

2,000 delegates expected at African coffee conference

By Wilson Manishimwe

About 2000 delegates from East Africa, US, southern Africa and Vietnam are expected to grace the forthcoming African Fine Coffee Conference slated to take place next week in Kampala.

According to Emmanuel Iyamulemye, the managing director of Uganda Coffee Development Authority, the delegates include coffee roasters, traders, producers and professionals.

He said the conference, which will start on Wednesday and run up to

Friday, will be held at the Kampala Serena Hotel.

The event is organised by African Fine Coffee Association.

"We have set ourselves an ambitious target of more than quadrupling our current coffee production from the current 4.6 million bags per annum to 20 million bags by 2025. Such a target can only be hit by interacting with coffee specialists from other countries," Iyamulemye said during a press conference at Orient Bank offices in Kololo, a Kampala suburb.

He added that last year, Uganda

BETWEEN THE LINES:

■ According to Emmanuel Iyamulemye, the head of Uganda Coffee Development Authority, the delegates include coffee roasters, traders, producers and professionals.

earned \$550m (about sh1.9 trillion) from coffee exports and was optimistic that the money would keep on increasing.

"The conference is an opportunity for Uganda to showcase its achievements in coffee and to position Uganda's coffee to the top professionals with connoisseurs from around the world," Julius Kakeeto, the managing director of Orient Bank, said. He added: "We are, therefore, pleased to support this conference and look forward to doing even more to support the growth of the coffee industry."

Conference activities

According to Ishak Lukenge, the chairman of the African Dine Coffees

Association, the conference shall have series of activities such as exhibiting of Ugandan coffee and learning new developments in the coffee industry among others.

"The conference is held every year in a different part of African and we are privileged as Uganda to be hosting it this year, 2018. Last year, the conference took place in Ethiopia and the 2016 one was held in Dar es Salaam," he stated.

He explained that coffee is the most traded item after oil on the world market.

FOREX Rates