



COMESA-LLPI NEWSLETTER

Leather for Health, Wealth and Luxury!

January - March 2016 (Issue No. 5)

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COMESA/LLPI Joins the International Union of Leather Technologists and Chemists Societies (IULTCS)

COMESA-Leather and Leather Products Institute (COMESA/LLPI), a Chartered and autonomous Leather Wing of COMESA, is proud to announce that it has become a full member of the International Union of Leather Technologists and Chemists Societies (IULTCS).

IULTCS is a world-wide organization of professional societies, originally organized in London in 1897. The Union currently has 19 Member Societies and 7 Associate Members representing more than 300 individual members. The aims of the IULTCS are to foster cooperation between member societies, to hold congresses to further the advancement of leather science and technology, to form commissions for special studies and to establish international methods of samples and testing with leather manufacture.

COMESA/LLPI's membership of IULTCS is expected to further strengthen the COMESA region's leather sector development activities through networking, R&D and exchange of the best available technologies, establishment

of regular contact with professional leather societies around the world, and facilitation of cooperation between leather organizations. IULTCS also provides a unique forum, through its Testing Commissions, to bring together technical experts from around the world in order to establish common testing procedures.

COMESA region is a free trade area with nineteen member States, of which 10 States (Burundi, Eritria, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Sudan, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe) are active members of COMESA/LLPI. The region is very important to Africa and the World in terms of the size of livestock herd (56% of Africa and 11% of the global population) and production of raw hides and skins (57% of Africa and 8.1 of the World). The leather business, determining effective leather sector development, however, features deficiency in the region. COMESA's contribution to global trade in these products is very weak and is estimated at 3%.

This is mainly attributed to the concentration in production and trade of non-value added commodities, such as hides and skins and semi-processed leather. The leather industry's



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Prof. Mwinyikione Mwinyihija, Executive Director of COMESA-LLPI

Dear readers:

Welcome back to this first quarter edition of our Newsletter which we believe will give highlights on our activities accomplished during the 1st quarter of 2016. In this edition we are very happy to share with you some of our successes that include:

- EUCLID University Partnering with COMESA-LLPI, among other collaborating Institutions, winning first prize for 2016 United Nations World Interfaith Harmony Week,
- New-Publication 2016 from LLPI,
- COMESA/LLPI joining the International Union of Leather Technologists and Chemists Societies (IULTCS) as full member,
- The Cabinet Secretary of Ministry of Industrialization and Enterprise Development of the Republic of Kenya Paying a Courtesy Call to COMESA/LLPI,
- In partnership with Commonwealth Secretariat, both institutions showing tremendous progress in setting up a Regional Design Studio, supported by member States as fundamental to value addition,
- Training 48 SMEs in costing and record keeping under the Switch African Green project in Kenya,
- Initiating waste management approach through Common Effluent Treatment Plants

We truly believe that as we work together through sharing of information, lessons learned, best practices and thoughtful reflections, we will further the development of the leather sector in our region. As usual the newsletter also contains more leather sector information, both from the region and globally that we think are interesting and informative to our audiences.

I once again congratulate the COMESA/LLPI family and its focal points at member States level for the successes.

We welcome your feedback and look forward to hearing your stories and ideas for upcoming issues.

Prof. Mwinyikione Mwinyihija,

Executive Director of COMESA-LLPI

COMESA/LLPI Joins Cont. from Page 1

contribution to manufacturing output in the COMESA region is less than 1.0 percent. It is estimated that, if this sector is properly developed, Africa would earn an additional US\$ 4 billion from World trade in leather and leather products to account for 12 percent of World trade.

COMESA/LLPI, is striving to enhance value addition and regional and global competitiveness of the leather industry through technology transfer, investment and trade promotion, productive capacity building, and inter-regional cooperation. To this effect, the Institute is

pursuing Sharing of Knowledge, Adaption and Adoption of innovations at various levels of the leather value chain.

The Institute's Strategic Activities are designed to contribute towards the attainment of African Union Commission (AUC) Vision 2063 and the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) that encompass poverty reduction, wealth creation, rural development and gender parity. COMESA/LLPI will strive to translate the potential benefits of IULTCS membership into actual and tangible gains to COMESA member countries.

New - Publication 2016 from LLPI!

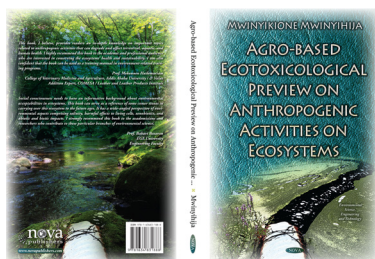
The ED of LLPI, Prof. Dr Mwinyikione Mwinyihija, has published another book titled "Agro-based Ecotoxicological Preview on Anthropogenic Activities on Ecosystems." and released by Nova Science Publishers in 2016! He collaborated with other leading global scholars such as Prof. Sayeed Sadullah (former 'Director Grade' researcher from CLRI, India and Professor Anna University, Chennai, India), Mr Edmond Gatima (Researcher and Religious Leader, UK), Dr. Fazle Rabbi Sadeque Ahmed (Researcher and Project Coordinator - Community Climate Change Project (CCCP), Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) and Dr. Armugan Gnanamani - Lead Author and Award winning Scientist from CLRI, India).

The book's description is:-

This book provides selected authorship on anthropogenic impacts caused by arsenic, lead, chromium and other pollutants and contaminants emanating from identified activities (e.g. tanning industry, effect of irrigation water and exposure to living tissue). The basis of the study is to improve on the knowledge and spread awareness to the general public.

In this book, identified impacts associated with arsenic, chromium, lead, salinity induced processes, effluents and selected synthetic tannins provide a preview of how identified anthropogenic activities can degrade and affect terrestrial, aquatic and human health. In light of this, the individual chapters pursue (to some extent) an experimental and descriptive approach in explaining these aspects.

All the contributors of these chapters are specialists in their areas of specialization with very strong research backgrounds. Thus, the book has a formidable basis of communicating the science that is relevant for agronomical activities when evaluating the effluent generation from anthropogenic view, its disposal, potential impacts towards irrigation related to specific geographical areas and the human occupational risks involved overall. It is, therefore, apparent that identifying the denudating aspects of the ecosystems is a paramount step towards building appropriate diagnostic, preventive and curative capabilities in managing the environmental sustainably.



The Cabinet Secretary of the Republic of Kenya Pays a Courtesy Call to COMESA/LLPI

The Cabinet Secretary of the Republic of Kenya, Honorable Minister Mr. Aden Mohamed paid a courtesy visit to COMESA/LLPI, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 3rd February 2016. Honorable Minister was accompanied by two delegates: Mr. Ndirangu from the High Commission of the Republic of Kenya in Ethiopia and Mr. John Mwendwa, Chief of Staff, Ministry of Industry, Investment & Trade, Republic of Kenya.



The objective was to visit the Regional Leather Institute and to exchange views on its mandate and provision of service to Member States in General and Kenya in particular.

The Honorable Minister, Mr. Mohamed held a short briefing meeting with the LLPI Team. During the discussion, Mr. Zewdu Kebede, Programmes Coordinator, COMESA/LLPI, warmly welcomed the Minister and his Team and appreciated the initiative to visit LLPI. After self introductions of members, Mr. Nicholas Mudungwe, Cluster Development Expert & MSs Strategy Development Coordinator, briefly

presented about COMESA/LLPI's past, present and planned activities at Member States level in general and Kenya in particular.

Finally, the Honorable Minister appreciated the efforts undertaken by LLPI and stressed that LLPI should take forward the development of the regional leather sector. He also explained that the Kenya Government is committed to develop the leather sector in Kenya and to continue collaborating with LLPI in its endeavour.



COMESA/LLPI Delegation Visits Ranipet CETP

The COMESA-Leather and Leather Products Institute's Delegation led by the Institute's Executive Director, Prof. Mwinyikione Mwinyihija, visited the Central Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) and leather testing laboratory situated in Ranipet, a town about 120 km from Chennai, India, on February 4, 2016. The town has a large concentration of tanneries processing hides and skins from raw to finish. CETP was established in 1995, to control pollution to the environment, and was constantly upgraded to the level of computerized operations management system with a handling capacity of 4500m³/day of effluent that makes it one of the largest effluent treatment plants in India.

encompassed Mr. C.M. Zafarullah, Managing Director, R.Ramesh Prasad, Chairman, and Mr. D. Sivakumar Plant Manager and Management Representative of the Ranipet Tannery Effluent Treatment Co. Ltd. The participants also agreed to continue the discussion and further strengthen the contacts to reach a tangible result. Finally, the COMESA/LLPI Delegation would like to express its gratefulness for the warm welcome, exemplary hospitality and full cooperation that was extended to it by the hosting Institution (CETP).



The Team Visiting Ranitec

The purpose of the COMESA/LLPI delegation visit was for experience gaining and to hold discussions with concerned CETP and leather testing laboratory officials and other experts for possible technology transfer to COMESA/LLPI member countries in general and to Rwanda in particular, that is planning to setup a leather park with appropriate effluent treatment plant in the very near future. The delegation made fruitful discussions with the CETP officials that



Partial View of the CETP Visit

COMESA/LLPI at 2nd Leather Technology Seminar, Chennai, India

The COMESA-Leather and Leather Products Institute's Team, composed of the Institute's Executive Director, Prof. Mwinyihija Mwinyikione, and the Leather Value Chain Expert and Personal Assistant to the Executive Director, Prof. Mekonnen Hailemariam, attended the 2nd Leather Technology Seminar held during the Indian International Leather Fair 2016 from February 1



different commodities, African Union Agenda 2063 Vision and priorities, potential of the leather sector and investment opportunities. His presentation was followed by Mr. Yassin Awale's (Special Advisor to the Cabinet Secretary of Industrialization and Enterprise Development) presentation entitled "Concrete pathways towards Investment Opportunities in Kenya's



to 3 at Chennai, India. The Seminar was organized by the Chennai Institute of Leather Technology Alumni Association that has a membership of more than 600 tannery owners. Prof. Mwinyihija made a presentation entitled "Realigning Africa Union Vision to development in the continent with special focus to the leather sector. Prof. Mwinyihija, in his presentation, discussed Africa's land mass and demographic features, potential in

Leather Sector". Both presentations were followed by question and answer sessions that gave more insight to participants on possible investment opportunities in the region and in Kenya. The Team also met and held bilateral discussions with various institutions representatives and tannery owners on areas of future collaborations and arrangement of business tour to the region.

COMESA/LLPI Delegation held discussion with CLRI Management on the operationalization of existing MoU

The COMESA-Leather and Leather Products Institute's delegation led by the Institute's Executive Director, Prof. Mwinyikione Mwinyihija, paid courtesy visit to Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI) and held discussion with the CLRI management on the operationalization of the existing MoU. Participants of the meeting were Dr. C. Rose, CLRI's acting Director, Dr. C. Muralidharan, Chief Scientist and Head, and Dr John Sundar, Senior Technical Officer, from Leather Process Technology Division CLRI; Prof. Mwinyikione Mwinyihija, Executive Director, and Prof. Mekonnen Hailemariam, Leather Value Chain Expert and Personal Assistant to the Executive Director from COMESA/LLPI; Mr. Yassin Awale, Special Advisor to the Cabinet Secretary of Industrialization and Enterprise Development from Kenya and Prof. Bahri Basaran and Mr. Chem Kalili from Ege University. During meeting, issues raised and discussed encompassed technology transfer, collaboration on research and development,

information sharing and operationalization of the signed MoU between COMESA/LLPI and CLRI, and Kenya Ministry of Industrialization and Enterprise Development and CLRI.

COMESA/LLPI Celebrates “The World Interfaith Harmony Week”

In recognition of “World Interfaith Harmony Week”, COMESA-Leather and Leather Products Institute (COMESA/LLPI) organized a meeting on February 3, 2016 in which all of its staff, of various faith, took part. During the meeting, presentations were made on the purpose of the World Interfaith Harmony Week and on the strong Ethiopian tradition of peaceful coexistence and mutual respect between peoples of different faiths. This was followed by a discussion in which participants expressed their strong support for organizing such event that will help to uphold and further strengthen the harmony that existed between Ethiopians of followers of different faiths.



It is to be recalled that the World Interfaith Harmony Week was first proposed at the UN General Assembly on September 23, 2010 by H.M. King Abdullah II of Jordan, which was then unanimously adopted by the UN, and henceforth the first week of February was agreed be observed as a World Interfaith Harmony Week. The World Interfaith Harmony Week calls for Muslim and Christian leaders to engage in a dialogue based on two common fundamental religious Commandments; Love of God, and Love of the Neighbour, without nevertheless compromising any of their own religious tenets. It is hoped that this initiative will provide a platform for all people of goodwill, to discuss, appreciate and share the common values they hold, that far outweigh the differences they have, and constitute a basis for peace and harmony to their communities.

Finally, the COMESA/LLPI Management and Staff unanimously voiced their unreserved support for this noble UN initiative that promote peaceful coexistence, mutual respect and cooperation among peoples of various religion that will contribute towards sustainable peace and development of our planet. COMESA/LLPI thanks EUCLID in general and Pr. Laurent Cleenewerck in particular for suggesting to COMESA/LLPI to celebrate the week and for coordinating and posting a weekly webcast / reflection featuring a Common Word reflection.

EUCLID University Partnering with COMESA-LLPI won first prize for 2016 United Nations World Interfaith Harmony Week

EUCLID University, as a lead campaigner of the Interfaith Harmony Week, partnered with COMESA/LLPI amongst others, won the 1st Global Prize (UN Resolution Award) from over 83 applicants from over 800 events held all over the world participating during the World Interfaith Harmony Week as announced by the Organizing Judges of HM King Abdalla Jordan Prize - WIHW 2016! We are proud of all the participants and event winners!!!

For detail information follow the link below:

<http://worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com/detailed-report/?id=434>



COMESA/LLPI Experts Team Mission to Rwanda

COMESA-Leather and Leather Products Experts Team, led by the Institute's Executive Director, Prof. Mwinyikione Mwinyihija, and composed of Mr. Nichols Mudungwe, Cluster Expert and Regional Strategy Coordinator, and Prof. Mekonnen Hailemariam, Leather Value Chain Expert and Personal Assistant to the Executive Director, conducted a three days Mission to Rwanda. The aim of the Mission was to hold a planning meeting with MINICOM and other public institutions involved in the development of the leather sector in Rwanda, in the framework of the implementation of the Rwanda Leather Value Chain Strategy. The Expert Team met and discussed with the Honorable Minister, Mr. Francois Kanimba, Minister of Trade and Industry. The meetings with MINICOM Experts and other public and private institutions representatives was held from 15th to 16th February, 2016 at the MINICOM Meeting Hall. The COMESA-LLPI Expert Team made presentations on:

- » The Draft Feasibility Study on Proposed Footwear Factory in Rwanda,
- » LLPI Activities to Support Implementation of the Rwanda Leather Value Chain Strategy
- » Curriculum Development for Basic Footwear and Leather Goods Production Operations

The Team also visited the Industrial Park site under construction, located at Bugesera, 60 km outside Kigali, where the Leather Tannery Park will be situated.

The Executive Director of COMESA/LLPI Attains 850 Reads

Prof. Dr.⁴ Mwinyikione Mwinyihija, Executive Director of COMESA/LLPI, attained 850 reads from his research papers in 2015. Essentially, the meaning of this is that the visibility of COMESA/LLPI is equally enhanced.

Prof. Mwinyihija attained this success on the three articles and conference papers listed below:

- » Article: Ecological Risk Assessment of the Kenyan Tanning Industry
- » Conference Paper: Morphological Characteristics of Hides and Skins as Affected by Various Environmental Parameters During Pre And Post Slaughter Treatment.
- » Article: Assessment of Pulverized Fly Ash (PFA) as an Ameliorant of Lead Contaminated Soils.



Experts Team Visiting the Industrial Park

His contribution in research and development activities in Africa and the whole world has paramount importance.

COMESA/LLPI congratulates him on his success, and wishes him all the best in his future endeavor.

COMESA/LLPI Signs MoU with USAID-East Africa Trade and Investment Hub



COMESA – Leather and Leather Products Institute (COMESA/LLPI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with East Africa Trade and Investment Hub (the Hub), at COMESA/LLPI's Headquarters, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 2nd February 2016.

In pursuance to regional integration, the two institutions (the Hub and COMESA/LLPI) will streamline their common objectives towards intra and inter trade within East Africa, Africa and the global arena for the benefit of creating wealth employment, gender parity and sustainable development.

The MoU signed between the Hub and COMESA/LLPI will, therefore, serve as an umbrella agreement to materialize their commitment for collaborative activities to support resource-based best industrialization in the region through unlocking the huge potential the region has in terms of livestock in general and in the leather sector in particular. Special emphasis to the US market and opening up of potential markets in East African region for entrepreneurs in USA and Africa will form a fundamental approach to the MoU signed on 2nd February 2016.

Mr. Zewdu Kebede, Programmes Coordinator, said that COMESA/LLPI is very excited to be a part of the Hub's leather initiative which is targeted towards supporting the enabling environment for attracting investment into the leather sector regionally.

The East Africa Trade and Investment Hub, an organization working to boost trade and investment with and within East Africa, is an initiative funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and managed by Development Alternative Inc. The goal



of the Hub is to deepen regional integration, increase the competitiveness of select regional agriculture value chains, promote two-way trade with the U.S. under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and facilitate investment and technology that drives trade growth intra-regionally and to global markets. The Hub's activities focus on the East African Community countries - Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda and also provide AGOA-related support in Ethiopia, Madagascar, Mauritius and the Seychelles.

COMESA/LLPI is an intergovernmental Institution responsible and mandated for spearheading the development of the leather industry in COMESA Region that encompass 19 member States, namely: Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, DR Congo, Eritrea, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Its main prerogative is to assist the private and public leather industries in promoting value addition, productivity, competitiveness, trade and regional integration. The mode of attaining these objectives is through providing technical, technological and information inputs through pooling relevant capacities and capabilities, and mobilizing resources. It is with this background that COMESA/LLPI has been mainstreaming various development activities in the region through establishment of strong linkages with development partners.

Find out more about the East Africa Trade and Investment Hub and COMESA/LLPI by visiting www.eatradehub.org, and www.comesa-llpi.int, respectively.



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

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