



African Banker Awards 09

PRESS RELEASE

London, 6th October 2009

Winners of the African Banker Awards 2009 announced

“Celebrating success in African banking at an unforgettable evening”

Africa's top bankers, ministers of finance, governors of central banks and industry leaders came together on the 6th of October at the Four Seasons Hotel in Istanbul, Turkey, to recognize the continent's successes in banking at an unforgettable awards ceremony and gala dinner.

Bankers from Nigeria, Morocco, Kenya, Angola, South Africa, Togo, Ghana, Mali and Chad, representing North, South, East, West and Central Africa, were amongst the nominees of this year's **African Banker Awards** making this truly a pan-African gathering of champions.

A total of 14 awards were presented during the ceremony. The *African Banker of the Year* award went to Tayo Aderinokun, Managing Director/CEO, GTB Nigeria, the *African Bank of the Year* award went to Ecobank-ETI. The *Lifetime Achievement* award was presented to a pioneer of African banking, Paul Derreumaux, the President of the Mali-based Group Bank of Africa, whose outstanding achievements in banking have contributed to Africa's substantial economic transformation. The award for *Finance Minister of the Year* was handed to Dr. Youssef Boutros-Ghali, Minister of Finance, Egypt and Tito Mboweni, Governor, South African Reserve Bank was named *Central Bank Governor of the Year*.

Omar Ben Yedder, Publisher of *African Banker* magazine, commented: “*African banking and financial institutions have not come unscathed by the global financial and economical crisis. But as they say luck favours the prepared. Whereas banks and financial institutions of yesteryears in Africa would have previously yielded and vanished in such turmoil, the banks of today with stronger capital bases and stronger regulatory bodies have suffered severe challenges, but on the whole managed to withstand these external shocks. This is undoubtedly through strong leadership, vision and sustained reform undertaken by many of the winners and nominees present here today.*”

Anver Versi, Editor of *African Banker* magazine highlighted the potential of Africa: “*When all 53 African countries, with all our cultural heritage, with our natural resources, with our populations and with our genius can act as one and speak with one voice, when, as in Istanbul, we can discover unity in our diversity, then the world will see the rise of a power that could become the greatest of all.*” On the continent's banking landscape he commented: “*African banking, over the past five years has not only broken its national and regional shackles, it has also broken international boundaries and has taken its first tentative steps outside the continent.*”

This year's event, organised by *African Banker* magazine and IC Events in partnership with BusinessinAfrica Events, was supported by the African Development Bank in line with its commitment to build a strong and vibrant African banking industry. Sponsors included Ecobank, Lexmark International, Inc. and Centigon. The Awards were held during the World Bank's critical global discussions on the state of the world's financial systems which were held this year in Istanbul, Turkey.

Christian Udechukwu, Managing Director, BusinessinAfrica Events announced that next year's **African Banker Awards** will be held in Washington DC, USA, to again coincide with the IMF/World Bank Annual meeting.

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African Banker Awards Winners 2009

African Banker of the Year

Tayo Aderinokun, CEO, GTB Nigeria

African Bank of the Year

Ecobank-ETI

Best Local Bank in Africa

NBC, Tanzania

Most Innovative Bank

ABSA, South Africa

Socially Responsible Bank of the Year

Nedbank, South Africa

Investment Bank of the Year

Standard Bank, South Africa

Microfinance Bank of the Year

Equity Bank, Kenya

Deal of the Year

Nedbank Capital, Bakwena Refinance

Investment Fund/Private Equity Fund of the Year

Citadel

Lifetime Achievement Award

Paul Derreumaux, President, Group Bank of Africa, Mali

Finance Minister of the Year

Dr. Youssef Boutros-Ghali

Central Bank Governor of the Year

Tito Mboweni

Best Development Bank in Africa

African Development Bank, Tunisia

African Export-Import Bank, Egypt

Best Global Bank in Africa

Barclays Bank

Editor's note:

The **African Banker Awards** recognise and reward individuals, companies and institutions which have excelled in Africa's banking and financial sector over the last year.

The **African Banker Awards** are organised by *African Banker* magazine and IC Events in partnership with BusinessinAfrica Events UK Ltd. The event is supported by the African Development Bank and sponsored by Ecobank, Lexmark International, Inc. and Centigon.



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About the organisers:

African Banker

African Banker is the only pan-African magazine dedicated to banking in the continent. Launched in 2007, African Banker reflects Africa's rapidly growing finance and banking sectors. African Banker is published in French and in English to cover the 53 African countries. It has become an essential tool of the people and institutions who pull the strings of Africa's banking and finance industries. In line with its commitment to banking in Africa, African Banker organises the African Banker Awards to reward the people and financial institutions that are making a big impact on improving the banking industry in Africa.

IC Events

Together with its dedicated team of specialists and extensive network of contacts, IC Events tailors innovative events responding to the most pressing issues in Africa and the Middle East. The events are 100% results-driven, bringing together the main stakeholders and partners involved in the topics tackled to achieve concrete action plans. The events represent a platform to inform, engage, explore and develop. IC Events organises Awards to celebrate excellence across a variety of sectors by rewarding the social, financial, business and political leaders who have contributed most to their field. IC Events organises the African Banker Awards to recognise the rapid growth of Africa's banking and finance sector.

Supported by:

THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP

The African Development Bank (AfDB) is Africa's premier development finance institution dedicated to combating poverty and improving living conditions across the continent. The AfDB is also engaged in mobilizing resources for the economic and social progress of its Regional Member Countries (RMCs). The Bank's mission is to promote economic and social development through loans, equity investments and technical assistance. The AfDB finances projects in infrastructure, agriculture, health, education, public utilities, transport, telecommunications, industry and the private sector.

In Partnership with:

BusinessinAfrica Events UK Ltd

BusinessinAfrica Events is a leading UK based business communication company specialising in live events, public relations, media relations and reputation management for corporate clients, regulatory agencies and governments with a focus on Africa. BiAE provides an interface between Africa and the rest of the world. It offers precise planning, strict budgetary control, excellent logistical preparation, attention to detail, unrivalled regional network of contacts and a top quality database, extensive industry experience, good information flow and the best on-site management.

More information can be found on www.africanbankerawards.com

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