

India – Republic of Congo Relations

India and Republic of Congo [ROC] enjoy warm and friendly relations dating back to pre-independence era of the ROC. ROC has supported India's candidature at various international forums.

Mr. Emile Ouosso, Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation, visited India in July 2007 at the invitation of the Railway Minister. In his capacity as Chairman of the African Transport Ministers Group [53 countries], he mooted a proposal for holding a summit of African Transport Ministers in India. He also held discussions with RITES and Railway Board. Maj. Gen Jacques YvonNdolou, Defence Minister visited India in February-March 2007 at the invitation of RakshaMantri. Earlier, Foreign Minister RodolpheAdada and Commerce Minister Adelaide Angollo visited India in October 2005 and November 2006 respectively.

Mr. Basilelkouebe, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, accompanied by senior officials, paid an official visit to India from 13 to 18 March, 2010. During his meeting with Minister of State for External Affairs, the two leaders discussed the whole gamut of bilateral relations. Both sides identified specific areas for expanding and strengthening bilateral cooperation.

Minister in the Presidency, in-charge of Special Economic Zone, Mr. Alain AkoualaAtipault visited India from 27-29 March, 2011 to participate in the 7th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India Africa Project Partnership held in New Delhi.

Minister of Trade, Ms. Claudine Munari, Mr. Alain Akouala, Minister of Special Economic Zones and Mr. Anatole C. Makosso, Minister of Youth and Head of the African Union Commission for Youth visited India to participate in the 9th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India Africa Project Partnership held in Delhi from 17-19 March, 2013. She also participated in the 8th Conclave from 18-20 March, 2012.

Senior Minister of Industrial Development and Private Sector Promotion, Mr. Mvoubalsidore led the ROC delegation to the 10th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India Africa Project Partnership, New Delhi from 9-11 March, 2014. He was accompanied by Ms. Claudine Munari, Minister of Trade, Mr. Alain Akouala, Minister of Economic Zones and Mr. CollinetMakosso, Minister of Youth.

Special Envoy of Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Manoj Sinha, MOS [Railways] visited Brazzaville on 16th-17th July, 2015. He met President, Mr. Denis SassouN'Guessoon 16th July, 2015 and handed over invitations for the 3rd India-Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi.

Mr. M.J.Akbar, Minister of State, External Affairs visited Brazzaville on 5th-6th March 2017.

Agreements/MOUs:

A Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations was signed on 17 March, 2010. The first Consultations were held in Brazzaville on 21 January, 2011. Besides reviewing the existing level of cooperation, the two sides agreed to accelerate mutually beneficial bilateral investment and trade relationship.

India's Economic assistance to ROC:

Line of Credit:

- A Line of Credit Agreement of US\$ 70 million for financing a Rural Electrification Project was signed on 19 December, 2011 by H.E. Mr. Gilbert Ondongo, Minister of Finance, Budget and Public Portfolio, ROC. The execution of the project is progressing well and is expected to be completed by September 2018.
- In 2014, the GOI has approved another LOC of US\$ 89.9 million for the Development of Transportation System in capital Brazzaville and Pointe Noire. Contract has been awarded to SRS Real Infrastructure Ltd. & ERA Infra Engineering Ltd. (SRS-ERA consortium) and work is under progress. Project is expected to be completed by October 2019.
- In 2014, the GOI also approved another LOC for US\$ 55 million for a Greenfield 600 tpd rotary kiln based Cement Plant Project in ROC. Tendering process is under progress.

Grant/Assistance:

- GOI had donated medicines worth US\$ 2,00,000 in 2010 to the Government of ROC.
- GOI had donated US\$ 500,000 as humanitarian assistance and disaster relief for the blast victims of ordnance depot of ROC, which occurred on 4th March, 2012.
- Tele-education, tele-medicine and VVIP connectivity node have been set up in Brazzaville under the Pan African e-Network Project.

Offers under India Africa Forum Summits:

- Under IAFS-II, ROC has been offered setting up of Rural Technology Park (RTP), Food Testing Laboratory (FTL), Agricultural Seed Production-cum-Demonstration Centre (ASPDC) and Centre for English Language Training [CELT]. The Government of ROC has welcomed the offers. Concurrence of Government of ROC to host FTL is awaited. Government of ROC has conveyed verbally that they are not interested in Rural Technology Park (RTP).

Capacity Building Programme:

- **ITEC Programme:** 38 slots were utilised during 2010-17. 10 slots have been allotted during 2016-17. 10 slots were allotted for 2017-18 out of which 9 slots have been utilized till August 2017.
- **AIFS-II Training:** 6 Government officials availed training during 2012-13 and 2 during 2013-14.

Trade and Commercial Relations:

Main items of India's imports from ROC are metallic ore & metal scrap, organic chemicals, pearls, semi-precious stones, oil seeds and petroleum. Main items of India's exports to ROC are rice [non-basmati], tea, spirit and beverages, power loom fabrics, pharmaceuticals, meat products, household articles of steel, bicycles, etc.

Possibilities of cooperation exist in agriculture, information technology, industry, health, oil and pharmaceutical sectors. Bharti Airtel had acquired Zain Communications Network in 2010. In 2014, M/s. Ashok Leyland signed a contract for supply of 200 buses to Government of ROC.

Bilateral trade figures are given below:

(US\$ million)

Year	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Exports	199.12	210.32	252.89	166.66	133.33
Imports	454.72	89.53	365.52	201.64	156.52
Total	653.84	299.85	618.41	368.30	289.85

Indian Community:

There are around 300 Indians living in the country, mainly involved in trading and service sectors.

August, 2017