

Press release

For Immediate Release

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Global Trade Review (GTR) returned to London on October 5-6 for the GTR Africa Trade & Infrastructure Finance Conference 2016

Global Trade Review (GTR), the world's leading news source, publisher and event organiser for the global trade, commodity, export and supply chain finance industries returned to London for the second instalment of its Africa Trade & Infrastructure Finance Conference 2016.

Building on the wealth of African expertise present in London and emphasising an innovative approach to the standard conference format, the conference provided practical 'how-to' guidance and maximum audience interaction throughout a range of high-level debates, onstage roundtables and interviews, in-depth case studies and classroom-style breakouts, giving delegates the chance to have their say and get involved with timely discussions.

"This year's event is hugely well timed in providing the opportunity to reflect on a momentous last 12 months in African trade and also in the UK trade landscape," says Jeff Ando, Head of Conference Production at GTR. "The diverse characteristics and trade dynamics of a continent spanning over 50 countries brings with unrivalled opportunities, particularly with ongoing efforts to plug the 'infrastructure gap'. Furthermore, with the recent Brexit referendum we are likely to see increased focus on the Commonwealth from UK companies, with Africa likely to be one of the most popular export destinations."

Day one of the event kicked off with an opening speech by the Rt Hon Mark Simmonds, former Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) Minister for Africa on promoting greater African trade and investment, before extensive discussions and debate on topics such as macroeconomic trends, corporate funding patterns and the potential impact of Brexit. Following a catered lunch, delegates then had to choose between Stream A, focused on infrastructure and export finance, or Stream B, a classroom-style breakout which covered the role of disruptive technology within African trade. Proceedings then closed for the day with sessions on insurance and concessional credit, before an evening networking and drinks reception.

Day two of the event began with a case study and subsequent interview with Plexus Cotton, a UK-based trading company focused on expanding its African operations, followed by a discussion led by **GTR** Editor Shannon Manders on agribusiness. Elsewhere, another breakout gathered treasury experts together to discuss key themes with maximum audience interaction. The day continued with closing sessions on the syndicated loan market and the ease of doing business in Francophone Africa, followed by a closing networking lunch.

Dedicated networking breaks provided ample opportunities for attendees to meet with the market's primary decision makers, giving delegates the chance to become re-acquainted with old contacts and foster new working relationships with those keen to do business across Africa.

Visit the **GTR** Africa Trade & Infrastructure Finance Conference 2016 page [here](#).

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About Global Trade Review (GTR): *GTR is the world's leading news source, publisher and event organiser for the global trade, commodity, export and supply chain finance industries, with offices in London, Hong Kong and Singapore. Its market-leading magazine Global Trade Review (GTR) provides essential news and analysis for these sectors, supported by various conferences, workshops and networking events held in over 25 locations around the world.*

For more information about attending the event, please contact Elisabeth Spry at espry@gtreview.com or visit www.gtreview.com.