



Niger-Singapore Business Forum 2014

23 January 2014

S'pore, Niger sign 3 deals to boost ties

The sub-Saharan nation offers new opportunities for S'pore firms: SBF

By LEE U-WEN

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SINGAPORE and Niger yesterday inked three new deals that both sides hope will help develop business, investment and people-to-people links.

The agreements – with the Singapore Business Federation (SBF), Singapore Cooperation Enterprise and the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) – were signed on the final day of Niger President Issoufou Mahamadou's first official

the Niger-Singapore Business Forum, he called on Singapore companies to consider investing in the landlocked West African country and the broader African continent.

"Africa has made many great reforms. It is rich in natural resources and the level of governance has improved tremendously," the 62-year-old leader said.

"Niger is ambitious to move forward and progress economically. I hope Singapore can contribute to the economic progress of Niger and we want to strengthen our cooperation with Singapore," he said in his speech at the Pan Pacific Hotel.

Niger is a sub-Saharan country with a population

suppliers of uranium and is also rich in other minerals such as gold.

The country's gross domestic product grew by 11.3 per cent in 2012. It is one of Africa's newest oil exporters.

SBF vice-chairman Shabbir Hassanbali told the forum that Niger's shift to an energy-based economy will open new opportunities for Singapore firms in sharing development expertise and complementary strengths, such as in port, logistics, housing, infrastructure planning and oil and gas services.

"SBF will assist in creating awareness of these opportunities in Niger among its 18,090 members," he



missions from Singapore have visited more than 20 Sub-Saharan African countries.

Mr Mahamadou, who came to power in 2011, met President Tony Tan

and Industry Minister Lim Hng Kiang and Acting Culture, Community and Youth Minister Lawrence Wong during his visit here. He and his delegation also visited the ITE, Puangoi

Mr Mahamadou: Niger, one of Africa's newest oil exporters, is keen to move forward and progress economically.
PHOTO: M.G. SALLEHIBERTIA HANAN

Article from the Business Times, 24 January 2014

The inaugural Niger-Singapore Business Forum 2014 organized by the Singapore Business Federation was held on 23 January 2014, in conjunction with the visit of H.E. Mahamadou Issoufou, President of the Republic of Niger.

President Mahamadou Issoufou delivered the keynote address at the forum, highlighting impressive development progress in Niger, and welcoming Singapore business to discover opportunities in the continent.

H.E. Amadou Boubacar Cisse, Senior Minister of Planning, Land Management and Community Development presented Niger's commitment to foreign investors. The Ministry of Commerce and Private Sector Promotion and Ministry of

Transport also presented their development plans. Ms Anne-Laure Henniqueau from NRG Engineering Niger shared experiences on doing business in Niger.

Many Singapore businesses expressed interest in exploring opportunities in Niger. The Memorandum of Understanding between Niger Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Crafts and Singapore Business Federation, as well as the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Economic Planning, Land Management and Community Development of Niger and Singapore Cooperation Enterprise are signed at the forum, illustrating efforts and commitments from both countries to strengthen existing cooperation and bilateral relations.

Niger

Population: 16.1 million

Capital: Niamey



Sectors of Opportunities

Niger plans to utilise its expected oil revenue for development. Companies can benefit from engaging them in various sectors, particularly in infrastructure development, social development, agriculture, oil and gas, healthcare, education, mining, fishing and trading.



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Niger President Mahamadou Issoufou, accompanied by Singapore's President Tony Tan, inspecting the Guard of Honour during welcome ceremony at the Istana in Singapore. (Photo by AP/Wong Maye-E)