

Bilateral Brief on India-Comoros Relations
(As on 31 August 2017)

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India established its diplomatic relations with the Union of Comoros in June 1976. Our Mission in Antananarivo is concurrently accredited to Comoros. India and Comoros have always enjoyed close and friendly relations. Both the countries have similarities of view on regional and global issues.

High level visits from Comoros have been taking place: Presidents Mr.Ahmed Abdullah Mohamed Sambu and Dr.Ikililou Dhoinine have visited India in November 2007 and October 2015 (3rd IAFS) respectively. Foreign Ministers Mr. Souef Mohamed Al-Amine, Mr. Ahmed Ben Said Djaffer, Mr. Fahmi Said Ibrahim, Mr.Mohamed Bakri Ben Abdoulafatah Charif have visited India in August 2004, July 2006, February 2011 and November 2012 respectively. Vice President and Finance Minister Mohd Ali Soilihi visited India in February 2013 to sign the LOC US\$41.66 million for the 18 MW HFO Plant with the Exim Bank of India and in October 2015 to participate in the 4th India-Africa Trade Ministers meeting.

In August, 2015, Shri Y. S. Chowdary, Hon'ble Minister of State for Science and Technology in his capacity as Special Envoy of the Prime Minister visited Comoros, to extend invitations to HE the President and Foreign Minister of Comoros for the forthcoming India-Africa Forum Summit to be held in New Delhi in October, 2015.

In October 2011, Shri Gurjit Singh, formerly AS (E & SA), Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, paid a visit to the Island to further strengthen the existing bilateral relations.

Bilateral Developmental Cooperation: The Government of Comoros and the Exim Bank of India signed an agreement for a Line of Credit of US\$ 41.6 million for setting up of a 18MW HFO Power plant in February 2013. The bid was won by OIA and BHEL Consortium. The project was inaugurated on 28 July 2015. The project is under progress.

Comoros has sought India's help in setting up of a Vocational Training Centre (VTC). A Feasibility Study has been conducted by the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of Gujarat, India. MoU is under finalization.

Aid/Assistance: The Government of India had granted exemption from ban on export of 25,000 tonnes of non-basmati rice to the Union of Comoros to help relieve the food crisis in Comoros in 2008. In December 2012, Government of India provided US\$ 100,000/- as assistance to Comoros for losses suffered on account of torrential rains in April 2012.

Capacity Building Programmes: India as part of its South South Cooperation has been offering Capacity Building Training programmes under ITEC and IAFS. Comoros

utilized 13 against 30 in 2016-17 and 4 against 30 allotted slots under ITEC in 2017-18. It has utilized 01 under FSI PCFD in 2015-16, 02 under IAFS in 2016-17 and 3 against 9(2016-17) and 1 against 10 (2017-18) under ICCR General Scholarship slots. Comoros is a beneficiary of the Pan African e-Network Project.

Economic and Commercial Relations with India: The trade between the Comoros and India has been steady. The total bilateral trade between the two countries for the year 2016-17 was US\$46.44 million as against US\$32.11 million.

Indian Community: The Indian Diaspora comprises of around 250 persons and majority of them are engaged in trade and business. The role played by the Indian community in the overall development of Comoros is highly appreciated at all levels. Some of the Indians are very influential and their contribution to the total GDP of Comoros has also been significant. The Indian Diaspora has been playing significant role in promoting Indian culture and traditional values in Comoros. In recent years, a number of young professionals have started working for some foreign companies in Comoros.

Cultural Relations: Due to small size of the Island and a tiny Indian Diaspora, there has not been any significant exchange of cultural visits between the two countries. However, the Mission successfully held three editions of the International Day of Yoga in Moroni in 2015, 2016 and 2017. The events were appreciated by the local community.

Resources

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