

INFORMATION PACKAGE FOR GBR-FUTURE LEADERS YOUTH SUMMIT HOSTED BY BENIN

YOUTH SUMMIT DETAILS

Date: 24 June 2017

Venue: Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Benin (CCIB)

Time: 09:00 – 16:00

AGM DETAILS

Date: 25 June 2017

Venue: Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Benin (CCIB)

Time: 09:00 – 16:00

ABOUT THE VENUE

Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Benin is located in Cotonou, Benin. It offers its users the possibility of contemplating the beautiful scenery of the ocean waters off the Cotonou Bay. Specifically, the CCIB is located at street 2650; there are hotels and restaurants that specialize in making delicious & diverse meals, clinics, supermarkets, travel agencies, banks, exchange houses, among other facilities.

ABOUT BENIN

Benin, officially the Republic of Benin is a country in west Africa bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the south, Niger and Burkina Faso to the north, Togo to the west and Nigeria to the east. The capital is Porto Novo. However, the largest and economic city is Cotonou.

Cotonou, known as administrative and economic capital, is the largest city of Benin. Today, it is a port city on the Indian Ocean, with its economy centered on the harbour. According to the 2007 census, the population is 1,766,184.^[1] Cotton, cacao, pineapple and hardwood are the chief exports. The city manufactures cement, pottery, furniture, shoes, and rubber. The city is surrounded by Abomey-Calavi to the northwest, Seme-Kpodji to the north and the Atlantic Ocean to the south.

ENTRY INFORMATION

A valid passport is a MUST to enter into Benin (Except for South Africans).

The general principle is that if you are not a Benin citizen, you **MUST** have a visa to enter Benin. However, citizens of all African countries **DO NOT** need a visa, unless the purpose to enter Benin is to **study, work** or **reside** in the country. However, you are kindly requested to contact an Embassy/Consulate for latest and correct developments.

General requirements

- Submit an original passport, valid for at least 6 months from the date of entry into Benin and with at least 1 blank page for a visa. Amendment pages are excluded
- Fill the visa application form properly. It is very important that you provide all the information required, including the name and address of your place of stay in Benin. **Please be advised that lack of information may result in delay or even denial of your application.**
- Submit two passport size photographs (passport photos must be in colour and against a

white background).

- Evidence of Hotel reservation or certificate of hosting
- Invitations by organizations operating in Benin must include a copy of their legal status issued by the Benin authorities.
- Invitations by non-citizens living in Benin must include a copy of "DIRE" as proof of residence.
- Groups of visitors invited by organizations are required to attach one invitation per visa application form.
- Persons under the age of 18 must attach a parental travel consent letter to the visa application form.
- The processing time for all kinds of visa is 10 working days.
- If the applicant has been in a Yellow Fever endemic country, the applicant must bring a Yellow Fever Certificate.

Types of visa and specific requirements

Business visa: When the purpose of entry is business related, A letter from applicant's company or from the inviting company in Benin is required

Visit visa: A letter of the inviting party in Benin is required

Tourism visa: A copy of the flight itinerary and a copy from the hotel are required

Residence visa: A copy of the work contract (in Benin) and a copy of a police clearance (from the place of residence of the applicant) are required

Student visa: A letter from the applicant's school is required

Transit visa: A visa for the final destination is required, unless this is the applicant's country of origin or residence.

Diplomatic and Official visas: For government officials as well as World Bank and International Monetary Fund staff, when on official business.

Visas can be Single, Double or Multiple.

NOTE:

- **A VISA MUST BE OBTAINED PRIOR TO THE TRIP AT THE CONSULAR SERVICES AS A VISA CAN NO LONGER BE ISSUED UPON ARRIVAL AT ANY OF BENIN'S ENTRANCE POINTS. SHOULD YOU REQUIRE A BORDER VISA YOU MUST REQUIRE PRIOR AUTHORIZATION FROM AN EMBASSY OR CONSULATE.**
- **THE VISA MUST BE USED WITHIN SIXTY (60) DAYS FROM THE ISSUANCE DATES.**

VACCINATIONS (VERY IMPORTANT)

If you have been in a Yellow Fever endemic country, you must bring a Yellow Fever Certificate.

Please research to check if this pertains to your country.

Everyone entering Benin MUST get pills/ vaccination for Malaria and Hepatitis. Please see your Doctor for a Prescription for pre and post visit.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Most visits to Benin are trouble-free, but Bag-snatching and pick-pocketing occur. Be vigilant at all times. Beaches or offshore islands are not policed. Avoid walking alone at night and don't display valuables or money. Use a hotel safe if possible. Avoid withdrawing cash from ATMs at night. Be extra vigilant and avoid travelling around after dark.

If you are a victim of any form of crime, contact the local police immediately and get a police report. If your passport is stolen you should also contact your High Commission/ Embassy and inform the

local immigration authorities.

LANGUAGE

French is the official and most widely spoken language of the nation, spoken by 50% of the population. Most Beninese living in the cities speak French as their first language.

SHOPPING

There are numerous Malls and Shopping Centres around Cotonou. Markets are also available for local products.

CURRENCY

The official currency is the franc CFA.

Make sure you can access money in a variety of ways. Travellers' cheques are not commonly accepted. US Dollars, Euro and Nigeria's Naira are the main exchange currencies. Credit cards are increasingly accepted in the larger cities. You should tell your bank before using your card in Benin.

Estimated exchange rate:

\$1= 620 f cfa

1500 f cfa (\$2,42) = 1000 Nairas

CLIMATE

Benin has a tropical climate with two seasons, a wet season from April to September and a dry season from October to March. Climatic conditions, however, vary depending on altitude. Rainfall is heavy along the coast and decreases in the north. Annual precipitation varies from 500 to 900 mm (19.7 to 35.4 in) depending on the region, with an average of 590 mm (23.2 in). Average temperature ranges in Cotonou are from 13 to 24 °C in July to 22 to 31 °C in February.

Cotonou features a tropical savanna climate. Cotonou is a relatively wet city, averaging 1000 millimetres of precipitation per year. The city has relatively short dry season lasting from November through March. Cotonou also features noticeably warmer and cooler seasons, with its warmest month (January) on average about 7 °C warmer than its coolest month (July).

CUISINE

The city's cuisine is a mix of African, Occidental and Oriental flavours: warm spices, tomato and peanut sauces.

Beninese seafood is famous: crevette (prawns), poisson braisé (grilled catch of the day). Chicken is also popular.

There are traditional dishes of pounded yam, black paste, white paste, cassava flour paste, corn flour cooked in a peanut or tomato sauce. And meat dishes tend to be good, with most meat imported from Brazil.

The city has a surprising diversity of restaurants, bistros, cafés and street fare. Along Avenida Marginal, the beach road, and downtown, you can do fine dining, family restaurants, pavement

cafés, ambient bistros.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN BENIN

1- FOOD INDUSTRY SECTOR

- Transformation of pineapple into fruit juice;
- Transformation of tomato;
- Acajou trade;
- Transformation of the nuts into oil;

2- AGRICULTURE SECTOR

- GARDEN MARKET (Carrot, Onion, tomato, hot pepper (spice), cabbage, beet, cucumber, lettuce, potato, sweet pepper and local vegetables);
- Implantation of palm tree
- Corn, cassava, soja, moringa production

3- BREEDING SECTOR

- Pigs;
- Fishes;
- cattle ;
- Chick;

4- HOTEL BUSINESS SECTOR

- Accommodation centres;
- Tourism;

5- TELECOMMUNICATION SECTOR

- Internet service;
- Electronic payment;
- GSM network communication;

TRANSPORT AND ACCOMMODATION PACKAGES IN BENIN

HOTEL OPTIONS

<u>Hotel Name</u>	<u>Single Bed</u>	<u>Double Bed</u>	<u>Breakfast</u>	<u>From Airport to Hotel</u>	<u>From Hotel to Venue</u>
<u>Best Western</u>	<u>65 000xof</u>	<u>71 500xof</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>200 metres</u>	<u>10 mins</u>

<u>Nobila Hotel</u>	<u>\$ 105</u>	<u>\$116</u>			<u>(drive)</u>
<u>Hotel du Lac</u>	<u>45 000xof</u> <u>\$73</u>	<u>50 000xof</u> <u>\$80</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>15 mins</u> <u>(drive)</u>	<u>10 mins</u> <u>(drive)</u>
<u>Infosec</u> <u>(guesthouse)</u>	<u>15 000xof</u> <u>\$25</u>		<u>No</u>	<u>10 mins</u> <u>(drive)</u>	<u>15 mins</u> <u>(drive)</u>
<u>Infosec</u> <u>(guesthouse)</u>	<u>10000xof</u> <u>\$17</u>	<u>10 000xof</u> <u>\$17</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>10 mins</u> <u>(drive)</u>	<u>15 mins</u> <u>(drive)</u>
<u>Hotel Benin</u> <u>Horizon</u>	<u>21 000xof</u> <u>\$34</u>	<u>31 000xof</u> <u>\$50</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>08 mins</u> <u>(drive)</u>	<u>15 mins</u> <u>(drive)</u>
<u>Ibis Hotel</u>	<u>60680xof</u> <u>\$98</u>	<u>67 360xof</u> <u>\$109</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>10 mins</u> <u>(drive)</u>	<u>10 mins</u> <u>(drive)</u>

***Bookings are to be made through the local planning committee. Kindly contact your regional coordinator for the hotel of your choice.**

The hotels do have either a fan or AC system.

(xof / f cfa = local currency)

TRANSPORT

Kindly prepare 15 000 xof (\$24) for a shuttle. Pick up from the airport must be arranged **prior** with your hotel so kindly arrange this with your regional coordinator.

ENTRANCE

Future Leaders: 12 000 xof (\$20)

Non Future Leaders: 24 000 xof (\$40)

FOR INTERNATIONAL DELEGATES

Visa Letters

For Visa letters, please send a list of names of the people coming to the Summit as well the passport numbers for GBR Benin to draft the letters. Kindly email names to your regional coordinators.

Flights

When booking flights, please ensure that you land on the 23rd of June 2017 before 6pm. Once flights are booked, please send your flight details to your regional coordinators.

Please note that some regions have organised group rates based on 30 people and above. Kindly contact the regional coordinator.

Region	Airline	Cost	Times
Southern Africa	SAA (direct from Johannesburg to Benin)	R 8549.23	23 June 2017 Leaves Johannesburg at 15:00pm and arrives at 21:30pm 25 June 2017 Leaves Cotonou at 22:45pm and arrives the next day at 18:50am

N/B: To SADC Members please be advised of the following:

Airline Traveling Costs are based on SAA group rates and are on a first come first served basis. They only last for 21 working days. We have catered for the first 30 passengers. This is a negotiated and subsidized cost. For more information please contact Ms Tumelo Keakopa, The Southern Africa Coordinator.

Contact Details

You are encouraged to have a working mobile number upon arrival per person/delegation. You may wish to purchase a sim card at the airport.

Should you need assistance, you may contact members of GBR FL Benin

Name and Surname	Designation	Cell number
Excellency Timothy Essoun	Chairperson: FL Benin	+229 96 54 53 08
Excellency Alex Edah	Secretary General: Benin	+229 96 75 59 63
Excellency Kodjovi Adohoun	Chairperson of organising committee: Benin	+229 61 16 17 23 +229 64 06 09 27

ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORT

AIR TRAVEL

Cotonou International Airport is the main international airport of Benin and is located inside town.

ROAD TRAVEL

Benin is accessible by road from different countries.

Bus routes and *Taxi routes* are available.

ASSISTANCE

Regional Coordinators are there to assist in preparing for the Youth Summit in Benin. They are as follows:

Name and Surname	Region	Email address
Excellency Mr Timothy Essoun	West Africa	thimothyessoun@gmail.com
Excellency Mr Said Djobo		Djobo.said@gmail.com
Excellency Ms Tumelo Keakopa	Southern Africa	Keakopa@globalbusinessroundtable.com
Excellency Ms Sarah Munyi Excellency Mr Matthew Gezane	North Africa and East Africa	sarah@globalbusinessroundtable.com
		Matthew@globalbusinessroundtable.com
Excellency Ms Lihle Mabuza	Europe, America, Asia	Lihle@globalbusinessroundtable.com
Excellency Armand Akpaki	Central Africa	akpakiard@gmail.com

AVERAGE DISTANCE TO COTONOU

Departure From	Distance
Lomé (Togo)	200 km (2hrs)
Lagos (Nigeria)	100 km (1 hrs 30 mins)
Wagadougou (Burkina Faso)	700km (9 hrs 30 mins)
Niamey (Niger)	800 km (12hrs)

ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION

Hotel/B&B	Contact	Rates	Comments
AZALAI HOTEL	www.azalahotel.com reservationhp@azalahotels.com +229 21317200		
HOTEL DE L'ENTENTE	+229 97195638 +229 97074072		

NOVOTEL ORISHA	H1826.mywebvalet.net			
HOTEL DU PORT	Hotelduport-cotonou.com			