

## **India-Togo Relations**

### **Political relations:**

India and Togo have cordial bilateral relations. Togolese President Mr. Gnassingbe Eyadema visited India in 1994. Earlier, in 1989, he had made a brief stopover in Calcutta on his way to China. Prime Minister Mr. Gilbert Houngbo visited India to participate in the CII-Exim Bank Conclave in March 2010.

From Togo, Minister of Planning, Industrial Development and Administrative Reforms visited India in 1981. Minister for Rural Development visited India in 1985.

High-level government and business delegations participated in the CII-EXIM Conclave on 'India-Africa Project Partnerships' held in November 2005 and October 2006 in New Delhi and in May 2006 in Accra. Minister of Cooperation and NEPAD of Togo led the Togolese delegation for the CII Conclave in October 2006.

Prime Minister, Mr. Gilbert Fousson Houngbo led a Togolese delegation to the 6th CII-Exim Bank Conclave in India in March 2010 and the 12th Regional Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership in Accra on 3 June 2010. The senior diplomatic Advisor to the President, Mr. Koffi Esaw, visited India in October, 2010 in connection with inauguration of the resident Mission of Togo in India.

A Togolese delegation led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation visited India and participated in the Conference of LDC countries on 18-19 February, 2011. A 50-member delegation led by the Prime Minister, Mr. Gilbert Fossoun Houngbo, visited India in March, 2011 for the CII Conclave.

A Ministerial delegation led by Mr. Noupokou Dammipi, Minister of Mining & Energy visited Delhi in November, 2011 to sign the LOC agreement with Exim Bank of India for US\$ 15 million Line of Credit (LOC) credit extended to the Government of Togo for Rural Electrification Project.

Three MPs, Hon. Mr. Adjangba Agbessi Theophile, Hon. Mr. Koffi Joseph Tchiko Akoda and Hon. Mr. Ayao Nicodeme Habia visited India to participate in the 'Leaders of the Future' programme, held on 13-20 March 2012. The last two MPs, K. Akoda Tchiko Joseph and Habya Ayao again visited India on 16-24 March 2013 under the "Leaders of the Future" programme and also participated in the 9<sup>th</sup> CII EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership. Ms. Essossimna Legzim-Balouki, Minister of Trade and Private Sector Promotion, led the Togolese delegation to the 9th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave held in Delhi on 17-19 March, 2013.

From India, Lok Sabha Speaker, Dr. Balram Jakhar, visited Lome in 1985 for the Inter-Parliamentary Conference. An Indian dance ensemble visited Togo in 1984.

Shri Anand Sharma, MOS(AS), met the President of Togo on 7 March 2007 in Accra during their visit to Ghana to participate in the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Ghana's Independence and discussed with him various issues of mutual interest.

A 5-member Indian delegation led by Shri Ajay Bhattacharya, Secretary (Fertilizers), visited Togo on 10-11 July, 2012 for exploring possibilities of cooperation in the area of

phosphatic fertilizers. The delegation met the Foreign Minister and the Minister of Mines respectively. The delegation also called on President Faure Gnassingbe. Another high-level GOI delegation, led by Shri Sudhir Mital, Secretary (Fertilizer), visited Togo on 23-24 and 26-27 June, 2013 for exploring possibilities of mining of phosphate (including carbonated phosphate) and downstream manufacture of fertilizer (phosphoric acid etc.). The delegation called on the Prime Minister and met the Ministers of Trade and Private Sector Promotion, Foreign Affairs & Cooperation and Transport (who also holds the charge of the Mines and Energy) respectively.

India does not have a resident Mission in Togo. The Indian High Commission in Accra is concurrently accredited to Togo. There is an Indian Honorary Consul in Lome. Togo has opened a resident Mission in New Delhi in October 2010 headed by a resident Charge d'Affairs.

### **Commercial relations:**

India has provided economic assistance to Togo in the form of tractors (60), water pumps, sewing machines, ambulance, transport vehicles, corn-grinding machines, etc. On the request from the Togolese government, Indelible ink was supplied in 2002 for the elections held in Togo. Though India offers training to Togo in its human resource development under Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme, in view of the language problem, Togo has not been able to make much use of ITEC training in the past. However, in the last couple of years, Togo has expressed strong interest in ITEC capacity building modules reflected by way of utilization of 35 slots against the 45 slots allotted in the FY 2012-13. It has been allotted 40 ITEC slots for the FY 2013-14.

India extended two Lines of Credit (LOCs) totaling US\$ 33.04 million through EBID, which include a LOC of US\$ 20.04 million for 'Project Health Equipment' (this project has been completed), and another LOC of US\$ 13 million for a project to Upgrade the Power Generation and Distribution Capacity of CCET (this project is under completion). Another LOC of US\$ 15 million has been approved for Rural Electrification in Togo. In January 2012, Togo's Minister of Economy and Finance, Mr. Adji Oteth Ayassar, signed an agreement with EXIM Bank of India for a LOC of US\$ 13.095 million for financing "Farming and Cultivation of Rice, Maize and Sorghum" in Togo.

India had sent a consignment of medicines required by the floods affected people in 2008. In the same year, Togo signed the Country Agreement with TCIL for the Pan African E-Network Project and the project is in implementation process. India has also offered to set up two projects, viz. Human Settlement Centre, and India-Africa Centre for English Language Training in Togo under the decisions of the India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS).

The Synthetic & Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council (SRTEPC) of India organized a 2-day Indian Textile Exhibition (INTEXPO 2013) on 1-2 March, 2013 in Togo. This first ever exhibition received good participation from local companies/traders.

According to available statistics, total bilateral trade between the two countries stood at US\$ 501.75 million in 2011-12. During the year 2012-13, bilateral trade registered US\$ 480.30 million with export from India at US\$ 299.88 million and import from Togo at US\$ 180.42 million.

India's major exports to Togo include mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; cereals and preparation of cereals cotton; articles of apparel and clothing; iron

and steel articles; man-made filaments; man-made staple fibres; drugs and pharmaceuticals; machinery & mechanical appliances; plastic and articles thereof; rubber and articles thereof; vehicles and parts and accessories thereof, etc. Imports from Togo include salt; sulphur; earths & stone; plastering materials, lime and cement; wood and articles of wood; wood charcoal; iron & steel.

**Indian community:**

Indian community in Togo is small and there are about 200-300 Indians living in the country. Most of them are businessmen engaged in trading, assembling, super markets, hotels etc. The community has an Association though not very active due to the small size of the community.

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