

HC's Remarks on ITEC Day 2023 celebration on 15 Sept 2023

H.E. H.E. Senator Abubakar Atiku Bagudu, Hon'ble Minister of Budget & Economic Planning, Federal Republic of Nigeria.

H.E. Lt. Gen. Abdulrahman Dambazau (Retd), Former Chief of Army Staff and Minister of Interior

H.E. Amb. Janet Olisa, Director (Region), MFA (represented Hon'ble Minister of Foreign Affairs),

H.E. Amb Rahmat Omobolanle, Director, Asia & Pacific Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nigeria

Representatives from Nigerian Armed Forces,

Dignitaries from representing various Federal Ministries and Organisation

Friends from Media

Dear ITEC Alumni as well as alumni of various other courses such as PCFD, ICCR GenNex and Hindi Course Alumni etc.

Namaste and a warm welcome to each one of you,

Today, we come together to celebrate a significant occasion, the ITEC Day, a day that underscores the deep bonds of friendship and cooperation that India shares with its partner countries, including Nigeria. It is an honor for me, as the Indian High Commissioner in Nigeria, to stand before you and address this gathering on this auspicious day.

The The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation program embodies India's vision of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," which means "the world is one family." ITEC, stands as a testament to India's commitment to nurturing global partnerships and extending a hand of friendship to countries around the world. For over five decades, ITEC has been a conduit for knowledge sharing, capacity building, and mutual growth. It exemplifies the spirit of South-South cooperation and embodies the principles of equality, solidarity, and mutual respect among nations.

ITEC serves as a powerful tool for forging partnerships and building bridges between nations. It promotes people-to-people interactions, cultural exchanges, and a deeper understanding of each other's traditions and values.

The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme, is the leading capacity building platform of the Ministry Of External Affairs, Government of India. Instituted in 1964, ITEC is one of the oldest institutionalized arrangements for international capacity building having trained more than 200,000 officials from 160+ countries in both the civilian and in the defence sector.

ITEC is about cooperation and partnership for mutual benefit. It is response-oriented, and it addresses the needs of developing countries. India possesses rich experience in the field of economic development as well as manpower skills and technology suited to the geographical and ecological conditions of partner countries. The professionals and people from ITEC partner countries are offered unique training courses in different centers of excellence in India which empower them with not just professional skills but prepare them for an increasingly globalized world. The training Programme is demand-driven, and subjects selected are of interest to partner countries for their working professionals on a wide range of skills and disciplines.

Building on India's vast and rich network of governance- and development-related expertise available in higher educational institutions and training facilities, ITEC offers nearly 10,000 fully-funded in-person training opportunities through nearly 400 courses offered at 100+ eminent institutes in India each year.

The ITEC programme is fully funded by the Government of India. All expenses related to training programmes such as course fees, living allowance, book allowance, study tours, emergency medical assistance as well as return air fares are borne by the Government of India.

Nigeria and Benin and ECOWAS has been a proud beneficiary of the ITEC program, with numerous Nigerian and Beninese professionals and officials benefiting from various training programs in India. These programs have covered a diverse range of sectors, including information technology, agriculture, healthcare, renewable energy, and many more. The knowledge and skills acquired through ITEC have not only enhanced the capabilities of individuals but have also contributed to the development and progress of Nigeria.

As we celebrate ITEC Day, we also reflect on the opportunities and responsibilities it brings. We must continue to adapt and expand the program to meet the evolving needs of our partner countries. We have expanded ITEC and also introduced modalities like eITEC (for on-line trainings using digital delivery platforms), ITEC-Executive (short-term policy-focussed, in-person trainings for senior government executives), ITEC- Onsite and ITEC- Expert (onsite capacity building assignments carried out by Indian experts) etc.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Government of Nigeria, Government of Benin, ECOWAS and all our partner organisations for their continued support and participation in the ITEC program.

Thank you, and may the spirit of friendship and cooperation between India and Nigeria continue to flourish.

Thank you, and Jai Hind!
