

Chimera™

Improving the Environment for Intercontinental Exchanges

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The Chimera, monster of Greek mythology, part lion, part goat, and part dragon, is a symbol for fantastic ideas and “the creation of imagination.”



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Chairman/President:

Honorable Matthew J. Meadows
Secretary/President Elect: Dr. Donna Elam
Executive Director: Peter Harris
Managing Editor: Karema Tyms Harris
Circulation & Production Manager:
Amy Houston
Graphic Design: Uzzell Advertising
Circulation:
ADG Business and Governmental Consultants

Contributors:

Florizelle B. Liser
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
Dr. Robert I. Rotberg
Harvard University
Dr. Joann M. Schulte
Florida Department of Health

Address all correspondence to:
USA/Africa Institute
215 South Monroe Street, Suite 835
Tallahassee, FL 32301
Telephone: (850) 205-8723
Facsimile: (850) 224-4630
www.usafrica.org

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Publisher's Note

Former U.S. President Harry Truman once said, "Men make history, and not the other way around. In periods where there is no leadership, society stands still. Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better". This is not only a challenge for Africa but also for the United States of America. Several new, yet significant leadership changes have occurred that have direct importance to both regions.

President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria was recently elected to chair the third assembly of the African Union (AU). In his acceptance speech, President Obasanjo urged the AU to promote unity, peace and stability, and acceleration of socio-economic development. In Africa, the AU is certainly building a platform to support a successful Africa. The AU also announced thirteen new directors and published a strategic framework and action plan through 2007. This framework should provide the leadership and security to develop the economic and educational needs of the continent.

This corresponds to the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) Regional Strategy for Africa, which is in place through 2007 and the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD), charged with conducting an assessment of Kenya's governance through its African Peer Review Mechanism is now led by former South African First Lady Graca Michel.

In his latest speech at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell stated "Together with African nations, we are building political partnerships, partnerships that promote democracy, that promote good governance and promote the health and well-being of Africa's greatest assets, not only its mineral assets, its natural resources, but the greatest of all of its assets: its people. We are forming economic partner-

ships that create attractive conditions for trade and development that will spur the kind of development needed for sustained growth in the nations of Africa. " Moreover, Constance Berry Newman, former USAID Assistant Administrator for Africa was sworn in as the Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, highlighting the Bush Administration's commitment to a more peaceful and prosperous future for all the peoples of Africa.

This issue of Chimera™ begins with a very comprehensive article by Ms. Florizelle Liser of the Office of the United States Trade Representative. Ms. Liser leads the trade efforts of the United States in sub-Saharan Africa, and oversees the implementation of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). In the article, she highlights significant trade and investment activities between the two regions and discusses US Trade Policy. It is our hope that this trade agreement succeeds in its stated goals and that its programs are aligned to African trade policy.

Capital is attracted by security. Leadership must determine the level and enforcement of security. In an astute article, Professor Robert Rotberg, Director of the Belfer Center's Program on Intrastate Conflict and Conflict Resolution at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, details excellent examples of leaders in Africa and mechanisms to institutionalize good government and diminish threats to stability in Africa.

An ever-present threat to stability in Africa is disease. Dr. Joann Schulte, State Epidemiologist for the Florida Department of Health provides excellent information on disease management on one of the most prolific diseases in Africa: Malaria.

It is wonderful to see all of the positive changes taking place in both Africa and the United States towards improving the environment for intercontinental exchanges. I hope that you enjoy the articles.