

Ai investment awards

Ai Investment Awards
27th October 2008, Durban, South Africa

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Introduction

A smart predictable investment climate is critical to developing a vibrant private sector in Africa capable of sustainably creating jobs, trading within the continent and domestically producing competitive high quality goods and services for domestic consumption and global markets.

A number of donor initiatives exist to promote investment policy reforms but there remains a need for businesses operating in Africa to interact with these programs and policy makers from African governments to work through investment climate issues and specific regulatory bottlenecks stifling important investment projects.

Good news investment stories in Africa are rarely reported by most Western media organizations. To attract more investment the Africa's investment profile needs to be raised showcasing genuine examples of outstanding investment leadership and success. It is no longer disputed that increased investment leads to jobs, development and taxes much needed tax revenues for public sector anti poverty programs.

The *Ai Investment Climate Summit* is a business forum designed to facilitate action to highlight and address project specific investment climate challenges and through the *Ai Investment Awards* shed light on Africa's investment success stories.

When and Where

The Awards will be held on **27th November 2008, Durban, SA** alongside *Ai Investment Climate Summit* 27th & 28th November 2008.

Categories

- Best initiative in support of the Millennium Development Goals
- Smart regulation
- Bank of the Year
- Venture Capital Deal of the Year
- Financial Consultancy of the Year
- Institutional Investor of the Year
- Investment Promotion Agency of the Year
- Sustainable Investment in Africa
- Best Initiative in Support of SME Development
- Business report Awards
- Employer of the Year
- African Businesswoman of the Year
- African Business Leader of the Year
- International Business Leader of the Year
- Young Investment Professional of the Year
- Carbon Finance Deal of the Year
- Africa Business Association of the Year

General Entry Criteria (applicable to all categories)

There are specific criteria for each category. However, entrants should also note the general criteria and where applicable include how these relate to their activities.

- Investment in people and human development
- Capacity building and knowledge transfer
- Job creation
- Environmental preservation
- Good corporate citizenship
- Sustainable community development
- Innovation
- Intra African trade and regional economic development
- Public private partnerships
- Communications and promotion of activities

Category Specific Criteria

Separate criteria are set out each of each category. Details of the criteria are given below along with suggestions on the companies who may enter each of the categories.

1. Best Initiative in Support of the Millennium Development Goals

Who should enter?

This category is open to businesses, governments and government agencies, NGOs and multilateral agencies.

Criteria:

Nominations should explain how the entrant's activities have supported the achievement of one or more of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), as follows:

- On which MDG (s) your organisation is focusing
- How are you directing your activities to achieving this goal?
- What activities / programmes / initiatives are taking place:
 - a) In the workplace?
 - b) In the local community?
 - c) Through company policy?
 - d) Through lobbying activities?
- How are you measuring, reporting and communicating your activities?

Please ensure that any programme entered in this category has been operational for at least one year and can demonstrate tangible results.

2. Smart Regulation

Who should enter?

This award is open to both public and private sector organisations that have been instrumental in improving the regulatory environment and creating favourable conditions for business.

Criteria:

Judges will be looking for evidence of:

- Inclusion of measures to adopt smart regulation in poverty reduction and economic growth policies
- Commitment to building capacity within a government or business community to promote and implement an improved regulatory environment
- Degree to which there has been activity – internally or externally – to raise awareness of the importance of smart regulation
- Promotion of private sector views in the development of policy and a dialogue between government and business
- Examples of how programmes have been implemented and the measures of success which have been seen
- Facilitation of cross boarder trade

3. Bank of the Year

Who should enter?

This category is open to banks at global, regional or national levels.

Criteria:

In addition to stable growth and performance banks should demonstrate how their banking structure and strategy will equip them for future developments in their market. Organisations are asked to demonstrate how they have made provision of finance to respond to the needs of SME-s and those seeking Micro finance.

Judges will look for:

- Stable and sustainable growth and performance
- Plans for future development
- Provision of finance for those traditionally excluded from the formal sector
- Advice and expertise passed onto small scale business to promote development
- Facilities and services for small business
- Access to finance in rural areas

4. Venture Capital Deal of the Year

Who should enter?

This category is open to venture capital and private equity providers.

The deal submitted for this award should have been completed between 30 August 2007 and 30 August 2008. **The deal entered should have been closed before submission for the awards.**

Criteria:

Judges will be looking for evidence of:

- Innovation in the deal structure to optimise effectiveness (in particular, judges will be looking at how management is incentivised both in terms of profitability and corporate social responsibility)
- Consideration of all stakeholders in implementation of deal
- Keen appreciation of risks, appropriate mitigation measures and potential rewards.
- A reputation for integrity and working effectively
- A deal that pushes the boundaries in terms of location, size and industry and has effectively overcome normal barriers.

5. Financial Consultancy of the Year

Who should enter?

This category is open to banks, investment banks, development banks, providers of finance, law firms or other bodies involved in facilitating deals and transactions.

Criteria:

Judges will be looking for evidence of:

- Support for the development of Africa's capital markets
- Facilitation of local currency transactions
- Efforts to support the sustainable growth of local markets
- Contribution to the debate on the development of Africa's capital markets
- Consistent involvement and commitment to financial transactions in Africa
- Adoption of global best practices in Africa

6. Institutional Investor of the Year

Who should enter?

This category is open to pension funds, banks, provident funds, asset managers, investment banks or other bodies involved in facilitating institutional investments.

Criteria:

Judges will be looking for evidence of:

- Support for the development of Africa's pension and capital markets
- Efforts to support the skills development and sustainable growth of local markets
- Contribution to the debate on the development of pension fund reform
- Commitment to stimulating increased private investment
- Allocation of investable funds - innovation and balanced investment of funds
- Assurance that a percentage of funds are allocated in country of regionally (please provide details)
- Return on investment
- Socially responsible investing
- Transparency and good governance

7. Investment Promotion Agency of the Year

Who should enter?

This award is open to government investment promotion agencies, private and multilateral organisations involved in investment promotion

Criteria:

Investment promotion agencies should submit evidence of:

- Investments including value of projects brought in through the networks of the IPA
- Information on how investment has increased over the past three years through the efforts of the Investment Promotion Agency
- Efforts to promote FDI, communication and promotional activities.
- Activities working with governments and agencies to reduce bureaucracy and facilitate investment process for foreign investors. Achievement of the idea of the “one stop shop”
- How submissions for investment projects are followed up and investors are guided through the investment process

8. Sustainable Investment in Africa

Who should enter?

This award is open to any business operating within Africa. **Entries should be for current operations, programmes or policies rather than future programmes or policies.**

Criteria:

This award will assess how business is carried out in one or more of the following areas:

- Environmental preservation
- Long term planning to mitigate against environmental degradation
- Good Governance
- Clarity of Reporting
- Access and Equal opportunities
- Role within and long term commitment to the local community
- Ownership and supply chain

Where possible companies should indicate that they have sought to gain a recognised certification for good business practice.

9. Best Initiative in Support of SME Development

Who should enter?

This award is open to companies and organisations that have demonstrated support of the development of small and medium sized enterprises. **Programmes or policies entered should be operational with evidence of results rather than future programmes.**

Criteria:

While the award is for a specific programme or initiative, it should fit within a broader ongoing strategy demonstrating leadership in support of SMEs. Entrants should demonstrate:

- A programme which addresses an appropriate balance between felt and real needs of SMEs
- Clear actions either during or recommended by programme towards facilitating creation or growth of SMEs
- Impact assessment
- Indication of how programme fits in broader, ongoing context and/or strategy to support SMEs
- Programme supports SMEs in their corporate citizenship
- Communication of the successes of the programme as a role model for others

10. Business Report Award

Who should enter?

This award is open to all companies operating in Africa that have issued a non-financial report on their business.

Criteria:

Judges will assess how well the report addresses the following:

- Membership of relevant associations and industry bodies
- Clarity of communication
- Narrative outline of strategy, initiatives, case studies
- Statistical support to narrative
- Relationships of different aspects of the business and report (including financial and non-financial elements)
- Ease of access and appropriateness of material to the medium
- Comprehensive coverage of issues
- Transparency and honesty
- Frameworks and standards followed, including the Millennium Development Goals
- Third-party verification
- Recognition of ongoing nature of business: historical review and future strategy
- Stakeholder input, feedback and dialogue

11. Employer of the Year

Who should enter?

This award is open to all business operating in Africa either at continental, regional, national or local levels.

Criteria:

The judges will look for the organisation that can best demonstrate how, through well-adopted company values, the provision of stimulating and supportive workplaces and the active development of all employees; it has applied its human and supporting resources to achieve commercial success. Entries should address the following:

- Feedback and career review
 - Education and health provision, to both employees and the local community
 - Training
-
- Measures adopted to retain staff and reverse the brain drain
 - International companies should indicate measures in place to ensure that local staff rather than expatriates are employed in senior levels of the company

12. African Businesswoman of the Year

Who should enter?

This category is open to senior level, female business executives. Entrants from both large established businesses and new companies are welcomed.

Criteria:

Entrants should:

- Demonstrate competence in their chosen field and show how that competence has benefited business or the profession in that field
- Show how they have contributed to the development of their own business or the organisation in which they work
- Act as a role model to other businesswomen
- Demonstrate significant budget management and
- Promote female entrepreneurship
- Be a model corporate citizen and carry out business in support of the Millennium Development Goals

13. African Business leader

Who should enter?

This award is open to both male and female African business leaders from African and international companies operating in Africa

Criteria:

Judges will look at the following:

- The organisation should be a well-run company with financial results increasing year on year, and embrace innovation, and model corporate citizen
- The award examines the company's performance and improvement in its key business areas: customer satisfaction, financial and marketplace performance, human resources, supplier and partner performance, and operational performance
- The organisation should be seen to be responding to global trends and leading the field
- The nominee should have played a role and actively supported in the growth of industries that support his / her organizations production, thereby contributing to the regional economy
- How programmes implemented have been in support of the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals

14. International Business Leader

Who should enter?

This award is open to both male and female business leaders from international companies operating in Africa

Criteria:

Judges will look at the following:

- The organisation should be a well run company with financial results increasing year on year, and embrace innovation, and model corporate citizen
- The award examines the company's performance and improvement in its key business areas: customer satisfaction, financial and marketplace performance, human resources, supplier and partner performance, and operational performance
- The organisation should be seen to be responding to global trends and leading the field
- The nominee should have played a role and actively supported in the growth of industries that support his / her organizations production, thereby contributing to the regional economy
- The organisation should be committed to sustained investment in the continent and promotion of local employment and development

- How programmes implemented have been in support of the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals

15. Young Investment Professional of the Year

This category is open to those under 30 years of age with less than 5 years in the financial services sector

Criteria:

- Demonstrate leadership potential
- Social investment responsibility ideas
- Contributions towards developing the financial services industry
- Recent corporate initiatives

Entrants for this category should be nominated by their employer. This person should provide evidence of their suitability for this award.

16. Carbon Finance Initiative of the Year

Who should enter?

This category is open to banks, investment banks, development banks, providers of finance, development organisations or other bodies involved in arranging and facilitating carbon finance related awareness and transactions.

Criteria

Judges will be looking for evidence of:

- Innovative approach to CDM finance and investment in Africa Investor
- Support for the development of Africa's CDM potential
- Efforts to support the sustainable growth of local markets
- Contribution to the debate on the development of Africa's carbon finance potential
- Consistent involvement and commitment to financial transactions in Africa
- Adoption of global best practices in Africa

17. Africa Business Association of the Year

Who should enter?

This award is open to Africa focused Business Associations that have been instrumental in improving representing private sector views to government and acting as industry and corporate ambassadors within and outside Africa.

Criteria

Judges will be looking for evidence of:

- Improved services to members
- Links with international business and government networks
- The operation of best practice training programmes
- Successes stimulating SME development
- Commitment to facilitating regional economic integration
- Contributions to impactful public private partnerships
- Commitment to jobs creation
- Advocacy on pan-African economic issues

Entry Details

1. You are welcome to enter as many categories as you wish. Please provide a separate entry for each category.
2. Entries for the Ai Venture Deal of the Year must be from the 2007 / 2008 period.
3. All entries from any company, organisation or individual, whether African or international are welcome provided you have met with the criteria for each category above.
4. Entry is a simple 500 words nomination outlining how you meet the awards criteria given below. There are general criteria and separate criteria specific to each category. Please read the criteria carefully before making your submission and ensure that you relate these criteria to your entry. Based on feedback from judges and assessors nominations over the word count will not be accepted.
5. You may also submit supporting materials along with your 500 words submission.
6. Africa investor understands that some information contained in your submission may be commercially sensitive. Summaries of winning entries will be published in Africa investor, however, you will be given the option to omit any commercially sensitive information.
7. Ai Investment Awards is unable to return submissions.

Instructions

Please fill out the form below.

Submit a 500-word submission on your project or business. This submission will be judged by the panel against the criteria laid out above for the relevant category.

Send, fax or email both items to Odetta Konomi using the contact details provided on the form.

Entry Form

Entry Category	
Project title (where applicable)	
Name	
Position	
Organisation	
Address	
Postcode	
Telephone	
Fax	
E-mail Address	
Please send me further details of the awards winner	Please tick as appropriate -Yes -No
I have attached a submission and supporting details	Please tick as appropriate -500 word submission -Supporting materials

Please ensure that your submission and any other materials are clearly marked with your organisation name and contact details.

Please ensure that your organisation name is spelt as you would like it to appear on your Award, should you win.

Closing date: Friday, 5th September 2008 (no exceptions)

Contact Details

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