

Israeli delegation sign 18% of LOIs in the high level forum in Abidjan



Answering to the WSA CEOs call; WaterWays (WWS) as the official Israel Representative to the Water and Sanitation for all to the Africa (WSA) High Level Forum 2013 (HLF) in Ivory Coast – came with a delegation of 4 Israeli companies amongst them: Tahal Group and Anyways Solutions. The November 21 to 23, High Level Forum on water and sanitation for all in Africa presented an unprecedented opportunity for potential investors in water, sanitation and affordable housing businesses in Africa. The delegation signed 6 LOIs, 18% of all the signed LOIs and 3 are the in processes.

The forum assembled Heads of States, Finance Ministers, Water and Sanitation Ministers, investors and donors from southern countries and also from the north, private businesses and trade associations from Africa, and development practitioners with a focus on identifying business opportunities in the water and sanitation sector. 32 member states attended and an additional 3 have joined WSA at the HLF, making a total of 35 member states.

Africa is among the fastest growing regions of the world with an average growth of 5.6% per year. Africa is also fast gaining increasing access to international capital, meaning that the potential for investment and expansion in infrastructure is higher.

Africa's growth is largely constrained by poor infrastructure. A study conducted by the African Development Bank estimated that the total cost of bridging Africa's infrastructure gap over the next decade will be about \$93 million a year.

In 2000, it was estimated that 59 million households had \$5000 or more income above which they start spending roughly 50% on non-food items. By 2014, this figure is expected to increase to 106 million households. Thus, many more Africans are prepared to exchange cash for quality service especially in water, sanitation and housing.



Despite these positive trends, the water and sanitation sector has not yet received adequate investor attention in Africa. This state of affair is mostly but arguably attributed to the socialist focused development paradigm for the sector; water and sanitation services were branded as social services with strict governmental controls. This limited the business interest in the sector and led to over-reliance on government investment and charity.

Today about 400 million people living in Africa lack access to clean drinking water, while over 600 million people lack basic sanitation services. Several millions of children die from preventable water and sanitation-related illnesses every year. This realization has triggered the call for a shift in the development orientation for Africa's water and sanitation sector from social to the inclusion of more economic and financial models.

With focus on south-south cooperation for water and sanitation sector growth in Africa, the 2013 High Level Forum provides the platform for exploring business opportunities with potential partners from India, China, Turkey, Israel, Malaysia, Singapore, Brazil, Taiwan, Japan, not forgetting the continent's traditional partners from the north.

The event, organized by Water and Sanitation for Africa (WSA) in collaboration with the government of Côte d'Ivoire in Abidjan.

- See more at: <http://www.wsafrica.org/en/news-release/high-level-forum-2013-expanded-opportunities-business-africa#sthash.o5dUr76Q.dpuf>

