

# Vocational Training & Incubation Centre at Kigali, Rawanda

16<sup>th</sup> January, 2015



## Address by Shri Kalraj Mishra Hon'ble Minister of MSME, Government of India

Hon'ble Minister of Education, Minister of TVET, Director General of WDA, Joint Secretary, Ministry of MSME, Chairman cum Managing Director of NSIC, Second Secretary & HOC from High Commission of India at Kampala, Senior officers of Workforce Development Authority (WDA) and distinguished guests, senior officers of NSIC,

Ladies & Gentlemen

- ✚ At the outset, I am delighted to be present here during inaugural ceremony of India-Africa Vocational Training & Incubation Centre. This is my first visit to Rwanda and I appreciate the warm welcome and hospitality extended to me by the people of Rwanda.
- ✚ Since time immemorial, India and Rwanda have been enjoying excellent economic and cultural relationships. Bilateral relations have been cordial and have grown steadily over the years. Indian has consistently been one of the top import sources for Rwanda.
- ✚ India's engagement with Rwanda has been consultative, response-based and focused on developing Rwandan capacities and human capital. Indian assistance to Rwanda has been guided mainly by the announcements made by India at the India-Africa Forum Summits in 2008 and 2011. Following the first India Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-I), Rwanda was nominated by the African Union as one of the recipients to host the India-Africa Vocational Training Centre (VTC). The National Small Industries Corporation, under my Ministry ,was nominated as the Implementing Agency for the establishment of Vocational and Incubation Training Centre in Kigali. NSIC has already setup similar centres in Ethiopia and Burundi under the same cooperation and further setting up 6 more centres in various parts of African continent.
- ✚ The Vocational Training Centre in Kigali would incubate unemployed youths into budding micro and small entrepreneurs. The Incubation programme of this centre shall provide on- the-job training to the prospective entrepreneurs.

- ✚ I have been told that the programme has been developed to include classroom and practical hands-on training on working projects installed in the incubator. The Incubators envisage transformation of an unemployed youth into budding entrepreneur in just few months' time. This Incubator shall also provide an opportunity for first generation entrepreneurs to acquire skill on basic technical trades and gain exposure in all areas of business operation such as business skill development, identification of appropriate technology, hands on experience on 17 working projects and vocational trades, project / product selection, opportunity guidance including commercial aspects of business etc.
- ✚ I am impressed with the selection of technologies and trades in this Incubation Centre. The technologies include the sectors like food and agro processing, light engineering, vocational trades and other stand-alone small scale manufacturing projects etc. These technologies are easy to run, easy to maintain and easy to source and therefore most appropriate for developing countries like Rwanda. I am quite optimistic that this effort of Government of India will help significantly in bridging the gap of required skilled work force as well as foster the growth of new enterprises in Rwanda and neighboring countries.
- ✚ Here, I would like to briefly touch upon the importance of MSMEs in the development of economy in any country and how India has emerged a strong manufacturing country through the development of MSMEs.
- ✚ Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector has emerged as a highly vibrant and dynamic sector of the Indian economy over the last five decades. It has been playing an important role in socio economic development of India. This sector contributes around 8% of GDP. MSME sector accounts for around 40% of the total exports and around 45% of the manufacturing output. As per the Fourth All India Census of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, total number of Enterprises of the MSME sector in India is 44 million. The sector provides employment to 80 million persons.
- ✚ With the spectacular growth being maintained by MSME sector in the overall manufacturing output of the country, we are focusing on maintaining the growth of this sector which is a very important constituent of Indian economy. MSMEs will play an important role in realizing Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Jee's vision of "Make in India" i.e to make India a manufacturing hub with Zero Defect and Zero Effect policy -

Zero Defect is for global quality standards and Zero Effect means environment-friendly and sustainable products .

- ✚ Emphasizing on adequate flow of credit from financial institutions/ banks; support for technology up-gradation and modernization; creating integrated infrastructural facilities; entrepreneurship development and skill up-gradation through appropriate training facilities; providing support for product development, design intervention and packaging; assistance for better access to domestic and export markets are some of the initiatives taken by my Ministry to assist MSMEs to compete in the global market.
- ✚ We understand that Rwanda's economy is based mostly on subsistence agriculture and its manufacturing sector is dominated by the production of import substitutes for internal consumption. Government of Rwanda is in the process of establishing small enterprises in the country.
- ✚ In this reference, let me here reiterate Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi's Slogan "Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas" i:e "participation of all for development of all."
- ✚ We would be happy to share our experience with Rwanda in developing skills, technology and products for the development of small and medium enterprises.
- ✚ I have been told that NSIC is already extending such knowledge sharing with other African Countries. NSIC reach knowledge and experience in such consultancy services could be availed on mutually agreed terms.
- ✚ I, on the behalf of Government of India, NSIC management and Indian Mission at Kampala, congratulate the people of Rwanda for receiving such wonderful Incubation Centre here at Kigali. I wish a great success to this innovative initiative made by both the countries.

Thank You.