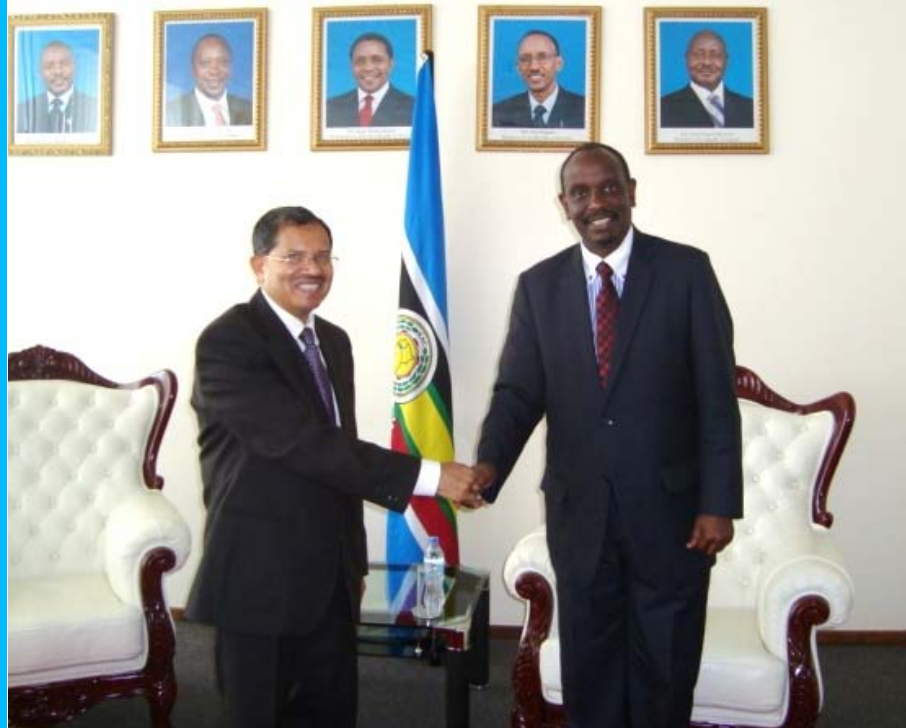




### In this Issue

- Indian Envoy bids farewell to EAC Secretary General
- Nairobi Hosts 2nd East African Arts and Cultural Festival
- Nigeria & EAC Discuss African Continental Free Trade Area
- AMECEA & EAC Explore Possible Areas of Collaboration
- Region Launches Online Trading Platform to Connect Farmers with Grain Buyers
- Protected Area Data Management Online Resource Launched for Users in East Africa
- EALA Speaker Implores Stakeholders to Act and Think Regional to Boost Integration
- ARCOS & EAC Join Efforts to Ensure Healthy Environment and Well-being of Communities in East Africa
- EAC Deploys Regional Medical and Public Health Emergency Support Teams to Refugee Camps in Kigoma, Tanzania and Eastern Province of Rwanda
- IRI Promises Increased Support for Youth, Women in EAC Region
- All Set for 1st Manufacturing Summit and Exhibition in East Africa
- 4th EAC University Students' Debate Set for Kampala
- A Heartfelt Goodbye for Newly Appointed Judge of the High Court of Tanzania

## INDIAN ENVOY BIDS FAREWELL TO EAC SECRETARY GENERAL



The High Commissioner of India to the United Republic of Tanzania, who is also accredited to the EAC bloc, H.E. Mr. Debnath Shaw bid farewell on Friday 10 July 2015 to H.E. Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera, the Secretary General of the East African Community.

H.E. Mr. Debnath Shaw's tenure in the United Republic of Tanzania and the EAC ended and he is heading back to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in New Delhi, India.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## ... As Japanese Ambassador gets accredited to the Regional Bloc



*(Continued from page 1)*

On the same day, H.E. Mr. Masaharu Yoshida, the new Ambassador of Japan to the United Republic of Tanzania presented his accreditation letter to the Secretary General of the East African Community, Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera.

In a letter dated 20 May 2015 from Hon. Fumio Kishida, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Japan, H.E. Mr. Masaharu Yoshida, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, was appointed to represent Japan to the EAC.

Speaking at the accreditation ceremony at the EAC Headquarters, the EAC Secretary General, Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera, noted that the accreditation will upscale the cordial relationship between Japan and the EAC, adding that there is need to consolidate and open up a bigger space for trade and economic development between the regional bloc and Japan.

In his accreditation speech, H.E. Mr. Masaharu Yoshida hailed EAC for the remarkable achievements so far recorded in the establishment of the Customs Union and the move to a Common Market. "Japan is closely following the developments taking place in the region and EAC is one of the performing regional economic communities in the continent, we are happy to associate with and support you" noted the Ambassador.

H.E. Mr. Masaharu Yoshida assured Amb. Sezibera of Japan's continued support to the EAC integration agenda.

The Secretary General was accompanied by his Deputies; in charge of Finance and Administration, Mr. Liberat Mfumukeko; in charge of Planning and Infrastructure, Dr. Enos Bukuku; and other senior officials from the EAC Secretariat.





# Nairobi Hosts 2nd East African Arts and Cultural Festival

...H.E. Deputy President William Ruto graces the official opening

The Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E. William Ruto on 4 August 2015, officially opened the 2nd edition of the East African Community Arts and Culture Festival (Jumuiya ya Afrika Mashariki Utamaduni Festival – JAMAFEST) at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC) in Nairobi, Kenya.

The Deputy President, who represented His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta, urged the Partner States, through the Council of Ministers, to nurture arts and culture in the region by developing appropriate policies, strategies and programmes that address the creative industry in a holistic manner and tap into the abundant talents in the region.

He said the EAC Partner States in line with the Common Market Protocol must develop strategies through which the region can benefit from this lucrative trade opportunity to realise development gains while fostering, protecting and promoting the creative economy in the region.

The Guest of honour further urged the Council of Ministers to be passionate about Sports and Cultural sectors by allocating enough resources for championing activities that bring the East African common citizens together. “These activities, which are really close to the hearts of our common citizens, include festivals of this nature as well as sports and games competitions in all major disciplines”.

His Excellency Ruto said convening and hosting the 2nd edition of JAMAFEST in Nairobi was a big leap forward in creating social understanding among the East African people, who have common identity, aspirations and destiny; adding that “We need to use our arts and culture to creatively tell the East African story”.

The Cabinet Secretary for East African Community Affairs, Commerce and Tourism, Hon. Phyllis Kandie, who represented the Council of Ministers, disclosed that in an effort to strengthen the capacity of cultural actors, the Community will be focusing on facilitating and supporting the harmonization of cultural policies and legislations within the region in order to create a conducive policy environment for transfer of knowledge, exchange of expertise and best practices among cultural actors in both the private and public sectors.



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**“although Jumuiya ya Afrika Mashariki is a political project, the region’s unity would ultimately not be achieved through politics, but through culture” ~ Amb. Sezibera**

*(Continued from page 3)*

The Cabinet Secretary reiterated that the Council of Ministers recognises the important role Culture and Sports play towards reinforcing the spirit of East African unity and development and galvanising a passionate, visionary and broad participation among the East African people, reflecting the basic principle of a people-centered regional integration.

The Secretary-General of the East African Community, Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera said that although Jumuiya ya Afrika Mashariki is a political project, the region’s unity would ultimately not be achieved through politics, but through culture.

Amb. Sezibera further noted that the bloc’s creative industry happens to be one of the most rapidly growing sectors in East Africa not only in terms of income generation (it is a 2 billion dollar industry), but also employment creation, as well as export trade. “Human creativity and innovation are the key drivers of the creation of wealth of households and countries in the 21st century. Our Community is no different.”, asserted Amb. Sezibera.

The Secretary-General reiterated that culture enables development and contributes to the region’s national economies through investments in identity, innovation and creativity, adding that “culture can help build new development pathways for individuals, communities and countries - and, in contra distinction to growth based on natural resources, it contributes to equity - across gender, generations, regions, and countries”.

Contingents of cultural workers, artists from all the five Partner States of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda, and the Nairobi public took part in the week-long JAMAFEST under the theme; unleashing the economic potential of cultural and creative industries in the EAC.





## Nigeria & EAC Discuss African Continental Free Trade Area

Nigeria's outgoing High Commissioner to Tanzania, Dr Ishaya Samaila Majambu, on 3 August 2015, paid a courtesy call on the East African Community Secretary-General (SG), Dr Richard Sezibera, at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania.

Dr Majambu and Dr Sezibera discussed the increasing opportunities for intra- and inter-regional trade brought about by the establishment of regional economic communities (RECs) in Africa.

Dr Majambu hailed the many achievements made by the five EAC Partner States especially in the area of infrastructure development saying this would spur economic growth in the region, adding that it would be prudent for other RECs to borrow from EAC's infrastructure development strategy.

The envoy called for increased exchange programmes and study tours between the EAC and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

On his part, Dr Sezibera emphasized the increasing collaboration between the EAC and ECOWAS. Dr Sezibera said the EAC was keen on what ECOWAS has attained in the area of financial integration.

Noting the establishment of a Tripartite Free Trade Area (FTA) between the EAC, South African Development Community (SADC) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Dr Sezibera said he looked forward to the FTA linking up with ECOWAS and other RECs to form an African Continental FTA (CFTA).

The SG said the CFTA would be a turning point in that it would give African countries the opportunity to trade between themselves in addition to the global market.

Amb. Sezibera praised Nigeria and its citizens for their patriotism and national pride saying the West African country had made Africa proud.

"When things go wrong in Africa, we Africans are often quick to berate ourselves. Nigerians outside of Africa introduce themselves as Africans and are always ready to defend the continent," said the SG.



## AMECEA & EAC Explore Possible Areas of Collaboration

A two-man delegation from the Association of Member Episcopal Conference for Eastern Africa (AMECEA) led by its Secretary General Fr. Ferdinand Lugonzo on 28 July 2015, paid a working visit to the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania and held discussions with the Secretary General of the East African Community, Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera. Fr. Lugonzo was accompanied by Antony Mbandi, the AMECEA Justice Peace and Caritas Coordinator.

AMECEA is a Catholic service organization for the national Episcopal Conferences of the nine countries of Eastern Africa, namely Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia, Djibouti and Somalia are affiliate members.

The Secretary General welcomed the AMECEA officials to the EAC and informed them that the principles that govern the practical achievement of the objectives of the Community include, among others, people-centered and market-driven integration.

In this context, the Partner States are providing an enabling environment for the private sector and the civil society to take full advantage of the Community. He informed his guests that the Community had developed Consultative Dialogue Framework to promote a continuous dialogue with the private sector and civil society at national and regional levels.

The Secretary General of AMECEA, Fr. Ferdinand Lugonzo highlighted some of the possible areas of collaboration that include; promotion and protection of human life and dignity through sustainable development, promotion of good governance, preservation of the environment and natural resources, combating root causes of illegal forms of migration, combating illegal arms within the region, promotion of gender equity, and promotion of sustainable peace and reconciliation through early warning systems. AMECEA also requested for the procedure of getting Observer Status at the EAC.

Amb. Sezibera tasked the EAC Departments of Legal Affairs and Social Sectors to work with the AMECEA technocrats to concretize further the areas of collaboration.



# Region Launches Online Trading Platform to Connect Farmers with Grain Buyers



A platform to connect farmers to grain buyers in the region was launched on 31 July 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya. The platform, dubbed **G-Soko**, was developed by a Kenyan-based IT firm Virtual City in partnership with the Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) and the FoodTrade Eastern and Southern Africa Organization.

G-Soko, the online trading platform will now enable Smallholder farmers in the East Africa to sell their produce at favourable prices.

Speaking at the launch of the platform, the Secretary General of the East African Community, Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera commended EAGC for partnering with the Secretariat to implement the EAC Food Security Action Plan, which is the EAC strategy to achieve food security in the region.

The Secretary General, who was represented by the Director for Productive Sectors Mr. Jean Baptiste Havugimana, also hailed the EAGC for the online initiative and pledged "EAC continued support in automating agricultural crops trading systems and processes to reduce commercialisation cost and all related challenges and bridge the gap between farmers, traders and consumers for increased food security in the region".

Speaking at the same occasion, the Executive Director of EAGC, Mr. Gerald Masila disclosed that G-Soko was part of a five-year trade enhancement and promotion programme in the region. He said linking rural food production zones in East Africa to urban consumption centres requires a well-functioning regional market and that by adhering to the system, farmers in the region will,


among others, be able to access credit while waiting for prices to increase through pledging the electronic warehouse receipt with the banks and agro-dealers.

The farmers will also benefit from reduced post-harvest losses through access to professional storage, cleaning, drying and will benefit from improved prices discovery since many of them rely on farm-gate prices that deliver cash at lower prices.

As for Millers, G-Soko system guarantees availability of quality stocks; standardized and proven grading thus reducing need to carry out sampling to check quality.

The Director of Agriculture in the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kenya commended the initiative saying "We have seen very positive changes in the breadth and depth of the EAC integration and this is encouraging as we all hope to reap the benefits of regional integration".

The G-Soko is now operational in two of the EAC Partner States; Uganda and Kenya, and arrangements are underway to extend the system to Tanzania and Rwanda before the Grains Farmers Summit scheduled to take place in Rwanda in early October 2015.

Present at the G-Soko launch were, among others, government officials from the Republic of Kenya, Development Partners, the Director of FoodTrade for East and Southern Africa, Representatives of Farmers Associations and certified grains warehouses from all the Partner States except Burundi. 

# Protected Area Data Management Online Resource Launched for Users in East Africa



Major advancement for biodiversity conservation and improving access to best available science and knowledge on protected areas have been made in East Africa.

After the establishment of a framework for the East African Community (EAC) Observatory for the Biodiversity and Protected Areas (BIOPAMA) program, the EAC BIOPAMA project convened a Technical Training Workshop at the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD) in Nairobi, Kenya from 21-22 July 2015.

The aim of the workshop was to introduce the program and present the Regional Reference Information System (RRIS) to participants with the purpose of obtaining feedback on how to improve the features, functionality and content to meet the needs of the region; to develop a schema for a refined workflow or decision support tool to easily access the required data and information; to identify obstacles to data sharing and opportunities and to promote data sharing and finally to define the workflow for submitting data for inclusion into the Regional Reference Information System (RRIS), a key resource of the observatory, to partners and stakeholders from the EAC countries.

The workshop which was attended by 30 participants drawn from natural resources, environment, science and technology to mining, energy, agriculture, forestry and museum sectors from Partner States provided a guided in-depth tour of the East African Community RRIS.

Each participant had the opportunity to log into the RRIS, engage with it and make suggestions for enhancements to meet the needs of the region. Participants could add new data to the RRIS as well as create their own maps, allowing for an immersive experience of how the RRIS can advance effective protected area conservation and management with the overall development context of the region.

In addition to the hands-on experience, participants discussed the process of using data to guide decision making with the aim of

modeling these workflows in the RRIS to ensure the technology and data support decision making and policy development. Participants also provided in-depth input on the best approach to promote the free and open exchange of data the region.

A draft "Open Access Statement" was accepted as a declaration to promote free and open access to data and a draft Data Sharing Framework which will give effect to the "Open Access Statement" was discussed".

The EAC Regional Reference Information System (EAC RRIS) is an online information system bringing together relevant information to support decision-making for planning, designating and managing protected areas. It displays maps and supporting information about Biodiversity values, marine and terrestrial ecosystems, species and habitats, pressures and threats, and management and governance.

The EAC RRIS supports the Regional Observatory for Protected Areas whose framework was finalized recently between IUCN and the East African Community. The EAC Observatory is hosted by the East African Community Secretariat in Arusha, Tanzania.

"The EAC Secretariat is privileged to be the host of the online information system, it will improve the effectiveness of management of protected areas in the EAC region," said Ms. Wivine Ntamubano, Principal Environment and Natural Resources Officer at the EAC Secretariat, "Protected Areas are important to the economies of the EAC Partner States because of the revenue generated through eco-tourism, continuous provision of water and food in reservoirs of fish and wildlife, provision of raw materials like timber, wood, fuel, herbal medicines which contributes to poverty reduction for the communities surrounding protected areas, and environmental benefits which include climate, erosion and soil fertility regulation. Protected areas also provide avenues for education and for carrying out research by different institutions."





# EALA Speaker Implores Stakeholders to Act and Think Regional to Boost Integration

EALA wants stakeholders in the EAC to take advantage of the extra-ordinary opportunities that spur up with the integration process to make it a reality.

EALA Speaker Rt Hon. Daniel F. Kidega made the remarks ON 22 July 2015, at a reception hosted by the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) in Kampala, Uganda to commemorate the 58th Anniversary of His Highness the Aga Khan's accession as the 49th hereditary spiritual leader of the Shia Ismaili Muslims (Imamat Day).

The Speaker lauded the AKDN for being an exceptional partner to the region and said the future of the East African Community was bright.

"I want to acknowledge with much satisfaction and gratitude, the contribution of AKDN to the regional development", Rt Hon. Kidega said.

"AKDN's history in our region stretches back 100 years and today, you are engaged with each one of the EAC Partner States. The efforts of the Network in education, healthcare, culture, infrastructure development, economic growth, and tourism have benefitted numerous communities", the Speaker added.

The Speaker hailed his Highness the Aga Khan for being at the forefront of effective development through the institutions of the AKDN.

He assured the AKDN of EALA's total support with regards to the legal and regulatory environment to smoothen integration.

"In this regard, please feel free to work with us and suggest areas you feel relevant pieces of legislation may strengthen. As the peoples' Representatives, EALA invites all stakeholders to collaborate closely to strengthen the integration process", the Speaker noted.

In his remarks, the AKDN Regional Representative, Amb. Mahmood Ahmed spoke of the important role of meritocracy, pluralism and strong civil society in development indicating that "one must not make the mistake of lowering the bar because it's the developing world, or because it's Africa". Noting Uganda's strong pluralistic tradition he observed that "Harnessing the best in all of us means opening the way for diversity. It means welcoming plurality. Flourishing civilisations and great cultures have thrived because of their openness to diversity".

The representative said AKDN was committed to improving the lives of the people of Uganda and in the region.




"This work is predicated on the ethic of respect for human dignity. Inherent to dignity is the ability to provide for oneself, to have safety and stability, to have a certain quality of life, to feel confidence and hope in the future, to feel a sense of belonging," Amb. Ahmed said.

The EAC and the AKDN recently penned a Memorandum of Understanding to foster collaboration.

The broad partnership inter alia includes initiatives in employment creation, income generation and poverty reduction in selected regions and sub-regions of the EAC Partner States. It also highlights the need for improvements to standards, quality and delivery of services, particularly in the fields of pre-tertiary and higher education, and healthcare, through public-private partnerships.

Plans around the establishment of Aga Khan University's principal East African campus in Arusha, Tanzania are well on course with the construction process expected to begin soon and this elicited a positive reaction from the Speaker.

"I am excited at this news. Sitting at the nexus of the EAC, this new campus will host a range of academic programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels which will produce the thinkers, reformers, researchers and indeed transformers who will work towards improving the quality of life of the East African peoples", Rt Hon. Kidega said.

"The regional University will also set up a number of centres or campuses in each Partner State. We are indeed looking forward to the innovation – which is billed to be an 'East African institution for East Africans'", the Speaker added. 



## ARCOS & EAC Join Efforts to Ensure Healthy Environment and Well-being of Communities in East Africa

The Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS) and the East African Community (EAC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to join their efforts in enhancing environment and sustainable natural resource management in the Albertine Rift region and other transboundary ecosystems of East Africa.

The natural resources play a vital role in the wellbeing of the communities and the economies of countries in the region through the ecosystem services they provide. The healthy environment is very essential for sustainability and the equitable access for the present and future generations.

Looking at the overlap interests and goals, ARCOS and EAC have joined efforts for collaboration in the areas of common interest especially in promoting sustainable mountain development, information sharing, civil society engagement and supporting sustainable community livelihoods in the region.

This agreement builds on good existing relationship between EAC and ARCOS, including the joint organisation of the Africa Regional Mountain Forum, held in Arusha, October 2014.

In his remarks, Ambassador Dr. Richard Sezibera, Secretary General of EAC emphasized on the need for sustainable management of natural resources for the wellbeing of present and future generations.

“ We really recognize what ARCOS has been doing and we have common interests especially in natural resources management and our collaboration is a landmark to ensure the healthy environment and the wellbeing of the present and future generations of the communities in the region; I am sure this will result in outstanding outcomes.


Dr Sam Kanyamibwa, the Executive Director who signed the MoU on behalf of ARCOS said, “The collaboration with EAC will certainly result in fruitful results especially in preservation of the



transboundary ecosystems in the region.

The signing of this agreement constitutes also an indicative example of needed partnership between government institutions and civil society organisations in the management of our natural ecosystems”

Given the importance of natural ecosystems to the sustainability, the wellbeing and economic growth, and the transboundary aspects of these entities, collaboration is a key to their health and continuous supply of their services to ensure the well-being of communities and sustainable development.

The parties agreed on the collaboration in the activities pertaining to wise management of transboundary ecosystems and particularly sustainable mountain development as the mountains are the main source of freshwater and host rich and diverse biodiversity in the region. 

## EAC Deploys Regional Medical and Public Health Emergency Support Teams to Refugee Camps in Kigoma, Tanzania and Eastern Province of Rwanda



© Reuters/T. Mukoya

The East African Community (EAC) in July 2015, deployed Emergency Regional Medical and Public Health Support Teams to the Refugee Camps hosting refugees from Burundi in Kigoma Region in Tanzania and at the Mahama Main Refugee Camp and the surrounding local host communities in Kirehe and Bugesera Districts in the Eastern Province of Rwanda.

The deployment has brought together over one hundred (100) medical specialist doctors and other health workers drawn from the East African Community Secretariat, the EAC Partner States' National Referral Hospitals, the East, Central and Southern Africa (ECSA) Health Community Secretariat, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Federation of Red Cross and the Red Crescent (IFRCRC), the Tanzania Red Cross Society (TRCS), Medicines Sans Frontieres (MSF) to join their local counterparts and other health care workers based in Kigoma Region in Tanzania from 5 to 11 July 2015, and in the Eastern Province of Rwanda from 13 to 17 July 2015, to offer a wide range of services that include; Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Paediatrics and Child Health, General (Internal) Medicine, General Surgery, Orthopaedic Surgery,

Ophthalmology/Eye Surgery, Oncology, Nutrition, Neurosurgery, Dental and Oral Health Surgery, Ear, Nose and Throat Surgery, among others.

According to the Secretary General of the East African Community, Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera, the deployment of the Health Emergency Support Teams is based on Article 118 (a) of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community with respect to regional cooperation in health activities whereby Partner States undertake to, among others; take joint action towards the prevention and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases and to control pandemics and epidemics of communicable and vector-borne diseases such as HIV-AIDS, cholera, malaria, hepatitis and yellow fever that might endanger the health and welfare of the residents of the Partner States, and to co-operate in facilitating mass immunization and other public health community campaigns.

*(Continued on page 11)*

## ... large numbers of the populations encounter outbreaks of various communicable diseases

*(Continued from page 10)*

Prior to the deployment, a joint technical team of health experts from the EAC Secretariat; ECSA Health Community Secretariat; UNHCR; IFCRC; TRCS; MSF; and from the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania conducted a Rapid Public Health Needs Assessment of the affected Burundian Refugees and the local host communities in Kigoma region of Tanzania from 8 to 10 June 2015.

A similar Rapid Public Health Needs Assessment was carried out in Eastern Province of Rwanda from 15 to 19 June 2015 by same joint technical team of health experts to assess and document additional technical, financial and material resources required for further additional medical and public health support in the affected areas.

According to reports from the EAC Teams on the ground, 75,768 Burundian refugees had been registered at Nyarugusu Refugee Camp as of Thursday 9 July 2015, of which 60% were Women and Children. In the Eastern Province of Rwanda, there were 29,089 persons registered at Mahama Refugee Camp as of Wednesday 8 July 2015, of which 14,438 were females, 14,650 males and 5,981 children.

The refugee population and the local host communities in Kigoma Region in Tanzania have already experienced massive outbreaks of over five-thousand (5,000) diarrhoea-related diseases including thirty four (34) confirmed cases of cholera infections with four (4) deaths – two Burundians and two local Tanzanians and other outbreaks of various communicable diseases. Currently, over a period of four (4) days from 5 to 9 July 2015, a rapid influx of additional 2,646 Burundian Asylum Seekers/Refugees were received and registered at the Nyarugusu Main Refugee Camp in Kaulu District of Kigoma Region of Tanzania.

Since the arrival of the first group of thirty-six (36) Burundian Refugees at the Nyarugusu Main Refugee Camp on 26 April 2015, the number of Burundian refugees registers at the camp rose rapidly to 54,000 as of 10 June 2015 at the time which the EAC conducted the rapid medical and public health needs assessment in the area and an additional 22,768 new arrivals came in over a period of 30 days as of 9 July 2015. There have been 910 new babies born at the camp since April 2015 and 86 Burundian refugees have died at the camp since April 2015 up-to 9 July 2015. In addition, there are a total of 787 special needs persons among the Burundian refugee population and these vulnerable group comprise elderly persons, people with




disabilities and orphaned children.

According to Dr. Stanley Sonoiya, the Principal Health Officer at the EAC Secretariat, who is coordinating the Regional Medical and Public Health Emergency Support Teams, the medical and public health needs of the Refugees were “overwhelming because of the large numbers of the very sick and weak populations which have encountered outbreaks of various communicable diseases and many more were suffering from chronic illnesses due to various non-communicable diseases.

These were being aggravated by the displacements, deprivations, lack of access to adequate and regular health care and also lack of medicines and poor nutrition as well as poor public health and sanitation facilities”.

Dr. Sonoiya notes that the situation requires a very large scale joint EAC regional inter-governmental and international multi-agency coordination and resource mobilization to be deployed to meet the required immediate and long-term medical and public health needs, including support for referrals and treatment of serious acute and chronic illnesses which require medical specialized investigations, diagnosis and proper health care management at various national referral hospitals in the EAC region.

The EAC official has recommended that the current adverse and serious medical and public health situation of the Refugees should be considered and discussed by the relevant EAC Policy Organs and other stakeholders and partners in order to find more sustainable interventions and support in the immediate period, short-term and long-term as may be applicable. 



## IRI Promises Increased Support for Youth, Women in EAC Region

The International Republican Institute (IRI) has pledged to increase its support for women and the youth within the East African Community so that they can participate more actively in leadership and the democratization process in their countries.

IRI President Mark Green said that under the Women's Democracy Network, the institute was seeking to provide assistance to women interested in running for political positions and mobilizing communities.

Mr Green said IRI was also working with the youth under a new initiative – Generation Democracy – so that they can constructively participate in governance and democratization pointing out that in most countries the youth were either helping older leaders to build a better world or fighting those in power.

Mr Green reaffirmed IRI's commitment to support the nurturing of democracy all over the world, saying the US was keen to share its mistakes with nascent democracies so that the latter don't repeat the same.

He described the EAC as a vast market which if reinforced by a good transportation network would also revitalise regional trade and open up a gateway to Central Africa which is largely unexploited.

The IRI President was speaking when he paid a courtesy call on the EAC Secretary General, Amb. Dr Richard Sezibera, at the EAC headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania on 3 August 2015.

In his remarks, Amb. Dr Sezibera thanked IRI for working closely with the EAC and the East African Local Government Association (EALGA) to improve local governance, effectiveness of decentralization policies and their implications in regional integration.

Dr Sezibera said the EAC was actively engaging women and the youth in its programmes and singled out the EAC Youth Platform, the Youth Ambassadors Programme and the Women in




Business Programme. He added that the Women in Business Programme was meant to empower women economically by opening doors in business for them and assisting them financially.

He said good governance and democratisation were enshrined in the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC noting that a protocol on good governance was still under negotiation by the Partner States.

Dr Sezibera said significant progress had been recorded in the EAC region with goods beginning to move more freely in addition to the free movement of labour and persons. He disclosed that an East African e-passport was in the offing and could be launched by the end of this year.

The SG said the free movement of labour across the region had to be anchored on the harmonisation of curricula and education systems, adding that an East African Higher Education Area would be launched by the end of the year.

On infrastructure development, the SG said the Community was putting emphasis on railways, energy and ports. 

## East African Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Root for Promotion of Local Production



A delegation from the Federation of the East African Pharmaceutical Manufacturers (FEAPM) led by its Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer, Kampala Pharmaceutical Industries, Mr. Nazeem Mohamed on 30 July 2015, paid a working visit to the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania and held discussions with the Secretary General of the East African Community, Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera. Mr. Nazeem Mohamed was accompanied by Dr. Dharendra Kumar Shah, Chief Executive Officer, Bio Deal and a member of FEAPM; and Ms. Michelle Maungu, Project Manager, Federation of East African Pharmaceutical Manufacturers (FEAPM). Mr Thomas Walter from GIZ was also present at the meeting.

The Federation of East African Pharmaceutical Manufacturers is a platform formed to address the common challenges and exploit emerging opportunities for East African pharmaceutical manufacturers.

The Secretary General welcomed the FEAPM officials to the EAC and informed them that the Pharmaceutical sector is a priority area for manufacturing for the EAC region as delineated in the EAC Industrialization Policy and Strategy 2012-2032; and the Partner states were keen to promote the sector to gain the benefits of the development including employment creation, skills and technology transfer. In this context, the Partner States were providing an enabling environment for the private sector to take full advantage of the opportunities offered by the Community in the pharmaceutical manufacturing sector in its quest of spearheading the integration agenda.

The Chairperson of FEAPM, Mr. Nazeem Mohamed, highlighted the need for harmonization of some of the possible incentive frameworks to promote local pharmaceutical production in the region that include; a uniform preferential margin of 20% for all regionally produced medicines and medical devices in public tenders according to Art. 35 of the Common Market Protocol; no duties on imports of raw and packing material, pharmaceutical manufacturing related equipment as well as spare parts for this equipment acquired by local manufacturers registered in the EAC; and classification or import restrictions for finished pharmaceutical products that can be produced locally, based on regional capacity and quality audits of local manufacturers.

FEAPM also noted that the implementation of the incentive framework would lead to the growth of local production and in turn employment generation; opportunities for highly skilled labor force; reduction of substandard and counterfeit products; creation of high value industry and attraction of investments and financial viability; improved skills and technology transfer; creation of backward / forward linkages and import savings and export earnings among others.

Amb. Sezibera emphasized the need to have well-structured incentive frameworks that would meet the market requirements and allow for growth of enterprises in the Community.

Amb. Sezibera tasked the EAC Departments of industrial development and health to work with FEAPM officials for greater coordination on the development of local production of pharmaceutical products in the region.



# All Set for 1st Manufacturing Summit and Exhibition in East Africa

*...H.E. President Yoweri Museveni is expected to grace the official opening*

The Minister of State for Trade, Industry and Cooperatives from Republic of Uganda, Hon. Dr James Mutende has confirmed that all is set for the 1st Manufacturing Business Summit and Exhibition in East Africa scheduled to take place from 1-2 September 2015 at the Speke Resort Hotel, Munyonyo in Kampala, Uganda and that President Yoweri Museveni is expected to grace the official opening.

Addressing the press on 5 August 2015, at the Uganda Media Centre in Kampala, Dr Mutende said the Summit and Exhibition co-organized by the East African Community Secretariat (EAC) and East African Business Council (EABC) in partnership with the Ugandan government, will provide a strategic platform for an extensive and intensive dialogue on opportunities and challenges of industrialisation in the region.

Dr Mutende informed the journalists that the Manufacturing Business Summit is a platform borne out of the recognition that sustainable economic growth and development in East Africa is unattainable without creating a vibrant and diversified manufacturing sector. He said that the Manufacturing Business Summit therefore marks an important turning point for the future of manufacturing in the region.

Speaking at the same occasion, Uganda Minister of State for EAC Affairs, Hon. Shem Bageine, emphasized that the region is endowed with vast natural resources and favourable climatic conditions that provide a strong foundation for industrialization.

He said the summit will seek to create an avenue for the private sector to advocate and campaign for the acceleration of industrial reforms aimed at improving investment climate in the manufacturing sector.

On his part, the Director of Productive Sectors at the EAC Secretariat, Mr Jean Baptiste Havugimana, disclosed that the summit will also focus on bridging the knowledge gap in the latest trends in manufacturing practices through global benchmarking.

The Executive Director of Uganda Manufacturers Association, Mr Sebaggala Kigozi, commended the efforts to improve the investment climate in East African, and called on organisations to sponsor and exhibit during the summit.





# 4th EAC University Students' Debate Set for Kampala

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The 4th East African Community University Students' Debate on EAC regional integration is set for 7 – 8th September 2015 in Kampala, Uganda.

This year's debate will focus on values, ethics and leadership which are critical in advancing the broad aims of the EAC integration with the youth as key stakeholders. These three virtues are vital in moulding the choices that the youth make by imparting in them the desired morals such as integrity and accountability that are crucial for an integrated East Africa.

The debate aims to, among other things, promote continuous youth participation in EAC integration issues; encourage networking among university students to enhance regional integration; prepare the youth for future leadership roles, and; to popularize the EAC integration agenda.

To propose or oppose the motion, six participants drawn from public and private universities from each of the five Partner States. However, participation in the debate is limited to students who are in their second year at the university pursuing a degree. Interested applicants with good analytical and communication skills, and a good command of English are encouraged to apply. The debate will be conducted in English.

The debating session will be in three sets, each one hour whereby the proposing team and the opposing team will debate. There will be room for rebuttals as well as intervention by the audience of which each team will respond to. Each debating session will be concluded by a wrap up by the panelists or the interveners. The top two teams will have rebuttals so as to get the winning team. The final decision will be made by the judges after consultations with the interveners, the moderator and timekeepers.

The best debaters will be appointed as EAC Youth Ambassadors 2015/2016 with an obligation to spearhead peer-to-peer learning in their respective universities in collaboration with the EAC Secretariat, the East African Legislative Assembly and Ministries of EAC Affairs in the Partner States. There will be a Gala Dinner where cash prizes will be given to the best debaters and the winning team.

Representatives from academia, private sector, civil society, media and technocrats from the East African region will be attending the event to listen to the debates and comment on the strength of the deliberations and also recommend a way forward for the debate.

The gala dinner which will be officiated by the Secretary-General of the EAC, Amb. Dr Richard Sezibera, will mark the climax of the debating forum. ●

## A Heartfelt Goodbye for Newly Appointed Judge of the High Court of Tanzania



The ladies of the EAC organized a surprise farewell and congratulation party for Hon. Lady Justice Rehema Kerefu, who was appointed Judge of the High Court of the United Republic of Tanzania by President Jakaya Kiwete earlier this month.

Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera brightened up the ambiance of the party with his presence, when he stopped by for some cake and to say a few remarks as well as to congratulate Justice Kerefu on her new appointment.



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