



African Leadership Excellence Academy



Center for Asia, the Middle East and African Affairs

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1. Introduction

The African Leadership Academy (AFLEX) is an organization with a mission to empower existing and future leaders to realize the prosperity of Africans. However, several challenges have been identified to achieve the given mission. The challenges identified include the following.

- Lack of a long-term and comprehensive road map and flagship programs
- Absence of a complete and African-oriented leadership development program
- AFLEX, as the name suggests, does not clearly indicate how it will be built as a continental institution that works for Africa
- AFLEX does not reach the appearance of generating ideas
- AFLEX has not properly identified the ways to reach the public
- AFLEX is not working closely with the ruling party;
- Lack of sufficient finance to implement expansion projects needed for AFLEX
- The fact that there are problems with the AFLEX infrastructure;
- AFLEX is not functioning as a conference, symposium and seminar center with a good name and reputation.
- Absence of institutional reward and promotion system integrated with AFLEX leadership development program
- Lack of organization (competent workforce, salary and benefits, etc.) suitable for AFLEX.

In order to fulfill the academy's name and solve the mentioned problems, AFLEX recognizes that it must undergo a radical transformation. To do this; AFLEX has documented a large and unique upgrading, enhancement and transformation program. The reform program is designed in the way to fit with AFLEX's mission and vision.

Accordingly, AFLEX has planned to open one leadership development program and three master's schools: Generic and Specialized African Leadership Development Programs (ALDP); School of African Studies, African School of Public Affairs and School of Future Studies. In order to achieve this, 13 projects have been identified that will significantly contribute to the success of the leadership development program through the reform, change and transformation program. The projects are listed below

- ❖ Africanization of AFLEX project
- ❖ Flagship leadership development programs project
- ❖ Idea production and dissemination project
- ❖ AFLEX Publication, Discussion, Debate and Media Development Project
- ❖ Political school establishment project
- ❖ Strategic partnership and cooperation strengthening project
- ❖ Infrastructure project suitable for AFLEX mission
- ❖ Sululta - African Davos Project
- ❖ Leadership Development Award Project
- ❖ Manpower, Wages and Benefits Framework Project
- ❖ Services modernization project
- ❖ A project aimed at mobilizing resources.

To realize its projects, AFLEX has planned to establish 12 centers (Centers for Democracy and African Integration; Institution Building and Economic Transformation; Political Culture Transformation; Working Culture Transformation; Grand Strategy, National Security, and National Interest; Behavioral Science in Public Policy Implementation; Asia, Middle East, and Africa; Ethics and Integrity; Inclusive Leadership Accelerator; Leadership in the Digital Age; Global Leadership Exchange as well as Center for Future Leadership Lab). The Center for Asian, Middle Eastern, and African Affairs implementation is what this article mainly focuses on.

2. Objectives of the Center

The establishment of this center was necessary because Africa is economically, socially, and politically connected to Asian and Middle Eastern countries. In order to further strengthen the ties it had in the past and will have in the future on social issues, it is to create new ties with Asian and Middle Eastern countries that have not had ties and partnerships before. For this, A Center for Asia, Middle Eastern and African Affairs will be established at the African Leadership Academy's Sululta campus.

3. The reason why the center is needed

It is necessary to establish a center for Asia, the Middle East and Africa, to strengthen that Africa has and will have in the future with these countries and to be able to manage the connections and agreements in an organized manner. To increase the chances of Ethiopia serving as a link between Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.

4. The importance of partnership

Creating and strengthening cooperation and cooperation with resource-rich countries plays an important role in meeting economic needs and reducing poverty and providing common prosperity. Building closer ties with these countries will strengthen the ability of trade to participate in world trade. In dynamic and highly competitive global markets, strong regional economies will possess the confidence and capacity to compete effectively. To enhance regional

integration and raise standards, strengthening relationships between countries within a given region and larger and more developed markets outside the region can be beneficial.

5. The reasons behind the center's existence.

It can prepare exporters and importers to compete in international markets, common customs procedures, domestic investment laws and product quality standards; It increases investment flow and credibility. International experience shows that economic integration is associated with strong political support.

Today, it is impossible for any economy to operate in complete isolation from other economies. In addition to the rationality of market access, the most important trading partner can act as a moderator and indicator. Because access to the wider market can be a carrot, the threat of losing such access can act as a stick. Economic events in one country can spill over into neighboring countries; Decisions made within a country affect the country's trading partners; Generally, if one region sneezes, others will catch a cold.

Cooperation on trade issues leads to greater cooperation in other areas such as infrastructure, technology, counter-terrorism operations and so on. In particular, Asia and the Middle East and Africa have the potential to further develop joint trade and investment opportunities. From Hong Kong to Singapore to Shanghai to Tokyo to Mumbai to Kuala Lumpur and Seoul to name a few; In Asia, from Dubai to Johannesburg to Cairo to Tel Aviv to Nairobi to Istanbul and Lagos - they share some of the largest financial services centers in the world. Synergies and current collaborations exist across all regions in the flow of international trade and foreign direct investment (FDI).

It is impossible to win the competition in the world without cooperation and mutual support. For this, it is necessary to develop economic benefits by creating and strengthening cooperation and

partnership with such countries and institutions. In this sense, there are many issues that Asia and the Middle East countries have in common with African countries. Culture, religion, history, landscape, geopolitics, and geostrategy are examples that are cited.

To strengthen social and political ties, it has been necessary to establish a center that acts as a bridge between Asian, Middle Eastern, and African countries in the past. Africa's close cooperation with these countries, especially with China, Russia, India, etc., plays an important role in moving its economic and diplomatic relations to a higher level and ensuring its economic benefits.

6. Regarding the Asian Region

Asia is divided into 5 geographical groups which are as follows.

1. Central Asian groups (Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan countries)
2. East Asian groups (China and Japan countries)
3. Groups of South Asia (India and Nepal countries)
4. Southeast Asian groups (Indonesia and Malaysia countries)
5. The West Asia group includes Qatar and Iran.

Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam are also among the most dynamic countries in the world economically. This is mainly because Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam are among the world's fastest growing economies.

The Asian region is a major destination for investment. This is reflected in the flow to the region and between countries in the region. Recently, Asia-Pacific countries have also rapidly gained international prominence as major foreign investors. Effective regional planning and coordination mechanisms for regional integration require strong regional political will and agreed regional visions among countries.

Both Asia and Africa have traditions of ancestor worship and respect for elders. They share a legacy of colonialism and a duality of language, that of the local and the colonial. Both share a belief in superstition. For example ghosts, black magic etc. Unlike Europe and North America, rice is central to the cuisine of both continents.

Africa mainly exports petroleum and raw materials to China and non-oil minerals to India. Africa's oil and natural gas exports to China account for more than 62 percent, minerals and metals account for 17 percent, and agricultural raw materials account for 7 percent. Minerals and metals account for 61% of its exports to India, while agricultural raw materials account for 19%.

On the other hand, Africa imports value-added products from China and India, mainly textiles and clothing, electrical machinery and equipment, as well as consumer products such as medicine, cosmetics and batteries. There are many different languages in Asia and most do not speak English except in countries like the Philippines and Singapore. In contrast, even within a single community, Africa is home to thousands of native languages and dialects. Countries like Burundi, Ethiopia, Botswana, Zimbabwe and South Africa speak their mother tongue as an official language. Due to colonial influence, English, Spanish, Arabic, French, and Portuguese are spoken in many other African countries.

On the other hand, Africa imports value-added products from China and India, mainly textiles and clothing, electrical machinery and equipment, as well as consumer products such as medicine, cosmetics and batteries. English-speaking African countries, also known as Anglophile nations, are Ghana, Nigeria, Gambia, and Liberia in West Africa and Zambia, South Sudan, Namibia, Uganda, and Malawi in the East. Tourism in Africa has tremendous potential.

Regarding travel information, all countries in Africa have international airports, but for regular flights, it is more convenient to fly to one of the hub cities for flights to neighboring countries. Johannesburg in South Africa is a case in point. Tourists may find that flying through Johannesburg is the best way to get to neighboring countries such as Botswana, Malawi or

Zambia, Singapore, Doha, and Bangkok are some of the largest cities in Asia that serve as hubs for air travel.

On the other hand, Africa imports value-added products from China and India, mainly textiles and clothing, electrical machinery and equipment, as well as consumer products such as medicine, cosmetics, and batteries. English-speaking African countries, also known as Anglophile nations, are Ghana, Nigeria, Gambia, and Liberia in West Africa, and Zambia, South Sudan, Namibia, Uganda, and Malawi in the East. Despite the obvious differences, Africa and Asia have many similarities.

The Middle East has expanded dramatically due to the growth of Asian economic powers, particularly China, India, Japan, and South Korea. Not only oil, but also trade, investment, infrastructure and tourism with the MENA region. In the year Since 2010, China has been playing a dominant role in development finance in many sub-Saharan African countries. countries; Therefore, African countries adopt pro-China public policies to promote trade and development exchanges and support from China (Osondu-Oti; 2016).

The recent years have seen an increase in interest in the relationship between Africa and Asia. The primary cause of this is China's growing beneficial influence throughout Africa. Chinese construction corporations find great success in Africa, particularly in the housing and infrastructure sectors where they employ Chinese labor. One illustration of the expanding ties between Asian and African nations is China's engagement with Africa. Other instances are India and Japan.

if only in their initiatives for the Asia-Africa Development Corridor. Through trade, direct investment, and other means, Southeast Asian nations like Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia have also deepened their connections with Africa. Furthermore, a number of Persian Gulf oil-producing nations, including Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, and Qatar, have shifted their focus to Africa. Countries in Asia and Africa usually characterize their connections with one another as distinct from those with European or North American nations.

7. Regarding the Middle East Region

The list of countries that are always included in the Middle East includes Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. Most of the countries in the Middle East are part of the Arab world. The Middle East generally has a hot and dry climate. In particular, Saudi Arabia is the largest Middle Eastern country in the Arab region. Contrary to what you may think, Bahrain is the smallest country in the Middle East.

Saudi Arabia remains the largest Arab economy by GDP. It is the eleventh largest economy in Asia, followed by Egypt and Algeria. Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, UAE and Yemen are home to many religions and languages, including Islam and Christianity. In addition, Saudi Arabia; Kuwait; United Arab Emirates; Iraq; Iran countries have huge amount of crude oil.

The geographical proximity of the Middle East and related cultural, social and political issues; There are three major religions, namely Christianity, Islam and Judaism, which have long-standing relations and trade ties with East African countries. The spread of ideas and influences could not have happened without mobility and exchange along trade and pilgrimage routes on both sides of the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean.

Economically, East Africa and especially the countries of the Horn of Africa can be considered as a source of food, goods and wealth for the people living in the desert of the Arabian Peninsula. In short, the cultural, political and economic relations between East Africa and the Middle East span a thousand years. Given the realities of today's global bipolar competition, it is important to strengthen integration between these regions.

East African and Middle Eastern countries have been heavily involved in trade interactions, so economic relations have kept pace with the directions of political relations. Investment and trade have increased in relation to political partnerships. For example, Saudi Arabia and the UAE have long had strong economic ties with Sudan. Finally, migrant labor networks are an important part of economic relations between the Persian Gulf countries and East Africa. East Africa is home to a large number of migrants who migrate to the Persian Gulf countries.

Cooperation with Qatar and the UAE has enabled Rwanda to benefit from many investments. This makes the country a strategic center for the economic development of Central and East Africa. It can play a role in bringing Qatar and the Emirates closer together and in the growing African-Arab partnership based on constructive interaction and the principle of equality.

Current geopolitical and economic developments and related strategic and security changes indicate further strengthening of relations between Middle Eastern and East African governments. This is due in part to East Africa's increasing super and regional power competition, where medium and small powers play an increasingly important role. The rapid increase in economic and political agreements reflects what appears to be an increasingly close relationship between governments that are politically, economically, and culturally linked. In general, there is more political stability in most of Africa today and the fact that African countries are more technologically advanced than before is building the confidence of foreign investors.

In recent times, the Middle East-East Africa relationship seems to be moving more towards economic interests. Thus, more activity is expected to increase investments in productive and profitable endeavors guided by good economic logic. As such, the partnership between the Middle East and Africans must be strengthened more than ever to ensure the economic success of their investments and businesses.

The cultural, political and economic ties between East Africa and the Middle East are millennia old. Today's realities and arrangements for Gulf Arab aid, investment and trade preferences targeting African countries must be understood against this background. Putting into context the

long and deep history of relations between the Arabian Peninsula and the Horn of Africa is crucial in all contemporary relations.

While long-standing political and security rivalries between Middle Eastern powers remain active and exports continue to flow to the African continent, the growing volume of Middle Eastern investment, trade and commerce has opened up a new dimension in African economic growth.

In recent times, the Middle East-East Africa relationship seems to be increasingly focused on economic interests. The Middle East and North Africa region (hereafter referred to as the "Middle East region") is located in a geopolitically important location that connects Europe, sub-Saharan Africa, Central Asia, and South Asia. The region is vital due to its location on a significant international sea route for trade and supply of energy resources, including oil and natural gas, to the world.

The Red Sea region is undergoing major changes as political, economic and social cooperation between governments and communities in the Horn of Africa and the Middle East is changing the geopolitical landscape. Infrastructure, peace and security cooperation and labor migration are the manifestations of the dynamics of the current interaction. Policymakers and academics are closely monitoring these developments as the region takes its place as a key geopolitical hotspot on the international stage.

A marketing lens certainly goes some way to explaining the unprecedented dynamics of the environment, but economic investments in this context often go one way. African actors are only able to assist with comprehending the requirements, aspirations, and ideals of political, economic, and social matters.

8. Regarding the African Continent

Africa, the second largest after Asia, covers one-fifth of the Earth's surface. The continent is surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean to the west, the Mediterranean Sea to the north, the Red Sea to the east, and the Indian Ocean. The total land area of Africa is approximately 11,724,000 square miles (30,365,000 square km). And the continent measures about 5,000 miles (8,000 km) from north to south and 4,600 miles (7,400 km) from east to west.

Several islands off the coast of Africa are connected to the continent. Of these, Madagascar, one of the largest islands in the world, is the most important. Other smaller islands include the Seychelles, Socotra, and other islands to the east. Comoros; Mauritius; Reunion and other islands to the southeast; ascension St. Helena and Tristan da Cunha to the southwest; Cape Verde, the Bijagos Islands, Bioko, and Sao Tome and Principe to the west; and the Azores and Madeira, and the Canary Islands to the northwest.

The continent is bisected by the equator, so most of Africa lies in the tropics. It is bounded on the north by the Tropic of Cancer and on the south by the Tropic of Capricorn. Most of Africa lies north of the equator. Africa is crossed from north to south by the Prime Meridian (0° longitude), which is a short distance east of Accra, Ghana.

In general, the efforts of economic cooperation and diplomatic relations with these countries will give an opportunity to get financial support on the one hand, and on the other hand, it will strengthen the possibility that Ethiopia can serve as a bridge to connect Africa with Asian and Middle Eastern countries. On the other hand, the countries of the Middle East, especially Turkey; United Arab Emirates; Kuyt and Loch in finance; with weapons; We will not forget for a moment the help/help you gave to our country Ethiopia in technology. First, South Africa and soon Ethiopia became members of BRICS; Friendship and strong ties between Asia and the Middle East; And the fact that they are rich in resources and have many other binding issues will make Africa's future friendship with Asian and Middle Eastern countries more effective.

It is a recent memory that the European Union and the Security Council have held more than ten meetings to impose sanctions on our country Ethiopia during the war in the Tigray region in the past years. In all these gatherings, Russia has been instrumental in thwarting the conspiracy hatched by the Westerners and the United States. China The contribution of India and other countries in standing by Ethiopia will never be forgotten. In general, the countries of Asia and the Middle East have huge and rich resource areas, promising access to markets, so they are very important to accelerate Africa's development.

The fact that there are many issues in common with Africa and that they are brotherly countries for future global cooperation; It will create a favorable environment for partnership and support to continue to be strengthened. For this, at the African Leadership Academy of Excellence in Asia at the Sululta Campus; Necessary preparations are being made to establish a center for the Middle East and African partnership. This is very promising for Africa.

9. The need for establishing a center for Middle East and African affairs

The main reasons for establishing the center are as follows.

- Given Africa's geographical, historical and cultural proximity to the Middle East and Asia, it is of great importance to establish a center that focuses on those areas;
- Because Africa and the Middle East and Asia are closely connected by the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean;
- Geopolitically and geostrategically, because the connection of the three areas is of great importance;

- The fact that Asia (China, India, Japan...) and the Middle East (Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and Israel) represent the future of the world in terms of economic and political influence;
- Ethiopia being the seat of the African Union and the gateway to Africa;
- To strengthen the relationship between China and the Middle East like never before;
- To carry out research on the international level of the countries;
- In other African countries, the economic relations that Africa has and will continue to have with Asian and Middle Eastern countries; Since there is no coordinating institution in terms of making sustainable political and social ties;
- AFLEX is appropriate in terms of its given mission for Africa.

9.1 The main activities of the center

- Prepares and implement the strategic plan of the center,
- Monitor and evaluate the performance the center properly.
- Prepare fund mobilizing strategy and send for donors and partners.
- Implement budget and the resources properly;
- Conduct research regarding the problems of Asia, the Middle East and African countries, the main causes of their problems and their solutions;
- Hire senior staff and researchers who have the best knowledge, skills and experience in the field.
- Creates discussion forums with the relevant parties;
- Build the capacity of the center's staff
- Benchmark the best practices of other countries and expand the practice to its enter's mission.

9.2 The organization of the center

The center for Asia, the Middle East and Africa will have the following organizations.

(a) In terms of manpower

- There will be one director and one deputy director who have the best leadership skills in the field and can manage the operations of the center efficiently.
- Two support staff and 10 professors from local and other African countries who carry out the work of the center efficiently.
- Coaches and researchers with in-depth knowledge and extensive work experience in international relations who will be assigned through competition.

(b) In terms of infrastructure

- The center will have a standard modern building equipped with resources to carry out its work efficiently;
- There will be two departments where research and training based on international relations will be conducted;
- The center will have a fully equipped symposium hall that can accommodate 500 people at a time; Likewise, it will have 10 modern Syndicate Rooms that can accommodate 50 people at a time;
- Besides this, the center will have 500 modern dormitories that can accommodate 500 people at a time;
- There will be 13 offices for one director, 10 professors and two administrative staff for a total of 13 people;
- Regarding the salary and benefit payment of the center's professionals, it will be covered with secondment option or project resources.

(c) In terms of technology and resources

- Facilities suitable for the achievement of the mission of the center will be provided.
- It will have complete ICT infrastructure development and broadband internet service;
- Modern electronic resources (laptop, computer, CCTV, etc.) will be provided.

(d) Affiliates of the Centre

i. Local institutions

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Addis Ababa University

ii. Continental institutions

- African Union,
- IGAD,

iii. International institutions

- World Bank
- Russia India
- China
- Japan
- Taiwan
- Saudi Arabia
- United Arab Emirates
- Qatar;
- Etc