

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact:

Felibien HIRWA TUZA.

Communications-Membership Officer

e-mail: hirwa05@live.com

Mobile: 0788899405

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Kigali-Rwanda

Kigali to host 17th Annual Summit for Savings and Credit Co-operatives Associations in Africa (SACCA Congress)

The 17th ANNUAL SUMMIT FOR SAVINGS AND CREDIT CO-OPERATIVES ASSOCIATIONS IN AFRICA will take place in Kigali from 26th to 28th October. The summit will be hosted by the Association of Micro Finance Institutions in Rwanda (AMIR) and National Cooperatives Confederation of Rwanda (NCCR) in partnership with the Ministry of Trade, Industry and East African Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources and the Rwanda Cooperative Agency. The annual summit is organised by the African Confederation of Cooperative Savings and Credit Association (ACCOSCA) - a Non governmental, Pan African confederation of national associations of Savings and Credit Cooperative societies with its secretariat based in Nairobi, Kenya.

The SACCA Congress is one of the major international co-operative conferences that take place in Africa annually. This year the congress expects over 1,000 participants from co-operative financial institutions across Africa and other stakeholders involved with the sector from all over the world. It is an excellent opportunity for the Co - operative stakeholders to promote sectoral development and impact in Africa. The theme for this year is ***Promoting Africa Development Agenda through a Financial Co-operative Integrated Systems.***

The Congress brings together a diverse number of delegates from all regions in Africa and beyond. During the summit there will be a flow of innovative ideas, breakout sessions and specialized business clinics will create opportunities for participants to engage with people of various expertise and create a pool of ideas where everyone can find something to identify with and that can be of great benefit to their organization. The summit is also an avenue for interacting with other stakeholders who work towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This will allow sharing of working practices and a guide towards exactly how the cooperative sector can get involved in post Millennium Development Goals.

The main aim of the 17th SACCA congress is to provide a platform for SACCOs in Africa to create integrated systems that work towards African Development agenda. ACCOSCA aims to unite the sector and have clear and definite objectives for the continent especially in regard to African Development Agenda. It intends to create linkages between co-operative financial institutions and other stakeholders to network, create partnerships, share experiences, working practices and come

up with practical and innovative ways of addressing issues faced by the co –operative sector besides finding ways of alleviating poverty in Africa and in turn push the development agenda.

ACCOSCA is mandated to empower SACCOs in Africa so as to improve the livelihood of people living in Africa in accordance with cooperative principles. ACCOSCA does that by; capacity building for SACCOs, giving technical assistance, advocacy, research and business development. ACCOSCA has had several initiatives over the years that not only act as a networking platform for cooperatives to exchange ideas, working practices and challenges but also to provide training from experts in the sector.

The 17th SACCA Congress guarantees an opportunity for the cooperative movement in Rwanda to grow. It is a chance to showcase how far Rwanda has come in co-operative development and to give the movement a platform to interact with some of the best performing credit unions from all over the world. It is also an avenue to strengthen all the necessary structures so as to ensure growth and as such promote financial access and inclusion.

Key note speakers include:

Dick Ensweiler, CEO and President of Cornerstone Federal Credit Union in Texas, USA.

Anthony Anderson, CEO and President of Government Printing Federal Credit Union and the board chair of the African American Credit Union Coalition.

Bruke Foukle CEO, President, Treasurer and Director of American Heritage Federal Credit Union.