

THE HUB & SPOKES PHASE II INITIATIVE

EASTERN AFRICA WORKSHOP – FAQ

Why should you attend this workshop?

Participate in building a *Made in Africa* programme that will help:

- Southern African organisations compete more effectively in the global trading environment
- develop new, value-added job opportunities
- work to reverse the brain-drain in critical economic sectors
- encourage new investment and business start-ups
- increase economic activity that will lead to improved social services

What is the objective of each workshop?

- The Commonwealth Secretariat is seeking the views of a wide range of stakeholders in order to make the Hubs & Spokes Phase II programme truly responsive to local and regional economic and social needs.
- Each workshop will be structured around a series of presentations, work group discussions and plenary sessions. A workshop programme and agenda will be made available shortly on the Hub & Spokes website below.
- Each workshop will build on the regional consultations by the Commonwealth Secretariat during 2009, including recent in-country visits and surveys of public and private sector and civil society interests conducted by Ticon Holdings.
- A Working Paper on the Hub & Spokes Phase II programme will be made available shortly on the Hub & Spokes website to help guide discussions.

Background to the regional workshops

Information on the background and functions of the Hub & Spokes project is available from the Commonwealth Secretariat's website below.

The current Hub & Spokes project is set to expire in 2010. Following calls by project partners and beneficiary countries for a successor programme, the Commonwealth Secretariat has been actively consulting over the course of 2009 on the merits and options for a possible 'Phase II' programme. The [Phase II Roadmap](#) paper was published in July 2009 and provides the framework for the planning and design of a Hub & Spokes Phase II programme. The regional workshops to be hosted in the Eastern and Southern Africa, Caribbean and Pacific regions are important components of the Phase II planning and design process.

Who will be participating in each regional workshop?

Workshop participants will be invited representatives from the public and private sectors and civil society in the region. Numbers are restricted to thirty (30) to encourage a lively interactive discussion on the future of the Hub & Spokes project in each region. A list of participants at each workshop will be made available on the Hub & Spokes website below.

Who will moderate each regional workshop?

A member of the Ticon Holdings team will moderate each regional workshop. Ticon Holdings is a team of independent and expert consultants contracted by the Commonwealth Secretariat to assist in the design of a possible Hub & Spokes Phase II programme.

Who will pay for your attendance?

Reflecting its commitment to trade policy capacity assistance in the ACP regions, the Commonwealth Secretariat will pay for the travel and accommodation costs of workshop participants. Please refer to the administrative note on the Hub & Spokes website for details on arrangements for attendance at each of the regional workshops.

www.thecommonwealth.org/hubandspokes

The Hub & Spokes project is funded by the **European Union**, with project management and additional financial support provided by the **Commonwealth Secretariat** and **Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie**. The Hub & Spokes Phase II planning and design initiative in the Southern and Eastern Africa, Caribbean and Pacific regions—including the hosting of regional of workshops—is funded by the **Commonwealth Secretariat**.

