

African
AWARDS *Banker*
2008
Celebrating success
in African banking

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African Banker Awards 2008: Celebrating success in African banking and finance
10th October, Washington DC

IC publications, publishers of *African Business* and *African Banker*, will host the second African Banker Awards, which will take place on the 10th October at the Willard Intercontinental Hotel in Washington DC during the World Bank and IMF annual meetings.

Once again, the annual event, which is organised in partnership with BusinessinAfrica Events, will recognize and reward the individuals and companies that have contributed significantly in transforming banking and finance in Africa. This year, 18 awards will be presented to high achievers across a number of banking activities including retail and commercial banking, investment banking, microfinance and mortgage lending. Best practices in terms of social responsibility or gender equality will also be honoured.

The African Banker Awards have already become an integral part of the continent's ever expanding banking and financial landscape. Entries received so far are almost double those from last year indicating the increasing desire of the banking sector to achieve best practice in their various activities. "The performance of African banks continues to amaze," said Anver Versi, editor of *African Banker* magazine. "The latest figures show that the total assets of the top 100 banks, as identified by *African Business magazine*, reached \$803 billion. This is an incredible increase of 28% over last year's figures – at a time when solid banks elsewhere are failing. African banking is no longer a coming thing – it has arrived and is going places."

Neil Harvey, Deputy CEO and Head of New Markets at Renaissance Group, lead sponsor of the event is also upbeat in his forecast: "We continue to believe the outlook for Africa remains very positive. The deleveraging in the developed world will not impact sub-Saharan Africa's GDP and corporate earnings growth significantly. Sub-Saharan Africa's growth is increasingly driven by the rising resource appetite of emerging markets as well as significant growth in domestic demand."

Omar Ben Yedder, associate publisher of IC Publications added that the role of the banking sector is key in driving growth and development in Africa. "Historically, fast growing economies have a number of commonalities. A high saving ratio is one of them. High domestic savings can help accelerate and finance the investment a booming economy requires. Banks are pivotal in this process. And the African Banker Awards is about recognising these champions in the banking industry and African triumphs on the global stage."

Winners will be chosen by a prestigious judging panel comprising of: Mrs. Virginia Anohu (Vice Chairman/ CEO, MGSL, Lagos), Mr. Aissa Hidoussi (CEO, Best Lease, Tunis), Mrs. Koosum Kalyan (Chairman, G8 Business Action for Africa), Dr. Nkosana Moyo (Managing Partner, Actis Capital, London), Mr. Christopher Peel (Head of Africa equity research, Exotix), and Mr. Lionel Zinsou (Managing Partner, PAI Private Equity firm, Paris).

The winners will be announced on the night of the awards ceremony and gala dinner. This unique African event will bring together the top bankers of the continent, the leading international investment bankers, Ministers of Finance, Governors of Central Banks and ambassadors from across Africa as well as representatives from intergovernmental organisations and the media.

For further information on the African Banker Awards 2008, please visit www.africanbankerawards.com.

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