

INVITATION: EXPERT WORKSHOP



The African Continental Free Trade Area

The Role of Logistics in Leveraging the Potential of the AfCFTA



7 September 2022: 9:00 – 16:15



Park Inn Hotel, Kigali, Rwanda

TU Berlin

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The **African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)** without a doubt is one of the most promising trade agreements worldwide. With current intra-African trade being at a comparatively low level of 14% of total African exports, the AfCFTA can help facilitating the ambitious goal of doubling this number by 2035. Even though the AfCFTA has theoretically been in force since January 1, 2021, there are still unresolved issues so that the full potential of the agreement cannot yet be realized. However, once it takes off, the **AfCFTA offers countless opportunities to completely rethink intra-African and also international logistics networks**. Thereby, the goal is not only to increase intra-African trade but also to integrate African countries into global creation systems with a greater share of value added, and this would result in sustainable economic growth and increased real wages. This **workshop aims to identify current logistics challenges** of the AfCFTA across industries and to systematically **discuss** which **potentials** arise for the redesign of international logistics networks for the respective industries. Based on this, we will **develop logistics strategies** to leverage the identified potential in the long term.

This workshop is a **joint action by the Competence Center for International Logistics Networks (ILNET)** at the Chair of Logistics of the **Berlin University of Technology (TU Berlin)**, the **University of Rwanda** and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (**GIZ**) GmbH. At the Chair of Logistics, a team of researchers is working on various logistics challenges and how improved logistics performance can contribute to the economic development of African countries. TU Berlin is also a founding member of the Pan-African Mobility Alliance, an initiative of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development that aims to develop new supply chains, innovative logistics solutions and mobility services in African compact countries through targeted methodological cooperation between politics, industry and research. GIZ itself is directly active in Kigali, Rwanda, but also in other African countries, in order to support local companies in exploiting the potential of the AfCFTA and regularly conducts workshops on this vital topic itself. In this joint action, a network of logistics and supply chain managers is to be created, which will continue to discuss topics of intra-African trade and the role of logistics in the future.

Agenda | 7 September 2022 | 9:00 – 16:15 | Kigali, Rwanda

08:30 – 09:00	Registration and welcome coffee
09:00 – 09:20	Opening note on “ Logistics development perspectives in Africa ” and introduction to the workshop
09:20 – 09:50	Self-introduction of workshop participants
09:50 – 10:10	Build-up of regional value chains – input by GIZ
10:10 – 10:30	Introduction of the workshop topic and structure
10:30 – 10:45	Tea and coffee break
10:45 – 12:30	Workshop I: Challenges and potentials of the AfCFTA and the role of logistics in creation new value creation networks
12:30 – 13:15	Lunchtime
13:15 – 13:30	Summary of preliminary results and introduction to Workshop II
13:30 – 15:15	Workshop II: Logistics strategies to leverage potentials of the AfCFTA
15:15 – 15:30	Tea and coffee break
15:30 – 16:00	Presentation of Workshop Results
16:00 – 16:15	Summary, feedback and farewells

Language:

English

Registration fee:

Free of Charge



COMPETENCE CENTER
International Logistics Networks

The Workshop

- The workshop is organized by the Competence Center for International Logistics Networks, funded by the Kuehne Foundation, the University of Rwanda and GIZ
- The Competence Center aims at supporting businesses in strategically managing their international logistics networks.
- The **goal** of the workshop is to provide a platform for companies from different industries and to establish a regular **knowledge exchange** about this important topic among industry experts.

Your Benefits

- **Free participation** in the workshop.
- You get exclusive access to the **latest findings and research results** conducted by the Chair of Logistics at TU Berlin
- You get in touch with the local **logistics experts from the University of Rwanda**
- You are able to exchange **approaches, best practices and surveys** from different industries to expand your **professional network**.

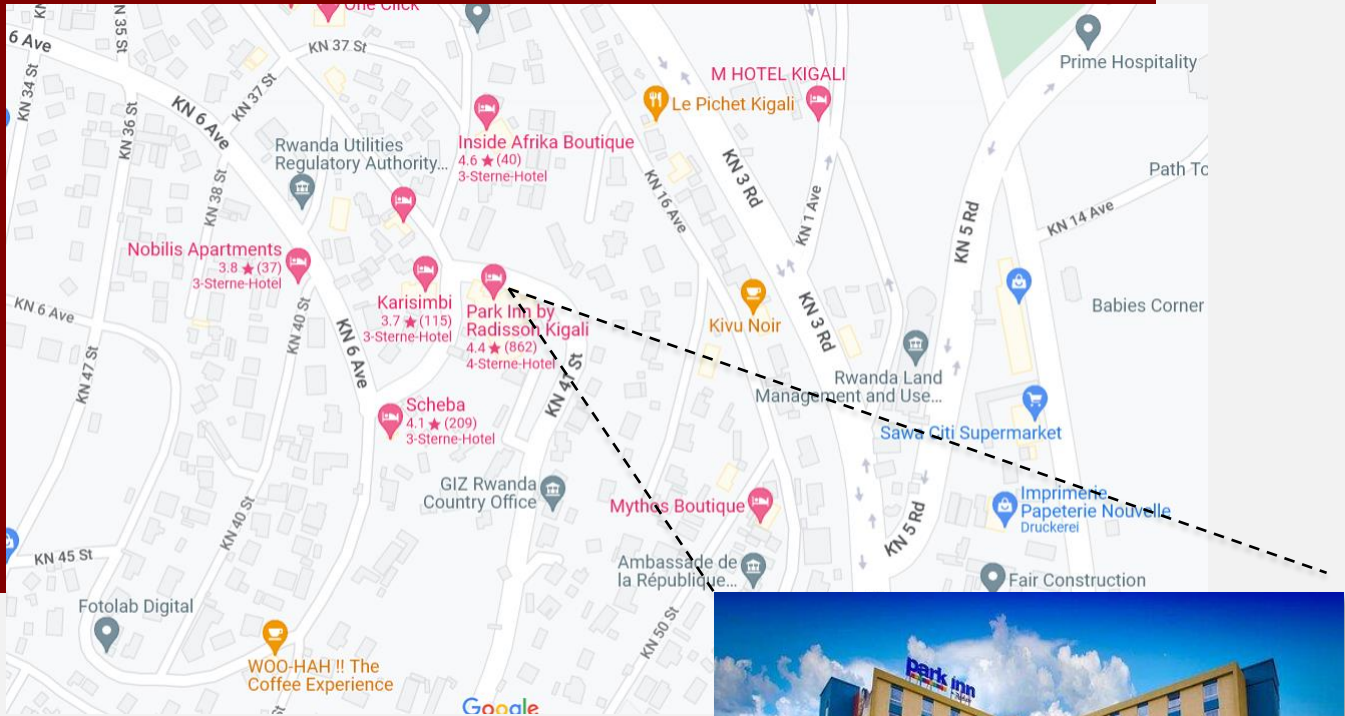
Your Contribution

- You are ready to get involved in discussions about future challenges in international logistics networks
- You will be asked to complete a one 10-minute survey before and one after the workshop. The initial survey will set a basis for the workshop and will be mainly about your current activities and challenges with the AfCFTA. The follow-up survey will be used to assess and synthesize the results of the workshop.

Registration

- For registration to the workshop, please use the **following link or QR code** and enter the requested information: www.tu-berlin.de/?id=222794





Workshop Venue

Park Inn by Radisson Kigali
Avenue de Kiyovu & Res des Parcs
Plot 5457
Ruanda



Room

Room name: Homeland

We are looking forward to meeting you soon.



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Dr.-Ing. Benjamin Nitsche
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If you have any **questions**, please **contact Dr. Benjamin Nitsche**



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