



PRESS RELEASE

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Association of African Refiners and Distributors
Press Release: Ivorian Energy Minister opens Supply Chain Conference

The Ivorian Minister for Energy and Renewables, Mr Thierry Tanoh, opened the ARA's 4th annual Forum held in Abidjan 9-10 November 2017. At the Forum, the African Refiners & Distributors Association (ARA) laid out their road map for petroleum storage and delivery systems and concluded that, despite many forecasters seeing global petroleum demand falling, African demand will continue to grow for the foreseeable future, and will lag refinery output.



This consequent increase in product imports will put pressure on petroleum supply chains and require both huge investment and culture change to meet the continent's needs for an economic, efficient, safe, and secure means of meeting its petroleum demand.

The conference welcomed delegates from 16 countries to Abidjan and presentations by oil marketing companies TOTAL, Vivo, Puma, Engen as well as National companies such as Sonanbhy from Burkina Faso and industry partners including HMT Rubbaglas, DNV GL, Authentix and the Cote d'Ivoire downstream trade organisation (GPP-CI). All of these clearly demonstrated the work done across Africa to improve standards as well as the challenges ahead. The conference concluded by focussing on each part of the supply chain where improvement is vital to economic growth and competitive goods and focussing on an ARA Road Map to:

- Improve **port infrastructure** through offshore mooring and discharge systems
- Replace and improve **petroleum storage** with a focus on safety and security
- Improve **road safety** through stronger regulation, use of modern technology (drivers' aids) and driver training
- Reduce road use by increased **rail freight, oil pipelines** and, where applicable, **sea or inland waterways transport**
- Strengthen regulation of **service station** design particularly in respect of underground storage and forecourts
- Develop **feasibility study expertise** so that banks can respond quickly to fund a properly presented project



On the last, the World Bank subsidiary, IFC, showed how, by focussing on the United Nations Development Goals, they can support the financing of projects that commercial banks may have difficulty justifying.

Mr Joel Dervain, the Executive-Secretary of the ARA, closed the conference by thanking all delegates for the open, interactive discussions and, in particular, the sharing of best practice by African companies with their peers from other countries. “This shows the increasing maturity of our continent”, he said, “we, the African downstream petroleum industry, continue to accept our responsibility to change and this conference has focussed our attention on those areas where we can all help each other to improve the efficiency and safety of our operations.”

The future of African petroleum product supply chains will be discussed again during [ARA WEEK in Cape Town 12-16th March 2018](#), and planning has already started for the 5th ARA Storage & Distribution Forum to be held later next year.

The ARA was formed in 2006 in order to provide a pan-African voice for the African oil supply, refining and distribution industry. The ARA represents not only their African refinery members but also many product importers, storage companies, marketers and government regulators. For further details see www.afrra.org or contact the ARA on info@afrra.org