

IBM Historical Highlights in SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA – GENERAL

- 1921** Tabulating equipment of the Computing-Tabulating-Recording Company -- IBM's predecessor -- is used in the 1921 census in South Africa.
- 1938** The first IBM employee -- a customer engineer -- is assigned to Central Africa.
- 1947** IBM opens an office in Dakar, Senegal, as headquarters for the company's business in West and Equatorial Africa.
- 1950** The first IBM operators' school for African users opens in Leopoldville, Belgium Congo.
- 1952** IBM South Africa (Pty.) Ltd. is formed.
- 1953** Fisons in Durban becomes IBM's first commercial customer in South Africa.
- 1956** The first IBM Hundred Percent Club for Africa [for salesmen who have attained their annual quota] is held in Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 1959** An IBM East Africa office is opened in Nairobi, Kenya, to serve customers in the former British East Africa (including Kenya, Tanganyika, Uganda and Zanzibar), Ethiopia and Sudan. IBM Central Africa (Pty.) Ltd. is formed to conduct business in Rhodesia and Nyasaland.
- 1960** The company opens an IBM West Africa office in Accra, Ghana, to serve Ghana, Nigeria, Liberia and Sierra Leone.
- 1961** IBM opens a new African Area headquarters in Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia.
- 1962** IBM establishes a West African headquarters in Lagos, Nigeria.
- 1963** An IBM education center for Anglophone countries is dedicated in Ibadan, Western Nigeria, by IBM World Trade Corporation chairman Arthur K. Watson. The center has 52 sales and engineering trainees from Ghana, Nigeria, Ethiopia and Kenya.
- 1965** Some 23 students graduate in August from an 18-month course in data processing and business administration held at the IBM World Trade Corporation Education Center in Nigeria's University of Ibadan in West Africa. A second class with 28 students from Nigeria, Kenya, Ethiopia and Zambia graduate in December.
- 1968** IBM conducts a series of courses in April and May on the IBM System/360 Model 30 at Makerere College in Kampala for students from Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Zambia and Uganda.
- 1974** IBM restructures its non-U.S. business into two new operating units: IBM World Trade Americas/Far East Corporation (A/FE) and IBM World Trade Europe/Middle East/Africa Corporation (EMEA).
- 2008** Some of IBM's first Corporate Service Corps teams, comprising employee-volunteers from around the world, arrive in Ghana and Tanzania. The teams engage in pro-bono projects which improve local conditions and foster job creation. In following years IBM deploys teams to Egypt, Tanzania, Nigeria, Ghana and South Africa.
- 2009** IBM opens a subsidiary office in Nairobi, Kenya as the company's headquarters for East Africa.
- 2009** IBM opens a subsidiary office in Lagos, Nigeria as the company's headquarters for West Africa.
- 2009** First National Bank of Namibia Ltd selects two IBM z10 mainframes to help the bank localize its banking systems and operations.
- 2009** IBM announces that it is working with Novartis, Vodafone, Roll Back Malaria Partnership and the Government of Tanzania on the 'SMS for Life' project using mobile technologies to improve the availability of anti-malarial drugs helping to save lives in remote areas of Tanzania.
- 2010** IBM opens a subsidiary office in Accra, Ghana.

- 2010** The National Microfinance Bank (NMB) of Tanzania selects IBM Power and Storage technologies to transform its core banking technology infrastructure, supporting the bank as it accelerates its business expansion across Tanzania.
- 2010** IBM signs a landmark agreement with Bharti airtel to transform the 16 different IT environments across airtel's African operations into an integrated IT system, and oversee the management of all applications, data center operations, servers, storage and desktop services.
- 2010** IBM signs an agreement for its business services consultants to assist the government of Cross River State, Nigeria with the implementation of two new social welfare and healthcare initiatives designed to help alleviate poverty and increase levels of literacy in the region.
- 2011** The Customs Directorate of the Senegal Ministry of Finance buys an IBM mainframe system to improve the efficiency of import and export processes.
- 2011** The Cameroon Ministry of Finance selects IBM mainframe and storage technologies to help modernize the payroll processes for government employees in the country and improve the efficiency of processes such as generating pay slips.
- 2011** IBM opens a subsidiary office in Dakar, Senegal.
- 2011** IBM opens a subsidiary office in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.
- 2011** IBM signs a major infrastructure deal with the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia.

ANGOLA

- 1955** The first IBM equipment in Angola is installed by Benguela Railways, an Anglo-Portuguese company in Lobito.
- 1960** IBM completes an agreement with the Portuguese government to install unit record equipment in the Ports, Railways and Transportation Department in Luanda.
- 1961** IBM opens an office in Luanda.
- 1964** The Statistics Department orders IBM equipment for use in the first mechanized census tabulation.
- 1965** The first IBM 1401 data processing system in Angola is installed by the Army.
- 1966** Benguela Railways orders two IBM 1401s.
- 1966** IBM opens a Service Bureau.
- 1966** Caminho de Ferro do Benguela in Lobito orders two IBM 1401s.
- 1966** The Municipality of Luanda orders an IBM 1401 to replace unit record equipment and speed the preparation of light and water accounts.

GHANA

- 1964** The first IBM 1401 data processing system in Ghana is used by the Ghana Housing Corporation in Accra.
- 1964** The first IBM System/360 Model 30 in Ghana is ordered by the Central Bureau of Statistics in Accra.
- 1964** Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Kusami upgrades its basic IBM 1620 into a full-capacity system with card processing capability.
- 1964** The University of Ghana uses an IBM 1620 for graduate work in the Physics Department. The computer is used to teach engineering students.
- 1964** The Bank of Ghana installs punched card data processing equipment for foreign exchange control.
- 1965** The first IBM 1130 computing system in the county is ordered by Volta River Authority.

- 1965** The first IBM 1440 data processing system delivered to Ghana is installed at the State Insurance Corporation in Accra. That customer also orders an IBM System/360 Model 30.
- 1965** The University of Ghana orders an IBM System/360 Model 20.
- 2008** Some of IBM's first Corporate Service Corps teams, comprising employee-volunteers from around the world, arrive in Ghana and Tanzania. The teams engage in pro-bono projects which improve local conditions and foster job creation. In following years IBM deploys teams to Egypt, Tanzania, Nigeria, Ghana and South Africa.
- 2010** IBM opens a subsidiary office in Accra, Ghana.
- 2011** IBM signs a collaboration agreement with the University of Ghana.

IVORY COAST

- 1949** IBM unit record equipment is installed at the Abidjan-Niger Railway.
- 1951** Gouvernement General and Abidjan-Niger Railway acquire IBM equipment.
- 1964** The first IBM 1440 tape system in the country is installed by the Social Security agency.
- 1966** The first IBM System/360 Model 20 is installed.
- 1968** The Abidjan branch office operates as part of the Asia and West Africa District of IBM France's overseas operations.
- 1968** Installations in the country range from unit record equipment to IBM System/360 Model 40s.
- 1968** Nearly 200 keypunchers, operators and programmers work with IBM equipment in Abidjan.

KENYA/TANZANIA

- 1958** The first installation of IBM equipment in the country is made at Standard Vacuum Oil Refining Company in Nairobi.
- 1959** An IBM East Africa office is opened in Nairobi, Kenya, to serve customers in the former British East Africa (including Kenya, Tanganyika, Uganda and Zanzibar), Ethiopia and Sudan.
- 1963** An IBM Education Center for anglophone countries is dedicated in Ibadan, Western Nigeria, by Arthur K. Watson. The center has 52 sales and engineering trainees from Ghana, Nigeria, Ethiopia and Kenya.
- 1964** The first IBM 1401 tape system in Nairobi is installed at Esso Standard (East Africa) Ltd.
- 2008** IBM sends its first Corporate Service Corps team to Arusha, Tanzania. In the following years, five more IBM Corporate Service Corps teams engage in projects in Arusha and Dodoma aimed at improving local conditions and driving job creation in the tourism, education and ICT sectors.
- 2009** IBM opens a subsidiary office in Nairobi, Kenya as the company's headquarters for East Africa.
- 2009** IBM announces that it is working with Novartis, Vodafone, the Roll Back Malaria Partnership and the Government of Tanzania on the 'SMS for Life' project using mobile technologies to improve the availability of anti-malarial drugs helping to save lives in remote areas of Tanzania.
- 2009** IBM donates 22,000 IT reference books to the University of Dodoma in Tanzania.
- 2010** The National Microfinance Bank (NMB) of Tanzania selects IBM Power and Storage technologies to transform its core banking technology infrastructure, supporting the bank as it accelerates its business expansion across Tanzania.
- 2010** IBM signs a collaboration agreement with the Tanzanian Ministry of Education and Vocational Training government aimed at supporting the adoption of information technologies and Tanzania's development in key areas such as education and R&D.

- 2010** IBM sends its first Corporate Service Corps teams to Kenya where they work with the Kenya Ministry of Information and Communications Technology in support of the roll out of the government's Digital Village initiative. In the following year other CSC teams arrive in Kenya working with ICT Board, the Kenya e-Government initiative, the Ministry of Information and Communication and the Postal Corporation of Kenya to help meet key ICT objectives in the Vision 2030 plan.
- 2011** IBM donates 15,000 books to the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) as well as a cash award of US\$ 15,000 to the Faculty of Physics at the University of Dar es Salaam to support its research efforts.
- 2011** IBM opens a subsidiary office in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

NIGERIA

- 1960** The company opens an IBM West Africa office in Accra, Ghana, to serve Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone.
- 1961** The first IBM equipment in the country is operated by the Federal Statistics Bureau in Lagos.
- 1962** IBM establishes a West African headquarters in Lagos.
- 1962** Compagnie Francaise de l'Afrique Occidentale acquires IBM data processing (DP) equipment in Lagos.
- 1963** An IBM education center for anglophone countries is dedicated in Ibadan, Western Nigeria, by IBM World Trade Corporation chairman Arthur K. Watson. The center has 52 sales and engineering trainees from Nigeria, Ghana, Ethiopia and Kenya.
- 1963** The first IBM 1401 data processing system in Nigeria is used by the Nigerian Railway Corporation to process freight, passenger and locomotive data.
- 1963** An IBM 1401 is used by Shell/BP Oil Petroleum Company in Port Harcourt, Eastern Nigeria.
- 1964** The IBM African Education Center at the University of Ibadan is dedicated on March 17. Fifty students selected from 3,000 applicants will participate in a two-year program in the 9,000-square foot building. Upon graduation, IBM will offer half the students jobs as systems engineers, salesmen or instructors.
- 1965** Some 23 students graduate in August from an 18-month course in data processing and business administration held at the IBM World Trade Corporation Education Center in Nigeria's University of Ibadan in West Africa. A second class with 28 students from Nigeria, Kenya, Ethiopia and Zambia graduate in December.
- 1978** IBM says on November 3 that the government of Nigeria has accepted in principle an IBM plan in response to the requirements of the Nigerian Enterprises Promotion Decree of 1977. According to the plan, IBM will form a joint venture with Nigerian interests in a company to be called Data Processing Maintenance and Services, Limited, in which IBM will own a 40 percent interest. The new company will provide maintenance for IBM data processing (DP) equipment, as well as data center services and DP systems engineering support. In addition, IBM intends to appoint a DP sales agent in Nigeria and to continue discussions regarding a local dealership for the company's office products.
- 2009** IBM opens a subsidiary office in Lagos, Nigeria as the company's headquarters for West Africa.
- 2009** IBM signs agreements with three banks in Nigeria (Union Bank, Intercontinental Bank and FinBank) to provide advanced software to help modernize their operations.
- 2010** IBM signs an agreement for its business services consultants to assist the government of Cross River State, Nigeria with the implementation of two new social welfare and healthcare initiatives designed to help alleviate poverty and increase levels of literacy in the region.

SENEGAL

- 1947** IBM opens an office in Dakar as headquarters for West and Equatorial Africa.
- 1948** IBM machines are used by Regie Federale des Chemins de Fer Dakar-Niger [a railroad] at Thies.
- 1951** IBM opens a Service Bureau in Dakar.
- 1964** Banque Senegalaise de Development acquires an IBM 1401 data processing system in its Dakar headquarters.
- 1965** The government of Senegal orders two IBM System/360 Model 40s.
- 2011** The Customs Directorate of the IBM Ministry of Finance buys an IBM mainframe system to improve the efficiency of import and export processes.
- 2011** IBM opens a subsidiary office in Dakar, Senegal.

Contacts: Jonathan.batty@pl.ibm.com, arlenewainstein@fr.ibm.com, VERAROS@ke.ibm.com