3RD JUNE, 2024

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

DEEPENING INTEGRATION, WIDENING COOPERATION

ON THE SPOTLIGHT:

- EAC launches free online professional tourism courses to enhance regional capacity
- EAC receives advanced translation and interpretation equipment from the French Government
- EAC Secretariat launches EAC Electronic Tariff (EAC E-Tariff)

EAC LAUNCHES FREE ONLINE PROFESSIONAL TOURISM COURSES TO ENHANCE REGIONAL CAPACITY

Tourism practitioners in the region can now enhance their skills and expertise through a comprehensive suite of professional courses following the launch of the EAC Online Tourism Capacity Development Programme.

The courses, developed in collaboration with the European Union and the German Development Cooperation Agency, GIZ, aim to elevate professional standards and skill sets across the region's tourism industry.

The programme was officially launched during a virtual session led by Hon. Andrea Aguer Ariik Malueth, the EAC Deputy Secretary General, Infrastructure, Productive, Social and Political Sectors. The event was attended by various tourism stakeholders from both the public and private sectors, including tourism boards, tour operators, tour guides, SMEs, and the East African Tourism Platform, among other tourism stakeholders across the region.

Hon. Andrea Aguer Ariik Malueth, the EAC Deputy Secretary General, Infrastructure, Productive, Social and Political Sectors.

The programme stands out for its accessibility, offering learners the opportunity to engage with high-quality training materials completely free of charge. Participants can expect a dynamic learning experience that combines self-paced modules, live webinars, expert talks, and moderated forums.

Covering a wide array of topics essential to the tourism sector, each course within the programme spans four months, allowing ample time for deep engagement and understanding. Upon completion, learners will receive a downloadable EAC certificate, digitally signed by the EAC leadership. The courses are also available in English and French language versions.

The course schedule is as follows: Tourism Marketing (June – October 2024), Sustainable Tourism and Hospitality Management (November – February 2025), Tour Guiding (November – February 2025), and Implementation of Sustainable Tourism Practices (March – June 2025).
The launch further underscored the significance of capacity development in the sector and provided an overview of the programme as well as the first course on offer 'Tourism Marketing.'

Speaking during the session, EAC Deputy Secretary General, Hon. Andrea Ariik Malueth reaffirmed EAC's commitment to upscale the skills across the tourism sector in the region, targeting MSMEs, youth, women, and local communities.

Representing the EU delegation to Tanzania, Mr. Martino Vinci, congratulated the DSG in championing this initiative and reaffirmed Team Europe's commitment to further support the Community efforts to the regional tourism market through the 'Leveraging Integration Frameworks for Trade in Services and CSOs (LIFTED)" programme, which seeks to increase service liberalization and exports to the regional and continental levels, as well as promoting bilateral trade with the EU.

On his part, Mr. Marius Weist, the GIZ Tourism Component Lead, reflected on Germany's long-time partnership and collaboration with the EAC in the tourism sector, including the recent development and launch of the Visit East Africa – Feel the Vibe Brand.

To enroll in the programme, click **EAC Online Tourism Capacity Development Programme**.

EAC RECEIVES ADVANCED TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION EQUIPMENT FROM THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT

The East African Community Secretariat received state-of-the-art translation and interpretation equipment from the French Government, facilitated by the French Embassy in Tanzania. This initiative is aimed at enhancing multilingual communication and cooperation within the region.

The EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge Customs, Trade and Monetary Affairs, Hon. Annette Ssemuwemba received the translation and interpretation equipment on behalf of EAC Secretariat. Representing the French Embassy, Mr. Luc Blanco, Head of Cooperation and Cultural Affairs, handed over the equipment on behalf of the French Ambassador.

The translation and interpretation equipment received includes;

- 5 -Sennheiser SKM UHF 2020- handheld microphone
- 70-Stetho receptor Sennheiser HDE 2020-DII
- 2- Sennheiser EZL 2020 charging and Transport Case
- 2-Senneheiser suitcase power cable

Speaking during the handover ceremony, the Deputy Secretary General highlighted the importance of streamlining communication in fostering collaboration and understanding among the Partner States. Noting that the equipment will facilitate multilingual communication in real-time interpretation during meetings.

“This support is a testament to the continued and strengthened cooperation between EAC and the French Government,” said the Deputy Secretary General.

On his part, the Head of Cooperation and Cultural Affairs at the French Embassy reiterated the Embassy's commitment in supporting the EAC's efforts in promoting linguistic diversity and facilitating dialogue during meetings. He underscored the significant impact the equipment will have on the EAC's ability to conduct meetings, conferences, and other events in multiple languages.

EAC SECRETARIAT LAUNCHES EAC ELECTRONIC TARIFF (EAC E-TARIFF)

The EAC Secretariat launched the EAC Electronic Tariff (EAC E-Tariff) designed to improve the efficiency, transparency and accessibility of tariff trade information within the region during the 44th Sectoral Council on Trade, Industry, Finance & Investment.

The EAC E-Tariff is developed with the support of the World Customs Organization and funded by the European Union.
It is a major step forward in the digital transformation of the EAC Common External Tariff CET.

EAC REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO WORK WITH THE AFDB

EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Infrastructure, Productive, Social and Political sectors, Hon. Andrea Aguer Ariik Malueth, led the EAC's delegation participating at the 59th African Development Bank Annual Meetings in Nairobi, Kenya.

He also attended the 3rd Meeting of Heads of Regional & Continental Institutions to deliberate on strengthening collaboration for mobilizing capital for regional investments. Hon. Ariik also held sideline meetings with partners and key stakeholders to advance our regional agenda of promoting sustainable development.

44TH EAC SECTORAL COUNCIL ON TRADE, INDUSTRY, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

The session discussed, among others; progress reports on EAC Trade in Services, implementation of the EAC Export Promotion Strategy, and progress on African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

PICTORIAL

Ms. Annette Ssemuwemba Mutaawe , Deputy Secretary General - Customs, Trade and Monetary Affairs received the Head of Regional Cooperation at the Germany Embassy in Tanzania, Mr. Johannes Sperrfechter, at the EAC HQ. They held discussions on preparations for the upcoming EAC - German Government Negotiations scheduled for later this year.

The KfW Development Bank Director for East Africa, Ms. Jennifer Worl, paid a courtesy call on the EAC Secretariat and was received by Ms. Annette Ssemuwemba Mutaawe , Deputy Secretary General - Customs, Trade and Monetary Affairs.

The EU-World Customs Organisation (WCO) Head of Programs for Harmonized Systems & Rules of Origin in Africa, Mr. Badr Mouhcine, paid a courtesy call on the EAC Secretariat and was received by Ms. Annette Ssemuwemba Mutaawe , Deputy Secretary General - Customs, Trade and Monetary Affairs. Ms Mutaawe is also managing the Office of the EAC Secretary General.

TOP REGIONAL NEWS

- **EAC launches free online professional tourism courses to heighten capacity**

  Tourism practitioners in East Africa can now enhance their skills and expertise through a comprehensive suite of professional courses following the launch of EAC Online Tourism Capacity Development Programme.. MORE

- **East Africa economy defies climate shocks, conflict to triple growth**

  East Africa's economy is projected to grow at 4.9 percent, more than triple the 1.5 percent growth rate recorded last year, defying the impact of the recently experienced floods and war in Sudan. MORE

- **Presidents Ruto, Samia eye trade deals with South Korea**

  East African leaders expect to close trade deals with South Korea during the first-ever Korea-Africa Summit, in which Seoul joins other major capitals such as Washington, Beijing, Moscow, New Delhi, Rome, London and Brussels to invite African leaders.Kenya's President William Ruto is expected to arrive on Monday evening. Some 54 African leaders or their representatives began arriving in Seoul on Saturday. Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan and Rwanda's Paul Kagame indicated they had already arrived. Uganda is being represented by Vice President Jessica Alupo. MORE

- **African Union sets August 6 deadline for Commission posts applicants**

  The African Union has opened the floor for aspirants of the upcoming race for the chairperson and deputy positions of the continental body's Commission to file their papers, or drop out in favour of rivals. Aspirants are to submit their CVs to their respective countries, statements of vision and how they intend to address emerging challenges on the continent. It is the first step for aspirants to show intent to serve as leaders of the African Union Secretariat. MORE

- **East Africa's devastating floods linked to climate change and urban growth**

  Countries in the East Africa region are reeling from devastating floods that swept through during this March-May rain season. The season, commonly known as the long rains season because it typically brings the region's highest annual rainfall, turned into a disaster with torrential downpours that claimed hundreds of lives, displaced thousands, and destroyed vital infrastructure and crops. MORE

GLOBAL NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

- **Africa home to nearly half of global displaced population, report says**

  A record 75.9 million people are living in internal displacement due to conflict, and nearly half that number is in Sub-Saharan Africa, according to a recent report.The report from the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) shows 34.8 million people in the region were displaced in 2023, up from the previous year. The biggest increase came in Sudan, which is currently in the midst of civil war. MORE

- **Blinken calls top Israeli officials to discuss Gaza ceasefire deal**

  US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has spoken with Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant and Israeli Minister Benny Gantz about Israel's proposal to achieve a full and complete ceasefire in Gaza, the State Department said. Gantz is a minister in Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's war cabinet. MORE

- **Asia's top security summit is under way in Singapore**

  As US and China defence chiefs meet in Singapore, attention turns to rising tensions over the future of Taiwan. Defence chiefs from around the Asia Pacific are in Singapore to discuss security challenges facing the region. The three-day summit, known as the Shangri-La Dialogue, attracts high-level ministers, military heads and global security analysts. MORE

- **Mexico elects Claudia Sheinbaum as first woman president**

  Claudia Sheinbaum has been elected as Mexico's first woman president in an historic landslide win. Mexico's official electoral authority said preliminary results showed the 61-year-old former mayor of Mexico City winning between 58% and 60% of the vote in Sunday's election. That gives her a lead of about 30 percentage points over her main rival, businesswoman Xóchitl Gálvez. Ms Sheinbaum will replace her mentor, outgoing President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, on 1 October. MORE

- **UK gives date for first Rwanda asylum seekers' deportation flights**

  Britain intends to begin deporting asylum seekers to Rwanda on July 24, a government lawyer said on Monday, although the hotly contested scheme is dependent on Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's Conservative Party winning the upcoming election. Sending asylum seekers who have arrived in Britain without permission to Rwanda is one of Sunak's flagship policies, but legal and parliamentary obstacles have meant it has never got off the ground. MORE

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