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RMCE
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2015

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Activities of RMCE in 2015

1. Introduction

In 2015, RMCE focused its activities mainly towards implementing the Intra-Africa Talent Mobility Partnership Program (TMP), a pilot project to facilitate Intra-Africa mobility of professionals and businesspersons in twelve countries comprising three sub-regional blocs.

2. The Intra-Africa Talent Mobility Partnership (TMP) Program

The Intra-Africa Talent Mobility Partnership (TMP) program is set for 3 years, which started in 2014 through 2016, and is funded by the World Bank's Development Grant Facility (DGF). The objective of the TMP project is to implement reforms for establishing "Schengen" type mechanisms and common policies on mobility of professionals, businesspersons and investors with the goal of boosting economic growth and competitiveness through accelerated economic integration and facilitation of trade in services. The higher-order goal of this Partnership Program is to accelerate economic integration, open borders, adopting common policies and laws which will ultimately result in improved competitiveness and employment in Africa. This goal is part of the protocols on movement agreed among members of the various Regional Economic Communities (RECs) of Africa such as the East African Communities (EAC) Common Market Protocol (CMP).

The Partnership Program activities are expected to generate significant regional and country level lending opportunities from multilateral institutions. Efforts are already under way for significant Development Policy Operations (DPOs) for the countries of the Accelerated Program of Economic Integration (APEI) initiative (Mauritius, Malawi, Mozambique, Seychelles and Zambia). The TMP program is supported by a Program Coordinator, a Partnership, Grant and Budget Specialist, a Program Assistant and consultants in the twelve countries covered under the project.

The TMP accomplished a number of outputs: key among them being establishment of multi-stakeholder National Working Groups (NWGs) that have been built up into Regional Working Groups (RWGs) and TMP-wide network of experts especially in the EAC and ECOWAS; updated country status of implementing agreed sub/regional protocols on movement of the respective regional economic communities (RECs); identification of the existing gaps and a harmonized or coordinated strategy that could help advance implementation of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) outstanding areas of the protocols; and, more importantly regional recommendations on how to close those gaps.

In addition to the country-specific assessment reports, focused analytical studies were conducted on some of the important areas concerning facilitation of the movement of professionals and businesspersons in some regions such as the EAC. The areas were:

- a) Coordination of social security benefits in the EAC;
- b) Implementing labor market information systems (LMIS);
- c) Facilitating Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs);
- d) Improving border management information systems; and,

- e) Economic and social impact of waiving work permit and visa fees, to inform key policy decisions in countries that are yet to abolish such fees.
- f) Capacity building areas were identified to address the implementation gaps pertaining to these issues.

2.1 Meetings and workshops held under the TMP Program

- 1) High-Level Forum and Regional Working Group Technical Meeting, held as side events of the African Development Bank Group 2015 Annual Meeting, Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, May 25-28, 2015.
- 2) APEI Regional Working Group Meeting of the Intra-Africa Talent Mobility Partnership (TMP) Program, 16-21 August 2015, Port Louis, Mauritius.
- 3) Regional Working Group Meeting - Workshop on Policy Reforms and Capacity Building to Enhance Movement of Professionals under the Trade in Services Provisions of the East African Community Common Market Protocol, 14th – 15th September 2015, The East African Community Secretariat, Arusha, Tanzania.
- 4) RMCE and its sub-grantee organization for West Africa on the TMP, the African Centre for Economic Transformation, ACET, organised a two-day regional workshop in Accra for the West Africa component of the Program, October 1-2, 2015.
- 5) Validation Workshop on the Draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Facilitation of Movement of Professionals and Business Persons between the APEI Countries was held in Lilongwe, Malawi, 16th and 17th November 2015.
- 6) Regional Working Group Meetings for East Africa and West Africa Components and a Knowledge Sharing Forum for all participating countries in Port Louis, Mauritius on 23rd – 27th November 2015.
- 7) High-Level Forum on the TMP Program on the Sidelines of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers Meeting in Abuja, Nigeria, 14th December 2015.
- 8) Meeting of legal experts on the Validated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Facilitation of Movement of Businesspersons and Professionals between APEI countries was held in Ebene, Mauritius on 15th and 16th December 2015.

3. Organisation and Management of RMCE

Mr. P. Hurry is acting as the Officer in Charge of the Centre. The Centre is supported by three full time staff and has benefitted from the services an intern under the Service to Mauritius (STM) programme funded by Government of Mauritius.

3.1 Re-organisation of filing system

The filing system has been re-organised with all correspondences kept in numbered files.

3.2 Administrative Procedures Manual

RMCE has introduced an Administrative Procedures Manual to describe its administrative set up, processes and procedures used to manage the office operations and internal resources, including the network, equipment and project tools.

3.3 Contribution of Government of Mauritius

The Government of Mauritius (GoM) provided its financial and in kind contribution to support the operations of the RMCE as per the Host Agreement between the RMCE and the GoM.

4. Proposal for funding from the African Development Bank

A proposal has been submitted requesting for assistance under the Middle Income Country (MIC) Grant of USD 1.8 million made by the African Development Bank (AfDB) to the Government of Mauritius (GoM) for strengthening the capacity of the RMCE and implement capacity building programs targeting African partner states over a three year period.

5. Malawi Study Tour - Benchmarking the Role of Cash Management - Mauritius, August 2015

RMCE assisted Malawi in organizing a study tour to Mauritius on cash management issues, resource allocation and reduction of borrowing levels.

6. 2016 Programme

6.1 DGF 2016

The Centre has submitted a proposal to the World Bank for a grant of USD 1.7 million for support in 2016 to the Intra-Africa Talent Mobility Partnership (TMP) program.

7. RMCE Accounts

7.1 RMCE 2013 Accounts

RMCE 2013 Accounts have been circulated and approved by both the Board of Directors and RMCE Members.

CORPORATE INFORMATION

STATUS

Private Company Limited by Guarantee
established under the Mauritius Companies Act

FOUNDING MEMBERS

Government of Mauritius
Common Market for Eastern and
Southern Africa
Indian Ocean Commission

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. Sindiso Ngwenya	COMESA Secretariat
Dr. Ehtisham Ahmad	London School of Economics
Dr. Kingsley Y. Amoako	Africa Centre for Economic Transformation
Mr. Bertrand Belle	Seychelles
Prof. Lino Briguglio	Small States Network for Economic Development
Mrs. Usha Dwarka- Canabady	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Cooperation, and International Trade, Government of Mauritius
Mr. Raj Makoond	Business Mauritius
Dr. Thanika Devi Juwaheer	University of Mauritius

BUSINESS REGISTRATION NUMBER

C10094184

REGISTERED OFFICE

Prime Partners Ltd
15th Floor, Air Mauritius Centre
6th President John Kennedy Street
Port Louis, Mauritius

COMPANY SECRETARY

Prime Partners Ltd
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6th President John Kennedy Street
Port Louis, Mauritius

ACCOUNTANT

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6th President John Kennedy Street
Port Louis, Mauritius

BANKER

Mauritius Commercial Bank (MCB)
9-15, Sir William Newton Street,
Port Louis, Mauritius

AUDITOR

PricewaterhouseCoopers (Mauritius)
18 CyberCity, Ebene
Mauritius