

Inaugural African Transformation Forum takes place in Rwanda in March

The inaugural African Transformation Forum (ATF), which takes place on 14-15 March 2016 in Rwanda, will introduce an exciting new mechanism for continuous peer-to-peer knowledge exchange among African countries.



The African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET) and the government of Rwanda are organising it and the Ford Foundation, The MasterCard Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Coca-Cola Company and the Government of the Netherlands support the event.

"Each country must chart its own course toward development," said Paul Kagame, president of the Republic of Rwanda, "but cooperation - even just to exchange ideas and emulate best practices - can help the process considerably."

"The ATF will convene leading figures from African governments, business and civil society to discuss practical next steps toward transformation in Africa and the broader push to build globally competitive economies."

The aim of the Forum, according to the organisers, is to bring together African governments and some of Africa and the world's leading development experts to chart a path for Africa's much needed economic transformation.

"We are reshaping the way that Africa thinks about its obstacles and the solutions to overcoming them," said Dr K Y Amoako, President of ACET.

The ATF will introduce the Coalition for Transformation in Africa-a leadership network organised in Chapters, each focused on a specific and vital area of economic development. "This will be the first of its kind, a robust and lasting mechanism for the design and promulgation of a positive economic agenda," added Amoako.

Chapter members, composed of government representatives, business leaders, international experts and development

partners, will continue meeting and working beyond the Forum and report back on their activities at the next gathering.

Discussion topics during the Forum will include:

- improving skills and creating meaningful jobs for Africa's rapidly increasing youth workforce;
 - modernising agriculture and expanding agro-industry;
 - promoting light manufacturing;
 - deepening financial inclusion;
 - facilitating trade and regional integration
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- sustainable management of natural resources

Speakers are expected to include Paul Kagame, president of Rwanda; Carlos Lopes, ECA executive secretary; Ashish Thakkar, founder Mara Group and chair, UN Foundation for Global Entrepreneur Council; Akinwumi Adesina, president of the African Development Bank and Makhtar Diop, World Bank VP for Africa.

For more information, go to www.acetforafrica.org.

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