

# Opec funds Maputo roads

VIENNA.

THE Opec fund for international development will extend US\$10,4 million in loans for rail and road projects in Mozambique and Togo under agreements signed in Vienna on Tuesday.

Mozambique is to receive US\$8 million for a railway rehabilitation scheme covering 133 km of track between Dondo and Inhamitanga.

The project will improve the transport of coal and basic agricultural and other commodities in the central and northern parts of the country, and will ease the traffic with neighbouring countries.

The interest-free loan, which carries a 1 percent service charge, is repayable in 17 years, including a five-year grace period.

Mozambique has already benefited from five Opec fund loans — three to help the country's balance of payments and two for energy and industrial projects.

Togo will use its US\$2,4 million Opec fund loan to help finance the Sokode-Kara road improvement project.

The project will result in substantial savings, both in reducing basic vehicle operation costs and in lowering road maintenance expenditures, as well as improving socio-economic conditions in the area.

The loan, carrying an annual interest rate of 2,2 percent, plus a 1 percent service charge, is repayable in 17 years, including a five-year grace period.

Togo has previously received three Opec fund loans — one for balance of payments and two for transportation and water supply projects.

The two loans were signed by Opec fund governing board chairman and Saudi Arabian deputy minister of finance and national economy Osama Faquh, with Mozambique construction and water minister Julio Carrilho, and Togo's ambassador to France, Mr Bumbera Alassounouma.

— Ziana-Opecna-Pana.

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