



**African Securities Exchange Association, African Development Bank launch AELP E-Platform linking seven African capital markets with \$1.5 trillion market capitalization.**



**Abidjan, 8 December 2022** - The African Exchanges Linkage Project (AELP) has launched an e-platform (The AELP Link), enabling seamless cross-border securities trading among seven African stock exchanges representing 2,000 companies with roughly \$1.5 trillion market capitalization.

The AELP Link Trading Platform incorporates stock market integration, an order routing system, and market and order-book data sharing. AELP is a joint initiative of the African Securities Exchanges Association (ASEA) and the African Development Bank. Through a grant from Korea-Africa Economic Cooperation Trust Fund (KOAFEC), the Bank is funding ASEA's phased rollout of the project.

The launch took place on 7 December 2022 on the sidelines of the ASEA 2022 Annual General Meeting and Annual Conference, which is taking place in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, from 7 to 9 December 2022.

Executives from African stock exchanges, the African Development Bank, institutional investors, stockbrokers, and the investor community attended the launch.

Edoh Kossi Amenounve, ASEA's President, said, *"With AELP, we are entering a new era of African capital markets where all our members will gradually transact cross-border trades from one African securities exchange to another. This project represents a great opportunity for investors and issuers across the continent."*

The first phase of the AELP will connect seven stock exchanges across 14 African countries: Morocco, Egypt, Nigeria, Kenya, Mauritius, South Africa and the West Africa Economic and Monetary Union, which comprises Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Togo. The AELP Trading Link went live on 18 November following a beta testing period. The system is being deployed in partnership with DirectFN Ltd.

AELP also provides training programs targeting financial market practitioners on cross-border investment practices, and investment rules across the participating markets. Capacity-building programs have benefitted financial market regulators, stockbrokers / securities dealers, custodians, central bankers, and other stakeholders. A dedicated website for the AELP is live at [www.africanexchangeslink.com](http://www.africanexchangeslink.com).

The African Development Bank and ASEA have also jointly supported the establishment of the African Stockbrokers and Securities Dealers Association (ASSDA) as a pioneering pan-African platform for collaboration between securities dealers on capital markets integration and financial products innovation.

The African Development Bank's Manager for Capital Markets Development, Mr. Ahmed Attout, said: *"It is our pleasure to partner with ASEA through this process culminating in the operationalization of the African Exchanges Linkage Project Link Trading Platform. The AELP is a transformational project that aligns with the African Development Bank's High 5 priorities, especially "Industrialize Africa" and "Integrate Africa." It is also in tandem with the African Continental Free Trade Agreement's objective of establishing a liberalized market to aid the movement of capital, facilitate investments and deepen the continent's economic integration.*

Read more [here](#).

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