



MISSION TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

JUNE 24TH TO THE 28TH, 2007

The Canadian Council on Africa (CCAfrica) in collaboration with the Canadian Embassy in DRC is organizing a special mission to Kinshasa, the national capital of DRC between the 24th and the 28th of June 2007. You will find attached the registration form. We invite you to register as soon as you can since we do want to limit the number of participants to ensure a successful mission. We already have organizations that have indicated that they will part of the mission.

DRC (ex-Zaire) is also called Congo-Kinshasa to differentiate it from Congo-Brazzaville, is the third largest sub-Sahara country in terms of population (approx. 60 million people) and second in size (2,3 millions km²), 33 time larger than Benelux (Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg), four times more than France or twice that of Quebec. DRC share nine borders with neighboring countries: Congo Brazzaville, Central African Republic, Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, Zambia and Angola. DRC is endowed with large human resources as well as natural resources: a tropical forest which is second in size in the world, fertile soils, water and a variety of minerals. The exploitation of copper, cobalt, diamonds, gold, zinc and others metals have over the years constituted 75% of the exports from the country and approximately 25% of its GDP.

Because of its size, its rich natural resources and its large population, DRC remains one of the “giant” in Africa with Egypt, Nigeria and South Africa. Unfortunately, even with this abundance of these natural resources, DRC is emerging from a long period of bad governance, conflicts and instability toward economic and political stability. The presidential and legislative elections were held in July 2006. The President Joseph Kabila was elected in October 2006; he has assumed his responsibilities in December 2006. The new Parliament and the provincial assemblies have been installed and Mr. Antoine Gigenza has been appointed the Prime Minister of the new government of national union composed of 60 members.

The sectors that should be of interest for the mission in DRC are: infrastructure, mines, energy, forest, finance, pharmaceuticals, water and construction. The mission will have an option for the participants to have one day in Congo-Brazzaville.

For more information, do not hesitate to contact Nola Kianza, Vice President, Ontario, tel. (905) 738-0590 or e-mail: nola.kianza@ccafrica or Lucien Bradet, President, (613) 565-3011 or e-mail lucien.bradet@ccafrica.ca.