



Africa Infrastructure Fellowship Program

Background

Africa has the highest population growth globally and a number of countries with high rates of economic growth, yet it also has the lowest growth in infrastructure stock.

Despite ongoing efforts, attracting private sector investment into Africa remains a major challenge. This was recognised by the G20 through the creation of the Compact with Africa initiative under the German Presidency, and its continuation under the Argentine Presidency.

The private sector also recognises the important role it can play in supporting these efforts, however concerns remain about African countries' perceived and real lack of both technical capacity and awareness of the need to provide a stable investment environment and a pipeline of bankable projects.

Opportunity

To address these challenges, the private sector, the Global Infrastructure Hub (GI Hub) and the World Economic Forum have partnered to create the *Africa Infrastructure Fellowship Program* (AIFP). This is a unique initiative to help African governments strengthen internal procurement capability by training and retaining key officials in procurement agencies.

The AIFP will be a 6-month capability building program that will give participants a robust understanding of procurement, governance and the role of the private sector in infrastructure projects.

The program will provide participants with a mix of theoretical and practical training, opportunities to work within major private sector companies, and lead to the establishment of a strong network of infrastructure practitioners across Africa.

Program outline

The components of the program will be tailored to the needs of each country, but at its core, the AIFP will be made up of the following elements:

- 1) 3-day introduction to infrastructure procurement and networking with peers (provided by GI Hub).
- 2) Tutoring and examination through the MDBs' PPP Certification course.
- 3) 2-week intensive course in infrastructure procurement (provided by selected universities).
- 4) 2-month placement in a private sector company's infrastructure team.
- 5) Ongoing support for 12 months following the program, including twice-yearly AIFP related events hosted by the GI Hub.

Key dates

June 2018: Invitation to sponsor companies to join the AIFP and provide in-principle support

July 2018: Launch of the AIFP, including funding partners (Paris)

August 2018: Creation of the AIFP advisory body

August 2018: Establishment of corporate entity, including Board structure

October 2018: Target countries approached for participant EOIs

February 2019: First participants arrive for induction

Supporting organisations

- French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs
- Meridiam
- World Economic Forum

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