

## Getting African supply chains moving

'The Pulse of Africa's Supply Chains' is the theme for this year's SAPICS 2015 conference, which will be taking place from 31 May - 2 June at Sun City. Several Africa experts have been lined up to share their insights into optimising supply chains operating on the continent.



### Unique challenges

As most people with experience of doing business in Africa will agree, the challenges are unique and therefore require an approach that's different from doing business elsewhere.

Wayne Whiffler, EY's Executive Director in the Advisory Practice responsible for the Supply Chain Transformation, says an entire rethink of the integrated supply chain operating model is needed when doing business in Africa - the subject of his presentation at SAPICS 2015.

"Upon entering African markets, the complexities in the supply chain increase exponentially," he says. "The surge in cross-border flows, local regulations, tax implications, and the lack of infrastructure all add to the challenge of growth in developing markets."

The risk, he explains, is a 'collection' of independent markets and operating units with duplicated functions and limited alignment. "In these cases, point improvements do not deliver overall supply chain benefit. Transformational changes to supply chain operating models are required to improve customer service levels, reduce costs and working capital."

### A problem shared...

Taking an in-depth look at how to overcome infrastructure challenges in supply chains in Africa, University of South Africa Supply Chain Management lecturer, Beverley Kujawa-Waugh's and Professor Hannie Badenhorst-Weiss's interactive workshop is billed as a knowledge exchange session for both cargo owners and logistics service providers, as well as other stakeholders in African supply chains.

With an understanding of the challenges that may be faced and how to handle them, it's time to talk about how to get your business ready, particularly considering the impact of bilateral China-Africa trade growth on African supply chains. Jacques Marais, COO of The Beijing Axis's talk will provide an update on the latest developments, and discuss how businesses may set up their supply chains to benefit from bi-directional trade growth.

### Gateways to Africa

Although infrastructure in Africa is improving and the number of airports is growing, ports remain the gateways to African trade. However, ports face two competitive challenges - the large volume of increase and the need for greater efficiency.

During his presentation entitled: Modern Ports & Global Supply Chain Optimisation, African Centre for Supply Chain Director-General and Multimix Academy CEO, Obiora Madu will identify all possible economic catalysts for optimum future development of port infrastructure and real estate, port commerce, inter-port operation and competition.

The paper he will present will also provide a framework and navigation tool for using the full capabilities of the modern Port Authority in a post-privatisation environment and give priority to environmental and safety issues.

For more information on the conference, visit: [conference.sapics.org/](http://conference.sapics.org/)

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