

Federation of Arab and African Consultants Formed



Under the umbrella of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) Arab and African Consulting Firms hold their Third Forum in Nairobi, Republic of Kenya during the period 9 – 10 December 2009. The Theme of the event was “Federation of Arab and African Consultants for the Development of Africa”.

The opening session of the Forum was addressed the Finance Economic Secretary on behalf of the Minister of Finance of the Republic of Kenya who welcomed the participants and thanked BADEA for picking up Nairobi as venue for the Forum. He further said that the Government of Kenya is in support of joint ventures between the Arab and African countries as it will encourage transfer of knowledge and technology among countries as well as improve on their professionalism and competence. The high ranking official added “we commend BADEA for the support it has extended to Kenya in such priority areas like agriculture, roads, health water and irrigation, specifically Hola and Bura irrigation scheme among other infrastructural development schemes”

The Director General of BADEA, Abdelaziz Khelef told the Forum that since 2007 BADEA held two forums where more than 50 Arab and African consulting firms have shared in the need to actively participate in development projects, contracting , supervising, engineering works and undertaking techno – economic and financial feasibility studies funded by BADEA in Africa and in the more pivotal role in ensuring the success of such projects. The Director General said that the Arabian countries will enhance cooperation with Africa through other fronts for instance availing a framework for dialogue and cooperation between Arab and African consultants and seek new modalities for activating Afro Arab cooperation in consultancy services. Mr. Khelef thanked the Government of Kenya for the facilities extended to make the event a success.

During the two-day meeting the participants reviewed the outcome of the Second Forum of the consultants which was held in Tunis, the second paper dealt with the role of the consultants in supervising the implementation of the projects. A third one was presented on the procurement of goods and services under FiDic guidelines.

The debate of the Forum was culminated by the formation of the Federation of Arab and African Consultants FAAC and elected Mr. Mouncif Ziani of CID Morocco as President. Six members were elected as assistants to the President as follows:

- 1/ Mr, AMDO Dé (CETICO)- Senegal
- 2/ Mr. Mohamed Abdel Rahman (New Tech) – Sudan
- 3/ Mr. Sharif Mawsoof (ACE) – Egypt
- 4/ Mr. Mamad Amad (TECNICA) – Mozambique
- 5/ Mr. Alphonse Mbousch (Congo Engineering) – Congo
- 6/ Mr. Mohamed Munyone (AIA) – Kenya

The Forum resolved the setting up of six committees to be chaired by the six deputies as follows:

- 1/ Membership and Services Committee
- 2/ Legal and organizational Affairs Committee
- 3/ External Affairs Committee
- 4/ Professional Development Committee

5/ Committee for Professional Ethics

6/ Financial Resources Committee

The meeting endorsed Nairobi to be the interim Seat for the Secretariat of the Federation. The General Assembly of the Federation decided that each member to pay 200 fees U.S. Dollars as membership in addition of 300 U.S. Dollars as annual subscription.

The Executive Committee is endowed with setting rules and regulations of the Federation.

On the other hand the forum wound up sessions by address of the Director General who extended his congratulations to the President of the Federation and his deputies and urged them to indulge in activating the newly set up federation and assured the Forum of BADEA's support.

Finance Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance of Kenya addressed the closing session of the Forum and thanked BADEA for its efforts to deepen Afro-Arab cooperation. He emphasized the importance of the consulting services in the implementation of public projects financed by BADEA.

The President of the Federation, Mr. Ziani spoke to the Press at the end of the event and said that the Forum was success as 50 consultancy firms took part and that the Federation was formed. He promised that the Federation would endeavor to promote Co-operation among consultancy firms in Africa and Arab world.

It is worth mentioning that the Forum was widely covered by the local and international media and was followed very closely by the Press, TV and Radio.

The Kenyan newspapers emphasized on the significance of choosing Nairobi as venue for the Forum and as seat to the Secretariat of the Federation. The newspapers shed light on the opening address of the Minister of Finance of Kenya and the hopes that he voiced for the support of BADEA in financing priority projects to overcome the negative impact of the world recession on Kenyan economy. The media as well spoke about the role of BADEA in its support to the development of Africa and praised that as a great and immense.