

Study Tour and Seminar on Special Economic Zones in Mauritius

Concept Note and Programme

Date: 10 - 12 October 2023

Venue:
Le Suffren Hotel & Marina
Caudan Waterfront
Port-Louis

Background

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is implementing a 12th Tranche UN Development Account Project on “Coherent Strategies for Productive Capacity Development in African Least Developed Countries” with Burkina Faso, Rwanda, and Tanzania as beneficiaries. The project began in 2020 and is expected to be completed by the end of 2023. As part of the planned activities under the project, UNCTAD is expected to organize two study tours for the project beneficiaries to enable them share knowledge and learn from the rich experiences of non-LDCs in developing and using special economic zones as instruments for building productive capacities. The first study tour was organized in Meknes, Morocco, in May 2023, for Burkina Faso and selected French-speaking countries (Mali, Cote d’Ivoire, and Madagascar). The second study tour is meant for the two English-speaking beneficiary countries, namely Rwanda and Tanzania.

Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and Industrial Parks (IPs) are important instruments for the development of productive capacities and the industrialization of economies. They have contributed to the economic development of advanced and emerging economies. However, like most African countries, Rwanda and Tanzania are making progress but are yet to fully harness the potential of special economic zones and industrial parks for economic transformation and development. There is therefore the need for the international community to assist the two countries to make special economic zones and industrial parks work for productive transformation and sustainable development. Against this background, UNCTAD is organizing a study tour for Rwanda and Tanzania to industrial parks and zones in Mauritius. Mauritius was chosen as the host country because it is one of the few countries in Africa with relatively high levels of productive capacities and industrialization. It is also one of the few countries in the region that have successfully used industrial parks and zones to foster productive transformation and export diversification. In this context, it is a very good and relevant case study that other African countries can draw lessons from in their quest to build productive capacities and transform their production and export structures.

Objective

The objective of the study tour is to provide a platform for the delegations of Rwanda and Tanzania to have discussions with policymakers from Mauritius and share experiences with them on the design, development, operation, and regulation of industrial parks and zones, with a view to drawing useful lessons on how to improve the performance of their domestic zones and parks.

Expected outcomes

The expected outcomes of the study tour and seminar are to:

- enhance policymakers’ understanding of how to use special economic zones and industrial parks to foster productive transformation.
- identify best practices in using special economic zones and industrial parks as instruments for promoting economic development.

Programme

Tuesday, 10 October 2023

Study Tour of Industrial Parks and Zones

08.30 – 09.00	Welcome and introduction
9:00 - 13:00	Meeting with Economic Development Board & Landscape Mauritius and Site Visit at Freeport Zone
09.00 – 10:00	Meeting with the Economic Development Board Mauritius (CEO and DCEO)
10:15 – 11:00	Presentation by Landscape Mauritius on their services offered and opportunities, challenges lessons learned on Industrial Parks and Zones
11:15 – 12:15	Site visit at Freeport Zone - Mauritius Freeport Development, Mer Rouge, Port Louis
12:30 – 13:15	Site visit at Freeport Zone – Decathlon, Mer Rouge, Port Louis
13:15 – 14:15	Lunch break
14:15 - 17:00	Continuation of study tour:
14:30 – 15:30	Site visit at Riche Terre Business and Industrial Park
15:30 – 16:15	Site visit at Jin Fei Smart City

End of first day

Programme

Wednesday, 11 October 2023

Seminar on Industrial Parks and Zones

Venue : Le Suffren Hôtel & Marina, Caudan Waterfront, Port Louis

Opening session:

09.00 – 09:15	Remarks by Mr. Patrick Osakwe , Chief of the Trade, Poverty, and Inequalities Branch at UNCTAD
09.15 – 09:25	Remarks by Mr. Wilson Mwansule Lugano , Director of Industrial Development, Tanzania
09:25 – 09:35	Remarks by Mr. Fred Mugabe , Ag. Director General for Industry, Promotion, Entrepreneurship Development, Ministry of Trade, and Industry of Rwanda
09:35 – 09:45	Remarks by Mr. Geerish Bucktowonsing <i>Director - Industry, Economic Development Board Mauritius</i>
09:45 – 10:00	Coffee break

Substantive session:

Moderator: Mr. Patrick Osakwe, UNCTAD

10:00 – 10:30	Special economic zones and transformation in Africa by Ms. Olga Solleder , Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD
10:30 – 11:00	Interactive discussion
11:00 – 11:30	Industrial Parks and Zones in Mauritius: opportunities, challenges and lessons learned by: - Mr. Sachin Mohabeer , DCEO of EDB Mauritius
11:30 – 12:00	Interactive discussion
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch break

Substantive session (continued):

13:30 – 14:00	Experience with special economic zones and industrial parks in Tanzania by Mr. James Francis Maziku, Director of Promotion and Facilitation - EPZA
14:00 – 14:30	Interactive discussion
14:30 – 15:00	Coffee break
15:00 – 15:30	Experience with special economic zones and industrial parks in Rwanda by Mr. Naphtal Kazoora , Division Manager of Special Economic Zone/Rwanda Development Board
15:30 – 16:00	Interactive discussion
16:00 – 16:30	Special economic zones and industrial parks in Botswana by Ms. Orekolotse Anne Koloji , Consultant-Strategy and PMS
16:30 – 17:00	Special economic zones and industrial parks in Zimbabwe by Mr. Kelvin Anesu Mutede , Principal economist, Ministry of Industry and Trade
17:00 – 17:20	Interactive discussion
17:20 – 17:30	Wrap up and Closing remarks

End of second day

Programme

Thursday, 12 October 2023

Visit to Selected Industries

09:00 – 12:00 Visit to local manufacturing companies

09:00 – 10:15 Plastinax Ltd (sunglasses)

10:30 – 12:00 RT Knits Ltd (t-shirts, polo shirts)

12:00 – 13:30 Lunch break

13:30 - 17:00 Continuation of visit to local manufacturing companies

14:00 – 15:15 Stamati Ltd (jewellery)

15:45 – 17:00 Livestock Feed Ltd (animal feed)

End of visit