



## >> Kenya and Senegal open a new era of South-South cooperation in Customs automation systems



In 2003, the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) set up, as part of its project to modernise customs operations, a Customs Reform and Modernisation (CRM) committee with the view to acquiring "a world class computer system".

One year later, the KRA authorities went on a world tour to identify the customs computer system most likely to meet their requirements. The Dakar stage in April 2004 became a watershed during the tour, as the prospectors eventually decided to opt for the customs automation system in operation in Senegal, another country of the South. The two countries later entered into a government-to-government agreement and GAINDE 2000 was commissioned by the Senegalese government to steer the project and implement its solutions in Kenya.

The system went live in July 2005 after 8 months of unremitting customisation and stabilisation efforts, and is currently in stride to the great satisfaction of Kenyan clearing and shipping agents.

This landmark example of bilateral cooperation helped to accelerate clearance procedures, markedly reduced red tape, and facilitated direct contact among different stakeholders in the clearance chain. The cooperation is still in progress, with other facilitation systems developed by GAINDE 2000 in the pipeline.

The cooperation between Kenya and Senegal should serve as an example for other countries, particularly those in Africa. In fact, the collaboration between the two Customs administrations and its satisfactory results are illustrative of Africa's abilities to make great strides by mobilising its skills and by fostering the sharing of experience. ●

### More information

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