



COMESA-LLPI NEWSLETTER

Leather for Health, Wealth and Luxury!

July - Sept. 2016 (Issue No. 7)

Contents	#
Eritrea Unpacks Leather Sector Strategy	1
Executive Director's Message	2
Sudan: COMESA/LLPI Experts Team Mission	3
East Africa Trade and Investment Hub (EATIH) Director- Investment made a Courtesy Visit to COMESA/LLPI	4
DR Congo Delegation Visits the Leather Sector in Ethiopia	5
Ethiopian Leather Industries Association (ELIA) Strategy Formulation Workshop Held	6
Kenya: Industry Minister backs tannery cluster	7
Rwanda Seeks to Prosper Domestic Supply of Finished Leather	7
Tanzania: Leather Industry Faces Bleak Future	8
Hides Sold for Food Damage Nigeria's Leather Potential	9
August A Positive Month for Brazilian Leather Exports	11
US Footwear Industry Seeks Classification Clarification for Athletic Footwear	11
Einstein's Leather Jacket Sold to the Company That Made It	11
New Technology Converts Tannery Waste into Green Soles	12
Technology - "Revolutionary" New Technology for Leather Printing	12
Waterless Chrome Tanning A Relief for Environment	12
Pakistan - Measures to Upgrade Leather Industry	13
Wide Range of Products on Display at ACLE	13
COMESA/LLPI Inaugurated a Newly Expanded Office and Congratulated its Staff!	14

Eritrea Unpacks Leather Sector Strategy



The National Leather Value Chain Strategy Unpacking Workshop and Curricula Development in Leather Technology at Certificate and Diploma levels were held at the Asmara Palace Hotel, from September 14-15, 2016. The Strategy was developed under the Ministry of Trade and Industry in collaboration with COMESA-Leather and Leather Products Institute. His Excellency Mr. Arefaine Berhe, Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, officially opened the Workshop. A total

of more than 30 participants from different Public and Private Institutions/Enterprises and Academia took part in the Workshop.

His Excellency Mr. Arefaine in his opening speech, thanked COMESA/LLPI for all the technical and financial support, from the very beginning of the Strategy formulation participatory process to the



Prof. Mwinyihija, Executive Director of COMESA/LLPI Making a Remark during the unpacking and Discussion Event

present unpacking event. His Excellency, by mentioning the great potential of the leather sector, reiterated that the Government is committed to the implementation of the Strategy and collaboration with the Private Sector.

Through the unpacking process, a responsibility matrix was developed for the implementation of the five key priority objectives of the Strategy that were further broken into 21 sub-objectives.



**NEXT ISSUE
SEPTEMBER 2016**

Continued on Page 3....



Prof. Mwinyikione Mwinyihija, Executive Director of COMESA-LLPI

Dear Esteemed Readers,

Welcome to this 2016 third quarter newsletter that highlights some of the major activities of COMESA-LLPI during the period July to September 2016 and other leather related news from the Region and elsewhere.

COMESA/LLPI has had a very eventful Quarter with its Experts having traveled to a number of countries, (Eritrea, Ethiopia, D.R. Congo, Rwanda, Sudan, Zimbabwe..) and accomplished many exciting tasks that have significantly contributed towards developing and articulating meaningful solutions to meet the leather industry's challenges in the respective countries. In this regard, we are thankful to all member States and the private sector for all their hard work and continued and consistent commitments to develop the leather sector.

As mentioned above, this Quarter's newsletter gives the highlights of the above mentioned COMESA/LLPI activities and some of the regional and global happenings in the leather sector. We hope the information contained in this Issue will help to keep you informed and connected with the COMESA/LLPI's leather sector activities, and some of the regional and global happenings in the leather sector.

We look forward to hearing from you and welcome your thoughts and feedback.

Sincerely,

*Prof. Mwinyikione Mwinyihija
Executive Director*

The full implementation of the Strategy will facilitate the transformation of the lives of many Eritreans and will contribute towards poverty reduction as envisaged by the Government.



Group Discussion During the Unpacking Process and Group Picture at the Conclusion of the Event



Sudan: COMESA/LLPI Experts Team Mission

The COMESA-Leather and Leather Products Institute's Experts Team, led by the Institute's Executive Director, Prof. Mwinyikione Mwinyihija, and composed of the Institute's Leather Value Chain Expert and two consultants from UV Enterprises from Chennai, India was on Mission to Sudan from 23 to 29 August 2016. The purpose of the Mission was to design and complete the necessary drawings for the construction of a Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) for the Leather City in

Technology, SSMO, Ministry of Environment, Khartoum State Sanitary Corporation and National Leather Technology Center were among Institutions the Team visited, in line with both the CETP design and Sudan Leather Value Chain Strategy Implementation.

The Experts Team generated the necessary data for the design, process and engineering drawings, capacity planning and detailed cost estimate for the



ElGaily Industrial Area, Khartoum, and to discuss with the officials and concerned stakeholders on the best way forward for the Sudan Leather Value Chain Strategy.

The Experts Team conducted a need assessment survey for the CETP design by visiting the site and meeting with the various stakeholders from August 24 to 27, 2016. The Team was also received by the Honorable Ministers of the Ministry of Industry & Investment, Ministry of Human Development & Labour, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Resources & Irrigation, and Ministry of Trade to discuss on the best way forward for the Sudan Leather Value Chain Strategy implementation. Kerari Vocational Training Center, Sudan University of Science and

CETP Project. The newly established Sudan Leather Council also held its first inaugural meeting during the Mission period. Other major accomplishments of the Mission encompassed: possibility of extending SME training at Kerari Vocational Training Center for other States in Sudan; the Private Sector link into the Kerari Vocational Training Center Advisory Board; potential of advancing training in leather technology into Levels II & III, based on the approved curriculum; operationalization of the Sudan Leather Development Council; the implementation of RISM Project in the areas of capacity building of SMEs; strengthening of Kerari Vocational Training Center to become a Satellite Design Studio of the COMSec-LLPI Regional Design



Studio; implementation of Traceability to strengthen the Sudan Leather Value Chain Strategy; tools and equipment support to Kerari and Sudan University of Science and Technology (SUST)- Technological Leather Industry Incubator; mainstreaming of the

Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Resources & Irrigation Agriculture into the implementation of the National Leather Value Chain Strategy; and many more such achievements.

East Africa Trade and Investment Hub (EATIH) Director- Investment made a courtesy visit to COMESA/LLPI



Mrs. Kanini Mutooni, Director – Investment, East Africa Trade and Investment Hub (EATIH) made a courtesy visit to COMESA/LLPI on August 17, 2016. She was warmly welcomed by Prof. Mwinyihija Mwinyikione, Executive Director of COMESA/LLPI and the Institute's Experts Team. The visit was part of the operationalization of the MoU signed between the two Institutions (EATIH and COMESA/LLPI). The two parties (Mrs. Mutooni and COMESA/LLPI Team) made fruitful discussions to fast-track collaborative activities between the two Institutions. Mrs. Mutooni took cognizance of LLPI's excellent performance in the region and commended the Institute in its successful engagement with the various member States in the development of leather sector and this was pertinent in EATIH's drive to partner with LLPI in progressing important social economic indicators to



the next phase.

The Regional Design Studio Project which was initiated by COMESA/LLPI in partnership with the Commonwealth Secretariat was considered as a potential area where support from EATIH will considerably contribute towards enhanced leather sector development in the East African Community countries.

Mrs Mutooni indicated potential opportunities in skills development of SMEs, strengthening of ICT facilities and furtherance of trade that could be availed for relevant Institutions to bid competitively. Fundamental areas of agreement between the two Institutions is to enhance wealth creation, poverty alleviation, improve gender parity and stimulate rural development to improve the quality of life in Eastern Africa.



Mrs. Kanini Mutooni and COMESA/LLPI Team During the Discussion

DR Congo Delegation Visits the Leather Sector in Ethiopia



A Four-member delegation of DR Congo visited the Ethiopian Leather Sector from September 25 to October 1, 2016. The Delegation was accorded a warm welcome at COMESA-Leather and Leather Products Institute, by Prof. Mwinyikione Mwinyihija – Executive Director of COMESA/LLPI, and other senior members of the Institute. The visiting delegation included Mr. SAFARI BASINIZE Roger, Prime Minister's Advisor-DR Congo, Mr. BIDUAYA MUSUMBU EZECHIEL and Mr. MANGA BOLENGU VITAL, both Directors at the Office for the Promotion of Congolese Small and Medium Enterprises (OPEC) and Mr. BAHATI KAYEYE, SME owner and professional footwear manufacturer.

The visit was a benchmarking exercise, as part of the implementation of the feasibility study for the establishment of a Pilot SME Incubator in the Leather Sector in Kinshasa, and the country's Leather Sector Value Chain Strategy Development. COMESA Leather

and Leather Products Institute (LLPI) is facilitating the execution of these assignments in collaboration with OPEC.

The Delegation held meetings with COMESA/LLPI Experts and visited the Leather Industry Development Institute of Ethiopia, Tanneries, Footwear manufacturing Enterprises, and SMEs organized into Cluster and those operating outside Cluster.

The Delegation members expressed their appreciation to COMESA/LLPI for the well organized visit program and said that they have met all their mission objectives and were highly impressed with what they have seen.

Ethiopian Leather Industries Association (ELIA) Strategy Formulation Workshop



The Ethiopian Leather Industries Association (ELIA) in collaboration with COMESA - Leather and Leather Products Institute (LLPI) organized a one day workshop to formulate ELIA's Strategy on 21st July 2016 at Monarch Hotel, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Participants were drawn from different public and private sectors of the leather and allied industries.

The Workshop was officially opened by Mr. Wondu Legesse, Director General of Ethiopia Leather Industry Development Institute (LIDI). Mr. Wondu, in his remark, stressed that the Association should strengthen itself to address the challenges of its members. In East Asian countries, Associations are strong enough to mobilize resources and achieve national economic objectives, he added; and ELIA should benchmark such associations to develop the Ethiopia leather sector.



Prof. Mwinyikione Mwinyihija, made a climate setting remark iterating the importance of the leather sector for the development of the country in terms of employment and wealth creation.

Participants thoroughly discussed in groups the challenges of the Ethiopian leather sector in general and ELIA in particular. The Workshop gave due attention to the importance of the All African Leather Fair (AALF) which actually has very good impact on the leather sector in terms of creating market linkages and experience sharing.

In general, the Workshop had given an opportunity to identify the major challenges and possible intervention areas regarding the leather sector in Ethiopia and the Association itself.



Partial View of Group Discussion During the Formulation Workshop



Kenya: Industry Minister Backs Tannery Cluster

In a bid to boost local production in leather in Kenya, the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Cooperatives, through its implementing agencies, the Export Processing Zones Authority (EPZA) and the Kenya Leather Development Council (KLDC), has embarked on the setting up of the first ever Leather Industrial Park in the country.

As previously reported by ILM, the Government and industry are aiming at setting up the Leather Industrial Park in Machakos County. This was the main item during an investor briefing breakfast meeting held earlier this month, held at Radisson Blu Hotel in Nairobi and attended by the Cabinet Secretary for Ministry of Industry, Trade and Cooperatives, Adan Mohamed.

The Leather Industrial Park falls in line with the country's Industrial Transformation Program that plans to turn around the leather sector. The Government has given the investment community in the leather sector the first Government-led Industrial Development zone since 1992, when the Export Processing Zones were unveiled (24 years later).

The development of the Kenya Leather Park is guided by Kenya's Vision 2030, the country's economic development blueprint, that aims to transform Kenya into a newly industrialised, "middle-income country providing a high-quality life to all its citizens by the year 2030".

The Kenya Leather Park (KLP) will be set on a 500-acre site with the aim of encouraging value addition and innovation towards unlocking economic potential of the leather sector in Kenya. It aims to create an enabling

environment for the attraction and facilitation of increased foreign and domestic direct investments into Kenya. Currently 90% of Kenya's leather exports, equivalent to US\$94 million, are sold as wet-blue. Further processing of finished leather and leather goods could create an additional 35,000 jobs which should increase the GDP to between US\$150-250 million.

The development of the Kenya Leather Park is geared towards promoting the sector through facilitating leather footwear manufacturers, tanneries, packaging and logistics companies, including small and medium enterprises. Other opportunities include a training centre, lower costs of labour and electricity, EPZ benefits on taxation and trade as well as integrated amenities such as a residential complex, schools, health facilities and a recreation centre.

The KLP will include a shared effluent treatment plant with adequate water supply. Plans also feature industrial facilities for tanneries and manufacturers of leather goods and will have showroom facilities to showcase finished products. The residing areas will also have a residential complex, schools, training and health facilities.

The Kenya Leather Park will also provide potential investors with incentives ranging from substantial tax benefits along with a wide range of park services that will allow quick ramp up and international competitiveness.

Source: http://internationaleleathermaker.com/news/fullstory.php/aid/3112/Industry_minister_backs_tannery_cluster.html

Rwanda Seeks to Prosper Domestic Supply of Finished Leather

Rwanda's Ministry of Trade and Industry (MINICOM) urges the hide and skin sector to advance strategies and solutions to improve the country's supply of finished leather in order to boost domestic manufacturing. According to MINICOM, Rwanda's production of hides and skins has been growing in terms of volume in the past few years but not much is transformed into value added products for either domestic or international markets. "The hides and skins sector has a potential role in generating money for our economy. For example, if they are transformed into finished products, they can generate about US\$117 million to the country so you understand what is at stake to develop the whole leather value chain,"

François Kanimba, Minister of Trade and Industry, told local media highlighting that footwear manufacturers, in particular, struggled to obtain finished leather locally.

Through the "Made in Rwanda" campaign launched by the Government earlier this year, the Chinese owners of Kigali Leather, a tannery based in the Bugesera District, say they have invested around US\$8m to purchase shoe-making equipment from China to enable the design and production of leather shoes that meet the local market needs.

The new machinery should allow the production of 1,000-2,000 pairs of shoes daily. Kigali Leather, which processes around five tonnes of wet-white and wet-blue daily, has recently been accused of dumping chemical waste into the Nyabarongo river, a major river in Rwanda and considered to be one of the sources of the Nile –

Source: http://internationaleleathermaker.com/news/fullstory.php/aid/3236/Rwanda_seeks_to_prosper_domestic_supply_of_finished_leather.html

Tanzania: Leather Industry Faces Bleak Future



TANZANIA leather industry faces bleak future as global commodity price slump lowered demand for value added leather products from major importers.

Leather Association of Tanzania (LAT), Executive Secretary, Mr Joram Wakari, said in Dar es Salaam that leather exports have dropped to less than 5 per cent, forcing some players to close down their businesses.

"The situation is worse as very little is being exported due to fall of demand from the most importing countries including China and Pakistan thus leaving most godowns full of packed semi processed leather products," he said.

For example, one leather factory in Shinyanga has closed down operations due to falling demand for semi processed leather products. The situation has not impacted only Tanzania, but also Kenya, Ethiopia and Brazil. He said most business people in the leather industry were frustrated and had incurred heavy losses since when the situation started to surface on the last quarter last year. The governments will also lose substantial revenues from the leather industry.

"The country spends substantial amount of its scarce foreign exchange to import around 60 million pairs of shoes annually," he said, adding that concerted measures were needed to increase investment on the

leather industry to absorb unexpected shock.

Tanzania currently uses only a fraction of the potential in leather industry while spending substantial amount of its scarce foreign exchange to import footwear and other leather materials from abroad. Other imports of leather products being bags and handbags, wallets and belts that can be made locally using the available raw hides and skins.

He said local entrepreneurs are given opportunity to make 30 millions pair of shoes annually out of 60 imports which could have made a big difference to the economy and absorbed the shocks from international markets.

Presently, the local manufacturers can make less than one million footwear annually. He said the sector offers huge potentials for local investors to develop the present smallscale leather factories as well as establishing the new ones.

Source: <http://dailynews.co.tz/index.php/business/51864-leather-industry-faces-bleak-future>

Hides Sold for Food Damage Nigeria's Leather Potential

Despite its potential and the increased slaughter rates in the country, Nigeria's leather sector suffers a shortage of hides and skins as these are being sold as a national delicacy instead of, for example, as raw material for shoe lining.

Increasing slaughter rates and cattle availability for the leather industry are being challenged by consumption of the "ponmo", a cow skin delicacy that is processed to look like pork or beef after being washed several times and boiled for hours.

According to Pastor Taiwo Adeoye, President, Animal Science Association of Nigeria (ASAN), the consumption of the ponmo derived from hides "has been an age-long practice which no Government has been able to stop", and that "the industry is creating jobs, but that it ought to provide more if repositioned and made a major agricultural export".

An estimated average of 15,000 sheep and goats are slaughtered daily in Nigeria. The leather potential in Lagos State alone is said to reach over US\$5 billion in value-added products, and if the 5,000 cattle hides available daily were used for leather products, another NGN624 billion (US\$1.81 billion) could be generated locally, besides foreign exchange earnings and jobs creation.

Nigeria's neglect of the leather products industry in favour of oil production, and consumption of its hides and skins

as ponmo, has been much criticised as the leather sector is considered to hold great potential for export earnings and employment.

However, the consumption of ponmo has risen health concerns as the cow skins are usually not prepared in the best condition and various unhygienic substances such as trash, wood, charcoal and rubber tyres are thrown into the furnace to sustain the blazing heat. "The health effects of burning tyres alone are enormous, let alone using them to process human food", Toyin Suarau, Commissioner for Agriculture, told local media, pointing out that burning tyres releases a toxic cocktail with hundreds of the various toxic pollutants and small particles.

As a result, the Lagos State Government has recently closed down and dislodged the cow skin processing section of the Oko-Oba abattoir and Lairage Complex in Agege. According to Suarau, the State Government will continue to monitor Abattoirs and will not hesitate to close down those considered as unhygienic.

There are hopes that such actions will discourage consumption of the ponmo, and promote healthy and profitable use of hides and skins for export growth

Source: http://internationalleathermaker.com/news/fullstory.php/aid/3118/Hides_sold_for_food_damage_Nigeria_92s_leather_potential.html

Footwear Company Discussed Opportunities in Kenyan Market

Over the next three years, Kenyan footwear retailer KShoe plans to open approximately 15 new stores, targeting premium consumers. The chain currently has six outlets within Nairobi's city centre, at upmarket shopping malls and in a residential location outside the capital.

KShoe, owned by Nairobi Business Ventures, was set up by Indian-born entrepreneurs Vasu Abotula and Raj Srungarapu, and they initially imported and supplied footwear to wholesalers before eventually starting their own retail business stocking shoes and leather accessories.

The first KShoe-branded shop opened in 2012, and quickly grew. Srungarapu, Managing Director of Nairobi Business Ventures, says that there is "big scope" for further expansion in Nairobi and emerging cities across Kenya due to population growth and rising incomes, providing increasing demand for shoes.

"There is [an] opportunity to add three to four more stores in the city centre," he said. "There is also [the] possibility

to expand within malls, in upcoming residential locations and in emerging towns across Kenya such as Mombasa, Kisumu and Nakuru".

Last year, KShoe's six outlets moved up to 60,000 pairs of shoes; however, in five years, the target is to sell 500,000 pairs, which is still small compared with Kenya's estimated annual consumption of about 34 million pairs a year, currently driven by second-hand imports.

The market for new shoes in Kenya is controlled by regional manufacturer Bata Shoe Company Kenya, which operates more than 100 shops throughout the country.

In coming years, Nairobi Business Ventures aims to set up local manufacturing operations and the Kenyan Government is developing a leather industrial park in Athi River outside Nairobi that will host local manufacturers.

Source : *Leather International Magazine*, May 2016

Ethiopia: Anbessa Shoes Undertaking Half Billion Birr Expansion



Anbessa Shoes is conducting an expansion project at a cost of half a billion birr on the outskirts of Addis Abeba, along the newly built Akaki-Goro road. This project, when completed, will increase the production capacity of the company threefold, up to 10,000 pairs of shoes a day.

Considered a pioneer in the industry, Anbessa has been active in the Ethiopian market since 1935. It was first founded by an Italian owner. It was then sold to an Armenian tannery owner, Mardious Drakjan, in 1942.

In 1975, after the coming of the militarist regime, Anbessa was fully nationalised and re-organised into two public enterprises: Anbessa Shoe Factory and Awash Tannery. Again, after the fall of the regime and the emergence of the Transitional Government in the early 1990s, the Company was dissolved from the National Leather & Shoe Corporation and put under a Board supervision and re-established as an autonomous entity.

It was in 2011 that the factory was transferred to a private holding at a total cost of 4.3 million dollars. That year, following a call by the then Privatisation and Public Enterprises Supervising Agency (PPESA), four bidders, along with the eventual winner, took part in the bid.

However, back then a bidder by the name of Tedela Yezengaw gave a total offer of 4.3 million dollars and committed to settling the whole payment before taking over the company. Now Anbessa is owned by seven shareholders, with the majority belonging to Tedela.

So far, the factory has been producing up to 3,500 pairs of shoes, at its current plant along Bekele Weya Street (Dej), on a daily basis. As the expansion taking place at 20,000sqm of land is completed the existing plant will move to the earlier place. It's built up area is 9,000sqm of land.

"We fail to satisfy the demand of most of our clients due to the lack of facilities," said Bamlaku Demissie, General Manager of the company. "The completion of the project will help us to fill this gap."

The construction of the factory is contracted to a local company, Giga Construction Plc. The construction is being done with the actual plant house, and the Aluminium work for the gates and windows has already commenced.

Giga Construction was established 16 years ago and recapitalised in 2005 with 1.6 million Br. The construction company has engaged in various projects, including the construction of a 10-storey building in Awash and an Abattoir in Adama (Nazareth).

"After some delay during the beginning of the project in March 2014, the project is going as per the scheduled time," Tesfay Gebremedhin, Giga's Project Manager for the expansion project, told Fortune. "We will complete the whole project in the coming two months."

Currently, Anbessa Factory employs close to 1,200 people; upon completion of the expansion it is expected to absorb close to 3,000 workers.

In the last year alone, the company has produced over 730,000 pairs of shoes and exported nearly 27,000.

The annual export made from the footwear industry reached 34.6 million dollars in the 2014/15 fiscal year, up from only 6.3 million dollars in the 2009/10 fiscal year. However, the last fiscal year exhibited a decline by around 30%.

Last week, in order to promote the industry more in the US market, Made by Ethiopia, Enterprise Partners and Footwear Distributors and US retailers organised a joint summit under the theme "Ethiopia: The source of premium duty free footwear manufacturing".

So far in 2016, Ethiopia has exported over two million pairs of shoes to the US market alone.

<http://addisfortune.net/articles/anbessa-shoes-undertaking-half-billion-br-expansion/>

Einstein's Leather Jacket Sold to the Company That Made It



Auction house Christie's has announced that the buyer of Albert Einstein's leather jacket was Levi Strauss, the company that designed and made the garment in the mid-1930s.

At a Christie's sale of the jacket in London on July 14, Levi's was the highest bidder at £110,500. It has reclaimed its original Cossack jacket, which was worn by Einstein in the mid-1930s, when he moved to the US and became an official American.

Tracey Panek, a historian for Levi's, said: "Amazingly, after all these years, Einstein's jacket retains his scent and smells of smoke. It feels so satisfying to be a part of preserving this history. I'm thrilled to see the product coming home to Levi's."

"The response to Albert Einstein's leather 'Cossack' jacket by Levi Strauss & Co. in Christie's Valuable Books and Manuscripts Sale has been exciting, generating international interest," said Thomas Venning, head of books and manuscripts at Christie's in London.

Source: <http://leatherbiz.com/fullitem.aspx?id=142167>

August: A Positive Month for Brazilian Leather Exports

Brazilian leather and skins exports grew in August, with tanners bringing in export revenues of \$178.5 million, an increase of 5.1% in comparison to the same month in 2015. The figures come from the government, with further analysis by the leather industry association CICB.

According to executive president of CICB, José Fernando Bello, the numbers are heavily influenced by exports of high value, that is finished and semi-finished leather; these account for more than 70% of Brazilian sales in the international market.

US Footwear Industry Seeks Clarification for Classification for Athletic Footwear

According to the FDRA, American footwear companies struggle to cope with inconsistent definitions and rulings

According to the FDRA, the Footwear Distributors and Retailers of America, clarification on the rules is required. And so, a letter signed by the FDRA was sent to the US Customs & Border Protection (CBP)

asking the US Government to clarify and update the criteria for classifying footwear as athletic, which can increase or decrease the duty rate for these types of shoes.

With the explosion in the use of athletic-looking styles and technology in fashion and lifestyle footwear, many types of shoes that are not suitable for athletic activities continue to be classified by the US Government as athletic. And the association gives some examples, such as the All-Star sneakers.

According to the FDRA: "CBP has long struggled with the impact continued athletic footwear innovation has on classifying footwear as both the iconic Converse All-Star shoe and classic Keds sneaker are still classified as athletic footwear. It is safe to say that decades have passed since either shoe was used in any type of athletic activity by anyone. This is a clear distinction as intended use is the most important determining factor for athletic classification and not the inclusion of several characteristics that might be shared with athletic footwear"

As innovation keeps transforming the industry at a surprising speed the organisation believes the rulings are not in line with this progress. FDRA President Matt Priest commented: "With 436 different ways to classify footwear embedded in a footwear tariff system launched in 1930, no one should be surprised that

such an arcane system has failed to keep up with new and emerging designs and developments. The time is now for CBP to streamline and clarify the standards they use to classify athletic footwear and provide clarity to our industry."

Source: http://www.worldfootwear.com/news.asp?id=1843&US_footwear_industry_seeks_classification_clarification_for_athletic_footwear

New Technology Converts Tannery Waste into Green Soles

A group of scientists from the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI) in India have developed a new means of converting liquid waste from tanneries into a major compound in shoe manufacturing.

Fleshings and fat have been converted into activated carbon using the CSIR system. Usually disposed in landfills leading to contamination of groundwater, fleshing has become a viable alternative to the carcinogenic carbon black widely used in making soles of leather shoes. This activated carbon not only adds colour but is also used as a reinforcing material in soles. Cost effective and lightweight, the compound reinforces strength whilst remaining flexible and abrasive resistant.

This technology is a result of the Zero Emission Research Initiatives for Solid Waste, a network project from CSIR. Unlike the conventional activated carbon which does not contain cross-linking agents such as calcium oxide and, therefore, cannot be used as filler in rubber manufacturing, the activated carbon converted from fleshing waste does contain calcium and can be used effectively as a filler in rubber manufacturing.

According to Chief Scientist, J Raghava Rao, the activated carbon matches the properties of conventional rubber soles. It is lightweight and leaves no imprint on carpets, one of the drawbacks in conventional soles. Furthermore, it doesn't have the carcinogenic properties of carbon black and is less expensive than silica, which also fails to give the intended colour tone.

Patented by CLRI, this new technology is targeted at environmentally conscious companies that aim to reduce their carbon footprint

http://internationalleathermaker.com/news/fullstory.php/aid/1751/New_technology_converts_tannery_waste_into_green_soles.html

Technology - "Revolutionary" New Technology for Leather Printing

Florida-based Graphixon Finishes has developed a "revolutionary new technology" for printing high resolution 2D and 3D images on to a variety of materials, including leather.

The company says that the transferred full colour images are water proof, fade resistant and highly durable to wear and abrasion. It believes that these benefits mean the technology is a "breakthrough" in leather printing and could "transform" the leather, footwear, apparel, accessories and furniture industries.

The process starts with printing the desired image onto Graphixon paper using conventional printing equipment. The graphic is then protected with a sealer and primer. Once the primer is dry it can be placed on the target substrate (leather, canvas, vinyl) and treated with heat and pressure. The processing time is 30 seconds. It is allowed to cool to room temperature before the transfer paper is removed from the surface of the substrate. The image remains on the surface of the material beneath a protective film.

Graphixon says all of the raw materials used in the process are fully water soluble and bio-degradable. A patent is pending for the technology.

The company has already worked with the Leather Research Laboratory to carry out a full series of tests to make the process suitable for luxury automotive interiors.

Source: <http://www.aplf.com/en-US/leather-fashion-news-and-blog/news/32812/technology-revolutionary-new-technology-for-leather-printing>

Waterless Chrome Tanning A Relief for Environment

Coming a major relief for thousands of villagers residing on the banks of Kala Sanghian and the connecting water bodies, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI), Chennai, has developed a 'Waterless Chrome Tanning Technology' (WLCT) and intends to promote it at the leather complex in a three-day demonstration and workshop beginning from Monday.

SK Mishra, Chief Scientist and incharge, CLRI, said the project 'Research Initiative for Waterless Tanning' (RIWT) had been adopted under the 12th five-year plan.

He explains the technology, "Chrome tanning is carried out without water. And pickling and basification are averted. Penetration and fixation is achieved equivalent to the conventional chrome tanning method. Apart from addressing the issue of chromium discharge, this technology also brings about the benefits of reduction in total dissolved solids load. The quality of leather thus produced is also found to be better than the leather produced in the conventional manner."

He adds, "CSIR-CLRI has taken the initiative of marketing this technology. On June 5, 2016, marking the World Environmental Day, Erode Tannery Owners' Association and CLRI organised the workshop on 'Roadmap on Sustainable Growth of Erode Leather Sector' and an MoU was signed to transfer the pickle-free waterless chrome tanning technology in the tanneries of Erode. Similarly, demonstration of this technology has been carried out recently in Kanpur leather sector between July 25-28, 2016."

On similar lines, Jalandhar leather sector has been identified as another important cluster to transfer the pickle-free waterless chrome tanning technology, he said. "Demonstration of this technology will be

conducted in three tanneries from August 29-31, 2016 and after the demonstration it is planned to conduct a workshop on August 31, 2016", he added.

There is cost factor involved too as the expert tells, that a tannery producing wet blue from 5 tons of hide would be able to save about Rs 1 lakh per month by means of reducing the chromium offer and also through dispensing with chromium recovery. Therefore, this technology provides viable solution to address the issue of chromium and additionally brings about financial benefit.

Chromium is known as the king of tanning as it is widely used for tanning. Out of 1.8 billion sq feet of annual global leather production, about 1.6 billion sq feet is made using chromium. The average uptake of chromium by the pelt during tanning is only about 60 per cent out of the chrome tanning agent offered. About 40,000 tons of basic chromium sulphate (BCS) is discharged globally by the leather industry every year.

Source: <http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/jalandhar/waterless-chrome-tanning-a-relief-for-environment/286163.html>

Pakistan - Measures to Upgrade Leather Industry

The Pakistan Tanners Association (PTA) says the country is making efforts to improve its leather industry. These improvements are focused on value-addition, innovation, Research and Development, and fashion design.

Various institutes have been established to fulfil these aims. The National Institute of Leather Technology in Karachi and the Gujranwala Leather Institute are helping develop the skills of the workforce in Pakistan's leather manufacturing units.

Two combined effluent treatment plants (CETP) have been set up in the Korangi Tannery Cluster and in the Kasur district of Punjab province to meet National Environmental Quality Standards (NEQS). These aid in the disposal and recycling of tannery waste water to protect the environment from pollution.

The Pakistani government has also announced the formation of the Leather Export Council (LEPC) to assist in the improvement and promotion of the leather sector. A joint motion with the EU-funded Pakistan Leather Competitiveness Improvement Program (PLCIL) has been submitted to the Ministry of Commerce requesting the early implementation of the LEPC.

Source: <http://www.aplf.com/en-US/leather-fashion-news-and-blog/news/32842/pakistan-measures-to-upgrade-leather-industry>

Wide Range of Products on Display at ACLE

The 2016 All China Leather Exhibition (ACLE) is underway in Shanghai (August 31-September 2) with several of the leather industry's most important players set to exhibit new products during the event.

This year's edition sees a total of 1,167 exhibitors from 35 countries. There are 19 group pavilions from the world's most prominent leather producing countries as well as chemical companies and equipment suppliers, who are presenting their latest technological developments.

ACLE is jointly organised by the China Leather Industry Association (CLIA) and APLF.

Speaking at the opening press conference on August 31, Michael Duck, Director of APLF said ACLE had become "a complete, integrated event designed to serve the needs of China's dynamic leather industry".

He added that the event has "moved with the times" and is a crucial element in bringing together international suppliers and companies within China's leather industry.

Mr. Duck also announced a Congress would take place ahead of the next edition of ACLE in Shanghai in August 2017. It will be co-hosted by the Taiwanese International Leather Association (TILA) and the CLIA, with APLF as a founding sponsor.

Source: <http://leatherbiz.com/fullitem.aspx?id=142571>

COMESA/LLPI Inaugurated a Newly Expanded Office and Congratulated its Staff!



COMESA/LLPI officially inaugurated a New Office, which was built and furnished in the Institute's premise, on Friday 9th September 2016. The inauguration was made by Prof. Mwinyihija, the Executive Director of COMESA/LLPI.

The offices are constructed to serve as storage places and offices for different Staff members and will solve the shortage of offices of the Institute.

Following the inauguration ceremony, coffee program also organized for three Staff members who recently graduated from different Universities. The following are Staff members who graduated at different levels:

- » Ms. Beza Jima, Master of Business Administration (MBA),
- » Mr. Mekonnen Yeshitila, Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Business Administration
- » Mrs. Aster Shiferaw, Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Management

Prof. Mwinykione Mwinyihija, during his opening remarks, congratulated all the Graduates and appreciated them for the efforts they made for the last few years. He added that, other Staff members should be encouraged to pursue their education at various levels for their future career development.



Mrs. Aster Shiferaw



Ms. Beza Jima



Mr. Mekonnen Yeshitila

Finally, the Institute's Social Committee presented gifts for the Graduates.

COMESA/LLPI wishes all the best for all the Graduates!



Leather for Health, Wealth and Luxury!

LLPI highly accessible and convenient for our regional and international partners and clients.

LLPI Vision:

To be Africa's premier leather sector centre of excellence in the global arena.

ABOUT COMESA-LLPI

COMESA – Leather and Leather Products Institute (COMESA/LLPI) was chartered in 1990, with the endorsement of 17 COMESA Heads of State. COMESA/LLPI's main Mandate is to support the development of the leather sector in the COMESA Region. Over the years the Institute has created strong strategic linkages with Public and Private Sector Institutions in member countries. In addition to this, COMESA/LLPI has signed several Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with global institutions, in its pursuit to improve competitiveness of the leather sector in Africa in line with global dynamics.

COMESA/LLPI is headquartered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; and currently its membership encompasses ten COMESA countries, namely Burundi, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Uganda, Sudan, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The Institute has short term plans to expand its operations to Swaziland, Egypt, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Madagascar.

The location of its office is strategic, as Addis Ababa is the capital city of Africa, where the African Union and other International Development Partners are located. Furthermore, Addis Ababa is the African gateway to any global destination, which makes COMESA/

LLPI Mission:

To facilitate MSs and connect partners, enterprises and institutions for value addition and competitiveness in the leather sector through Sharing of Knowledge, Adaption and Adoption of innovations at various value chain levels.

Address

For more information about LLPI, please contact:

COMESA—Leather and Leather Products Institute (COMESA/LLPI)

P.O. Box 2358 Code 1110

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Phone: 251—11-4390228/4391319/4390327/4390928

Fax: 251-11-4390900

**E-mail: comesa.llpi@ethionet.et
executive.director@comesa-llpi.int**

Website: www.comesa-llpi.int