

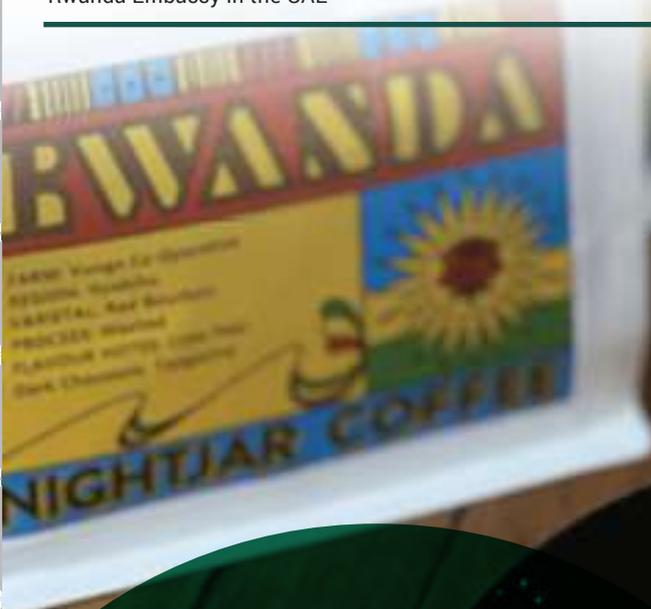


NEWSLETTER

Issue 3 - October 2020

Rwanda Embassy in the UAE

The General Consulate of Rwanda in Dubai



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International Coffee Day Celebration

On the 1st of October the world celebrated the International Coffee Day. The celebration aims to promote coffee, a popular beverage. On this day we visited several coffee shops in the UAE to taste the Rwandan Speciality coffee found in Nightjar, Stomping Grounds, Coffee Museum, Drop coffee in Dubai and much more! We take this day as a special one and we dedicate it to all our coffee lovers. To our passionate farmers, traders, consumers and sector partners at large: we honor your efforts in making our journey (since 1900's) a success. Our cup is now the best experience ever! This cash crop was introduced in Rwanda in 1904 by Germany missionaries. In 1935 coffee production greatly increased, becoming the main cash crop for many farmers, but it was mostly low-grade coffee and its consumption was limited to local missionaries. In the following decades, coffee became the sole crop to be the source of income for the country until 1960s when tea was introduced.



Rwanda Tea

Tea was introduced in Rwanda in the 1950's, Rwanda tea is known for its high quality and among the best in the world.

Currently there are more than 24,000 hectares planted with tea in the Northern, Western and Southern provinces on hillsides and well drained marshes at high altitude between 1,550 m and 2,500 m. Tea is one of Rwanda's major exports commodities which generated USD 86.9 million exports revenues in 2019.

There are 18 privately owned operational tea factories, more than 43,000 tea farmers organized in 21 cooperatives and 2 out growers' services companies. Tea expansion is ongoing and area planted with will keep increasing as well as construction of more factories.

Production has increased steadily over the years from 5,910 tons of black tea in 1980, to 12,855 tons in 1990. In 1994, during the genocide, tea plantations and factories were abandoned and tea production decreased to 4,136 tons of black tea.

From 1994, a lot of efforts were made to rehabilitate tea industry and tea production increased to 14,391 tons in 2000; 22,249 tons in 2010 and 32,127 tons in 2019. Black CTC tea is the predominantly type of tea produced in Rwanda, but other types like Orthodox tea, Green Tea and White tea are also produced. Organic tea is also found in Rwanda.

Horticulture Sub-Sector

Rwanda is committed to the production of high quality and environmentally friendly products while ensuring the health and welfare of the consumers. The horticulture sub-sector offers considerable potential and can contribute positively to poverty reduction and economic development. Rwanda's comparative advantages in horticulture include favourable climate, diversified agro climatic conditions including high, medium and low altitude, fertile soils, abundant water resources, and abundant competent labour that produce quality and competitive horticulture products for sale in regional and international markets.

Horticultural products grown in Rwanda include:

VEGETABLES

TOMATOES
PEPPER
FRENCH BEANS
CARROTS
ONIONS
SNOW PEAS / SUGAR SNAPS
EGGPLANTS



FRUITS

AVOCADOES
MANGOES
PINEAPPLES
PASSION FRUITS
BANANAS
STRAWBERRIES
MACADAMIA NUTS

SPICES

PERSLEY
LEMON GRASS
GINGER
GARLIC
PROCESSED PEPPER
MIXED SPICES
CELERY



FLOWERS

ROSES
ZANTEDESCHIA FLOWERS
AGAPANTHUS
CALLA LILIES
TUBEROSES
ALSTROEMERIA
ORNAMENTAL SUNFLOWERS

ESSENTIAL OILS

LEMONGRASS OIL
GERANIUM OIL
PATCHOULI OIL

Why buy from Rwanda?

1st Effective governance and zero-tolerance to corruption.

2nd Outstanding quality.

3rd Natural and unique products.

4th Trace ability system.



Rwanda and UAE Trade & Investment Cooperation

Rwanda and UAE have been working closely with a view to strengthening economic and investment cooperation. In this regard, two important agreements were signed in 2017, one on Double Taxation Avoidance and the other on Promotion and Reciprocal protection of investments. Other equally important agreements have been signed as well while some other agreements are in the pipeline. These agreements have boosted the confidence of investors and are paying off. Below is a selected business engagement among others.

Ambassador Emmanuel Hategeka paid a visit to Ras Al Khaimah Chamber of Commerce and Industry and met with the Chairman H.E Mohammed Ali Mussabbeh Al Nuaimi. Discussions focused on potential partnerships in Trade and Investment Opportunities. Next month will be dedicated to discussing sectors of interest to both sides and engagement.

President Kagame: Tech investments will drive Africa's future



On October 21, 2020, President Paul Kagame made a case for increased investment in technology, saying it will drive Africa's transformation and the world's future. He was speaking at a World Economic Forum organised virtual event alongside Israel Prime, Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and Colombia's President Iván Duque.

President Kagame shared Rwanda's experience, highlighting deliberate efforts the government has taken to pave the way for financial resources into the technology sector to drive the country's growth. "Over the past 20 years, Rwanda has continued to prioritise investment in technology, broadband and digital skills," he said. While Africa has been left behind in many ways, President Kagame argued that there are many problems that technology can bring solutions for. "That's why we prioritised investment in technology and infrastructure that supports that," he noted. The Head of State indicated that Rwanda's quest to invest in technology and the need to address Africa's challenges has seen leaders come up with broader plans for the continent – the Smart Africa Alliance. "The Smart Africa Alliance which we have created with other countries on the continent brings together the private sector and government leaders to play a central role," he said. The aim, he added, is to harmonise the regulatory environments across Africa so that countries know what to expect from each other.

President Kagame said Rwanda has enjoyed partnership with technology companies, highlighting the case of Zipline which has partnered with the government to deliver medical supplies to rural hospitals. "We also

have forged a partnership with the World Economic Forum to create a centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution as a proof of concept for Rwanda and the African region," he stated. President Kagame added that Rwanda has extended partnership with countries including Israel and Singapore that have enabled the country to build technological capabilities.

"The young people have taken advantage of the opportunities and led the innovation space and entrepreneurship around that," he said.

CREATING DIGITAL SKILLS

In the conversation, moderated by the President of the World Economic Forum Borge Brende, President Kagame insisted that investment in technology, particularly technology skills could prepare young people for the future.

"Most children entering primary schools today, we are aware, will work in jobs that do not yet exist. So, the curriculum has to be flexible and future-oriented with technology skills as a priority," he said.

To achieve that, he reiterated that the private sector is important to bring on board investment.

Prime Minister Netanyahu of Israel, considered one of the world's most technologically innovative countries, similarly argued that investment in technological skills are important to create a digital world.

"Technological education that starts below (with those who don't have skills) is important, but there has to

be high skilled individuals," he said.

He added that Israel has adopted a deliberate strategy to increase the number of skilled individuals in technology, highlighting that the number with first time degree students in Information and Communications has in the recent increased by 70 per cent.

However, Netanyahu indicated that many countries risk creating digital divide, saying it was critical to invest in infrastructure such as computers, fibre internet and provide access to other technology tools to those who cannot afford them.

President Duque, on other hand, emphasized the need for creating an enabling environment for players to work, especially those that want to invest in emerging technology.

He mentioned Colombia's case which has created a framework for development of artificial intelligence, robotics, machine learning, and financial technology (FinTech), among other things.

"A regulatory sandbox was put in place to accelerate access to smartphones to boost FinTech. We have seen the largest FinTech penetration, and we have started accelerating these services," he noted.

Conservation of biodiversity in Rwanda

The Government of Rwanda and conservation non-profit African Parks announced Wednesday October 7th the signing of a new 20-year agreement for Nyungwe National Park, a commitment which will ensure the sustainable management of the largest expanse of forest in the country. The agreement will preserve the park's considerable biodiversity to secure lasting benefits for people and Rwanda's wildlife. This announcement follows a successful 10-year partnership between the Rwanda Development Board (RDB) and African Parks, which has steered an ecological and economic revival of Akagera National Park in the country's east, representing one of the most important wetland systems in the region as well as one of the top tourism attractions in Rwanda in addition to the Akagera National Park (for big five species) and the Volcanoes National park for the majestic mountain gorillas.



"We are very happy to be in Kigali the famous city of a thousand hills known around the world for its wonderful weather, the beauty of its flowering trees and its green very mountains and also known for the kindness and efficiency of its people.

Cecilia Akintomide
Vice President, Secretary General AfDB Group

Rwanda among Forbes '20 Best Places to Travel in 2021' Challenge yourself to a worthwhile adventure!

Every year Forbes brings together a team of experts to rank top 20 world's best destinations that tourists can visit. This year, like last year Rwanda has made it to the Forbes' list of top 20 best destinations to travel to in 2021.

"Rwanda's tourism industry is adapting to create a safe environment for travellers and operators, in order to thrive in these unprecedented times. We encourage all travel enthusiasts and nature explorers to take advantage of this unique opportunity to venture out and experience the beauty and adventure that Rwanda has to offer."

Together with the private sector, RDB is offering attractive all-inclusive tourism packages for everyone. These packages have been designed to showcase Rwanda's remarkable leisure and recreational experiences, from adventures in the mountains, to memorable excursions in serene landscapes, and a taste of the lively cities. Plan your amazing gateway at www.visitrwanda.com

