

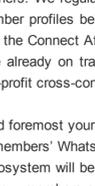


Welcome to the latest edition of the "Connect Africa" newsletter!

Connect Africa is a not-for-profit, Africa-focused business networking community that aims to connect and leverage African skills and knowledge in Southeast Asia and Africa, thus raising the profile of Africa as a Continent of investment opportunities.

If you would like to be a part of the Connect Africa initiative, then please contact Brendon Jones (admin@connectafrica.com.sg) or visit our linked in page Connect Africa - Southeast Asia: Overview | LinkedIn.

Opening Address – Delphine Constantin, Co-Founder, Connect Africa Initiative



When Brendon and I first discussed the Connect Africa concept, we were aiming to respond to the recurring interest for Africa in our respective professional practices in Singapore.

It was fantastic to be able to hold our latest networking event, as an in person event, hosted at the Dentons' office. Thank you to all who joined and we look forward to seeing our members again at the next event on the 8th June.

By way of an update on our membership base, this past quarter has seen an incremental membership of 8 or more new joiners. We regularly include member profiles in our newsletters – take a look at some of our member profiles below.

Connect Africa is first and foremost your platform. It is what we make of it as a community. Feel free to contribute to our members' WhatsApp group or our website blog.

By way of an update on events, we have a few sessions lined up for the next quarter:

- 1. Networking event in collaboration with Adansonia Fund Manager Private Limited – 8th June 2022
2. Webinar on the startup ecosystem in Francophone Africa – 7th July 2022
3. Connect Africa networking event to be held in Mauritius – date TBC
4. A number of new and topical podcast

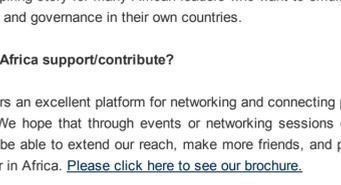
(for details, please refer to the 'News and Events' section below)

For my part, I too will be presenting a series of informational sessions on OHADA law. OHADA is the Civil Law system that applies across much of Western and Central Africa – and is derived from other Civil Law systems in Arabic-, Portuguese-, Spanish- and French-speaking Africa.

In the same way, Connect Africa's mandate is also to favor African inbound interest into Southeast Asia. Be it venture investments, knowledge sharing, or mobility, feel free to publicise related opportunities on our Connect Africa WhatsApp group.

Guest Interview – Marc Liew – Singapore Cooperation Enterprise

(www.sce.org.sg)



Tell us a little bit about yourself. Since when have you been with SCE and what is your role? What is your connection with Africa?

I am currently the Director for Africa in Singapore Cooperation Enterprise (SCE) and have been in SCE for almost 8 years. I have a background in economics with a Bachelor of Arts from NUS and Msc in International Economics and Economic Policy from Frankfurt University.

My role in SCE is to lead and enhance the already strong partnership between Singapore and African friends and partners; especially in sharing Singapore's developmental experience.

Incidentally, I am also originally from Mauritius.

What is SCE's mandate? in Africa specifically?

SCE's mission is to lead public sector collaboration projects with foreign countries, so as to build long-term partnerships with foreign governments, and generate economic-spin off for Singapore's private sector.

Which countries and sectors does SCE focus on in Africa?

SCE has worked in 22 countries in Africa as of today and we have completed 37 projects and capacity building engagements across the continent.

Can you give examples of some of your recent projects in Africa?

The Covid-19 pandemic has accelerated the digitalisation trend in Africa as well. As such, we are observing a trend whereby e-government services such as e-tax, paperless transactions between citizens and Governments are becoming more sought after as well as capacity building.

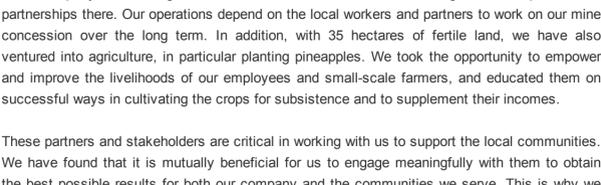
How is SCE/Singapore perceived in Africa? What are its strengths?

Singapore is known in Africa for its pragmatism, economic "miracle" post-independence and good governance. Similar to many African countries, Singapore had many issues and challenges (high unemployment, poverty, lack of basic infrastructure, lack of skilled manpower etc.)

How can Connect Africa support/contribute?

Connect Africa offers an excellent platform for networking and connecting people with a common interest in Africa. We hope that through events or networking sessions organised by Connect Africa, SCE would be able to extend our reach, make more friends, and perhaps jointly embark on projects together in Africa.

News and Events



Past networking event in collaboration with Dentons:

We held our second networking event of the year on Friday, 20 June 2022, at the Dentons Rodyk office in the heart of Singapore's Raffles Place business district.

Past webinar on agricultural investments into Africa:

On the 29th of May 2022, Connect Africa hosted its second webinar, which took a deep dive into how IFCs such as Singapore and Mauritius can support agricultural investments into Africa and help it scale to the next level.

Upcoming networking event in collaboration with Adansonia Fund Manager Private Limited:

Connect Africa will be holding a networking event from 5pm onwards on Wednesday, 08 June 2022, around the theme of 'Solving the conundrum of Permanent Capital vs Closed End Fund for African Private Equity'.

The event will feature a Q&A session which will be helmed by Amit Jain (Director NTU-SBF Centre for African Studies) who will brainstorm solutions to this pressing challenge together with Rudolf Pretorius (CIO of Adansonia Fund Manager Private Limited).

Upcoming webinar on access to capital for Francophone startups:

We will be holding a webinar on Thursday, 07 July 2022, at 18:00 hours Singapore time (or 10am Senegal time) on the theme of 'Key insights into the startup ecosystem in Francophone Africa'.

Membership

New Members:

We would like to welcome the following members who have joined since our March newsletter was published:

Table with 2 columns: Company Name and Sector. Includes Milbank LLP (International Law), Squire Patton Boggs (Singapore) LLP (International Law), Altor Capital Pty Ltd (Energy and Resources), Standard Bank (Mauritius) Limited (Corporate and Investment Banking), Mendi Energy Resources (Energy and Resources), Nivesal Pte Ltd (Engineering Solutions), Platform Africa (Media Partner).

Current Member profiles

Dato' Victor Tan – CEO, TOP International Holding (www.topinternationalholding.sg)

I grew up in a small village in South Malaysia, and lived there until I went off to college. After obtaining my Bachelor's degree from McMaster University in Canada, I went to Singapore to start my corporate working experience with various multinational corporations like Hewlett-Packard.

As a global integrated producer and supplier of bauxite, TOP offers an end-to-end service that includes exploration, mining, marketing, trading, logistics and delivery.

We work closely with the local governments and communities on initiatives that have a long-term positive impact on the economy. As a mine concessionaire, we see it as our responsibility to actively hire the locals to boost the employment rate, donate to schools in Guinea, and help procure crucial educational supplies such as textbooks to improve the learning environment.

As part of sustainability practices in reducing our carbon footprint, we work alongside our business partners to drive and implement green measures that have been specially designed to address environmental concerns. These include investing in green technology like the Wirtgen 2500SM Surface Miner which came at a significant cost to us (approximately USD3 million per machine).

After our mining activities, we take great effort in rehabilitating the land with plants like cashew trees. These are normally selected not just for the land but for the added benefit to the community as these could be harvested as agriculture produce.

The bauxite mining industry makes a significant contribution to the economies where we operate, including employment opportunities and local infrastructure investment. We are committed to delivering long-term sustainable value for all our stakeholders.

As a company with mining activities in Guinea, West Africa, we recognise the importance of partnerships there. Our operations depend on the local workers and partners to work on our mine concession over the long term. In addition, with 35 hectares of fertile land, we have also ventured into agriculture, in particular planting pineapples.

These partners and stakeholders are critical in working with us to support the local communities. We have found that it is mutually beneficial for us to engage meaningfully with them to obtain the best possible results for both our company and the communities we serve.

We hope to increase awareness of our business, whether it is in mining, or agriculture to the relevant stakeholders, so that both sides can benefit from a shared common interest in working together to achieve sustainable investment and development in Africa.

Chisha Chiselebe – Creative Director, ArchiPrime Designs (www.archiprime.com)

I am a Zambian Architect who moved to China from Zambia 15 years ago to explore, study and eventually settle down there and work. My stay in China allowed me to build a better understanding of the cross cultural exchange that we see in Africa-China partnerships and why they have grown from strength to strength in recent times.

I later moved to Singapore from Shanghai so as to broaden my horizons and improve my understanding of the region.

During my master's degree I had focused on sustainability in architecture and so this passion for the aforementioned led me to here. I wanted to understand what is the driving force behind Singapore collectively turning towards sustainability on a large scale.

Having worked in the construction industry in Asia, where the construction industry and practices have rapidly advanced in recent times. We decided to take that skill, detail orientation and wealth of knowledge that we have collectively acquired and applying it to local projects in Africa while maintaining the uniqueness of the African identity.

Africa is still largely underconstructed, but it has a mainly young and vibrant population who are ready to build it to where it needs to be. Therefore, myself and many others alike in the diaspora are looking to how we can be a part of this advancement in the right way. Building that link with locals is our duty as the diaspora.

There is a young and growing middle class, though small, they are willing to step up and advance the continent in whichever way possible. The internet has been a great catalyst to this change. And so we find many people using tech in innovative ways to advance old industries like finance, real estate, medicine, manufacturing and agriculture.

a) Large investment was hard to secure mainly because most places in Africa are in the process of data mapping and collection which is an area that still needs a lot of work. And so this lack of adequate data lowers large investment confidence. We have dealt with this by turning to angel investors, as well as the diaspora to collectively come up with funding.

b) Commercial and hospitality real estate is on the rise, but residential real estate (which was our main focus) is still lagging behind. This is because the small middle-class doesn't have strong enough purchasing power. This has led us to diversifying our project portfolio, as well as focusing on proper ground feasibility studies which is beneficial to all involved parties. Therefore, it is our duty to make sure clients understand it's importance right from the start.

Our advice to those looking to get into the business landscape in Africa would be that partnering with locals is paramount to having a successful venture. Systems, traditions, mindset and resource distribution will naturally differ from what you are used to. And so with the right on ground input that comes from local partners, both sides would be setting each other up for success.

AfricaConnect is a much-needed initiative as it is connecting many of us to businesses on the continent and those who want to get into business there. Knowledge is power and initiatives like this create such a healthy stream opportunities, based on knowledge exchange. I strongly believe we can only make a difference as a collective. This is the Ubuntu way.

Patrick Colegrave – Partner, Forbes Hare (www.forbeshare.com)

I was born and raised in Zimbabwe. After completing my LLB in South Africa, I worked briefly in Zimbabwe before relocating to London, where I worked in both for investment management houses and for international law firms.

I recently relocated to Singapore with offshore law firm Forbes Hare. Forbes Hare is a leading independent law firm advising on the laws of the British Virgin Islands and the Cayman Islands with deep experience in emerging markets, including Africa.

My practice focuses on corporate, investment funds and finance related matters, whilst the firm itself also has a well-established insolvency and litigation practice.

I continue to be actively involved with Africa-related work and travel regularly to the continent. I joined Connect Africa to expand my network in Singapore with people sharing a common vision of the opportunities available in Africa and who have a love of the continent.

Timothy Dickens – Partner, DR & AJU LLC (Chairman of the South African Chamber of Commerce in Korea)

I was born and raised in South Africa where I practised law before moving to the UK to cross-qualify for the UK bar, where after I worked for Linklaters in London. Due to the FTA between the EU and South Korea, I moved to Seoul in 2013 as Korean law firms were looking to expand their international desks.

I have been in Korea for the last 9 years and am based in Seoul where I am a partner at one of Korea's largest law firms where I head up the International Disputes Team and the Korean and African desks. I am also the chairman of the South African Chamber of Commerce in Korea and an advisor to the Korean Ministry of Justice while also serving as an international arbitration panelist for the Korean Commercial Arbitration Board.

I work closely with the Korea-African Foundation (KAF), as one its AFPRO members. KAF is an affiliate of the Korean Foreign Ministry to support private-public exchanges with Africa. I am actively work with KAF, Korea International Trade Association, Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency and the African embassies in South Korea to actively promote trade and investment between the continent and Korea.

I am excited about the prospect of having the opportunity to connect with like-minded companies and people who are genuinely interested in the huge opportunities that Africa offers and that understand the intricacies of doing business on the continent. I am confident that by sharing networks, insights and experiences with Connect Africa members, while collaborating where possible, that there will be a literal blue ocean of opportunities for the next few decades.

Nicolas Vaudremont – Vaudremont Consulting

A high-level professional with 20 years of experience, I have devoted my career to engineering services and particularly to the Energy infrastructure project in France and abroad. I started in 2003 as a nuclear safety engineer, then my role evolved towards international business development and the management of profit centers since 2008.

I am a networker, motivated and passionate about Business Development, who has worked in France and then internationally, in more than 40 countries in Africa, in the Himalayan region and in South East Asia. I was a resident for in Indonesia 5 years and in Singapore for 2 years.

With solid experience in the field energy, and in-depth knowledge of international development, a worldwide network of partners, proven experience in the management of entities abroad and the project management, I advise international investors and support their international development. Since 2022, I have been offering strategic consulting services in international business development to various clients present globally through my newly established entity Vaudremont Consulting. From the elaboration of a strategic development plan to commercial and operational assistance on projects, my goal is always to build an effective and lasting relationship to obtain the best results.

Directory of Members:

Table with 2 columns: Company Name and Sector. Lists 60 member organizations including Adansonia Holdings, Akwaaba Ventures, AASK Advisory, D Sy Law, Kilima Corporate Finance, King and Spalding, Meinhardt, NTU-Centre for African Studies, CrossBoundary, Olam International, Investec Bank, ABSA Group, AFRIA, Viridian, Macan, IPT Africa, Regan van Rooy, V Africa Partners, EBD Mauritius, Kawah Coffee, Cerberus Frontier, Copper Quail, Metis Strategic Advisors, Spear Capital, Acorus Capital, ADM Asia Pacific, African Risk Transfer Limited, Cresco Group, DR&AJU International Law Group, Top International, Tetrix Pte Ltd, Knots and Gear Engineering and Procurement, Mauritius Commercial Bank, Adansonia Fund Manager Private Limited, Taomish, GUUD Pte Ltd, Vaudremont Consulting, Archiprime Designs Co. Ltd, Tan Mondial Pte Ltd, KDI Asia Pte Ltd, Qvest Pte Ltd, Forbes Hare Pte Ltd, Milbank LLP, Squire Patton Boggs (Singapore) LLP, Altor Capital Pty Ltd, Standard Bank Mauritius, Mendi Energy Resources, Nivesal Pte Ltd, Platform Africa.