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e-Flash 149 - April 21st

ASSOCIATIONS' AFFAIRS

1. 2017 RAME Field Meeting Registration - Two weeks Left

RAME's 17th regional conference is to be held 4th - 6th of May 2017, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Casablanca, Morocco. Organised by the Association of Freight Forwarders of Morocco (AFFM), this meeting will enable regionally established freight forwarders to make contacts and develop business relationships with their counterparts from all over the world.

Speakers of the conference include WTO, UNCTAD, ITC and many more. For more details on the conference and to registration please visit the meeting's website at: <http://rame2017.com/>.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

2. WTO Chairpersons for 2017

The WTO General Council, on 7th of April 2017, noted the consensus on a slate of names of chairpersons for WTO bodies. To view the names being considered please visit: https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres17_e/pr792_e.htm

3. WTO Regional Trade Policy Course Takes Place for First Time in Kazakhstan

The first Regional Trade Policy Course of 2017 started on 3rd of April in Almaty, Kazakhstan, for Central Eastern European, Central Asian and Caucasus (CEECAC) members and observers of the WTO. The course is being organised in partnership with the University of International Business in Almaty and Kazakhstan's Centre for Trade Policy Development. RTPCs cover issues such as accession to the WTO, trade and environment, trade in goods, trade in services and intellectual property rights. The programme includes a trade negotiation simulation so that participants start practising the knowledge acquired.

To read more please visit: https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news17_e/tra_07apr17_e.htm

4. WCO - Kuwait Becomes the 109th Contracting Party to the RKC

The WCO Secretary General, Mr. Kunio Mikuriya, in his capacity as the depository of the WCO Conventions, received the Instruments of Accession of Kuwait to the International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures ([Revised Kyoto Convention](#) - RKC) and to the Convention on Temporary Admission (Istanbul Convention) on 13th of April 2017, from the Ambassador of Kuwait to Belgium, H.E Mr. Jasem A. Albudaiwi.

To read more please visit:

http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2017/april/kuwait_109th-contracting-party-to-the-rkc-and-the-69th-contracting-party-to-the-istanbul-convention.aspx

5. UNCTAD - High-level Meeting on the Future of eCommerce in Developing Countries

On 25th of April, the high-level event "[Digital Transformation for All: Empowering Entrepreneurs and Small Business](#)" will be the highlight of the week. An interactive dialogue with ministers and representatives of government, international organisations, captains of industry, civil society, academia and youth will take place. FIATA will be present and the FIATA DG will be participating in a panel discussion on 28th of April.

Read more at:

http://unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=1463&Sitemap_x0020_Taxonomy=UNCTAD%20Home;#2149;#UNCTAD E-Week 2017;#2140;#e-Trade for All

6. UNCTAD - Fostering Regional Value Chains and Policy Coordination in Southern Africa

UNCTAD and the Department for Trade and Industry of the Republic of South Africa jointly organised a regional workshop on regional value chains and policy coordination in Southern Africa. This represents the first activity of a four-year UNCTAD development project in the region, with participation from Mauritius, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The OECD Development Centre took also part to the initiative reinforcing the existing cooperation with UNCTAD on the structural transformation agenda.

Read more at:

http://unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=1462&Sitemap_x0020_Taxonomy=UNCTAD%20Home;#1390;#Economic Development of Africa;#1644;#Economic Cooperation and Integration among Developing Countries

7. EU and Japan Conclude 18th Round of Trade Talks

The 18th round of negotiations between the EU and Japan took place in Tokyo on 3rd - 5th of April 2017. This was the first round of negotiation held since the leaders meeting of 21st of March 2017 between President Juncker, President Tusk and Prime Minister Abe during which they all reconfirmed their commitment to conclude the negotiations as early as possible. All issues to be covered by the agreement were discussed, including the market access for goods and services.

To read more please visit: <http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=1649>

8. Good Progress in Third Round of EU-Mexico Trade Negotiations

The third round of EU-Mexico talks for a modernised trade agreement concluded last Friday in Brussels bringing good overall progress. The aim of the round was to put on the table proposals covering all negotiating areas and start to merge texts coming from both sides. [EU proposals presented so far](#) covered rules of origin, public procurement, energy and raw materials, intellectual property rights and trade by small and medium-sized businesses. Further proposals presented during the last week round will be available on the [DG Trade transparency page](#) in the coming weeks.

To read more please visit: <http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=1648>

9. UNESCAP Workshop Underscores Need to Enhance Cross-Border Trade Facilitation

Representatives of relevant cross-border and regulatory agencies from China, Mongolia, Republic of Korea and Russian Federation participated at the Workshop on Cross-Border Trade Facilitation and

Single Window Implementation in North-East Asia held on 12th - 13th of April to discuss issues on cross-border trade and facilitate movement of goods within the North-East Asia sub region.

To read more please visit: <http://www.unescap.org/news/workshop-underscores-need-enhance-cross-border-trade-facilitation-north-east-asia>

AIR CARGO

10. ICAO Highlights Infrastructure Development at IATA Wings of Change Event in Brazil

Dr Liu, ICAO Secretary General, stressed to the aviation leaders that while Brazil's recent airport development example has been a positive one, many other facilities across the region were not prepared to handle the currently-projected traffic growth. The ICAO Secretary General also highlighted the importance of air transport integration in South America. "ICAO has adopted a long-term vision to help facilitate and encourage liberalised air transport in States," she stated, calling for harmonisation of consumer protection regulation and competition laws and policies to strengthen regional air transport integration.

Read more at:

<http://www.icao.int/Newsroom/Pages/ICAO-highlights-infrastructure-development-and-economic-policy-priorities-at-IATA-Wings-of-Change-event-in-Brazil-.aspx>

11. ICAO/EASA Forum Results in Improved African Collaboration

ICAO and the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), building on their common interest in the evolution of the ICAO and global framework for regional mechanisms to support State aviation safety oversight, achieved landmark progress last week in Swaziland, as they co-hosted 200 officials from 48 states and 32 international bodies for a special joint Global Forum on Regional Safety Oversight Organisations in Africa.

Read more at: <http://www.icao.int/Newsroom/Pages/ICAO-EASA-Forum-results-in-improved-African-collaboration-and-new-global-framework-for-cooperative-regional-aviation-safety.aspx>

SUSTAINABLE LOGISTICS & CONNECTIVITY

12. UNCTAD - Measuring the Environment for eCommerce: A New Tool

The multi-stakeholder [eTrade for All initiative](#) an initiative launched in 2016 at the UNCTAD Ministerial Conference in Nairobi has developed a new tool for assessing the e-trade environment at the country level. This tool was developed jointly by UNCTAD and the World Bank Group's Trade & Competitiveness Global Practice and utilises data from the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), UNCTAD, the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Universal Postal Union (UPU), World Economic Forum, and the World Bank Group.

Read more at:

http://unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=1458&Sitemap_x0020_Taxonomy=UNCTAD%20E-Week%202017;#20;#UNCTAD Home;#2140;#e-Trade for All

13. ICAO - African States Renew their Commitments to Sustainable Development

36 African States, 224 participants from industry stakeholders, and international and regional organisations gathered in Accra, Ghana, last week, for the Second ICAO Meeting on the Sustainable Development of Air Transport in Africa to assess progress on the 2015 Antananarivo Declaration implementation.

Read more at: <http://www.icao.int/Newsroom/Pages/African-States-renew-their-commitments-to-the-sustainable-development-of-air-transport.aspx>

14. UNFCCC - The UN Climate Change Secretariat is Seeking Partnerships for COP 23

The United Nations Climate Change secretariat is now seeking partnerships with all stakeholders, including the private sector, in support of the upcoming UN Climate Change Conference (COP 23) to be held in Bonn, Germany, on 6th - 17th November 2017. <http://newsroom.unfccc.int/cop-23-bonn/> This is an exciting opportunity to join forces with the secretariat as partnerships will be formally recognised and given high visibility through the UNFCCC's websites and social media channels, conference branding, media engagement activities among many other opportunities to reach a global audience.

To read more please visit: <http://newsroom.unfccc.int/unfccc-newsroom/the-un-climate-change-secretariat-is-seeking-partnerships-for-cop-23/>

15. UNECA - Integrated Approaches to the Implementation of the SDGs and Agenda 2063

The Renewal of Planning Section (RPS) of the Macroeconomic Policy Division of ECA organised a side event on the margins of the 2017 African development week in Dakar, Senegal. Participants were introduced to ECA's Tool/Software that helps in aligning Agenda 2030/SDGs and Agenda 2063 with national planning frameworks and also includes a module that facilitates national and sectoral tracking of country performance on both agendas.

To read more please visit: <http://www.uneca.org/stories/holistic-and-integrated-approaches-implementation-sdgs-and-agenda-2063>

16. ADB, Afghanistan Launch Transport Sector Master Plan Update

ADB and the Government of Afghanistan today unveiled a comprehensive Transport Sector Master Plan Update <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/institutional-document/235311/afg-transport-plan-2017-2036.pdf> that will help Afghanistan develop its transport infrastructure covering roads, railways, civil aviation, urban transport, trade logistics, and other related operations. The estimated investment required to achieve the goals is about \$26 billion from 2017-2036.

To read more please visit: <https://www.adb.org/news/adb-afghanistan-launch-transport-sector-master-plan-update>

