

PRESS RELEASE

Chairman of Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council extends personal invitation to Ghanaian Business Leaders

22nd February 2018, London: Lord Marland of Odstock, Chairman of the Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council (CWEIC), has extended a personal invitation to leaders of industry and business in Ghana, to attend the Commonwealth Business Forum (CBF).

The CBF is organised biennially by the CWEIC and is held alongside the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). The Forum is set to take place in April 2018 in London, for the first time ever. The CBF is an invitation only event and will convene 800 senior business leaders with approximately 30 Heads of Government at three iconic Central London venues.

Lord Marland met with President Nana Akufo-Addo during his visit to London last year and invited him both to the Forum, and to give an address. Lord Marland praised the President's achievements in promoting governance, trade and investment and cited Ghana as an example to the wider Commonwealth. Ghana is considered one of the more stable countries in West Africa, and with a population of over 28 million people, two thirds of which are under 30 years old, there are numerous opportunities for economic growth and prosperity.

The Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council works with business leaders from across the Commonwealth to facilitate trade and investment throughout the 53 states of the Commonwealth, and supports private sector companies and governments to promote economic activity. The Council works with member companies to expand their businesses and to help with new investments in any Commonwealth country. CWEIC's Strategic Partners include multinationals such as Standard Chartered, Rolls Royce, Burberry and African conglomerates such as Famfa Oil, PanAfrican Capital and FSD Africa.

With the Commonwealth's cumulative population standing at 2.4 billion, the combined GDP of the nations is set to reach US\$14 trillion by 2020. Intra-Commonwealth trade, which was estimated to be worth \$525 billion in 2015, is projected to surpass \$1 trillion by 2020. CWEIC's ambition is to encourage and grow intra-Commonwealth trade and investment, and assist member organisations in developing high quality trade and investment opportunities.

CWEIC has recently opened hubs in Lagos, Nigeria and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and will be opening further hubs in 13 Commonwealth countries. Lord Marland has also led business delegations to India, Malaysia/Singapore and Canada, and will be taking senior business leaders to the Gold Coast in Australia for the Commonwealth Games 2018. In the weeks leading up to the Commonwealth Business Forum, the CWEIC is encouraging business and industry leaders to take a greater role in delivering economic growth and prosperity for their regions.

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The Chief Executive of CWEIC, Richard Burge said: “CWEIC was honoured to host the Ghanaian Trade Minister in 2017 for the Commonwealth Trade Ministers Meeting and we very much hope that the President will accept Lord Marland’s invitation to attend the Commonwealth Business Forum this year. Ghana has a positive story to tell and is an example to the wider Commonwealth on governance, trade and inward investment. For CWEIC, Ghana is a priority country and we are keen to engage with business leaders and ensure that they are properly represented throughout the Commonwealth”.

-ENDS-

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About Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council (CWEIC)

The Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council facilitates trade and investment throughout the 53 states of the Commonwealth and supports private sector companies and governments to promote economic activity. We work with member companies to expand their businesses and to help with new investments in any Commonwealth country. <http://www.cweic.org/>

The objectives of the CWEIC are to:

- Assist member organisations in developing high quality trade and investment opportunities
- Promote trade and investment across the Commonwealth.
- Help establish the “conditions for growth” in Commonwealth countries and work to improve economic governance, transparency and accountability.
- Create prosperity by supporting the development of enterprise in member countries through capacity building, mentoring and enhanced access to markets.
- Represent the views of the private sector to the Commonwealth, its member Governments and wider international community.
- Organise the Business Forum alongside the biennial Heads of Government Meeting.

Supporting Facts:

- The Commonwealth’s combined population is 2.4 billion
- Commonwealth combined GDP predicted to reach US\$14 trillion by 2020
- Intra-Commonwealth trade was estimated to be \$525 billion in 2015
- Intra Commonwealth trade is projected to surpass \$1 trillion by 2020
- More than 60 per cent of the Commonwealth will be under 30 by 2020

Sterling Media, the international business and communications consultancy, is the Official Global PR and Communications Partner of the Launch of the 2018 Commonwealth Business Forum, acting on behalf of the Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council. <http://www.sterlingmedia.co.uk/>

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