

## FORUM AFRIQUE 2019, MONTREAL, CANADA

4 – 5 SEPTEMBER, 2019

### ABR REPORT

#### **African Business Roundtable (ABR) Partners Afrique Expansion on the 9th Edition of Forum Afrique Expansion**

The Forum Afrique Expansion held from 4 – 5 September, 2019 at the Centre Sheraton in Montréal, Canada.



*Mr. Samuel Dossou-AwoRET speaking on “the importance of Good governance in Africa”*

Forum Afrique Expansion, a high level event that aims to promote private-sector investment and partnerships between Africa and Canada, marked its 9th edition this year on 4 – 5 September, 2019 in Montreal , Canada with the participation and support of the African Business Roundtable (ABR) as sponsor in the Gold category with the sponsorship fees paid by its President and Chairman of the

Board, Samuel Dossou – Aworet, who is also the Chairman / Founder of the Petrolin Group.

The ABR delegation, led by the President and Chairman of the Board included the Executive Secretary and the Programme Manager from the Secretariat, The Expert on Backbone Project and the Senior Advisor to the Chairman from Petrolin Group. The main mission of the ABR Team was to create awareness for the institution, its projects and activities and image rebranding efforts under the current leadership. ABR had an exhibition stand manned by its Programme Manager, Lizzy Ashikwe, with banners prominently displayed, networking with CEOs and distribution of promotional brochures to over 200 delegates.

African Business Roundtable’s participation as a Partner provided members the opportunity to access all sessions for effective networking. ABR submitted a pipeline of 2 projects from members to the Deal room, which provided the project bearers the medium to showcase their projects to key Canadian companies and organizations. The Deal room was organized with the support of the Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan Montreal, to bring together project bearers with potential key partners.

Mr. Samuel Dossou-Aworet, who was a distinguished panelist at the session on “*the importance of Good governance in Africa*” identified that “reforms are spreading across the continent as countries move toward their economic expansion”. Naming the success of Rwanda, Mr. Samuel Dossou-Aworet also urged African leaders and international partners to consider adopting the principles of good governance for a win-win scenario.

**Mr. Benoit La Salle, Chairman of the Board of the Canadian Corporate Council on Africa presented Mr. Samuel Dossou-Aworet, President and Chairman of the Board of the African Business Roundtable with the “first African Builder Award” for his important achievements in Africa over his 40 years activity on the continent.**



*Image from left to right : Chairman of the Canadian Corporate Council on Africa, Managing Director of Afrique Expansion, SDA, Chairman of Petrolin and the Président of Afrique Expansion*

At a dinner hosted by the President of Afrique Forum, Mdm. Amina Gerba on the eve of the Forum on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2019 - ABR President, Mr. Dossou and his team met some members of the Afrique Expansion Forum governing Council among which were Mr. Mohamed H'Midouche, Mrs. Almas Jiwani and the former Minister of Finance of Mauritius.

**Mr. Mohamed H'Midouche, a Moroccan and member of the Board of Afrique Expansion, organizers of the Forum, worked closely with the founder of ABR, the Late Dr. Babacar Ndiaye at the African Development Bank during ABR's formative years. He gave very succinct narrative of the circumstances leading to the creation of ABR, the vision of Dr. Babacar Ndiaye for the institution, events of ABR formative years, details of some founding members / executives and some issues that led to the negative perception of ABR within the AfDB rank and file during the tenure of Mr. Omar Kabbaj who succeeded the late Dr. Babacar Ndiaye as President of the Bank Group. Such memories, said Mr. Dossou, should be committed to writing in a book form for posterity and institutional record.**

After further meetings and discussions between the ABR President and Mr. Mohamed H'Midouche during the course of the Forum in Montreal- Canada, Mr. Dossou requested Mr. Midouche to join the African Business Roundtable and contribute to the institution's renaissance, in particular, to write a book on the African Business Roundtable to commemorate the institution's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.



Mr. Mohamed H'Midouche in warm handshake with the ABR President, Samuel Dossou-Aworet

**Compiled by: ABR Secretariat**

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