

John Hargreaves, Vice President GEFP (Madagascar)

John Hargreaves participated in the creation of Africa Cotton & Textile Industries Federation (ACTIF) and was appointed one of its Board members.

He graduated in Economics in 1974 from the University of Nottingham in the United Kingdom.

His first job was as an Export Manager with DAPEX, France (Pont-A-Mousson) from 1974 up to 1979. While still in France he moved on in 1980 to work with Alcatel Telcoms cable division, in charge of exports to Sub-Saharan African countries, until the end of 1985.

In 1986 John was appointed Marketing Director at De Chazal Du Mée Mauritius (DCDM). DCDM is today better known as BDO Mauritius, an arm of BDO International, which is a network of public accounting firms that serve international clients.

Between 1990 and 2003, John joined the textile industry by becoming the Chief Executive Officer of CIEL Textiles operations based in Madagascar. He set up the first EPZ company in the country and the group employed 12 000 workers by 2002.

From 2004 until end 2009, He worked as an Independent Consultant with the World Bank Group. During this period, he set up the Economic Development Board of Madagascar, participated in various projects aiming at improving the business environment of Madagascar. John has also acted as adviser to international companies operating in the country.

From 2010-2012 John was appointed as Managing Director of IBIS Algoculture Madagascar a newly formed company involved in seaweed cultivation. The dried and packaged seaweed was exported to the US and the EU. Carageenan extracted from the seaweed is commonly used in foodstuffs such as dairy products, beer and toothpaste, amongst others.

Since early 2013 to date John has set up and been working at World Knits Mada as its Managing Director. World Knits Mada is a fine knit garment factory set up in Madagascar with 1100 employees.

John Hargreaves is a founder member and Vice President of the Association of Free Zone Enterprises and Partners of Madagascar (GEFP). Madagascar's textile and garment sector is the largest in the region employing over 100 000 workers.

He is also one of the founding members of ACTIF where he is a board member representing Madagascar.