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If you have any feedback or comment to make on the content of this newsletter, or if you have something to share that would appeal to our readers, we would love to hear from you

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Africa –

African nations in EU trade deal

The five countries that make up the East African Community have agreed a plan that will gradually open their markets to the European Union (EU).

Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda are covered by the EU deal.

To view the whole article click <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/7114830.stm>



Nigeria –

Cargo – Yar' Adua seeks speedy clearance

President Yar' Adua has charged the Nigerian Customs Service to redouble its efforts at ensuring legitimate trade facilitation and strive towards attaining 48-hour clearance of cargo at the ports and border stations across the country.

To read the whole article click <http://allafrica.com/stories/200711270598.html>

Extra checks causing cargo delays

The Federal Operations Units (FOU) of the NCS has been present at Lagos Airport throughout Oct07 carrying out checks for contraband and non Form M cargo. The FOU is also carrying out an additional examination of cargo after SAHCOL and NAHCO Terminal based customs officials have cleared the goods. It is now known for how long the additional checks will continue, but they are reported to be causing some delays and congestion.

British Government offers to reorganise Nigeria Police

The British government has offered to help the Nigerian government to reorganise the Nigerian Police Force as part of long standing cordial relations between the two countries to enable the force to carry out its statutory responsibilities and to take maximum advantage of the offer being made.

Click for complete article http://www.vanguardngr.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2268&Itemid=47



Liberia –

Preshipment Bidding

Following a bidding exercise the Ministry of Finance has announced that four companies have been short-listed to take the over the preshipment exercise for goods coming into Liberia. After a 3-week review of their submissions, Cotecna, SGS, Bivac and Intertek have qualified. In order to win the bid they will submit technical and financial proposals in sealed envelopes. However, some concerned business people have noted that this process should be open and transparent and seek the involvement of the public to ensure that only a company with sound record be selected.



60-second trivia

Quito in Ecuador, South America, is said to have the most pleasant climate in the world. It is called the 'Land of Eternal Spring'. The temperature rarely drops below 46 degrees Fahrenheit during the night, or exceed 72 degrees Fahrenheit during the day.

This year we've outsourced Christmas to China –

Put the kids to bed before you read this month's column. I don't want to be responsible for shattering any illusions and spoiling the "magic" of Christmas for the little ones.

By now you are probably surrounded by Christmas trees, tinsel, looped tapes of carols and

preparing for the office party.

Sometime in between there'll be a lot of shopping for presents. However, in the meantime, a few myths about Christmas need to be dispelled:

To read the whole article click <http://www.ethicalcorp.com/content.asp?ContentID=3281>

The climate change challenge

Protecting the environment used to be a key issue for only a handful of people but these days everyone is expected to "do their bit" in the challenge we all face. Not only as individuals are we expected to make an effort but in the workplace it is becoming more and more important.

Organisations are taking their corporate social responsibility very seriously. Doing nothing is not an option if organisations wish to seriously compete with their rivals for business. For some ideas of the sorts of things you can consider, the London Chamber of Commerce have produced a guide called "Going Green: A guide for Company Directors"; copies can be downloaded from their website www.londonchamber.co.uk

Internet site of the month

Why not give a 'Plant a Tree' gift this year?

Visit www.carbonfootprint.com/shop2x.html for details

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