

AFRICAN UNION

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DIRECTION DE L'INFORMATION ET DE LA COMMUNICATION

MEDIA ADVISORY / 18th AU SUMMIT

INAUGURATION OF THE NEW AU CONFERENCE COMPLEX

INVITATION

When: 28th of January 2012 starting from 4pm

Where: New AU Conference Complex, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Who: Organized by the African Union Commission. The AU will officially inaugurate its new Conference Center on January 28. Built on a land of 110 000 m² offered by the government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, this center was generously built by the People's Republic of China within the framework of the cooperation between Africa and China.

A 113 m high block of the building offers all facilities of a conference center of international standard. The AU will be able to host big events and comply with the expectation of an expanding international organization.

The official inauguration ceremony will be attended by Mr. Jia Qinglin, Chairman of National Committee of the People's Political Consultative Conference; Mr. Teodoro Obiang Nguema, President of Equatorial Guinea and current Chairperson of the African Union; Mr. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia; Mr Jean Ping, Chairperson of the African Union Commission the diplomatic corps, representatives of the international community and several personalities are invited for the occasion.

Top on the agenda of the inauguration will be the submission of the keys of the New Conference Center by the Chinese authorities to the Chairperson of the AU. There will also be a number of symbolic events such as the inauguration of the Kwame Nkrumah monument and the laying of the first stone of the AU memorial for Human Rights. Participants will be entertained by shows prepared by several AU member States.

Journalists are invited to cover the official opening ceremony of the new African Union Conference Complex, on January 28, starting from 4 pm.

For more information, please visit the African Union's website: www.au.int and visit the 18th AU Summit page: <http://au.int/en/summit/18thsummit>