

INTERVENTION FOR ECONOMIC BUSINESS CONFERENCE
Le Méridien, Pointe aux Piments, Mauritius 4 July 2013
Session 3
**« Creating business linkages addressing food security and sustainable
development »**
(By Richard VIA)

Thank you M. Chairman

Honourable Ministers,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, may I convey to you the regrets of my Minister of Trade who was expected to attend this meeting, but due to the situation prevailing in Madagascar, was not able to come. So that my Government has appointed me as official representative to the present meeting.

Nevertheless, my attendance here is to attest and testimony our high interest on this project that our organization is developing for our region. Madagascar is one of its founder members in 1997.

Despite the tough and strenuous situation in my country since 2009 up to the present time, we are still keen to show our unconditional commitment to the values and objectives of our regional body. And this, thanks to all of you, IOR-ARC and Member states, who still remained standing on our side and showed your unfailing solidarity towards Malagasy people.

Honourable Ministers,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Madagascar, the fourth biggest island in the world, is famous for her unique combination of natural resources, endemic flora and fauna, huge potential in mining and untapped reserves of offshore oil, as well as vast areas of land under a large array of micro-climates.

The government defined six priorities to develop the country and the agribusiness is identified as the first of them.

With its land mass, Madagascar desire strongly to become a pillar of food security in IOC.

We initiate this project since 2008 and would like to extend it in IOR-ARC as the main objective of IOC is to integrate a largest space.

Additionally, more than 2/3 of the Malagasy population lives in rural areas and they are a skilled manpower with a long tradition in agriculture, farming and fishing.

Recently, infrastructure projects, especially ports, have been undertaken to improve the circulation of those products.

The “island-continent” is engorged with water resources (2000 km of rivers) for irrigation and energy production.

And as you know, this project needs its corollary, the maritime transport.

We have already identified 3 regions for 4 crops: rice, corn, onion and beans.

Concretely, Madagascar will put at the disposal of investors from IOR-ARC:

- Land for agro-industry development,
In this context, Madagascar will enact legislation to facilitate the process.
- We are increasing substantially agricultural production through mechanisation,
- We need to secure land tenure and development,
- We improve credit facilities,
- We have to pursue sensitisation and education for small planters.

Honourable Ministers,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I'm aware that local crisis produces regional effects.

We do recognize that never the crises and political instability have promoted a sustainable and profitable investment. The Malagasy people open to the regionalization and will surely solve their problem.

You have to believe today to win with them tomorrow. Let's just get together.

I thank you for your attention.