



GDIZ Newsletter

August 2023

GDIZ
ACCÉLÉRATEUR DE
TRANSFORMATION
#FEREMENTBENIN

THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS SPOLIGHTS THE TEXTILE REVOLUTION UNDERWAY IN BENIN THANKS TO GDIZ

GDIZ is transforming Benin's textile industry and attracting worldwide attention. The international press has swiftly acknowledged GDIZ's endeavor to transform Benin's textile sector in Benin.

Articles and reports from esteemed media such as Arte, TF1, The Guardian, and Forbes Afrique have highlighted the significant progress achieved by GDIZ in this domain.

The key role of GDIZ

With the implementation of modern infrastructure and an innovative approach, GDIZ is propelling the growth of the textile sector in Benin.

Through tangible actions such as establishing a textile park spanning nearly 50 hectares, one of the first worldwide to integrate the entire process from cotton fiber to finished garments, and the development of Garment Training Centers with clothing production units, engaging over 1,000 trainees, GDIZ is materialising its vision of making Benin a textile industry benchmark.

Towards a promising future

GDIZ recently celebrated its first export of "Made in Benin" garments to the United States, opening the door to numerous partnerships with prestigious international brands.

This is an important step in the development of the country's textile industry, and a sign that Benin will undoubtedly become a key player in the global textile industry.



DISCOVER IN THIS EDITION

First export of 'Made in Benin' garments to the prestigious American brand The Children's Place (TCP)

GDIZ's official visits

GDIZ events

Reasons to invest in Benin

GDIZ snapshots

TEXTILE KEY FIGURES

03

integrated textile factories under construction (from spinning to the manufacture of "Made in Benin" garments)

12.7%

of the total quantity of cotton fibre produced in Benin will be processed by textile industries within GDIZ

02

Garments Training Centres (GTC)

+1.000

young people trained in textile professions

+102.000

"Made in Benin" garments sold locally (2022-2023 period)

+196.000

Benin" garments exported (2022-2023 period)

GDIZ'S OFFICIAL VISITS



BCEAO GOVERNOR VISITS GDIZ

Mr. Jean-Claude KASSI BROU, BCEAO Governor, visited GDIZ on May 22, 2023, with the members of his cabinet.

Received by Mr. Létondji Beheton, Managing Director of SIPI-Bénin S.A., and Mr. Laurent Gangbes, Managing Director of APIEx, the Governor was given an overview of GDIZ project before taking a guided tour of the Zone's various infrastructures.

This meeting is part of the effort to foster collective engagement from financial institutions to support the development of GDIZ.

Mr. Jean-Claude Kassi Brou congratulated the President of Benin, H.E. Mr. Patrice Talon, for the Zone's project and urged banking institutions to support this ongoing industrial revolution in Benin, thanks to GDIZ.

"This is a modern Zone. It is well-structured because it has been well thought out, well-designed, and well-organised. What struck me was the training given to young people who are actively involved in the Industrial Zone."

[READ MORE](#)



BAKERY GIANT "PAUL" VISITS GDIZ

On June 7, 2023, GDIZ welcomed Mr. Maxime Holder, CEO of Paul Group, which specialises in premium bakery products. Impressed by the ongoing developments in the Zone, Mr. Holder expressed his desire to set up a production unit within GDIZ to serve all Paul stores in the sub-region.

"There's no doubt that with Paul bakeries, we can become part of Benin's history!"

[READ MORE](#)



LATVIA'S FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER AT GDIZ

Latvian business leaders led by Mr. Edgars Rinkevics, former Foreign Minister of Latvia and now President of the Republic of Latvia, visited GDIZ. As a result of their visit, Latvian entrepreneurs operating in the fields of digital medical equipment, digital technology, agricultural sciences, medicine, and food products were impressed by the facilities developed at GDIZ.

[READ MORE](#)

VISIT OF THE MEMBERS OF THE PERMANENT CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN AND FRANCOPHONE CONSULAR CHAMBERS (CPCCAF)

CPCCAF is a cooperative network for economic and institutional cooperation serving the private sector in Africa and the Francophone community.

Present in Benin for the celebration of CPCCAF's 50th anniversary, the network members visited GDIZ.

The delegation, led by Mr. Christophe Eken, President of CPCCAF, was treated to a presentation of the Zone by Mr. Létondji Beheton, SIPI-Bénin S.A Managing Director, and Mr. Laurent Gangbes, APIEx Managing Director. This presentation was followed by a guided tour of the Zone with stops at Bénin Organics, a soybean processing industry; KAJU, a cashew nut processing industry, and the Garments Training Centers (GTC).

During this visit, Mr. Christophe EKEN and the delegation members pledged to be ambassadors for GDIZ among CPCCAF member countries.

[READ MORE](#)



“GDIZ, A PRIDE FOR AFRICA,” NZEKHO DIEKO

A delegation from the Gabonese Democratic Party (PDG), led by its General Secretary, Steeve Nzekho Dieko, visited GDIZ. According to the PDG General Secretary, this prospecting visit, allowed the delegation to discover GDIZ's various facilities. The delegation was impressed by the number of Beninese investors established within GDIZ and the Beninese Government's will to locally process the country's products.

“GDIZ is an excellent initiative by President Talon. [...] Other African countries should be inspired by this Special Economic Zone, which makes Africa proud. We will explore partnerships we can establish with GDIZ, such as supplying t-shirts, cloths, and gadgets to fuel our Gabonese Democratic Party store” said Mr. NZEKHO Dieko.

[READ MORE](#)



PARTICIPANTS OF THE BENIN ECONOMIC FORUM 2023 VISIT GDIZ

For the implementation of its Regional Program for Political Dialogue in West Africa (PDWA), the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) organized the Benin Economic Forum 2023 in Cotonou. On June 22, 2023, the forum participants (PDWA officials, deputies, KAS alumni, and economic actors) visited GDIZ.

[READ MORE](#)



ROADSHOW FRANCE 2023 “OSEZ LE BENIN”

From June 19 to 27, 2023, investment opportunities in GDIZ were presented to entrepreneurs in several French cities. This exclusive event, organised by SIPI-Benin S.A. in partnership with the Presidency of the Republic of Benin, the Investment and Export Promotion Agency (APIEX) and other key partners, enabled French investors to discover the economic advantages and attractive prospects offered by Benin.

After stops in Marseille, Lyon, Paris, Rennes, Nantes and Louviers, the Roadshow ended with a debriefing session to Mr Oliver BETCH, Minister Delegate to the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs in charge of Foreign Trade, Attractiveness and French Nationals Living Abroad.

The ROADSHOW FRANCE 2023 marks the beginning of a fruitful collaboration between the Republic of Benin and the Republic of France, for the upcoming establishment of French industries within GDIZ.

Following their participation in this Roadshow, a delegation from INNOV BIOTECH and CONTIPHARMA visited GDIZ on July 20, 2023.

[Click here for a summary of the Roadshow France 2023](#)

[READ MORE](#)





FIRST EXPORT OF “MADE IN BENIN” GARMENTS TO THE PRESTIGIOUS AMERICAN BRAND THE CHILDREN’S PLACE (TCP)

On July 12, 2023, GDIZ has made the first export of garments produced in the Zone to the American continent. 70,000 items of garment, including leggings and polo shirts for children, were delivered to the prestigious American brand The Children’s Place (TCP).

TCP has over 872 stores throughout the United States, Canada and the rest of the world.

The arrival of these first “Made in Benin” garments on the American market marks a significant step in the development of the textile industry in the Republic of Benin.



[READ MORE](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

GDIZ has a textile park consisting of 03 integrated textile factories (spinning, weaving, knitting, processing and garment manufacturing) currently under construction. They will transform 12.7% of the cotton fibre produced in Benin each year into “Made in Benin” garments.

This textile park is the first industrial complex in the world to integrate the entire transformation process, from cotton fibre to garment.





32 TONNES OF CASHEW KERNELS EXPORTED TO DUBAÏ

After exporting “Made in Benin” garments to the American continent, GDIZ exported its first cashew kernels on July 19, 2023. Two (02) containers filled with 32 tons of premium-quality cashew kernels from Benin were shipped to Dubai. This first cashew export consolidates Benin’s economic development and boosts Benin’s agriculture.

“In Benin, we produce about 200,000 tons of cashew nuts per year, with a processing capacity of 40,000 tons per year. Of these 40,000 tons, 20,000 tons are actually processed. We will now be able to process at least 100,000 tons of cashew nuts per year, and will gradually increase our processing capacity to 200,000 tons per year,” said Létondji Beheton, Managing Director of SIPI-Benin.

[READ MORE](#)





GDIZ LAUNCHES AGRICULTURAL MECHANISATION PROJECT IN BENIN

Ensuring the availability of agricultural raw materials in quantity and quality for industries that set up within GDIZ is a priority for the Société d'Investissement et de Promotion de l'Industrie du Bénin (SIPI-Benin S.A.), which is in charge of the planning, development and management of GDIZ. Therefore, SIPI-Bénin S.A. is committed to the mechanisation of agriculture in Benin.

Agricultural mechanisation is an effective method for improving crop productivity. On May 26, 2023, SIPI-Benin S.A. launched the "agricultural mechanisation project" in Benin. This initiative aims to achieve two major objectives:

- improving agricultural yields in Benin,
- strengthen producers' capacities by boosting agricultural entrepreneurship.

SIPI-Bénin S.A. supports local farmers by providing them 40 tractors and a range of tools for proper land preparation, mechanised sowing, and harvest transportation.

All the producers selected have been trained in the use of each tool. They will also receive technical assistance for optimal use and maintenance of the equipment.

SIPI-Benin S.A. will increase the number of tractors available to farmers annually. With this project, SIPI-Benin S.A. is starting to mechanise Benin's agriculture on a large scale.

"We are working to ensure the supply of agricultural equipment to producers and to anticipate their future needs", said Letondji Beheton, Managing Director of SIPI-Benin S.A.

[READ MORE](#)



GDIZ REWARDS EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE

GDIZ achieved the unloading and storing of more than 25,000 tons of soybeans and cashew nuts in five (05) days. On Thursday July 06, 2023, GDIZ organised a recognition ceremony for all those involved in this historic operation.

GDIZ currently has 50,000 tons of cashew and 250,000 tons of soya in its warehouses.





CLEAN-UP DAY AT GDIZ: OVER 300 KG OF WASTE COLLECTED

On Wednesday June 07 2023, Glo-Djigbé Industrial Zone (GDIZ) organised a clean-up day as part of World Environment Day celebration. This special event brought together more than 300 people, including SIPI-Benin S.A staff, investors, and various partners of the Zone.

With joy and enthusiasm, the participants cleaned roads, sidewalks and green spaces within GDIZ. More than 300 kg of waste was collected during the clean-up session, and it will be treated according to legal regulations in the Republic of Benin.

[READ MORE](#)



PARTICIPANTS AT THE BENIN-CHINA FORUM DISCOVER GDIZ

The Benin-China Investment Forum was held in Cotonou, following the 8th Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (Focac). This event allowed about forty Chinese companies to interact with key players in Benin's industry, particularly from GDIZ.

A delegation of Chinese investors, led by Zhang Xin, President of China Africa Business Council and his advisor Zhang Bohui, held a working session with GDIZ officials followed by a visit of the Zone. The delegation had the opportunity to see the model of the Zone and visit the factories within it. They left highly impressed by the ongoing industrial transformation in Benin!

Mr. Létondji Beheton, Managing Director of SIPI-Benin S.A. : *“China is a key economic partner for Benin, and we are confident that the establishment of Chinese companies within GDIZ will bring added value to Benin's economy by contributing to job creation, technology transfer and diversification of business sectors”.*

[READ MORE](#)



GDIZ, COMMITTED TO MALARIA & HIV/AIDS PREVENTION

On June 20, 2023, GDIZ organised an online awareness session (via the Teams application) on malaria prevention, led by the Zone's occupational physician. On June 22 & 23, a free malaria and HIV/AIDS screening session was held for SIPI-Bénin S.A. staff and users of the Zone, with over 300 people tested.



GDIZ, COMMITTED TO THE WELL-BEING OF ITS EMPLOYEES

GDIZ officially launched its sports club called “GDIZ GYM CLUB” for the benefit of its employees. The aim of this activity is to promote employee well-being and strengthen team spirit. Under the supervision of a sport coach, employees can participate every Friday in a fitness, muscle-building and cardio session.

5 REASONS TO INVEST IN GLO-DJIGBÉ INDUSTRIAL ZONE (GDIZ)



“

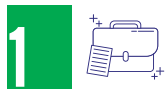
At Spiro, we're very thrilled about our establishment at GDIZ. The strategic benefits offered by this modern and well-designed Industrial Zone are invaluable. Its rich ecosystem of industries fosters the spread of ideas and new technologies.

GDIZ is much more than a site for Spiro - it's a partner in progress, an ally in our mission to make a tangible difference to our planet and its inhabitants.

Dominique NKURUNZIZA
Marketing Director-SPIRO



WHY INVEST IN BENIN? HERE ARE FIVE GOOD REASONS TO INVEST IN BENIN :



1 A very favorable strategic geographical location for business and investments.



2 A stable political and democratic environment and a growing economy.



3 A clearly stated development vision at the top of the state through an ambitious Government Action Programme (GAP) and structuring investment projects.



4 A favorable business climate that is constantly improving, supported by several business-friendly reforms.



5 Countless business and investment opportunities that are conducive to growth.

Explore the construction work progress of Glo-Djigbé Industrial Zone Zè-BENIN through these photos (taken in August 2023).



Kaju - Cashew nut processing plant



Benin Agribusiness - Soya processing plant



Spiro - Electric motorbike assembly plant



Afrikan Ceramics Solutions



Confort meuble - Furniture manufacturing plant



Textile park

**CLICK HERE TO WATCH A VIDEO ON GDIZ
CONSTRUCTION WORK PROGRESS**



GLO-DJIGBÉ INDUSTRIAL ZONE (GDIZ)

Catalyst of transformation

Block : C/SB District : Tangbo-Djévié
Plot : F-1 House : Benin State
Republic of Benin
+229 67 77 94 94 / +229 53 04 67 22
www.gdiz-benin.com
gdiz-benin@arisenet.com

