

The Future of ALN & ALNA: Digitalization and Changes

2025 annual meeting returns to Africa. Our interview to the Chairman, Marcello Saponaro



The 10th edition of the Africa Logistics Network conference held in Bangkok, the Thai capital, marks an important milestone for the organization led by Marcello Saponaro. On the sidelines of the discussions between the various participating companies, the President of the ALN network spoke about the particular context in which this strategic meeting was held while discussing the technological constraints faced by the players, the new directions, the challenges to be met by the network

in a constantly changing sector as well as the prospects for Africa.

This year, the 10th ALN conference coincides with the death of your father, Alessandro Saponaro, founder of this network. How did you experience it?

I felt compelled, in a way, to dedicate the meeting to my father. He founded ALN ten years ago, and it was only right to honor his memory with a meeting that truly lived up to his expectations – perfect at every moment. In fact, we

spared no expense in achieving this. My welcome speech opened and closed with him, and we wanted to honor him with a symbol of Bangkok: a gemstone, a natural topaz, dedicated to him and given to each participant and later sent to all the founding members who were unable to attend the Bangkok meeting.

You said in your speech that the ALN and ALNA meetings would be separated next year, and that we would therefore have two meetings. What are the motivations and objectives for this?

ALNA has grown enough to hold its own independent meeting. However, we will not sever the link between ALN and ALNA; a day of individual meetings will still be "combined". In addition, we are considering renaming ALNA. We want to expand it, especially in markets where the ALN network is less strong, and therefore need to give it a different identity. In this way, both networks can strengthen and complement each other.

You said that ALN is lagging behind in terms of technology. What are you going to do to improve it?

In January, we will launch the ALN app for Android and Apple. ALNA will follow shortly after, once the new name and logo have been chosen. Initially, the app will provide access to the members' area, with all members' contacts and essential network



updates. Over the coming months, it will be expanded with features such as scheduling meetings at annual events and automating the creation of "I'm in" banners with participants' photos and names. To succeed, Africa must be more technologically advanced than other continents and we want to play our small part in making this happen.

There are many networks in your sector, worldwide and in Africa. How do you see the future of yours?

There are so many networks in the world! Some, like ALN, aim for excellence, while others focus solely on revenue. Their only goal is to get a new membership fee bill.

However, these networks tend to last only one or two seasons at the most. The same goes for those that focus on Africa. We are not concerned about the quality networks that compete with us. What concerns ALN are the others, the poor quality ones, because they give a misleading image of what a network should be.

Where will the meeting take place in 2025?

In 2025, it's Africa's turn again. After Bangkok, we will return to the continent that gave us our name. The location will certainly be chosen by the end of the year. For now, we are evaluating three options.

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Saudi Arabia Invests Billions in Africa

Saudi Arabia has announced funding of at least \$41 billion for low-income countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Finance Minister Mohammed bin Abdullah al-Jadaan detailed the package, which includes a \$1 billion development initiative, \$5 billion for startups via the Saudi Development Fund over the next decade, \$10 billion in financing from the Saudi Import Export Bank, and \$25 billion in private sector investments during the same period.

Speaking at the Future Investment Initiative (FII) in Riyadh, al-Jadaan emphasized Saudi Arabia's growing economic ties with Africa and highlighted sovereign debt as the continent's main challenge. Riyadh's efforts to address Africa's debt crisis began at the G20 summit in 2020, directly impacting countries like Chad, Zambia, Ghana, and Ethiopia. The inaugural Saudi-Africa Summit in November 2023 further underscored Saudi Arabia's commitment to resolving Africa's debt issues.

Additionally, the Arab Coordination

Group, a consortium of regional financiers, plans to provide \$50 billion in loans to Africa by 2030. On the investment front, Acwa Power, a leader in green hydrogen and desalination, has invested over \$7 billion in African renewable energy projects. Recognizing the need for fossil fuels like gas to support Africa's economic growth, the company plans to invest \$15 billion in Egypt over six years.

At the FII, Acwa Power announced a partnership with Gotion Power Morocco to develop a 500-megawatt wind farm and a 2,000-megawatt-hour battery storage system. The \$800 million project will supply energy to Gotion Power's battery manufacturing facility in Morocco, set to begin operations in 2026.

Saudi investments in Africa have grown steadily, reaching \$13.2 billion in 2023, with around 50 Saudi companies already active across the continent.

Translated from the original article by Tommaso Moro, published in Africa & Affari, December 2024



ALN & ALNA Awards, all the Winners

The ceremony took place aboard the 'Chao Phraya Princess' cruise ship in Bangkok, November 2024



WORLDWIDE TOP AGENTS 2024:

First: SWIFT WORLDWIDE LOGISTICS (South Africa)

Second: SPEEDWAY FREIGHT SERVICES (Poland)



AFRICA TOP AGENTS 2024

First: CVL INTERNATIONAL (Senegal, Guinea-Bissau)

Second au pair: KSP SHIPPING LOGISTICS LIMITED (Nigeria) and MLS MEDITERRANEAN LOGISTIC SOLUTION (Morocco)



EUROPE TOP AGENTS 2024

First: LOGIMAR SRL (Italy)
Second au pair: TFS FRANCE SAS (France) and ALTUN LOGISTICS (Turkey, Belgium)



AMERICAS TOP AGENTS 2024

First: SYNERGIE CANADA (Canada)
Second: CROWLEY GOVERNMENT SERVICES (USA)



ASIA & OCEANIA TOP AGENTS 2024

First: AOF CARGO LOGISTICS CO LTD (Taiwan)
Second au pair: SUNCOLOR SHIPPING CO LTD (Japan); GLOBAL CARGO FAR EAST LIMITED (Hong Kong) and RYAL LOGISTICS PVT LTD (India)



MIDDLE EAST TOP AGENTS 2024

First: SEAMARK SHIPPING LLC (UAE)
Second au pair: TARGET LOGISTIC SERVICES (Jordan) and GTZ SHIPPING LLC (UAE)



FIATA World Congress 2027 in Ethiopia

The event expected to attract 800 industries leaders in the african Country

The 2025 FIATA World Congress is set to take place in Hanoi, highlighting the country's growing prominence in global trade and logistics. As a pivotal event for the freight forwarding industry, the Congress will bring together global leaders and stakeholders to discuss key issues such as sustainability, digital transformation, and infrastructure development. Vietnam's selection underscores its strategic role in connecting global markets and its commitment to advancing the logistics sector.

Fedespedit, the Italian representative of FIATA, will host in Milan the World Congress from 6 to 9 October 2026 in the year of the centenary of FIATA. Fedespedit hosts this important event for

the third time after Trieste in 1971 and Florence in 1992.

Ethiopia has been chosen to host the 2027 FIATA World Congress, marking a historic milestone for both the country and Africa. Organized by the Ethiopian Freight Forwarders and Shipping Agents Association (EFFSAA), the event will take place in Addis Ababa, a city celebrated for its rich culture, rapid growth, and diplomatic significance.

The Congress, expected to attract over 800 global industry leaders and stakeholders, will focus on themes like sustainability, digitalisation, and infrastructure development to bolster Africa's growing role in global trade and logistics.

EFFSAA President Dawit Woubishet emphasized the importance of this opportunity, calling it a turning point

for Africa in the logistics sector, highlighting Ethiopia's readiness to serve as a gateway for international commerce.



Members News

LGC RESOURCES SDN BHD – TRANSPORT OVER SIZED RORO CARGO



LGC RESOURCES SDN BHD has recently completed an over-sized cargo delivery via RORO vessel from Philippines then to consignee yard. It consist of a Base Drilling Machine with its dismantle accessories dimension at L 15,250 x W 2,650 x 930mm, 34Ton

SYSTEMATIC LOGISTICS PVT

LTD LAST SHIPMENT



SYSTEMATIC LOGISTICS PVT LTD succesfully completed 40 FR OWOH from Nhava Sheva to Beira and Victoria

COLLABORATION BETWEEN FIRST MOVE LOGISTICS & RULE LOGISTICS



FIRST MOVE LOGISTICS according to RULE LOGISTICS, both members of Africa Logistics Network is responsible for loading and shipping 6 packages STC TITAN 130 TURBINE GAS ENGINE WITH SPARE PARTS from the port of USA to Ghana by Airfreight

QUANTUM AIR&SEA STARTING DECEMBER PROJECT



QUANTUM AIR&SEA completing the final leg of movement. Komatsu for Malawi

Komatsu for Zimbabwe
Tippers for Zambia

XIAMEN ROSEN LOGISTICS LTD BREAK BULK SHIPMENT



XIAMEN ROSEN LOGISTICS LTD succesfully dismantled KOMATSU WHEEL LOADER from Jebel Ali to Qingdao with 5X40FR OWOH, transit from Qingdao to Russia with break bulk shipping.



WE WANT YOU!

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