme Okafor

Nigeria's formal agreement to work with the government of the United States (US) to increase access to and availability of electricity in Nigeria through the US-backed Power Africa initiative will bequeath to Anambra State, a brand new 1500 megawatts (MW) thermal power plant.

The new thermal power project, to be built at the cost of \$2.5 billion by international power firm, Global Edison Corporation, which is to be sited in Anambra State will expectedly take gas for its fuel from the gas rich eastern supply axis.

Senior Vice President for Africa of Global Edison Corporation, Peter Nwangwu disclosed at a recent signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the federal government in Abuja power to be generated from the plant when completed will however be transmitted into Nigeria's national grid, .

The project which is coming on the framework of the US government backed Power Africa initiative that was launched last year in Cape Town, South Africa by US President, Barack Obama, will however be fully funded by Global Edison Corporation even though the company is part of beneficiaries of the initiative.

It was activated alongside with Nigeria's formal signing of a MoU with the US to formally activate the Power Africa initiative which hopes to double the number of people with access to power in Sub-Saharan Africa, starting with six countries including Nigeria.

The MoU, which was signed by the Minister of Power, Prof. Chinedu Nebo on behalf of the federal government and US Ambassador to Nigeria, James Entwistle for the US government in Abuja now proffers a framework to coordinate the implementation and support of institutional reforms, privatisation and regulation of Nigeria's power sector within the Power Africa initiative.

Through Power Africa, African governments, private sector and other development partners such as the World Bank and African Development Bank (AfDB) are expected to improve their power generation by 10,000 megawatts (MW), by unlocking the substantial wind, solar, hydropower, natural gas, and geothermal resources in the region.

The initiative was primed to further enhance energy security, decrease poverty and advance economic growth by building up clean, efficient electricity generation capacity as well as expanding mini-grid and off-grid solutions.

While speaking on the MoU that was signed by his company and the ministry of power, Nwangwu stated that in addition to the 1500Mw gas power plant, the company will also build a 70MW solar panel manufacturing plant in the country.

He said that: "There are two MoUs that were signed today with Global Edison, the first one is the one that we are building a 1500MW gas fuelled power station in Anambra.

The second MoU is that which we are building a 70MW solar panel manufacturing plant in Nigeria and this will be the largest in West Africa."

"The significance of this is that we will be able to now power our rural areas and villages with reliable solar panels that will last for 30 to 50 years; imported panels have given solar energy bad names across the world but when properly designed and installed, they can be almost maintenance free for 20 to 30 years and that is what we intend to achieve here," Nwangwu added.

27. Nigeria: Company Plans to Inject 300mw to National Grid By 2015 | August 6 | Daily Independent

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201408070098.html>

The Managing Director, William Duncan Hydro Power Ltd., Mr William Duncan, on Wednesday said that 30 megawatts of electricity would be generated and added to the national grid by 2015.

Duncan made the disclosure in an interview with the press. He said that the megawatts would be generated from Kwall River in Bassa Local Government Area in Plateau.

William Duncan Hydro-Electric Power Ltd., is one of the three companies recently given water use permits by the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to generate power for the benefits of Nigerians.

The others were Zuma Energy Nigeria Ltd for Coal fired power plant from River Niger and Hydro Belt Flow Ltd for hydroelectric power generation from Mada River and Katsina-Ala River.

The managing director said the power generation was part of their contribution to actualise the Federal Government's transformation agenda.

It is one of the pillars of the present administration's transformation agenda and this is our own quota toward ensuring that the whole country is wired and has electricity for industrial development.

According to him, the 30 megawatts will specifically be generated from the Kwall River and there are about 28 more rivers with hydro power potential in the country.

Duncan said that if adequate resources were provided, more rivers would be harnessed and developed to boost the country's electricity supply.

This is specifically for this river where you have the Kwall falls in Plateau State and that is the endowment of the state.

We have many other rivers that have hydropower potential; so, the issue is just to keep developing them.

"We have 28 of them, this is one out of 28 as long as there are resources other ones can also be developed," he said.

Duncan said that the project was a public- private partnership programme involving the federal and state governments as well as corporate bodies and development partners.

28. Nigeria: Lagos to Roll Out Solar Power in Schools | August 7 | CAJ News Africa

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201408071161.html>

By Henry Ifeanyi

Lagos — THE Lagos State Government has announced plans to provide solar power to all public schools in the state.



Lagos Governor, Babatunde Fashola, said the State Executive Council had approved a pilot project in that regard.

He said that 172 schools would benefit in the first phase which will run between now and May next year.

According to the governor, the first phase of the project, which is broken up into two sub-phases, will see about 35 schools in the riverine and rural areas of the state fully lit up and powered by solar power before the end of this year.

Noting that government would be decommissioning over 800 generators in all the public schools by the time the project is finished, the governor also informed that the State Water Corporation was also working to install pipelines for direct water supply to 600 schools in the state.

This, he said, was to ensure that all our public schools got direct water supply.

Fashola explained that his focus on electricity for the up-coming generation as the way forward was based on his believe that if their capacity is developed at this level, they would be able to improve the nation's power sector adding that it is the lack of electricity that is keeping Nigeria in poverty.

He attributed the current inadequacy of power supply in the country to the inconsistency and insincerity of the present administration at the federal level.

"If those whose responsibility it is to provide electricity for Nigerians continue to lie about it, the only hope left is to focus on the upcoming generation through adequate education to generate electricity for this country," he said.

29. Tanzania: Low power generation Africa's biggest hurdle to development, says Kikwete | August 8 | The Guardian (Tanzania)

Source URL: <http://www.ippmedia.com/frontend/index.php?l=70795>

By The guardian reporter

President Jakaya Kikwete has said one of the challenges hindering the African continent from achieving economic growth is low production of electricity coupled with low usage of the energy.

The President said the continent only uses three percent of the world's generated electricity and the average usage of the energy is perched at 31 percent.

The President said this on Wednesday which was the last day of US-African Leaders Summit hosted by President Barack Obama in Washington DC.

He told the leaders that for them to understand the low production and usage of electricity in Africa; they should compare it with the production and usage of electricity for the United State of America.

The head of State said each American resident uses at least 13, 246 kilowatts in comparison to African who uses 440 kilowatts.



“If you exclude South Africa, each resident of Africa uses only 160 kilowatts on average. The total Africa’s electricity production for the African continents is 63 GW and this is equal to production of power by Spain.

Bare in mind that if you exclude South Africa, the remaining African countries produce only 28 GW which is equal to the production of Argentina only,” the President told the leaders on Wednesday during the US-African Leaders Summit hosted by President Barack Obama in Washington DC.

A total of 47 African nations took part in the summit that started on Monday and ended on Wednesday. President Kikwete’s attendance of the summit in the US’ capital is part of his nine-day official visit that to that nation began on Monday.

He said it is obvious that more production and consumption of electricity can bring about economic growth for Africa and individual families on the continent.

President Kikwete said enough production and supply of power can strengthen private institutions, help improve education and the private sector in general, investment in infrastructures and the agricultural sector.

For Tanzania, currently 24 per cent of wananchi are connected to the national grid in urban areas while in rural areas, the connection level is a paltry 7 percent.

And the current capacity for Tanzania Electricity Supply Company (Tanesco) is to produce 1,500MW.

Apart from the summit, Kikwete, who is accompanied by the First Lady, Mama Salma Kikwete, will visit Dallas, Texas, to meet the 43rd US president, George W. Bush, before heading for Houston. While there, he will hold a strategic business meeting with famous oil and gas business persons before winding up his US tour.

Among other things, Mama Kikwete attended a meeting for Africa’s first ladies with the US First Lady, Michelle Obama and former US First Lady Laura Bush.

She will also attend a meeting of SADC first ladies besides one by Tanzanian women residing in Washington DC, Maryland and Virginia the press statement from the Directorate of Presidential Communications said.