



DOING BUSINESS IN THE NEW AFRICA TRADE DEAL

What is African Continental Trade Agreement (AFCTA)?

Africa has adopted a continental free trade deal that allows countries on the continent to freely trade among themselves. The agreement generally enhances the ease of doing business on the continent.

The Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AFCTA) creates the single largest (by landmass) free trade zone in goods and services in the world with a combined GDP of \$3.4 trillion and population of more than one billion people.

How can Finnish companies benefit?

The commercial prospects of this are enormous. When effectively harnessed, the AFCTA will see the volume of trade and investment to and from the continent grow exponentially. Combined with the current growth trends, African countries are projected to grow at a faster pace than all countries in the world except China and India.

Africa presents a strong case for investment and market participation by exporting countries like Finland. In addition, political stability on the continent has increasingly contributed to Africa as an attractive investment destination and a viable market frontier.

Finnish companies can benefit from this emerging investment prospect by setting up businesses in Africa. This will allow them to access the market and enjoy non-tariff benefits.

A presentation on the AFCTA in Helsinki

In a brief presentation, Dean Kofi Abotsi will review the AFCTA and the market opportunities it presents for Finnish companies. Being a lawyer, he will situate his presentation in the context of the legal and regulatory framework of the trading arrangement and the commercial benefits offered by the provisions of the new treaty.

Ghana has been selected to host the seat of the The Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AFCTA). Therefore, Ghanaian legal professionals such as Mr. Abotsi will have unique access into the institutional framework that is in charge of implementation of the agreement.

Date: October 10, 2019

Time: 8:30-10:30am

Venue: Marskin Sali, WTC Helsinki, Aleksanterinkatu 17, Helsinki

Host: Finland Chamber of Commerce

Language: English

BIO OF KOFI ABOTSI

Kofi Abotsi is the immediate past Dean of the GIMPA Law School, a position he held since 2013. He is a practicing lawyer, a public intellectual and the managing partner of Axis Legal Solicitors, a firm of consulting barristers and solicitors which specializes in corporate and commercial advisory and litigation.

With over 16 years standing at the Ghanaian Bar, he has also been entrusted with various political positions, including serving on Constitutional Commissions and consulting for governmental agencies and branches of government. He has extensive experience in active professional law practice and has advised a broad range of clientele including corporations, sovereigns, and IGOs.



Dean Abotsi holds a bachelor of Laws Degree and Barrister-at-Law Certificate from the University of Ghana and the Ghana School of Law respectively as well as a Master of Laws Degree from the Harvard Law School in the United States.

He is widely consulted and has been visiting scholar and guest lecturer in leading European and American universities including Oxford University, Fordham Law School, Indiana Law School and the University of Milan Bicocca.

In addition to the above, Dean Abotsi has served on a number of boards and advisory councils and played pivotal roles in shaping policy direction of corporate entities in Ghana, including being the chairman of the advisory board of the Chief Executives Network of Ghana, (a body comprising the CEOs of some of the largest and notable corporations in Ghana).

His law firm also signed a cooperation agreement with the Finnish Business Council of West Africa to assist Finnish companies with legal issues in Ghana.

He has written extensively in leading peer review journals of law in the world and his research is among other others tailored to improving key aspects of corporate governance in Ghanaian law. Consequently, his recent publication in the area of corporate constitutionalism reflects on the need to empower shareholders and constituent units within companies to hold managers accountable for managerial decisions.