

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT REPORT (SABER)

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In May 2014, Professor Anita Spring presented the final release of SABER, 2012-13 at the Plenary Session of the International Academy of African Business and Development (IAABD) in Bridgetown, Barbados. SABER 2012-13 provides business information at a ready glance for the 19 largest economies in Sub-Saharan Africa. Each Regional Summary and Country Report highlights the current situation for six topics: Political Stability; Economic Growth; Trade and Agriculture; Foreign Direct Investment (FDI); Doing Business; Business Culture and Financial (Stock Markets; Infrastructure (construction, energy, telecommunications, transportation); and Health and Social Aspects.

Appendix A contains a series of tables created by SABER that provide a comprehensive statistical database, both quantitative and qualitative. The tables include FDI and trade; political and legal indicators; agricultural and commodity production and sales; ease of doing business rankings; financial market data; and social, gender, health, and education indicators. These data help evaluate business deals, business enablers and constraints, and political stability for each country report and sub-region summary. Development assistance programs and business investments by governments and companies from Africa, China, Europe, India, the United Kingdom, the United States, and other countries are also provided.

What is new in SABER 2012-2013? Although the previous volume, SABER 2011, included information on China's FDI in African countries, SABER 2012-2013 examines the subject in greater depth in terms of exports and imports; infrastructure contracts for building construction (houses, stadiums, government buildings); transportation construction (roads, railways, ports, airports); energy (electricity

and wind power); mining and resource extraction; and telecommunications. New statistical tables and indices have been added on the values of imports and exports by commodity between SABER countries and the United States and China.

In response to reviewers, SABER 2012-2013 has also added a "Summary of Business Culture" based on the literature and personal experiences of SABER's authors and colleagues. It covers greetings, business meetings and timing, titles and business cards, communication, bargaining and negotiation, gift giving, women and gender issues, tipping, personal space and eye contact, business dress codes, and practices to avoid. In addition, SABER has developed a series of Business Culture tables that will be put on the website so that readers can provide data for countries of which they are knowledgeable.

Anita Spring is professor emeritus of anthropology, University of Florida. Robert Rolfe is professor of international business, University of South Carolina. Funding for this project was by the U.S. Department of Education's Title VI grants through the Center for African Studies (CAS), College of Liberal Arts and Science, University of Florida and the Centers for International Business Education and Research (CIBER) of the Warrington College of Business, UF and the Moore School of Business, University of South Carolina. SABER 2012-13 was assisted by Dr. Levy Odera, Yang Jiao (PhD candidate, Anthropology), and Dr. Fletcher Crowe.

