



Leather a gift of Nature

5th World Leather Congress 2021
1st November 2021
Ethiopian Skylight Hotel
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



World Leather Congress (WLC); The leather industry has recently been experiencing a technological and digital transformation, by developing and implementing new organization patterns. This transition has gone hand in hand with the industry's commitment to safeguard and keep intact the story, cultural relevance, significance, sustainability, and properties of "leather" .



Africa Leather and Leather
Products Institute - ALLPI



International
Council of Tanners

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About World Leather Congress (WLC)

Following the new economic models and the different consumers' attitudes toward the fashion system, the leather industry has recently been experiencing a technological and digital transformation, by developing and implementing new organization patterns.

This transition has gone hand to hand with the industry's commitment to safeguard and keep intact the story, cultural relevance, significance, sustainability, and properties of "leather".

After the meetings held in South America (Rio de Janeiro, 2011), Europe (Milan, 2015), Asia (Shanghai, 2017), and America (New York, 2019), the 5th World Leather Congress strengthens its global vocation by reaching the African Continent. The IULTCS congress immediately is followed by the World Leather Congress (WLC) and thereafter the All Africa Leather Fair (AALF) providing 8day leather 'bonanza' for the global community all these events scheduled for November 2021 (see the respective posters for details) to be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Both the Congresses will attract International speakers from the most influential fashion and tanning industries. Premier organizations from standards, policy, research, and development globally to discuss leather. Just as the IULTCS, the WLC also is held every two years in different countries of the World and is organized by the International Council of Tanners (ICT) in collaboration with Member Association.

Congress Organizers

 <p>Africa Leather and Leather Products Institute - ALLPI</p>	 <p>EST. 1926 International Council of Tanners</p>	 <p>Leather Industry Development Institute - LIDI</p>	 <p>Ministry of Industry, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia</p>	 <p>Trade and Fairs East Africa Ltd. A company of Trade and Fairs Consulting</p>
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Congress Sponsors

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International
Council of Tanners

About International Council of Tanners (ICT)

The International Council of Tanners is the global body representing producers of leather. ICT was established in 1926, when there was a pressing need to establish a uniform International Contract for the buying and selling of hides, skins, and leather in order to facilitate, regulate and promote international trade in the sector. **ICT is the membership organisation of the world's leather trade associations** and its members are the national associations of leather producers, and most of the world's major producing countries are members. But **Not all trade associations are members**

ICT's fundamental role is to protect and promote leather and the leather producing industry, on a worldwide basis. The main way that it does this is to provide a forum for the industry to meet on a regular basis, in order to share common problems and to develop strategies for providing solutions. This includes passing on positive messages about the industry and responding to – often unjustified – attacks on the industry.

The main aims and objectives of ICT therefore can be summarised as:

1. To provide a forum for members to meet and exchange views and information. Including the exchange statistics and market information
2. To provide an interface with international bodies such as:
 - ICHSLTA – International Council of Hide, Skin & Leather Traders Associations
 - UNIDO – United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
 - FAO – Food and Agriculture of the United Nations
 - UNEP – United Nations Environmental Programme
 - ISO – the International Standards Organisation
 - IULTCS – International Union of Leather Technologists and Chemists Societies
 - COTANCE – Confederation of National Associations of Tanners and Dressers of the European Community
3. To collaborate with ICHSLTA to maintain and develop the International Leather Contracts to promote a fair and ethical basis for trade in the sector
4. Protect and promote leather as a product by providing information, developing the website and producing position papers to counter threats to the industry
5. Support improvements in the supply, treatment and preservation of hides and skins
6. Promote free trade in hides, skins and leather as far as practically possible
7. To undertake, or commission, reviews and research on matters pertaining to the industry and to disseminate the results to members and, where appropriate, more widely
8. To assist members in negotiations with Regulatory Agencies on a national, regional, or global basis as called for, using any appropriate means



Africa Leather and Leather
Products Institute (ALLPI)

ABOUT ALLPI

Africa Leather and Leather Products Institute (ALLPI), formerly COMESA – Leather and Leather Products Institute (COMESA/LLPI), is an intergovernmental organization established through a Charter signed by 17 heads of State of COMESA Countries in 1990. Its mandate was to facilitate the development of the leather sector in the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) region prior to its rebranding. However, with re-branding through a Summit communiqué, its mandate was widened geographically to cover the entire African Continent, with its mandate remaining as enshrined in its founding charter. The African outreach will align to the attainment of Agenda 2063 and also create value towards the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) and Tripartite structure.

Africa Leather and Leather Products Institute (ALLPI) is currently implementing its 10 year Strategic plan (2016 to 2025) which aims at transforming the continent's leather sector from production and export of raw materials to production and export of finished products and enhance the leather sector trade integration under CFTA and Tripartite structure. The Strategic plan, is aligned with the AU agenda 2063 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Its involvement of Public,

Private Sector and the Academia (“Triple Helix”) is contributing toward transforming the livelihoods in Africa through sustainable leather sector development through value addition, enhanced productivity and competitiveness.

In order to address the long-standing weakness in product development, design and fashion forecast in the leather sector, ALLPI has also embarked on an ambitious Flagship program the Regional Design Studio with satellite studios in member countries. The program was initiated in 2015 and to date satellite design studios are set up in 6 member countries. The development of design capacity is expected to enhance the exportability and competitiveness of the Continent's leather sector.

ALLPI is also occupying a pivotal place in continental and global fora that deal with the leather sector. It is serving as a specialized institute for the leather sector in the African Union Commodity Strategy Development, partnering in the organization of All Africa Leather Fair (AALF), serving as Member and Vice President of the International Council of Tanners (ICT) and an Executive Member of the International Unions of Leather Technologist and Chemists Society (IULTCS).



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Africa's Leather Sector



Mr. Ghebregziabher Ghebremedhin

**Acting Executive Director & Programms Coordinator of
Africa Leather and Leather Products Institute (ALLPI)**

ALLPI Acting Executive Directors Message

It gives me great pleasure to extend to you all a very welcome on behalf of ALLPI and to say how grateful we are to the International Council of Tanners (ICT) for accepting our invitation and allowing us to host the 5th WLC congress here in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

It is an opportune time to establish/or renew contacts discuss challenges among the participants of the one day congress in general and among African participants and the rest of the world in particular.

The importance of leather sector in Africa cannot be overemphasized. Africa has abundant and renewable resources of large population size of cow, sheep and goat. It is labor intensive with the potential to be a major source of employment all along its value chain. Despite the availability of this sustainable and renewable resource however the gap between the resource availability production and trade are tremendous.

Africa Leather & Leather Products Institute accepted as a major reference point in the leather sector seeks to transform the continent's leather sector from production and export of raw or semi processed hides and skins to production and export of finished products and enhance the leather sector trade integration regionally and globally.

ALLPI therefore believes the African leather sector will benefit a lot from today's congress. It will give an opportunity to those engaged in the leather sector to discuss, listen and learn about new production processes, new technologies and above all to establish or renew net works with the leather family from the rest of the world.

I understand that the leather sector is facing a lot of challenges due to the pandemic similar to the problems faced by other sectors of the global economy and have also sector specific challenges. It is my firm believe that the congress which is to be conducted with the theme “Leather the Gift of Nature”, will discuss them and at the end of its one day congress comeup with viable solutions and recommendations that address the challenges and enable the sector’s sustainable development.

Before I close my welcome speech let me acknowledge the government of Federal Republic of Ethiopia in general and the Ministry of Industry and LIDI in particular for all the supports in organizing the 5th congress as co – hosts. I also would like to congratulate the Organizing committee for the work well done in the preparation and organizing the congress. Thank you Professor Mekonnen with your team.

We are very gratefulfor the support extended by our sponsors, whom I hope you will get to meet here in the Congress Hall or on the Congress Virtual Platform. As Gold Sponsor we have TFL. As Silver Sponsor we have Pittards Global. As Bronze sponsor we have ATC, Cromogenia unit, Buckman International, CICB and ELICO. We would like also to thank our media partners.

Last but not least I would like to thank ICT secretariat for all their support and enable the 5th WLC congress to happen in Africa.

With these few words I hope the conducting of this congress in Addis Ababa Ethiopia will contribute to the opening up of new net works, broader cooperation and more integration of the leather sector in general and Africa in particular.

I also wish for those who are attending the congress physically, an interesting and pleasant stay in Addis Ababa and for those attending the congress virtually I wish them all the best where ever they are.

Mr. Ghebregziabher Ghebremedhin

Thank you very much

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I am Dr Kerry Senior, Secretary of the International Council of Tanners, also known as the ICT. I am very glad to be able to welcome you to this, the fifth edition of the World Leather Congress in Addis Ababa. It is a great pleasure to be able to speak to you today, although regrettably, not in person.

For background, the ICT was established in 1926 to establish a uniform contract for trade in hides, skins and leather. Today, the ICT is a global membership organisation, representing the national and pan-national trade associations for 34 countries, including the majority of the major leather producing countries. ICT works closely with its member associations and also with other leather organisations, such as Leather Naturally and the Leather Working Group, to address the challenges faced by the leather industry today

I am also the director of Leather UK, the trade association for the UK leather industry, and through our membership of COTANCE, the European leather association, work very closely with our colleagues in Europe.

The global leather industry has endured significant pressure in recent years but nothing has compared to the issues that have arisen during the Covid-19 pandemic. Lockdowns saw tanneries closed across the world. Our retail partners closed and demand for leather fell. Reduced slaughter numbers meant fewer hides at higher prices. Even now, Covid is impacting the industry with recent reports that 80% of Thailand's tanneries have closed due to new outbreaks and massive disruption to supply chains.

We have also seen longer trends of issues for the leather industry. We are frequently attacked for alleged harms to animals, the climate, places and people, the vast majority of which are completely without substance. Consumer attitudes have changed with fashion and lifestyle choices such as veganism, causing some consumers to reject leather. New materials, that purport to be better choices than leather for performance and sustainability, are appearing all the time. And in the name of spurious sustainability claims, some of our customers are rejecting leather. This includes the recent announcement by Volvo that, in order to help reduce the number of cattle on the planet, they would not use leather in their new electric cars, cynically disregarding the fact that leather manufacture does not drive cattle rearing.

These have been very difficult times, but the industry has been through difficult times before and has endured. This is why the World Leather Congress is so important. It provides a vital opportunity for the industry to come together and collectively, to look to the future. Today, we will hear from highly regarded industry experts on where our industry is and where it is going. We will discuss the status and challenges for our supply chains, from raw materials to finished products. We will hear about the steps being taken towards ever-improved sustainability and the novel

technologies that can help deliver that. And there will be updates on the policy, regulatory and commercial drivers affecting trade and sustainability and some of the options available for tanners to meet those challenges.

The insights of today will be followed by the 16th IULTCS Congress, where leather scientists and technologists will discuss the scientific advances and innovations that will take the leather industry to a cleaner, more sustainable future. All of this demonstrates the relevance of our industry and show that we are not a 'sunset' industry but one that is moving to keep pace with the modern world.

However, we cannot afford to be complacent and ICT has been working on behalf of the global industry to meet the emerging challenges. With other industry bodies, we have challenged the basis for the score given to leather in the Higg Co Material Sustainability Index (MSI), developed by the Sustainable Apparel Coalition (SAC). This index allows designers, brands and others to determine the environmental impact of materials. Because of the limited scope of the MSI, natural materials such as leather score very badly compared to synthetics, such as polyester. While Higg Co maintain that the scores should not be used to compare between materials, such as leather against polyester, the MSI is frequently cited as showing how much worse leather is for the environment compared to other materials. Much of the problem with the MSI score for leather is its reliance on out of date data and assumptions, particularly around the allocation of livestock rearing to our raw materials. ICT and its partners have been in discussions with Higg Co and SAC to update their datasets with more relevant data, which will greatly improve leather's MSI score.

ICT was also partner in the drafting of the Manifesto for Leather and other natural fibres, for the 26 COP meeting in Glasgow, which is happening at the same time as this congress. The manifesto calls on world leaders to recognise the positive impact that leather and other natural fibres can have in meeting the challenges of climate change. Leather in particular, upcycles a renewable waste from the food industry into a long-lasting, repairable material, ideal for the 'buy less and keep longer' model that we all need to adopt. This manifesto will be circulated by the national associations for the leather industry to their COP26 delegations and leaders but should also be shared with our customers.

These activities recognise that, in the modern world, an industry that cannot explain itself and is not understood will soon be left behind. We are increasingly challenged to reassure our customers on the provenance of our raw materials, to prove our environmental and performance credentials and the safety of our chemicals and products. Important questions in these areas have already been addressed. The recently published report by FILK, comparing the physical performance characteristics of leather with alternative materials clearly demonstrated that none of the alternatives tested was an equal for leather. The report on hide price elasticity for US hides, and now for Brazilian hides, shows that leather manufacture does not drive the rearing and slaughter of animals, proving that our raw materials truly are by-products. Work will be starting soon to evaluate the biodegradability of leather compared to the new plant-based alternatives, most of which depend on a significant content of plastic to achieve functionality. However, we need more data and I would urge all tanners to undertake life cycle analysis of their products and processes and very importantly, to share that data with us so that we can build the definitive database for leather production and no longer be hampered by inaccurate representations of our industry. These collected efforts will give us the necessary insights to challenge the negative claims made about our industry and reassure our customers that leather is a good choice for people and the planet; a gift from nature!

Dr Kerry Senior
Secretary of the International Council of Tanners

About Ethiopia

Ethiopia is Africa's oldest independent country and its second largest in terms of population. Apart from a five-year occupation by Mussolini's Italy, it has never been colonised.

It served as a symbol of African independence throughout the colonial period, and was a founder member of the United Nations and the African base for many international organisations.

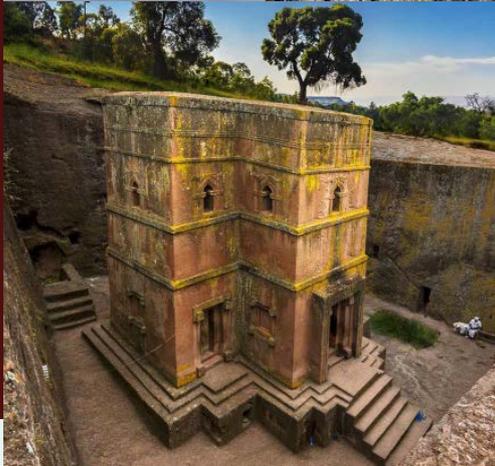
Ethiopia is a country located in the Horn of Africa. It shares borders with Eritrea to the north and northeast, Djibouti and Somalia to the east, Sudan and South Sudan to the west, and Kenya to the south. With nearly 100 million inhabitants, Ethiopia is the most populous landlocked country in the world, as well as the second-most populous nation on the African continent after Nigeria. It occupies a total area of 1,100,000 square kilometres (420,000 sq mi), and its capital and largest city is Addis Ababa.

Ethiopia offered a greater richness in archaeological findings and historical buildings which makes it a country of rich heritage. It is being regarded as the cradle of both mankind and civilization. It is one of the largest Christian Nation in the world, who has welcomed and accommodated Islam signaling it as the land of religion tolerance.

Ethiopia is a country of highly diverse population with more than 80 different ethnic groups living together in peace and harmony while maintaining their language, culture and history. Thus, is regarded as the land of diversity and unity. Moreover, is an ecologically diverse country with three climatic zones: the cool, the temperate and the hot zones, and it is rich in both flora and fauna. Ethiopia is also the origin of coffee.

Ethiopia's ancient Ge'ez script, also known as Ethiopic, is one of the oldest alphabets still in use in the world. The Ethiopian calendar, which is approximately seven years and three months behind the Gregorian calendar, co-exists alongside the Borana calendar.

Ethiopia is one of the founding members of the UN, the Group of 24 (G-24), the Non-Aligned Movement, G-77 and the Organisation of African Unity. Ethiopia's capital city Addis Ababa serves as the headquarters of the African Union, the Pan African Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, African Aviation Training HQ, the African Standby Force, and many of the global NGOs focused on Africa



5th World Leather Con

Thematic Area	Time	Tentative Topic	Responsibility
31st October 2021			
Arrival of WLC Delegate and Registration open (For physical participants)			
Day 1 1st November 2021			
Master of Ceremony : Prof. Mekonnen Hailemariam			
Registration and distribution of budges	8:00AM – 9:00AM	--	Organizer
Welcome and Introduction	9:00AM – 10:00AM	Programs and Participants introduction	Master of Ceremony
		Welcome remark	ALLPI, ED ICT
Official opening Speech		Guest of Honor: Hon. Minister of Industry, Ethiopia	
Health Break	10:00AM – 10:30AM		Organizer
Session 1: Moderator: Dr. Kerry Senior, Secretary, International Council of Tanners			
Global view on livestock, raw stock and value chains and supply chains	10:30AM – 10:45AM	The Relation of Leather to the Livestock and Meat Industry	Mr Stephen M. Sothmann Leather and Hide Council of America President
	10:50AM – 11:05AM	Footwear and Leather Goods Global Perspective	Mr. Wondu Legesse Gizaw National Project Coordinator-ETHIOPIA UNIDO
	11:10AM – 11:25AM	Luxury and Fashion Leather World	Mr. Luca Boltri Vice Director Head of Economic Department UNIC Italian Tanners Association
Question and Answer	11:25AM – 11:40PM		
Break	11:40PM – 11:55PM		
Session 2: Moderator: Dr. Kerry Senior, Secretary, International Council of Tanners			
Recent advances on leather development, processing and sustainability	11:55PM – 12:10PM	Leather Processing and Sustainability	Mr. Kim Sena Sustainability Manager JBS Couros
	12:15AM – 12:40PM	Leather value chain and sustainability as the industry driver	Mr. Rogerio Cunha Trade Intelligence Manager Centre for the Brazilian Tanning Industry
	12:45PM – 13:00PM	Practical Solutions for Deploying Polymer Sphere Technology at Production Scale	Mr. Vikrant Pratap CEO of QUALUS
Question and Answer	13:00PM – 13:20PM		
Lunch Break	13.20PM – 14:30PM		

gress (WLC) Program

Thematic Area	Time	Tentative Topic	Responsibility
Session 3: Moderator: Mr. Paul Pearson, former Secretary, International Council of Tanners			
Trade, Policy and Regulations	14:30PM – 14:45PM	Sustainability through Standards with Integrity	Mrs. Deborah Taylor Managing Director, Sustainable Leather Foundation, Consultant United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
	14:50PM – 15:20PM	Regional and International Trade and Policy	Mr. Chen Zhanguang China Leather Industry Association Mr. Gustavo Gonzalez-Quijano Secretary General COTANCE-European Leather Association
	15:25PM – 15:40PM	Tannery of the Future / Self Assessment programme.	Ms Christina Trautmann, Operations manager for the Leather Working Group
Question and Answer	15:40PM – 16:00PM		
Health Break	16:00PM – 16:15PM		Organizer
Conclusions	16:15PM – 17:00PM	General Discussion and Wrapping up of the 5 th World Leather Congress	



Leather Industry in Ethiopia

First in Africa and tenth in the world in terms of cattle population, Ethiopia possesses ample business potential opportunities for leather industry, employment generation, export earnings, and expediting nation's pace towards industrial development.

As sources indicate, the country has about 2.5 percent of the world livestock population with about 57.83 million cattle; 28.04 million sheep and 28.61 million heads of goat. Every year, the nation produces 5 million tons of hides, 8.1 million tons of sheepskins and 7.5 million tons of goat skins. In view of these resources and identifying the multifaceted rewards in terms of creating more jobs, boosting export and overall economic growth, in the past decades, the government has been striving to develop the leather sector. This is being done mostly through attracting local and foreign investors from across the world and facilitating conducive environment to export high-end leather products rather than semi-processed outputs. And the country has made significant strides in the sector over the last few decades.

Currently, the leather industry is thriving remarkably. Anchor foreigner companies, for instance from Italy, China, UK, India, and Turkey, are operating within the country and the number of tanneries are increasing from time to time. Concurrently, international market destinations are expanding and the amounts of products that are supplied to the global market have increased in volume, variety and quality.





Mr Stephen M. Sothmann
Leather and Hide Council of America President

Stephen Sothmann is the Leather & Hide Council of America (LHCA). In this role, Stephen represents and promotes the interests of the U.S. hides, skins and leather industry before a wide-range of stakeholders, including U.S. and foreign governments, industry trade associations, media outlets, and other organizations related to global leather production and trade. He was appointed to this role in 2013 after serving as Director of International Affairs for three years in a previous iteration of the organization. LHCA is a close affiliate of the North American Meat Institute (NAMI), the nation's oldest and

largest industry trade association representing meat and poultry packers, processors and traders.

Prior to joining LHCA, Sothmann worked as a member of the legislative staff of United States Senator Evan Bayh from Indiana, covering a broad range of economic issues including international trade and agriculture. A native of the state of Indiana, Sothmann received a Bachelor of Arts from Purdue University, a Master of Business Administration from the Indiana University Kelley School of Business, and Juris Doctor from the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law.

Thematic Area

Global view on livestock, raw stock and value chains and supply chains

Topic

The Relation of Leather to the Livestock and Meat Industry



Mr. Wondu Legesse Gizaw

National Project Coordinator - ETHIOPIA UNIDO

I had been there in Leather Industry Development Institute From Sep 2000 to August 2008; as Assistant Expert, Expert, Instructor, senior instructor, Research and Development Head of the Institute for 8 years. Then I serve as Department head of Leather and

leather Products development department for 1 year and assigned as a Director General from Sep 2009 to Nov 2018. I have been grateful and honor to serve the leather sector for such a long time. I always proud of my bosses and colleagues in the institute.

Thematic Area

Global view on livestock, raw stock and value chains and supply chains

Topic

Footwear and Leather Goods Global Perspective



Mr. Luca Boltri

Vice Director Head of Economic Department

UNIC Italian Tanners Association

Luca Boltri is Vice-Director of UNIC-Italian Tanneries, the representative body of the Italian tanning industry, which covers over 60% of the European sector in terms of leather production, turnover and companies. He has responsibilities in all the fields in which the organisation provides services, including economic intelligence, international projects & relationships, social dialogue, sustainability, legal affairs, industrial

policy, trade fair organisation (Lineapelle, Milan, is one of the most important international leather fair in the world). Luca holds a Master Degree in Business and Law Administration at Bocconi University (Milan) and previously worked for the Italian Trade Agency ICE and for the World Bank. He has been working for UNIC since 2000.

Thematic Area

Global view on livestock, raw stock and value chains and supply chains

Topic

Luxury and Fashion Leather World



Mr. Kim Sena
Sustainability Manager JBS Couros

“**K**im Sena is the Sustainability Manager for JBS Couros, based in the company’s headquarters in São Paulo, Brazil. With a bachelor degree Chemical Engineering and specialized in Business Management, and with previous experience in the engineering departments of petrochemical industries, he also worked for 5 years in the R&D Department at JBS Couros, focused on process optimization and continuous improvement in the production processes of Wet Blue, Crust and Finished Leather. Among other projects, he conducted the development of Kind Leather, a disruptive solution to considerably minimize the environmental footprint and solid waste generation of leather, and of the JBS360 Platform, which provides an open online tracking system from farms to final product.”

Thematic Area

Recent advances on leather development, processing and sustainability

Topic

Leather Processing and Sustainability



Mr. Rogerio Cunha

Trade Intelligence Manager Centre for the Brazilian Tanning Industry

Rogerio Cunha is the Trade Intelligence Manager for the Centre for the Brazilian Tanning Industry and the Spokesperson for the Brazilian Leather Sustainability Certification. With MBA in Business Management, Specialization in Foreign Trade and International Business, and a Bachelor degree in Administration, has worked with foreign trade for 30 years, acting as Director of International Affairs and Export Department Executive in international companies, having commercial experience in about 50 countries.

Thematic Area

Recent advances on leather development, processing and sustainability

Topic

Leather value chain and sustainability as the industry driver



Mr. Vikrant Pratap
CEO of QUALUS

Vikrant Pratap is the CEO of Qualus, a UK-based company that provides a patented technology that helps tanneries lower their environmental footprint, while also reducing their production costs and improving the quality of their leather. Vikrant has led Qualus since 2016, overseeing the development of the business from early trials through Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 9 and on to commercialisation. Prior to joining Qualus, Vikrant

worked on commercialising disruptive technologies across multiple sectors, including banking, education, mobile commerce, and social media platforms. He also worked for 7 years as a management consultant with McKinsey & Co., advising clients worldwide on strategy, operations, and finance.

Vikrant holds a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering from the Cooper Union in New York, and an MBA from INSEAD.

Thematic Area

Recent advances on leather development, processing and sustainability

Topic

Practical Solutions for Deploying Polymer Sphere Technology at Production Scale



Mrs. Deborah Taylor

**Managing Director, Sustainable Leather Foundation,
Consultant United Nations Economic Commission for Europe**

Deborah is the Managing Director of the Sustainable Leather Foundation, a not-for –Profit Foundation, set up specifically to Support the leather industry in becoming more Sustainable.

The Purpose of the Foundation is to provide a global Platform for the benefit of all stakeholders in the leather Value chain, from farm to Post consumption. SLF provides a certification programme, education, best practice, cohesive collaboration and support for transformative environmental and social change. In addition, the Sustainable Leather Foundation believes that consumer focused information is fundamental to raise the level of understanding and education around the positive and sustainable practices that already exist, and are in development, within the leather industry.

Previously from 2015-2020, Deborah managed the

Leather Working Group (LWG), an environmental Stewardship programme that supports the reduction of environmental impacts caused by tannery operations around the World. While managing LWG, Deborah saw membership and audited tannery number of audit tools now available and formal links with other initiatives in the sector.

A Practitioner member of the Chartered Quality Institute and Certified SA8000 lead auditor ,Deborah also currently Works as a Consultant for the UNECE on the Project to “enhance traceability and transparency in the garment and footwear sector .In addition ,she provides consultancy support to Textile Exchange on their Leather Impact Accelerator (LIA),with particular emphasis on the Leather Production Benchmark and Traceability.

Thematic Area

Trade, Policy and Regulations

Topic

Sustainability through Standards with Integrity



Mr. Chen Zhanguang
China Leather Industry Association

From 1990 to 1994, Mr. Chen studied in Chengdu University of Science and Technology (now Sichuan University). From 1994 to 1998, he worked as technician in Shandong Wendeng Tannery and Shandong Rizhao Tannery. He Studied in Sichuan University from 1998 to 2001 and obtained his master degree. Since 2001, he served as deputy director, director, deputy secretary general and secretary general in China Leather Industry Association (CLIA).

He has undertaken more than 20 national research projects and formulated standards and policies.

His research results won the second prize of technological invention of China National Light Industry Council, National Invention Patent Award, and the second prize of Science and Technology Progress Award of Ministry of Education.

He has published more than 20 papers in domestic major journals as well as in international conferences. Mr.Chen has accomplished over 20 policy studies and standards such as “Guideline for Export of Leather and Leather Products(Issued by Ministry of Commerce)”, “Guidance for leather industry structure adjustment (Issued by Ministry of Industry and Information Technolo-

gy)”, “Discharge Standard of Water Pollutants for Leather and Fur Making Industry (Issued by the Ministry of Environmental Protection)”, “Entry Criteria of Tanning Industry(Issued by Ministry of Industry and Information Technology)”, “Technical specification for application and issuance of pollutant discharge permit–leather ,fur and footwear(Issued by the Ministry of Environmental Protection)” and so on.

He also took responsibility and fulfilled the programs entrusted by Ministry of Environmental Protection, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology and National Development and Reform Commission, such as “Leather Industry Pollution Reduction Analysis Report and Implementation Plan”, “Leather Industry Water Pollution Emission Technology and Accounting Parameters Research”, “Key Industries of Light Industry (paper, fermentation, leather) Energy-Saving and Emission Reduction Policy Research” and so on. The completion of these research and the formulation of industrial policies has built a scientific foundation for the environmental protection and clean production of the leather industry, and play an important role in guiding the sustainable development of the leather industry.

Thematic Area

Trade, Policy and Regulations

Topic

Regional and International Trade and Policy



Mr. Gustavo Gonzalez-Quijano

Secretary General COTANCE - European Leather Association

Born in Stockholm (Sweden) on 26 March 1960 and schooled in Vienna (Austria) in the city's Lycée français, Gustavo Gonzalez-Quijano speaks fluently 5 languages apart of his mother tongue (Spanish).

He graduated in Madrid's Complutense University from Law school and specialised in European Law in Belgium's Université Libre de Bruxelles at the Institut d'Etudes Européennes.

Gustavo Gonzalez-Quijano began his professional career in Brussels as a Lobbyist in IRELCO, a consultancy defending a series of industrial and regional interests from several countries. He has been heading the Brussels-based leather industry association COTANCE since 1987.

COTANCE is the European umbrella organisation of the Leather industry gathering the national leather Trade Associations of 13 countries representing over 90% of Europe's leather production.

The following points illustrate his experience:

- Representative of the employers of the EU tanning industry in the Social Sector Dialogue

- Chairman of the CENTC 289 "Leather" (Standardisation)
- Chairman of the ESCO TEXTAN Reference Group for the development of a TCLF sector taxonomy
- Chairman and founding member of the cross-sector REACH Platform CheMI defending the interests of chemicals-using manufacturing industries
- Chair of the Technical Secretariat of the EU Leather Pilot (PEF)
- Chair (temporary) of the Apparel & Footwear Cluster for the PEF transition phase
- Member of the ICT Executive Committee
- Member of the Board of the EU TCLF Sector Skills Council
- Member of the UNIDO Leather & Leather Products Panel
- Member of the FAO Sub-Group on Hides & Skins
- Partner in EU R&D and Erasmus+ (Education & Training) Projects
- Over 30 years of experience in networking up and down the leather value chain at international level

Thematic Area

Trade, Policy and Regulations

Topic

Regional and International Trade and Policy



Ms Christina Trautmann,
Operations manager for the Leather Working Group

Christina is the Program Manager of the Leather Working Group (LWG), which is an industry-lead, not-for-profit organization that drives environmental improvement in the leather industry.

She joined the LWG in 2020, coming from adidas where she worked for several years – both at the headquarters in Germany and with the Sourcing organization in Asia - most recently in the Footwear Material Sourcing team in Hong Kong, managing their leather portfolio. She holds a master's degree in chemical and environmental

engineering from the University of Cape Town and is passionate about sustainability in all forms.

Since joining the LWG, she has helped in the expansion of the scope of the organization, with the biggest milestone being the launch of Protocol 7 – the audit protocol for Leather Manufacturers. P7 has been developed into a holistic audit standard, covering both environmental and social compliance, with an additional significant focus on the traceability of material.

Thematic Area

Trade, Policy and Regulations

Topic

Tannery of the Future / Self Assessment programme.

Africa's Leather Sector

Africa is fast emerging as one of the future markets for sourcing quality leather and hides for the booming global leather industry. Leather and leather products are among the most widely traded and universally used commodities in the world.

Africa's abundance of livestock represents a natural strength for the sector, as leather is a by-product of the meat industry. Africa has about 15 per cent of the world's cattle population, a percentage that grew by about a quarter over the last decade, overtaking the global trend. Similarly, Africa possesses about 25 per cent of the world's sheep and goat population. This puts African at the centre of the booming leather industry as a key supplier of hides and raw materials to the growing industry of leather and leather goods.



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