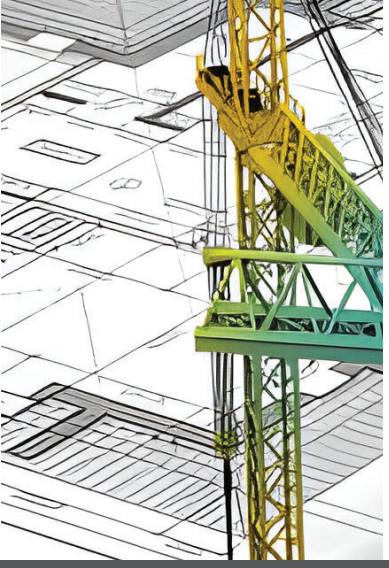
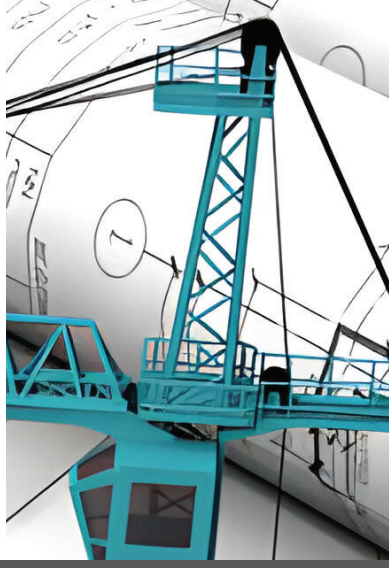


ENGINEERS BOARD OF KENYA
Enhancing Professionalism



TRAINING ON TRADE IN SERVICES

Understanding Opportunities for Engineering Services Under AfCFTA

Radisson Blu, Nairobi

23rd - 26th Jan. 2024

Charges

Virtual: Ksh. 15,000 | **Physical: Ksh. 75,000**

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Ministry of Roads and Transport

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Introduction & Background

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) has opened up new horizons for Trade in Services across the African continent, presenting a transformative opportunity for economic growth, development, and innovation.

Kenya is one of the first African member states to ratify the AfCFTA Agreement and has actively participated as a key player in the AfCFTA implementation processes. Kenya's Schedule of Specific Commitments in Trade in Services (TiS) under the AfCFTA was developed in 2022 as part of the EAC offer and has been adopted by the AfCFTA.

The Engineers Board of Kenya is a statutory body established under Section 3 (1) of the Engineers Act 2011 and is responsible for the registration of engineers and engineering consulting firms, regulation of engineering professional services, setting of standards, development, and the general practice of engineering.

Association of Consulting Engineers Kenya (ACEK) is a member organization whose objective is to promote the advancement of professionalism within the consulting engineering sector and cooperation among consulting engineers,

The Board in collaboration with ACEK is therefore organizing a workshop on "Trade in Services - Opportunities for Engineering Services under AFCFTA" to be held from 22nd to 26th of January 2024 in Nairobi. The workshop aims at bringing together engineering services stakeholders to explore the potential opportunities and challenges created by AfCFTA in the field of engineering services.

Objectives of the Workshop

The primary objective of the proposed workshop is to explore the vast opportunities for engineering services within the context of the AfCFTA. The workshop will:

i. Provide a comprehensive overview of the AfCFTA and its implications for trade-in services, with a specific focus on engineering services
ii. Identify potential state parties to trade with and the potential business opportunities in them
iii. Develop a strategic work plan for the successful export of services

Why You Should Attend?

i. Understand Trade in Services under AfCFTA and its relevance to engineering services.
ii. Identify opportunities within the AfCFTA framework.
iii. Increase capacity and skills to be a service provider under AfCFTA

Who Should Attend

Architects | Quantity Surveyors | Contractors | All Engineers | Technologists and Technicians

Programme Outline

DAY 1

- Overview of Trade in Services.
- Understanding Services under AfCFTA.
- African Market for Business Services with focus on Engineering Services.

DAY 2

- Lessons from the EAC Mutual Recognition Agreement for professional engineering services.
- Understanding Schedules of Commitment.
- Review and Analysis of selected AFCFTA schedule of commitment with a bias on Engineering Services – EAC, DRC, Mauritius, Seychelles, Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Djibouti, Kingdom of Eswatini, CEMAC Countries etc.

DAY 3

- Review and Analysis of selected AFCFTA schedule of commitment with a bias on Engineering Services – EAC, DRC, Mauritius, Seychelles, Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Djibouti, Kingdom of Eswatini, CEMAC Countries etc.
- Discussion and Strategic considerations for accessing opportunities for engineering services in targeted AfCFTA economies.

DAY 4

- Compatibility of Kenya's market access commitments on engineering services with domestic regulatory regime in the sector.
- Requirements to take up the offers and market entry strategies.

DAY 5

- Trade in Services Negotiations – Key considerations and needed skills.
- Review Kenya's engineering services offer under AFCFTA with the aim of facilitating trade in Specific engineering services. Action by government (policy makers /negotiators), Regulators and engineering services Providers

Facilitator's Profile

Ramesh Chaitoo

Mr. Ramesh Chaitoo is an international trade policy consultant with specialized expertise in services trade and development issues. He has more than 20 years of experience in trade related technical assistance (TRTA), negotiations and specific expertise in trade policy research, training and advice and technical supervision of consultant teams. He is intimately familiar with services trade and investment issues in the Caribbean, East and Southern Africa and the Western Balkans. He has advised numerous governments and guided trade in services and investment negotiations in various countries and regions (EAC, SADC, ECOWAS, COMESA, CEFTA, CARICOM). He has provided training in negotiation strategies and techniques to officials in Jamaica, Indonesia, Namibia, Palestine, Bangladesh, the Caribbean Community and Trinidad and Tobago. He also coordinated and provided technical support to the CEFTA negotiations on Additional Protocol 6.

He recently provided training and policy advice on trade in services in African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) negotiations to officials and the private sector in Kenya and Rwanda for GIZ, and to several East African countries for UNECA. Previously, he helped the EAC assess and address technical issues in their services trade commitments under the Common Market protocol and developed draft EAC regulations on Movement of Business Persons and a mutual recognition agreement (MRA) for advocates

.

He also negotiated the services trade provisions of the CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) and also represented 14 CARICOM states in Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) services negotiations. From 2004-2009 and 2021/23 he taught a graduate course on International Trade at the University of the West Indies in Barbados.

Mr. Chaitoo is a graduate of the University of the West Indies, the University of Cambridge and Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada.

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