



AFRO-ASIAN FRIENDSHIP FORUM (AAFF)



AFRO ASIAN FRIENDSHIP FORUM (AAFF)

Founding Charter & Framework for Cooperation

VISION

To foster enduring partnerships between Asia and Africa by promoting collaboration, knowledge sharing, and mutual growth through friendship, innovation, and shared prosperity.

MISSION

To create a sustainable multilateral platform enabling friendly countries in Asia and Africa to exchange best practices, technologies, education, training, and cooperative initiatives in diverse sectors for the benefit of all member nations.

Concept Note

1. Background

The Africa–Asia Future Forum (AAFF) is a collaborative initiative between the Construction Industry Development Council (CIDC), India, and the Engineers Registration Board (ERB), Tanzania, aimed at fostering professional, technological, and industrial partnerships between African and Asian nations. Recognizing the shared aspirations for infrastructure growth, sustainable development, and innovation, AAFF seeks to create a platform where stakeholders can engage in constructive dialogue and actionable partnerships.

2. Scope of the Forum

AAFF will bring together policymakers, industry leaders, technical experts, academia, and entrepreneurs from Africa and Asia. The focus areas will include:

- Smart & sustainable infrastructure
- Renewable energy and green technologies
- Digital transformation in engineering and construction
- Professional mobility and mutual recognition of qualifications
- Public–private partnerships and investment facilitation

3. Expected Outcomes

- Framework agreements for technical and professional collaboration
- Launch of joint training and certification programs
- Policy recommendations for governments and institutions
- Enhanced market access for companies from both continents
- Creation of a permanent AAFF Secretariat to drive ongoing initiatives

1. Founding Members

From Asia:

Construction Industry Development Council (CIDC), India

- **Dr. P. R. Swarup** – Director General (Nodal Officer)
- **Mr. Praveen Tiwari** – Director, Strategy & International Affairs (Nodal Officer)

From Africa:

Engineers Registration Board (ERB), Tanzania

- **Er. Bernard Kavishe** – Registrar (Nodal Officer)
- **Assistant Registrar, ERB** – (Nodal Officer)

2. Objectives of the Forum

The AAFF shall aim to:

1. Promote **bilateral and multilateral collaborations** in infrastructure, industry, technology, and capacity building.
2. Facilitate **knowledge and technology transfer** across sectors such as construction, renewable energy, transportation, ICT, and engineering services.
3. Support **joint education, training, and certification programs** for engineers, technicians, and skilled workers.
4. Encourage **trade facilitation, investment promotion, and business networking** among member nations.
5. Promote **research, innovation, and sustainable practices** in engineering and industry.
6. Strengthen **people-to-people connections** through cultural, academic, and professional exchanges.

3. Structure of the Forum

- **Governing Council:** Co-chaired by representatives from Asia and Africa.
- **Secretariat:** Rotating Secretariat hosted by member nations every two years.
- **Technical Committees:** Sector-specific committees (Construction, Energy, ICT, Education & Training, Trade & Industry).
- **Nodal Officers:** As nominated by founding members to ensure continuous communication and implementation of decisions.

4. Areas of Cooperation & Synergy

4.1 Technology & Innovation

- Exchange of **emerging technologies** in construction, manufacturing, and engineering.
- Collaboration on **AI, ML, and digital transformation** for industry optimization.

4.2 Education & Training

- Joint training programs accredited by both regions.
- Faculty exchange, internships, and study missions.

4.3 Infrastructure & Industrial Development

- Sharing of best practices in large-scale infrastructure projects.
- Joint ventures and public-private partnerships.

4.4 Trade & Economic Cooperation

- Business matchmaking events.
- Policy advocacy for trade-friendly regulations.

4.5 Sustainability & Green Growth

- Joint research in renewable energy and climate adaptation.
- Exchange of sustainable building practices.

5. Global Context & Relevance

The AAFF aligns with the **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, the **Agenda 2063 of the African Union**, and the **Asia-Africa Growth Corridor** vision. It aspires to position Asia and Africa as equal partners in the global knowledge economy.

6. Annexure – Action Plans

Short-Term (1–2 Years):

- Establish digital AAFF Secretariat and communication channels.

- Launch first Asia–Africa Technical Training Program.
- Host AAFF Inaugural Summit with sectoral B2B meetings.

Long-Term (3–5 Years):

- Set up an AAFF Centre for Excellence in Technology & Training.
- Create AAFF Fellowship Programs for professionals.
- Develop joint infrastructure and research projects in priority sectors.

7. Endorsement & Signatures

This Founding Charter is hereby endorsed by the undersigned representatives of the founding members:

Name & Designation	Organization	Signature	Date
Dr. P. R. Swarup, Director General	CIDC, India		
Mr. Praveen Tiwari, Director – Strategy & International Affairs	CIDC, India		
Er. Bernard Kavishe, Registrar	ERB, Tanzania		
Assistant Registrar	ERB, Tanzania		