

opic News

OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION SPRING 2008

» President Bush Announces Five OPIC Funds for Africa Totaling \$875 Million » OPIC Conference to Encourage Investment in Middle East » OPIC Launches Two New Investment Funds Calls for Proposals » What's NEWs at OPIC

IN THIS ISSUE »»

President Bush Announces Five OPIC Funds for Africa Totaling \$875 Million in New Investment Support

President George W. Bush recently made a historic six-day visit to Africa. This was his second trip to the continent as President, and one he has called, “one of the most exciting, exhilarating, and uplifting” trips of his presidency.

Just before leaving, President Bush announced that OPIC would support five new private equity investment funds, with a combined target capitalization of \$875 million, designed to invest in a variety of sectors vital to Africa’s economic development, including health care, housing, telecommunications and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The new commitments represent the largest single-day announcement in the history of the agency’s investment funds program.

“Last year, we launched the Africa Financial Sector Initiative. As part of this effort, OPIC mobilized \$750 million in investment capital for African businesses,” President Bush said in a speech on the eve of his February 15–21 trip to Benin, Tanzania, Rwanda, Ghana, and Liberia. “Today, I’m announcing that OPIC will support five new investment funds that will mobilize an additional \$875 million, for a total of more than \$1.6 billion in new capital.”

“The new era is rooted in a powerful truth: Africa’s most valuable resource is not its oil, it’s not its dia-



President George W. Bush and Mrs. Laura Bush pose with Benin well-wishers Saturday, Feb. 16, 2008, at Cadjehoun International Airport in Cotonou.

WHITE HOUSE PHOTO BY SHEALAH CRAIGHEAD

“One of the keys to helping Africa succeed is to empower entrepreneurs.” —President George W. Bush

monds, it is the talent and creativity of its people. So we are partnering with African leaders to empower their people to lift up their nations and write a new chapter in their history. The best way to generate economic growth in Africa is to expand trade and investment,” President Bush said.

OPIC President and CEO Robert Mosbacher, Jr. said, “Establishment of these five new investment funds rep-

resents additional, tangible support for Africa, but with a dynamic focus on the social aspects of economic development and job creation on the continent.”

“These funds will encourage the growth of sectors critical to Africa’s ongoing development, such as housing and telecommunications, as well as other developmental sectors, including health care and small businesses.

continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

Their overall impact will be to broaden African capital markets and provide critical investment for social development, a model that can be replicated in other geographic areas.”

OPIC's Board of Directors approved financing to support the funds at its January 31 meeting. More information about OPIC's Africa-related investment funds can be found at <http://www.opic.gov/investment/index.asp>.

Three of the new OPIC-supported funds will help to bring new levels of efficiency and productivity to sectors critical to the continent's continued economic growth: health care, housing development and telecommunications. The two other funds will support the growth of Africa's debt capital markets and its SME sector.



WHITE HOUSE PHOTO BY ERIC DRAPER

President George W. Bush and President Jakaya Kikwete shake hands after signing the Millennium Challenge Compact Sunday, Feb. 17, 2008 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

OPIC Organizing Conference to Encourage U.S. Investment in the Middle East

OPIC is pleased to organize its fifth annual international investment conference, which will be held May 5–7, 2008 at the Kempinski Hotel Ishtar, Dead Sea, Jordan.

Called *Access to Opportunity in the Middle East*, the conference will focus on investment opportunities in OPIC eligible countries and areas in the broader Middle East region, including Afghanistan, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, West Bank and Gaza, and Yemen.

Participants will have the opportunity to learn about investment activities in the housing, tourism, information technology, infrastructure and energy sectors in the region. There will also be presentations on the private equity market in the broader Middle East.

Participants will hear from leading investment experts, U.S. businesses and financial institutions actively investing in the region, and will have opportunities to discuss potential joint-venture partnerships between

U.S. and regional companies.

Featured Speakers at the conference include **The Honorable Mr. Robert Mosbacher, Jr.**, President and CEO of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, **His Excellency Eng. Nader Dahabi**, Prime Minister of

Jordan, and **Mr. David Jackson**, Chief

Executive Officer of Istithmar World Capital. Mr Jackson was selected by *Private Equity International* magazine as one of “50 Global Movers” of 2007, and has been called one of “the most influ-

ential people in global private equity.” Other scheduled speakers include senior executives from Cisco Systems, Foursan Group, FreightDesk Technologies, General Systems International, McDonald's Corporation, Millennium Solar, Nexant Inc., Stanley

“The markets of the broader Middle East, with their significant populations and long history of entrepreneurship, present great opportunities to American investors. OPIC is hosting Access to Opportunity in the Middle East because we believe that with the support of American investment and technical knowledge, the region's markets can grow even more quickly. And with the development of these markets will come myriad developmental benefits for the people of the broader Middle East.” —Robert Mosbacher, Jr., OPIC President & CEO

Consultants, the Afghan Growth Fund, Palestine Investment Fund, and the Iraq Middle Market Development Foundation, as well as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the International Finance

Corporation, and the International Telecommunications Union.

Over two and a half days, attendees will have the unique opportunity to participate in sessions that highlight a variety of sectors and topics including:

- **Access to Capital: From Microfinancing to SMEs** SME financiers from the United States and microfinance representatives from the region will discuss ways for small entrepreneurs to access capital so that they might increase their investment in formal economies.
- **Access to Capital: Private Equity** Managers of investment funds will discuss investment opportunities, keys for structuring investment deals and monitoring their performance, exiting investment transactions and, recouping fund investments with a reasonable rate of return.
- **Infrastructure** Experts and providers will outline areas of potential private investment and how to improve the balance of risks and expected returns for projects.
- **Energy** Representatives of major American energy companies and fund managers will identify investment opportunities in the region's energy sector including oil, gas and renewable energy, and optimal strategies for realizing them.
- **Tourism** With recent growth in tourism in the region, new investment opportunities, including eco-friendly destinations, abound in the region. Tourism operators and hoteliers will discuss their experiences in the region, and offer advice to prospective investors.
- **Information Technology** Experts in telecommunications, software, and information systems will discuss the opportunities and challenges in this fast-growing sector.



Salt deposits in the Dead Sea (above). OPIC's international investment conference, "Access to Opportunity in the Middle East," will be held May 5–7, 2008 at the Kempinski Hotel Ishtar, Dead Sea, Jordan (right).



- **Housing** Representatives of regional banks, mortgage financiers and housing construction companies will identify means for prospective investors to best tap a sector with lucrative potential, and experts in securitization and housing policy will discuss developments in the local markets that will affect housing investment in the coming years.

The conference will also feature several breaks and receptions to facilitate networking.

To register and additional information is on the conference website:
www.trademeetings.com

Supporting Organizations

"Supporting Organizations" for this event include:

- The Afghan Business Council Dubai **www.abcdxb.com**
- American Business Forum in Turkey **www.abft.net**
- Bankers Association for Finance & Trade **www.baft.org**
- Bilateral US-Arab Chamber of Commerce **www.bilateralchamber.org**
- Business Council for International Understanding **www.bciu.org**
- Global Trade and Technology **www.gttc.us**
- International Economic Development Council **www.iedconline.org**
- International Executive Service Corps **www.iesc.org**
- International Telecommunication Union **www.itu.int**
- International Union for Housing Finance **www.housingfinance.org**
- Middle East Council of American Chambers of Commerce **www.abccg.us**
- National U.S. Arab Chamber of Commerce **www.nusacc.org**
- National Association of Home Builders **www.nahb.org**
- United Nations Conference on Trade & Development **www.unctad.org**

OPIC Launches Two New Investment Funds Calls for Proposals

OPIC has launched two new calls for proposals to manage investment funds—the first will focus on renewable energy investments worldwide, and the second will support capital market growth in Latin America.

The first call will result in up to \$500 million in financing to new private equity investment funds designed to invest in companies or projects in the renewable energy sector in emerging markets worldwide—the first OPIC-supported investment fund of its kind and the latest agency initiative to support renewable energy development.

In addition, the fund could also invest in related sectors in the field of energy and environmental sustainability, including energy efficiency systems and equipment, and water, waste and emissions control and treatment. OPIC will consider proposals from funds focused globally, or regionally in OPIC-eligible countries in Asia, Eurasia, Central Asia, the Middle East or Latin America. OPIC participation in any single fund would be limited to \$100 million, or one third of the capital per fund.

The second call will support the growth of capital markets in Latin America, potentially leveraging as much as \$1 billion of investment to help the region overcome current market gaps.

The fund(s) will provide businesses in Latin America with forms of capital in short supply. Proposals are invited to address both public or private capital markets, and debt or equity strategies. The call emphasizes investment in products such as medium- and long-term debt, local currency



debt, mezzanine financing, private equity for small and medium-sized enterprises, and new, publicly-listed debt and equity securities.

Fund managers will be chosen through a competitive selection process. To learn more about the Calls for Proposals, please visit <http://www.opic.gov/investment/proposals/index.asp>

What's NEWs at OPIC

New Vice President of Insurance

Mr. Rod Morris was appointed as the Vice President of Insurance in February of 2008. He served in the same capacity from 2000 to 2003 and led the department into a number of innovations in products and relationships with the private insurance market.

In the intervening years of his time at OPIC, he was in charge of the Captive Insurance program for the State of Arizona where he developed the regulatory and marketing protocols from infancy into one of the premier captive domiciles in the world.



Rod Morris, Vice President of Insurance

To read his complete bio visit http://www.opic.gov/about/staff/bio_rod_morris.asp

OPIC Speakers

OPIC representatives travel all over the world to international conferences and meetings talking about the important role OPIC is playing in emerging market economies. To request an OPIC speaker for your next event, please contact speakers@opic.gov or call 202-336-8641. You can also visit the web site at: <http://www.opic.gov/news/events/index.asp>

FOR MORE INFO

Overseas Private Investment Corporation
1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20527
Tel: 202-336-8799
Website: www.opic.gov

To subscribe to *OPIC News*, please log onto OPIC's website and click on "Subscribe to news" at the top of the page.

Inquiries concerning *OPIC News* content: Erica Guries, editor
Erica.Guries@opic.gov