

“DOING BUSINESS IN GAUTENG AND SOUTH AFRICA”

On March the 2nd, The Gauteng Growth Development Agency (GGDA) organized an interesting networking opportunity in Johannesburg. This was offered to both Italian and Italian-South African entrepreneurs, who were invited to attend by the Italian-South African Chamber of Commerce.

The Italian-South African Chamber of Commerce main focus is to assist Italian entrepreneurs and investors who are interested in entering into the South African market, and aims to create a connection between both Italian companies and private operators as well as between companies and the public sector. The GGDA, which offers its services for free, presented interesting facts.

The GGDA is a public agency whose main purpose is to lead investments, growth and innovation in South Africa, but more precisely in the north-eastern territories of the Country. Its targets are twofold: the first being to help foreign investors entering into the African market and, more specifically, into the South African market; the second target is to promote both South African and foreign companies that already work in the Gauteng region both locally and throughout the rest of Africa.

In this way, the GGDA supports companies which are already working in the South African market and helps them to find the right connection in other African Countries, and alternatively it engages in finding new opportunities for investments in the whole Africa.

The agenda was designed to enable the guests who joined the business breakfast to better understand which were the most effective services offered by the agency. These include: the priority economic sectors for Gauteng for the next 15 years; addressing the problem regarding visas and work permits in South Africa; incentives and grants available to foreign investors; networking with senior government officials, Italian Business executives and other local business people.

After the welcome from the GGDA's two directors, Mr. Thokozani Thwala and Mr. Jameel Chand, as well as the Secretary General of the Chamber of Commerce, Mariagrazia Biancospino, the discussion opened with two of the members of the Department of Home Affairs, Phindiwe Mbele and Ben Makhalemele. Time was set aside for questions and answers and, finally, Mr. Koketso Tamale, manager of Gauteng Investment Center, closed the business breakfast.

Rai International also attended the event. Its' aim was to find stories of Italian entrepreneurs who are working in South Africa. Two managers, representing the Italian community, were interviewed: Virgilio da Molo, a member on the Board of the Italian-South African Chamber of Commerce and Director of Impact Strategies Consulting, as well as Guido Ghiselli, CEO of Hartrodt South Africa.

The success of the event, that included 60 Italian and Italian-South African entrepreneurs, highlighted how the Chamber of Commerce understands the necessity for Italian business people to have increased opportunities of collaboration and interchanges with the public sector, which are fundamental for internalization.