



PRESS RELEASE

Unlocking East Africa's Potential: Kigali hosts 5th CFA Investment Conference

Kigali, 28th March 2024 - The Kigali International Financial Centre (KIFC) in collaboration with CFA Society East Africa on 28/03/2024 held the 5th Annual CFA Investment Conference in Kigali, under the theme: 'Invest East: Navigating East Africa's Investment Landscape'.

The Conference held in Rwanda for the first time, was geared towards unlocking the immense potential of East Africa's investment landscape. It attracted a diverse range of participants including investors, entrepreneurs, policymakers, thought leaders, CFA charter holders, and featured regional and globally acclaimed speakers.

The CFA Investment Conference featured insightful discussions on various topics including benefits and strategies of gender-lens investing to drive financial and social change, and ESG investing. Furthermore, discussions delved into the start-up ecosystem, highlighting the role of venture capital in driving innovation.

Francis Nasyomba, President of CFA Society East Africa observed: "Together we are laying the groundwork to position Rwanda and the region as a significant global financial hub, and I am proud to be witnessing history in the making. We are honored to have more than 260 CFA charter holders in East Africa and as of today we have more than 600 registered candidates in East Africa, of which more than 80 are from Rwanda".

Nick Barigye, CEO of Rwanda Finance Ltd, the agency mandated to promote the Kigali International Financial Centre mentioned: "Today as we convene to deliberate on the future of investment, let us not lose sight of the broader context within which our endeavours unfold. Beyond the balance sheets and market dynamics lie stories of empowerment, resilience, and progress. It is incumbent upon us, as stewards of capital, to ensure that our actions resonate not only in boardrooms but also in communities across the continent."

Banji Fehintola, a member of the Board of Governors of CFA Institute said that the journey towards achieving investment ideals in East Africa comes with complexities but there are many unparalleled potentials.

"The region's economies are at the cusp of transformation, driven by innovation, a youthful demographic, and an increasing openness to trade and investment. However, to harness these



opportunities, it is imperative that we work hand in hand with governments, regulators, industry professionals, and society at large," he said.

In her special address, Marg Franklin, President, and CEO of CFA Institute remarked: "Within the investment industry, we are facing a moment in time where individuals and investors are thinking more about purpose and how finance contributes to society in a meaningful way."

In his keynote address, Rwanda's Minister of Finance and Economic Planning Hon. Dr. Uzziel NDAGIJIMANA said that the East African region, a vibrant regional market of over 150 million people, is gaining more prominence and relevance, offering vast investment opportunities.

He went on to say: "The financial sector plays a pivotal role in driving economic growth and prosperity. In today's dynamic financial world, the flow of capital knows no boundaries, and it is imperative that we foster a conducive environment that will enable resource mobilization and efficient capital allocation in the region."

On the sidelines of the conference, different entities signed an MoU aimed at the promotion of the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Qualification Program. The MoU was signed between the Capital Market Authority (CMA) of Rwanda and Rwanda Finance Ltd, CFA Institute ("CFA"), CFA Society East Africa ("CFA SEA"), and The FinAcco Hub Ltd.

The general areas of co-operation under this MoU include the enhancement of investment knowledge within the local and regional industry through public awareness campaigns, training sessions for local market participants and stakeholders, research, and mentorship programs. They also include collaboration in hosting investment and finance education events, forums, and public awareness related activities or symposiums at local and regional levels.

The MoU also stipulates that the CFA Institute will Jointly work with all parties and the CFA Society East Africa to share available resources and opportunities to enroll universities and companies in the CFA program at the discretion of CFA Institute. The Institute will also collaborate with CFA Society East Africa to share available scholarships and funding opportunities for the CFA programme.

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About Kigali International Financial Centre

Kigali International Financial Centre is a financial centre facilitating international investment and cross-border transactions in Africa. KIFC positions Rwanda as a preferred financial jurisdiction for investments in Africa by providing an attractive destination for investors with a legal and regulatory framework fully compliant with international best practices. To learn more about KIFC, visit www.kifc.rw.

About CFA Society East Africa

The CFA Society East Africa is an association of investment professionals, affiliated to the CFA Institute. Society is governed by the fundamental values of professional excellence, integrity, cooperation, and volunteer service. CFA Society East Africa was chartered in 2007 to serve CFA Institute members in the East Africa region.

The mission is to promote the highest standards of ethical and professional conduct, enhance financial and investment knowledge amongst members, heighten financial literacy amongst investors and drive financial market development within the East Africa region. CFA East Africa focuses on building markets, investment professionals and communities in East Africa through thought-leadership on capital markets matters, regular engagements with industry participants, talent development through credentialing and periodic research on capital markets development.

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