

ICAI Global Career E- KIT UGANDA



Moving Towards New Frontiers



**The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India
Uganda (Kampala) Chapter**



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Chairman - Uganda (Kampala) Chapter
of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India



Dear Professional Colleagues,

On behalf of the Uganda (Kampala) Chapter, it is my pleasure to present you with this Global Career E-Kit. This E-Kit consolidates useful information about Uganda and the local Chapter of the ICAI in Uganda (Kampala).

The Uganda (Kampala) Office is one of the recently established overseas chapters of the ICAI. Supporting the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, the Chapter strives to further augment services locally to the members and students of the profession and complement the global services being offered by the Institute. We welcome all our professional colleagues to visit the country and the Chapter and to explore the various avenues of business and employment opportunities offered in this country.

Currently the Uganda (Kampala) chapter has about 110 registered chartered accountants

Uganda is a land of opportunities and I believe that "Europe & America were the past of the world, Asia the present & Africa is the future of the world."

The Indian origin community has been in Uganda for more than 100 years and is contributing to more than 60% of the Government Domestic Revenue, and leading in various sectors of the economy like agriculture, pharmaceuticals, construction, energy, finance, printing, Information Technology, education, hospitality, insurance, Banking, property development, steel, tea, telecom, FMCG products and many others.

Besides the contribution to the economy, Indians have also been known as large contributors towards the social wellbeing of the community at large. They own & manage international curriculum schools besides schools under UPE programme. There are hospitals & clinics owned by Indians.

It is worth noting that Indians have an Association in Uganda named as "Indian Association" that is the only association in the world (since 1922) that is the umbrella body representing all Indians living in Uganda. It is the apex body for 25,000 Indians living in Uganda and is the apex body for 32 regional /religious associations.

Uganda have more than 20 Temples like SSDM Temple, Jain Temple, Gurudwara, Swami Narayan Temple, Tirupati Balaji Temple

We look forward to your visit to this vibrant country and hope that the information contained herein will help you in your planning and establishing an interface with the local Chapter. Within the E-kit, you will find reference to numerous websites, which can provide you additional and relevant information on the topics.

Should you need any further information, do not hesitate to connect with one of our committee members. We will try to provide you with the requisite information at the earliest.



Demographic Details

Constitution & Population of Uganda

Uganda is a Sovereign State and a Republic. All power belongs to the people who exercise their sovereignty in accordance with the constitution. The people express their will and consent on who shall govern them and how they should be governed through regular, free and fair elections of their representatives or through referenda.

The population of Uganda is estimated at 33.8 million. Uganda is predominantly rural. 10% of the population lives in urban areas.

Language

English is the official and most generally used written language. The most widely spoken African languages are Luganda and Kiswahili. There are 30 other languages/dialects also in use.

Climate

The country is located on the East African plateau, lying mostly between latitudes 4°N and 2°S (a small area is north of 4°), and longitudes 29° and 35°E. It averages about 1,100 metres (3,609 ft) above sea level, and this slopes very steadily downwards to the Sudanese Plain to the north. However, much of the south is poorly drained, while the centre is dominated by Lake Kyoga, which is also surrounded by extensive marshy areas.



Uganda lies almost completely within the Nile basin. The Victoria Nile drains from the lake into Lake Kyoga and thence into Lake Albert on the Congolese border. It then runs northwards into South Sudan. One small area on the eastern edge of Uganda is drained by the Turkwel River, part of the internal drainage basin of Lake Turkana.

Lake Kyoga serves as a rough boundary between Bantu speakers in the south and Nilotic and Central Sudanic language speakers in

the north. Despite the division between north and south in political affairs, this linguistic boundary runs roughly from northwest to southeast, near the course of the Nile. However, many Ugandans live among people who speak different languages, especially in rural areas. Some sources describe regional variation in terms of physical characteristics, clothing, bodily adornment, and mannerisms, but others claim that those differences are disappearing.

Although generally equatorial, the climate is not uniform as the altitude modifies the climate. Southern Uganda is wetter with rain generally spread throughout the year. At Entebbe on the northern shore of Lake Victoria, most rain falls from March to June and in the November/December period. Further to the north a dry season gradually emerges; at Gulu about 120 km (75 mi) from the South Sudanese border, November to February is much drier than the rest of the year.

The northeastern Karamoja region has the driest climate and is prone to droughts in some years. Rwenzori, a snow-capped mountainous region on the southwest border with Congo (DRC), receives heavy rain all year round and is the source of the Nile.

The south of the country is heavily influenced by one of the world's biggest lakes, Lake Victoria, which contains many islands. It prevents temperatures from varying significantly and increases cloudiness and rainfall. Most important cities are located in the south, near Lake Victoria, including the capital Kampala and the nearby city of Entebbe.

Although landlocked, Uganda contains many large lakes; besides Lake Victoria and Lake Kyoga, there are Lake Albert, Lake Edward and the smaller Lake George.

Religion

Uganda is a predominantly Christian country with a significant (about 12%) Muslim minority. The Northern and West Nile regions



Mr. Rajesh Chaplot, the Chairman - Uganda (Kampala) Chapter of the ICAI clapping while H.E the President of Uganda, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni lighting the candle for Diwali Yr 2012



are dominated by Roman Catholics, protestants & Pentecostals & Iganga District in the east of Uganda has the highest percentage of Muslims.

Good Friday, Easter Monday, Eid al-Fitr, Eid al-Adha, and Christmas are recognized national holidays.

Major Customs & Practices

The people of Uganda have been described to be very friendly, which in general can help facilitate positive relationships but which can also make it more difficult to ascertain true feelings behind the smiles and warm gestures. Ugandans tend to favor a relatively indirect standard for communicating. Although handholding between members of the same sex often occurs – and personal space seems to be a less important asset – handshakes are considered the standard greeting (and the only appropriate greeting between members of the opposite sex). Uganda remains a male-dominated society, with its implications on dress-code and etiquette for women. Deference for authority and respect for hierarchy are also important, some of which shows up in the form of a preference for indirect eye contact. Punctuality is more important for business functions, but punctuality as a whole is less important in Uganda than in the US. The warmth of the Uganda culture also means accepting gifts and sharing meals – and proper etiquette at meals – are essential. Finally, the dress code matters in Uganda – so a relatively formal business attire is standard (even nice business casual is a minimum in rural areas). Casual dress is ok in the daytime and evening.



Food is traditional – and local – with English, Arab, and Asian/Indian influences. Ugandans usually eat two major meals a day (lunch and supper), with a breakfast of tea and maize porridge (or some soybeans). Main dishes are usually centered around maize, banana, cassava, yam, sweet potatoes, and some meat of

chicken, fish, beef, goat, and mutton. Beans and nuts are also staples, along with some leafy green vegetables. Fresh tropical fruit grows in abundance in the region. The national drink is waragi, a banana gin.

Sports are generally centered on football (soccer), cricket, and hockey. Each ethnic group in Uganda has its own music, with songs passed down from generations. Instruments – lyres, harps, guitars, etc. – and styles differ based on geography.

Certain customs or ethnic practices such as the use of traditional herbs, minerals and animal products for medicinal purposes are common in Uganda and could be preferred for treating illnesses over western medicinal practices and drugs

Similar to other African countries, the man is viewed as the head of the home, the breadwinner and the final authority in decision making. The women and children are expected to submit to his ruling. They are also expected to be respectful and in some cases have a relationship with governed by fear with the Patriarch. Also most households live communally where parents live in a large compound with their children and their families. Each man is the head of his own home and the oldest man is the head of the entire household.

Currency

The shilling (sign: USh; code: UGX) is the currency of Uganda. Officially divided into cents until 2013, the shilling now has no subdivision. The Ugandan currency is the shilling with both coin and note denominations

Uganda began issuing its own currency in 1966 through the Bank of Uganda. Prior to the failure of the East African Currency Board, Uganda used other countries' currency.

There have been six changes of currency since 1966, but the 1987 version has been stable. Upgrades to it have been intended to decrease counterfeiting and make the currency more useful.

The first Ugandan shilling (UGS) replaced the East African shilling in 1966 at par. Following high inflation, a new shilling (UGX) was introduced in 1987 worth 100 old shillings.

The shilling is now a stable currency and predominates in most financial transactions in Uganda, which has a very efficient foreign exchange market with low spreads. The United States dollar is also widely accepted. The pound sterling and increasingly the euro are also used.

The Bank of Uganda cut its policy rate to 22% on 1 February 2012 after reduction of inflation for 3 consecutive months.



One US dollar currently exchanges for shillings 2,545. In addition to the United States dollar, other internationally convertible currencies are freely changed by banks and foreign exchange bureau.

Driving license

While there are many options for travelling about in Uganda a very popular option is owning and driving your own car. You will need to follow government authorized procedures for obtaining your driving license, transferring your license and buying or selling a car. The process of obtaining a driving license involves registering with an approved driving school and undertaking a certain number of driving lessons before one can appear for a signal road test with the Transport Department who is charge of issuing the license.

It should be noted that the Police and Transport Authority of all the Uganda play a major role in ensuring safety and traffic regulations and use smart technology to ensure traffic violations are kept to a minimum. A system of black points that can lead to confiscation of your driving license is in force to ensure adherence to traffic laws. Similarly, there are very heavy fines for speeding above the set limits and there is zero tolerance as regards driving under the influence of alcohol.

Useful information

Economy and Economic arrangements

The economic reforms implemented by the present government

in Uganda since 1987, coupled with political stability, have contributed to economic growth rates averaging 6.5% per annum in the last decade. This has made Uganda one of the fastest growing countries in Africa. Inflation is under control and has been maintained below 10% per annum for the last six years.

As well as pure growth, Uganda is seeing a shift from the firmly agricultural based economy towards diversification into other sectors like construction, manufacturing and regional trade and distribution.

Uganda is a member of many International and regional Institutions. Regionally it has joined the Common Market for Eastern and Southern African States (COMESA) with a market of over 300 million people in 20 countries. Uganda is also a member of the East African Co-operation bringing together Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda & Rwanda.

Uganda has signed bilateral trade and investment promotion agreements with the United Kingdom, Italy, Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa, Egypt, India, China, Germany, Netherlands and many other countries

Economic Overview/ Performance

Uganda established a strong record of prudent macroeconomic management and structural reform between the 1990 and 2000s.





The country was among the first Sub-Saharan African countries to embark on liberalization and pro-market policies in the late 1980s. During that time, a stable macroeconomic environment and sustained private sector-oriented reforms led to Uganda's graduation into a mature reformer in 2006.

Real gross domestic product (GDP) growth averaged 7% per year in the 1990s and the 2000s. This was well above the Sub-Saharan Africa average, in spite of consecutive exogenous shocks, including the secondary effects of the global economic crisis, bad weather and surges in international commodity prices. This strong economic growth enabled substantial poverty reduction and some progress towards reaching Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The population of people living in poverty declined to 24.5% in 2009/10. The 2011/12 Uganda National Household Survey (UNHS) released in November 2013 indicates that headcount poverty further declined to 22.0%. Hence, Uganda has surpassed the 2015 Millennium Development Goal of halving the 56% poverty rate recorded in 1992/93, in spite of per capita GDP growth averaging only about 4% over the past two decades due to rapid population growth. Since 2009, a combination of exogenous shocks and domestic factors reduced economic activity below historical levels. Subdued export performance, high inflation and subsequent tightening of the monetary policy to restore macroeconomic stability, reduced GDP growth to 3.4% in FY12. GDP growth rose from 3.4% in FY12 to 5.2% in FY13. This is the result of fiscal and monetary adjustments implemented by the government since mid FY12, which helped to instill producer and consumer confidence through the stabilization of inflation and the domestic currency.

The outlook for this financial year remains robust with an expected GDP growth of 6% driven by public investment, agricultural output and a more favorable manufacturing environment. Economic activity has recovered substantially from a historic low of 3.4% in FY12 to 5.8% in FY13. Faster than anticipated implementation of infrastructure projects in the transport and energy sectors is providing a substantial stimulus to domestic demand. In agriculture, heavy rains experienced during the second half of 2013 are likely to lead to increased agricultural output. Moreover, the manufacturing

sector continues to benefit from more stable power supply following the commissioning of the Bujagali hydropower plant in 2012. Electricity prices have also fallen for the first time in nine years, owing to lower import prices of fuel, and a boost to hydropower generation due to high water levels. Finally, private consumption and investment are gaining momentum, as commercial interest rates are declining, and household loans grew by more than 33% in the second half of 2013. In the medium term, return to trend rate of 7% GDP annual growth seems feasible, although substantial downside risks remain.

This recovery has been supported by accommodative monetary policy as inflationary pressures remain subdued. The Central Bank cut its main policy rate from 12% to 11.5% in December 2013. Food inflation (month to month) has consistently decreased to 0.2% in January 2014, largely explained by improvements in climatic conditions. Moreover, core inflation, which stood at 7.4% in September 2013, fell to 4.6% in January supported by a strengthening of the currency, which lowered imported inflationary pressures. The current account deficit improved from 13% to 9% in FY13, but is set to widen again in the current financial year given the high import content of infrastructure investments. This may also adversely affect international reserves, which are projected to drop to 3.5 months of import in FY14 from 3.9 months in FY13. Despite the robust macroeconomic outlook, downside risks remain both in the short and medium term. Continued fighting in neighboring South Sudan could be costly for Uganda as supplementary budget would be required mainly for the defense sector and to accommodate the needs of an increasing inflow of refugees.

Political Context

Following independence from British colonial rule in 1962, Uganda experienced a decade of relative political and economic stability. In 1971, a military coup led by Idi Amin sparked a trajectory of violence and mismanagement that reduced the country to a failed state and a collapsed economy. Political and economic turmoil continued between 1979 and 1985, with successive coups and a disputed election in 1980, resulting in civil conflict across the country. When the National Resistance Movement (NRM), led by Yoweri Museveni, took power in 1986, Uganda began a period of sustained economic and political renewal.



During the first decade of NRM rule, the government focused on restructuring the economy through pro-market reforms and increasing the legitimacy of government institutions through political liberalization. However, a brutal civil war waged by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in Northern Uganda left thousands dead and millions displaced, dampening economic activity and deepening poverty in the region. After protracted peace efforts, the LRA was pushed out of Uganda in 2005, and there have been no major security incidents since then. Economic activity has resumed in Northern Uganda, and most internally displaced persons have returned to their land, with the poverty rate falling from 60% in 2005/06 to 45% in 2009/10.

Uganda has progressed towards multi-party democracy and now holds regular elections. Following the promulgation of the 1995 constitution, President Museveni was elected to a first term through a non-party election in 1996. He was reelected in a contested election in 2001.

Useful Business/ Investment information about Uganda

Uganda, Gifted by Nature, is strategically located at the heart of Sub-Saharan Africa within the East African region. The country is bordered by Sudan in the north, Kenya in the east, the United Republic of Tanzania in the south, Rwanda and Burundi in the southwest and the Democratic Republic of Congo in the west. This location gives it a commanding base for regional trade and investment.

Uganda, home to 33.8 million, is part of the East African Community (EAC) that has a potential market of about 100 million. It is also part of Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa, which comprises 20 member states with 380 million people and imports about US \$ 170 billion annually.

Uganda also enjoys duty and quota free access into the United States (AGOA), European Union (EBA), Japan (GSP) and China, which also granted Uganda the Approved Destination Status for tourists from China.

Uganda is making her mark as an investment destination, with a 100% increase from 2005 in planned investment. Uganda attracted investments worth US \$ 1.67 billion (value of planned investment)

up from 2005's planned investment of US \$ 878 million. The US \$ 1.67 billion comes from 424 projects licensed by the Uganda Investment Authority to create 48,098 jobs. The World Investment Report 2006 highlights Uganda's actual FDI in 2005 as US \$ 258 million, up from US \$ 222 million invested in 2004. The positive trend in FDI is attributable to the favorable macro economic environment and Government commitment to promote FDI.

The three most attractive sectors for investment last year were the Transport / Storage and Communication sector (US \$ 468.6 million), Finance / Real Estate and Business Services sector (US \$ 351.6 million), and the Trade / Catering and Accommodation Services sector (US \$ 335.3 million). All values being planned investment.

The highest source of foreign direct investment (FDI) came from United Arab Emirates, followed by India, Kenya, United Kingdom, Pakistan, Malaysia, China, Canada, Mauritius, and Iran. A number of countries in the Middle East and Asia are very fast becoming among the promising new sources of FDI. Some of the big projects licensed in 2006 include Nokia (Finland), Alcatel (France) and Toyota (Japan).

Endowed with significant natural resources, including ample fertile land, regular rainfall, and mineral deposits, it is thought that Uganda could feed all of Africa if it was commercially farmed. [1] The economy of Uganda has great potential, and it appeared poised for rapid economic growth and development.

Chronic political instability and erratic economic management since self-rule has produced a record of persistent economic decline that has left Uganda among the world's poorest and least-developed countries. The national energy needs have historically been more than domestic energy generation, though large petroleum reserves have been found in the west.

After the turmoil of the Amin period, the country began a program of economic recovery in 1981 that received considerable foreign assistance. From mid-1984 onward, overly expansionist fiscal and monetary policies and the renewed outbreak of civil strife led to a setback in economic performance.



Since assuming power in early 1986, Museveni's government has taken important steps toward economic rehabilitation. The country's infrastructure—notably its transport and communications systems which were destroyed by war and neglect—is being rebuilt. Recognizing the need for increased external support, Uganda negotiated a policy framework paper with the IMF and the World Bank in 1987.

Uganda subsequently began implementing economic policies designed to restore price stability and sustainable balance of payments, improve capacity utilization, rehabilitate infrastructure, restore producer incentives through proper price policies, and improve resource mobilization and allocation in the public sector. These policies produced positive results. Inflation, which ran at 240% in 1987 and 42% in June 1992, was 5.4% for fiscal year 1995-96 and 7.3% in 2003.

Investment as a percentage of GDP was estimated at 20.9% in 2002 compared to 13.7% in 1999. Private sector investment, largely financed by private transfers from abroad, was 14.9% of GDP in 2002. Gross national savings as a percentage of GDP was estimated at 5.5% in 2002. The Ugandan Government has also worked with donor countries to reschedule or cancel substantial portions of the country's external debts.

Six (6) Reasons Why You Should Invest in Uganda?

1. Predictable Environment:

Uganda has been able to achieve macro-economic stability when clouds of uncertainty rocked many regions of the world

- Inflation is single digit for over 10 years from a record high of 240% in 1988
- Stable annual economic growth averaging 6% per annum
- Market driven exchange rates

2. Fully Liberalized Economy:

- All sectors liberalized for investment and marketing
- Free inflow and outflow of capital
- 100% foreign ownership of investment permitted

3. Strong natural Resource Base

- Rich endowment of rainfall, soils, and favorable temperature range. A number of crops are grown organically
- Unexploited mineral deposits and tourism opportunities. Confirmed deposits include Gold, Zinc, Wolfram, Petroleum, Diamond, Vermiculite, Silica etc Uganda's scenic beauty is rich with tourist attractions like bird watching, sport fishing, Gorilla and chimpanzee tracking, white water rafting, game viewing, mountaineering, and forest trekking.

4. Government Commitment to Private Sector

- Government and private sector dialogue in policy formulation
- Continuous improvement in provision of infrastructure and other social services

5. Trainable Labour

- Uganda has about 15 Universities, which produce over 20,000 University graduates per year, as well as 10 tertiary institutions and 11 teacher training college, which further enhance the capacity of the work force
- Quality of labour is one of the biggest attractions

6. Security of Investment

- Guaranteed under the Constitution and the Investment Code 1991
- Uganda is a signatory to major international investment related institutions, conventions and agreements
 1. Multi-lateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)
 2. Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) of US
 3. Islamic Cooperation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC)
 4. Convention on the recognition and enforcement of foreign arbitral award (CREFAA)
 5. ICSID, TRIMS, GATS, and TRIPS
- Uganda has also signed a Bilateral Investment Treaty with China in 2003, which is yet to be ratified, as well as a Double Tax Agreement with India in 2003. Some other priority countries in Asia are being targeted and pursued for the same.



Investment Opportunities

Agribusiness

Agricultural products supply nearly all of Uganda's foreign exchange earnings, with coffee alone (of which Uganda is Africa's leading producer) accounting for about 27% of the country's exports in 2002. Exports of apparel, hides, skins, vanilla, vegetables, fruits, cut flowers, and fish are growing, and cotton, tea, and tobacco continue to be mainstays.

Most industry is related to agriculture.

Uganda is among leading producers of coffee and bananas. It is also a major producer of tea, cotton, tobacco, cocoa, cereals, oilseeds (simsim, soya, sunflower, etc), fresh and preserved fruit, vegetables and nuts, essential oils, plants, orchids, flowers and sericulture (silk). Opportunities include commercial farming and value addition, as well as the manufacture of inputs and supply of agricultural machinery.

The industrial sector is being rehabilitated to resume production of building and construction materials, such as cement, reinforcing rods, corrugated roofing sheets, and paint. Domestically produced consumer goods include plastics, soap, cork, beer, and soft drinks. Major Cement manufacturers like 'Tororo Cement Ltd' caters to the need of building and construction material consumers across East Africa.

Fisheries

Uganda's fish processing sector has expanded greatly in recent years and current export earnings are nearly US\$100 million per year. Large fresh water expanses are home to a wide variety of fish products. Opportunities are available for fish farming and establishment of more fish processing factories on other lakes other than Lake Victoria. Uganda's fish is a delicacy in Europe and has recently penetrated the US market.

Forestry

With over 1.5 million hectares of rich forest vegetation, Uganda possesses abundant potential in areas like timber processing for export, manufacture of high quality furniture/wood products and various packaging materials.

Manufacturing

Uganda's manufacturing output has been expanding by more than 10% annually over the last eight years. Opportunities exist in virtually all areas ranging from beverages, leather, tobacco

based processing, paper, textiles and garments, pharmaceuticals, fabrication, ceramics, glass, fertilizers, plastic / PVC, assembly of electronic goods, hi-tech and medical products.

Mining

Uganda is currently carrying out a survey of the potential of under exploited mineral deposits of gold, high grade tin, tungsten/wolfram, salt, beryllium, cobalt, kaolin, iron-ore, glass sand, vermiculite and phosphates (fertilizer). There are also significant quantities of clay and gypsum. Uganda provides special incentives to the mining sector with some capital expenditures being written off in full. Oil explorations have confirmed substantial amounts of oil, which brings with it numerous opportunities for investment

Infrastructure

Although significant efforts have been made to develop and rehabilitate the existing physical and non-physical infrastructure, potential investment opportunities still abound. Particularly, with the opening up of the ICT sector which had been under a duopoly arrangement, communications sector is open for investment. The energy sector, as well still requires further investment. With less than 10% of the mainstream capacity of 2,700 megawatts of power exploited.

Financial Services

Opportunities for investment exist for international multinational banking groups particularly promoting new products (i.e. Mortgage finance, venture capital, merchant banking and leasing finance) and also saving institutions, which propose to operate in rural areas. Insurance in particular is still a relatively young sector and offers several opportunities for investment.

Tourism

The distinctive attraction of Uganda as a tourist destination arises from the variety of its game stock, unspoiled scenic beauty, wide range of bird species and numerous opportunities for mountain climbing and water sports such as a white water rafting. The opportunities in tourism range from constructing high quality accommodation facilities, operating tours and travel circuits to the development of specialized eco-tourism.

Printing and Publishing

In the printing and publishing sub-sector, opportunities exist for the printing of textbooks for schools. Currently, imports supply over 90% of Uganda's textbook requirement (estimated at over US\$7 million a year as at 2004).



Education

- Secondary Education
- Technical and Vocational Education
- In-Service Specialized Training Programmes
- Development of Computer Skills
- Support Services for the Education Sector

Information Technology/ Electronics Sector

The ICT focus is initially confined to e-business exports on account of Uganda's strategic geographic location in Africa. It has a convenient time zone location from the major consumers of ICT related services of -8 hours from USA and Canada, -3 hours from UK and +6 hours to Japan. These time zone differences provide a unique opportunity for Uganda to do business with Asia in the morning, and to transact with Europe and the Americas in the afternoon. In addition, Uganda's trainable, English-speaking and cheap labour force can easily be turned into a cadre of skilled ICT technocrats to provide the necessary human resources for ICT growth.

Other opportunities in ICT include information and communication infrastructure, computer and related equipment hardware assembly, high level ICT training facilities on international standards, hardware repair training facilities, software development for export, setting up information technology virtual zones (ITVZ), setting up Internet service provider facilities in other parts of Uganda, etc.

Uganda Investment Authority

UIA is the agency set up by an act of Parliament in 1991 to promote and facilitate investment in Uganda. The agency serves to:

1. Provide first-hand information on investment opportunities in Uganda;
2. Issue Investment Licenses
3. Assist in securing other licenses and secondary approvals for investors
4. Help investors to implement their project ideas through assistance in locating relevant project support services;
5. Provide assistance in the acquisition of industrial land
6. Helps to obtain work permits and special passes for investors and their expatriate staff;
7. Arrange contacts for potential investors and organize itineraries for visiting foreign missions in the country;
8. Assist investors in seeking joint venture partners and funding;
9. Review and make policy recommendations to Government about investment

Getting Started – A Brief Guide

Foreign investors require a minimum of US\$100,000 in planned investment in order to secure an investment license from the Uganda Investment Authority. Traders do not license with UIA but must demonstrate operating capital of US\$ 100,000 before trading licenses and entry permits are issued by local authorities.

1. Stable annual economic growth averaging 7% per annum since the year 2007, making Uganda one of the fastest growing economies in East Africa.
2. Maintained a competitive real exchange rate that supports export growth.

Fully Liberalized Economy.

1. All sectors liberalized for investment and marketing.
2. Free inflow and outflow of capital.
3. 100% foreign ownership of investment permitted.
4. Ranked the 8th freest economy in Africa by the 2012 Index of Economic Freedom.

Market Access

1. Uganda enjoys a unique location at the heart of Sub-Saharan Africa giving it a commanding base for regional trade and investment.
2. Uganda is a member of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern African states (COMESA), a region with a market of about 390 million people in 20 countries.
3. Uganda is a member of the East African Community (EAC) comprising Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, and Tanzania with a population of over 133.1 million people.
4. Duty and quota free access into the US (AGOA), Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) scheme and EU (EBA) markets.

Strong Natural Resource Base

1. Abundant rainfall evenly spread in two seasons, rich loamy soils and favourable temperature which enhances the productivity of the land to support the cultivation of both food and cash crops organically.
2. Unexploited mineral deposits. Confirmed deposits include Phosphate, Gold, Zinc, Wolfram, Petroleum, Diamond, Vermiculite, Silica etc.
3. Vast tourist attractions including lush green tropical forests, inhabited by a wide variety of birds and fauna.



Government Commitment to Private Sector

1. Government and private sector dialogue in policy formulation.
2. Continuous improvement in provision of infrastructure and other social services.

Trainable Labor

1. Uganda presently produces over 20,000 University graduates per year.
2. Quality of labour is one of the biggest attractions.

Security of Investment

1. Guaranteed under the Constitution and the Investment Code Act Cap 92 Laws of Uganda 2000 edition.
2. Uganda is a signatory to major international investment related institutions such as:
 - Multi-lateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA).
 - Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) of USA.
 - Convention on the recognition and enforcement of foreign arbitral award (CREFAA).
 - Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC).
 - ICSID, TRIMS, GATS, and TRIPS

Steps to Register your Investment in Uganda

Step 1 – Register your company in Uganda

Register your company in Uganda at the Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB) and obtain the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and a Certificate of Incorporation.

Step 2 – Get your Investment License

Apply for an investment license using UIA Form 1 and attach the documents in step 1 plus a brief Business Plan. Normal processing time for an investment license is 2 – 5 days.

Step 3 – Secure necessary secondary clearances

Certain sectors require other secondary licences e.g. for mining activity, air transport, banking, forestry. UIA will assist you to secure these licences within reasonable time. UIA shall also assist you in obtaining suitable industrial land and work permits for your expatriate staff. Utilities like telephone, electricity and water can easily be secured from the relevant offices.

All under one roof – The UIA headquarters hosts liaison officers from the Uganda Revenue Authority, Immigration Department, and

Lands Ministry to enable all the necessary documentation to set up a company concluded in a short time under one roof. The Business Registration Services Bureau will very soon send a liaison officer as well.

One-stop-shop – The one-stop-shop has now been implemented permitting investors to obtain all these services at the UIA. This initiative saves the investors both time and money to have their projects licensed and implemented expeditiously. Representatives from Uganda Revenue Authority, Department of Immigration and Ministry of Lands are already housed at the UIA for this cause.

For further information, contact: -

Uganda Investment Authority

The Investment Center

Plot 28 Kampala Road

P.O.Box 7418 Kampala, Uganda

Tel: 256-41-301000

Fax: 256-41-342903

E-mail: info@ugandainvest.com, imukasa@ugandainvest.com, or skarungi@ugandainvest.com

Http: www.ugandainvest.com

Foreign investors require a minimum of US\$100,000 in planned investment in order to secure an investment license from the Uganda Investment Authority, whereas for local investors, the minimum planned investment requirement is US\$50,000. Local investors, however, may proceed with their investment without licensing with the Uganda Investment Authority. The license is very crucial to foreign investors as it is the instrument that legalizes their investment in Uganda. Traders do not require a license from UIA but must demonstrate operating capital of US\$ 100,000 before trading licenses and entry permits are issued by local authorities.

Stock Exchanges in Uganda

The Uganda Securities Exchange (USE) is the principal stock exchange of Uganda. It was founded in June 1997. The USE is operated under the jurisdiction of Uganda's Capital Markets Authority, which in turn reports to the Bank of Uganda, Uganda's central bank.

The exchange's doors opened to trading in January 1998. At the time, the exchange had just one listing, a bond issued by the East African Development Bank. Trading was limited to only a handful of trades per week.



As of November 2013, the USE trades 16 listed local and East African companies and has started the trading of fixed income instruments. The exchange, which is open five days a week, is a member of the African Stock Exchanges Association.^[1]

The USE operates in close association with the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange in Tanzania, the Rwanda Stock Exchange and the Nairobi Stock Exchange in Kenya. Plans are underway to integrate the four exchanges to form a single East African bourse.

Uganda Central Bank:

The Bank of Uganda (BoU) is the Central Bank of the Republic of Uganda. It was opened on the 15th August 1966. It is 100% owned by the Government of Uganda but it is not a government Department. Bank of Uganda conducts all its activities in close association with the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED).

Bank of Uganda is responsible for monetary policy and maintaining price stability.

Mission of Bank of Uganda:

To foster price stability and a sound financial system.

Vision of Bank of Uganda:

To be a centre of excellence in upholding macroeconomic stability.

Location of Bank of Uganda

Bank of Uganda Headquarters are located on Plot 37/45 Kampala Road.

The Bank has 5 branches headed by Branch Managers in Kampala, Jinja, Mbale, Gulu and Mbarara towns.

The Bank also has 4 Currency Centers headed by Currency Officers in Kabale, Fort Portal, Arua and Masaka towns.

Management of the Bank of Uganda:

The Board of Directors is responsible for overall management of the Bank. It is appointed by the President of the Republic of Uganda and is composed of:

1. The Governor and Chairman of the Board,
2. The Deputy Governor and Deputy Chairman of the Board,
3. Not more than 5 other members.

Accountancy Profession in Uganda:

The accountancy profession in Uganda is young but growing rapidly. The country's past turbulent history characterized by civil wars constrained development of the profession. The profession grew from less than 20 qualified accountants in 1990. Approximately 1,000 qualified accountants at present: About 80 percent qualified in the past 5 years. An estimated 6,000 to 7,000 students are presently studying toward professional accounting qualification

Observations suggest that this growth might not continue mainly because in practice most companies cannot afford the cost of qualified accountants and very few companies appoint auditors. There are no current statistics on the demand for professional accountants

The Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Uganda regulates the accountancy profession.

Established by the Accountants Act, Cap 266 (1992), the ICPAU is in essence a self-regulatory body governed by a Council composed of 11 members, of which 3 are ex officio (Auditor-General, Commissioner-Treasury Officer of Account, and the Commissioner of Education) and 8 are elected by the ICPAU.

The ICPAU members elect the president. The ICPAU acts as both an examining body for certifying public accountant and the licensing authority for members engaged in public auditing practice. Its members and associate members are recognized under the Companies Act as sole auditors of company accounts. The ICPAU is a member of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) and the Eastern Central and Southern African Federation of Accountants (ECSAFA). Nearly all ICPAU members hold foreign accountancy qualifications.

The ICPAU membership is obtained either by being a member of a recognized professional body or by following the national accountancy qualification route. The ICPAU recognizes approximately 15 foreign professional accountancy qualifications for membership without requiring further examination or experience.

At present nearly all members of the ICPAU hold recognized foreign accountancy qualifications, of which about 80 percent are qualified under the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA). Although the ICPAU has reciprocity arrangements with the Institute of Certified Public Accountants in Kenya and the National Board of Accountants and Auditors in Tanzania, in practice this is not working. It is not yet known if the new ICPAU qualification—Certified



Public Accountants of Uganda [CPA (U)]—will obtain reciprocal recognition in other countries. Reciprocity arrangements with other countries and international accountancy associations would enhance the recognition of ICPAU qualifications.

Employment Regulations

Statutory benefits and protection applicable to workers are currently provided principally by nine legislative acts. The Employment Decree of 1975 and Employment Regulations of 1977 cover contract of service, termination of contract, termination notices, protection of wages, hours of work, rest and holidays, employment of young persons and care of employees. This covers all manual employees.

Working Hours

The normal weekly hours of any employee must not exceed 48 hours. Any overtime worked must be paid at one and a half times the normal rate of pay.

Protection of Wages

Wages are paid in local currency and no unauthorized deductions can be made from the employee's wages except:

- Contribution to the National Social Security Fund
- PAYE

Employment of Women/Young Persons

Employment of women except those holding positions of management and are not performing manual work, is prohibited.

An employer is required to grant maternity leave to a pregnant female employee of 60 days for civil servants while for private employment as agreed through collective bargaining. Contract of services cannot be made with the persons below 18 years of age. People under 16 years are not allowed to work unless on apprenticeship training. They are not allowed to work during the night in any industrial undertaking. A separate register for young persons is required, stating their age and condition and nature of their employment.

Social Security Fund

The Social Security Fund is a workers' saving scheme sponsored by the government for the benefit of members. All establishments in the country having at least five employees are required to pay Social Security contributions to the fund, including the employee's share of standard contribution based on wages earned. Employers contribute 10% of the wages/salaries and employees pay 5%.

Trade Disputes (Arbitration and Settlement)

Legal action deriving from the labour law falls within the jurisdiction of the labour courts. Questions on labour laws may be directed to the labour commissioner and advice can always be sought from the labour office of the area. Before any matter is brought to the labour court, generally there must be an attempt at conciliation heard by arbitration tribunals, Boards of Enquiry and conciliation.

Foreigners

Employers intending to bring in highly specialized workers are asked to advertise those vacancies in the local press, radio and television. Only when persons with the required expertise are not locally available should applications for work permits for foreign workers be sought from the Immigrant Control Board for a specific period of time. If an investment license has been obtained, then the application should be made through the Uganda Investment Authority who recommends to the Immigrant Control Board whether or not the work permit should be issued.

Government Incentives

Along with its excellent macro-economic record, Uganda provides the following incentives for private investors:

- Uniform Corporation Tax rate of 30%.
- Import duty exemption/concessions for plant & machinery
- Duty draw back facility for exporters
- Special investment allowance in form of accelerated depreciation of 50-75% on plant and machinery
- 100% initial allowance for training, scientific research and mineral exploration expenditures
- VAT deferral facilities

Sources of Finance

In addition to local and international commercial banks, three development banks operate in Uganda and provide development loans to finance commercial, industrial and agricultural development projects.

Foreign Exchange Controls

The foreign exchange market is now wholly liberalized following a move by government, effective July 1997 to liberalize capital account transactions. Thus investors are free to bring in and take out capital without restriction.

Limitation on Foreign Investment

The investment code allows foreign investors to invest in all fields except those, which compromise national security and ownership of land. Regarding land, foreign investors may, however, lease



land for up to 99 years. Foreign investors can also participate in joint ventures involving the outright purchase of agricultural land. For such cases, Ugandans must hold majority stake.

Family sponsorship

In the Uganda, the responsibility of sponsoring the family rests with the employer & the employee. In case the employee earns the minimum salary that is prescribed by the government, the male employee can sponsor his wife and children.

It should be noted that those who are on visit visas, tourist visas and similar types of visas are not permitted to take up employment in the country with or without salary as per the Ugandan law. Only those who hold a work permit or an employment residence visa are allowed to take up employment in the country. Similarly the employee is permitted to only work with the company that has provided the sponsorship and residency. He/she cannot take up multiple employments and any violation of this can attract heavy penalty and result in deportation.

Temporary Work Permits

A person can enter Uganda on a temporary work permit to take up a temporary work or to complete a project. This visa is valid for 90 days and can be extended for a similar period.

Taxation

Is done as regulated by the laws of Uganda.

Accommodation

The cost of housing can be a matter of great concern and therefore a lot of thought process is required with regard to cost, place

of work, schooling etc. . In the Uganda, the accommodation is leased on an monthly basis and the rents are paid through any form agreed by both parties. Therefore termination of the lease before the full term can raise issues. Similarly the cost of accommodation can vary from one area to another. Although leasing an accommodation in the suburb may provide a solution, the time and cost of commuting to and from work is to be considered.

Banking

A bank account can be opened by the employee after all the residency formalities have been completed. However, as credit facilities are extended to the employee based on their salary, the banks generally insists on receiving a letter of guarantee from the employer under which all the terminal benefits and payments due to the employee will be paid to the bank in case the employee leaves service. In case the employee who has availed credit facilities intends to take up another employment i, he/she has to discuss the matter with the bank and enter into an arrangement to either close the loan or undertake to continue servicing it during the new employment. A cancellation of the resident visa without the bank's approval can have serious implications.

Schooling

Uganda offers a comprehensive range of government and private schools to cater to the multi-cultural diversity of its population. The schools offer national and international curriculum like the British & American curriculum etc





Entry Requirements

All visitors are required to have passports valid three months after period of intended stay. Visas are required for visitors except some nationalities from commonwealth countries. The investors, workers and technocrats employed are required to pay a bond equivalent to a one-way ticket which remains their money. Work permits are given for a minimum period of one year and a maximum of three years but are renewable for a longer period

Visa's to Uganda

A visitor is given a single journey visa to Uganda and on arrival he/she is issued with a visitor's pass for purposes of either spending a holiday, traveling, or investigating the possibilities of carrying on any business, trade or profession in Uganda. Please bring spare passport photographs.

Multiple entry visas can be granted to business executives, who expect to make numerous visits either for business meetings or organization.

- A1 - Diplomatic Services
- A2 - Government Contractors
- B - Investment in Agriculture
- C - Investment in Mining
- D - Business and Trade
- E - Manufacturers
- F - Professionals
- G1 - Missionaries, Volunteers, NGO Workers
- G2 - Expatriate Employees

Investors and employees are required by law to execute a security bond equivalent to the cost of a single economy class ticket to their country of origin. The money if necessary, is used for purposes of defraying expenses incurred or may be incurred by the Government in connection with maintenance and/or repatriation of the person of whom the deposit has been made.

No entry permit fee is charged for class A1.

For all other classes, the payments at published rates are made in foreign currency or its equivalent in local currency. Renewals of entry permits are provided at annual rates.

Effective March 1, 1999, Government of Uganda introduced visa requirements for all visitors entering Uganda. Underlying the Uganda Visa Policy is the principle of reciprocity, that is, all countries that require visas for Ugandans are also visa prone in Uganda.

Therefore:

1. Foreigners travelling to Uganda will be required to obtain visas from Uganda Diplomatic and Consular missions abroad prior to their travel.
2. Visas can be obtained at entry point in cases where foreign nationals cannot access a Uganda Diplomatic and Consular missions abroad.
3. Tourist Visa are given on Arrival at Uganda

Visa Fees

- Single entry visa US\$ 50
- Multiple entry visa (6 months) and Multiple entry visa (12 months) US \$100
- Multiple (24 months) US \$150
- Multiple (36 months) US \$200
- Student entry US \$100

Note: - Multiple Visas are obtainable only from Uganda Missions Abroad and at Immigration headquarters

Exempt Countries

Visa requirements for countries are based on a reciprocal arrangement.

The following countries are exempt:

1. East African citizens
2. Nationals of COMESA countries (Angola, Comoros, Eritrea, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Madagascar, Rwanda, Seychelles, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe.
3. Other countries e.g. Antigua, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Fiji, Gambia, Grenada, Jamaica, Lesotho, Malta, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, St Vincent & The Grenadines, Tonga, Vanuatu, Italy (only diplomatic passports) and Cyprus.



The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India
Uganda (Kampala) Chapter

The Indian Embassy and the Consulate General of India:

The Indian Embassy in Uganda is located in Kampala

High Commission of India

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About The Chapter



Opening of Uganda (Kampala) Chapter ICAI (Yr 2014)



Objectives of the Chapters

The objectives of the Chapters include the following:-

- I. To act as an arm of the INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF INDIA with specified and suitable to the INSTITUTE with regular interaction with the INSTITUTE in India.
- II. To promote the Accountancy Profession with in Uganda.
- III. To bring Chartered Accountancy closer to the students within East Africa, as a professional qualification, to enable the students pursue their studies locally available training and apprenticeship facilities as per the guidelines and regulations of the institute of Chartered Accountants of India.
- IV. To provide facilities for interaction among the members within Uganda by regular meetings.
- V. To act as Liaison Office for Communication between Chapter Members and the INSTITUTE and also to make representations to the Indian Council of the INSTITUTE on behalf of the Chapter Members.
- VI. To run study circle meetings and invite local dignitaries to lecture for the benefit of the members of the Chapter.
- VII. To maintain library facilities and reading room for the Chapter Members.
- VIII. To hold Refresher Courses for the benefit of the Chapter Members.
- IX. To make representations to the Council in connection with the Chapter and/ or to offer suggestions for raising the standard and status of the profession.
- X. To import, distribute and facilitate reading of all the Institute's Journals, Professional Study Material etc. and to collect from the Chapter Members all Membership fees etc.
- XI. To work in Association with other local accounting bodies such as ICPAU and ACCA in promotion of accountancy as a professional advancement.
- XII. To liaise with other Local Accounting Bodies for helping the members of the Chapter in enrolling themselves as members of such Accounting Bodies.
- XIII. To exchange views on professional matters with the members of other Local Accounting and Accountancy Bodies.
- XIV. To facilitate provision of apprenticeship and training to the students, who intend.
- XV. To make representations to the Local Accounting Bodies, Statutory Authorities and Government Departments to resolve issues relating to all or any of the members of the Chapter.
- XVI. To carry out such other functions as may be entrusted from time to time by the Indian Council of the INSTITUTE.
- XVII. To work on non-profit making and non- political basis with its



main objective to promote the accountancy profession and to facilitate the members of the Chapter to have a common platform for exchange of professional views and other matters relating to the professional ethics

Membership

a) Any MEMBER of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, over the age of eighteen years shall be eligible for membership of the Chapter and shall, subject to the approval of the committee, become a member of the Chapter.

b) There is no entrance fee to become the member of the Chapter.

c) Every member shall pay a subscription fee of USh. 150,000/- (Uganda Shillings One Hundred Fifty Thousand Only) and if the members are willing to pay for two years then the Membership fee for two years shall at a concessional rate of Ush 250,000/- (Uganda Shilling Two hundred Fifty Thousand Only.)



FROM THE LEFT TO RIGHT

CA Mohan Reddy - Secretary Uganda (Kampala) Chapter of ICAI

CA Ashok Goyal - Member Managing Committee of Uganda (Kampala) Chapter of ICAI

CA Dilip Bhandari - Vice Chairman of Uganda (Kampala) Chapter of ICAI

CA. J. Venkateswarlu - Council Member of ICAI, India

CA Subodh Agarwal - The president of ICAI India, New Delhi

CA Rajesh Chaplot - Chairman of Uganda (Kampala) Chapter of ICAI

Mr. Lawrence Kizza - The director of economic affairs in the Ministry of Finance Uganda

CA Manesh Karki - Member Managing Committee of Uganda (Kampala) Chapter of ICAI

Mr. Begumisa Protazio - Vice President of ICPAU



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The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India
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