

African Corporate Governance Conference Network (ACGN) bi-annual meeting and conference hosted in Windhoek (Namibia) from 7 – 9 March 2018.

The Institute of Corporate Governance (Namibia) hosted the 12th African Corporate Governance Network (ACGN) bi-annual meeting and conference from 7 - 9 March 2018, at the Safari Hotel and Conference Centre in the Namibian capital city, Windhoek.

The Conference was held under the theme, “*corporate governance as a driver of sustainable economic development*” drawing the brightest minds to embrace challenges, forge solutions and define the future of governance both in Namibia and on the African continent. The format consisted of presentations and panel discussions relevant to:

- Governance as a driver of value creation in Africa;
- Governance as an incentive for foreign direct investment;
- Role of Capital Markets in strengthening Corporate Governance;
- Governance perspectives from the African Development Bank, UNECA and WEF;
- Corporate Governance as a source of Competitive Advantage for Namibian businesses;
- SOE Governance: Challenges and Opportunities

The keynote address was delivered by the Namibian Minister of Public Enterprises, Honourable Leon Jooste, whilst the 2-day event featured an impressive roster of globally revered governance experts, including Judge Professor Mervyn King (AGGN Ambassador); Patrick Chisanga (Governance Consultant and Member of the IFC Private Sector Advisory Forum); Mr Said Kambi (ACGN Chair and CEO: IOD Tanzania); Dr Daniel Malan (Executive Director - Centre for Corporate Governance in Africa); Dr Nassim Oulmane (Chief of the Green Economy and Natural Resources Section at ECA); and Dr Lucy Newman (CEO of FITC Nigeria). Local speakers included prominent corporate personalities such as Mr Sven Thieme (NCCI and Olthaver & List Group); Ms Kauna Ndilula (MD of BFS Nampro Fund); Mr Mihe Gaomab II (Executive Director AfDB); and Mr Steve Galloway (ICG Namibia director).

Mr. Escher Luaanda – Chairperson of ICG (Namibia) proudly stated that the event was hosted in collaboration with the Namibian Stock Exchange, the Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the African Corporate Governance Network. “Responsible businesses are now expected to engage in business practices that create sustainable value in the long term. We need to work collectively in Namibia. The continent is increasingly exposed to serious sustainability challenges such as water scarcity, climate change, corruption and poverty. Hence, our deliberations with the Conference which attempts to link governance practices to positive economic benefits”, he concludes.

The conference attracted governance, risk and control professionals from over 20 African countries, and was proudly sponsored by Standard Bank Namibia, as platinum sponsor, along with Air Namibia, PwC and Deloitte.

The event also featured a workshop on SOE corporate governance, facilitated by Mr Richard Frederick, who is one of the leading global experts on SOE governance which was proudly sponsored by the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

The sessions offered participants an opportunity to expand their network whilst sharing ideas with practitioners across various industries.