



Introduction of South-South Global Asset and Technology Exchange (SS-GATE)

It is with great honor to write to you about SS-GATE and the projects that we seek to implement in developing countries to help foster faster economic development. We have been searching for information about the possibility to expand our South-South Global Assets and Technology exchange (SS-GATE) network with the participation of local small to medium businesses.

South- south Global Assets and Technology Exchange (SS-GATE) is a programme initiated by the Special Unit for South South Cooperation at the United Nations Development Programme, which aims to provide a global and sustainable transaction platform that facilitates market-driven and transparent exchange of technologies and financial resources among the private sector, public sector and civil society for inclusive growth of the countries of the south. SS-GATE was set up as an independent non-for-profit legal entity to operationalize the programme.

The programme comprises four elements promoting: (a) small and medium enterprise (SME) technology exchange to upgrade productivity (Track 1); (b) creative industries exchange (Track 2); (c) financing under-funded development projects (Track 3); and (d) technology exchange on the Clean Development Mechanism (Track 4). Track 1 of the programme witnessed initial results in its pilot stage as of December 2008, with the full-fledged operation of the project targeted to begin at the end of 2009.

Therefore, as SS-GATE, we are trying to promote industrial creation through technology and capital transfer as mandated by the UN. This is as a result of the UN recognition of the short-comings in the Aid system for supporting development in developing countries. Technology and capital transfer will mainly be between developing countries and some of the world be from developed countries. This will be done through a platform created and operated by SS-GATE. The platform will have information from different countries and we are seeking local organizations in different countries to be our participating organization.

Such organizations will be our workstations as they will give developmental project information which will be broadcasted and matched on the platform for potential investments, markets and/or funding. A workstation will oversee the operations in their respective countries and give information for investment needs especially among SMEs and any other projects. We hope that the information gathered will be matched with that from other countries to help bridge developmental needs and investment. Workstations also will enjoy training from SS-GATE and direct communication and support with the project implementers to ensure smooth operations.

Key highlights include:

- Four global networks have signed working arrangements with SS-GATE, representing a total of over 70 countries;
- Established workstations and arrangements with over 20 countries
- Successful business deals have been generated involving technology exchanges among China, Ethiopia, Gabon, Sudan and Vietnam

Successful case I) housing Project

Among several successful cases achieved in the pilot stage of the SS-GATE programme as of December 2008, is the “Housing and Employment Sunshine Project (HES)”, which has facilitated the transfer of a patented technology named “FGC” from Sichuan Xinghe Company Ltd, China, to African countries, through SS-GATE’s global exchange platform. The technology enables the manufacturing of construction materials from straws which has gained considerable popularity, particularly in their use in partition boards, walls and doors. The materials are fire, water, earthquake and crack resistant, as well as long-lasting. Statistics from the Ethiopian Government have shown:

- a 50% reduction in the cost of building houses through the use of FGC products;
- an annual output quantity of -300 million square meters from the production of these materials;
- a revenue of RMB60 million (US\$ 8.8 million) from the production of these materials;
- a profit of -RMB 3 million (US\$ 440 thousand); and
- over 12,000 jobs created.

With this South-South technology transfer, more houses are now available for the poor with less governmental finance expended. This has assisted in improving the housing of poor people, and also allowed government funding to be utilised to address other housing problems or development goals.

With the success of this project, other countries among them Sudan and Egypt have replicated it.

Successful case II) Bio-fertilizer Technology (PAO)

PAO is a bio-fertilizer developed in Japan, and it is an environmental friendly and pollution free product. It has been introduced to Vietnam, and after its successful application, this technology then spread to the Chinese Market and is being carried out field trial in Huzhou, China. If the field trial is successful, this bio fertilizer will be spread in a larger scale in China.

Brief information on current projects in progress

I) Promoting South African bio-fertilizer

II) African patent traditional medicine

SS-GATE identifies the potential wide application of the African traditional medicine, especially those patent herbal medicines which have been adequately researched with academic and scientific professionals. SS-GATE has been actively communicating with other workstations and enterprises on the possibility of this project.

III) Chinese traditional medicine

SS-GATE recognizes the growing popularity of Chinese medicine, and has been actively seeking for potential investors in other developing countries to invest in this industry.

IV) Chinese construction and agricultural firms negotiating with Zambian government

SS-GATE has been facilitating the negotiation on projects between the Chinese construction firms and agricultural firms with the Zambian government, and has been organizing a Chinese delegation to visit Zambia in November.



- V) Chinese construction firm bidding 8 projects in Kenya
With the facilitation of SS-GATE, a Chinese enterprise has informed with the opportunity to invest in the construction industry in Kenya, and has got eight construction project biddings in Kenya.
- VI) South African technologies have been introduced and is negotiating with the Zambian government
SS-GATE has obtained technological projects from an industrial park in South Africa. One of the projects could improve the pre-pay system of bills, for example, electricity bill, which not only makes the bill pre-pay system more efficient, but could also create job opportunities for local communities. These projects have been introduced to the Zambia government.

About the Housing and Employment Sunshine Project

Based on the successful housing project above, a new expanded project promoting affordable housing, employment creation, and decent living condition for less privileged groups in the South has been conceived and being promoted by SS-GATE.

The Sunshine Project seeks to establish a technology transfer demonstration park and to achieve a mechanism to replicate successful outcomes at the national and international levels. These aspects of the Project seek to address housing problems through the construction of affordable housing (with consideration where possible of improved sanitation and water facilities – including in terms of access to clean water – durable housing and sufficient living area) that promote decent living conditions, benefit the local population, host country and region, and address employment problems through offering employment opportunities to local labour forces.

This Project also has as an objective that such a demonstration zone functions as a learning process that can in turn become a model for similar transfers of technology, capital, expertise and resources. The objective is that these will in turn serve as mechanisms to promote sustainable development and raise the living standards of local populations.

The Project seeks to engage with governments, the private sector and civil society, and to promote an exchange of views on means to more effectively promote development, as well as to enhance cooperation between different parties in the promotion of such development.

If there is any clarification you may need, please feel free to contact me. Also you can visit us at this website: www.ss-gate.org