



COMESA-LLPI NEWSLETTER

April - June 2013 Issue

Contents	
COMESA-Leather and Leather Products Institute, UNCTAD, Commonwealth Secretariat and African Export-Import Bank (Exim Bank) Co-organized Workshop Successfully Completed	1
Director's Message	2
Editorial Comment	3
COMESA-LLPI Conducted a Cluster Management Excellency Training Workshop	5
COMESA-LLPI Held its 7th Regional Leather Sector Core Team Meeting	6
New Leather Strategy for Zimbabwe	6
A Chinese Tannery Overcomes Initial Obstacles to Find Success in Ethiopia	7
ITC-Financed Data Compilation Activities in Five LLPI Member Countries	8
The Fourth Beast to Beauty Conference	7
Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction (REACH) Impact on Leather Industry	9
Global Tannery of the Year 2013 Winner Shares its Water Achievements	9
KLDC, UNDP-NDMA Strengthen Skills Building for Lodwar/Dadaab Project Representatives	10
COMESA/LLPI at the International Workshop on Sustainable Production in Leather Processing Industry, Conducted in Tubitak-Butal, Bursa, Turkey.	11
COMESA/LLPI signed the (MoU) with Copperstone University	12
Virtual 3D design made Adidas saves 1m samples	13

COMESA-Leather and Leather Products Institute, UNCTAD, Commonwealth Secretariat and African Export-Import Bank (Exim Bank) Co-organized Workshop Successfully Completed

The workshop on Strengthening Regional supply Chains in Leather Sector in Sub-Saharan Africa, co-organized by COMESA-LLPI, UNCTAD, COMSec and Exim Bank, took place from June 6 to 7, 2013 at Nexus Hotel in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The workshop involved important sectoral stakeholders, i.e. tanners, exporters, manufacturers, investors, academicians and policy makers. A total of 35 stakeholders (8 public and

The COMESA/LLPI Director, Dr. Mwinyikione Mwinyihija in his welcome address highlighted the current state of affairs in the leather sector by indicating that Africa has the potential of becoming a global player in the leather value chains, mainly because of its huge livestock resource base, as it contributes 21% to the world livestock population.



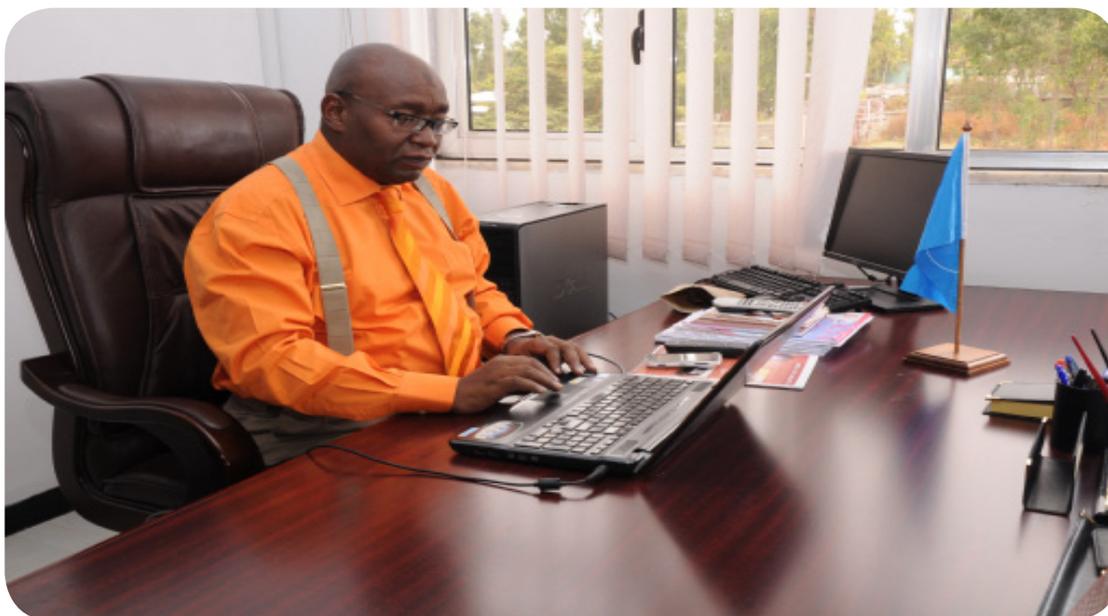
Dr. Mwinyikione Mwinyihija making his welcome Address to the workshop participants

19 private sector participants) drawn from Burundi, Comoros, Ethiopia, Kenya, India, Malawi, Rwanda, Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe, and 8 other representatives from international and regional organizations, namely: UNCTAD, COMESec, COMESA Secretariat and COMESA-LLPI attended the workshop.

Dr Rashmi Banga, the UNCTAD representative, in her opening statement, gave a vote of thanks to COMESA/LLPI for hosting the joint workshop with Commonwealth, EXIM bank and UNCTAD. She recalled how the workshop was initiated and highlighted expectations from the workshop.

**NEXT ISSUE
SEPT. 2013**

... Continued on page 4



Dr. Mwinyikione Mwinyihija, Director of COMESA/LLPI

I am pleased to bring you the June 2013 Quarterly Newsletter, which is filled with information of a number of events undertaken by the COMESA/LLPI during the ending quarter. The Institute had a busy and exciting time in providing more innovative services to the leather sector in the region that encompass the jointly organized (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Commonwealth Secretariat (COMSec) and African Export-Import Bank (EXIM Bank) International Workshop on Strengthening Regional Supply Chains in Leather Sector in Sub-Saharan Africa. The Institute also held its 7th Regional Core Team Meeting in Khartoum, Sudan and Capacity Building Trainings to SMEs in Business and Cluster Management Excellency in Siyavonga, Zambia.

This edition of the Newsletter encompasses information on ITC-Financed Data Compilation Activities in Five COMESA/LLPI Member Countries, Cluster Management Excellency Training Workshop, the Workshop on Strengthening Regional Supply Chains in Leather Sector in Sub-Sahara Africa, REACH Impact on Leather Industry and other relevant information from member States and international media, including upcoming events.

I invite you to read this Quarterly Newsletter, and as always, I welcome your feedback for our constant improvement.

Best wishes,

Importation of Synthetic /Imitation Leather Footwear a "threat" to the COMESA Region's Leather Industry

The leather value chain is a multi-billion dollar business and the COMESA region is endowed with huge livestock population, with a combined total of bovine, sheep and goats population estimated at 370 million animals. This ranks the Region among the few top countries in the world in terms of herd size and production of hides and skins.

The sector has been recognized for its tremendous potential for poverty reduction, wealth creation and availing direct and indirect employment, as it is fully integrated into almost all family households of the rural population that represents nearly 80 % the region's total human population.

Accordingly, the COMESA Regional Leather sector Strategy was developed with primary objective of transforming the leather value chains from manufacture and export of raw materials towards the production and export of value added products. It was projected in the Strategy that this will result in a 5% increase in intra-trade of leather products and in a 15% increase in employment creation.

With ongoing massive importation of cheap synthetic leather footwear, the development sought from the sector, as stated in the Strategy, is seriously threatened. COMESA/LLPI, being mandated and responsible to spearhead the development of the leather value chains in COMESA Member States, conducted a survey study in four COMESA member countries, namely: Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia, for enhanced understanding of issues related to imported synthetic/imitation leather products in the region. The study found that the situation is at an alarming stage with large numbers of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), already out of business due to the unfair competition from imported poor quality synthetic/imitation and second-hand leather products at very cheap prices.

A recent information through the mass media also indicates similar problems in Turkey and Colombia. Turkish footwear industry, through its national association has approached the government to take protectionist measures against cheap imports of low quality non leather footwear from Asian, and Colombian tanneries and shoemakers are said to be in difficult situation due to more than 30 million pairs of shoes that were imported from China at less than 1 USD per pair.

In the four studied COMESA member countries, 95% of the interviewee suggested banning/and or restricting the importation of synthetic/imitation leather products as a means for the development of the leather industry in the region in general and in the study countries in particular.

It is strongly believed that the COMESA/LLPI survey findings could be taken up by the Region's Governments as a valuable input in their planning and implementation of the leather sector development intervention strategies at country and/or COMESA Region levels. This could be undertaken by review of policies and legal frameworks that will induce distinction between leather and non-leather products that undermine fully processed leather products in the respective national markets. The benefit of undertaking this will be creating fair competitive platform for SMEs in the Region instead of banning importation.



COMESA-Leather ... Continued from page 1



Panelists Presentation During the Workshop



Handing over Certificate of Participation



Workshop Participants at a Group photo at the end of the Workshop

The workshop was centered on identifying and promoting regional leather sector supply chains to assist African countries in value addition of the sector and diversification of their exports. To that end, a total of 9 papers were presented and thoroughly discussed. All presentations were backed by panel discussions that gave an opportunity for sharing experiences between participants and presenters.

At the end of the workshop participants identified nine

key recommendations that are for the most part consistent with the Strategic Objectives of COMESA/LLPI.

After reviewing the evaluation of the participants, it was found that participants were satisfied with the workshop organization, contents and delivery of the presentations, and also indicated areas that require attention for further improvement.



COMESA-LLPI Conducted a Cluster Management Excellency Training Workshop

COMESA-LLPI conducted a Cluster Management Excellency Training Workshop at Siyavonga, Zambia from 27 – 29 May 2013. A total of 18 participants from 8 COMESA Member Countries, namely: Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Uganda, Rwanda, Sudan, Zambia, Zimbabwe attended the training workshop.

Clusters. Country presentations and group works were also part of the program.

Trainees, through the program evaluation questionnaire, expressed their satisfaction with the contents and delivery of the sessions, and also indicated the role and



Participants paying close attention to the Workshop



Partial View of the Workshop

The workshop was opened after the welcoming address of Dr M. Mwinyihija, Director of COMESA/ LLPI, who made mention of the importance of Member States working together formally and informally to develop a way forward for the leather and leather products in the COMESA region.

He also recalled the objective of the training workshop by indicating that the training workshop aims at building the competitiveness capacity of the SMEs in the leather sector; the capacity of support institutions in the area of cluster management excellence, developing the capacity of SMEs to procure and market regionally; and building the capacity of Member States at regional level to transform Technical Institutions into Incubation Centre with the Export Trade Oriented Approach. He also added that experience sharing among trainees shall also add value to their existing knowledge.

responsibilities of workshop participants in furthering the cluster initiative that is believed to have a crucial role to play in the growth, development and success of SMEs in the leather sector in the Region.



At the Conclusion of the Workshop

Topics delivered in the three days training workshop encompassed the following subjects: COMESA/ LLPI Strategic Plan and the need of strengthening collaboration with Member States; the Cluster Initiative and the need for Industry Extension Support – Employing the Cluster Management Approach; COMESA/ LLPI: Project Proposals Initiatives and Leather Trade Information Portal; the Cluster Management Excellency Methodology/Cycle; Simulating the Defining and Designing of a Cluster Management Strategy and Work Plans, an Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation of

COMESA-LLPI Held its 7th Regional Leather Sector Core Team Meeting

The 7th Regional core Team Meeting organized by COMESA-Leather and Leather Products Institute (COMESA/LLPI) and financed by the EU COMESA Regional Integration Support (RISP) was held in the Sudan from 25-26 June, 2013 at Grand Villa Hotel, Khartoum.



Core Team Members making business linkage

The main objectives of the Core Team Meeting were:

- » To design practical strategic guidelines for improving the leather value chains in the COMESA Region,
- » To strengthen the collaboration between COMESA-Leather and Leather Products Institute and COMESA member States, and
- » To develop a strategy for fund raising



Core Team Members making business linkage

The Meeting was officially opened by H. E. Mr. Osman Omar Al-Sheriff, Minister of Trade of the Republic of the Sudan and attended by Core Team members drawn from public and private sectors from 6 member countries (Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, Uganda and Zimbabwe), COMESA Secretariat, COMESA/LLPI and various other stakeholders from the host country, the Sudan.

The 7th Core Team Meeting selected Ms. Nalina Rupani, Managing Director of Adelphi Leather Shop of Kenya as Chairperson of the Core Team for the next two years.

The Core Team Meeting thoroughly discussed on various pertinent issues that encompass:

- » Importance of designing strategic guidelines for improving the Regional Leather Value Chains in the COMESA Region;
- » Strengthening of collaboration between COMESA/LLPI and Member States;
- » Fund raising Mechanisms Development

At the end of the second day, the meeting adopted the minutes/report of the 7th Core Team Meeting, and fixed the date and venue for the 8th Core Team



Gender Balance of the Core team

New Leather Strategy for Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe has launched a new strategy for its leather industry with the aim of boosting the whole leather value chain in the country. COMESA, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, has given its backing to the plan, called the Zimbabwe Leather Value Chain Strategy.

Mr. Sindiso Ngwenya, COMESA Secretary General, said at a launch event for the initiative in Bulawayo in mid-June that the COMESA region was losing millions of dollars in potential revenue by exporting raw material that could be made into leather.

“The overall market potential of COMESA leather can grow from an estimated value of raw material of \$378 million a year to an estimated value of \$875 million for fully finished leathers, which represents a value addition of roughly \$500 million or about 150% of the

Continued to Page 7 ...

A Chinese Tannery Overcomes Initial Obstacles to Find Success in Ethiopia

Workers in China-Africa Overseas Leather Products SC processes raw materials in the factory at Sululta, north of Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa. According to Li Lianxing / China Daily



He Mingliang leather tannery, in central China's Henan province, is a typical success story: Expansion to Africa, a new factory in Ethiopia, sales of leather goods across the globe and a staff of more than 500.

But as with any success story, struggles play an early and defining role. For He's tannery, which had been buying semi-processed leather from Ethiopia since 1985, soaring costs in China during the early 2000s hampered business.

He set his sights on Ethiopia to invest in manufacturing factories, but still had no expansion funds and no basic knowledge of how business was run on the continent.

He says he was scared of possible illnesses in Africa and even regional conflicts.

But He did his homework, making several trips to the country to research how commerce is conducted and to find funding sources. Then came a meeting in Beijing in 2004 with the then Ethiopian Ambassador Addisalem Balema.

Balema encouraged He and took a great interest in the venture plans. With Balema's help, He got in touch with the China-Africa Development Fund in Beijing three years later.

"CADF turned out to be very interested and decided to support us," He says.

The tannery's subsidiary in Ethiopia, the China-Africa Overseas Leather Products SC, is now quickly becoming a model for the leather industry in the country.

Li Jun, Project Manager of the CADF in Ethiopia, says it decided to support He's project in Ethiopia for several reasons.

"This is fundamentally a mutually beneficial project that could expand Chinese tanneries to Africa. But more importantly, it could lift the entire industry in Ethiopia and benefit farmers at the most basic level," Li says. "It is also a good opportunity to create jobs, which is the priority for Africa's future sustainable development."

Li also says the reason that CADF chose China-Africa Overseas Leather Products is because the Henan-based parent company has been an industry leader in China for more than half a century and CADF believed its technologies and skills could offer a great opportunity to Ethiopia.

The factory was completed in November 2010 in the town of Sululta, to the north of the capital, Addis Ababa.

Operations during the first year were rocky, Li says. Many unexpected events brought disruption and at times daunted his investors in Ethiopia.

"Our Chinese staff were beaten by local workers because they didn't like our management system in which several local workers are guided by one Chinese team leader," he says. "More importantly, locals were told by certain people that our factory was severely polluting (Sululta)." He says the company values the environment and that the factory was built with particular attention to environmental protection in order to set a tone for the industry in Ethiopia.

Source: http://africa.chinadaily.com.cn/weekly/2013-06/14/content_16620709.htm

New Leather Strategy ... (Continued from Page 6)

value of raw materials," he said. "And if all the raw hides and skins are transformed into finished goods like footwear, garments and other leather goods, the industry would balloon to \$2.5 billion from the present value of \$450 million."

He said the COMESA region is important to Africa and the world in terms of the size of livestock herds and production of hides and skins.

Source: <http://www.leatherbiz.com/fullitem2.aspx?id=130087>

ITC-Financed Data Compilation Activities in Five LLPI Member Countries

The ITC-Financed data compilation activities were conducted in five COMESA/LLPI member countries, namely Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia, from April to June 2013.

The data compilation was part of COMESA/LLPI Trade Information Network (LTIN) activities that aimed at collecting SMEs manufactured leather products' pictures for the Trade Portal Virtual Exhibition and to establish baseline information regarding imported synthetic/imitation and secondhand leather products impact on the region's leather industry.

The data compilation activities involved meetings and discussions with private and public sector responsible offices, visits to SMEs, administering questionnaire to assess the views of respondents on the situation and impact of imported synthetic/imitation and secondhand leather products on the respective country's leather industry and taking of pictures of SMEs-manufactured leather footwear and other leather products (bags, belts etc...).

Meetings and discussions were held with concerned government officials including Permanent Secretaries of concerned Ministries. Enterprise information of 106 SMEs was collected and more than 250 different leather footwear models and other leather goods' pictures were taken for the virtual exhibition. Moreover, 78 SMEs, traders and Government officials were made to complete the questionnaire.

Ninety five percent of the respondents indicated that they are aware of the problems related to the dumping impact of the imported cheap Synthetic/Imitation and/or secondhand products on local producers particularly SMEs.

Banning/and or regulating the importation of synthetic/Imitation and/or secondhand leather products, and supporting the leather sector through availing modern leather technologies, credit facility and skills enhancing training opportunities were the most frequently cited interventions for the development of the leather industry in the region in general and in the study countries in particular.



The Fourth Beast to Beauty Conference

The fourth Beast to Beauty conference, jointly organised by Leather Training Consultancy LeatherWise and World Leather magazine, with the support of Pittards, the Scottish Leather Group, the University of Northampton and the Leathersellers Company, took place in Northampton on June 13, 2013. More than 60 delegates, representing tanning groups, major retailers, automotive and luxury brands, leather chemicals manufacturers and a wide range of fashion-focused university and college departments from different parts of the UK attended the conference.

Speakers included Kevin Sefton, one of the co-founders of Glasgow-based handmade footwear brand Govan Originals, colour trends expert Laura Perryman and Rachel Garwood and Jane Mills from the University of Northampton who talked about the role of leather in design education at the university. Mr James Lang, Marketing Director of the Scottish Leather Group gave a presentation on the work the group has done to reduce its carbon footprint, with the tannery waste-to-energy treatment plant at its Bridge of Weir facility, one of the best examples. Reg Hankey, the chief executive of Pittards, also spoke, focusing his presentation on recent efforts in the global industry to counteract misleading anti-leather campaigns.

The conference closed with a discussion involving Gustavo González Quijano, Secretary General of COTANCE, and Dr Gerhard Wolf, the Head of the Leather Technical Competence Centre at Chemicals Manufacturer BASF. Both participants agreed that there are valid arguments for attributing 0% of the upstream carbon emissions of cows, sheep and goats to leather's carbon footprint. They expressed hope that the global industry might soon agree on a framework for calculating the carbon footprint of leather and, from there, be able to communicate its position to brands and consumers "with one voice".

They accepted that tanners might face opposition to 0% from finished product brands, but said this did not mean that what they called a flawed methodology of allocating a share of carbon footprint to "non-determining" by-products of the meat industry was any more valid. Nevertheless, they suggested it ought to be possible for the global leather industry to agree to a compromise on 0% to make discussions between tanners and their customers a bit easier.

Source: <http://www.leatherbiz.com/fullitem2.aspx?id=130047>



Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction (REACH) Impact on Leather Industry

REACH is a European Community Regulation on chemicals and their safe use (EC 1907/2006). The law entered into force on 1 January 2007. REACH regulation give greater responsibility to industry to manage the risks from chemicals and to provide safety information on the substances.

Although REACH is a European Regulation, it does apply to chemicals, the leather or the finished products made from it, which are finally sold in the European market. In the EU region REACH applies more or less to all participants of the supply chain regardless of their status, as manufacturers, importers, distributors, or retailers. The effects are not only felt by everyone who is involved in Europe but also parts of the supply chain that are not directly involved in Europe because of global nature of leather manufacture and tannery supplies.

With the improvement of people's living standard, consumers are becoming increasingly keen on green non-toxic and environmentally friendly consumer goods. This trend for green consumerism has extended to leather and leather goods that comes into direct and prolonged contact with the human skin such as footwear, gloves, wristwatch, leather belts, purses, wallets, chair/sofa covers, etc. since the global demand for safe and green products is increasing, manufacturers shall improve product standards to meet those growing demands.

Because of the global structure of the leather and leather supply industry, and the influence of global retail brands, compliance with REACH will most likely rapidly become a voluntary norm for any leather company worldwide who wants to conduct business in international markets. REACH Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC) and REACH Restricted Substances list can be obtained at

http://echa.europa.eu/shem_data/candidate.list_table_en.asp

If a product does not contain SVHC and REACH-restricted substances above the threshold limits of REACH, the product is compliant with REACH.

Precautions to be taken by the leather industry in dealing with chemicals include confirming that no SVHC are present in chemicals used. Obtaining written confirmation from suppliers that products do not contain any of the listed SVHC compounds on the candidate list is important. It is recommended that suppliers get their goods certified and keep all records. The most reliable way to identify those hazardous

substances is through laboratory testing.

Source: *Leather Age*, ISSN 0971-1368, January 2013, Special Issue PP138-139



Global Tannery of the Year 2013 Winner Shares its Water Achievements

PrimeAsia China, the third Tannery of the Year Awards Programme winner, published an article outlining its water footprint on "China Water Risk" newsletter. China Water Risk is a non-profit initiative dedicated to highlighting water risk and fostering efficient and responsible use of China's water resources.

In the article, PrimeAsia indicated that, based on the Water Footprint Assessment Manual: 2011, it calculates its water footprint at 3.3 litres per square-foot of finished leather, but it said only 1% of the total corresponds to water consumed in its tanneries. PrimeAsia takes responsibility for 5% of a cow's life-cycle water consumption and its water footprint ends at the door of its customers' factories.

Breaking down the 3.3 litres of water consumed during the lifecycle of each square-foot of leather, PrimeAsia calculates that 91% is consumed during the life of the cow, 5% is consumed in the beamhouse (PrimeAsia's two tanneries in Vietnam and in Guangdong Province in China work from wet blue), and 3% is consumed during the manufacture of the chemicals it uses in its processes.

Water-saving practices at both PrimeAsia tanneries include collecting rainwater for use in production processes, reuse of water within the production process and extensive use of recycled water throughout the facilities. The annual company-wide water reduction goal in 2013 is an absolute reduction in water usage of 11% compared to 2012.

Source: <http://www.leatherbiz.com/fullitem2.aspx?id=129991>



KLDC, UNDP-NDMA Strengthen Skills Building for Lodwar/Dadaab Project Representatives

Kenya Leather Development Council (KLDC) has yet again partnered with United Nations Development Programme through National Drought Management Authority (UNDP-NDMA) to facilitate a Basic Leather and Leather goods Training for the Lodwar/Dadaab project representatives. The exercise took place at the Animal Health and Industry Training Institute (AHITI), Kabete and 16 participants attended the workshop between 29th April, and 10th May, 2013.

The move was initiated by the need to ensure adequate skills building to facilitate proper management of the respective projects in Lodwar and Dadaab. The trainees are expected to serve as Trainers of Trainers (ToTs) once the rural tannery and leathersgoods units in the respective project areas initiate operationalization.

The Lodwar/Dadaab Projects are the results of a liaised effort between KLDC and UNDP/NDMA to enhance resilience and promote rural development in the drought-prone areas of Turkana and Garissa Counties through feasible value added initiatives. The Project took off in September, 2012 and KLDC has maintained a technical role throughout the conception, initialization and construction phase of the project which was completed in May, 2013.



Management teams for both projects have already been instituted and the trainings are designed to provide the project representatives with technical hands-on skills in the operations of a tannery as well as leathersgoods units.

Mr. Harrison Ndungu, Capacity Building Representative- KLDC served as the Project Coordinator.



Leather belts and cardholders designed by trainees during the training at Ahiti.

COMESA/LLPI at the International Workshop on Sustainable Production in Leather Processing Industry, Conducted in Tubitak-Butal, Bursa, Turkey

The International Workshop on Sustainable Production in Leather Processing Industry that was jointly organized by TUBITAK-BUTAL, TIKA and UNIDO, took place from 28th May – 7th June 2013, in Tubitak-Butal, Bursa, Turkey. The workshop that was attended by a total of 20 participants (14 male and 6 female) from 13 countries and COMESA/LLPI was represented by its Programs Coordinator, Mr. Zewdu Kebede.

Practices.

The 32nd International Union of Leather Technologists and Chemist Societies (IULTCS) Congress that was held during the workshop period was also made part of the program. A total of 66 paper presentations and 97 poster presentations were given by scientists, experts and consultants from all over the world during the Congress period of three days.



The workshop had the objective to upgrade the knowledge and skills of participants by providing practical and up-to-date technologies in leather production, quality standards, laboratory testing procedures, and effluent treatment to enhance already acquired knowledge and technical and managerial skills in the leather and leather products industry sector.

During the Workshop, theoretical lectures, discussions and visits to selected tanneries and the Central Effluent Treatment Plant were conducted. Topics of lectures encompassed Leather Production Technologies, Quality Control Techniques in Leather Production, Waste Water Treatment including Physical, Chemical, Biological, Sludge and Chromium Treatment, and Laboratory

Major areas of the presentations were:

- » Fundamental Research in Leather Technologies,
- » Cleaner Innovative Technologies in Leather Making,
- » Waste Products and By-Products,
- » Use of Advanced Technologies for Leather Analysis,
- » Machinery Developments in the Leather Industry and
- » Future of Leather Technologies and Environment.

Finally, workshop participants found the Workshop worthwhile and expressed their appreciation for the efficient and successful administrative and logistical care of the organizers.



COMESA/LLPI signed the MoU with Copperstone University

Copperstone University on May 31, 2013, signed the MoU with COMESA/LLPI, an autonomous institution of COMESA mandated to coordinate the regional development of the leather industry. The core strategic objectives of COMESA/LLPI are to provide cooperation in the training of personnel for the leather industry at various levels of the value chain, spearhead research and development in the area of materials and technology, facilitate investment and trade promotion, as well as information dissemination and extension.



In order to meet these objectives, COMESA/LLPI conducts its activities at member country level through sectoral institutions, known as country units, designated by the respective governments to collaborate with the institute, including working with private sector companies and SMEs. Founded on rock solid values of education and strategic management, Copperstone University believes in quality education for sustainable development and is being achieved through the provision of education which is relevant to meeting the needs of industry and society at large.

The MoU provides the platform for collaboration between Copperstone University and the COMESA/LLPI in development of the leather industry in the COMESA region. It is envisioned that the parties will work together to develop the mechanisms that will promote and sustain the value-adding activities along the leather value chain in the COMESA region. Both parties will cooperate in the areas of research, training, technology transfer, consultancy, and exchange of programmes, development of SMEs, and other regional and international programmes. During the signing ceremony witnessed by members of the Copperstone board of directors, the senate, the director of COMESA/LLPI and other senior officials, Mwinikione Mwinyihija-the director of COMESA /LLPI said the institution was pleased to be associated with Copperstone because the

university had taken a unique path towards the provision of education which is industry-focused. "The signing of this MoU comes after Copperstone University's successful completion of consultancy work with COMESA/LLPI in entrepreneurship business development and management training for selected shoemakers in Kitwe, Zambia, and upon proof that the university is capable of providing training, research and consultancy for the leather industry in Zambia and the region at large," Dr Mwinyihija said. He said COMESA/LLPI would provide the required support to Copperstone University for successful implementation of joint projects, programmes and activities for sustained leather development in the COMESA region. Dr Mwinyihija also said COMESA/LLPI would support the Copperstone University Centre for Leather and Leather Products Technology in order to speed up human resource, material and technological research development in the leather sector in Zambia.

In response, Copperstone University vice-chancellor Sitwala Mundia said the institution was determined to contribute to the development of the country and the continent through the provision of appropriate education, training and skills for all. Dr Mundia said over the past months, Copperstone University, in collaboration with partners around the globe, had managed to fulfill its mandate of providing education for sustainable development through offering critical skills programmes such as entrepreneurship for all, forensics investigations, occupational safety and health, and design and technology. This, he said, was being done in line with Government policies and aspirations and in the interest of national development. Dr Mundia commended COMESA/LLPI for giving Copperstone University the responsibility to develop and manage the leather and footwear cluster in Kitwe, which is poised to showcase best practices in establishment of cottage industries in Zambia. He was grateful to COMESA/LLPI for providing training to Copperstone members of staff on the development and management of clusters at a workshop recently held in Siavonga.

The vice-chancellor further stated that the institution was working towards creating synergies with other stakeholders such as Zambia development Agency through the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry that also received similar training in order to holistically provide support to the formation and management of leather and footwear clusters in Zambia. The signing of this particular MoU is a milestone in the history of Copperstone because the university is partnering with a multi-disciplinary institution (COMESA/LLPI) in realising the sustainable growth of the leather industry in Zambia and the region at large.

Virtual 3D design made Adidas saves 1m samples

Sporting goods firm Adidas calculates that it has produced 1 million fewer physical samples over the past three years by using virtual 3D technology to create and share designs.

The 'Virtualisation' programme is part of the company's on-going effort to reduce its environmental footprint, and has initially been focused on the 'virtual sell-in' process in which it sells product to retailers.

"All our core factories are trained and now capable of producing high-quality volumes of virtual samples," explains Renate Eder, team leader of Creation Technologies Apparel.

"In addition, virtualisation is a company-wide and cross-functional initiative that involves colleagues from departments like marketing, sales, sourcing and global IT, as well as our core suppliers.

The process, which involves the creation of photorealistic images of footwear and apparel in 3D, also helps save resources and money by reducing material waste, transportation and distribution costs, as well as cutting carbon emissions by flying fewer samples around the globe.

"As well as being environmentally friendly, virtualisation is also innovative, quick and efficient as images are very realistic and easy to change in real time, which allows faster decision-making," Eder adds.

The next move for Adidas is to "go virtual" in design, so that its designers will be able to design in 3D at the very beginning of the creative process.

"We are also bringing virtualisation to customers in our retail environment globally, using state-of-the-art touch-screen virtual walls where shoppers can select products on a virtual shelf."



Virtual 3D technology is helping Adidas to create and sell products in a more sustainable way.

Source: http://www.just-style.com/news/adidas-saves-1m-samples-via-virtual-3d-design_id118372.aspx

Upcoming Events in the Leather Sector for the Period July to December 2013

The Table here below highlights some upcoming international trade shows, fairs, exhibitions and expositions of leather goods, clothing & accessories, leather machinery & technology and leather processing. The details like Leather Industry expo profiles, participants, and confirmations regarding timeliness or applicability of any of the information should be obtained by contacting organizers before making arrangements.

	Period	Event	Place, City, and Website	Country
Africa				
1	Oct., 2013	FASHION BUSINESS ANGOLA	Feira Internacional de Angola Luanda http://www.eventseye.com/fairs/zst1_trade-shows_africa-middle-east_leather-fur.html	Angola
Europe				
1	July 11-13, 2013	Outdoor Trade Fair	Neue Messe Friedrichshafen http://www.outdoor-show.com/	Germany
2	Aug. 10-11, 213	Messe	Schkeuditz / Leipzig www.mmc-shoetime.de	Germany
3	Sep. 03-05, 2013	BTS Exhibition of Shoes, Leather and Leather Goods	Poznan International Fair, Poznan http://www.expodatabase.com/tradeshows/bts-exhibition-of-shoes-leather-and-leather-goods-41220.html	Poland
4	Sept. 8-10, 2013	Outdoor Trade Show	Stoneleigh Park Exhibition Centre Warwickshire www.outdoortradeshow.com	United Kingdom
5	Sept. 15-18, 2013	MICAM Sho Event	Fiera milano Trade Fair Complex (Rho) Milan www.mipel.it ; www.micamonline.com	Italy
6	Sept. 21-23, 2013	ILM International Leathergoods Exhibition	Messe Offenbach Offenbach www.messe-offenbach.de	Germany
7	Sept. 17 - 19, 2013	Point of Shoes (international fair for fashion materials)	Zeppelinstraße 11 66954 Pirmasens /	Germany
8	Oct. 08-10, 2013	Modacalzado & Iberpiel Footwear & Leather Fair	Madrid www.ifema.es	Spain
Asia				
1	July 11-13, 2013	The 15th International SHOES & LEATHER EXHIBITION	SECC - Saigon Exhibition & Convention Center, Ho Chi Minh City http://www.shoeleather-vietnam.com/	Vietnam
2	August 29-31, 2013	All China Shoe-Tech China (Wenzhou) International Leather, Shoe Material & Shoe Machinery Fair 2013	Wenzhou International Convention and Exhibition Center, Wenzhou http://www.chinaexhibition.com/trade_events/2726-ALL_CHINA_SHOE-TECH_2013	China

3	Sept. 04-06, 2013	China International Footwear Fair + All China Leather Exhibition	Shanghai New International Expo Centre(SNIEC) Shanghai, www.ciffchina.com http://www.biztradeshows.com/trade-events/china-footwear-fair.html	China
North America				
1	June 10-12, 2013 Oct. 14-16, 2013	Transit The Los Angeles Shoe Show	California Market Center, Penthouse, 13th Floor, Los Angeles http://www.californiamarketcenter.com/markets/transit.php	United States
2	July 23-25, 2013	ENK WSA,	Sands Expo & Convention Center, Las Vegas www.wsashow.com	United States
3	Aug. 17-19, 2013	The Atlanta Shoe Market	Atlanta, atlantashoemarket.com	United States
Latin America				
1	July 31 - August 03, 2012	IFLS International Footwear & Leather Show	Corferias Exhibition Centre, Bogotá www.ifls.com.co	Colombia



ABOUT COMESA-LLPI

The formation of the Leather and Leather Products Institute (LLPI) was approved by the former Preferential Trade Area (PTA) for Eastern and Southern African States in 1988 to fulfill its industrial objective to "support and develop the leather industries of the COMESA region". It was then established by the signing of the Charter by member States on 23rd November 1990.

LLPI Vision:

LLPI endeavors to be a competent and leading leather and leather products centre of excellence that will enhance regional and global competitiveness of the leather industry.

LLPI Mission:

To promote the development of the regional leather industry through research, science and technological development, investment, productive capacity building, inter-regional cooperation.

Address

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