



GDIZ Newsletter

January to March 2023

PRESIDENT OF NIGER VISITS THE GDIZ



Tuesday, March 14, 2023, H.E.M. Mohamed BAZOUM, President of the Republic of Niger, discovered GDIZ, with a Nigerien delegation, Mr. Romuald WADAGNI, Minister of Economy and Finance of Benin, Mr. Abdoulaye Bio TCHANÉ, Minister of State in charge of Development and Coordination of Government Action in Benin, Mr. Aurelien AGBÉNONCI, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Benin and Mrs. Shadiya Alimatou ASSOUMAN, Minister of Industry and Trade of Benin.

The delegation was received by Mr. Létondji BEHETON, Managing Director of SIPI-Bénin S.A. and Mr. Laurent GANGBES, Managing Director of APIEx.

This visit allowed the President of Niger to discover the mechanisms that favored the development of the Zone and to note the rapid execution of the works.

At the end of his visit, the President of Niger left very impressed by the scope of the Glo-Djigbé Industrial Zone.

"Congratulations to President Talon! I was delighted to visit the GDIZ and to witness the manufacture of the "Made in Benin" clothes for international markets. The Beninese President's vision and its execution through the development of the GDIZ will make Benin shine on the international scene."

H.E.M. Mohamed BAZOUM
President of the Republic of Niger

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AGRICULTURAL KEY FIGURES

Soybean & Cashew

-  **19** collection centers with a 24/7 presence of experts to support farmers
-  **+140 000** farmers supported
-  **+800** villages covered
-  **+350** aggregating cooperatives
-  **+230 000** ha of land surface





Mr Létondji BEHETON

General Manager of Société
d'Investissement et de Promotion
de l'Industrie (SIPI-BÉNIN S.A.)

Dear investors and partners,

I am delighted to present the first newsletter of the year 2023, dedicated to Glo-Djigbé Industrial Zone (GDIZ).

This Zone represents a real development lever for our country, offering investment and economic growth opportunities.

I am proud of the significant progress we have made over the past year. We have put in place modern infrastructure adapted to the needs of businesses, such as roads, electricity and water networks, optical fiber and fire station to promote a safe working environment conducive to innovation.

We are convinced that Glo-Djigbé Industrial Zone will continue to play a key role in the economic development of Benin, attracting investment and creating thousands of jobs for Benin youths.

This newsletter will give you an overview of the main achievements and activities of the first quarter of 2023.

Mr Létondji BEHETON

GM SIPI-BÉNIN S.A.



LAUNCH OF ACTIVITIES



ORGANIC SOYBEANS NOW PROCESSED IN THE GDIZ

On Monday, March 20, 2023, Benin Organics, one of the factories present within the GDIZ officially launched its activities in Benin!

The factory plans to process more than 30,000 tons of organic soybeans this year, supplied by more than 25,000 local producers, with the aim of doubling production capacity by 2024.

It will produce crude soybean oil, degummed soybean oil, de-oiled cake and lecithin,

the quality of which will be certified by laboratories that meet international standards in order to increase the competitiveness of "Made in Benin" products.

With the launch of Benin Organics, GDIZ continues to guarantee job creation for the benefit of Beninese youth, generating more than 300 direct and indirect jobs by the end of the year.

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VISITS WITHIN GDIZ



CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS GDIZ

On January 14, 2023, Mr. QIN Gang, the new head of Chinese diplomacy, with a delegation from China, visited for the first time Glo-Djigbé Industrial Zone Zè-Bénin (GDIZ).

Welcomed by Mr. Romuald WADAGNI, Minister of State in charge of Economy and Finance of Benin, Mr. Aurélien AGBÉNONCI, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Benin and Mr. Létondji BEHETON, Managing Director of SIPI-BENIN S.A., the delegation discovered GDIZ project and visited its facilities.

Mr. QIN Gang stated that he is now the spokesperson for GDIZ with Chinese investors, and shared his wish to see GDIZ presentation missions take place in China to discover the many investment opportunities in the Zone.

The visit testifies to the desire of the People's Republic of China to strengthen its economic cooperation with Benin, particularly in the industrial sector.

*" 预祝GLO-DJIGBÉ工业区发展蒸蒸日上
I wish Glo-Djigbé Industrial Zone, a prosperous development"*

Mr. QIN Gang
Foreign Affairs Minister of the People's Republic of China

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SECOND VISIT OF THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR TO GDIZ

Mr. Michael DERUS, Ambassador of Germany to Benin, visited GDIZ on April 4, 2023.

The ambassador and his delegation were given a full presentation of GDIZ. He was given a guided tour of the various infrastructures of the Zone.

The visit was also an opportunity to discuss with Mr. Létondji BEHETON, Managing Director of SIPI-Bénin, and Mr. Laurent Gangbes, Managing Director of APIEx Benin, about the next stages of the Zone's development.

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"As an ambassador and representative of the Federal Republic of Germany, I will approach German companies for investments, either in the machinery or production sector".

Mr Michael DERUS
Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Benin





AFREXIMBANK SATISFIED WITH GDIZ DEVELOPMENT

Prof. Benedict ORAMAH, President of AFREXIMBANK, the members of the Board of Directors and the Executive Management of the bank, paid a working visit to Benin to discover Glo-Djigbé Industrial Zone (GDIZ).

Received by Mr. Gagan GUPTA, CEO ARISE and Mr. Létondji BEHETON, Managing Director of SIPI-BENIN S.A., the delegation was able to see and appreciate the level of progress of the construction works of GDIZ, developed by ARISE Integrated Industrial Platforms (ARISE IIP) with the support of AFREXIMBANK

Note that AFREXIMBANK supports Arise IIP in the development of Industrial Zones in Africa.



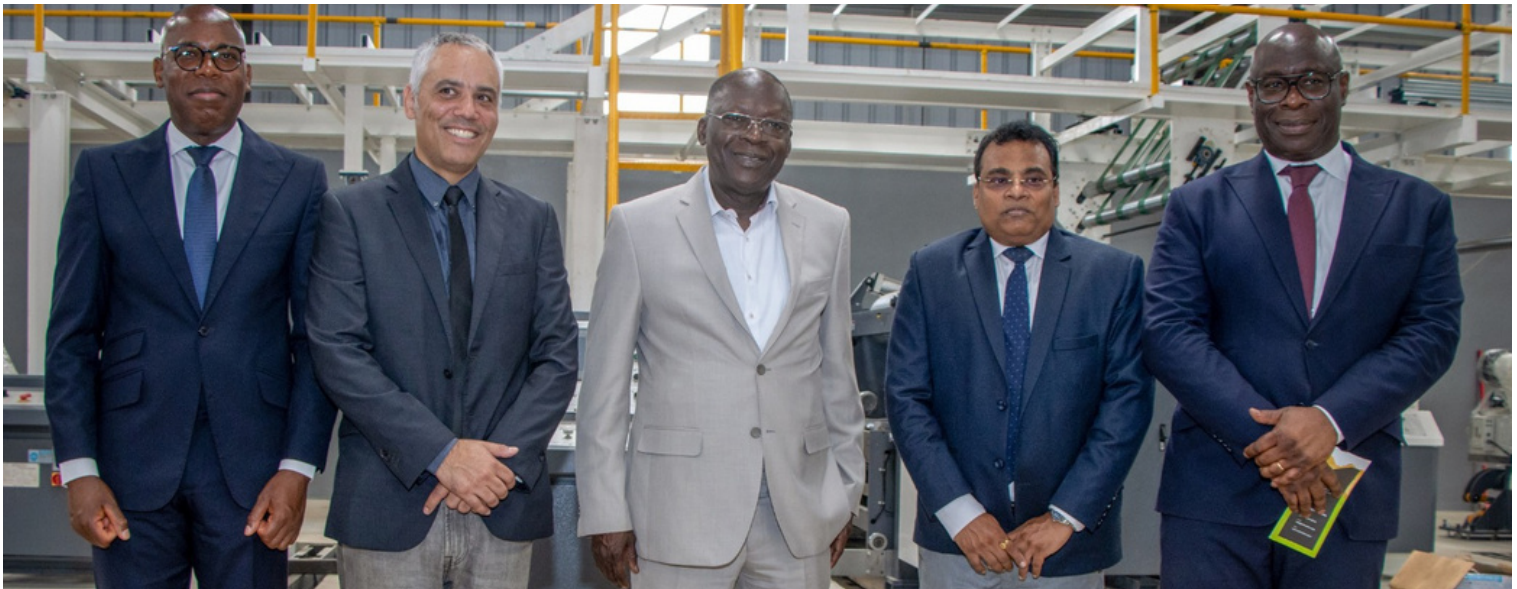
INVESTING IN GLO-DJIGBÉ INDUSTRIAL ZONE (GDIZ)

Catalyst of transformation

-  1640 hectares dedicated to the local processing of products
-  Storage space and logistics area
-  Electricity and water guaranteed 24/7
-  Single window with 13 national administrative entities
-  Ready-to-use industrial hangars

For any further enquiry, please contact
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NEW WORKING SESSION OF MINISTER OF STATE BIO TCHANÉ AT GDIZ

On Tuesday, March 7, we had the pleasure of welcoming Mr Abdoulaye Bio TCHANÉ, Minister of State for Development and Coordination of Government Action in Benin, to GDIZ for a new working session.

This session focused on :

- the installation of investors who have received agreement;
- the state of progress of the work related to the master plan for the development of the areas around GDIZ;
- the development work of the 2nd phase of the Zone's development;
- the price policy applied by GDIZ;
- and the security features within the Zone.

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M. YOUSSEU N'DOUR DISCOVERS GDIZ

Mr. Youssou N'DOUR, artist and former Minister of Culture and Tourism of Senegal, visited GDIZ on January 19, 2023. With Mrs. Shadiya Alimatou ASSOUMAN, Minister of Industry and Commerce of Benin, he was received by Mr. Létondji BEHETON, Managing Director of SIPI-Bénin S.A.

"For its development, a country necessarily needs industrialization. I thank President Patrice Talon who makes Benin a real land of opportunities for investors. Following our visit to GDIZ, we were able to identify these opportunities and we leave here impressed and satisfied. We promise to be GDIZ ambassadors in Senegal!"

M. Youssou N'DOUR

Senegalese singer-songwriter,
musician and politician

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What a success! GDIZ is an impressive and ambitious project led by an efficient and imaginative team from ARISE IIP. This is a great opportunity for international companies to join Benin for this industrial revolution made possible here.

Mr. SHRI G. BALASUBRAMANIAN
Indian Ambassador to Benin

INDIA'S AMBASSADOR TO BENIN IMPRESSED BY GDIZ

Mr. SHRI G. BALASUBRAMANIAN, Ambassador of India to Benin visited GDIZ with a delegation from his embassy. After visiting the various infrastructures and industries under

construction within GDIZ, the Ambassador said he was very impressed by the achievements within the Zone.

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What we have seen is attractive and extraordinary! An impressive number of people work there. Benin is moving forward, Benin is evolving. Long live the man of vision, President of the Republic, Mr. Patrice Talon.

Mr. Nicolas YENOUSI
Director General of the Benin Tax Office



THE GENERAL DIRECTOR OF THE BENIN TAX OFFICE VISITS GDIZ

On January 13, Mr. Nicolas YENOUSI, Managing Director of the Benin Tax Office, visited GDIZ, accompanied by a delegation from the General Directorate of Taxes. Our guests discovered the GDIZ project and visited the various infrastructures of the Zone.

Mr. Nicolas YENOUSI reaffirmed his support for the GDIZ and reiterated the determination of the tax administration to support investors in all their tax procedures.

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ALPHADI, FASHION DESIGNER AND UNESCO AMBASSADOR VISITS GDIZ

Alphadi, real name Seidnaly Sidhamed, Nigerian fashion designer and UNESCO ambassador visited GDIZ on Thursday, February 16, 2023.

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THE OFFICE OF ANALYSIS AND INVESTIGATION OF THE PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC OF BENIN VISITS THE FACILITIES OF GDIZ

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THEY HAVE A SAY ABOUT GDIZ

"I am a citizen who came to visit the Industrial Zone and left very very impressed. Very impressed because things have progressed quickly, very impressed because GDIZ will be the biggest industrial zone in West Africa. All countries are looking for a development model. My feeling is that Benin has found its own"

Lionel Zinsou

Economist and former Prime Minister of Benin



THE ADP GROUP DISCOVERS THE GDIZ'S ASSETS

A delegation from ADP group (formerly Paris Airport) with Mr. Youri Busaan, Director of Cotonou Airport went to GDIZ to discover this industrial project of Benin.

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"Impressive! The work done within GDIZ in such a short time is not only impressive, but very promising. Benin is clearly launched in a dynamic of tangible transformation. Congrats! We return to Nouakchott inspired and ready to listen. Thanks again."

Aïssata LAM

Managing Director of the Investment Promotion Agency of Mauritania



MR HAMAD AL-KUWARI, BUSINESS MANAGER OF QATAR AND DR MESHAL A. ALMANSOUR, THE EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY AMBASSADOR OF KUWAIT IN BENIN VISIT GDIZ

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"Congratulation! Congratulations to President Talon and to the General Manager of SIPI-Bénin S.A. for the development of GDIZ which makes Benin shine in the world. Thank you for believing in the talents of Africa. Long live Benin, long live the Africa of creators. I wish all the success to this project designed by a futuristic President and committed to the economic development of Benin"

Alphadi

Fashion designer, UNESCO Ambassador



A DELEGATION FROM THE PORT OF ANTWERP-BRUGES INTERNATIONAL (POABI) VISITS GDIZ

After discussing the investment opportunities offered by the Zone, the delegation visited the cashew processing plant, the storage warehouses and the Textile professions Training Centers of GDIZ.

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GDIZ CERTIFICATIONS



I am proud to announce that our zone has received several certifications which highlight our commitment to quality, safety, and sustainability.

The first certification received; ISO 9001:2015, is proof of our ability to consistently provide products and services that meet customer requirements and applicable standards. This certification demonstrates that we have implemented rigorous processes and practices within GDIZ to ensure customer satisfaction and continuous improvement of our management system.

The second certification obtained, ISO 14001:2015, demonstrates the effectiveness of our environmental management system in reducing our impact on the environment. This certification showcases our commitment to sustainability and preserving the environment for present and future generations.

The third certification received, ISO 45001:2018, highlights our good management of health and safety at work. This effective management protects our employees and stakeholders against injuries and illnesses related to their work. This certification confirms that we prioritize the safety and well-being of our staff and have a safety culture that extends throughout the organization.



Finally, the ECOCERT organic certification for soybeans and cashews attests that our products are organic and sustainably produced. It demonstrates our commitment to ethical and responsible sourcing and our contribution to improving the livelihoods of our farmers and local communities.

We obtained these certifications because quality, safety and sustainability are core values that guide our business.

I am confident that these certifications will strengthen the reputation of GDIZ and attract more investors and partners. However, we must continue to improve, innovate, and exceed expectations. We must continuously integrate these certifications into our daily activities.

We are proud to be a model of excellence in the industrial sector and a lever of development for Benin.

Let us all celebrate our commitment to quality, safety, and sustainability.

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GDIZ EVENTS

OPEN DAYS

GDIZ has organized a series of open days for Beninese schoolchildren, pupils and students: the #GDIZOpenDays.

Thanks to this initiative, more than 1,500 young people have been able to :

- discover GDIZ project;
- understand the government's industrialization policy for local processing of Beninese products;
- discover the different professions and employment opportunities within the Zone.

It is also an opportunity for the GDIZ to encourage these schoolchildren, pupils and students, who represent the future of Benin, to excel in their studies, so that they can become important players in the industrialization of Benin.



“Once in GDIZ, I wondered if I was really in Benin. The project is big and will certainly contribute to the development of the country. At the end of my university studies, I will look for a job in the Zone and also contribute to the industrialization of my country.”

Ronel HOUSSOU
High school Student

“I couldn't believe it was my country. I am impressed by the number of young people who are already working in GDIZ even though the project started just over a year ago. This project promises a great future for Benin. I felt concerned and I know now that I have to take my studies seriously to have a place in the Zone in the future.”

Océane FAGBEMI
High School Student

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GDIZ WOMEN IN THE SPOTLIGHT

On the occasion of International Women Day, March 8, 2023, GDIZ celebrated its female staff and honored all the strong and hardworking women who work daily to promote the Zone and Benin on the international scale.

For this purpose, a team lunch was organized which was followed by heart-to-heart discussions with Mr. Létondji BEHETON, Managing Director of SIPI-Bénin S.A.

The discussion session allowed GDIZ employees to touch the concrete actions to be put in place to guarantee the professional inclusion of women in the Zone.

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GDIZ SENSITIVE TO WOMEN CONDITIONS

The female staff of all the textile production units installed in GDIZ celebrated International Women's Day (IWD), March 08, 2023, at the bedside of women who have given birth or are at term of their pregnancy in the health centers in the districts of Sékou and Dodji-Bata. GDIZ delegation sowed joy in the hearts of these women by offering them newborn kits commonly known as "birth kits".

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN THE SPOTLIGHT AT GDIZ

On Friday, March 17, the first edition of the "FRESH FOOD MARKET", the market of fresh products, took place within GDIZ. The objective of this initiative is to support local communities through the purchase of their products and allow users and employees of GDIZ to afford local, fresh and healthy products at affordable prices.

GDIZ employees supported this initiative by massively buying the food sold by the women of the villages impacted by GDIZ project.



Discover through these photos, the progress of the construction works of Glo-Djigbé Zè-Bénin Industrial Zone (photos taken in March 2023)



Warehouse area



Cashew nut processing park



Common Effluent Treatment Plant



Benin Organics (organic soybean processing plant)



Unicarton (factory manufacturing cardboard packaging)



Textile Park

[Click here to watch a video on the development of GDIZ](#)

GLO-DJIGBÉ INDUSTRIAL ZONE ZÈ-BENIN (GDIZ)

Catalyst of transformation

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