

**High Commission of India
Accra**

India-Burkina Faso Bilateral Brief

Political relations

Bilateral relations between India and Burkina Faso have been cordial. The Embassy of Burkina Faso was opened in New Delhi in 1996 and elevated to the level of Ambassador in 2011.

Visits from Burkina Faso

There have been many high level visits from Burkina Faso. President Blaise Compaore visited India thrice in May-June 1993; in July 1994 and in 1997. In March 2018, President Roch Marc Christian Kaboré visited India to attend Founding Conference of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Summit. During the visit, he also met Indian Prime Minister on 11 March, 2018. Mr. Mamadou Ouattara, General Director and Mr. Youssouf Ouedraogo, Director at the Skill Centre (CEFPO) visited Rajkot, Gujarat to attend the Vibrant Saurashtra Expo, 2018 from 20-23 April, 2018. Minister of Water, Water Systems and Sanitation, Mr. Niouga Ambroise Ouedraogo, visited India to attend the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention at New Delhi from 29 September to 2 October, 2018.

Foreign Minister, Mr. Moussa Bedializoun Nebi, led a delegation for the IAFS-III. Mr. Nebi met EAM on 28 October 2015.

Burkina Faso regularly participates at the CII-EXIM Bank Conclaves at the high level. Minister of Agriculture and Food Security led a delegation comprising of Minister of Mines and Energy and Director General in the Ministry of Mines and Energy at the 10th Conclave held in New Delhi in March 2014. Foreign Minister Alpha Barry led the Burkina Faso delegation to the 11th CII Exim Bank Conclave in March 2016. A 36-member strong official-cum-business delegation participated in the 12th CII Exim Bank Conclave held in March 2017. Minister of Trade, Industry and Crafts, Mr. Kabore Harouna, led eight-member delegation to attend the 13th CII EXIM conclave on India Africa Project Partnership held in New Delhi from 25-27 March, 2018.

Mr. Sylvanus Traore, DG for Industrial Development, accompanied by Mr Ali Badra Pare, Economic Advisor in Directorate General of Trade attended the CII-EXIM Bank India-West Africa Regional Conclave at Abuja, Nigeria on 8-9 October, 2018. Director General and General Secretary from the Ministry of Health attended Partners' Forum 2018 on Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health held at New Delhi from 10-14 December, 2018.

Visits from India

Prime Minister Shri Narasimha Rao paid a State Visit to Ouagadougou on 2-4 November 1995. He met the President of Burkina Faso and also addressed their Parliament. PM was awarded with the highest civil award of Burkina Faso. The Prime Minister inaugurated the new Indian Embassy with a resident C'dA. The Indian Mission was closed in July 2002. In line with the announcement made by PM in July 2018, of opening 18 Missions in Africa, India has decided to reopen its Mission in Burkina Faso.

Special Envoy to PM Shri Mohanbhai Kundariya, MOS(Agriculture) visited Burkina Faso from 9-10 July 2015 to deliver the invitation to the President of Burkina Faso for the IAFS-III Summit.

Shri M.J. Akbar, MoS visited Burkina Faso from 11-13 July, 2018 to co-chair the 4th India-Burkina Faso Joint Commission Meeting at Ouagadougou. During his visit, he paid a courtesy call on the President Roch Marc Christian Kaboré and met Foreign Minister, Mr. Alpha Berry. MOS (MJA) announced a gift of 10 ambulances and 10,000 bicycles to Burkina Faso.

Commercial relations

Burkina Faso was included as one of the nine West African countries under the GOI's TEAM-9 initiative and Pan African e-Network Project. GOI extended a Line of Credit (LOC) of US\$ 30.97 million, under TEAM- 9, for Agricultural Projects and for Construction/Equipping of National Post Office in Burkina Faso.

India offered to set up three projects viz., Vocational Training Centre / Incubation Centre (VTC/IC), a Vocational Training Centre of Barefoot College and a Soil and Water Tissue Testing Laboratory in Burkina Faso under the decisions of India Africa Fund Summit (IAFS) (I & II). NSIC successfully set up the Vocational Training Centre/Incubation Centre in Ouagadougou and handed over the project to the local agency under the Burkinabe Ministry of Youth, Professional Employment and Training on 3 November 2016. Under the aegis of ISA Founding Conference held in Delhi in 2018, India announced new Lines of Credit for solar powered water stations for semi-urban water supply and is already in process of implementing a grant assistance solar project having components of (a) solar home systems of 100 wp each to cover 100 households each in 3 villages; and (b) 20 solar pumps for drinking water/irrigation (40 HP). Indian offer for setting up a Mahatma Gandhi International Convention Center through grant assistance has been accepted by Burkina Faso.

An MOU for establishment Barefoot Vocational Training Centre in Burkina Faso was signed in April 2017 at Ouagadougou. The construction of the training centre started in October 2017 under Gol's grant assistance of INR2.48 crores under IAFS-II. The centre is likely to be completed soon.

According to available statistics, total bilateral trade between the two countries registered US\$780.92 million in 2017-18 growing from US\$ 371.57 million in 2016-17. Exports from India grew from US\$ 114.94 million in 2016-17 to US\$148.35 million in 2017-18. Imports from Burkina Faso grew phenomenally from US\$256.42 million in 2016-17 to US\$ 632.57 million in 2017-18. The trade figures for the last few years are given below:

In US\$ million

Year	India's Exports to Burkina Faso	India's Imports from Burkina Faso	Total Trade	Balance of Trade
2014-15	112.76	151.64	264.4	-38.88
2015-16	108.79	238.11	346.9	-129.32
2016-17	114.94	256.42	371.36	-141.48
2017-18	148.35	632.57	780.92	-484.22
Apr-Sept	81.63	432.41	514.04	-350.78

2018				
------	--	--	--	--

Source: Department of Commerce, Government of India

India's major exports to Burkina Faso are pharmaceutical products, vehicles and parts thereof, iron and steel and articles thereof, machinery and mechanical appliances, rubber and articles thereof. Major Imports from Burkina Faso are gold and cotton.

Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC)

India has rendered technical assistance to Burkina Faso in its human resource development through the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme.

Culture

The International Day of Yoga is being celebrated every year since 2015. An 8-member cultural dance troupe (Sapera) from Rajasthan visited Burkina Faso from 12-15 September 2015.

Indian Community

The Indian community in Burkina Faso is around 200-300. Some of them are engaged in manufacturing and trading business and restaurants while the rest are their employees. Some are also doing business in cotton and gold.

December, 2018

Website: <http://www.hciaccra.in/>

FacebookPage: <https://www.facebook.com/IndiaInGhana/>

Recommended Reading References

1.	Burkina Faso, 2nd (Bradt Travel Guide) by Katrina Manson and James Knight
2.	Freedom in Fulani Social Life: An introspective Ethnography by Paul Riesman
3.	Political Reform in Francophone Africa by John F. Clark; David E. Gardinier (Westview Press, 1997)