

Africa wants India's help to develop skills

Indian training for skills seems to be in demand in Africa, with ministers and officials asking for joint ventures to set up skill development projects in the continent.

On the last day of the fourth India-Africa Business Conclave Friday, speakers from African countries at a session on skill development said Indian help was required to set up more institutes for training in front line sectors like healthcare, information technology and education.

Botswana's minister of trade and industry Daniel Neo Moroka said that industrialisation was the solution to achieve sustainable development in Africa, which can only be done if the mainly agrarian societies in African countries adopt the requisite skills.

Emphasizing the need for vocational training, Moroka appreciated the interest that India has shown in developing the human capital in Africa and thus encouraged partnership.

Ethiopian Trade and Industry Minister Tadesse Haile said that India could help build up a framework for strengthening his country's micro-finance institutions and small and medium enterprises.

Commerce Minister of Burkina Faso Mamadou Sanou asked for Indian expertise to help Africans to get an 'equal opportunity to compete with the world' by having joint ventures in areas like universities and infrastructure.

Moderating the session, Director General Confederation of Indian Industry S.S. Mehta said that skills development of human capital - the most important component of national security - is crucial, as it keeps the population safe and employable. 'India is very much willing to help Africa in this area,' he said.

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