



Indian Council of World Affairs
Sapru House, Barakhamba Road
New Delhi

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Press Release

on

Interactive Meeting with HoMs from Africa in Delhi

(10 June 2014)

Indian Council of World Affairs organised a meeting with the Heads of Missions (HoMs) from Africa based in New Delhi in light of the forthcoming India Africa Forum Summit-III (IAFS-III) at Sapru House on June 10, 2014. The meeting was attended by HoMs of Angola, Benin, Botswana, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, Sudan and South Sudan; Indian diplomats who have served in Africa; and representatives from think tanks and media.

Welcoming the gathering, Ambassador Rajiv Bhatia, DG, ICWA, noted that India has entered a positive phase, with a strong and stable government and an effective leadership which will enable it to play an active role on the global stage. According to him, Africa has sparked a great deal of optimism with its positive economic growth though there have been certain negative developments in the recent months. In the context of India-Africa partnership, Ambassador Bhatia pointed out that the last five years have seen an intense engagement between the two sides and it is essential to focus on the third Summit.

H.E. Mrs. Gennet Zewide, the Deputy Dean of African Corp and Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, appreciated the timely organization of the meeting and spoke about the multi-sectoral and multi-dimensional nature of India-Africa partnership. Acknowledging the self-evident importance of this partnership, Shri Vinay Kumar, Joint Secretary, (E&SA), MEA, noted the great keenness shown by the new government in the IAFS process. He informed that the India-Africa REC interaction will be held on August 20-21, 2014 and that will feed into the IAFS-III.

Entrusted with the IAFS Conference Series mandate, ICWA has so far organised eight such academic conferences, including four in Africa (Addis Ababa, Lagos, Accra and Dakar) and four in India (Goa, Manipal, Chandigarh and Kolkata), between 2011 and 2014.
