

Press Release

International Forum on Digital Economy
“How to successfully carry out the digital economy in Cameroon?”
Yaounde, 15-17 May 2017

“We must rapidly bridge the digital economy development gap. It is a genuine growth driver as well as a niche for new jobs for our youth. We should make the most of it.

In its organization, the Government will give this sector all the attention it deserves”
(President Paul BIYA's 2015 end-of-year speech to the Nation)

On the initiative and under the distinguished patronage of His Excellency Paul Biya, President of the Republic of Cameroon, Cameroon is organising from 15 to 17 May, 2017 in Yaoundé, an International Forum on digital economy under the theme: **“How to successfully carry out the digital economy in Cameroon.”**

This Forum is a continuation of the International Economic Conference **“Investing in Cameroon, Land of attractiveness”**, which was held in Yaoundé on 17 and 18 May, 2016. This comes up after a series of events, notably the organization of videoconferences, the "Globe-trotter" of Digital Economy, the National Days of Digital Economy and the holding of the Digital Sectoral Committee. These various consultations made it possible to make a detailed appraisal of the digital economy in Cameroon, but also to identify the numerous existing opportunities in this sector.

Cameroon has set specific areas (telemedicine, e-education, financing methods, infrastructure, legal framework, etc.) to develop its digital economy. The stake is also to create a conducive environment for the creation and growth of enterprises in the digital sector.

Some of the objectives of the Yaounde Forum are, inter alia :

1. creating the conditions for a successful transition of Cameroon to the digital economy;
2. presenting the advantages of digital economy in Cameroon;
3. highlighting the political will of President Paul BIYA to resolutely promote the development of digital economy in Cameroon;
4. mobilizing international funding for innovative projects in the digital economy sector in Cameroon.

This grand event will also be marked by the holding of a Digital Trade Show that will showcase Cameroon's assets in this sector, and will be an ideal opportunity to connect international experts and investors with Cameroonian stakeholders and operators of the

public and private sectors, as well as young entrepreneurs, creators of start-ups and promoters of relevant and innovative projects in the digital sector.

The Cameroonian Head of State, H.E. Mr. Paul BIYA has on several occasions stressed the key role of the digital in the economic growth and job creation. Today, the digital economy is a catalyst for growth, productivity and competitiveness for enterprises and nations.

The Forum on the Digital Economy aims to facilitate the establishment of partnerships between institutions, Cameroonian project promoters and North American companies as well as national and international investors. These partnerships will contribute developing the digital economy in Cameroon, in line with the main areas of the Strategic Plan for the Development of Digital Economy, with a view to increasing its contribution to the GDP from 5% in 2016 to 10% in 2020, creating indirect jobs from 10 000 in 2016 to 50 000 in 2020, increasing tax income from CFA 136 billion francs in 2016 to CFA 300 billion in 2020. The ambition in the short term is to make Cameroon a technological leader in Africa.

Close to 200 participants are expected to attend this meeting in Yaoundé, including Ministers, Representatives of African and international development institutions, Representatives of civil society, digital operators, business leaders, investors, teacher scientists and media people.

These high-ranking personalities and experts include:

- Jean Louis ROY (Canada), President of International Partnership. Academician, journalist and diplomat. Former Secretary General of the Intergovernmental Agency of La Francophonie (now International Organization of La Francophonie);
- Ben Marc DIENDERE (Canada), Senior Vice-President of Communications, at Coop Fédérée, the largest agri-food company in Quebec;
- Sarah CLATTERBUCK (United States of America), Director of Engineering, LinkedIn ;
- Eileen BREWER (United States of America), Director at Symantec;
- Alain LAVOIE (Canada), President of IROSOFT ;
- ALAYA BETTAEIB (Tunisia), Director of ESPRIT Incubator;
- Jean-Patrick EHOUMAN (Cote d'Ivoire), Founder of Akendewa ;
- Sergio LOPES (Portugal), Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Sitvarius;
- Glenn O'FARRELL (Canada), Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of TFO Media Group ;
- Regina MBODJ (Senegal), Director of CTIC incubator Dakar;
- David NKOTO EMANE (Cameroon), Director General of CAMTEL;
- Philisiwe SIBIYA (South Africa), Managing Director of MTN-Cameroon;
- Elisabeth MEDOU BADANG (Cameroon), Director-General of Orange-Cameroon;
- Dr Ernest SIMO (United States of America / Cameroon), NASA Satellite Communications Expert;

- Jacques BONJAWO (Cameroon), Chairman and CEO of Genesis Futuristic Technologies;
- Artur ZANG (Cameroon), Chairman and CEO of Himore Medical Equipements;
- Yannick NINO NJOPKOU (Cameroon), Founder of Kerawa.com.

The agenda of this conference includes:

- a) Day One (15 May) is dedicated to B2B meetings and exchanges between international companies and institutions and Cameroonian project-leading institutions; and to the finalization of M.o.Us. between international partners and startups, companies and institutions in Cameroon.
- b) Day Two (16 May) will be marked by the opening ceremony of the Forum, the Digital Show and workshops.
- c) Day Three (17 May) is devoted to the continuation of workshops and the closing ceremony of the Forum.

For more information on this event, kindly visit the Forum's website at www.cameroundigital.cm

The Minister of Posts and Telecommunications