

# Sub-Saharan Africa Business Environment Report (SABER)

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In May 2013, Dr. Spring presented the preliminary release of SABER, 2012-13 at the Plenary Session of the International Academy of African Business and Development in Accra Ghana. SABER 2012-13 is the second volume in the series that provides business information at a ready glance for the 19 largest economies in Sub-Saharan Africa. Each Regional Summary and Country Report highlight current features using six topics: Political Stability, Economic Growth, Trade and Agriculture, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), Doing Business, Business Culture and Stock Markets, Infrastructure (Construction, Energy, Telecommunications, etc.), and Health and Social Aspects. Influences on countries and sub-regions from domestic and international entities, companies, investors, and governments are evaluated. Appendix A provides a comprehensive statistical index with quantitative and qualitative tables that have been constructed by Dr. Spring and Levy Odera on FDI and trade, political and legal aspects, agricultural and commodity production and sales, ease of doing business rankings, financial markets, and social, gender, health, and education variables. These data help to discern and evaluate the implications of business deals, FDI, imports and exports, business enablers and constraints, and political stability, as well as development assistance and business investments by African, Chinese, American, European, and other countries and businesses.

What is new in SABER 2012-2013? Although SABER 2011 contained information on China's FDI, SABER 2012-2013 has examined the subject in greater depth in terms of exports and imports to African countries, as well as in terms of infrastructure contracts for building construction (housing, stadiums, government buildings, and offices) energy (electricity and wind power), mining, telecommunications,

road, railways, ports, and airports construction, as well as joint ventures for airlines.

New statistical tables and data have been added on total values of imports and exports by commodity with U. S. and China; health data; telecommunications and internet bandwidth, democracy indices, and stock exchanges indices. In response to outside reviewers, a Summary of Business Culture has been added covering greetings, business meetings, titles and business cards, time, communication, bargaining and negotiation, gift giving, women and gender issues, tipping, personal space, eye contact, business dress code, and practices to avoid. A series of tables have been developed using the literature and personal experiences of SABER's authors and colleagues. The tables will subsequently be put on the

website so that readers can provide data for countries of which they are knowledgeable.

SABER 2012-13 is online at <http://warrington.ufl.edu/ciber/publications/saber.asp> and <http://web.africa.ufl.edu/>

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