

2018 UN Awards for Promoting Investment in Sustainable Development

Mr. James Zhan

Director, Investment and Enterprise, UNCTAD

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Excellencies,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to this ceremony for the 2018 United Nations Awards for Promoting Investment in Sustainable Development.

Since 2002, UNCTAD's Investment Promotion Awards recognize excellence in promoting investment for sustainable development. This year, the Awards honour outstanding achievements of investment promotion agencies in promoting and facilitating foreign investment that contributes towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

According to UNCTAD's estimates, global investment needs for achieving the SDGs leading up to 2030 are in the order of 5 to 7 trillion US dollars per year.

Private investment must be mobilized to complement public financing in filling the gap, and investment promotion agencies are instrumental.

For the UN Investment Promotion Awards 2018, 28 applications were reviewed by an independent committee, and 10 were short-listed. They are:

- From Bahrain, the Bahrain Economic Development Board
- From Belgium, Flanders Investment & Trade
- From Brazil, Apex-Brasil
- From Colombia, Invest Pacific
- From India, Invest India
- From Kenya, the Kenya Investment Authority
- From Lesotho, the Lesotho National Development Corporation
- From the Russian Federation, the Tatarstan Investment Development Agency
- From South Africa, InvestSA, and
- From Spain, Catalonia Trade & Investment

This year's Awards go to four equal winners. We will also present three Special Recognitions.

I now have the honour to invite **H.E. Mr. Berset, President of the Swiss Confederation**, to make the first announcement.

Invest India

from India

The agency receives the award for excellence in servicing and supporting a major global wind turbine company in the establishment of a blade manufacturing plant in India.

The company commits to the training of local staff and contribute to the production of 1 gigawatt renewable energy. Implementation of the project is expected to significantly reduce India's wind energy cost and create 4,000 jobs.

Let me invite the representative of **Invest India** to receive the Award.

I now have the honour to invite **Ms. Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, President of the General Assembly of the United Nations**, to make the next announcement.

InvestSA
from South Africa

The agency wins the award for its instrumental role in facilitating two pioneering waste recycling projects to up-cycle organic waste into natural, sustainable high-protein animal feed. Each project will offer much needed jobs in local communities. It is expected to reduce 80,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually.

I invite the representative of the **InvestSA** to receive the Award.

I now have the honour to invite **H.E. Mr. Masisi, President of the Republic of Botswana**, to make the next announcement.

Bahrain Economic Development Board (EDB)
from Bahrain

EDB Bahrain is awarded for its role in attracting a large-scale regional data center, which will provide cloud computing services in Bahrain and neighboring countries. The investor plans to employ 10,000 data solution architects and will support technology education in Bahrain and other countries in the Middle East.

I invite the representative of **Bahrain Economic Development Board** to receive the Award.

I now have the honour to invite **H.E. Mr. Battulga, President of Mongolia**, to make the next announcement.

Lesotho National Development Corporation
from Lesotho

The agency is receiving the award for a large horticulture investment project that will create 15,000 jobs. The agency has played a proactive role in securing the project and facilitating the partnership with joint financing by local and international private investors, and an international development institution.

I invite the representative of the **Lesotho National Development Corporation** to receive the Award.

In addition to the four winners, three Special Recognitions are presented to national and sub-national investment promotion agencies.

I now have the honour to invite **Her Royal Highness Princess Astrid of Belgium**, to make the first announcement of a special recognition – a Special Recognition for Promoting Investment in Sustainable Investment.

Invest Pacific
from Colombia

The agency is recognized for targeting and attracting a seed investment project by a Peruvian company in a region affected by armed conflict.

The project has kick-started sustainable economic development in the region by creating jobs, in particular for women, and economic opportunities for local farmers and businesses.

I invite the representative of the **Invest Pacific** to receive the Award.

I now have the honour to invite **H.E. Mr. Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia**, to make the next announcement of a special recognition – a Special Recognition for Promoting Investment in Sustainable Investment.

Tatarstan Investment Development Agency
from the Russian Federation

The agency is recognized for its role in targeting and securing an American investment in an advanced radiotherapy medical center through a public-private partnership. This center makes the latest oncological treatments locally available to thousands of patients who otherwise had to travel a long distance.

I invite the representative of the **Tatarstan Investment Development Agency** to receive the Award.

I now have the honour to invite **Mr. Kituyi, Secretary-General, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development**, to make another announcement of a special recognition – a Special Recognition for Fostering Partnership.

Apex-Brasil
from Brazil

The agency is recognized for its efforts in initiating and facilitating strategic, financial and technology partnership between foreign invested auto parts companies and local suppliers. It helped create fruitful linkages between foreign investors and local companies.

I invite the representative of the **Apex-Brasil** to receive the Award.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Let's congratulate the award winners for their commitment to promoting investment in the SDGs. I appeal to all stakeholders here to join UNCTAD in supporting their efforts.

Thank you.