



Mr. Bruce Shapiro
President
Canada-Africa Chamber of Business
By Email: bruces@sympatico.ca

19 December 2018

Dear Mr. Shapiro,

We are writing to thank you for your contribution to the success of the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference (SBEC) recently concluded in Nairobi, Kenya.

This Conference was important to expanding how we perceive our relationship to the aquatic environment and to advancing how we understand our stewardship of the ocean, seas, lakes and rivers. More than 18,000 persons from over 150 countries registered to attend. In addition to engaging a large number of Ministers and senior officials, the Conference was instrumental in promoting the meaningful participation of representatives from civil society, youth, women, business interests and traditional communities.

We were particularly gratified that this event brought together an unprecedented number of delegates from Small Island Developing States and Less Developed Countries. It was important to the success of the Conference that the program included speakers who would present perspectives from around the globe and reflect a broad diversity of experience and expertise. These speakers and panelists, whose participation was funded in part by Canada, ensured a rich texture to the proceedings and made the SBEC truly global in character.

The Conference was memorable also for having been an effective forum for productive exchanges among participants, and for how it stimulated collective thinking on what we can do to develop a shared approach to the critical issues highlighted by the themes deliberated upon at Nairobi. This comprehensive approach will be critical to delivering the long-term dividends in sustainability and inclusiveness which we believe must be the hallmarks of a truly successful and prosperous Blue Economy.

We appreciated the opportunity to talk to you early in our preparations as we sought to build the Business Forum and to attract the private sector to the Conference. Doubts about the soundness of the Conference vision gradually dissipated as we saw the growing enthusiasm for the Conference. While the Blue Economy is a concept still relatively unknown in many parts of the world it was clear from the thousands of participants that they "get it". Africa has been relatively absent from the international oceans discussion. That will change. The concept of the Blue Economy has been led by small island developing states. They will now be joined by a much wider group of nations. We heard from the private sector about innovative financing available for the Blue Economy. We learned about exciting technologies, new sectors for growth, enterprising social actors and committed leaders who are already building the Blue Economy. We expect that the Conference has left as its legacy the notion of a Blue Economy built on three pillars: Prosperous. Inclusive. Sustainable.



Thank you for your commitment to making the Conference a notable success.

For more information, the website at www.blueeconomyconference.go.ke carries synopses, photographs and articles illustrating the work of those who contributed to the SBEC.

Renée Sauvé
Executive Advisor

William R. Crosbie
Coordinator (Canada)

Sustainable Blue Economy Conference | Nairobi 2018 | Conférence sur l'économie bleue durable
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