

2018 Edition

MOROCCO

in Focus





Morocco's Investment and trade agency is in charge of promoting national and foreign investment as well as export of goods and services.
The Agency is committed to support all economic actors throughout their entire life cycle.

AMDIE is here to :

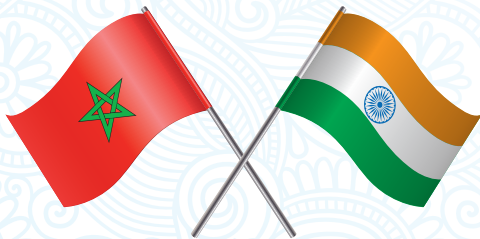
- Follow up on you throughout your entire project, from preparation to financing and execution.
- Help you identify the best partners in Morocco and help along during the deal-making process.
- Facilitate your access to international markets and will help you sign export contracts with local players.
- Help you identify the best opportunities abroad and will follow up on you during the entire investment process regardless of your country of origin.

MOROCCAN INVESTMENT AND EXPORT DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

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Tel. : +212 537 22 64 00 - Fax : + 212 537 67 34 17 / 42 - E-mail : Info@amdie.gov.ma

On the occasion of
Morocco National Day
and the 19th Anniversary of the
Enthronement of His Majesty Mohammed VI,
King of Morocco,
we extend our heartiest
congratulations to the King and his people.

Together, we will continue to strengthen our ties
for the mutual benefit of our nations.



K.K.Kanoria
Honorary Consul
The Kingdom of Morocco to Mumbai

Chairman
TCPL Packaging Ltd



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الوكالة المغربية لتجارة الاستثمارات و المبادلات
MOROCCAN INVESTMENT AND EXPORT
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Map of the Kingdom of Morocco



Source: Moroccan National Tourist Office
Website: www.visitmorocco.com



HM King Mohammed VI on “Africa and South-South Cooperation”

HM King Mohammed VI sent a message to participants in the Crans Montana Forum, which was held in Dakhla in March 2018 under the theme "Africa and South-South cooperation." Here follows the full text of the royal message, read by president of the Dakhla-Oued Eddahab region, Ynja Khattat:



It gives me great pleasure to send this message to your assembly as you hold the Fourth Crans Montana Forum, which will address the theme Africa and South-South Cooperation. This year, once again, the Forum is being held in the city of Dakhla.

As you know, Dakhla has special significance in the history of Morocco. Thanks to its unique position, it serves as a strategic link between the Kingdom and regions and countries further south in Africa.

I am pleased to see that the Crans Montana Forum has developed considerably and gained renown with each meeting. It is now

a must-attend international event that brings together high-level political decision-makers, representatives of the business community, intellectuals, civil society activists from all walks of life and opinion makers from all corners of the world.

The relevance of the themes addressed, coupled with the quality and diverse backgrounds of the participants, are valuable factors. They make it possible to enrich the debate and explore new horizons, enabling the Forum to serve as a powerhouse for proposals. Above all, they help us look to the future with greater serenity and confidence. All of these features give the Forum an

international dimension, bringing Africa - the continent of the future - under the spotlight.

Africa is at a crossroads. The profound changes under way in the continent are multidimensional. They point to a rapidly changing Africa - a continent increasingly removed from the stereotypes and negative clichés it has been labeled with.

Africa is 30 million square kilometers of opportunity. It has the youngest population on earth. By 2050, there will be 2.5 billion inhabitants in the Continent, half of whom will be under 25 years of age.





These young people will constitute an enormous asset, provided the demographic dividend is managed judiciously. This impressive demographic trend will produce a major change of direction which will, in turn, transform the situation in Africa and the world at large. Young Africans are a precious element in the achievement of development; through them, we have an incredible opportunity for emergence - one on which our Continent ought to capitalize.

To achieve progress, however, Africa needs to muster all its energy and build on innovative, win-win partnerships.

I therefore call on African men and women, especially young people, to mobilize resolutely and effectively in order to rise to the nagging challenges our Continent is faced with and to embrace the dynamic of shared growth.

In addition to building on its resources, Africa should make use of all the

“To achieve progress, however, Africa needs to muster all its energy and build on innovative, win-win partnerships.”

means at its disposal to meet the legitimate expectations of African populations. One of the favored tools for Africa's emergence is South-South cooperation.

Morocco is one of the African countries nurturing the ambition and desire to ensure that Africa becomes master of its own destiny. It is no coincidence, therefore, that Morocco has made South-South cooperation an instrument for the advent of a new Africa that believes in its potential and looks to the future.

In fact, this is a constitutional commitment enshrined in gold letters in the Kingdom's supreme law. Indeed, our Constitution stipulates that Morocco

undertakes to “strengthen relations of cooperation and solidarity with the peoples and countries of Africa, including the Sahara and Sahel countries (...) and to consolidate South-South cooperation”.

As I pointed out in my Message to the participants in the last meeting of your Forum, I have made the bold decision to put that cooperation at the heart of my country's African policy. Under my stewardship, Morocco has shaped a truly innovative South-South cooperation model based on the exchange of knowledge, skills, expertise and resources. This model involves all of the Continent's sub-regions and relevant sectors.



Under the High Patronage of
His Majesty King Mohammed VI

15 TO 20
MARCH 2018
DAKHLA
KINGDOM OF MOROCCO



CRANS
MONTANA
FORUM





The South-South cooperation initiated by my country, which we see as a means for fruitful, principled partnership with African countries, is meant to be integrated and multidimensional. Whether in the areas of the transfer of technology, the sharing of know-how, the establishment of public-private partnerships in various domains, or training and higher education, Morocco has gained expertise which is widely recognized in Africa.

Over the last 15 years, 1,000 cooperation agreements have been signed with 28 African countries. They concern such diverse sectors as education, health, infrastructure development, training and agriculture. Because it puts man at the heart of its concerns and incorporates the economic,

security throughout the sub-region.

In order to achieve a mutually beneficial relationship based on sharing and to consolidate existing sub-regional partnerships, Morocco has returned to its institutional family, the African Union.

I therefore call on all African sister nations to get more closely involved in this constructive cooperation by helping to enhance the efficiency of our regional and sub-regional institutions as instruments for the achievement of integration across the Continent.

The South-South cooperation Morocco is implementing has a bearing on issues relating to stability and development in Africa, including migration.

of receiving irregular migrants and managing migrant flows on its territory. This inherently humanitarian policy is not just a new form of solidarity with our African brothers and sisters; it also enhances our immutable commitment to African peoples.

This commitment is not a slogan Morocco brandishes in international forums. In fact, it epitomizes a resolute, irreversible policy of the Kingdom.

Another example of the inter-African cooperation Morocco has developed with the rest of the Continent concerns the fight against the devastating effects of climate change. Indeed, the Kingdom is fully aware of the threat this phenomenon poses to development, peace and security in our Continent.

“It is no coincidence, therefore, that Morocco has made South-South cooperation an instrument for the advent of a new Africa that believes in its potential and looks to the future.”

social, cultural, spiritual, security and military dimensions, the Moroccan model is unique.

Morocco, which defines cooperation strategies in the light of sister nations' needs, has an African student population attending Moroccan universities and higher education institutions in excess of 25,000.

The Kingdom is also keen to implement major strategic projects in Africa. I will mention just two recent ones: the first is the Africa Atlantic Gas Pipeline, aimed at reshaping the regional electricity market, and the second concerns the establishment of fertilizer production plants, in cooperation with Ethiopia and Nigeria, with a view to improving agricultural productivity and promoting food

Migration is an opportunity, not a threat. The migration-related crisis the world is witnessing today is not new; nor should it be perceived as inevitable. It calls for greater cooperation, first between African countries, then between the latter and the countries of the North.

As the African Union Leader on the Question of Migration, I proposed, at the 30th AU Summit, an African Agenda on Migration. That Agenda recommends the setting up of an African Migration Observatory and the appointment of an AU Special Envoy for Migration in order to tackle the migration phenomenon properly from a comprehensive perspective.

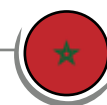
In this respect, my country has played a leading role in terms

Clearly, Africa is paying a heavy price in this regard, even though it is responsible for a mere 4 % of global greenhouse gas emissions. As the COP22 host country, Morocco was keen to ensure the Paris Agreement was put into effect through an action-oriented COP during which Africa's concerns held center stage in the discussions. Once again, I call on the countries of the North to honor the commitments they reiterated in Marrakech, particularly with regard to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and financing developing countries' climate strategies.

I availed myself of the opportunity of the global climate meeting to convene the first Africa Action Summit, which was attended by Heads of State and Government of 41 African sister nations. We were thus able to exchange on the challenges relating to the climate change consequences we are facing and agreed on urgent, practical measures to tackle those effects.

At my suggestion, the Summit decided to give priority to the





development of the Sahel, and to the Lake Chad Basin, Island States and the Congo River Basin in particular.

During that Summit, Morocco also submitted some concrete initiatives to help ensure food security in Africa. Particularly noteworthy are the Adaptation of African Agriculture project, which is designed to ensure capacity-building for the benefit of agricultural stakeholders, and the Blue Belt initiative, which aims to fight the effects of global warming on oceans.

Similarly, the Kingdom expressed its willingness to share its successful experience in the promotion of clean, renewable energy, the development of responsible agriculture and the sustainable use of marine resources.

Our Continent is clearly facing a paradox: it has practically all the natural resources required for sustained human development, and yet African populations are suffering from poverty and marginalization in the global economic system.

Intra-African trade accounts for only 13% of all commercial activity in Africa and represents a mere 2 % of global trade. Today, more than ever, the African continent must make the most of globalization.

Africa lacks neither the ambition nor the desire to move forward. However, it needs new, collective types of organization for local administrative and management purposes. It is with that in mind that I have decided to put advanced regionalization at the heart of my country's economic development model.

More than a simple territorial or administrative planning measure, advanced regionalization reflects a strong desire to revamp and modernize state structures in order to consolidate the integrated

“Our Continent is clearly facing a paradox: it has practically all the natural resources required for sustained human development, and yet African populations are suffering from poverty and marginalization in the global economic system.”

development of our regions and rally all stakeholders around a common project.

Today, regions are expected to become local governments wielding the kind of powers that enable them to shape their destiny within the framework of the Kingdom's territorial integrity.

My objective is to foster a new form of economic growth in the twelve regions making up Morocco – one that ensures inclusive growth and is supported locally by public and private sector actors. I especially want to enhance national cohesion and increase access to public services in regions with high potential.

In no other place is this reality more obvious than in the beautiful region where you are today, right here in Dakhla: indeed, and as is the case elsewhere in the Southern Provinces, the city has witnessed a political, economic and social transformation. My ambition is to press ahead with this endeavor so that the Moroccan Sahara may

reclaim its historical role and serve, once again, as a crossroads in the Continent.

Morocco has consistently expressed a commitment to share its experience in this area with its African partners, through the implementation of bilateral agreements and through the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa, which has its headquarters in Rabat.

Having embarked on the right course of action, Africa today is firmly on the path to emergence thanks to the wisdom of its leaders and the involvement of its populations in an irreversible democratic process. This will enable the Continent to fulfil its legitimate aspirations for peace and human development, and to ensure optimal use of its potential.

I am sure the Forum which has brought you together today will be an opportunity for you to formulate constructive recommendations and proposals that can help respond effectively to the multifaceted challenges the world - particularly Africa - is currently facing.

I invite you, in this regard, to discuss the benefits of adopting efficient, multidimensional South-South cooperation mechanisms as well as participatory approaches to be used as tools for collective emergence.

I wish your conference every success and would like, once again, to welcome all the participants to the Kingdom of Morocco and to tell them how much I value their important contributions to this meeting of the Crans Montana Forum. I also deeply appreciate the efforts they are about to make to determine the best practices conducive to human development in the countries of the South in general, and especially in Africa.





“Morocco And India Must Diversify Economic Relations”



In an exclusive interview **Mr. Moulay Hafid Elalamy**, Morocco's Minister of Industry, Investment, Trade and Digital Economy has called for an intensified efforts and diversification of business ties with India. The conversation was conducted by Journalist **Harun Riaz** in Rabat.

Morocco has actively pursued Indian Government and the private sector to invest in the Kingdom. How successful these efforts have been? Can you share the investment figures and if there are joint venture projects?

.....
In 2017, India ranked as the 28th investor in Morocco. These investments account for \$ 11.9 million and target mainly the industrial sector.

Indian companies are present in the chemical industry, such as TATA group, which runs, in partnership with OCP group, a phosphoric acid production

unit in Jorf Lasfar. They are also present in the pharmaceutical industry, the case of Sun Pharma and Cipla, as well as in the renewable energies realm with Sterling & Wilson, in Ouarzazate. Worth mentioning also, the plastic recycling sector and the one of fiber optic components manufacturing where two Indian units operate in the Free Zone of Tangier Automotive City. Most recently, VARROC Lighting invested in the automotive industry, specifically in the production of next-generation lighting systems.

While the Indian company's interest to invest in Morocco is obvious, there is still a huge potential to be seized.

Mr. Minister, have Moroccan companies also looked at India to establish joint ventures or invest in other promising sectors?

.....
As I pointed out, opportunities abound both for Indian and Moroccan companies. Our two business communities need to reinforce their business ties and further assess their markets potentials in order to take advantage of the opportunities being offered.

You have continued as the Minister of Trade, Industry, Investment and Digital





Economy in the new Cabinet. What are the priorities for the Government of Morocco to develop the country as an industrial hub while maintaining the ecological balance?
.....

The Industrial Acceleration has become a reality involving all sectors. It is a momentum that we want to maintain and to reinforce sustainably. In doing so, our priorities are to broaden the industrial base and to reinforce the local integration of our sectors, in order to anchor deeper into the global manufacturing chains. The ecosystem logic strongly upholds

“Morocco would be perfectly entitled to play a major role in the Indian-African relations, provided they are endowed with the spirit of co-emergence.”
.....

our approach by providing a targeted support to the subscribing companies, and fosters a deep sectoral integration.

The undertaking of this approach is obviously bearing on the environmental imperative. Indeed, one of our strategic objectives is to build an integrated, efficient and environmentally-friendly industrial model. In each ecosystem that we set up, we work to encourage the use of environmentally friendly technologies promoting production patterns that combine environmental protection with reduced production costs.



Journalist Harun Riaz with Mr. Moulay Hafid Elalamy, Minister of Industry, Investment, Trade and Digital Economy along with Mr. Taoufiq Moucharraf, Director of Communication at Rabat in July 2018.

The last meeting of Morocco-India Joint Commission in November of 2016 had set ambitious targets to diversity ties from phosphate centric. Can you kindly elaborate on this issue?
.....

Indeed, Morocco and India ought to strive towards diversifying their economic relations, and, as I stated previously, there are plenty of opportunities at hand. It is up to us to make good use of these. Sectors such as automotive industry, electronics, agribusiness, textiles or information technology are all to be explored with a keen interest.

Morocco has always been suggesting that its geographic location makes it closer to Africa, and India shall take advantage of it. Has there been any development on this front?
.....

Extending the scope of cooperation to areas of common interest,

including Africa, would certainly provide a steady dynamic to our bilateral partnership.

Morocco's African dimension has taken on a whole new perspective. An intense, focused and diversified cooperation is unfolding.

Morocco would be perfectly entitled to play a major role in the Indian-African relations, provided they are endowed with the spirit of co-emergence.

Mr. Minister, what are your plans to visit India this year in 2018?
.....

I planned to visit India in March 2018. However, I had to postpone my visit due to my official commitments and duties as a responsible of the Moroccan 2026 World Cup Bid. Nevertheless, I intend to travel to India before the end of this year. ■



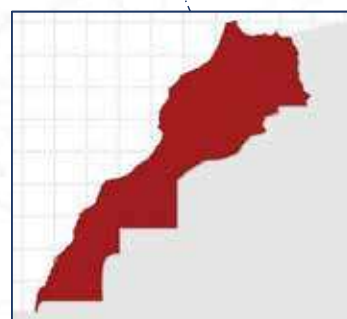


Morocco Business Climate and

Moroccan Investment and Export Development Agency (AMDIE)

MOROCCO OVERVIEW

Capital	Rabat
Institutional System	Democratic and social Constitutional Monarchy
Area	710 850 km ²
N° of inhabitants	34.5 millions
TimeZone	GMT (GMT+1 in summer)
Languages	Arabic and Amazigh (official) French. Spanish. English
GDP	103 Billion USD (2016)
GDP per capita 2016	3 000 USD
Growth 2016	+1.2% (Average growth)
GDP Distribution (2016)	Primary Sector 14% Secondary Sector 29% Tertiary Sector 57%
Inflation Rate	1.6% (2016)



A BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT CONDUCIVE TO INVESTMENT

No restrictions on capital for non-residents

More than 100 non double taxation and investment protection agreements

Free repatriation of profit and capital for non-residents

Control Risks		2015	2016	2017
	USA	LOW	LOW	LOW
	BRAZIL	Medium	Medium	Medium
	FRANCE	LOW	LOW	LOW
	PORTUGAL	LOW	LOW	LOW
	ROMANIA	Medium	Medium	Medium
	SPAIN	Medium	Medium	LOW
	TURKEY	Medium	Medium	Medium
	QATAR	LOW	LOW	LOW
	JORDAN	Medium	Medium	Medium
	MOROCCO	LOW	LOW	LOW
	SOUTH AFRICA	Medium	Medium	Medium
	TUNISIA	Medium	Medium	Medium
	ALGERIA	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH
	EGYPT	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH

Control Risks is a British consulting firm specialized in geopolitical and economic risks for businesses and people since 1975, with operations in 35 countries.

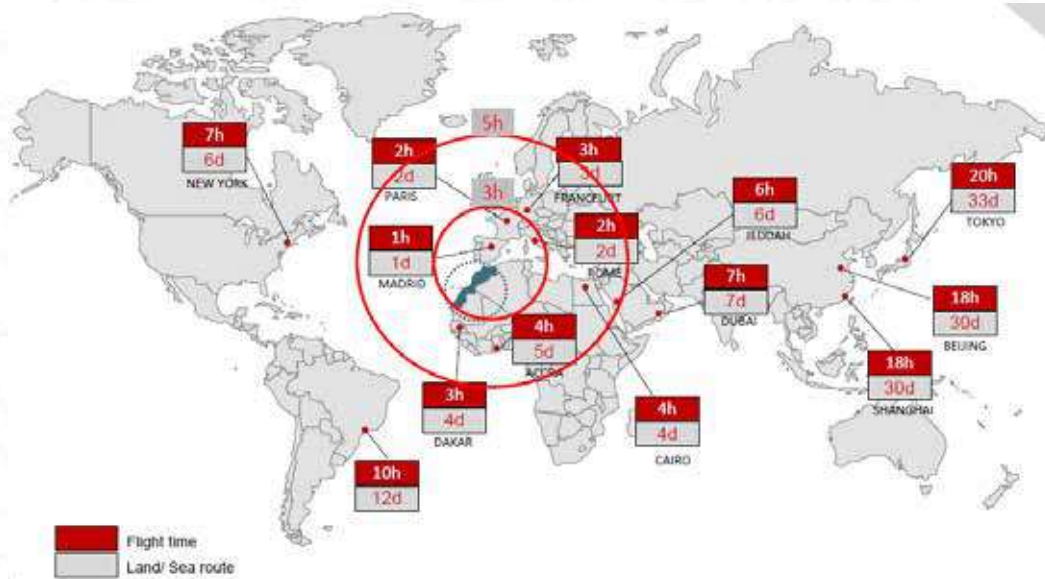
Stable political environment over the last 10 years





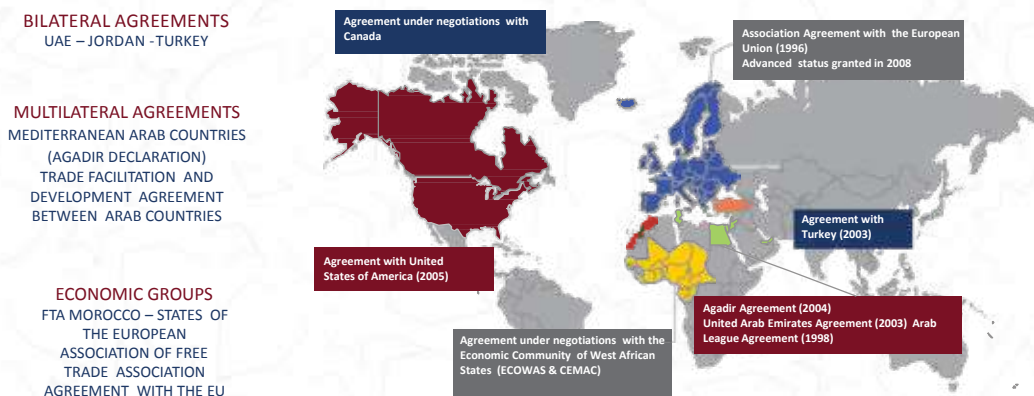
Investment Opportunities

GEOSTRATEGIC LOCATION AT THE CROSSROADS OF THE CONTINENTS



Due to its political stability, solid infrastructure, and strategic location, Morocco is rapidly becoming a regional manufacturing and export base for international companies.

UNIQUE SET OF FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS GIVING ACCESS TO 1.6 BILLION CONSUMERS



In order to foster investment in Morocco, Moroccan Government implemented key administrative, fiscal, real estate incentives along with several trade agreements





WORLD STANDARD INFRASTRUCTURES

Airports

16 international airports
Casablanca #1 hub between Europe and Africa



Ports

2 shorelines (Mediterranean and Atlantic)
38 ports among which 13 dedicated to foreign trade.



Urban infrastructure

Rabat and Casablanca
1 Billion EUR investment



Highways

Network multiplied by 12 in 15 years
Connecting 70% of the population



Trains

High-speed train (Tangier- Casablanca)
available in 2018
1.8 Billion EUR investment



Connectivity

Best 4G network in Africa
Internet speed: 16 megabits/second(Mbps)
10 million internet users (Penetration rate: 30%)
(growth rate 73%)

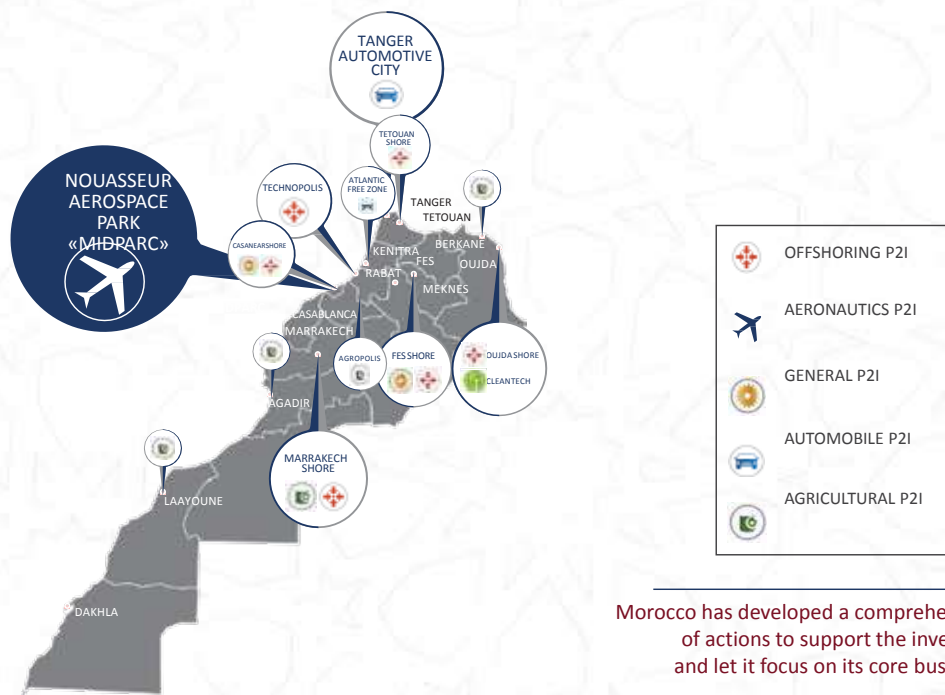


— **TANGIER MED:** 5th largest port of the Mediterranean sea

- . Ideal platform to serve Mediterranean and Western African countries
- . Connections to 170 international ports in 67 countries
- . Capacity of 8,5 million containers in 2018
- . Target : Top 15 worldwide

Source : Autoroutes du Maroc, AMDJ, UNCTAD report 2014, OpenSignal , annual report ANRT

HIGH-END INTEGRATED INDUSTRIAL PLATFORMS



Morocco has developed a comprehensive range of actions to support the investor and let it focus on its core business



Key Sectors and Investment Opportunities

AMBITIOUS SECTORAL STRATEGIES

INDUSTRY : PERFORMANT CLUSTERS STRATEGY 2020



- Launched in 2014
- Industrial GDP to reach 23% of global GDP
- Creation of 500 000 jobs
- Creation of Industrial Development
- Fund: \$2.5 Bn
- Allocation of 1 000 hectares of land for rent

TOURISM : 2020 VISION



- Launched in 2010
- 20 million tourists in 2020
- 200 000 new beds
- Tourism GDP: from US\$6 billion in 2010 to US\$17 billion in 2020

ENERGY : MOROCCAN ENERGY PLAN 2030



- Launched in 2009
- Renewable energy > 40% of national production by 2020
- Renewable energy > 52% of national production by 2030

LOGISTICS PLAN 2030



- To improve the country's supply chain competitiveness
- To reduce logistics costs from 20% to 15% of GDP
- An integrated national network of 70 multi-flow logistics zones

AGRICULTURE : GREEN MOROCCO PLAN 2020



- Launched in 2008
- To modernize the agricultural sector
- US\$10 billion in additional GDP from agriculture
- US\$15 billion in public and private investments

MINING SECTOR 2025



- Turnover x3 ➤ 1.5 Bn USD
- Investment x10 ➤ 0.4 Bn USD
- Jobs x2 ➤ 30 000

LIQUIFIED NATURAL GAS



- 4,6 MM USD investment
- Gas terminal
- 400 km gazoduc
- Combined cycle power plant

IT: MAROC NUMERIC



- Launched in 2009
- Generalized access to broadband
- Encourage IT use by SMEs
- Development of government e-services

INDUSTRIAL ACCELERATION PLAN 2014-2020 : CREATE THE MOMENTUM FOR THE INDUSTRIALIZATION OF MOROCCO

Succeed in boosting our industrialization...

500 000

Jobs created in the industry, half of them through foreign investments

JOB CREATION

+9pts

Raise the share of industry in the GDP To 23%

ADDED VALUE

0

Rebalance our trade accounts by promoting exports and substituting local sourcing to imports

TRADE BALANCE

...through the development of competitive clusters

- Cornerstone of the IAP
- Competitive clusters as a key to modernize and integrate each industry

INDUSTRIAL CLUSTER STRATEGY

- Industrial fund : 20 Billion MAD
- Land : 1000 hectares
- Dedicated financial products
- Coordinated training programs
- OVsets and imports substitution

SUPPORTIVE MEASURES

Cross-functional aims of the IAP :

- Rebalance trade
- Include informal economy
- Increase vertical integration MNC/SMB

TRADE BALANCE AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT





INDUSTRIAL ACCELERATION PLAN : 14 PERFORMANCE CONTRACTS ALREADY SIGNED



Automotive



Aerospace



Textile



Pharmaceuticals



Offshoring



Leather



Chemicals



Heavy Trucks



Mechanical and
Metalworking industries



Building Material



Naval



Plastics processing



Agrifood



Phosphate Industries

KEY INVESTMENT INCENTIVES

HASSAN II FUND

Eligibility criteria:

- Total Investment: 10 million MAD /900 000 €
- Investment in capital goods: 5 million MAD /450 000 € (excluding import fees and taxes)

Package includes:

Aid of up to **15% of the total amount of the investment** capped at 30 million MAD/2.7 million € covering purchasing or renting of real estate and professional buildings and acquisition of industrial equipment.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT FUND

Eligibility criteria:

The project should meet one of the following criteria:

- Total Investment: 100 million MAD /9 million €.
- Jobs created: 250 direct, permanent jobs
- Setup in a priority area
- Technology transfer
- Environmental Protection

Package includes:

Aid of up to **5% of the total amount of the investment** (10% if the project is implemented in a suburban or rural area) as follows:

- Land: Support for up to 20% of the acquisition costs
- External Infrastructure: support up to 5% of the total investment program
- Training: Support for up to 20% of the professional training costs

FREE ZONE STATUS

Eligibility criteria:

Export turnover \geq 85%

Offering includes:

- **Full exemption** from corporate tax for the first 5 years, followed by a rate capped at 8.75% for the next 20 years
- Custom fee exemptions on imported goods and products
- **VAT exemption** on imported goods
- **Exemption from license fees and urban tax** during 15 years

+ Made to measure help for large scale projects



Morocco, A Business Bridge to Africa

MOROCCO: A GATEWAY TO AFRICA



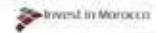
The true size of Africa embraces China, the US, India, Eastern Europe and the most important Western European countries

Morocco is considered as a **platform** for foreign companies to project their activities in sub-Saharan Africa due to:

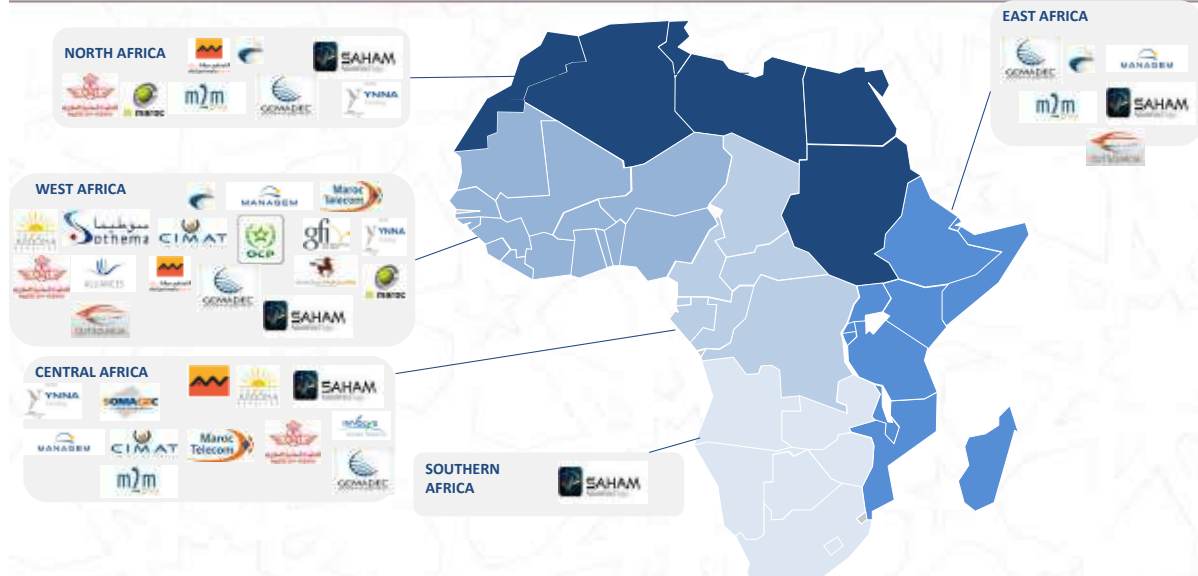
- 500 bilateral agreements
- Deep knowledge of African markets
- Very frequent airline connections
- A strong Moroccan banking sector present in Africa
- Impact of the many African Royal Tours

- By 2050, Africa's economy would be close to **10 times bigger** than it is today.
- **Six** of the world's ten **fastest-growing** economies in the world over the last decade were in Africa. It is expected to be **seven** by 2020.
- There is a rise of a **consumer society**, which increases demand, boosts **local production** and amplifies **middle class**.

Source: Bloomberg



MOROCCAN COMPANIES, LARGE FOOTSTEP IN AFRICA



Some of the leading companies present in Africa are: Maroc Télécom, Saham, Attijariwafa Bank, BMCE Bank, OCP, Royal Air Maroc, Addoha Group, Banque Centrale populaire.





Morocco Offers Umpteen Opportunities

By H.E. Mr. Mohamed Maliki
Ambassador to India, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka



H.E. Mr. Mohamed Maliki
Ambassador of His Majesty the King of Morocco
to India (Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal & Sri Lanka)

Following the call by His Majesty King Mohammed VI and His Excellency the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in 2015, for “strategic ties” between Rabat and New Delhi, the efforts have intensified from both to meet this challenge through various manners. The 2018 edition of “Morocco In Focus” magazine is also part of the drive to spread awareness about the Kingdom, its friendly people, business opportunities, and show to our friends in the Indian sub-continent that we have so much to explore, discover, share and

bring prosperity. Though the bilateral trade has touched US \$ 1.3 billion, the potential remains huge.

Economic diplomacy is being practised, implemented with vigour. Leading the path to development, progress and prosperity for its citizens. We have a millennium history, a rich culture and a cohesive society. In Fes city of Morocco, the University of Al Quaraouiyine was set up in 859 by Fatima Al-Fihri. Recognised by UNESCO, as the oldest, continually operating, and degree awarding, it was converted into a state university in 1963. It also houses one of world’s important mosque. In other words, Morocco has been offering education, wisdom and knowledge to the world for more than 1150 years.

According to the latest report from the World Bank, Morocco has recorded a stupendous agriculture growth of 15 %. Mining activities contributed the most to growth outside agriculture, mostly driven by the recovery in phosphates. Inflation remained low at 0.7 %. The real GDP growth rate in 2017 touched 4 % (from 1.2 % in 2016).

Morocco is positioning itself as a gateway for African outreach and is promising to any country that is looking to establish a foothold in the continent. More than just a beautiful vacation destination, Morocco is becoming a valuable international contributor in many different arenas; it is becoming a real partner, an ally, and is already a good friend.





To our friends in the Indian sub-continent, I would like to underline once again the strategic location Morocco has in the North West of the African continent and it is only 14 kilometers away from Europe, across the Strait of Gibraltar. In addition, it has varied relief — the Atlas and Rif Mountains, the Sahara and its vast desert — and the length of its coasts — the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea constitute 3500 km of coastline.

As explained by the Moroccan Minister of Energy, Mines and Sustainable Development, Mr. Aziz Rabbah in an interview to this magazine that Morocco has the most ambitious renewable energy targets, pledging to increase renewable energy capacity to 42 % of total installed capacity by 2020, and 52 % by 2030. Demand has been driven by economic growth, an increasingly wealthier Moroccan population and the nation's industrial sector, which includes electricity intensive activities like mining and car manufacturing.

The Moroccan Minister of Industry, Investment, Trade and Digital Economy, Mr. Moulay Hafid Elalamy in an exclusive interview to *Morocco In Focus* replied that progress achieved between Morocco and India is just a tip of the iceberg. Reduction on overdependence on phosphates and diversification of bilateral trade is underway, and an increasing number of government and private sector delegations are cementing new agreements and speeding up the whole process. Minister Elalamy will visit India before the end of this year and also in 2019 to participate in the next session of the Joint Commission meeting.

Come September 2018, the Moroccan Minister of Tourism, Air transport, Handicraft and Social Economy, Mr. Mohamed Sajid informed that he would be visiting soon New Delhi to inaugurate a representation of the National Tourism Morocco Office. The Minister in an exclusive interview has detailed out the strategy for India and how Morocco offers so much as a tourist destination. Kindly read through. And please don't forget to read the views Minister of Equipment, Transport, Logistic and Water, Mr. Abdelkader Amara, has shared on relationship with India, after his visit to New Delhi in December 2017.

Exclusive interviews by four Cabinet Ministers of Morocco to this magazine clearly indicate the importance my Government gives to India. And my sincere thanks to the OCP, Morocco's chemicals company, which is playing a stellar role in advancing the business ties. Through a well-written write-up the OCP has argued that Morocco can play a significant role in ensuring "food security" for India. One of our prominent think tanks, OCP Policy Centre, has also contributed its research oriented article on "food security" through its young, talented author Ms Ihssane Guennoune, who visited India as a scholar for Observer Research Foundation (ORF) in New Delhi.

By the way, ORF is in the process of publishing a new book titled "Mapping India-Africa Engagement" Securing the 21st Century. The magazine carries short excerpts from the book. And very importantly, Morocco's influential think tank the Royal Institute for Strategic Studies has

“Exclusive interviews by four Cabinet Ministers of Morocco to this magazine clearly indicate the importance my Government gives to India.”

also contributed editorially and strongly argued that it's time for strategic ties with India.

Dear Readers, I also want to seize this opportunity to thank my counterpart in Rabat, Ambassador, Dr. Kheya Bhattacharya for her well written write up on Morocco-India relationship. In a short span of time, she has contributed tremendously in speeding up the process of enhancing bilateral engagements. Having her as a friend and as the Ambassador of the Country I am honoured to be accredited to, helps in joining our efforts to make things happen quicker and better and hence, enables the reinforcement of our bilateral relations. I am confident that the Investment Protection and Avoidance of Double Taxation draft agreement once finalised and signed, it will give a real impetus to the economic cooperation between our two friendly countries.

Happy reading as Morocco celebrates the 19th Anniversary of the Accession to the Throne by His Majesty King Mohammed VI. ■





“Proposal to Launch Morocco-India Energy Centre for Excellence for Africa Under Consideration”

The Minister of Energy, Mr. Aziz Rabbah, visited India in April 2018. In an exclusive interview with Journalist Harun Riaz, the Minister spelt out the Kingdom's strategy to engage New Delhi in the field of mining, energy for sustainable development.



India very recently hosted the first International Solar Alliance meet in New Delhi. But it is noticed that the Kingdom of Morocco has not joined the new grouping created to produce alternative source of energy. What are the reasons to not join it?

- The Kingdom of Morocco will join the International Solar Alliance and has officially submitted its membership application to the Solar Alliance in March 2018.
- It is important to mention that

at the COP22 in Marrakech, in November 2016, about twenty countries signed the framework agreement of the International Solar Alliance.

Mr. Minister, you visited India in April 2018. What was achieved from the trip in the field of renewable energy, sustainable development and lessening of the dependence on fossil fuels?

- This visit, which is in line with the orientation of His Majesty the King, Mohammed VI,

was very useful for bilateral relations with India;

- We signed 2 MoUs with the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of Mining. The two MoUs have the objectives to develop partnership not only between our two countries but also between our businesses.
- Morocco and India are complementary and have many opportunities to develop together. For Example, we welcome Indian companies to invest in our Mining Sector and OCP developed a strategic partnership in India. We hope



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to develop more these fields in the two countries.

- During our stay, we visited the National Institute for Solar Energy (NISE) and were impressed by the development and research in solar energy and we are convinced that some of the solutions developed in this institute can be valorized in Morocco but also in Africa. This is why we are considering launching a Moroccan-Indian Energy Center of Excellence (CoE) For Africa.
- The visit was also an interesting opportunity for us to meet our colleagues, other ministries, and some international companies and institutions.

“We signed 2 MoUs with the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of Mining. The two MoUs have the objectives to develop partnership not only between our two countries but also between our businesses.”

How different is International Energy Forum held in New Delhi where you represented the Kingdom of Morocco from International Solar Alliance?

- The International Solar Alliance (ISA), which has become an international organization, since December 2017, aims to accelerate the deployment of solar energy in 121 countries with high solar potential.
- The International Energy

Forum (IEF) is a meeting that aims to strengthen international cooperation in the energy sector, the exchange between policy makers on energy policies and its regulatory frameworks, in addition to prospecting opportunities for strategic partnerships.

- ASI and IEF are two complementary initiatives that converge towards the development of clean, affordable and renewable energy with widespread access.

Will the Moroccan-Indian Centre of Excellence in Renewable Energy be set up in India or you want it to be in the Kingdom?

- The objectives of the Moroccan-Indian Energy Center of Excellence (CoE) for Africa is to valorize our, Morocco and India, competencies and experience in Energy, particularly renewable energy, and share it with African countries. For geographical considerations, we think that Morocco will be more accessible for students and researchers. However, some of the work will be done in India and we think the CoE will be connected with Indian academic institutions.
- This Center will focus on four area:
 - Education
 - Training and research
 - Business to Business activities
 - Governance.

What are the main targets for the Government of Morocco to achieve sustainable development? It seems there is worldwide concern that Earth as a planet is doomed and weather is fast changing. Your comments.

- Climate change is a reality. Scientific evidence shows that past emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) already have an impact on global climate.
- If current developments continue and current policies are maintained, expect rapid global warming. Action is needed today to reduce global GHG emissions in the coming decades.
- The absence of new measures to combat climate change, GHGs are expected to increase by about 52% by 2050. As a result, the global temperature would increase from 1.7 ° C to 2.4 ° C above pre-industrial levels, a doubled increase compared to the one recorded between 1899 and 2005.
- On the other hand, if we take action today, we can reduce global emissions by almost 40% by 2050 compared to the level reached in 2000, and place emissions on a trajectory that allows stabilizing atmospheric concentrations at low levels and significantly reduce the risk of experiencing the most severe impacts of long-term climate change.
- Despite its low level of responsibility for the climate change problem, His Majesty has launched a project to put all public policies in a sustainable development.
- Morocco has developed its National Determined Contribution (NDC) with the conviction that global ambitions to tackle the problem of climate change call for a consistent commitment by all parties both in mitigation, adaptation rather than means of implementation, cooperation approaches and transparency. Thus, in line with Article 3 of the Paris Agreement, the NDC of Morocco presents the Kingdom's efforts in the fight against climate change on all these themes.





- This policy will find its place today in the Kingdom's Constitution of 2011, which has given it a new impetus by devoting sustainable development as a right for all citizens and by introducing new instruments of democratic governance, a necessary condition for laying the foundations for sustainable development in the country. It is also embodied in the Framework Act on the National Charter for the Environment and Sustainable Development.
- Morocco has set a goal of limiting its greenhouse gas emissions to 42% by 2030, which relies to a large extent on concrete mitigation actions, based on the development of large-scale renewable energy, strengthening Energy Efficiency and large-scale use of natural gas. This target corresponds to a cumulative reduction of 523.5 Mt CO₂-eq in the 2020-2030 period and requires a global investment of around US \$ 50 billion, of which 24 are conditioned by international support.

Is African continent suitable placed to benefit hugely by creating and producing renewable energy and how Morocco is helping countries of the South?

- Africa currently experiencing a period of sustained economic growth and transformation "its population is growing rapidly and its economies are growing and diversifying", is facing the problem of access to energy that affects more than 620 million people that represents about 70% of the continent's population.
- Africa needs to add 6 to 7 GW of installed capacity each year to widespread access to electricity by 2030.
- Currently only 1 to 2 GW are

deployed per year. At this rate, less than 60% of Africans will have access to electricity by 2030, although Africa has a huge potential for renewable energies.

- With 45 GW of potentially available hydroelectricity and more than 1000 GW in solar and wind power, Africa has become a potential market for technology providers and new investment opportunities.
- However, in the field of renewable energies, Africa is called upon to adopt coherent and integrated policies and to overcome the many obstacles

and the constant engagement with friendly countries and their peoples.

- And it is in a spirit of active solidarity, designed to meet the challenges that shape the Africa of tomorrow, that Morocco is determined to share its expertise in the development of renewable energies to meet the diverse needs of its people.
- In this context, national public and private institutions are already present in African markets. The National Office of Electricity and Potable Water (ONEE) is today



Minister of Energy, Mines and Sustainable Development, Mr. Aziz Rabbah with Journalist Harun Riaz at Rabat in July 2018.

that stand in the way of legislation and regulation, technology transfer, ensuring the establishment of growth-enhancing regional energy partnerships based on innovative strategies and financial resources with openness to balanced and equitable international cooperation.

- The development of the African continent is at the heart of the Royal vision, which is the expression of great human values with a strong impulse based on the accompaniment

present in several African countries friends, thanks to the know-how acquired through its experiences in planning, operation, maintenance and rural electrification. Also the Moroccan Agency for Sustainable Energy (MASEN) signed partnership agreements on the occasion of the last Royal visit to African countries (Mali and Guinea Conakry). The Moroccan private sector is also present, particularly in the development of hydroelectric projects. ■





“Morocco Offers Good Infrastructure and is Located between Africa, Middle East and Central Europe”

The *Morocco In Focus* magazine through its Editor Harun Riaz conducted an in-depth interview with Mr. Abdelkader Amara, Minister of Equipment, Transport, Logistics and Water. Clearly established that Morocco and India can benefit immensely in the abovementioned fields.



H.E. Mr. Abdelkader Amara, Minister of Equipment, Transport, Logistics and Water, the Kingdom of Morocco

Sir, you are in-charge of a very important Ministry in terms of infrastructure development and protection of precious resources. Your visit to India in December 2017, what did it achieve in these sectors?

.....
Morocco and India maintain excellent cooperation relations in various fields, as reflected in the last historic visit of His Majesty The King Mohammed VI to India in October 2015, to take part in the third Summit of the " India-Africa " Forum in New Delhi.

The Ministry of Equipment, Transport, Logistics and Water, for which I am currently responsible, develops and implements the government's transport and transport infrastructure policy, in the sectors of road, port, railways and maritime, as well as water, and aspires to develop and diversify cooperation with Indian counterparts, through exchanges of experience and expertise.

My working visit to New Delhi in December 2017 was perfectly in line with the concerns of the Ministry of Equipment,

Transport, Logistics and Water, namely the development of the aforementioned areas, through the cooperation and the fruitful exchanges with our partners in the Republic of India.

The most significant achievements during that visit can be summarized as follows:

1- As Minister of Equipment, Transport, Logistics and Water:

- Working session with H.E. Mr. Piyush Goyal, Minister of Railways, followed by the signature of a MoU between the Moroccan National Office for Railways (ONCF) and the Indian Railways (IR);
- Meeting with H.E. Mr. Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport, Highways, Maritime Transport, Water Resources and Ganga Rejuvenation, and signature of 4 MoUs:
 - Agreement in the field of water;
 - Agreement between ANP-IFP (Moroccan National Port Agency-Institute for port training) and IMU (Indian Maritime University);
 - Agreement between ISEM (Higher Institute of Maritime Studies) and IMU (Indian Maritime University);
 - Agreement between IFEER (Moroccan Institute for



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Engines and Road maintenance) and IAHE (Indian Academy of Highway Engineers).

- Meeting with H.E. Mr. Mobashar Jawed Akbar, Minister of State for External Affairs.
- Meeting with the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Indian company "TITAGARH", with exchange around the investments of this company around the world and also the possibility of a presence in Morocco.
- Meeting with the members of the Board Directors of the Commerce and Industry Chamber of India. The exchanges essentially focused on investment opportunities in Morocco by businessmen of eastern India.
- Work session at the headquarters of the Indian company "Tata Motors" in Mumbai, during which we exchanged on the current projects of the company in Morocco, through its Spanish subsidiary, as well as future projects, particularly to set up a plant in Morocco, which will be dedicated to the marketing of Indian products, including trucks and other vehicles.
- Technical visits were also organized for the whole delegation:
 - At Haldia Port, the largest port in the State of Bengal in Western India. During which, has been identified, areas of cooperation between Morocco and India, particularly in the field of logistics activities.
 - At one of the factories of "TITAGARH" company in Kolkata city, specialized in the manufacture of locomotives for the needs of the national market as well as for export. The company listed Morocco among the countries where

it wants to invest in the nearest future.

2- As Acting Minister of Health at that time:

- Meeting with H.E. Mr. J.P Nadda, Minister of Health and Family Welfare, followed by the signature of 2 MoUs relating to:
 - Cooperation in the field of health;
 - Cooperation in the field of telemedicine between Marrakech Mohammed VI University Hospital and JIPMER (Jawaharlal Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and Research).

Mr. Minister, you signed several Memorandum of Understanding during New Delhi visit. Can you explain the MoUs and how long it takes for the actual work to begin, after papers are signed by Morocco and India?

.....
During our visit to India, we signed several agreements to boost cooperation between our two countries. The work for the implementation of these Memoranda has already begun.

1- As Minister of Equipment, Transport, Logistics and Water:

- **A MoU between the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Government of the Republic of India, on cooperation in the field of water resources:**
Upon this MoU, the two parties shall work to enhance cooperation in the field of water resources development and management, on the basis of equity, equality of rights and mutual benefits, within the framework of their expertise and their respective legislations.

This cooperation, centered on the scientific, technical and technological fields, will encourage the establishment/development of bilateral relations between their public and private organizations concerning water resources.

- **A Framework Agreement for Cooperation in training between The National Ports Agency (Port Training Institute) of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Indian Maritime University (IMU) of the Republic of India:**

The purpose of this Agreement is to provide a framework for the development and promotion of cooperation in the fields of training and development of human resources of the port, maritime and logistics sector, as well as for exploring mutual cooperation opportunities allowing the parties to value their arrangements and expertise for the benefit of national and regional partners.

- **A cooperation framework agreement between the Institute of Training in Engines and Road Maintenance (IFEER) under the Ministry of Equipment, Transport, Logistics and Water of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Indian Academy of Highway Engineers (IAHE) under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways of the Republic of India.**

The purpose of this Agreement is to establish a common framework for the development of cooperation in road training for the development of programmes of common interest, including guidance, training and expertise; and other technical cooperation in the field of road infrastructure. The objective is to enable both partners to develop the skills sought by the Construction and Public Works sector.

- **An Agreement to establish cooperation between**





The Minister of Equipment, Transport, Logistic and Water, Kingdom of Morocco, Mr. Abdelkader Amara with the Indian Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Mr. Nitin Gadkari at the Morocco-India Bilateral Cooperation Meeting, in New Delhi on December 14, 2017. The Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Mr. Arjun Ram Meghwal, the Secretary (Water Resources), Director General, National Mission for Clean Ganga, Mr. U.P. Singh and the Ambassador of Morocco to India, H. E. Mr. Mohamed Maliki were also present.

the Higher Institute of Maritime Studies (ISEM) of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Indian Maritime University (IMU) of the Republic of India:

This Agreement aims to establish and enhance the cultural, scientific and educational exchanges between the two parties and to facilitate the implementation of common projects.

Both parties make, in particular, a commitment to favor the exchange of visits of members of the faculty (teaching and research), the administrative department personnel and students, as well as to develop and implement joint programmes of training and research.

- **A cooperation Agreement between the Moroccan National Railways Office (ONCF) and the Indian Railways (IR).**

By this Agreement, the Parties intend to define the conditions and the modalities of cooperation in the domains of training and staff development, expert missions, exchange of experience and personnel, mutual technical assistance, including exchanging of experts' visits.

For that purpose, the Parties make a commitment to set up a quinquennial programme, which will determine the actions to be implemented during this period.

2- As Acting Minister of Health at that time:

- A MoU between the Ministry of Health of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of the Republic of India, on cooperation in the field of health:

The objective of this MoU is to establish cooperation between the two Parties in the field of health with the ultimate goal of upgrading the quality and reach of human, material and infrastructural resources involved in healthcare, medical education and training, and research in both countries.

The main areas of cooperation between the Parties will include the following:

- Non-communicable diseases, including child cardiovascular diseases and cancer;
- Drug Regulation and Pharmaceutical quality control;
- Communicable Diseases;

- Maternal, child and neonatal health;
- Hospital twinning for exchange of good practices;
- Training in administration and management of health services and hospitals;
- Any other area of cooperation as may be mutually decided upon.

- A MoU between Marrakech Mohammed VI University Hospital of the Kingdom of Morocco and Jawaharlal Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER) of the Republic of India, for Collaboration in the Field of Telemedicine:

Recognizing that JIPMER has expertise in the area of telemedicine and has excellent telemedicine infrastructure which can support Marrakech Mohammed VI University Hospital, the areas of cooperation will be:

- Tele-Health Care: It will include prevention, promotion and to provide health care facilities across distance. It can be in the form of Tele consultation or Tele follow-up (involving various specialty);
- Health Education: Facilitate distance education/





training/ demonstration/ tutorial etc.

- Disaster Management: Telemedicine can play an important role to provide healthcare facilities to the victims of natural disasters (e.g. earthquake, cyclones) and disasters emanating from negligence (e.g. fire);
- Epidemics: Technical support in controlling epidemics as the district is very prone for it.
- Community health: Provide technical support in prevention and control of important public health problems such as Cancer, HIV, drug abuse, etc.
- Support in rendering second opinion on various complicated cases.
- Research: Help in planning implementation research in various areas of public health importance.

The above objectives will be accomplished through the following technologies:

- Real Time or Synchronous;
- Store - and - forward telemedicine or Asynchronous.

In reply to the question about of how long does the actual work take to begin, after the signature of those MoUs between the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Government of the Republic India, I can assure you that the work has already begun and that all the MoUs advance but of course not at the same pace. There are some MoUs that advance faster than others.

Recently, a large delegation composed of representatives of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Equipment, Transport, Logistics and Water, traveled to India during the last week of July 2018. Moroccan representatives were able to assess with their respective counterparts the state of progress of some MoUs and

have defined the relevant action plans for the next steps during the following two years.

What are the immediate challenges being faced by Morocco in terms of growing demand for transport and related areas of demand for equipment and logistics ?

The Moroccan Infrastructure has reached a high level and the comparison shows that it's located between those of Africa and Middle East and those of the countries of Central Europe.

The investments made by Morocco in this field have helped to sustain the economic growth and meet the needs of the population, particularly the landlocked population who benefited from two rural programmes that have been realized over 20 years. These programmes had a direct impact on the improvement of the accessibility rate, which increased from 54% in 2005 to 78% currently.

A study by the World Economic Forum has shown that Morocco's competitiveness in terms of infrastructure has improved considerably in recent years, from 63rd rank in 2006 to 50th rank in 2017.

Nevertheless, Morocco must invest more in its infrastructure in order to continue to diversify its economy and meet the expectations of the population.

In addition, maintenance requirements are increasing significantly with the vulnerability to the climate change, aging heritage and the rising volume of the traffic density.

The swell damage that hit the Moroccan coast last year had repercussions on the strength of the port facilities which require the mobilization of the State to carry out the necessary maintenance operations.

On another side, public investment in transport infrastructure is a determining factor of territorial dynamics and disparities in Morocco.

To reduce these disparities, a new programme with a global budget of 5 billion US dollars over 7 years, was set up following the High Royal Instructions embodied in the throne speech of 2015 for the region, and aims the improvement of the living conditions of rural and mountain populations by taking care of their priority needs for basic infrastructure and local social facilities.

This programme has actually started in 2017 and foresees, in its components related to transport infrastructure, the construction of 23.000 km of roads and rural tracks for a cost of 2,8 billion US dollars and the rehabilitation of 9.600 km of rural classified for a cost of 800 million US dollars, so an overall budget of 3,6 billion US dollars for roads.

With regard to logistics, Morocco has given during the recent years a great impetus to the development of its logistics, which is now a strategic priority aiming the strengthening of the competitiveness of the national economy.

As such, Morocco will have to improve its ranking to 94th place on the Performance Index that is established by the World Bank, by continuing its efforts in the implementation of actions and projects allowing the enhancement of logistics practices of operators and the establishment of an adequate framework for a coherent logistic dynamic. It will be notably accomplished through the incentives for the development of a logistic real estate answering the needs of the actors, the development of an efficient regulatory framework and the planning of the training in logistics activities.

On another level, the urban logistics optimization programme





will be deployed in partnership with cities with major logistical challenges, mainly through a better organization of goods' flow in these cities and a reinforcement of urban logistics infrastructures.

In terms of logistics upgrading of Moroccan companies, a programme prepared by the Moroccan Logistics Development Agency in partnership with the General Confederation of Moroccan Enterprises will allow Moroccan SMEs to benefit from technical and financial support favoring the development of their logistical competitiveness.

Morocco lost the bid for 2026 FIFA World Cup Football. Was lack of infrastructure one of the reason ?

On the technical side, the transport infrastructure, with sports facilities, reception facilities and sanitary facilities, did indeed pass the test of the FIFA task force, which visited Morocco to assess Moroccan's dossier precisely in relation to the technical criteria required by the world football organization.

This means that Morocco meets the requirements for the organization of 2026 FIFA world Cup.

However, and as you know, there are other factors that are equally decisive for the choice of the organizing country, namely that the final choice is made by vote of the members. It was at this level that Morocco has honorably lost the race for the organization of the 2026 World Cup.

This does not prevent Morocco from continuing its investment efforts in infrastructure including transport to increase its chances for the organization of the World Cup 2030 as it was actually announced just the day after the dissemination of the final results.

Water resources is the most critical aspect for Morocco and a MoU is signed with India.

How can India be of assistance to preserve water ?

The Memorandum of Understanding signed between Morocco and India aims to strengthen institutional and technical cooperation in the field of water resources and to encourage the exchange of experiences and know-how between public and private actors in this field.

India has about 4% of world's freshwater resources ranking it among the top ten water rich countries. However, the country faces water management challenges similar to those Morocco has to cope with mainly related to overexploitation of groundwater, control and regulation of water use as well as water pollution.

“Morocco will also be able to take benefit from India's experience in integrated and Participatory Water Resources Management”

Thus, it's a valuable opportunity for Morocco to benefit from India's rich and diversified experience not only in the design, construction and maintenance of hydraulic infrastructures, including large dams, water transfer projects and hydropower plants, but also in the watershed preservation and water risk management.

Morocco will also be able to take benefit from India's experience in integrated and Participatory Water Resources Management,

namely the use of surface water and groundwater resources and the improvement of water use efficiency.

Resilience and adaptation of water to climate change is also one of interest of this bilateral cooperation, which is empowered by the willingness of both parties to develop scientific research and training.

Can you also share the steps being taken by the Government of Morocco to not only preserve water but increase its supply for the current and future generations?

Water represents one of the major economic, social and strategic issue in Morocco. For this reason, Morocco has adopted a national policy of water resources mobilization and an integrated, decentralized and concerted water planning and management approach.

To preserve and ensure a sustainable water supply, the Kingdom of Morocco has taken a number of technical, legislative, institutional and regulatory measures.

These measures mainly concern:

- Establishing of water good governance rules;
- Increasing of water supply through the mobilization of conventional (construction of large dams) and non-conventional water resources (wastewater treatment, reuse, seawater desalination);
- Valuing water resources through the management of water demand and water economy;
- Establishing a monitoring and evaluation system for water resources;
- Long-term planning to anticipate and prevent in time water related challenges and especially those related to climate change;
- Establishing of a legislative framework to be used as basis for integrated, participatory and sustainable water resources management.





“Morocco Aims to Attract 40,000 Indian Tourists by 2019”

As Morocco prepares to open its tourism office in New Delhi, the Minister of Tourism, Air Transport, Handicraft and Social Economy, Mr. Mohamed Sajid spoke in detail with Journalist Harun Riaz. Excerpts from the conversation held at Rabat;

Morocco intends to set up a branch of the Tourism Promotion Office in New Delhi. What do you plan to do to attract Indian tourists?
.....

- Develop partnerships with major tour operators in India, and capitalize on their potential presence on the Internet (strong source of information).
- Set up a roadshow (Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Delhi) and workshops in partnership with the National Federation of Hotels.
- Develop online advertising (137M Internet users) through social networks and online popular travel intermediaries (MakeMyTrip, Yatra Online ...) to put forward the diversity of the Moroccan tourist product.
- Launch a communication campaign showing the diversity of the Moroccan tourism offer through the cinemas (essential in Indian society).
- Establish a partnership with the Indian movie industry.

Mr. Minister can you disclose the number of Indian tourists who visited the Kingdom of Morocco in 2016 and 2017. Is this an increasing number? If yes, what's your target?
.....

The number of Indian tourists who visited the Kingdom of Morocco



Mr. Mohamed Sajid, Minister of Tourism, Air Transport, Handicraft and Social Economy

in 2016 is 13.411 tourists, and 14.198 in 2017, an increase of 6%, which remains below the existing potential and our political ambitions, this is the reason why Morocco aims to attract 40.000 Indian tourists by 2019.

What can Morocco offer to Indian tourist which is not seen in other parts of the world? And is Morocco an expensive tourist destination?
.....

- Morocco has been able just like India to keep its culture and way of life quite unspoiled. That's why the Moroccan experience essence can be described by two key words: authenticity and living culture.
- In Morocco you will be able to get under the skin of what

everyday life is like there. You will find a country which is unspoiled, welcoming to travellers with mystical atmosphere. Our tolerant and open-minded attitude helps to adapt to special cultural requests of our guests : food, religion...

Will the Ministry of tourism seek Indian investment into the tourism sector of Morocco? Can you kindly elaborate?
.....

“It is with no doubt that the Republic of India has a great potential of investors in the tourism sector. It is to mention that Indian investors invest outside their country, especially in the MENA Region which demonstrates the interest of investors.



Some bonds grow stronger with time



For over 60 years, India and Morocco have been nurturing a growing relationship. As the largest exporter of rock phosphate and phos acid to India, Morocco has enhanced India's agri-businesses significantly. Adventz Group is proud to reinforce this association further by partnering with leading Moroccan companies like OCP and Maroc Phosphore S.A.

Zuari Agro Chemicals Limited

Paradeep Phosphates Limited | Mangalore Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited



Photo: @ONMT

Jardin Majorelle in Marrakech is a haven of wonderful colours just outside the famous madina. It has been designed in collaboration with Yves Saint Laurent.

Actually, in order to catch the interest of these investors, the Moroccan Agency for Tourism Development (SMIT), in a context of a diversification of its promotional strategy, has developed a series of actions to attract Asian investors especially the Indian ones. On April 2018, SMIT has participated to the Hotel Investment Conference in South Asia that took place in Mumbai. The aim of this participation is to attract the attention of investors, present the Kingdom of Morocco to the participants as well as the incentives and the tourism business opportunities that the country offers.

Our aim, as a governmental institution is to make investors aware of the great tourism potential of Morocco and present different opportunities matching their needs and investment strategy.

It is to note that the Indo-Moroccan relations have been strengthened, particularly after visit of His Majesty the King Mohammed VI to New Delhi in October 2015."

Indian film stars like Shahrukh Khan, Salman Khan and Katrina Kaif have indirectly been promoting Morocco and have also shot movies at different locations. Has Morocco much more to offer to Indian film crews?

Very few Indian films have been made in Morocco, Indian film makers should discover a diverse landscapes around the country, a special light and an experienced local crews and actors who worked with the best American major movie companies such as Universal, Century 21.... Legendary blockbusters were made in Ouarzazate,



Photo: @ONMT

The archaeological site of Volubilis ruins recognized as World Heritage Site by UNESCO near the city of Meknes, Morocco.



Photo: @ONMT

Amazing Heritage Museum at Agadir in Morocco





Marrakech, Casablanca... like The Mummy, The Gladiator, The Ten Commandments...

What's the contribution of the tourism sector to the GDP of Morocco? And how do you protect the environment from the tourism affect?

The tourism sector plays an important role in the Moroccan economy. In fact, it accounted for 6.6% of the national GDP in 2016. It is also the Kingdom's major source of foreign currency. In 2017, receipts in foreign currency obtained from international tourism totaled (excluding international transport) Dh 71.9 Bn, which is about 20% of exports of goods and services.

Morocco's tourism development strategy, "Vision 2020", has thus made sustainability one of its founding pillars and moreover dedicates an entire project to it (among the six major projects of the vision), aiming to integrate sustainability into the entire tourism product lifecycle (planning, design, investment, operation, promotion, assessment). Several achievements are to be highlighted in this sense: the strengthening of the sustainability criteria with respect to tourism regulations, support to professionals in the tourism sector, encouragement of initiatives through the sustainable tourism awards, The Moroccan Charter for Sustainable Tourism the establishment of monitoring tools such as regional observatories for sustainable tourism, in partnership with the Ministry of the Environment etc. Also, on the international level, Morocco has continuously taken the lead to promote sustainable tourism in the agenda of sustainable development priorities and has strengthened its positioning as a model destination in the region and in the Mediterranean basin.

Meeting between Minister of Tourism and Ambassador of India in Casablanca



Minister of Tourism, Mr. Mohammed Sajid (3rd from left) at first Morocco-India Tourism Forum held on 22nd January 2018

1- the Promotion:

To increase the number of Indian travellers to Morocco that remains below the existing potential, the Moroccan National Office of Tourism (ONMT) organized the first edition of the Moroccan-Indian forum on 22 January 2018 in Casablanca.

This Forum highlighted the tourism assets of Morocco and India, as well as business opportunities in both markets. Also, on the sidelines of this forum, B to B meetings between Indian tour operators and their Moroccan counterparts were held to explore avenues of partnership.

It is worth remembering that the said forum was enhanced by the presence of the Minister, the Secretary of State and the Ambassador of India to Morocco.

2- Working session of the Minister with the Ambassador of India in Rabat: July 10, 2018.

During this working session, the Ambassador of India expressed the wish of the Indian authorities to invite Mr. Mohammed SAJID, Minister of Tourism, Air Transport, Crafts and Social Economy to make an official visit to India. This visit to be held in September 2018 will be an opportunity for:

- Opening of a Moroccan tourist office in New Delhi,
- Signing of a cooperation agreement on Civil Aviation;
- Signing of a convention on investments in the field of tourism;
- Meeting of top managers of all Indian operators and airlines for the development of tourist flows between Morocco and India.

Minister of Tourism, Air Transport, Handicraft and Social Economy

Graduated from the High School of Lille (France), Mr. Mohammad Sajid is married and father of three children. He worked in the private sector of Textile, Real Estate.

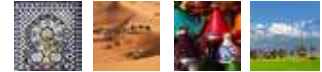
He has been a member of the Taroudant Region for four terms from 1993 to 2011; Mayor of Casablanca Union Party for two terms from 2003 to 2015; Secretary General of the Constitutional Union Party since 2015. He was appointed by his Majesty the King, Minister of Tourism, Air Transport, Handicraft and Social Economy on April 2017.



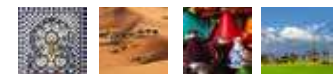


Tourism in Morocco: The National Strategy

Exceptional tourism assets



Strategic location

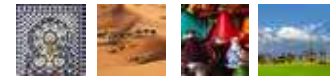


“ Morocco has a strategic location. Within a three hours flight from the main European capitals, it is thus a major asset: the proximity of the first tourist source market in the world.
Only 7 hours of flight from New York, Dubai or Moscow, it remains easily accessible to an even broader tourist source market. ”





A rich and diverse tourism experience



Handicrafts

Souks, local products, international brands handicrafts, pottery,...



Nature

Exploration, strolls, adventures, hiking,...



Culture

Gastronomy, ways of life, Architecture and monuments, vestiges, Museums and art galleries, medinas, ...



Sports

Golf, hiking and trekking, jet-ski, windsurfing, spelunking, ...



Beaches

Water sports, Relaxation, swimming, boating,...



MICE

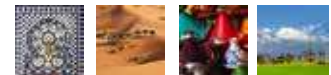
Accessible airports, adapted accommodation establishments, convention centres,...



Well-being

SPA, thalasso therapy, balneo therapy, water cures, relaxation and care...

The Strategies in time



Reminder of the history of national strategies

Protectorate

1912-1956

Important colonial tourist legacy
265 hotels in 1955

1965

The Government sees the tourism as an "important industry"

Slow but satisfactory growth

Sector crisis

1992

1995

Tourism Development Study -> Detailed Plan

Stimulus measures → Good results

The 2001-2010 Program Contract:
A tourism development strategy that updates and develops the 1995-2010 development strategy

2001

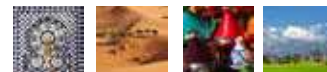
2010

Priority was given in 2010 by adopting the first sectoral strategy in Morocco "Vision 2010", and reconfirmed in 2010 by signing, in Marrakech, the national contract program of the new tourism sectoral strategy "Vision 2020" with the clear commitments of 11 ministerial departments, the industry's professionals and banks.





The Strategies in time



2010



Aspiration :

"Continuing to make tourism one of the pillars of economic, social and cultural development of Morocco".

"Being part of the world's 20 largest destinations and establishing itself as the benchmark around the Mediterranean in the field of sustainable development"... through a unique and environmentally responsible model of tourism development and placing sustainable development at the heart of its strategy.



8 Differentiated Tourism Territories :

Vision 2020 plays a major role in the regionalization process to which Morocco is committed. The new regional planning policy allows regions to take advantage of all their potentialities (natural sites, cultural heritage, living culture, etc.).

Thus, the tourism offer is structured around eight tourism territories.



Strategic framework

An innovative approach based on three major axes:

- A proactive policy related to the territorial development of the tourism offer
- A new institutional dynamic control
- An innovative approach and a device built for tourism sustainability

An action-oriented acceleration of tourism :

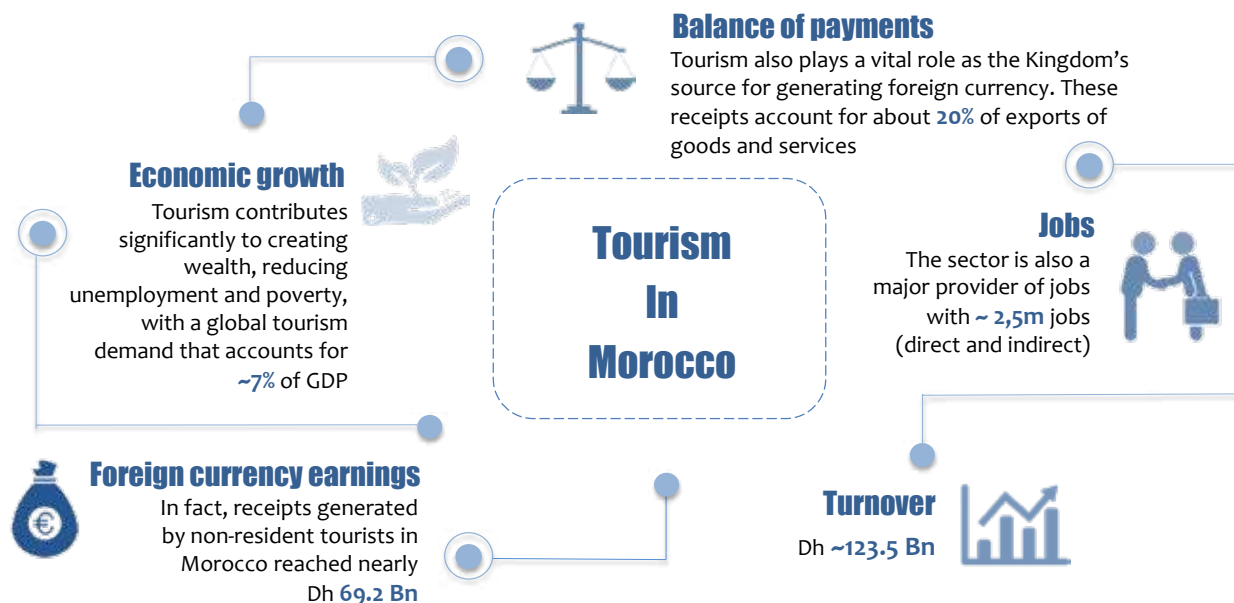
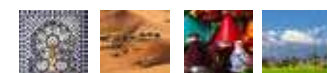
- Increasing attractiveness
- Developing offers
- Giving a fresh impetus to investment
- Overhauling the sector's governance model
- Mobilizing budgets and supporting regions
- Developing human capital



Core values :

Authenticity-Diversity-Quality – Sustainability

Tourism contributes significantly to the country's macroeconomic balances



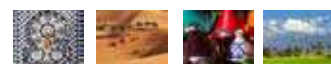
Tourism plays an important role in the Moroccan economy. It is considered a strategic sector for driving the country's economic and social development.

(2016 Statistics)





Tourism performance



Arrivals

11.35 m
tourists
+22%

Since 2011 the number of tourist arrivals has increased by 22% to reach 11.35 million in 2017



Overnights

22 m
nights
+30%

Overnights totaled 22m, a 30% increase compared to 2011



Bed capacity

251 000
beds
+33%

At the end of 2017, classified bed capacity attained 251 000 beds



Kingdom Of Morocco

Ministry of Tourism, Air Transport,
Handicrafts and Social Economy

Department of Tourism





Deepening and Diversifying Ties Breaking New Grounds between India and Morocco



Dr. Kheya Bhattacharya
Ambassador of India

The Ambassador of India in Rabat, Dr. Kheya Bhattacharya is in the thick of intensifying relationship with Morocco. Here in an exclusive article, she explains why both countries enjoy goodwill, warmth and desire to forge “strategic ties”.

On the occasion of the 2018 Edition of *Morocco in Focus*, it gives me great pleasure to convey my best wishes to the magazine and its readers. The historic links between India and Morocco, possibly pre-dating even the visit of the iconic fourteenth century traveler Ibn Battouta, have, intensified in modern times. The civilizational values of diversity, tolerance, pluralism, dialogue, walking the path of the peace and prosperity of our two peoples is the bedrock of bilateral relations between the two countries.

Since the visit of his Majesty King Mohammed VI to India for the India Africa Forum Summit-III in October, 2015, and his path-breaking meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the excellent political goodwill has manifested into dynamic economic and commercial relations.

Consequently, the political goodwill, has witnessed a multiplicity of high level visits since 2015 till date on both sides including from India, Hon'ble Vice President of India, Minister of

Communication and Information Technology, Minister of State for Environment, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry (I/C), Minister of Commerce and Industry, Minister of State for Law and Justice and Corporate Affairs and from Morocco, Minister Delegate to the Ministry of Interior, Minister of Equipment, Transport, Logistics and Water, Secretary of State for Minister of Tourism, Air Transport, Handicraft and Social Economy and Secretary of State in charge of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Industry, Investment, Trade and Digital Economy.

The robust bilateral institutional mechanisms of Foreign Office Consultations and the Joint Commission whose most recent meetings were held in 2017 has

led to the operationalisation of the bilateral cooperation flagship project of Centre for Excellence in Information Technology, Technopark Casablanca whose prestigious faculty are drawn from Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), India and National Institute of Posts and Telecommunications, (INPT), Morocco and expected to train 500 students per annum. Since its operationalisation in December, 2017 more than 200 Moroccan students are already being trained for the six certificate courses offered. Secretary of State in charge of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Industry, Investment, Trade and Digital Economy formally felicitated the first batch of students successfully completing the certificate courses when she and Minister of State for External Affairs of India jointly inaugurated the Centre (through video conferencing) on 7 May, 2018. The successful students have already been offered internships/employment by both the public and private sector.

The success of the ITEC programme of Government of India and the ICCR Scholarship Programme in Morocco is unprecedented, confirming that language is no barrier when it comes to training and sharing of best practices. The training programmes and scholarships

“Top Indian entrepreneurs continue to invest in Morocco in the health, telecommunications, automobile, food, plastics and energy sectors.”





offered by Government of India ranging from Energy Studies to cultural engagements from basic sciences to liberal arts have been oversubscribed over the past one and half years and since 2012-13 there is already a 200-strong alumni of ITEC/ICCR fellows.

In the Health Sector, the dynamic collaboration in telemedicine between two cutting edge medical institutions, namely Jawaharlal Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER) and University Mohammed V Hospital, Marrakech has benefitted patients in Morocco in the areas of Cancer, Drug Abuse, HIV and controlling epidemics. Similarly in agriculture, transport, scientific and industrial research, cooperation is vibrant and dynamic with regular exchanges of experts, scientists, meetings of expert working groups and implementation of cooperation projects.

The US\$ 1.3 billion bilateral trade has transformed from the single commodity composition of import of phosphate by India to a multi-product trade basket, comprising Indian exports of Synthetic yarn, gas oils, chemical products, medicinal products and pharmaceuticals, petroleum oils and lubricants, plastics, cars and spices that constituted 50% of the trade today.

The diversity in the trade basket is reflected in the substantial increase in the number of Moroccan entrepreneurs visiting India and vice-versa reflected through 649 business visas, 900 tourist visas from Morocco itself! In fact, the forthcoming opening of the Moroccan National Tourist Office in New Delhi is likely to usher a paradigm change in the augmented flow of tourists between the two countries. Morocco is now a key destination for Indian business delegations with FIEO, ASSOCHAM, TPCI,



CEIT, Casablanca, flagship project of Morocco-India Economic Cooperation has been inaugurated on May 07, 18. The Virtual unveiling of Plaque for Inauguration by H.E. Mr. M. J. Akbar, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, Govt of India, also present were H.E. Mr. Mohamed Maliki, Ambassador of His Majesty the King of Morocco to India (Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal & Sri Lanka).

SRTEPC among other business delegations having visited Morocco for B2B meetings since 2016. Top Indian entrepreneurs continue to invest in Morocco in the health, telecommunications, automobile, food, plastics and energy sectors.

A description of India-Morocco relations can never be complete without reference to the abiding love of Moroccans for Indian culture and its films. Cultural relations form the bedrock of the bilateral relations and within this framework, the popularity of the Hindi films over generations have enthused modern film makers to regularly shoot in the beautiful locales of Marrakech, Ouarzazate and Essaouria, with Salman Khan starrer, *Tiger Zinda Hai* being the most recent film being shot. Since 2016, no less than 16 number of Indian cultural troupes have enthralled Moroccans with rich performances of classical dance, instrumental music and poetry. Icons such as Javed Akhtar, Anushka Shankar have performed to packed houses and standing

ovation. Conversely, the magic of Moroccan calligraphy and handicrafts have mesmerised Indians whose footfalls made the Moroccan pavillion at the 32nd Surajkund International Crafts Mela, Faridabad, Haryana the most popular and visited. The cultural performances by Moroccan cultural troupes have left the Indian audience wanting more.

The multi-faceted nature of relations between India and Morocco continues to diversify and deepen with many new projects in the offing. *Morocco in Focus's* contribution in showcasing the rich content of the close and friendly relations between India and Morocco to its readers will be pivotal providing not only information but also opportunities to its readers both Moroccan and Indian to consider people to people interaction in the sectors of culture, tourism, investment and training, adding to the friendly relations between India and Morocco. I wish the magazine and its readers the very best on this happy occasion. ■





OCP Group Solidifies Commitment to India and its Farmers

With a history stretching back centuries, Morocco and India are strategic partners with a deep well of shared experiences, from colonialism to independence and deep political, economic and cultural ties. Over the years, Morocco and India have also continued to maintain cordial relations, with India actively supporting and recognizing Moroccan independence in 1956 and backing Morocco's return to the African Union in 2017.

Today, with a population of approximately 1.3 billion, India not only has the world's second largest population, but it also has the world's fastest growing economy, with a GDP growth of 7.7% over the first quarter of 2018. By mid-century its population is

expected to reach almost 1.8 billion.

However, this growth does not come without risks. Indeed, in order to meet increasing demand and ensure food security for future generations, India's agricultural production must grow exponentially. This places considerable pressure on India's agricultural system, one which – like Africa – is driven by smallholder farmers. Unfortunately, as it stands, Indian agriculture is struggling to keep up with the pace of growth – meaning that food security has become a problem.

In order to grapple with this issue, India has developed special nutritional schemes for women and children and, in an effort

to boost the agriculture sector, has also set an ambitious goal to double farmers' income by 2022. Nevertheless, despite these important interventions, the UN estimates that 14.5% of the population remains undernourished.

In order to bolster food security, a steep increase in agricultural productivity will likely be required – one which combines agricultural technology with better farming practices and agricultural inputs such as seed and fertilizer.

Due to the fact that India's small-holder farmers comprise approximately 75% of the country's farmers, while only producing approximately 41% of the country's food-grains, India



Tea Plantation around Munnar, Kerala - India



will need to work to provide smallholder farmers with the support required to help them increase production and scale-up to meet India's growing needs.

Unfortunately farming in India has become an undesirable job. In fact, every year, thousands of Indian farmers leave their farms behind as a result of farm debts, meaning that India risks facing a future without enough farmers to meet demand.

As a result, increasing yields may offer a path out of this worrying trend. With increased fertilizer-use, a smallholder farmer may be able to increase yields enough to reinvest into their farms (through mechanisation, better technical, inputs etc.) thereby allowing them to pay off debts and move from highly vulnerable subsistence farming, toward profitable economically sustainable commercial agriculture. If farming can be made profitable, it can be made into a sought-after profession.

With this in mind, India began using Moroccan phosphates in the 1970s to boost its agricultural productivity. And Morocco, as an emerging regional economic leader and a major source of fertilizer inputs, strongly believes that it can continue supporting this process.

Given these deep complimentary features, the two countries decided to elevate bilateral ties to a Strategic Partnership level in 2015.

Today, Morocco and India continue to complement each other with the signing of an MoU on mining and minerals and are working to include new areas of South-South cooperation to the partnership, including tourism, chemicals, automobiles, renewable energy and construction.

OCP India

The beginning of commercial relations between the OCP Group and its Indian customers stretches back to 1948, with the export of its first tonne of phosphate, and to 1976, when OCP began exporting phosphoric acid.

Since then, thanks to strong long-term commercial contracts and industrial partnerships, the OCP Group has continued to consolidate its position as one of India's leading suppliers of phosphoric acid. In 2009, OCP further diversified its product portfolio with the commencement of DAP shipments to the country.

Today, with a total P₂O₅ market

OCP Partnerships and Joint Ventures

It is only thanks to strong commercial relations with its Indian customers that OCP has been able to supply Indian farmers with fertilizers capable of sustainably increasing Indian agricultural productivity. With OCP's reliable supply into the Indian market, former customers have now gone from client to partner, through the creation of joint ventures in both Morocco and India.

These relationships go back to 1997, when OCP partnered with the influential KK. Birla (now Adventz) Group to establish a joint venture in Jorf Lasfar



Washed Phosphates Stock, OCP Safi Site - Morocco

share of approximately 20%, OCP is India's second largest supplier of phosphate products and a key supplier to all of India's major fertilizer producers. In fact, OCP alone currently supplies 34% of India's total phosphoric acid imports and almost 22% of its phosphate imports.

Morocco, under the name of Indo Maroc Phosphore (Imacid) – a joint venture which soon grew to include a second partner, Tata Chemicals Ltd.

In 2002, OCP decided to step directly into the Indian market by building on its existing partnership with the Adventz





Group to purchase Paradeep Phosphates Ltd (PPL), a former OCP customer. Shortly thereafter, OCP and Adventz acquired 80% of PPL – making PPL the OCP Group's largest customer, and with OCP meeting all of its phosphate and phosphoric acid needs.

OCP's commitment to supporting Indian farmers with high quality affordable fertilizers was further strengthened in November 2016, when it also partnered with the Kribhco Group, India's second largest co-operative specialised in urea production, to create a joint venture capable of producing 1.2 million tons of DAP / NPK fertilizer.

As a key part of India's "Make in India" vision, the joint venture aimed to meet a growing demand for NPK in southern India and increase agricultural yields. Again, all of the joint venture's phosphoric acid needs will be met by OCP as part of a long-term trade agreement.

Overall, OCP strongly believes that these projects will further boost cooperation between the OCP Group and the Indian fertilizer industry. But most importantly, the projects will contribute to strengthening India's food security by helping smallholder farmers transition from subsistence farming to profitable and sustainable commercial agriculture.

As a result, going forward, the OCP Group plans to continue building strong, durable relations with its Indian partners through joint investment and development projects.

OCP Foundation

OCP's commitment to India does not stop where business-considerations end. OCP also seeks to support all elements of Indian agriculture with the creation of integrated development projects.

With this in mind, OCP Foundation has supported development projects throughout India, through the implementation of agricultural

projects operated by smallholder farmers across nine Indian states.

Launched in 2010, the success of OCP Foundation's Agricultural Extension Project led to the implementation of the Morocco-India Food Legumes Initiative in 2012. As part of the project, the foundation collaborates with the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), the International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), the National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA, Morocco) and the Hassan II Institute for Agronomy and Veterinary Sciences.

Thanks to these types of projects, OCP is proud to say that it has contributed to improve the production of several crops including cereals, legumes and vegetables. In fact, initial results in Karnataka state have shown that the average annual income of the participating farmers rose from less than 1000 USD in 2009 to over 3500 USD in 2017. The



OCP Foundation's demonstration plot, Rajasthan – India





Certificate and trophy rewarded to OCP Foundation for Innovative Practices for the Sustainable Development Goals

farmers also gained a 13% to 20% price premium through value added activities.

In 2017, OCP Foundation organized:

- 580 training sessions for over 16,000 farmers;
- installed more than 3,000 demonstration plots;
- created a professional federation of over 10,000 farmers;
- established 4 agribusiness & training centres;
- And promoted integrated production and agricultural entrepreneurship in the State of Rajasthan, and extended agriculture & entrepreneurship promotion in Karnataka State.

Moreover, OCP Foundation operates a programme in Rajasthan together with ISAP (Indian Society of agribusiness Professionals) and the Agriculture University of Kota. This project aims to increase agricultural

production through the adoption of improved technologies, integrated farming systems, small farmer organisations, agribusiness promotion and human development.

Today, six farmer producer organisations (FPO) are in operation, involving 9600 members who help conduct training in agricultural practices and FPO management.

The project also seeks to utilize ICT and mobile technologies to ensure that, even in remote areas, farmers can access information on crop, soil, pest and disease management and techniques.

In the same spirit, a mobile app was developed to help extension agents and farmers diagnose diseases and receive pest infestation information, as well as information on proven cropping techniques in the form of animated videos.

Finally, the project also included the establishment of women training centres to provide specialised training for women farmers, as well as to provide health services and computer courses to children.

Overall, OCP Foundation's projects seek to adopt an integrated approach to improving agricultural practices and contributing to supporting the shift from subsistence farming to sustainable commercial agriculture.

As a culmination of these efforts to fight hunger and improve the livelihoods of farmers, UNDP Resident Representative for India, Mr. Yuri Afanasiev, presented OCP Foundation with the UN GCNI Award for Innovative Practices for the Sustainable Development Goals during the UN Global Compact Network India national convention in June 2018.





Joint Moroccan-Indian Think Tanks Mutually Beneficial

By Mohammed Tawfik Mouline

Director General of the Royal Institute for Strategic Studies



of Asia has an impact on the nature of Morocco's international relations. Due to the diversification of the Kingdom's partnership relations through the development of the Asian dimension of its foreign policy, Morocco attaches great importance to strengthening its relations with key countries in Asia (India, China, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea...)

Morocco-India relations: reality and prospects

Royal Vision

"... Morocco looks forward to launching joint initiatives with India, within the framework of this Forum, in areas which are a priority for our peoples and in which our two countries have gained extensive expertise."

"... An example of fruitful partnership between our two countries is our cooperation in the field of phosphates and their derivatives, which we seek to expand to include food security programmes, putting our know-how at the disposal of some African countries ...".

Extract from the Speech delivered by His Majesty King Mohammed VI at the 3rd India-Africa Summit forum (29 September 2015)

The foundations of Morocco's foreign policy

Moroccan foreign policy is based on political and religious moderation, diligent participation in peacekeeping operations and humanitarian actions, sensitivity to global issues and extensive trade openness.

Morocco's opening on Asia

- Asian space has got a strong strategic position due to the acceleration of the decentralization process in the world, resulting from the effects of the global economic crisis.
- Morocco has constantly

expressed its willingness to consolidate and diversify its partnerships with Asian States, notwithstanding linguistic and cultural barriers. In its foreign policy and in the conduct of its internal affairs, the Kingdom of Morocco has made respect for cultural diversity a cardinal value recognized by the Constitution.

- The relations of the Kingdom of Morocco with Asian countries are marked globally by support for peace and international stability, peaceful resolution of conflicts and non-interference in internal States affairs.
- The shift of geo-strategic equilibriums to the benefit





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Morocco and India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for enhanced cooperation in the health sector in New Delhi. Mr. Abdelkader Amara, Acting Minister of Health, Kingdom of Morocco and Indian Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Mr. J.P. Nadda signed the MoU.



The Indian Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Mr. Nitin Gadkari and the Minister of Equipment, Transport, Logistic and Water, Kingdom of Morocco, Mr. Abdelkader Amara witnessing the signing of agreement to establish Cooperation between Indian Maritime University (IMU) and Higher Institute of Maritime Studies (ISEM) of Morocco, at the Morocco-India Bilateral Cooperation Meeting, in New Delhi on December 14, 2017. From the Moroccan side the agreement was signed by Ambassador, Mr. Mohamed Maliki.

Relations between Morocco and India date back to the 14th century when Ibn Battouta had traveled to India.

In modern history, India had strongly supported the process of liberation of Morocco from the French and Spanish protectorates and had recognized the independence of the Kingdom in 1956. Diplomatic missions on both sides were established in 1957.

The relations between Morocco and India have taken advantage from the interest shown by the political leadership of the two countries for their progressive development, as it was shown by His Majesty King Mohammed VI' visit to New Delhi, in February 2001. This visit gave a strong impetus to bilateral relations. Similarly, the last Royal Visit in October 2015, on the sidelines of the Kingdom's participation in the India-Africa Summit, opened up promising prospects for the





Mr. Aziz Rabbah, Minister of Energy, Mines and Sustainable Development of Kingdom of Morocco and Indian Minister of Mines, Mr. Narendra Singh Tomar signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on April 11, 2018.

promotion of Moroccan-Indian relations and the hope of a gradual journey of tripartite cooperation, of which the African continent is the focal point.

A key partner of Morocco, India is the only Asian country with which the Kingdom achieves a trade surplus, because of the weight of phosphates and derivatives' exports in the bilateral trade. Currently, Morocco covers an average of one-third of India's total annual fertilizer imports. This country accounts for 20% of OCP Group's total annual exports, on equal terms with Brazil and the African continent as a whole.

Nevertheless, trade relations with India remain below their real potential. Despite an increase from \$ 362 million in 2000 to \$ 1.4 billion in 2017, trade between the two partners remains relatively low and its weight in Morocco's overall trade does not exceed 2%.

Morocco and India have abundant opportunities to increase economic and commercial cooperation. This cooperation

could be intensified by ensuring a dynamic and diversifying trade exchanges via investments from both parties in new sectors such as the digital industry, renewable energy, health, tourism and the automotive industry.

As a world economic powerhouse, India has undeniable strategic strengths. Demographically, it is projected to outpace China, with a young, well-educated and dynamic population. The largest democracy in the world, however, needs other assets to set itself up as a global power. A strategic alliance with Morocco could provide India with additional elements of power, particularly in view of an African strategic anchor.

Beyond the commercial aspects, the Governments of Morocco and India aim to build a strategic relationship, based on mutual respect, the interdependence of interests and cooperation in tackling global issues such as the fight against terrorism, climate change ... Seeking to diversify its economic and diplomatic

relations, Morocco could find in India a strategic partner in view of cultural proximity and historical affinity.

Geographical remoteness should not be an obstacle to the reinforcement of ties, as maritime area opens up a new connection channel between the two countries.

For India, Morocco is a gateway to Africa and Europe. In other words, the Kingdom could well serve as a projection space for an Indian power in full redeployment. The tripartite cooperation "Morocco-India-Africa" could give a new dynamic to the partnership between the two countries and confer them a highly strategic character in a time where there is a growing importance of development cooperation in Africa, in the perspective of the continent's development needs.

Moreover, thinking strategically about the relationship with India could not take place without taking into account the bigger powers' game, such as China. The concept of "Chindiafrique" (China-India-Africa) could serve as a basic element to strengthen the relationship with India in a trilateral or even plurilateral framework: Morocco - BRIC'S together.

However, conducting feasibility studies could help to access to this level of strategic alliance, by preparing a parallel roadmap. Such in-depth studies, of a strategic character, should use, in particular, a mirror-image approach that would take into account the opinions and needs of both parties involved. In addition, an independent monitoring observatory of these relations or a joint Moroccan and Indian's think-tanks could provide a framework for a mutually beneficial phase to the strategic interests of the two countries.





Phosboucraa Foundation, a Human Face Development for the Southern Regions of Morocco

The strong commitment of OCP towards communities where its manufacturing businesses are located is behind the creation of Phosboucraa Foundation. Established in May 2014, Phosboucraa Foundation supports the corporate social responsibility of Phosboucraa SA and its parent company, OCP, in the Southern regions of Morocco. Our tailored programmes are specially designed to meet local needs through focusing on four primary areas:

- Encouraging education
- Improving the local economy
- Enhancing and promoting the local natural and cultural heritage
- Revitalizing the area through urban innovation programmes.

Enabling Community Development

Phosboucraa Foundation's Social Development

Programme strengthens the quality of education and access to healthcare for disadvantaged communities throughout Morocco's Southern regions through specialized initiatives that foster inclusion, employability and sustainable social development.

In social development, Phosboucraa Foundation covers four strategic areas:

- Promoting skills development and employability of youth and women
- Improving socio-economic

integration

- Improving access to healthcare
- Revitalizing the communities' interactions and social fabric

Encouraging Entrepreneurship

We believe that revitalizing Morocco's Southern regions' communities' economic framework means encouraging the creation of businesses and better jobs, generating more income, and better distributing local wealth. Phosboucraa Foundation's Entrepreneurship programme for small businesses is tailored to regional needs. It aims to build and enhance skills in business management, develop an awareness of available resources, and encourage the use of good business practices. This includes supporting entrepreneurship, coaching and monitoring projects for sustainable



Entrepreneurship – JEB Junior competitions



Education - funding of Foun El Oued Kindergarden



Health - dental care mission





success and promoting innovative practices.

Supporting Farmers & Agricultural Sustainability



Agriculture - camel health campaigns

The evolving, highly competitive nature of today's agriculture industry requires constant innovation to ensure sustainable practices are adopted and maintained across Morocco's Southern regions. Phosboucraa Foundation's Saharan Agriculture & Environment Programme implements integrated economic and social development projects aimed at improving food security, creating jobs and raising income for smallholder farmers while enhancing the agricultural potential of the region's unique ecosystem. Our programme also trains youth on innovative environmentally sustainable practices that will protect the natural habitats of their local communities.

Empowering Through Sport & Culture

At Phosboucraa Foundation, we believe sports and the arts are powerful tools to engage and



Sport - women empowerment

empower local communities. Through the Foundation's Culture & Sports Development programme, we are forming strategic partnerships and investing in socio-cultural expansion initiatives that celebrate and preserve Morocco's Southern regions' unique natural heritage.

We focus on:

- Promoting the human and natural heritage of Morocco's Southern regions
- Making culture and sports levers for local community development.

Establishing an Innovation Hub

Phosboucraa Foundation

in leveraging the ecosystem through building capacities of the local communities. One of our partners in this area is Universit Paris Sorbonne. Together, we conducted two training sessions for local architects, urban planners professionals in Laayoune, and Dakhla.



Technopole Fom El Oued - Research Center



Dakhla Learning Center

is committed to make the Southern regions of Morocco more attractive and to drive their economic growth. Its urban programme offers the region an innovative project, Fom El oued Technopole, a smart innovative city meant to respond to the challenge of sustainable territorial development.

Promoting an urban humanface development, Phosboucraa Foundation is strongly involved

Some key figures*

- +11,000 youth benefiting from our capacity building programmes
- 164 scholarships granted to students from the Southern regions
- 96,642 camels treated through our camel health campaigns
- 6,140 youth certified Microsoft (MOS & MCP Certifications)
- 41,875 patients treated through our health access programme
- 200 Million USD invested in Fom El Oued Technopole

* Source July 2018





Food Security in Morocco and India: Different Challenges for Joint Answers?

Introduction

In an article published last year, the author stressed the role of partnership between Morocco and India for the inclusive growth of small farmers. There is no doubt that agriculture remains a major instrument for human development both in India and in Africa. Several international reports¹ have put forward food security as a situation that many factors can guarantee. There are four main conditions to sustain food security. First, there should be an availability of food products. Second, the prices should be affordable, as part of the accessibility condition. Third, the quality of food in terms of nutrients is important to ensuring a real food security. The final condition is food adequacy with the various nutrition regimes.

Nowadays, agriculture and food security face two types of shocks. The first one is an internal shock linked with the whole agricultural sphere structure (intensification, storage, marketing, organization, food processing, use of technologies, etc.). The second

one is an external shock that gathers climate change (including limited water availability) on the one hand and price volatility on international markets on the second hand. With those two challenges threatening crop growth, agriculture and food security remain priority areas for Morocco and India.

This paper will shed light on issues of food security in Morocco and India before looking at areas of cooperation in that field between both countries.

1. Food security in Morocco and India: what is at stake?

Morocco and India have traditionally distinguished themselves in the field of agriculture. Yet, challenges remain to ensure agriculture serves the purpose of food security. In fact, one way to ensure food security is to increase agricultural production. To serve this purpose, countries should enhance productivity of arable lands, improve water use efficiency with more sophisticated irrigation techniques, optimize fertilizer use and manage soils in



By Ihssane Guennoun,
OCP Policy Center

a sustainable manner. Another way of safeguarding food security is the organization of producers, food processing as well as infrastructure for storage and distribution.

The following graph shows how Morocco and India have different dependency ratios with respect to cereal imports. In fact, the cereal imports dependency ratio explains the difference between imported cereals and locally produced cereals. Hence, negative values reveal the country's dependency on cereals imports, which is the case of Morocco in opposition to India. The difference between both countries lies in the fact that India mainly grows crops in -irrigated lands, which can ensure enough production annually without being exposed

¹FAO, 2004a; Braun et al., 2004; UN Millennium Project, 2005





and international agencies for the sake of various agriculture-related projects. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the agricultural sector has grown by roughly 7% a year since the launch of the PMV.

Abroad, the Kingdom set-up large-scale fertilizer production plants both in Ethiopia and in Nigeria. Through such an initiative, the country was also able to share its long-acquired knowledge & expertise in fertilizers. The collaboration between Ethiopia and Morocco in this field is a good example of complementarity. By 2022, Ethiopia expects to become self-sufficient in fertilizers thanks to the association of Ethiopian potash and ammonia gas with Moroccan phosphoric acid.

Morocco has also expressed its political will to work towards sustaining agriculture and food security at the COP22 by launching the Triple A Initiative. The latter aims at providing funding schemes to adapt small-scale African agriculture, boost agricultural projects on the

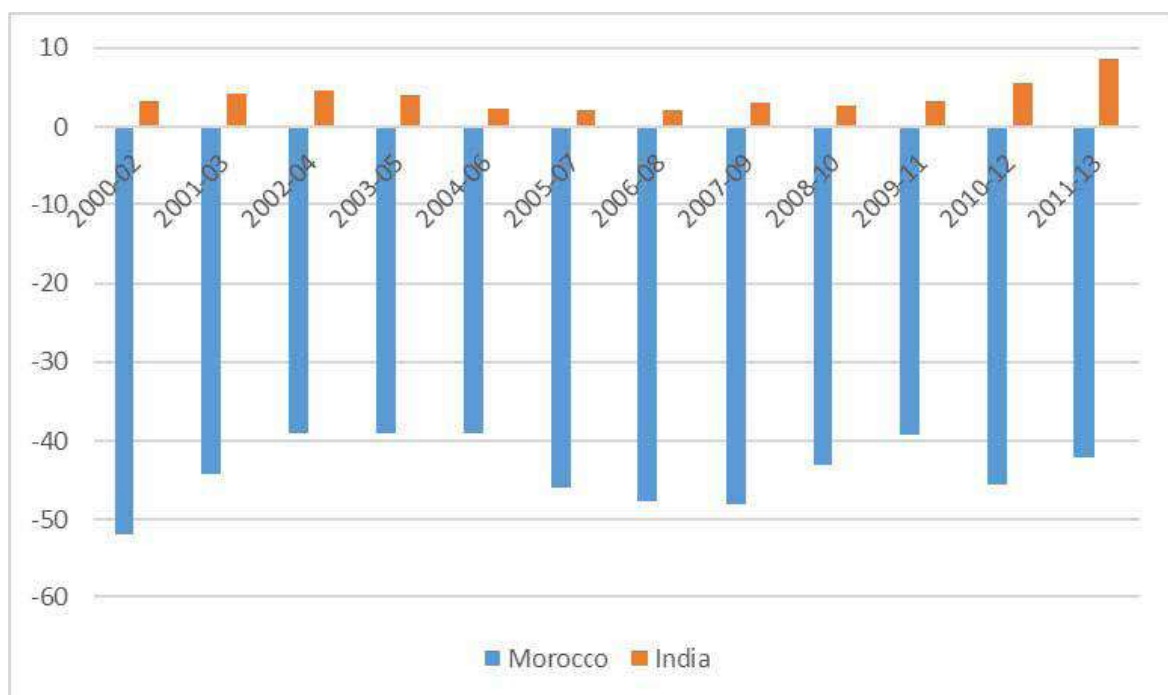


to climate risks while Morocco's agriculture is mainly practiced in rainfed areas and still depends on pluviometry.

To ensure food security, Morocco and India have made numerous efforts. As an example, Morocco

has undertaken several initiatives to contribute to food security both internally and on the African continent. In 2008, Morocco launched "Plan Maroc Vert" (PMV) with the ambition of boosting socioeconomic development by improving agricultural productivity. It designed policies for both large-scale and small-scale farmers. The green plan stimulated about \$12 billion of investments from banks

Graph 1: Cereal Import Dependency Ratio



Source: Author's calculation based on FAOSTAT and ESS calculations data





continent and take measures to cope with climate change.

As for India, food security is also a pressing issue due to its increasing population. In addition, land is shrinking in India and the country

is thinking of ways to produce more on the same land portion. In 2013, the government enacted the Right to Food Act with the goal of providing subsidized food grains to almost 2/3 of India's population. One of the challenges

of India as its population will reach 1.5 billion people by 2030 is to provide protein-rich food by relying on recent technology and rationalizing its available, yet limited, land and water resources.

So far, India's food security-oriented policies have attracted criticism at international trade platforms such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) since the Bali Meeting in 2013. At the Doha Round, India kept a firm position on defending its food subsidies although they come at high costs given the country's development agenda.

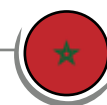
II. Seizing mutual expertise for enhancing cooperation

As detailed above, Morocco and India share some common challenges when it comes to food security. In parallel, they have also developed respective expertise in promoting sustainable agriculture that can benefit farmers and consumers at the same time. Hence, opportunities for cooperation between both countries are numerous.

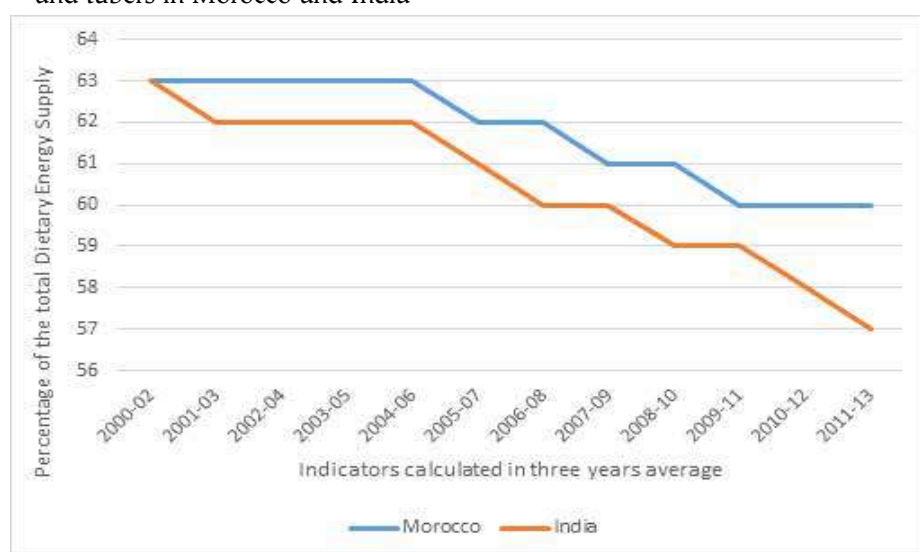
On the one hand, Morocco has mastered the combination of nitrogen, phosphate and potassium to create efficient fertilizers while India has, on the other hand, extensive experience in technology development applied to agriculture.

Morocco is investing in irrigation systems and India can help meet the Kingdom's need in new irrigation technologies.

Morocco and India are keen on ensuring an agriculture productivity that can boost



Graph 2: Share of dietary energy supply derived from cereals, roots and tubers in Morocco and India



Source: Author's calculation based on FAOSTAT and ESS calculations data

their economies, improve their food security and increase their exports to world food markets, enhancing their populations' well-being and reducing poverty.

Hence, both can contribute to food security through a win-win partnership that would encompass African commodity markets. Yet, it is essential to adopt an approach that is aware of the limited reserves of natural resources.

In the past, India has witnessed social tensions due to fertilizer shortages. In addition, Moroccan and Indian populations are changing their dietary regime by replacing some cereals, roots and tubers by more diverse and expensive diets that include fruits and meats as the graph 2 shows. This can represent a room of cooperation for the two countries since such crops require a higher intake of phosphorus,

which Morocco can provide to meet the needs of Indian arable lands. Indeed, Morocco can be a reliable partner for providing phosphates since Morocco is the largest producer of phosphates in the world.

Gross domestic product per capita in both countries has considerably increased over the past sixteen years. This indicator is key to understanding purchasing power that constitutes the second condition for food security as detailed above. Indeed, the purchasing power represents accessibility to a basic basket of food that include food and eventually nutrients, which has improved in both countries since 2000 as Graph 3 illustrates.

Concretely, Morocco and India can collaborate for food security by different means such as:

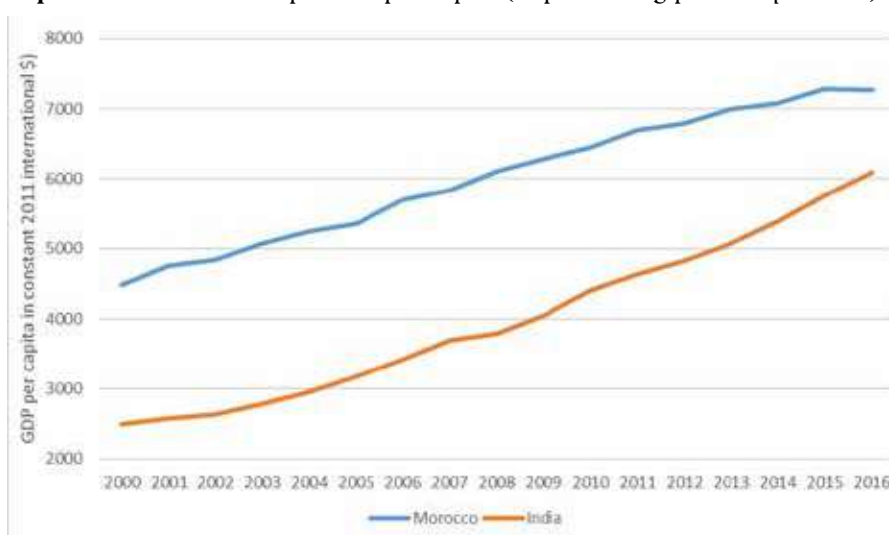
- Better water management and use of efficient irrigation technology;
- Reducing waste in the entire food production and consumption chain to rationalize the amount of water used in food production;
- Sharing expertise in food-processing and post-harvest methods;
- Exchanging ideas about policy planning in the agricultural field;
- Measuring and collecting data to design fact-based policies.

In sum, given the efforts for agricultural development in both Morocco and India, opportunities for knowledge-sharing and technology transfer are genuine. Both countries can take advantage of their longstanding expertise to improve their respective socio-economic conditions.

Source:



Graph 3: Gross domestic product per capita (in purchasing power equivalent)



Source: Author's calculation based on World Bank, International Comparison Program database

²Lundqvist J, de Fraiture C, Molden D. Saving water: from field to fork — curbing losses and wastage in the food chain. SIWI Policy Brief. Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI); 2008





MOHAMMED VI POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY



His Majesty King Mohammed VI inaugurating the University on January 12th, 2017

NURTURING TODAY'S TALENT, IMPACTING TOMORROW'S AFRICA

Inaugurated by His Majesty King Mohammed VI in January 2017, Mohammed VI Polytechnic University aims to tackle challenges in research, innovation and education in Africa, and particularly in Morocco, with focus on industrialisation, food security and sustainable development.

The University embodies two key values of social responsibility and sustainable development. It aims to bring forth a new generation of environmentally conscious competent leaders, equipped with the right tools to address current and future challenges.

Science and Technology Pole

The Science and Technology (S&T) Pole is based on a "Project / Program" concept, broken down into five components: Research, Innovation, Education, Development, and Business Units. This has allowed the S&T Pole's activities to be reorganized around the following Projects and Programmes:

- Geology and Sustainable Mining
- Chemical and Biochemical Sciences Green Process Engineering
- AgrobioSciences
- Materials Science and Nano-engineering
- Industrial Management
- Complex Systems Engineering & Human Sciences
- Renewable Energies
- Architecture Planning and Design
- Computer & Communication Sciences
- Medical Application interface.

These projects and programmes benefit from technological platforms such as the FabLab, SimLab, and the innovative Living Labs.

Humanities, Economics and Social Sciences Pole

Mohammed VI Polytechnic University aims to develop skills in areas of political, social, and economic sciences for Moroccan, African, and international students, through education based on





The Ambassador of India to Morocco visits Mohammed VI Polytechnic University



Dr. Kheya Bhattacharya, Ambassador of India to Morocco visiting Mohammed VI Polytechnic University

On June 14th 2018, Her Excellency Dr. Kheya Bhattacharya, India's Ambassador to Morocco, paid an official visit to the Mohammed VI Polytechnic University in Benguerir.

During this visit, University Executives presented the University's vision and mission to explore opportunities for collaboration with Indian Universities. The meeting was followed by a tour the University's learning, education and research facilities and laboratories.

three fundamental orientations: social sciences, Economics, and Public Policy.

Through its various schools within the Humanities, Economics and Social Sciences Pole, the University

offers a multidisciplinary curriculum.

Tailored to the needs of the public and private sectors alike, the University's programmes take

into account Morocco's current context and its interactions with other countries in Africa and the world. Students benefit from general and discipline-specific training, but also acquire a spirit of critical thinking, which allow them to broaden their visions about topical issues.

The Pole aims to develop training and research programmes, at international standards, applied to the challenges of the Continent and doing so by focusing on five key areas:

- Management & Strategy
- Policy-Making
- Economy
- Geopolitics
- Law.

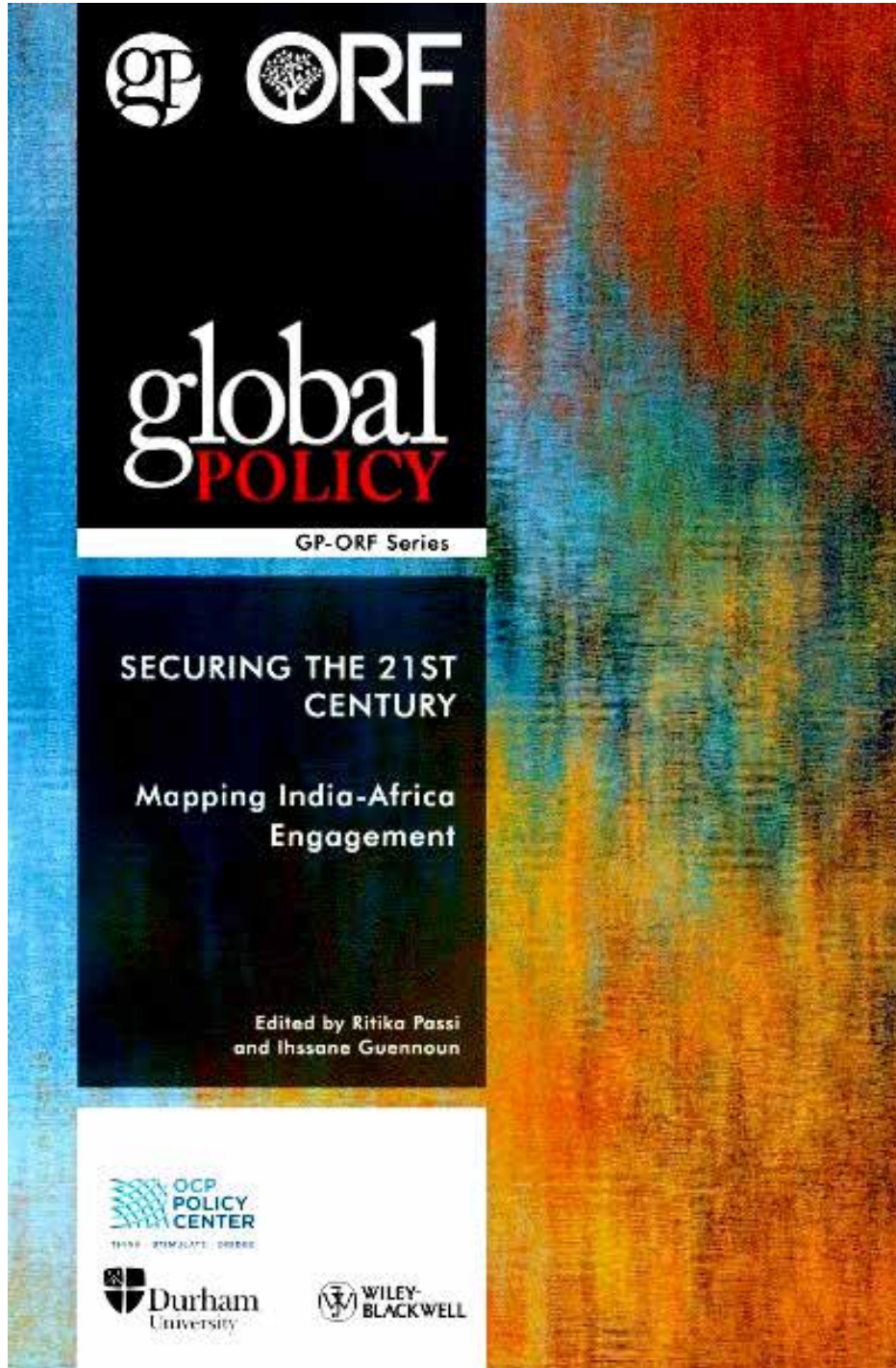


The University is based on a learning-by-doing approach





“Securing the 21st Century: Mapping India-Africa Engagement”



Cooperation, ORF and OCP Policy Center, Rabat, are bringing out a joint publication on bolstering India-Africa engagement to secure a common future in the 21st century.

“As such, this publication is a knowledge bridge between Indian and African institutions”

The upcoming publication takes into account the longstanding and multifaceted nature of India-Africa ties, and the endeavour to pursue a development partnership that seeks to urgently respond to critical challenges that require organic solutions. Given both the boundless opportunities and the scale of challenges these regions face, it is inevitable will that solutions and pathways will also be incubated here. A common trajectory of growth, similarly placed socio-political milieus, and young and aspirational populations encourage both India and various African countries to deepen their relations and understanding of each other as they move towards becoming the most significant partner for each other. As such, this publication is a knowledge bridge between Indian and African institutions, particularly as we have attempted to bring together views and policy suggestion from both Indian and African contributors.”

“This year marks 10 years of the India-Africa Forum Summit, and provides an important moment to take an in-depth look at

the India-Africa relationship. Taking forward from the Delhi Declaration and the India-Africa Framework for Strategic





Road Show on ‘Source India 2018’ with AMITH in Casablanca, Morocco



Group photo with SRTEPC delegates, AMITH representatives, Casa Moda Academy management, Ambassador of India to Morocco, Dr. Kheya Bhattacharya and other diplomats on July 10th 2018 at Casablanca.

The Synthetic & Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council (SRTEPC) in association with The Embassy of India and the Moroccan Association of the Textile and Apparel Industries (AMITH) organized a Road Show on July 10, 2018 at Casa Moda Academy, Casablanca, to promote “Source India 2018, the 2nd edition of India’s largest Global buyer seller meet for textiles, being held at Surat International Exhibition & Convention Centre, Surat, Gujarat from 21-23 September 2018, under the aegis of Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Ministry of Textiles.

Since 1954 SRTEPC has played a transforming role in promoting the exports of MMFT and has helped its members build relationships with buyers in more than 150 countries.

Association Nationale d'Amiti Maroc-Asiatique (ANAMA), representatives, who every year organize fashion shows on

Indian themes in Morocco, also displayed Indian and Moroccan costumes made from Indian and Moroccan textiles.

While welcoming the participants, Ambassador of India, Dr. Kheya Bhattacharya emphasized on the intensification of Morocco-India relations especially after the visit of His Majesty King Mohammed VI to India in October 2015 and finalization of agreements and collaborations in the areas of IT & Pharma. She was hopeful a Free Trade Agreement FTA between Morocco and India.

Ms. Sylvie Billaudeau, Acting Director General of Casa Moda Academy then spoke about CMA’s activities in addition to the training and capacity building of the fashion industry in Morocco and sought the same from India. Ms. Safia Chalouh, in charge of Communication, Promotion & Market Intelligence at AMITH committed to promote Source India 2018 in the coming months and other India promotion events in the business sector.

Vice Chairman of SRTEPC, Mr. Ronak Rughani presented SRTEPC’s activities as one of India’s leading Export Promotion Councils in India. He then proceeded to present ‘Source India 2018’ elaborating about the hosted buyers programme that includes complimentary benefits like economy class return airfare, free accommodation, transport, etc. being offered to approved international buyers. Brochures and hosted buyer nomination form for Source India 2018 were distributed.

Source India 2018 is India’s largest Sourcing Show for Man-made Fibre Textile products and its blends. The Council will sponsor more than 200 buyers from more than 40 countries to transact business with nearly 200 exhibitors under one roof. The event offers a unique opportunity for visiting buyers to interact and forge partnerships, collaborations and MoU’s with Indian exporters. The Council is creating a Buyers lounge for one to one meetings between the visiting International buyers and Exhibitors as well as organizing ‘networking dinners’ for their benefit. ■





Bollywood a Bridge between Moroccan and Indian Hearts

By Morocco World News - August 5, 2017

By Reema Sharma

Rabat – The first time I heard about Morocco was during my history lessons at high school as we were being taught about Ibn Battuta.

However, it was the Hollywood classic Casablanca that created in me a strong desire to visit this beautiful country. So it was rather ironic that during my recent trip through Morocco, friendly Moroccans were able to strike an instant connection with me through Indian movies.

From initial surprise, to delight, to enchantment – Bollywood



“**The love that Moroccans have for Indian movies, songs and all the mellow-drama associated with Bollywood has really astounded me.**”

slowly became synonymous with my identity as I traversed this enchanted land.

Every time I met a Moroccan it was always “Oh you are from India! Namaste India! Shah Rukh Khan, Raj Kapoor, Amitabh Bachchan, we watch a lot of Bollywood movies” – this is how ordinary Moroccans would engage me in conversation and sometimes we would end up sitting at a terrace cafe for hours discussing our favourite movies

In fact, on my way to Ibn Battuta’s tomb in Tangier, I had just slipped into a roadside caf   to freshen up, only to stay on for much longer. It wasn’t so much the caf  ’s

aromatic delights that held me back as an impromptu jig that I shared with a 60-something Moroccan when he came to know that I was from India and started singing “kabhi kabhi mere dil mein khayal aata hai” from the movie Kabhi Kabhi, which this gentleman had seen in his youth.

I was truly overwhelmed and the incident gave me a memory of a lifetime. I too had seen Kabhi Kabhi as a child, and would sing the iconic song from the movie often. Henceforth the song will be laced with dual nostalgia every time I attempt it.

The love that Moroccans have for Indian movies, songs and all the

mellow-drama associated with Bollywood has really astounded me. This has got me thinking – movies can serve as a veritable bridge between Morocco and India. In fact, Morocco has already emerged as a hub for Hollywood shoots. And now Bollywood too is treading the same path as exemplified by the ongoing Moroccan shoot of Salman Khan-starrer ‘Tiger Zinda Hai’. Such collaborations will not only provide Indians and Moroccans a window into each other’s culture and society, but also facilitate people-to-people connections both at personal and professional levels.

My Moroccan sojourn once again made me realise that Bollywood sells dreams. And nations and boundaries do not matter in this dream world where an Indian and a Moroccan, despite language barriers, can connect, laugh, sing and dance away the day – Bollywood style. ■





India's ATK Signs Moroccan Midfielder Noussair El Maimouni



International football teams have widely shown interest in Moroccan footballers. Atletico De Kolkata (ATK) of India signed Moroccan midfielder Noussair El Maimouni.

The club confirmed the completion of the deal on its Twitter page on Friday.

"Please welcome in joining our latest addition to the ATK family Noussair El Maimouni!" wrote the club on Friday.

Maimouni spent seven seasons with Morocco's Moghreb Tetouan.

The midfielder also spent a season with Ittihad Tanger.

Several Moroccan footballers joined international football clubs in the summer mercato (transfer window). ■

**On the Occasion of
Morocco National Day
the 19th Anniversary of the Enthronement of
His Majesty Mohammed VI, King of Morocco
we extend our heartiest congratulations to the King
and the People of the Kingdom of Morocco**



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Moorish Mosque in Kapurthala (Punjab) Displays Moroccan Architecture

By Siji Ram, Native Planet

The Moorish mosque in Kapurthala is a specimen of a King's love for his subjects. Located in Kapurthala of Punjab, the mosque is protected by the Archaeological Survey of India, and is among the best mosques of South East Asia.

The mosque was built by Maharaja Jagatjit Singh who was the last ruler of Kapurthala. Known for his extravagant taste and involvement in developmental activities, the ruler was also popular among the subjects for his secular nature. As the majority of his subjects were Muslims, the ruler who was a Sikh himself, decided to build a mosque for his fellow beings.

When the then Viceroy questioned him on the large costs involved in building the mosque, the King replied, "Your Excellency may be unaware that 60 % of my population comprises of my loyal Muslim subjects. It is only in the fitness of things that the best place of worship in my state be constructed for them."

The architecture and designing of the mosque are influenced by the Grand Mosque of Marrakech in Morocco. The structure was designed by the



French architect Monsieur M. Manteaux, who was also behind the designing of Jagatjit Singh's palace. The construction of the structure started in 1927 and got over by 1930. An inscription on the mosque says that it took four years to construct the mosque.

This beautiful mosque is built in marble, with the art work of its

inner dome is attributed to the artists of the Mayo School of Art in Lahore. Glass panes are placed in the arched portions of the doors and windows. This beautiful structure is painted in light red colour, with the doors and windows painted in green. Inside the mosque, the wooden ceiling is varnished in black and red. ■



HERE'S PARTNERING FOR GROWTH

We call it Rise.

The Mahindra Group is a USD 20.7 billion federation of companies that enables people to rise through innovative mobility solutions, driving rural prosperity, enhancing urban living, nurturing new businesses and fostering communities. It has a leadership position in utility vehicles, information technology, financial services and vacation ownership in India and is the world's largest tractor company, by volume. It also enjoys a strong presence in agribusiness, components, commercial vehicles, speedboats, consulting services, energy, industrial equipment, logistics, real estate, steel, aerospace, defence and two wheelers. Headquartered in India, Mahindra employs over 240,000 people across 100 countries.

EVERY 2 MINUTES A MAHINDRA IS BORN



**ONLY INDIAN COMPANY PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION SOLUTION
FROM 2 WHEELERS TO TRUCK**



Redefining the Paradigm of Luxury and Excellence



The Oberoi Group, founded in 1934, operates 32 hotels, two Nile Cruisers and a Motor Vessel in the backwaters of Kerala. The Group has presence in six countries under the luxury 'Oberoi' and five-star 'Trident' brand. The Group is also engaged in flight catering, airport restaurants, travel and tour services, car rentals, project management and corporate air charters.

A distinctive feature of The Group's hotels is their highly motivated and well-trained staff

that provides exceptionally attentive, personalised and warm service. The Group's luxury hotels have established a reputation for redefining the paradigm of luxury and excellence in service amongst leisure hotels around the world.

Oberoi Hotels & Resorts are synonymous the world over for providing the right blend of service, luxury and quiet efficiency. Internationally acclaimed for all-round excellence and unparalleled levels of service, Oberoi Hotels & Resorts have received innumerable awards

and accolades that include Best Hotel Group by Telegraph Travel Awards 2017, UK.

World's Best Hotel Brand by Travel + Leisure, USA World's Best Awards, 2013, 2015 & 2016.

World's Leading Luxury Hotel Brand for 6 consecutive years by World Travel Awards 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 & 2017.

World's Highest Rated Luxury Hotel Brand by ReviewPro's 2014 to name a few.





Premier Lake View Rooms with Semi Private Pools - The Oberoi Udaivilas, Udaipur



The Oberoi, Gurgaon - Exterior



Aerial Shot - The Oberoi Sukhvilas Resort & Spa, Siswan Forest Range, New Chandigarh



Lobby - The Oberoi Philae, Luxury Nile Cruiser



Premium Two Bedroom Villa with Private Pool - View - The Oberoi Beach Resort, Al Zorah



Ambassador's Credentials to Bhutan



The Ambassador of Morocco, H. E. Mr. Mohamed Maliki presented Credentials to His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, King of Royal Bhutan on 15th November 2017.





Ambassador's Credentials to Sri Lanka and Maldives



The Ambassador of Morocco, H. E. Mr. Mohamed Maliki presented Credentials to Mr. Maithripala Sirisena, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on 11th April 2018.



The Ambassador of Morocco, H. E. Mr. Mohamed Maliki presented Credentials to Mr. Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom, President of the Republic of Maldives on 18th April 2018.





Late Mr. Larbi Reffouh (1949-2018)

A Great Diplomat Rests in Peace



The friends and well-wishers of the Kingdom of Morocco in India and the neighbouring Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives and Sri Lanka will fondly recall the former Ambassador, Late Mr. Larbi Reffouh. The 69 year old diplomat breathed his last early this year in Rabat. News of the passing away of Late Mr. Reffouh saddened people who knew the Ambassador and interacted with him.

Dedicated to his work and the country, Ambassador Reffouh served in Brazil (and Paraguay) in 1992, he was Director of African Affairs in 1999. In 2001, he was Ambassador to Gabon, and in 2006, in Argentina. From 2011 to 2016, he was Ambassador to India (also accredited to Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka).

According to close friends in Rabat, Ambassador Reffouh was one of the forerunners at a time when a new generation was coming to diplomacy. A knowledgeable diplomat coupled with an accomplished legal expertise. From Havana to New Delhi, he made an outstanding journey serving his country in the four corners of the world.

After graduating from the National School of Public Administration ENAP (normal cycle and higher cycle) and BA Degree in political sciences, Larbi Reffouh joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1973. Sequentially Second Secretary in Havana, First Secretary in Brasilia, then Counsellor in Rome. He was nominated Head of American Affairs Division at the Ministry in 1990. Ambassador to Brazil (and to Paraguay) in 1992. He was Director of African Affairs in 1999. In 2001, he was Ambassador to Gabon, and in 2006 Ambassador to Argentina. From 2011 to 2016, he was Ambassador to India (likewise accredited to Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka). The departed was decorated with Wissam Al Arch (Order of Throne), Grand Cordon and Great Southern Cross (Brazil) and the Great Cross of the liberator Saint Martin (Argentina).

Ambassador Larbi Reffouh has always succeeded to hoist the Moroccan flag very high. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife and two children. May Allah give them strength and patience to overcome grief. ■





India and the Maghreb

By Prof. Abdallah Saaf



This text is an extract from the research paper titled *India and the Maghreb* by Professor Abdallah Saaf, Senior Fellow, OCP Policy Center. The author describes the relationship of Maghreb countries with India, an emerging power and a significant partner of the present world (1). At the center of this research, the aim is to better identify the posture of the Maghreb region in the midst of the ongoing changes and shifts within the international community.

In India, the word "Maghreb" is not unknown, but is not popular either. When it comes to the Maghreb, there is a tendency of Indians perceiving the region as an extension of the Middle East. The title of West Asia and North Africa -WANA - confirms this distinction to which Indian diplomats and academicians refer to identify this set. In this text, we understand the word Maghreb in its ordinary, restricted sense, integrating Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya and excluding Egypt. The latter remains in an intermediate position in relation to the Machrek, as is the east to Mauritania in relation to Africa. (2).

Since the beginning of the 1990s, India has started a process of economic reforms to complement the increase in its economic growth rate that has rendered it a large emerging market, even if the growth rate wasn't always stable as from time to time, it shrunk. Economic liberalization, as India has enjoyed, helped

the nation strengthen its trade with the major world economic powers in Asia, in America and in Europe. Relations with the Arab world have considerably strengthened as well. The emergence of the Indian economy and its efficient performance has frequently attracted the attention of the world, especially after having enjoyed almost 9% growth rate during the major part of the 2000s. In fact, India currently holds the rank of the seventh world economic power. Observers anticipate its access, in 2018, to the rank of the fifth power. It could exceed the French and the British economies. Without doubt, its approach has sometimes been destabilized and somewhat blurred by its tax reforms, its rate of growth has known a regression to stabilize at the level of 5.7% before returning, recently, to the rate of 6.3% (3). The difficulties related to administrative burdens, a ponderous bureaucracy, a taxation system changing too much, and the desire to develop processing industries, downstream, have

long been an obstacle to the arrival of the investments necessary to quick explorations (4). The improvement of the indicators makes India, now, an economic power in track of affirmation: a GDP of 2439 for a population of 1,324 million (2016) a growth





rate of 7.6 in 2016 (an estimate of 6.9% in 2017, 7.5% in 2018) a per capita income of 1709\$, a budgetary balance of -3.7 of GDP (5). Amongst the elements that characterize India today include the fact that India comprises of 7% of the world population, 4% of the global land surface, is considered the “office of the world,” is active in welcoming a large number of African students, opens economic relations to both its East (Asia) and its West (Africa and the Middle East), and for its commercial road (as in the case of the Silk Road of China)...

material markets. Getting into the raw material markets is combined, however, with other indicators such a population of more than a 1,324 billion inhabitants (2016), a strong economic growth, a progressive opening to the world economy, a consumption in metals among the more limited of the world, except gold, a savings rate close to 30% of GDP. With a 70% rural population rate just a few years ago, India is in the midst of a major process of urbanization and industrialization, which is linked and which also explains the Indian greed in raw materials (6).

per cent for the steel and zinc and 2.5 per cent for the aluminum or copper of the global demand of metals. India has invested much in coal to amplify its production of electricity, and has also seen its consumption of steam coal go from 426 Mt in 2005 to 600 Mt in 2012, therefore allows it to multiply by four its imports to 85 Mt (8).

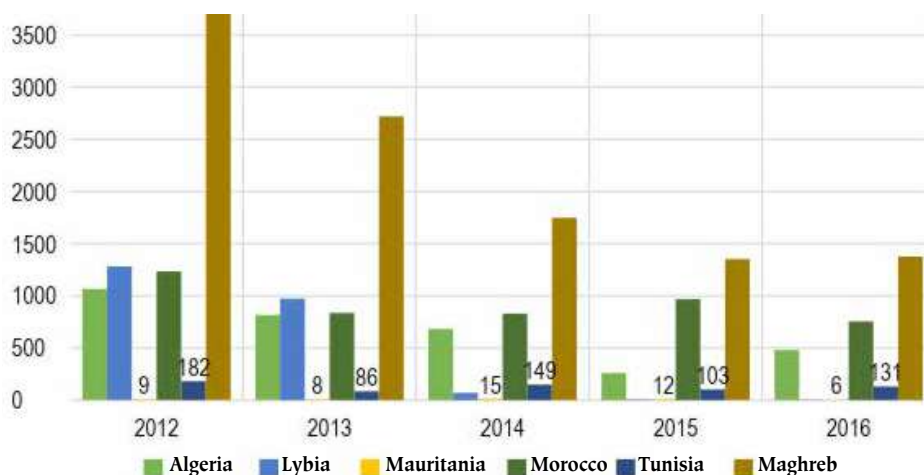
Hence, we wonder how the current emergence of India shuffles its relations with the Maghreb countries, although not so decisive on the geopolitical sphere, but concerned with its economic dynamism? What challenges should it overcome today, in the face of the Maghreb States? However, these questions cannot overshadow old questions: how the approach of the first India, those of periods of national liberation, and the beginning of independence, is structured on the new India? How do the links, formerly based on non-alignment (a policy in the third world) support all the Arab causes, in close proximity to the positioning of the Soviet Union, are reconstituted, today, on a more pragmatic basis, giving primacy to India's' economic and energy interests? More than the projections of power of this considerable country, what are the political relations from State to State and with the whole of the region?

Without doubt, one of the highlights that affects the development of economic relations of New Delhi with the countries of the Maghreb. Their readings will allow taking the measure of their political dimensions.

1. India and the Arab Region

Trade between India and the Arab world was of the order of \$114 billion in 2008-2009, and reached the amount of 144 billion in 2010-2011 (9). According to data from the Ministry of Trade

Exports to India in US\$ Millions



Source: Calculations of the author, UNCTAD-2018

A particular path characterizes the economic development of India. The country has become, little by little, a major player in the market of a number of natural resources, including coal, even if its industry is clearly lagging behind that of other powers, such as China. It seems, however, that it still needs time to make a true impact on the markets. It has large deposits of bauxite, lead, zinc, iron and coal. India develops specific characteristics that are similar to those of the emerging powers such as China, and who have contributed to their significant installation on the raw

The demand for these materials is in a notorious rise. Actually, the average growth of the Indian production of steel had grown at an annual rate of 3.5% between 1997 and 2004. Subsequently, it climbed to more than 16% per year. The multiplication of national projects and foreigners had to bring the Indian production to 70 million tons (Mt) since 2011, against 45 Mt in 2005 (7). The progress of the request of metals departs, however, from a threshold so low that it could not, in the following years, upset the global demand. The share of India barely reaches the rate of 4





of India for the fiscal year 2016-17, the volume of trade of India with the Arab countries amounted to \$121 billion, including \$50 billion in terms of exports and 71 billion of imports. This represents approximately 18.25% of the total trade of India. On its side, India has become an economic actor which activism is more and more sensitive in the region. Nowadays, it is clear that the increase of socio-economic linkages between India and the Arab world involves mainly the Gulf countries.

The Arab region is also a source of remittance of funds to India. In December 2016, there were about nine million Indians working in the Arab States, which contributed to more than half (56%) of the total remittances. According to the estimates of 2015 of the World Bank, the total amount of remittances received in India from Arab countries amounted to \$38 billion.

Saudi Arabia welcomed 1.5 million Indian nationals, and the United Arab Emirates 1.2 million, out of a total population of 8.2 million inhabitants. The volume of trade exchanges between India and the Gulf Cooperation Council countries has reached \$115 billion in 2010-2011, of which 67 billion for the only exchanges between India and the United Arab Emirates, making the latter the central economic partners. In fact, almost 40% of Indian imports of crude oil originate from Gulf countries and Saudi Arabia, the latter being the prime supplier for India in the world. Obviously, the accentuation of the socio-economic linkages and energy of India with the countries of the Gulf tend to place the Maghreb a secondary status (10).

2. India and the Maghreb

Unlike the countries of the Gulf, the Indian approach considers the Maghreb as a region that geographically far. The interest

is decreasing from the Gulf to the Maghreb, dominated by the obsession of energy security. The more we go toward the west, the greater the interest decreases.

In North Africa, there was a Diaspora whose fate has varied at the discretion of the major historical turning points. The Maghreb countries do not seem, from the point of view of India, to represent partners of priority like those of the Machrek countries. Through an economic perspective, rightly or wrongly, the Algerian, Moroccan and Tunisian markets appear to Indians as difficult of access: Among the obstacles cited, there is the language barriers and the strong attachment of the economy of the region to European interests, mainly French and Italian, but European in general.

In the Maghreb, some are offended by the fact that the Indians reduce the region to a simple extension of the Middle East. A dynamic of different levels, less ample, is at work in the economic links between India and the countries of the Maghreb in the course of the last decade (12). India develops relationships largely based on its needs in terms of energy and food security, seeking to refuel wherever it could. Moreover, in the framework of its strategy of energy security, the Indian State encourages large firms, in particular the public sector, to acquire deposits in the producing countries. During the last decade, the Indian oil companies were deployed in the three continents and about twenty countries. For the Maghreb, the example of Libya, where the Indian investment on the same period have reached a hundred of millions of dollars, is expressive.

On the other hand, the fact that its agricultural sector requires large quantities of fertilizers places India as one of the first global importers of phosphates.

The authorities have prompted the main actors of the sector to create joint ventures directly with the major producing countries, including Morocco and Tunisia. The structure of trade of India with the economies of the Maghreb is similar. The Maghreb countries export to India the raw materials, such as oil, gas or phosphates, and import industrial products such as agriculture and agri-food, including meat.

Indian companies, both public and private, are located in this region to access resources in energy and raw materials, which the region brings together. The exchanges are dominated by the Indian the increased needs in raw materials. India is thus developing a genuine policy of promoting investments to access raw materials. The exchanges are also fed by large contracts in the construction sector, where the demand appears to be strong in some Maghreb countries (Algeria, Libya). They are marked by the Indian efforts to position itself on the relatively attractive markets of the Maghreb in consumer products such as in the sectors of textiles, food, cosmetics and/or pharmaceuticals. In conclusion, the presence of India in the economic landscape of the Maghreb is clearly more pronounced and pertinent. ■

Abdallah Saaf is a Professor of Political Sciences at Mohamed V Rabat University, Director of the Center for Studies in Social Sciences Research (CERSS), Founder of the Moroccan Association of Political Science, Director of Abhath Review, as well as Senior Fellow at OCP Policy Center who focuses on political science, international relations, policies and development strategies and public policies. Professor Saaf was a member of the Commission in charge of revising the Constitution during July 2011, and member of the Scientific Committee at the Global Forum for Humans rights. Professor Saaf is a former Minister of Education from 1998 to 2004. He also manages an annual publication called "Strategic Report of Morocco"





Morocco's Human Development Strategy Targets Poverty

Governor and National Coordinator for Human Development Initiative, Mrs. Nadira El Guermai cut short her annual vacation and met journalist Harun Riaz in her Rabat office. She outlined the details of the Human Development Initiative taken by the Moroccan government and its impact on bringing a change in the lives of the local population. Excerpts:

When we read about Morocco's development in international media, there are stories about human rights and poverty. Can you explain the success achieved in implementing the poverty reduction programmes over the last ten years?

.....
The human development programme was initiated by King Mohammed VI. Everywhere in the world, one can find poverty, vulnerability and exclusion of marginalised people and there is no doubt that this is a global phenomenon. Each country adopts its own model to tackle these challenges. We in Morocco, based on the directive from the King, launched a programme to tackle exclusion. This is a programme which is completely based on realities and identifies the root of the problem.

In fact, starting from the enthronement in 1999, the King of Morocco has been close to his people and he is fully aware of the problems being faced by them. So our model for human development emanates from the ground realities in Morocco. The King had observed the existence of unemployment, lack

of education and some other precarious situations in society. On 18th of May, 2005, we devised a plan on working together by listening to others and coming up with a solution.

The human development programme complements the

funded by the Government of Morocco or from international organisations as well?

.....
Firstly, I would highlight the significance of good governance which ensures success of such programmes. We may have many sources of funding but if there is no good governance, no programme can succeed.

Morocco has adopted centralisation and has given autonomy to regional provinces. Hence, our programme is in line with the policy of giving more powers to regional provinces. It can also be called territorial governance.

The local committees in different provinces comprise local representatives, public authorities and rest of the seats go to the elected members. So these committees meet at regular intervals to decide about how they should help the needy people through the programme. The participating bodies study the local issues being faced by the local population, in great detail. We train people and send them to inquire about the same. The information obtained is thus analysed by the local government.

existing programmes and policies of the government and works in tandem with the different ministries and departments. We, in Morocco, are implementing our programmes in line with our traditions, culture and ground realities.

Can you explain how the human development programme is being funded? Is it exclusively



Photos Depicting Human Development Projects in Morocco

Following Pictures: National Initiative for Human Development





The prepared report then goes to a higher committee which has representatives from local associations, elected bodies and the local government which is chaired by the Governor. This committee harmonises the report for better coordination of the human development programme along with doing follow-ups on the implementation and its impact. Then, there is a third committee at a regional level, which also monitors the implementation of the programme.

Financing of the Human Development Programme

During the first stage of the programme between 2005 and 2010, an allotment of US\$1 billion was made, out of which 60 percent provision was from the central budget, 20 percent from the regional government and the remaining 20 percent through international financing. Then there was a second stage in which the total budget was increased to US\$1.7 billion and the number of international organisations supporting this programme was

It is rather centred on being participative in terms of people expressing their needs. We follow the programmes as introduced by the Ministry of Education and Health.

We go directly to the dispossessed population and enquire about their needs and accordingly, a programme is created. For example, if the local population at a provincial level needs a hospital in their area then we check the agenda of Health Ministry. If we don't find the highlighted requirement in their list, in this case the construction of a hospital, then we go ahead and do the necessary.

As far as employment is concerned, a total of 44,000 projects have been executed since 13 years, out of which 10,000 have been for the creation of new jobs. Our projects take care of the job requirements of the needy, especially the young population. It also accommodates the already skilled people in various fields including the agricultural sector. And for those who do not have

decent jobs, they become active, independent and have higher energy levels, etc. This programme is not aimed at creating short-term jobs but to bring a change in the social status of the people for a life-time.

Our organisation has nothing to do with politics. It is for human and social development. For us, poverty has no links with elections and politics. We work for children, women and the needy to improve their living standards.

The United Nations has set the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). How is Morocco performing in terms of achieving the same?

.....
I cannot comment on this... All I can say is that our Human Development Programme is not only known in Morocco but is also popular in the outside world. In April 2018, Morocco was elected in three bodies in the United Nations as a result of our National Initiative for Human Development. We were not only appreciated but it was noted that our programme has left an impact and reduced poverty. It has successfully created jobs for people from poor backgrounds.

Our approach is multi-disciplinary and we engage with large number of departments like Health. We deal with child mortality and work in the education sector as well. Through our programme, we have also done some work in the field of sports by building support infrastructures for youth from poor families. We have created roads, provided supply of water and electricity to areas lacking these facilities.

Our programme understands the value of citizenship and abiding by certain principles. You cannot be a citizen if you do not have proper values and a sense of discipline. ■

.....
“As far as employment is concerned, a total of 44,000 projects have been executed since 13 years, out of which 10,000 have been for the creation of new jobs.”
.....

increased to 15 including the World Bank.

The Indian model for poverty reduction is comparatively different from your programme in terms of introducing reservations in government jobs in education and promotion of the dispossessed. Has Morocco thought of introducing the same?

.....
In Morocco, we do not follow this model for human development.

any training or skills, the project provides for the same. We assist them in getting jobs in the private sector as well.

So our approach is not only to create jobs but decent employment to allow the person to live with dignity. Our ultimate goal in this programme is to provide jobs which can take care of the entire family. It has been observed that when young people from poor background are trained and subsequently provided





Morocco Takes Initiative to Train Imams in Moderate Islamic Sciences

Director of the Mohamed VI Institute of Training Imams Mourchidines and Mourchidates, Mr. Abdeslam Lazaar in an interview at the Rabat-based Centre with *Morocco in Focus* magazine discusses the reasons for the establishment of the Centre and how it is promoting Islam for peace in the region.

How did the idea of an institute for the training of Imams come about?

.....
In the first batch, our institute trained 150 Moroccan Imams and we started getting enquiries about the benefits of this programme. Since Morocco enjoys very good ties with the African countries, His Majesty Mohammed VI, King of Morocco offered to train young Imams hailing from them. In 2013, His Majesty Mohammed VI, King of Morocco made a State Visit to Mali.

During the visit, the President of Mali asked the King if a group of Imams from Mali could be trained in the Moroccan Institute for Mourchidates. The King accepted the request and gave his consent. Then in November 2013, a group of Malian students came to Morocco. Within the same centre, a special department was created to train the Malian Imams. So the Moroccans were one part of the centre with the Malian being the other part. Thereafter, the President of Mali came on a visit to Morocco and also visited our institute.

We also started receiving requests from France and other countries like C te d'Ivoire and Guinea due to the media coverage our institute was given. The King of Morocco gave his consent and a group from these countries joined our institute where we provided them training in three centres.



The King of Morocco came up with the idea of building a new centre where Imams from other countries could be trained and the new institute for Mourchidines and Mourchidates was set up in 2015. It was inaugurated on 27th of March, 2015. At the same time, we received requests for the training of Imams from Nigeria, Senegal, Gabon and Gambia.

Today, we have 1450 students from 10 countries including

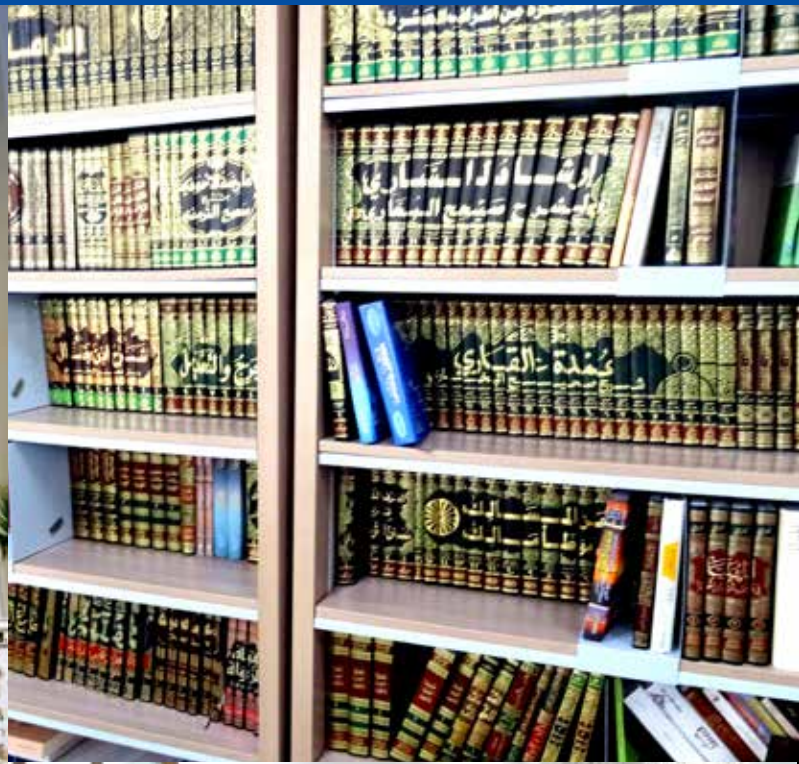
Morocco, who are getting trained to become Imams. From Morocco, more than 2000 graduates including 800 women have been trained apart from 1000 Imam from other countries.

Why are other countries sending their citizens to get religious training in Morocco. Don't they have such facilities?

.....
It is well known that training in these countries is provided



A Pictorial Glimpse of the Mohamed VI Institute of Training Imams Mourchidines and Mourchidates





Therefore, we came up with the idea that scholars who are well educated and trained in Islamic sciences and Sharia should impart training to Imams. For example, what is Salafism is a very difficult question to answer. People can always try and browse answers about Islamic teachings on the internet but they may not be authentic and hence misleading. On the internet, you may also find extremist ideologies. Hence, internet is not a very trustworthy source of information about religious teachings.

first category consists of essential and official training. We also provide short-term training for the practising imams.

How are the students selected for the Imam's course from different countries? Is there any written test or interview?

.....
Moroccans have to take an exam along with fulfilling a basic requirement for their selection. But there are lesser requirements for students from foreign countries, in

“Today, we have 1450 students from 10 countries including Morocco, who are getting trained to become Imams.”



in old religious schools like Madrasas which impart only basic knowledge like prayers, fasting and memorising Quran. When they are asked questions about Islam as a religion, they are not able to give satisfactory answers.



Therefore, there is a need for the training of Imams in Islamic teachings and provide the correct answers.

How long does it take to learn Imam's course and start offering prayers in a mosque and also provide religious teachings?

.....
We have three types of trainings. It is one year for Moroccans, two years for Africans and three years for the French people. The

terms of qualifications or taking an exam or an interview, including the French candidates.

It is for the authorities in foreign countries to choose candidates for the Imam's course in Morocco. However, when they arrive in Morocco, the candidates go through an examination process. Based on the result, the candidates are categorised into different categories - A, B or C - depending on the calibre and interest. ■

All Pics: Harun Riaz





CyFy Africa: The Key to Navigating Shared Digital Futures

By Akhil Deo, Research Assistant, Observer Research Foundation (ORF)

Observer Research Foundation (ORF) in association with the Regional Council of Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima and the Ministry of Industry, Investment, Trade and Digital Economy, Kingdom of Morocco, held CyFy Africa, a gathering on Technology, Innovation and Society on 10-12 May, 2018 in Tangier, Morocco.

For decades, the Atlantic communities have remained the hotbed of innovation and technology development. Countries in Asia and Africa have long been passive recipients of products and services from the west. To a large extent, access to finance, human capital and enabling regulatory regimes continue to lie in these regions. However, it is becoming increasingly clear that global technology companies cannot develop “once size fits all” solutions to global problems.

Communities in the developing world must chart their own course, keeping in mind constraints in state capacity, cultural diversity and different stages of economic growth. The inaugural sessions of CyFy Africa dealt with two key issues for emerging economies—connecting the next four billion users and innovating to leverage digital opportunities to enhance social and financial inclusion.

In many ways, Africa and Asia are limited by the same constraints: lack of investment in public infrastructure, low education levels and limited credit. Basile Niane, CEO Socialnetlink.org, was frank in his assessment: “Africa is in many ways is a virgin territory when it comes to technology”, he said. However, the continent has seen a “burst of innovation and entrepreneurship” especially in terms of mobile technology, he added. Indeed, the success of the African mobile payments

industry is often hailed as a key example of innovation from the developing world. Affordable mobile devices have allowed small and medium enterprises to generate new business models and experiment with low-cost innovation. Developing countries

governments in emerging economies require institutional innovation—adapting 20th century bureaucracies and administrative functions to 21st century realities. Barriers to accessing regional markets, irregular tax systems, poor infrastructure connectivity, and lack of common information platforms



Photo: ORF

Future of Entertainment Panel at CyFy Africa with Samir Saran, President, ORF; Hala Abdala Sarhan, Former Television Show Host and Vice President, Dream TV, Egypt; Nicolo Andreula, Independent Researcher, Singapore; Raja Krishna Menon, Director, Indian Film Industry; and Khalila Kellz Mbowe, Founder & MD, Unleashed Africa Company Limited, Tanzania.

must accept the reality that this will be the future of innovation for the next billions — unlike Silicon Valley, where inventions are typically complex, expensive, and energy-intensive — emerging economies must necessarily develop cost-effective solutions.

Despite these pockets of excellence, it is clear that African and Asian countries have yet to fully discover the potential of cyberspace. The

have led to a mismatch in the supply and demand of innovation. Africa has not yet realised the true potential of its scale for local solutions to become competitive and profitable. Apart from physical infrastructure, the lack of uniform rules on data protection is also limiting the ability of Asian and African entrepreneurs to commercialise local solutions. Therefore, technology must also be a tool to improve governance and facilitate access to basic government services. To do this, delivering identity





at scale is crucial. For developing countries to be inclusive, they need to first provide citizens access to banking infrastructure, social welfare schemes and affordable healthcare. At the heart of access lies an identity that is unique, authentic, reliable, and digital.

Realising the goal of universal access to digital technologies and the ability to leverage innovation to create economic opportunities will be critical in realising African and Asian development story. It is increasingly clear that states in the developing world can no longer rely on export-led manufacturing growth that the East Asian economies did. New technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and 3D Printing will require governments to reprioritise business ideas and employment creation policies. From a policy perspective, African and Asian communities must explore ways to support local ideas and business models that are replicable and scalable. They can do this either through incorporating reforms in their industrial policies and their development agendas.

Connecting and innovating for the next four billion is not just about numbers. Without local and contextual ideas, vast swathes of the developing world will miss the opportunities that cyberspace holds. Indeed, the success of the global development agenda will depend on Asian and African nations to do just that.

Samir Saran, President of the Observer Research Foundation highlighted that CyFy was originally created as a platform and a space where new and excluded voices could be heard, particularly from the emerging world. Speaking about CyFy, Ilyas El Omari, President, Regional Council of Tanger-Tetouan-Al Hoceima, said that “partnerships with countries like India allow us to address some of the social consequences of technology development.” Strengthening such cooperation, he said, will not

only help develop information communication infrastructure, but will also allow us to tackle future challenges together.

And this is why partnership between institutions in India and Morocco is natural. Our countries hold similar world views, albeit in different parts of the world. We share similar pasts and motivations, we have similar intentions and objectives of fair and equitable development that benefits not a few, but the many. We negotiate and resolve diversity with keeping the difference intact. Moulay Hafid Elalamy, Minister of Industry, Investment, Trade and Digital Economy of Morocco, was prescient in his observations about how new technologies were

education systems must be reformed. There is a need to ensure that new technologies like AI do not replicate racial and gender biases. New economic opportunities must be made available, especially for women.

Africa has a role to play in the upcoming fourth industrial revolution. This is evident by the fact that the industries of 3-D Printing are already being set up in Casablanca and this is only a taste of what is to come. For both Indian and African communities to navigate the fourth industrial revolution together, platforms like CyFy assume added significance.

Indeed, as Sunjoy Joshi, Chairman Observer Research Foundation (ORF), said, “CyFy does not belong to any one country or organisation. It is a platform



Photo: ORF

Digital Pickpockets: A New Cybercrime Wave Panel at CyFy Africa with Marie Agha-Wevelslep, Council of Europe, Romania; Jiten Jain, CEO, Indian Infosec Consortium, India; Yusuph Kileo, Cybersecurity & Digital Forensics Expert, AfICTA Board Member, MD-NCF, Tanzania; and Oluwafemi Osho, Lecturer, Department of Cyber Security Science, Federal University of Technology, Minna, Nigeria.

going to reshape our economies and societies. He warned that even though globalization creates new opportunities, it also presents complex challenges. New industrial processes create wealth but they also relocate industries and labour, sometimes to the disadvantage of smaller countries.

Indeed, both our economies need to generate millions of jobs—jobs that may soon be redundant due to automation. This labour force will need new skills and our

for all, to express, create and share ideas that will shape our collective future.”

The event was thus successful in sending out a clear message for both Morocco and India that time has come for countries in Asia and Africa to amplify their voices in the digital century. There is a need to define the normative framework as well as provide the technological tools that will allow countries in Asia and Africa to work towards building a cyberspace that is accessible, affordable, inclusive, safe and democratic. ■





My Visit to Al-Qarawiyyin - the World's Oldest University

By Harun Riaz in Fes, July 09, 2018

During my stint with the Muscat-based English daily Oman Daily Observer, I often heard and read about Al-Qarawiyyin University being the oldest in the world. Finally visited Fes, the cultural capital of Morocco this year, where the UNESCO heritage wonder is located including the refurbished Al-Qarawiyyin mosque.

Upon arrival, we met with Abdelfattah Boughchouf, the Conservator at the University. He showed us a 9th century version of the hand-written Quran. On our request, he showed us the refurbished university. The impressive work has been undertaken by Canadian-Moroccan architect Aziza Chaouni.

For around 1200 years, Al-Qarawiyyin has been one of the leading spiritual and educational centres of the Muslim civilisation.

It was founded in 859 C.E., by a young princess named Fatima Al-Fihri who migrated with her father Mohammed Al-Fihri from Qayrawan (Tunisia) to Fes. The family joined a community of other migrants from Qayrawan "Qayrawaniyyins", who settled in a western district of Fes. Fatima and her sister Mariam, who were well educated and brought up with religious devotion, inherited a large amount from their father, who was a successful businessman. Fatima vowed to spend her entire inheritance on building a mosque suitable for her community. This remarkable story is a typical example shedding some light on the role and contribution of women in Muslim civilisation. Such a role is the subject of widely held misconceptions about Islam.

The foundation of the mosque was to provide, in addition to a space for worship, a learning centre for the Qayrawaniyyin community. Like any mosque, Al-Qarawiyyin soon developed into a place for religious instruction and political discussion, gradually extending

its education to all subjects, particularly the natural sciences. Among the subjects taught, alongside the Quran and Fiqh, were courses on grammar, rhetoric, logic, medicine, mathematics, astronomy, chemistry and even history, geography and music. This variety of topics and the high quality of its teaching drew scholars and students from all over the Muslim world.

Abandoned for years, decay and humidity have damaged many of its library books, but steps are now being taken to preserve rare manuscripts written by some of the greatest medieval thinkers.

The restoration work has been undertaken by Canadian-Moroccan architect Ms. Aziza Chaouni. Ms. Chaouni, originally from Fes, says she had not heard of the library before she was enlisted by the Moroccan Culture Ministry in 2012 to take charge of its restoration, which suffered from the climate and humidity over the years.

To control the humidity, gutter systems, solar panels and air-conditioning have been installed at the ancient institution. "I had no idea that I would spend years dealing with rare and invaluable manuscripts," Abdelfattah Boughchouf, library curator commented.

The historic al-Qarawiyyin library lies in the center of Old Fes, which was considered the cultural capital of Morocco before the establishment of its contemporary capital, Rabat. Both the university complex and Old Fes have been



Photo: Harun Riaz

Curator of the Library, Mr. Abdelfattah Boughchouf showing the 9th century Quran

It was an over two hour drive from Rabat. No traffic congestion, smooth roads, and beautiful Moroccan countryside on the way. Accompanied by young diplomat Yusuf Alaoui, we also listened to popular Moroccan songs.





Photo: Harun Riaz

Reading and lecture room at the University

listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The library is part of a complex that is considered among the most important pieces of Arab cultural heritage.

The university is considered the oldest, and has continued its mission uninterrupted since its inception. The complex served as a center for religious, jurisprudential (fiqh), and Arabic studies, until the beginning of the 20th century, when it was modernised into a university in the contemporary sense, and registered as an accredited institution in Morocco. However, it remains focused on jurisprudence and language studies.

Among the oldest manuscripts in the library is a copy of the Quran from the ninth century CE, written in Kufic script. As well, a copy of The Muqadimmah of Ibn Khaldun can be found, signed by the historian himself, in addition to an autograph manuscript by Ibn Rushd, and a rare copy of a manuscript by the Andalusian



Photo: Harun Riaz

Al-Qarawiyyin Mosque was built in 859 C.E.

philosopher and theologian Ibn Tufayl.

The first room of the library is a grand reading room, furnished with tables and chairs made of old wood, as well as historic inscriptions from the different eras and dynasties that ruled over Fes since its establishment.

Islamic history, as the founder of the oldest university in the world is a woman, and so is the architect who is restoring its historical glory. ■

Note: The journalist has used various authentic sources while mentioning historical facts and 1200-year old history of the world's oldest university.





Celebration of the 19th Anniversary in New Delhi (India) of the Enthronement of His Majesty Mohammed VI, King of Morocco



H.E. Mr. Mohamed Maliki, Ambassador of His Majesty The King of Morocco to the Republic of India addressing the invited guests at the National Day reception held on July 30, 2018 in New Delhi.

Madam Karima Kaderi, Spouse of His Excellency The Ambassador; H.E. Mr. P.P. Chaudhary, Union Minister of State for the Law & Justice and Corporate Affairs; and H.E. Mr. Mohamed Maliki, Ambassador of His Majesty The King of Morocco to the Republic of India.



Madam Karima Kaderi, Spouse of His Excellency The Ambassador; Mr. R.N. Tata, Chairman - Tata Trusts and H.E. Mr. Mohamed Maliki, Ambassador of His Majesty King of Morocco to the Republic of India.



H.E. Mr. P.P. Chaudhary, Union Minister of State for the Law & Justice and Corporate Affairs; H.E. Mr. Mohamed Maliki, Ambassador of His Majesty King of Morocco to the Republic of India; Mr. R.N. Tata, Chairman - Tata Trusts; and H.E. Dr. Saud Mohammed A. Al-Sati, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to New Delhi.





← Moroccan Musical Band comprising Mr. Mohamed Barmaki, Ms. Habiba Ryahi and Mr. Abdellah El Miry performed during the National Day Reception on July 30, 2018 at hotel The Imperial in New Delhi.



→ Madam Karima Kaderi, Spouse of His Excellency The Ambassador; H.E. Mr. Mohamed Maliki, Ambassador of His Majesty The King of Morocco to the Republic of India; and H.E. Mr. B. Bala Bhaskar, Joint Secretary, WANA Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.



A group photo of the officers and staff of the Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco in New Delhi.

All Pics: Kapoor Photographers





Celebration of the 19th Anniversary in Colombo, Sri Lanka of the Enthronement of His Majesty Mohammed VI, King of Morocco



H.E. Mr. Mohamed Maliki, Ambassador of His Majesty The King of Morocco to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka with residence in New Delhi; H.E. Mr. Faiszer Musthapha, Minister of Provincial Councils, local Government and Sports of the Government of Sri Lanka; and Mr. Ahsan Refai, Honorary Consul of the Kingdom of Morocco to Sri Lanka.



Cake cutting ceremony - Mr. Zam Refai, Chairman of Zam Gems; Honourable A.H.M. Fowzie, Member Parliament, Government of Sri Lanka; H.E. Mr. Mohamed Maliki, Ambassador of His Majesty The King of Morocco to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka with residence in New Delhi; H.E. Mr. Vasantha Senanayake, State Minister of Foreign Affairs, Government of Sri Lanka; H.E. Mr. Faiszer Musthapha, Minister of Provincial Councils, local Government and Sports of the Government of Sri Lanka; and Mr. Ahsan Refai, Honorary Consul of the Kingdom of Morocco to Sri Lanka.



H.E. Mr. Faiszer Musthapha, Minister of Provincial Councils, local Government and Sports of the Government of Sri Lanka delivering a speech.



Mr. Ahsan Refai, Honorary Consul of the Kingdom of Morocco to Sri Lanka; H.E. Mr. Faiszer Musthapha, Minister of Provincial Councils, local Government and Sports of the Government of Sri Lanka; H.E. Mr. Mohamed Maliki, Ambassador of His Majesty The King of Morocco to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka with residence in New Delhi; and H.E. Mr. Vasantha Senanayake, State Minister of Foreign Affairs, Government of Sri Lanka.





On the occasion of

Morocco National Day

the 19th Anniversary of the Enthronement of His Majesty Mohammed VI,
King of Morocco we extend our heartiest congratulations to the
King and the people of the Kingdom of Morocco.

**Together, we will continue to strengthen our
bilateral ties for the mutual benefit of our nations.**

Basant K. Chaudhary
Honorary Consul General
Kingdom of Morocco to Nepal

Chairman
BLC Holdings
Basant Chaudhary Foundation (BCF)

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