



SwissCham Southern Africa (SCSA)

Event Review

Investment & Business Opportunities in South Africa

Date: **Wednesday & Thursday, 14th – 15th May 2008**
Venue: **Hotel Belvoir Park, Zürich and Bernerhof, Bern**

Fruitful Forum in Zürich on *Investment & Business Opportunities in South Africa* in the presence of the Minister of Trade & Industry of South Africa, Mr. H.E. Mandisi Mphalwa, and successful first meeting of the *Joint Economic Committee*.



H.E. Mandisi Mphalwa, Minister of Trade and Industry, South Africa

**SwissCham
as facilitator
and promoter**

SwissCham Southern Africa (SCSA) acted as facilitator and promoter organizing the recent official visit of a delegation from the South African Department of Trade and Industry led by Minister of Trade and Industry, H.E. Mandisi Mphalwa together with a number of South African and Swiss business leaders from various industries. The delegation met with the Swiss Federal





Councillor Doris Leuthard and several Swiss business representatives during various working sessions May 14 and 15 2008.

The panelists at the **Forum on Investment and Business Opportunities in South Africa** were H.E. Mandisi Mphalwa, South African Minister of Trade and Industry, H.E. Jean-Daniel Gerber, Switzerland's State Secretary for Economic Affairs and Mr. Gerold Bühler, President, Economiesuisse. The attendance reached approximately 150 people and the discussions were open and very fruitful.

In working sessions of the **Swiss – South African Joint Economic Committee (JEC)** discussions centered around bilateral cooperation in the fields of vocational training as well as pharmaceuticals, energy, financial services, automotive parts and components, infrastructure, SMME's and Cooperatives, ICT and BEE.

This was the first session of this newly founded JEC that institutionalizes high-level consultations of both government and business representatives between the two countries on a yearly basis. The idea for this new instrument leading to a more regular contact between the two countries came up over lunch between H.E. Mphalwa and H.E. Leuthard at during her first visit in 2007. SCSA is proud of having been instrumental in the organization of the first JEC-meeting in Zurich and having facilitated the contact between the high level delegation of South Africa with specially selected representatives of the Swiss Economy. The follow-up of the two day program in Zurich and Bern lead already to several contracts





between Swiss and South African counterparts, both business-to-business and public-private.

