

# W I F

## World Investment Forum

Forum Mondial de l'Investissement – Foro Mundial de la Inversión

Accra, Ghana, 18-22 April 2008

# UNCTAD XII

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT  
ACCRA, GHANA, 20 - 25 APRIL 2008

Part 1



World Association of  
Investment Promotion  
Agencies



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Foreword by  
Supachai Panitchpakdi  
Secretary-General of  
UNCTAD

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WORLD  
TRADE

**A**s we at UNCTAD aim to foster consensus on the role of trade and investment in addressing the world's most urgent development challenges, widening of stakeholder participation is of crucial importance. The holding of the first World Investment Forum (WIF), in cooperation with the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA), was a powerful example of such a process and one in which I take great pride. I would like to thank the UNCTAD Panel of Eminent Persons for generating the ideas that led to the holding of the event, and the Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC) for providing logistical support. The Forum brought corporate executives, ministers, senior officials, and heads of investment promotion agencies from across the world together on the eve of the organization's twelfth ministerial conference (UNCTAD XII). It allowed a sharing of ideas and insights from different perspectives, very much in keeping with my objective of deepening and widening UNCTAD's development stakeholder process.

During the sessions, trends in and prospects for foreign direct investment (FDI) were examined and views on the opportunities and challenges arising from changing patterns of cross-border investment were offered. Among those addressing the Forum were senior executives and strategists from some of the world's most prominent global companies, including Bank of America, Exim Bank, Hewlett-Packard, IBM, KPMG, Moody's Investors

Service, SABMiller, Siemens, Standard Chartered Bank, China's SINOTRANS and India's 3i Infotech. I found much to ponder in what the speakers had to say, both about near-term challenges, such as the turmoil in international credit markets, and the enormous opportunities for development over the long term that the process of globalization offers. The conclusions of the presentations and discussions deepened my conviction that the potential benefits of FDI for countries and regions are great and can be leveraged further as policymakers hone their understanding of best policy practice.

The Forum not only brought practical perspectives of investment and investment promotion but also provided an opportunity for its 650-odd participants to meet and interact through a series of business networking and social events. I know that many contacts were made and new friendships forged. The success of the World Investment Forum in Ghana has convinced me that it should become a regular event, to be held biennially.



*Supachai Panitchpakdi*

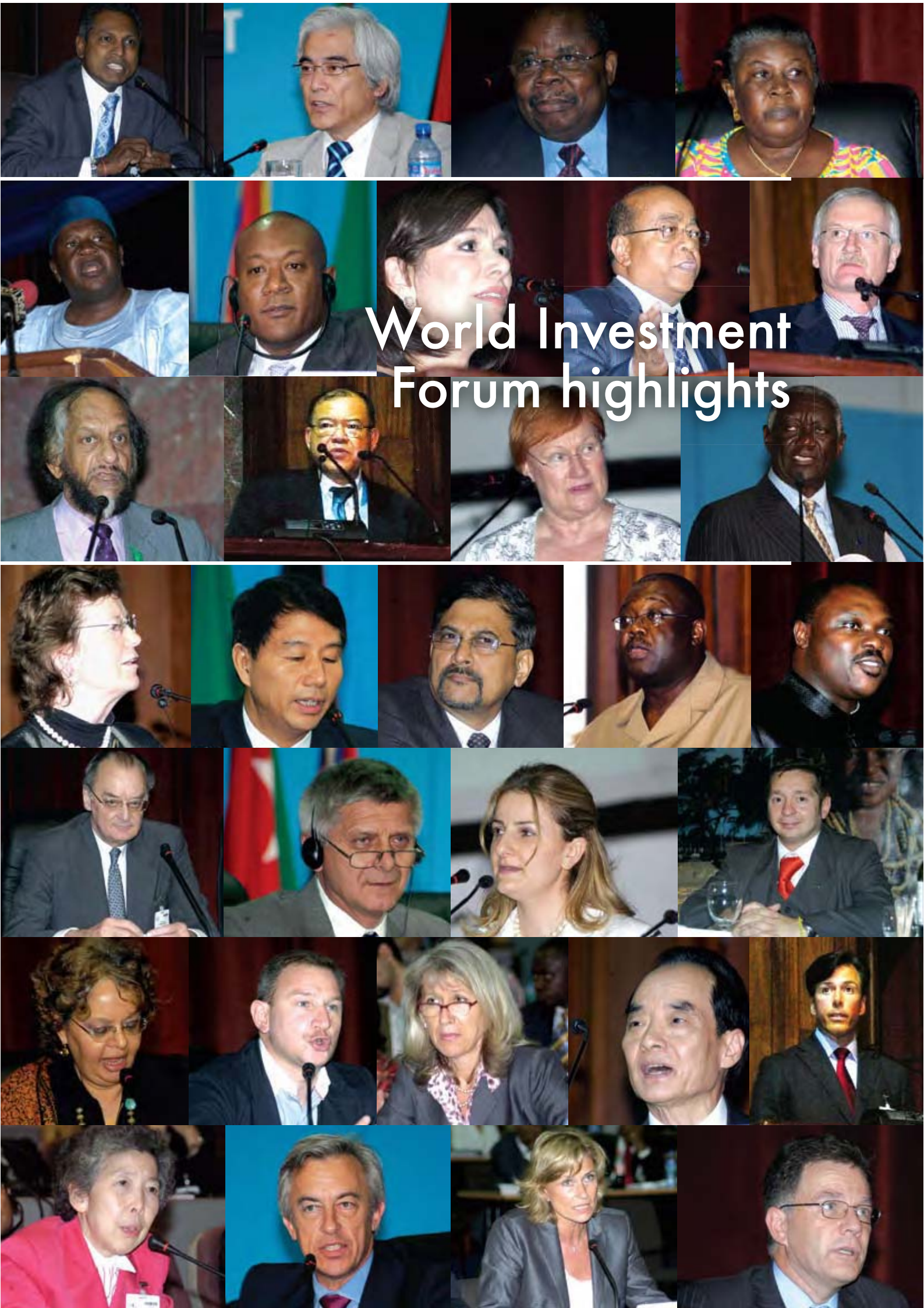


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# World Investment Forum highlights

The World Investment Forum (WIF), in its inaugural session, attracted large numbers of participants from both the public and private sectors. The event provided an unprecedented opportunity for heads of business to interact with policymakers and investment promotion executives from developed and developing countries. The WIF explored trends in FDI inflows, opportunities and challenges, the role of FDI in economic development, and improved methods for investment promotion and facilitation. Participants were able to meet and interact through a series of high-level interactive discussions, networking events, training sessions and awards ceremonies. Events included:

**Global Leaders' Investment Debate.** Corporate leaders underscored the investment opportunities and challenges arising from the second phase of globalization, while government leaders shared best practices in investment policymaking. The event was a highlight of the Forum.

**Interactive Sessions.** Co-organized by UNCTAD and WAIPA in cooperation with GIPC, constituted the core of the Forum's conference activity, dealing with three issues:

*"Prospects for global FDI and new business opportunities"* explored future patterns of investment flows.

*"Global value chains: Opportunities and challenges"* examined how international and local firms can seek efficiencies as production patterns change.

*"Africa: A new emerging market for FDI"* considered the emerging opportunities on the African continent and the lessons for global companies and African countries as they interact more closely.

**Ministerial Round Table.** Policy makers discussed how to create an institutional environment conducive to investment and sustainable development – a follow-up to the 2007 G8 Summit Declaration.

**Investment Advisory Council (IAC).** A luncheon event was held with the participation of Heads of State and Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of global companies. The IAC addressed emerging challenges in the investment and development nexus, with a focus on actionable initiatives.

*Side events:*

**Capacity-building Workshops:** three in English and one in French organized in partnership with WAIPA, the World Bank (FIAS) and private sector firms. The workshops covered some of the most topical issues faced by investment promotion agencies (IPAs) today.



**Business Networking Events:** luncheons and dinners facilitated further discussion and business encounters.

**Women in Business Awards:** the first award presented to women-owned businesses that have benefited from the business development services of Empretec centres in their respective countries.

**Publications Launches:** included the *Investment Advisory Series A*, a new series intended as a pragmatic tool to help developing nations attract foreign investment and benefit therefrom, and the *World Investment Directory: Africa*, which provides comprehensive data and information on FDI, legal and regulatory frameworks and operations of transnational corporations (TNCs).

The WIF attracted 650 business executives and high-level policymakers, including Heads of State and CEOs of global companies. Many highlighted the need for a world forum that meets regularly to address investment issues with particular attention for emerging economies and the role of FDI in the development process. The debates, networking and capacity-building activities were highly appreciated by the public and private sector alike, including a large number of IPAs.

**James X. Zhan**  
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