



COMESA-LLPI NEWSLETTER

Leather for Health, Wealth and Luxury!

April - June 2016 (Issue No. 6)

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Establishment of the Regional Leather Design Studio Enable the African Leather Sector to Move Forward



The Regional Design Studio Project, initiated by COMESA - Leather and Leather Products Institute in collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat was launched on 9th May 2016 at Mombasa Continental Resort, Mombasa, Kenya.

The launching ceremony was graced by Hon. Minister Aden Mohamed, Cabinet Secretary of the Republic of Kenya and H.E. Mr. Sinduso Ngwenya, Secretary General of COMESA, Dr. Rashmi

Banga, Head-Trade Competitiveness Section, Commonwealth Secretariat, and Prof. Mwinyihija, Executive Director of COMESA/LLPI.

The launch event was followed by a Design Training Workshop led by experts' leather designers of global repute from Canada, led by Mr Tezera Ketema CEO and President of Podo Tech and Ms Belzille Maguire Myriam a Design Expert from Canada.

The Designers Training Workshop brought together designers and



Certificate Number 14079
ISO 9001 : 2008, ISO 14001: 2004



Partial View of the Technical Design Training Workshop

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Executive Director's Message



Prof. Mwinyikione Mwinyihija, Executive Director of COMESA-LLPI

Dear Esteemed Readers,

It is with great pleasure that I bring you this Second Quarter Newsletter that contains brief highlights of major activities of our Institute and other news from the COMESA Region and elsewhere for the period April to June 2016.

One of our most impressive accomplishments, during this second quarter, was the Official Launch of the Regional Design Studio (RDS) Project and holding of a Training Workshop in Creative and Technical Design. Both events (Project Launch and Training Workshop) were organized jointly with the Commonwealth Secretariat (COMSec) and, hosted by the Kenyan Government in Mombasa, Kenya from May 9 to 13, 2016. More than 40 participants representing national, regional and international partners in the leather sector from 11 Eastern and Southern African countries, (Burundi, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, COMSec, COMESA/LLPI and Podo Tech (a design firm)) from Canada took part both in the project Launch Event and Training Workshop.

Considering the long-standing design weaknesses and low level of value addition of our region's leather industry, the importance of establishing a Regional Design Studio (RDS) to improve market entry of the region's leather and leather products in a sustainable manner, is understood.

I thus invite you to read the newsletter to get more insight on the Regional Design Studio and other leather related news from our region and elsewhere. As usual, your views and comments are very much welcome to further strengthen our activities.

Sincerely,



Hon. Adan Mohamed, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Industrialization & Enterprise Development, Kenya, Launching the RDS and Website



H.E. Sindiso Ngwegwa, Secretary General of COMESA, Making an Opening Remark During the Launching Event



Dr. Rashim Banga, Advisor and Head (Trade Competitiveness), Trade Division, COMSEC Headquarters, Highlighting RDS and Importance of Collaboration between COMSec, COMESA/LLPI and Member States



Prof. M. Mwinyihija, Executive Director of COMESA - Leather and Leather Products Institute, Making Preview of the LLPI's Role to the RDS

other stakeholders representing national, regional and international partners in the leather sector from 11 Eastern and Southern Africa countries, namely Swaziland, Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Burundi and Rwanda; COMSEC, COMESA/LLPI and a leading design firm from Canada.

The establishment of the Regional Design Studio (RDS) is presumed to address the following gaps:

- » Lack of technical know-how, amongst COMESA SMEs, to utilize design as a business resource;
- » Lack of collaborative initiatives between SMEs and Universities to facilitate training and technology exchange;
- » Cost of trends research is beyond the reach of the majority of SMEs in the COMESA Region;
- » SMEs' inability to translate trends into globally competitive leather products;

- » Lack of consumer participation in the product design and development process;
- » The region lacks a body to champion and promote professional excellence through productive partnership between the leather industry and SMEs;
- » Lack of public policies, in COMESA region, to promote and support excellence in leather design.

Project Background

The global leather value stands at US 120 Billion with Africa earning a paltry 4% of the total. This dismal performance is associated with very low value addition of its raw material and high losses experienced in its supply chain which is estimated at slightly over 30%.

Design studios will shift the focus to the upper value chain stratum and effectively enhance higher trickling down effect to all the stakeholders in the leather sector. This success is potentially assured through well-established partnerships that could enhance value

addition, reduction of losses in the supply chain and overall wealth creation.

COMSec's partnership with COMESA/LLPI has attained quick gains as some member States and the Private Sector from the region have overwhelmingly registered their confidence and provided support to the concept of a Regional Design Studio.

Unanimously, member States in COMESA identified LLPI as the host of the Design Studio with Satellite Studios established in each participating member State.

The following section describes the Mission, Vision and Objectives of the RDS:

Mission

The COMSec LLPI Regional Design Studio will guide by relentless focus towards innovation, competitiveness and product design to enter regional and global market in transforming the leather sector in Africa.

Vision

COMSec LLPI Regional Design Studio to be Africa's pride that nurture innovation and transformative perception and deliver leather products sustainably to the global market.

Objectives

The main objectives of the RDS are:

- i. To investigate thoroughly and systematically the causes underlying the weaknesses of the leather industry in the Eastern and Southern Africa region to access and compete with differentiation in the global markets;
- ii. To explore ways in which the industry in this region could invest in competitiveness and innovation to fulfill its potential as a key source of productive employment of the region, internationally recognizable and a reliable source of leather and leather products;
- iii. To incentivize local development of trend informed product design capability; development processes, emergence of informed (by trends research efforts in foreign markets) cluster ecosystem;
- iv. To continually use contemporary market knowledge to evolve a leather industry led design strategy for the region.

Importance of RDS to the COMESA Region

Smart organisations across all sectors of the economy in Africa now realise that embedding design into business practices is now a necessity'.

Whilst large companies may have the right design

skill sets, Leather Industry SMEs in the COMESA region require support to adopt design strategy in their Business Model thereby converting design thinking into actual Business Results.

How can SMEs in the COMESA Leather industry scale up, access global markets competitively? The RDS will be a place where Leather Industry SMEs can access the following services;

Design Knowledge Development:

While giving attention to local content, the RDS is developed as a space where understanding of design as strategy is at the centre of its existence.

Market Access and Development:

RDS has the ability to facilitate access, sustain and grow regional and international markets. This is through adherence to market access requirements i.e. including attaining required standards, building value networks in foreign markets and obtaining relevant certification.

Design and Policy:

RDS has the capability to map leather design policy in the region; this will demonstrate to the region's policy makers that design is increasingly valuable to policy making as a key driver of wealth creation and economic growth.

Trends Research and Design Support:

Ability to provide trends research and design support across COMESA includes the provision of mentoring from trends research Professionals.

Investment in Human Capital:

The RDS is set up as a facility with ability to identify leather products SMEs, prioritise projects and make decisions on assigning resources to see projects to completion.

The RDS will achieve this by developing the currently dispersed network of SMEs distributed across linkages in the value chain, some from the supply side, some from the demand side and some from the production side.

The RDS will be a decentralized subsidiary of COMESA LLPI to deliver support services directly to SMEs in the leather sector. These services will be delivered in a variety of formats; workshops, seminars, one-to-one business mentoring sessions, trade fairs, etc.

Ultimately, the RDS aims to establish a system to identify and measure the impact of design investments on SMEs performance and its relationship with the industry value chain.

COMESA/LLPI in India's Trade Symposium

COMESA Leather and Leather Products Institute (COMESA/LLPI) participated in India's Trade Symposium "Linking LDCs into India's Global Value Chains and Launching of India's Commonwealth SME Association" that was held on 29th - 30th June 2016 in Taj Palace Hotel, New Delhi, India.



COMESA/LLPI was represented by Mr. Awlachev Sintie, Information System Expert, and Mr. Yasin Awale & Mrs. Nalina Rupani representing Member States and the private sector in the region's leather industry respectively.

The objectives of the Symposium were: (i) To disseminate the results of the studies which include the list of identified Potential Lead Products and their potential Global Value Chains (GVCs) which can be initiated by India; (ii) Discuss the potential of LDCs and the countries in the region to link into India's GVC; (iii) To provide a common platform to the Indian industry representatives and the identified LDCs to facilitate discussions on the lead products and their potential value chains and, (iv) Launch India's Commonwealth SME Association.

The following are some of the results of the Symposium:

- » Identification of lead products for India's Global Value Chain;
- » Sharing of experiences in trade and investment in India and the Commonwealth Countries;
- » The launching of the Indian and Commonwealth SMEs Association;
- » Selection of the Advisory Board of the Association in which COMESA/LLPI is one;
- » B2B Meeting, and



Ms Rita Teatola Visiting the Commonwealth COMESA/LLPI Mini Exhibition Stand

» Factory Visit.

Generally, the Symposium was successful in terms of linking India to the GVC, and the COMSec LLPI Regional Studio was discussed as example of the most important initiatives which can also be replicated for other sectors like jewelry.

The Workshop was organized in collaboration with Centre for WTO Studies, The Commonwealth, GBS Africa, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), The Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF), Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), and Federation of Indian Small and Medium Enterprises (FISME).



B2B Meeting During the Workshop

Ethiopia the Global Leather Powerhouse of the Next Decade: New Strategy on its Way

Ethiopia globally is placed number ten in terms of livestock endowment, hence position her as a potential global leader in the production of leather and leather products. The winds of industrialization are blowing towards Africa, as China moves notches up to the technology based economy. Ethiopia is well endowed with livestock, which is a foundation of developing the Leather Sector, once the necessary technical, economic, human and infrastructure resources are put in place. Ethiopia had 53.4 million cattle, 25.5 million sheep and 22.7 million goats (CSA, 2011). The livestock population increased to 56.7 million, 29.3 million and 29.1 million for cattle, sheep and goats respectively. (CSA, 2014/15)

In the period 2010-15, the product mix of the industry changed from focusing in the production of crust to finished leather, footwear and gloves production. The total output target of GTP I was US\$1.7 billion, however the industry only earned US\$472.2 million that translates to 73% negative variance. The underperformance was attributed to: a shortage of sufficient and quality hides and skins; inadequate managerial capacity across all the functional areas; limited technology utilization and resource optimization; limited access to finance; long lead times in the importation of chemicals and accessories; limited preparedness to meet the minimum export requirements of finished leather; low factor productivity and low margins from the export of footwear among others.

The Government of Ethiopia has been proactive in



COMESA/LLPI has employed a blended methodology, which included face to face interviews, participatory workshops and experts review with stakeholders and actors in the value chain. The key milestone activities included the following:

- » Face to face interview with value chain actors, this was done jointly with Leather Industry Development Institute;
- » National Stakeholders Workshop, which was held in Addis Ababa; which reviewed the various issues that impacting negatively on the performance of the industry;
- » Experts Group retreat, which was held in Debre Zeit : the team of experts was drawn from Government, Private Sector and COMESA/LLPI.

The above activities have greatly assisted in ensuring the crafting of a strategy, which seeks to identify the key issues, opportunities, threats and design practical intervention which will catapult the leather sector to the top league globally.

It is imperative to note that the new strategy, which is currently being finalized, is flexible and dynamic and has an inbuilt review mechanism. The dynamism and flexibility of the strategy is based on its strategic objective, which are “process objectives” and are supported by SMART sub objectives, which are reviewed yearly during the design of the annual work plan. The dynamism and flexibility is a recipe for ensuring that the strategy responds to the face moving global economy, whereby things are changing at a speed never experienced in the history of mankind. In addition, this the strategy has a strong strategic fit with the Growth Transformation Plan (GTP).

The future of the Ethiopia Leather Industry looks bright given the interest, which has been shown by the Government to support the industry, growth in both domestic and FDI investments and also the rapidly expansion in the consumption of leather and footwear leather products. The time for the revolution of the leather industry in Africa, is now and Ethiopia is ready to lead.



supporting the development of the leather sector through the use of policies, institutions and incentives. Towards the end of 2015, the Ministry of Industry officially requested COMESA/LLPI to facilitate the formulation of a five year strategy, whose main objective is to transform the sector into a dynamic and globally competitive sector. In order to come up with a strategy that responds to the key fundamentals, that will unlock value through boosting competitiveness and productivity of the sector,

COMESA/LLPI Participated in the Leather World Middle East International Trade Fair



COMESA/LLPI, as the major coordinating Institute for the Regional development of the leather sector, has been communicating with the Organizing Body of the Fair, Messe Frankfurt Middle East GmbH, for the last one year to explore the nature and compatibility of the Fair with the African situation before involving and advising Member countries and regional stakeholders to take part in the Event.

COMESA/LLPI was represented by the Executive Director, Professor Mwinyihija Mwinyikione and Training, Consultancy and Extension Expert, Dr. Tadesse H. Mamo, on 27th April 2016 that was held in Dubai International Convention and Exhibition Centre, United Arab Emirates.

The 2016 Leather Fair is the Second Edition that featured 70 exhibitors from 16 countries including Bulgaria, China, Colombia, Germany, India, Iran, Italy, France, the Russian Republic, South Africa, Spain, Thailand, Turkey, the UK and United Arab Emirates and attracted 2,270 visitors from 62 countries.

The main objectives of the COMESA/LLPI participation in the Leather World Middle East 2016 are to:

- » Maintain and optimize information on the sustainability of the Event to African stakeholders;
- » Strengthen channels of communication with targeted leather and inputs export-import countries aimed at establishing business growth in the region and knowledge development;
- » Navigate the key elements of the series of popular areas, product zones and global innovations in the leather products and designs;

During a one day intensive program, the LLPI Mission was able to visit numerous stands and hold discussions with various regional and international exhibitors that created a business platform spanning the whole value

chain of the leather sector.

The show was categorized into the following five major segments that span the leather industry's entire value chain and dedicated for the following various products diversifications:

• Leather Production:

A dedicated area for leading global tanneries and dealers of semi-finished and finished leathers (Italian players such as Dani, Conceria Superior, and Italhide and UAE power house Al Khaznah Tannery, which displayed latest range of leather and exotic skins such as ostrich, crocodile, snakes, stingray, eel, springbok and shark.

• Footwear Area (Shoe Box)

This section was dedicated entirely to mid to high-end leather shoes and plenty of soles ranges intended to make business deals with regional leading retailers, distributors, department stores and wholesalers;

The Shoe Box showcased an entire range of footwear, including men's sandals and dress shoes hand painted with famous historical figures such as Leonardo Da Vinci and Marco Polo. Some products are niche shoe for exclusive customers and were astonishing to see shoes made with real gold.

• Designers Area

This area focused on collections of luxury wallets, belts, handbags and accessories for buyers from throughout the Middle East;

• Trend Forum

The Trend Area displayed the latest trends and innovations from the workshops of leading Leather World Middle East exhibitors, which gave opportunities for regional designers, manufacturers, distributors and retailers to get up close personal relations with

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the latest innovations that are shaping the regional and international leather industry.

The Trend Forum is considered as a lavish showcase of the most innovative and unique leather products from diamond dusted alligator skin to gold embossed crocodile hides.

• Fashion Avenue

This avenue was spearheaded by a showcase from the leading global fashion design Institute ESMOD Dubai, which demonstrated the unique relationship between leather and fashion, with local and international leather artisans of leather garments, accessories and custom made products;

The Mission had also made a fruitful discussion with the representatives of Messe Frankfurt Middle East GmbH (Organizer of the Event) namely; Mr. Michael Dehn, Group Exhibitions Director and Mrs. Alexandria Robinson, Show Director.

The discussion focused on some bilateral issues and the possible participation of African Entrepreneurs in the forthcoming Editions of Messe Frankfurt Middle East GmbH Leather Fair and the way forward.

The outcome of the discussion can be summarized as follows:

- » Creation of vertical and horizontal collaboration between the Regional Institute and Messe Frankfurt Middle East GmbH based on win-win situation;
- » Promote Messe Frankfurt Middle East GmbH Leather Fair during the All African Leather Fairs in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;
- » Messe Frankfurt Middle East GmbH to share its experiences to the Regional Institute (COMESA/LLPI) in the organization of Fairs.

The organizing body of the fair had vigorously promoted the Fair and communicated and invited all African stakeholders including leather Associations, Intuitions and SMEs engaged in leather processing and manufacturing.

Despite all the efforts made by the Organizing Body, Messe Frankfurt Middle East GmbH, it is to be noted that, except Exhibitors from the Republic of South Africa, none of the African countries had participated in the Fair and this may reflect that most African SMEs are not financially capable to take part in such an International Leather Fair or due to the fact that since the Fair is a new emerging one and stakeholders were skeptical and not well convinced.

Apart from this, they are not yet in a position to display their

products in such an international high level competitive playground with superior quality, top level products and an elevated capacity for innovation.

The whole segments (Leather Production, Footwear Box, Designers Area, Trend Forum and Fashion Avenue) can be summed up in the following terms: creative talent, innovation of traditional manufacturing methods, skilled labour, raw materials, accessories and components are in the forefront for technology and design to suit current trends, customer demands and services.

Upon the return from the Trade Fair, the Team recommended the following:

- » COMESA/LLPI to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Organizers to facilitate and implement those agreements reached during the discussion;
- » COMESA/LLPI to initiate those leading and export oriented African Enterprises to participate in the forthcoming Messe Frankfurt Middle East GmbH Editions provided that the entry visa procedures are moderate, Visa Security Deposit ,in particular.



The COMESA LLPI Facilitated Swaziland Leather Value Chain Strategy Validation Workshop, Cluster Mangement Development Training and Discussions on Draft Curricula which were Successfully completed

The Swaziland Leather Vale Chain Strategy Validation and Unpacking Workshop, the Cluster Management Development Training and discussion on vocational and diploma level draft curricula that were conducted at Ewezulini, Kingdom of Swaziland from June 27 to July 1, 2016 were successfully completed. All the above indicated activities were facilitated by COMESA-Leather and Leather Products Institute in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry of the Kingdom of the Swaziland.



Partial View of the Validation and Training Workshop

More than 70 participants, drawn from different public and private institutions and enterprises as well as NGOs, actively and fully participated in the activities. Mr. Nicholas Mudungwe, Cluster Expert and Regional Strategy Corrrdinator and Professor Meskonnen Hailemariam Leather Value Chain Expert and Personal Assistant to the Executive Directorr, both from COMESA/LLPI, facilitated the Workshop and gave the Cluster Mangment Development Training.

Partiicpants were given certificate of attendance at the end of the training prgram.



Cultural Costume Gift for COMESA/LLPI Team After the Workshop

Minister Eng. Abdalla Hamad and His Senior Officials of the Ministry of Industry and Investment of Sudan Visited LLPI Headquarters a Two Day Consultative Meeting



Minister Eng. Abdalla Hamad and Prof. Mwinhiyija

H.E. Eng. Abdalla Hamad, Minister for Industry and Investment and his Team while making courtesy visit to COMESA/LLPI on April 12, 2016 explained the preparatory work to establish the Leather Council and the Leather City have been finalized; and that these two major aspects are at their finalization stages. Plans are, therefore, underway to be launched and implemented.

In fact, the Hon. Minister announced the establishment of the Sudan Leather City and the Leather Council to be officially declared in the next two weeks.



Partial View of the Discussion at LLPI Board Room

It is anticipated that the establishment of the Leather Council will institutionalize the leather sector and become the stimulus of its leather development.

Some of the recently realized successes in Sudan have been attained through the support drawn from the Government, COMESA/LLPI, and the Private Sector of Sudan. The Sudan Leather Value Chain Strategy (2015-2024) was designed, launched, and unpacked in March 2015.

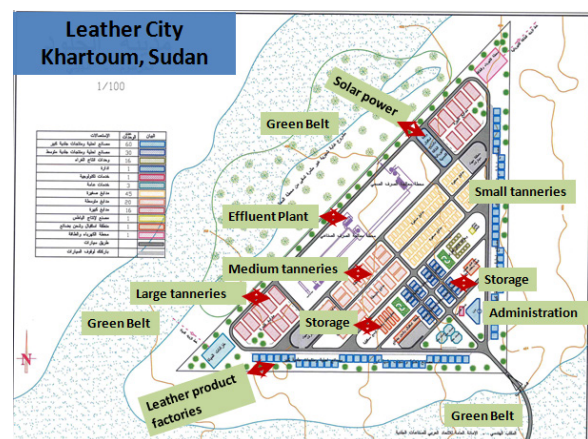
The establishment of the Leather Council and the



Leather City are part of the recommendations made in the Leather Value Chain Strategy which forms an important milestone in Sudan; As such, creating milestone from tangibles agreed upon during the Strategy launch.

During the meeting held at COMESA/LLPI Headquarters, H.E. Eng. Abdalla Hamad was presented with LLPI activities undertaken and proposed to be undertaken in the near future and further reiterated that a partnered work plan between his Ministry and LLPI be developed to ensure prompt and result oriented implementation in Sudan.

Prof. Mwinyihija, Executive Director of COMESA/LLPI, during the meeting strongly appreciated what the Sudan Government is doing to develop the leather sector. He added that COMESA/LLPI is always appreciative in providing support at the Government and the private sector level; and would support with appropriate expertise in the Centralized Effluent Treatment in the proposed Leather City.



Proposed Leather City of the Sudan

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Ambassador / Head of Mission, Malawi Embassy in Ethiopia and Permanent Mission to the African Union Made a Courtesy Visit to COMESA/LLPI

H.E. Ambassador Chimango E. Chirwa, Ambassador / Head of Mission of Malawi Embassy in Ethiopia and Permanent Mission to the African Union made a courtesy visit to COMESA/LLPI on 15th April 2016.

The Ambassador was warmly welcomed by Prof. Mwinyihija, Executive Director of COMESA/LLPI.



Prof. Mwinyihija, Executive Director of COMESA/LLPI Welcoming H.E. Ambassador Amb. Chimango E. Chirwa

The objective of the visit was to clearly understand the activities of COMESA/LLPI into Member Countries in general and Malawi in particular.

During his visit COMESA/LLPI, H.E. Amb. Chimango E. Chirwa made a brief consultative meeting with COMESA/LLPI Team and he was presented with COMESA/LLPI activities performed in Malawi and proposed activities to be undertaken in the near future. Prof. Mwinyihija, on his part, underscored that Malawi is on the right track in terms of addressing the challenges in the leather sector. He reiterated that the major LLPI achievements in Malawi are:

- » Training of 40 SMEs in footwear making, who in turn transformed to form an Association?
- » The formulation, validation, launching and unpacking of the Malawi Leather Value Chain Strategy;
- » Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Small and Medium Enterprise Development Institute (SMEDI).

Prof. Mwinyihija further informed that proposed activities are emanating directly from the recommendations made in the Leather Value Chain Strategy. He strongly appreciated the leadership towards leather development of Malawi from the Minister of Industry

and Trade, H.E. Hon. Joseph M. Mwanamveka and the technical team in Malawi.

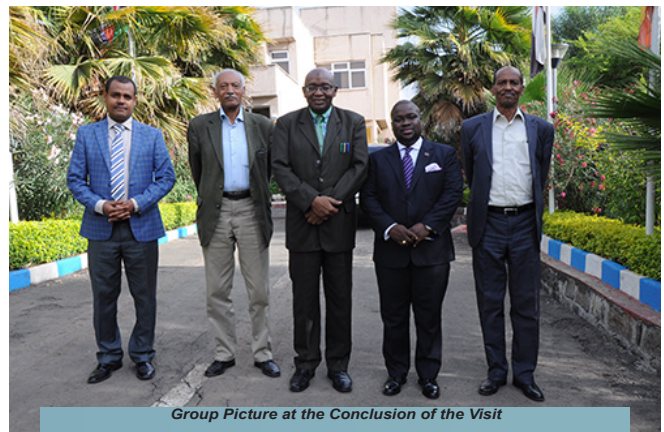


H.E. Amb. Chimango E. Chirwa having consultative meeting with COMESA/LLPI Team

H.E. Amb. Chimango E. Chirwa appreciated COMESA/LLPI activities in Member States in general and Malawi in particular. H.E. pledged that his Country will provide full support to COMESA/LLPI to develop the leather sector in Malawi.



Executive Director of LLPI Handing Over of Malawi Leather Value Chain Strategy Document to H.E. Amb. Chimango E. Chirwa



Group Picture at the Conclusion of the Visit

COMESA/LLPI Participation in the Technical Workshop on Development of National Youth Entrepreneurship Policies

Recalling the strong partnership between the Commonwealth Secretariat and COMESA/LLPI in establishing a Regional Leather and Leather Products Design Studio, the Commonwealth had invited COMESA/LLPI to participate in the “Technical Workshop on Development of National Youth Entrepreneurship Policies” held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The Workshop was organized by the Commonwealth Secretariat, UNCTAD and the International Labour Organization (ILO) -Tanzania Regional Office in collaboration.

Participants were drawn from seven African Commonwealth Member countries; namely, Kenya, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Uganda, Tanzania and Zambia, and Namibia from the non-commonwealth countries.

The over-all goal of the Workshop was to develop and enhance the capacity of policy-makers to design and implement policies and programmes and establish institutions that will promote youth entrepreneurship. Towards this end, the workshop was to review and analyse the current state of youth entrepreneurship in the region, identify existing challenges and opportunities

- » During the three days workshop the following presentations were made:
- » Youth Employment in East Africa: Situational Analysis
- » Entrepreneurship, Youth Employment and the SDGs
- » Trade-oriented Opportunities for Youth Entrepreneurship;
- » Regional Trade Competitiveness and Related Youth Opportunities
- » COMSec LLPI Regional Design Studio and Opportunities for Youth in East Africa.
- » Challenges and Opportunities Faced by Young Entrepreneurs;
- » Policy Guide on Youth Entrepreneurship: A Brief Overview;
- » Development of National Youth Entrepreneurship Strategy.



and share good practices and policies.

Specifically, the objectives of COMESA/LLPI's participation in the workshop were:

- » To make presentation on the workshop about the “COMSec COMESA/LLPI Regional Design Studio and Youth Entrepreneurship”;
- » To promote the importance of the Regional Design Studio for youth employment and regional economic growth in the leather sector;
- » Create linkages to countries and international organizations for possible collaboration;

Presenters were from the Commonwealth Secretariat, ILO, UNCTAD, Young Business International (YBI), Pan African Centre for Social Development and Accountability (PACSDA), Young Entrepreneurs, and representatives from participating countries. All the presentations revolved on the axis of youth entrepreneurship. COMESA/LLPI's presentation on the COMSec LLPI Design Studio was addressing value addition issues and creating opportunities for the youth entrepreneurship and employment.

The Regional Design Studio created very good awareness and impression on the countries, the Commonwealth Secretariate, ILO and UNCTAD; and made them very much interested in the leather sector and recommended also to be replicated in countries other than COMESA/LLPI member countries.



Group Picture of all the participants of the Workshop

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COMESA/LLPI Conducted Training on First Aid Provision to its Staff



COMESA-LLPI, in collaboration with the Ethiopian Red Cross Society Training Institute, organized a 1 day First Aid Training on April 15, 2016.

The Training was attended by 15 COMESA-LLPI Staff. The training was organized with the objective of awareness creation on First Aid and Basic Life Saving fundamentals. The Training included the following topics:

- » Volunteerism;
- » International Organization (Red Cross and Red Crescent);
- » Ethiopian Red Cross Society;
- » Fundamentals of First Aid.

The Training was supported by demonstration such that trainees can easily understand the basics of First Aid Provision.

At the end of the Training participants extended their appreciation to the Institute for organizing such training and also forwarded that other similar training should be given to enable Staff to be aware of creating safe, secured and healthy working environment.



Partial View of the Demonstration Session of the Training

COMESA/LLPI Organized Fire and Emergency Training to Staff Members



COMESA-LLPI, in collaboration with Addis Ababa City, Akaki-kality Sub-city Fire and Emergency Prevention and Protection Agency, conducted training on Fire and Emergency Prevention on April 21, 2016.

The Training was attended by 24 COMESA-LLPI Staff and it was organized with the objective of awareness creation on Emergency Prevention and Protection to create healthy and safe work environment.

The Training was supported by field demonstration that enabled participants to capture the knowledge and skill required to fight fire accidents.



Partial View of the Demonstration Session of the Training



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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