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DAKHLA SETS THE PACE FOR AFRICA'S LOGISTICS SOVEREIGNTY

Bringing together more than 300 African decision-makers, the 2025 Dakhla Africa Logistics Forum marked a decisive step toward building an integrated logistics ecosystem aligned with the AfCFTA. Five landmark measures were adopted — from launching a fully digital single window to establishing an African Logistics Council — positioning Dakhla as a strategic Afro-Atlantic hub and a catalyst for the Continent's logistics sovereignty.



During the Dakhla Africa Logistics Forum, held in Dakhla from 20 to 21 November 2025, 300 African decision-makers gathered to build an integrated African logistics ecosystem. Focused on the theme “A Connected, Sustainable and Sovereign Africa”, the Forum brought together African Ministers of Transport and Logistics from West and

Central Africa, representatives of regional organizations, development partners, business leaders and technology experts — all united around one ambition: positioning Dakhla as a strategic hub for Afro-Atlantic connectivity and accelerating continental economic integration in direct support of the African Continental Free

Trade Area (AfCFTA).

On this occasion, five major decisions were adopted: the creation of an African Logistics Council and an observatory, the launch of a digital single window, the establishment of harmonized corridors, and the creation of an academy. The Council and the observatory aim to harmonize policies, monitor the costs and

delays that undermine the competitiveness of African companies in foreign markets, and create an effective cooperation framework between States, regions and private operators.

The digital single window, inspired by the Moroccan model, will help dematerialize procedures and reduce transit times and costs.

Regarding the harmonization of logistics corridors, designed to facilitate the movement of goods and improve access to

the sea for landlocked countries, efforts will focus on developing modern, reliable road, port and multimodal links, leveraging the Atlantic Port of Dakhla and the Tiznit–Dakhla expressway.

Finally, the establishment of a Pan-African Academy of Trade and Logistics, headquartered in Dakhla, will strengthen the skills of young professionals and executives, helping fill the continent's gap in qualified human capital.

Within this momentum, public–private partnerships (PPPs) will play a critical role in financing and managing infrastructure, alongside the essential need to harmonize standards, certifications and transport documents.

In short, the strategic decisions adopted at the Dakhla Forum will facilitate the effective implementation of the AfCFTA and help the Continent secure its logistics sovereignty.

Source: [Le360 Afrique](#)

ALBANIA'S TOURISM SURGE REINFORCES ITS YEAR-ROUND APPEAL

Albania is rapidly transforming into one of Europe's most dynamic year-round destinations, welcoming over 11 million international visitors in the first ten months of 2025. With diversified tourism offerings—from pristine coastlines and UNESCO heritage cities to emerging adventure and eco-tourism—Albania's sustained growth is strengthening its economy and creating new opportunities for regional investment and cooperation.

Albania is emerging as one of Europe's most dynamic tourism success stories, recording unprecedented growth and rapidly positioning itself as a year-round destination. Between January and October 2025, the country welcomed more than 11.1 million international visitors, a 7% increase compared to last year, reflecting sustained confidence in Albania's cultural richness, natural beauty and expanding hospitality infrastructure. October alone brought over 900,000 visitors—traditionally an off-season month—confirming the country's success in extending its tourism calendar well beyond the summer peak.

This momentum is underpinned by the diversification of Albania's tourism offerings. While the Adriatic and Ionian coasts remain central attractions—with popular destinations such as Durrës, Vlorë, Himarë and Saranda—growing investment



has transformed these areas into year-round hubs. Enhanced accommodation, improved transport connections and new hospitality services have elevated the visitor experience and supported continuous inflows throughout the cooler months. At the same time, the rise of adventure and eco-tourism is drawing new segments of travelers seeking hiking, cycling, birdwatching and nature-based activities across Albania's national parks and mountain regions. Cultural and historical tourism

remains a cornerstone of Albania's appeal. UNESCO-listed cities such as Gjirokastra and Berat continue to attract global attention thanks to their well-preserved heritage, Ottoman architecture and unique urban landscapes. The ancient city of Butrint, rich with Greek and Roman ruins, remains a premier archaeological destination, while the historic town of Krujë—home to the Skanderbeg Museum and medieval fortifications—offers deep insights into Albania's national identity. These sites

support Albania's aspiration to position itself as a leading cultural destination in Southeast Europe.

The capital, Tirana, is evolving into a major cultural and tourism hub. With its vibrant café scene, diverse architecture and expanding network of museums and galleries, Tirana has strengthened its role as an entry point for international visitors.

Increased international flights, modern hotels and urban revitalization projects have further cemented the city's place on the regional tourism map.

The economic impact of this tourism growth is significant. Albania's expanding hospitality and services sectors are generating jobs, encouraging entrepreneurship and stimulating demand for local

goods and services. The emergence of luxury tourism—supported by new high-end resorts, boutique hotels and marina development plans—signals a shift toward higher-value tourism, creating deeper investment opportunities for regional partners, including OIC member states.

Looking forward, Albania is increasingly prioritizing sustainable tourism practices to ensure long-term resilience. Efforts include protecting cultural sites, enhancing environmental conservation, and promoting tourism that benefits local communities. Investments in airports, roads and rail infrastructure further support this vision by improving access to diverse regions beyond the traditional coastal hotspots.

For OIC countries, Albania's

tourism evolution offers multiple avenues for partnership—from hospitality investment and infrastructure development to joint ventures in eco-tourism, cultural preservation and digital services supporting the tourism ecosystem. As Albania strengthens its position on the global tourism stage, it is also reinforcing the network of economic cooperation across the broader region.

With its unique heritage, natural landscapes and commitment to sustainable development, Albania is poised to remain one of Europe's most compelling destinations—and an increasingly strategic partner for trade and investment within the OIC community.

Source: [The point \(Gambia\)](#), [Financial Afrik](#)

IRAQ JOINS QATAR'S \$500M NETWORK INITIATIVE

Qatar's Ooredoo is investing over US\$500 million in a new terrestrial cable network linking Oman, Iraq, Türkiye and Europe—an initiative that strengthens Iraq's role as a regional digital hub and deepens trade and investment connectivity across OIC member states.

Qatar's telecom leader Ooredoo has announced a landmark investment exceeding US\$500 million to deploy new international cable systems connecting Oman, Iraq, Türkiye and Europe through high-performance terrestrial routes. Iraq's participation in this strategic initiative positions the country as an emerging digital gateway for the broader Middle East and the OIC region.

According to Ooredoo Group CEO Aziz Al-Uthman Fakhroo, the new terrestrial network will "reshape communication routes" by providing faster, more resilient, and diversified

connections that strengthen global data flows. The system is designed to enhance the flexibility of international networks and create alternative corridors that complement existing maritime routes, ensuring greater continuity for international business and digital services.

For Iraq, this project represents a significant step forward in its national digital transformation agenda. The new infrastructure will reinforce the country's role as a regional data corridor linking the Gulf to the Mediterranean and Europe. Improved connectivity is expected to benefit a wide range of sectors—including e-commerce, logistics, digital education, fintech and cloud services—while also supporting the attraction of foreign direct investment into Iraq's growing technology ecosystem.

The initiative also highlights Qatar's strengthened engagement in regional

development, particularly through infrastructure and digital connectivity projects that promote trade integration within OIC member states. By enhancing linkages between Iraq, Türkiye, and the broader Gulf region, the project contributes to smoother commercial exchanges, faster information flows, and greater competitiveness in cross-border supply chains.

With Ooredoo's operations spanning the Middle East, North Africa and Southeast Asia, the new cable system will further reinforce digital cooperation among OIC countries, positioning the region as a central hub in the global data economy. This investment marks a promising advancement for regional trade, technology partnerships, and long-term economic integration across the OIC area.

Source: [Shafaq News – Baghdad](#) - [Reuters – Investor Magazine](#).



2^e Foire Commerciale de l'Artisanat des États Membres de l'OIC

2nd Craft Trade Fair OIC Member Countries

Du 18 au 28 déc 2025

ICEC-Ain-Sebaâ, Casablanca



MALAYSIA POISED TO BECOME ASEAN'S SECOND-FASTEST GROWING ECONOMY IN 2025.

Malaysia is emerging as Southeast Asia's next growth leader, with major banks raising their 2025 GDP forecasts to around 5%. Strong domestic demand, robust tourism recovery, currency strengthening and strategic diplomacy are positioning the country as ASEAN's second-fastest-growing economy after Vietnam.

Malaysia is on track to become the second-fastest growing economy in ASEAN next year—behind Vietnam—as a succession of major financial institutions revise their growth forecasts upward. The shift marks a renewed confidence in Malaysia's economic trajectory, driven by resilient domestic demand, a stabilising external environment, and increasingly strategic diplomacy.

HSBC Global Investment Research became the latest to raise its projections, lifting Malaysia's 2025 GDP forecast from 4.2% to 5.0%. The bank cited stronger-than-expected performance across the first nine months of 2025, reduced trade uncertainty, and improving sentiment among global investors. According to HSBC, this places Malaysia on par with Indonesia and just behind Vietnam in the regional growth race.

Other institutions have



followed suit. Maybank Investment Bank raised its 2025 outlook from 4.2% to 4.7%, while also adjusting its 2026 projection upward to 4.5%. Standard Chartered Global Research revised its 2025 forecast to 4.7%, highlighting Malaysia's 4.7% expansion during the January–September period. Although it trimmed its 2026 estimate to 4.5% in anticipation of softer global demand, the bank emphasised Malaysia's clear near-term momentum.

Smaller research houses also turned more positive. CIMB Securities increased its 2025 forecast to 4.5%, reflecting both domestic stability and continued investment inflows, though it expects a moderation to 4.1% in 2026 as global trade conditions tighten.

Domestic Strength Anchors Growth

Malaysia's growth outlook is underpinned by strong

household consumption, stable employment, and a diversified industrial base spanning manufacturing, services, electronics, green technologies, and the digital economy. Tourism—an essential services component—has fully recovered to pre-pandemic levels. Malaysia now leads ASEAN in welcoming Chinese tourists, reaching more than 20% above its 2019 baseline, supported by a visa-free regime and increased air connectivity. With the “Visit Malaysia 2026” campaign ahead, analysts expect an even stronger upsurge.

Diplomatic Strategy as an Economic Asset

Malaysia's economic momentum is reinforced by its pragmatic diplomatic posture. As host of the 47th ASEAN Summit, Kuala Lumpur demonstrated an ability to maintain strategic neutrality while engaging competing global powers—

an approach that helped ease external uncertainties during a complex geopolitical year. Analysts view this diplomatic agility as a key factor boosting investor confidence and supporting a more predictable trade environment.

Currency Stability Adds to Optimism

The Malaysian ringgit has strengthened significantly,

reaching USD 0.24 per MYR (from values near USD 0.21 earlier in the year), marking its strongest level in four years. Forecasts from OCBC suggest the currency could appreciate further to around USD 0.24 per MYR by end-2025 and USD 0.25 by 2026.

Conclusion

Malaysia's growing economic prominence reflects a synergy of domestic resilience, fiscal

discipline, structural reforms, and calibrated diplomacy. While external headwinds may soften export momentum in 2026, the consensus across major institutions is clear: Malaysia is entering 2025 with one of the strongest and most balanced growth profiles in Southeast Asia.

Source : Asean Today, CAN, The Investor (VAFIE Magazine)

BRIEFS

➤ **Pakistan nears GCC free trade agreement, eyes boost in Bahrain trade**

On 27th November 2025, The Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif of Pakistan announced that the Gulf Cooperation Council Free Trade Agreement (GCC FTA) is “nearly finalised” and is expected to be signed soon, a move that is set to significantly boost Pakistan’s trade with GCC countries, especially Bahrain. The PM also outlined Pakistan’s plans to transform its youth bulge into an economic opportunity through training in IT, AI, vocational, and skill-based programs. Bahrain’s Vision 2030 and Vision 2050 plans, he added, present a shared economic future with Pakistan.

Source: Aik News

➤ **Egypt, Vietnam discuss free-trade deal & new investments**

On November 23rd, 2025, The Egypt’s Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly met with Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh on the sidelines of the 2025 G20 Summit in Johannesburg.

H.E. highlighted the growing presence of Vietnamese companies in Egypt, including

EUROPLAS, which built a major plastics factory in Sadat City and is seeking to expand within the Suez Canal Economic Zone and added that Egypt is particularly keen to attract Vietnamese investment in the telecommunications and information technology sectors.

Source: See News

➤ **Indonesia, Tunisia to ink Preferential Trade Agreement in January 2026**

Indonesia is expected to ink a preferential trade agreement with Tunisia early next year — a deal that will give Jakarta’s palm oil better access to the Northern African market.

A preferential trade agreement, also known as a PTA, only covers import tax reduction commitments for certain tariff lines. The two countries plan to sign this PTA on January 2026. According to Trade Ministry data, Tunisia has agreed to give preferential treatment for Indonesian palm oil, bananas, and frozen fish. Tunis will roll out the red carpet for cacao powder and threads..

Source: Jakarta Globe



- Encouraging the development of regular trade exchanges among Member States.
- Promoting investments aimed at trade development.
- Contributing to the promotion of productions from Member States and facilitating access to foreign
- Promoting commercial information.
- Assisting Member States in the field of trade promotion and international trade negotiations.
- Assisting businesses and economic operators.
- Encouraging contacts between businessmen from Member States.
- Promoting the products of Member States, including through regular Islamic Fairs and specialized
- Assisting Member States in establishing and organizing Export Promotion Centers.
- Providing advisory and expertise services to Member States in trade promotion matters.
- Collecting and disseminating trade data.
- Developing remotely accessible trade databases.
- Assisting Member States in establishing Documentation Centers and Commercial Information
- Encouraging intra-OIC investments.
- Promoting foreign investments in OIC Member States.
- Encouraging partnerships among economic operators from Member States.
- Providing advisory and expertise services to Member States, particularly in export-oriented investment
- Publishing an Annual Report on intra-Islamic trade.
- Conducting sectoral studies on products and markets.
- Studying ways and means to alleviate trade barriers among Member States.
- Organizing seminars and training programs.
- Assisting Member States in creating a pool of experts in various fields of trade development.
- Assisting Member States in trade negotiations.
- Preparing and organizing intra-OIC trade negotiations.

Agenda



- **Regional Workshop on Road Connectivity and its Impact on Regional Trade in Atlantic Africa through the TIR Convention**
11-12 November 2025 • Casablanca, Morocco
- **Workshop on the role of credit information in supporting trade and investment decisions**
24-26 November 2025 • Casablanca, Morocco
- **HALAL EXPO & WORLD HALAL SUMMIT**
26-29 November 2025 • Istanbul, Türkiye
- **OIC Cultural Week: Baku Creative Week**
05-11 December 2025 • Baku, Azerbaijan
- **9TH ACMOI**
10-11 December 2025 • Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
- **High -Level Roundtable on Promoting Investment in Global Health Through Islamic Financing**
15 December 2025 • Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
- **OIC Handicraft Expo,**
18-28 December 2025 • Casablanca, Morocco



Islamic Centre for Development of Trade

SUBSIDIARY ORGAN OF ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION

Tour des Habous 11/12^{ème} étage 20000 Casablanca- Maroc

+212 522 314 974

icdt@icdt-oic.org

www.icdt-cidc.org