



Dr. Guevera Yao

Senior Director, West and Central Africa
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Dr. Guevera Yao is senior director for West and Central Africa in the U.S.-Africa Business Center at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Yao oversees programs and policy initiatives to broaden commercial relationships between the U.S. and markets in West and Central Africa. He works closely with Chamber member companies and government leaders to deepen and expand commercial relationships.

Yao is an economist and policy expert with over 20 years of experience in the areas of economic integration, regional infrastructure development, and trade and finance for a number of developing countries, including Member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). He worked with ECOWAS for over 8 years. There he coordinated the implementation of a flagship regional development program, adopted by the 15 Heads of State of the ECOWAS region to boost regional trade and investment in West Africa.

Prior to ECOWAS, Yao worked as a senior technical advisor for the governments of Tanzania and Namibia to provide policy guidance on the design and enactment of intergovernmental fiscal transfer systems for subnational governments. He worked as senior research associate for the International Center for Public Policy at Georgia State University, where he contributed to several analytical studies, including the USAID project on Fiscal Reform in Support of Trade Liberalization. He also provided consultancy services for the Urban Institute and the World Bank on urban service delivery in South Asia.

Yao graduated with a master's degree and Ph.D. in Economics from the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University. He also holds a master's degree in development economics from University of Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. He is fluent in both French and English.



U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

1615 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20062

202-659-6000

www.uschamber.com

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