



ALLPI 2021 Special Issue NEWSLETTER

Leather for Health, Wealth and Luxury!

Oct. - Dec. 2021 (Issue No. 25)

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The ALLPI Hosted XXXVI IULTCS Biennial Congress Successfully Completed



The XXXVI biennial Congress of the International Union of Leather Technologists and Chemists Society (IULTCS), hosted by Africa Leather and Leather Products Institute (ALLPI) in conjunction with the Ministry of Industry of Ethiopia, from 3rd to 5th November, 2021, has been successfully completed at the Skylight Hotel, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



IULTCS is a world-wide organization of professional societies in the leather sector with the aim of fostering cooperation between member societies, furthering the advancement of leather science and technology, forming commissions for special studies and establishing international methods of samples and testing leather and materials associated with leather manufacture. The



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MARCH 2022**



Prof. (Dr⁵) M. Mwinyihija, Executive Director of ALLPI

Dear Esteemed Readers,

Welcome to the special edition 2021 Newsletter

With the 2021 now behind our back, and now in the year 2022, I take this opportunity to welcome you to this special edition of ALLPI's Newsletter that gives highlights of activities accomplished in 2021. This special edition focuses mainly on highlight of ALLPI's activities regarding the XXXVI IULTCS Congress and 5th WLC, Skills Recognition in the leather sector in Africa, ALLPI facilitated RECAMP program activities, Certified of ISO QMS and EMS, footwear and leather goods tools and equipment, on Online Training Courses, leather and leather products, allied industries and institutions' Directory, the 12th Edition of 2021 AALF and refurbishment of ALLPI's main building among other regional and international leather and leather products related news.

Dear esteemed readers, during the year under review, I'm privileged to mention that one of the

most remarkable events that took place in the year was the XXXVI biennial Congress of the International Union of Leather Technologists and Chemists Society (IULTCS), which was hosted by Africa Leather and Leather Products Institute (ALLPI) in conjunction with the Ministry of Industry of Ethiopia. The event which was successfully held on a Hybrid mode due global COVID – 19 pandemic took place from 3rd to 5th November, 2021 at the Skylight Hotel, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia for the first time in Africa Continent.

Also conducted virtually were four ALLPI facilitated RECAMP program activities workshops as follows: Review of the Elapsed Regional Leather Value Chain Strategy (2012-2016), building capacity on application of standards for leather value chains including the designing of leather finishing processes and Leather Products which meet regulatory and safety standards of the markets, Hides and Skins Traceability System Capacity building and Eco-friendly leather products

Certification system implementation. The four ALLPI's facilitated program activities involved 14 countries in each program activity with 4 key stakeholders from each country. The 14 countries involved in the four program workshops were: Burundi, D.R. Congo, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Sudan, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Other accomplished activities within the same period included: The study toward Qualifications for Skills Recognition and Development in the Leather Sector in Africa. This study was carried out by ALLPI, in collaboration with International Labour organization (ILO). The aim of study was to collect information on current national, regional and continental qualifications and curriculum available for workers in the leather industry in Africa to enable further analysis of the potential for continental level qualifications for the sector. It also goes without saying that the institute maintained its integrated ISO 9001:2015 and 14001:2015 QMS and EMS for the last three consecutive years after it successfully went through the Surveillance Audit during the year.

Other notable achievements by the Institute during the period under review were the delivery of footwear and leather goods making tools and equipment worth of USD 400,000 under BADEA Technical Assistance Grant Support to SMEs Incubation/Service Centers to 6 beneficiary Member States (Burundi, Eritrea, Kenya, Rwanda Uganda and Zambia). The Ugandan one is still under the process of clearance at the port of Mombasa, Kenya.

Other remarkable achievements included: Online training courses on "Footwear Design & Pattern Making, Leather Footwear & Leather Goods Design, Craftsmanship and Export Readiness", ALLPI newly designed E-directory on Leather and Leather Products, Allied industries and as part of ALLPI'S strategic activities supported 9 export-potential SMEs in the leather sector from 9 ALLPI Member States namely: Burundi, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Uganda, Sudan and Zambia to participate in the 12th Edition of All Africa Leather Fair (AALF) in Addis, Ethiopia.

Dear valuable readers, before I conclude, it is important to bring to your attention that ALLPI Main Office Building started a major maintenance which we hope on completion is on-going to give it a new face and reflect its status as a continental body.

Last but not the least, ALLPI appreciate and value all our esteemed Partners and Stakeholders for their continued valuable support and collaboration for all the successes registered during the year. It is my sincere hope that this Special Newsletter will continue keeping us connected with respect to information in the continental's leather sector development and other related activities in the sector within African Continent and world at large.

Kindly accept our appreciation for taking time to read and providing us with your thoughts.

Sincerely,

**Prof. Mwinyikione Mwinyihija Executive
Director (Dr^s).**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The ALLPI Hosted XXXVI IULTCS (Continued from page 1)

Union with more than 120 years existence has held 35 Congresses in nineteen (19) different countries on five (5) continents.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic limitations, the XXXVI IULTCS Congress, was conducted in a hybrid mode, with both face-to-face and online participants, for the first time in the Union's 120 years' experience. The three-day Congress was attended by over 240 participants from many countries from all continents. A total of 36 oral and more than 70 poster presentations were made on diverse areas of technology, chemistry and science of leather making and environmental sustainability. The online system also facilitated recordings of all presentations and discussion, which will remain available to registrants for reviewing at their leisure during the next two months.

The Congress was steered by the ALLPI Team of Experts led by Professor Mekonnen Hailemariam, with 16 well-known scientists, researchers and professionals in the leather sector as moderators from across the different continents.

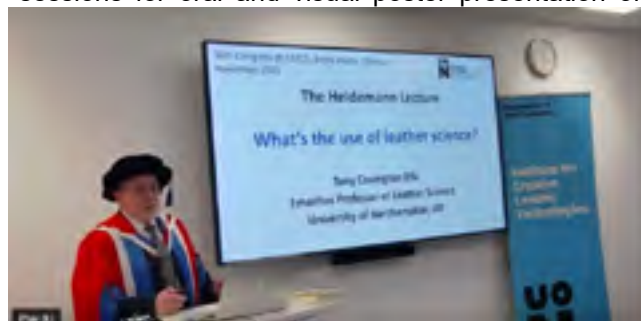
At the official opening ceremony of the Congress the IULTCS anthem was played and the Union's flag was raised. Welcome messages and a keynote speech were provided by Mr Ghebregziabher Ghebremedhin, the then Acting Executive Director of ALLPI, Dr Luis Zugno, President of IULTCS and His Excellency Mr Tekalegn Bululta, State Minister, Ministry of Industry, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. The opening ceremony was followed by the presentation of the IULTCS 2021 Merit Award for Excellence in the Leather Industry and then the prestigious keynote lecture of the Congress, the Heidemann Lecture.

IULTCS 2021 Merit Award for Excellence in the Leather

Industry was presented to Dr T Ramasami, renowned for his very significant contributions to the chemistry of chromium as a scientist and his leadership in the Indian leather sector for many years.

The Heidemann Lecture was delivered by Professor Anthony Covington, who has authored over 300 technical publications, received the IULTCS Merit Award for Excellence in the Leather Industry in 2009, and the Alsop Award for Outstanding Scientific Contribution to the Leather Industry from the American Leather Chemists Association in 2011.

Following the official opening and the Heidemann's Lecture, the three days were divided into different sessions for oral and visual poster presentation of



scientific papers. The scientific papers presenters were from all over the world and participants had the opportunity to ask them questions directly on-line and make comments. All the sessions went on smoothly in a hybrid mode. The presenters were also honored with a certificate of merit.



Day 1 had 3 oral and 2 poster sessions. A total of twelve (12) papers were presented in oral sessions; they presented new developments with regards to cleaner technologies for the leather processing, composite

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materials and utilization of leather waste resources, and Environmental Management Technologies in the leather industry.

Day 2 followed with 4 oral and 3 poster sessions. The papers presented in the oral sessions were 16 in number and focused on the areas of intelligent manufacturing of leather products, cleaner technologies for the leather processing, leather processing chemicals, as well as Environmental Management Technologies, leather industry entrepreneurship and progress towards sustainability,

Day 3, the final day, had 2 oral and 2 visual poster sessions. The topics and contents of the orally presented scientific papers, that were 9 in number, focused on the areas of scientific research of leather and fashion, life style leather products and design innovation.

At the closing ceremony of the Congress the IULTCS anthem was played and the Union's flag was handed over to the host of the next Congress, which is the

China Leather Industry Association (CLIA). This was followed by a vote of thanks by Dr Wolfram Scholz from Austria. The closing remarks were made by ALLPI Acting Executive Director Mr Ghebregziabihir Ghebremedhin, ALLPI Board of Directors Chairperson, Mr Sekandi Abdul Hakim, while closing speeches were made by the incoming President of IULTCS, Mr Jean-Pierre Gualino and the current President of IULTCS, Dr Luis Zugno.

All the speakers expressed their satisfaction with respect to the level of organization of the Congress, the diversity of the topics discussed and by the in-depth insight gained in the different aspects of the leather making and environmental sustainability. Organizers also thanked the Gold sponsor, TFL; the silver sponsor, Pittard's and the bronze sponsors JICA, Chromogenia, ATC, Buckman, Brazilian Leather and Ethiopian Airlines.



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Review of the Elapsed Regional Leather Value Chain Strategy (2012-2016) Conducted

The COMESA regional leather value chain strategy review, that was facilitated by Africa Leather and Leather Products Institute was conducted through 3 participatory virtual workshops in which 13 COMESA member States took part. The review exercise was fully sponsored by the Regional Enterprise Competitiveness and Access to Markets Programme (RECAMP).

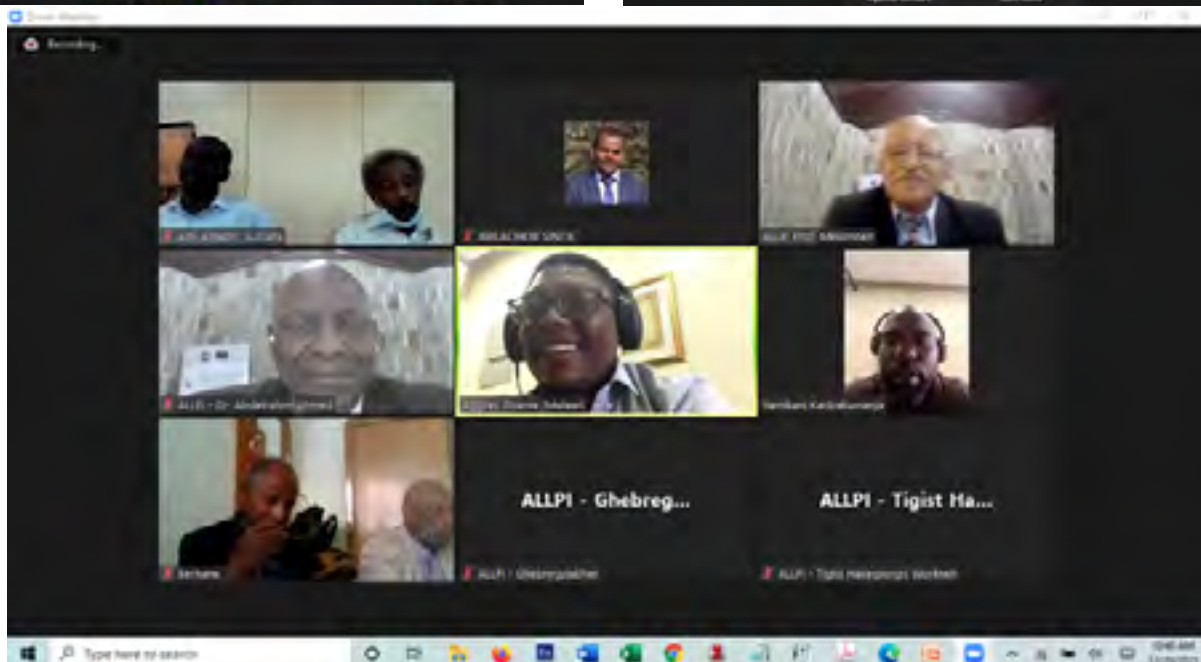
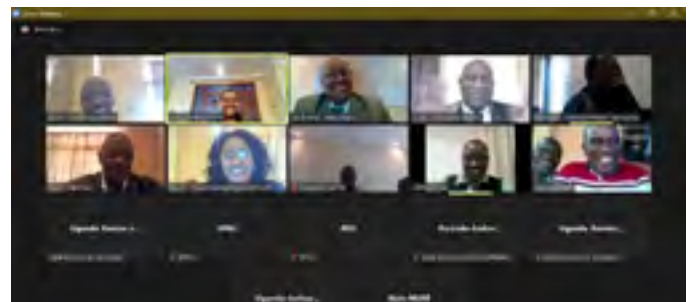
The RECAMP, a project working to contribute to the deepening of regional economic integration in the COMESA region through enhancing the competitiveness of the private sector, is an initiative managed by the COMESA secretariat and financed from the European Development Fund (FED/2019/407-838)

The Strategy review, pre-validation and validation processes were fully participatory, involving sector players across the value chain and stakeholders from Public and Private sectors and Academia. A total of more than 80 participants from 13 COMESA Countries took part in the review and validation exercises.

The strategy review covered all segments of the leather value chain within the framework of the elapsed strategic plan that encompassed the plans bigger pictures, set targets, detailed interventions, implementations rates, outputs and impacts.

Along with the review process, participants also generated data/information for the New Strategy development that will constitute a strong foundation to help guide the region in the conduct of leather sector policy in the years to come.

We would like to recognize the RECAMP Program for the financial support, and all the participants for their valuable contributions in the review of the elapsed Strategy as well as generation of data/information for the new Strategy.

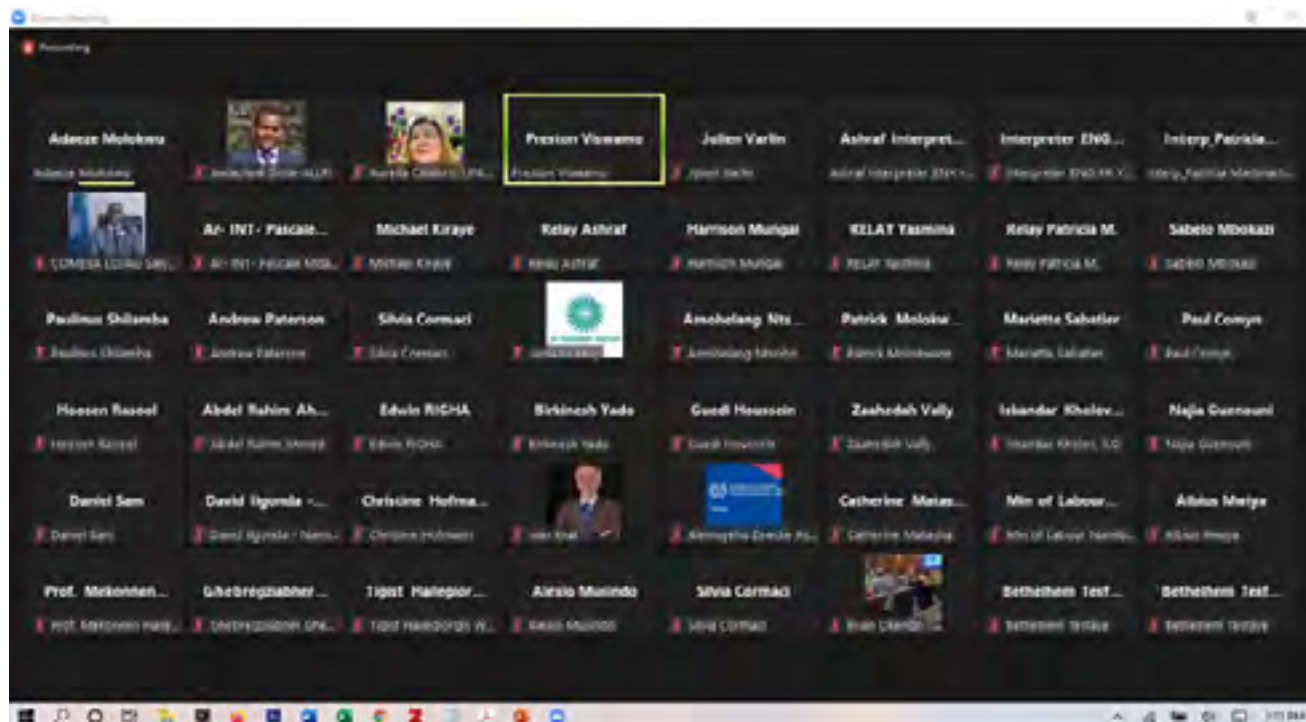


Towards Skills Recognition in the leather sector in Africa

ALLPI, in collaboration with International Labour organization (ILO) under the AUC-ILO-IOM-ECA Joint Labour Migration Governance Programme for Regional Integration and Development in Africa, better known as the JLMP, undertook a study on Programs and Qualifications for Skills Recognition and Development in the Leather Sector in Africa.

in Africa that have the potential for forming Regional Value Chains (RVCs) in leather and leather products and the countries being the biggest Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) traders of leather and leather products (LLP).

The study, investigated skills dynamics by collecting information on current national, regional and continental



The study was aimed to collect information on current national, regional and continental qualifications and curriculum available for workers in the leather industry in Africa to enable further analysis of the potential for continental level qualifications for the sector.

The study was conducted between September 2020 and October 2021. The execution of the study was led by Prof. Mekonnen Hailemariam, the advisor to Executive Director at ALLPI. Other study team members comprised of Mr. Preston Viswamo, the Regional Design Studio Manager at ALLPI and Mr. Awlachew, the ITC and M&E expert at ALLPI. The Executive Director, Prof. Mwinyihija Mwinyikione took the role of the overall study team coordinator.

The study was conducted in 7 countries (Ethiopia, Kenya, Namibia, Egypt, Morocco, South Africa and Niger) and four RECs (COMESA, ECOWAS, SACU and UMA). The selection of the countries and RECs was based on the results of the previous study conducted by UNCTAD (2018) that identified the RECs as trade blocs

qualifications and curriculum available for workers in the leather industry in Africa and further analyzed the potential for continental level qualifications for the sector skills recognition and portability. The study also identified occupational standards, qualifications, programs and learning pathways relevant to the leather sector and aligned those with the occupational map to identify gaps. Good practices from other regions for sector specific qualification for the leather sector were also identified to suggest options for the Africa context.

The study was validated through a videoconference using the Zoom platform. A variety of stakeholders from the public and private sectors and academia were invited to the workshop, with more than 50 of those in attendance. The institutions represented in the validation workshop encompassed the Africa Leather and Leather Products Institute (ALLPI), the African Union Commission (AUC), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Jets Education Services, Governments of Namibia and

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Niger, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).

The final findings and recommendations of the study are contained in the study report which will be shared in due course after ILO brings it into the public domain.

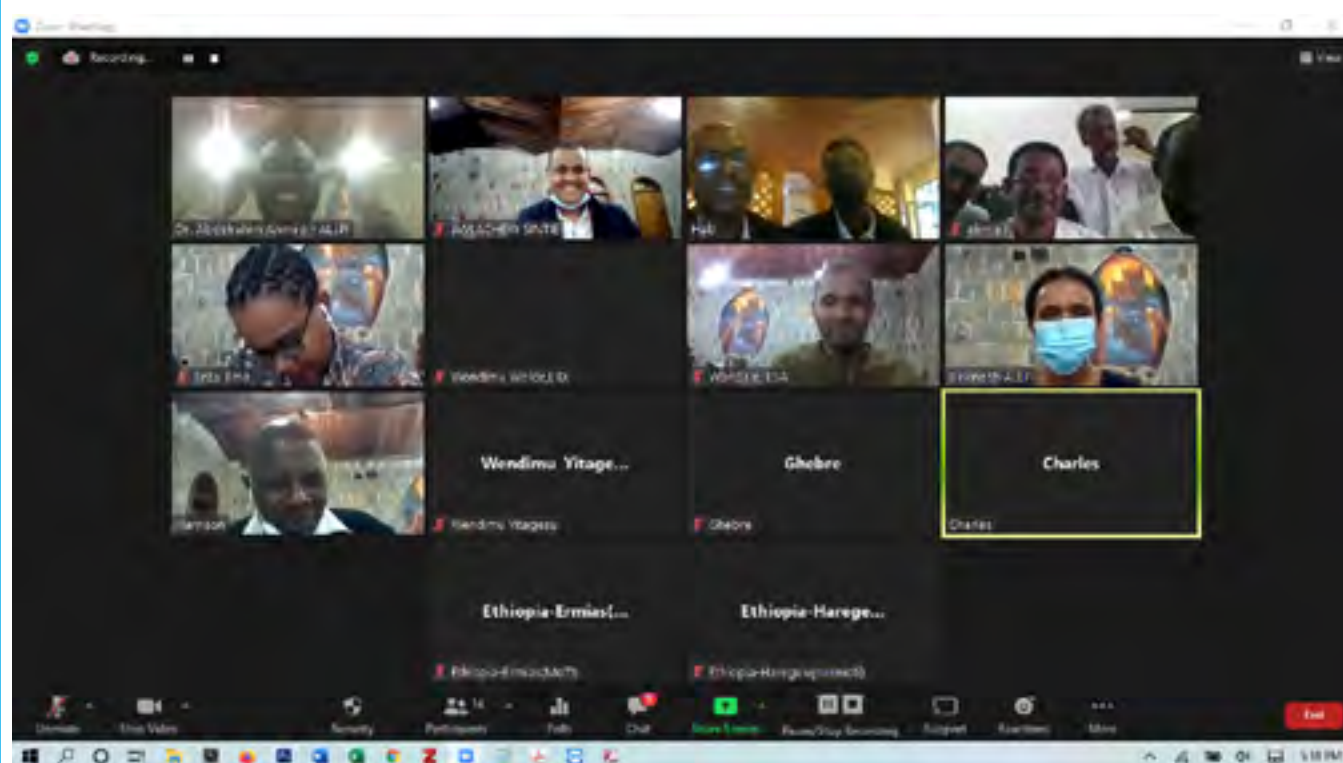
Skills recognition and portability is a strategic leverage to the achievement of the objectives of continental policies such as Accelerated Industrial Development for Africa (AIDA) and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). It is also acknowledged as an important element of the AU Protocol on Free Movement of Persons which is extensively explained in draft Guidelines on the Labour migration related provisions of the Protocol. However, restrictions on mobility and inadequate implementation or non-existence of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) free movement regimes and Qualification

Frameworks impede linking existing skills to markets and employers.

One of the major factors affecting labour mobility in Africa and more specifically within the RECs is the weakness of recognition and compatibility systems of qualifications, skills and experience across national borders. Thus, certificates and qualifications obtained in one country are often not accepted in another country leading to challenges in portability of skills and labour mobility across borders.

To address the concern highlighted above, the African Union Commission (AUC) partnered with the European Union (EU), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationaler Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the European Training Foundation (ETF) in developing the African Continental Qualifications Framework (ACQF), with the international Labour Organization (ILO) as the implementing institution.

Enhancing competitiveness of leather-based SMEs through conforming to Standards



Africa Leather and Leather Products Institute (ALLPI) embarked on Training workshop to build capacity on application of standards for leather value chains including the designing of leather finishing processes and Leather Products which meet regulatory and safety standards of the markets. The Training was conducted in two phases in 2020 and 2021. About

56 key stakeholders drawn from public and private sectors (4 participants from each participating country) were trained. The 14 participating countries were: Burundi, D.R. Congo, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia Kenya Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius Rwanda, Sudan, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

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The overall objective of the programme was to build capacity of participating countries on application of harmonized standards for leather value chain segments. The Training had also the following Specific Objective:

- To identify innovative, entrepreneurial and internationally oriented regulatory and safety standard methods for SMEs;
- To setup criteria for leather sector value chain segments standards development
- To develop an implementation frame work for regulatory and safety standards \ of leather value chain;
- To develop a regional frame work towards harmonization of standards to enhance the regional economic and market integration.

The training focused on the following major topic areas:

- » Performance Characteristics of various types of leather;
- » Basic concepts of standards and standardization with respect to Leather Sector;
- » Development and Harmonisation of Standards and Conformity Assessment for the Leather Value Chain;
- » Quality Assurance and Management;
- » Development and Trade Facilitation in the Context of the AfCFTA;
- » Insight on standards and competitiveness for Africa SME's;
- » Leather and Leather Products standards;
- » Countries' group work.

ALLPI has been certified of ISO QMS and EMS for the third time



Certificate Number: 14079-Q15&E15-001
ISO 9001, ISO 14001

Africa Leather and Leather Products Institute has continued its activities based on the integrated ISO 9001:2015 and 14001:2015 QMS and EMS the last three years. After three years' consecutive Surveillance Audit, the Institute recertified in December 2021 for the third time which continue for the following three years on the basis of yearly Surveillance Audit.

The objective is to establish and implement an efficient quality management and environmental management system in accordance with guidelines of the latest version of International Standard of Quality Management System ISO 9001:2015 and Environmental Management System 14001:2015 and to get international reputation in the form of certification.

Africa Leather and Leather Products Institute

(Previously, it was known as COMESA Leather and Leather Products Institute) was Certified with ISO QMS 9001:2008 and EMS 14001:2004 in December 2015.

In 2016 we had also surveillance Audit by External System Auditor with the same organization which audited the Institute at the time of certification Audit.

Our continuous activities on the improvement of the above-mentioned certification have brought different improvement for the Institute in both standards – Quality Management Systems and Environmental Management System.

The ISO 9001:2008 and ISO14001:2004 had expired at the end of the year 2017 and in order to keep up its status, the Institute upgraded its certification to the new integrated ISO QMS 9001:2015 and EMS14001:2015 for the second time.

As stated in the previous sections, the implementation of ISO QMS 9001:2015 and EMS 14001:2015 has assisted the Institute to improve its work processes from year to year. The audit firm has continuously given feedback of the implementation process. The reports of almost all audit sessions indicates that the Institute conforms to the requirements and few recommendations for future improvement on certain processes. Since areas of improvement given during the previous year audit have been cleared as per the requirements, no non-conformity comments have been given. This has, of course encouraged the Institute to continuously improve its system.

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The Institute's ISO QMS/EMS certification has the following implications for the regional leather sector development benefited the Institute:

- » to efficiently carry out its day-to-day activities;
- » to support different organizations in the leather sector of the member states with the required standards and pave way for them to get ISO certified and get credibility and trust within consumers, stakeholders and other business partners; and
- » to help the Institute compete in the market to provide its consultancy services as ISO certification gives confidence for the clients on the Institute's services.

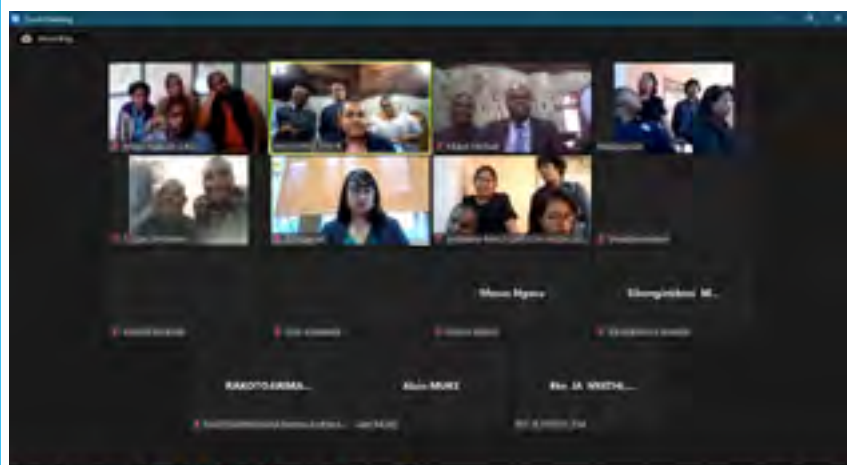
The ISO 9001:2008 and 14001:2004 standards are worldwide most popular standards of Quality Management and Environmental Management System. ISO 9001 and 14001 are process-based on international standard covering all aspects of an organization. ISO 9001 builds the capacity of an organization to consistently develop and strengthen its systems and procedures alongside providing quality services; and ISO 14001 is an Environmental Management System (EMS) which is a set of internal rules which are defined by a collection of policies, processes, procedures and

records.

The Environmental Management system defines how a company will identify, assess, monitor and maintain the interactions with the environment in order to prevent negative environmental impacts. Major features of the systems are consistency in the quality of services and continual improvement. To integrate the concept of quality assurance in development processes with enhanced level of compatibility, ISO 9001:2008, is the best tool. ISO 14001:2004, an Environmental Management System, is a system which integrates procedures and processes for training of personnel, monitoring, summarizing, and reporting of specialized environmental performance information to internal and external stakeholders of a firm.

The ISO Certification is to put a standard and establish credibility and trust within consumers, stakeholders and other partners. In general, ISO Certification guarantees the Institute/Organization meets global standards for business or Institutional activities at International Level. Especially for ALLPI, the importance is to be a center of excellence at Intuition level and it is the way to assist the Member States to understand the standards towards adhering to quality assurance and environmental standards.

Africa towards Hides and skins traceability System



Africa Leather and Leather Products Institute (ALLPI) conducted Hides and Skins Traceability System Capacity building workshop in two phases. The Phase I training had been conducted in 2020 and the Phase II training workshop was conducted in 2021.

The Training was conducted by ALLPI under Regional Enterprise Competitiveness and Access to Markets Programme (RECAMP) that aims at contributing to the deepening of regional economic integration in the

COMESA region.

14 member country with a team of four from focal ministry official, Representative of leather associations, Standards related expert from focal ministry and Technology and standards related Academia representative participated in this specific workshop. The 14 participating countries were Burundi, D.R. Congo, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia Kenya Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius Rwanda, Sudan, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

The aim of the capacity building workshop and their achievements were as follows:

1. Determining Identifying Information that can make it possible for LVC enterprises to trace the source of their products, Which achieved the articulation of :
 - » Hides and skins Making guidelines
 - » Country traceability coding system guidelines
 - » Database system guidelines

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2. Compiling a traceability system manual involving steps LVC enterprises can follow to achieve a product mark codes, Which achieved the articulation of:

- » Hides and skins traceability manual format and framework designing and Validation by participating member states.

3. Setting and Devising grounds for operationalization of a pilot center for Hides and skins traceability implementation per country, that achieved the articulation of:

- » Unpacking Implementation matrix for traceability



system at participating member state level

- » Selecting a pilot center and responsible persons for traceability system implementation at participating member states level.

Eco-friendly leather products Certification system implementation workshop successfully conducted virtually

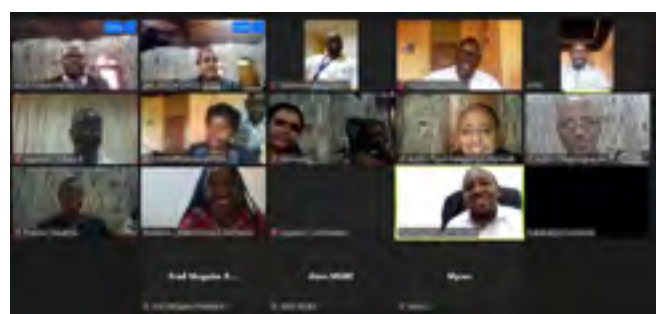
Eco-friendly leather products Certification system implementation workshops was held on 27th – 1st November 2021, 17th–21st January 2022, and 24th -28th January 2022 in Debrazeit, Ethiopia Virtually.

This workshop is under the project of RECAMP “The COMESA Regional Enterprise Competitiveness and Access to Markets Programmes’ that aims at contributing to the deepening of regional economic integration in the COMESA region.

14 member country with a team of four from focal ministry official, Representative of leather associations, Standards related expert from focal ministry and Technology and standards related Academia representative participated in this specific workshop.. The 14 participating countries were Burundi, D.R. Congo, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia Kenya Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius Rwanda, Sudan, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Welcome Address and key note of the workshop were addressed by Prof. Mwinyikione Mwinyihija Executive Director, ALLP and Mr.Ghebregziabher Ghebremedhin the Programs Coordinator of ALLPI and the objective of this training and the certification dynamics in enhancing completeness was highlighted

Purpose of the Certification of Eco-friendly system



implementation workshop

1. **Identifying internal operations that can make it possible for LVC enterprises to acquire certification status of their products and processes.**
2. **Compiling a certification manual involving steps LVC enterprises can follow to achieve a product or process certification**
3. **Setting and Devising grounds for operationalization of product and process certification**

The topics covered to address the purpose of the workshop were as follows

a. Identifying internal operations that can make it possible for LVC enterprises to acquire certification status of their products and processes.

- » Auditing process guidelines

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- » Premises fitness for eco-friendly leather products certification
- » Processes fitness for eco-friendly leather products certification
- » Systems fitness for eco-friendly leather products certification
- » Policies fitness
- » Testing of the products
- » Eco-friendly certification analysis (ECA) tool
- » Good practice award

b. Compiling a certification manual involving steps LVC enterprises can follow to achieve a product or process certification.

- » Eco-friendly Leather Products Certification manual format designing and Validation by participating member states.
- c. Setting and Devising grounds for operationalization of product and Process Certification.
- » Unpacking phase 1 import and export requirements.
 - » Unpacking Implementation matrix for Certification of Eco-friendly system at participating member state level.
 - » Selecting a pilot center and responsible persons for Certification of Eco
 - » friendly system implementation at participating member state level.

5th World Leather Congress 2021 Ethiopia successfully completed



Fifth World Leather Congress (WLC) was held at Skylight Hotel, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 1st November 2021 under the theme "Leather a Gift of Nature" HYBRID mode to provide participants the options of attending either physically or virtually Due to the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic situation.

The Congress is the premier international event in the field of leather sector and had many leather professionals and leaders that presented technical speech and debate pressing global issues challenging the leather sector development. The congress is the first of its kind in Africa following the 4th World Leather Congress (WLC) that was held on 16 July 2019, in New York., USA. The congress was organized by ALLPI in conjunction with the Federal Ministry of Industry of Ethiopia and

it was awarded to Ethiopia due the efforts played by the Executive Director of Africa Leather and Leather Products Institute (ALLPI) Professor Mwinyikione Mwinyihija Current president of International Council of Tanners (ICT). The one day congress program was introduced by Prof. Mekonnen Hailemariam the adviser to the Executive director who gave the overall meaning of the event and what it means for Africa.

The Welcome Speech was from Ag ED, ALLPI, Mr. Ghebregziabher Ghebremedhin and he welcome the physical as well as the virtual participants to this important platform and expressing gratitude to organizers who made the event a success. The present ICT Secretary, Dr. Kerry senior also welcomed the participants by introducing the background of ICT establishment in

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1926 and gave a summary of the trends issues within the leather industry. He also expressed his happiness to be part of the congress held in Ethiopia.

The official opening Speech was delivered by H.E Mr. Tarekegn Bululta, the State minister, to the Ministry of Industry and he thanks the Africa Leather and Leather Products Institute, currently holding the presidency of the International Council of Tanners (ICT), and the Executive Committee of the ICT for selecting Ethiopia as the venue of this biennial Congress of the Global organization for the leather producing industry. He also mentioned the presentations, discussions and deliberations of the Congress will undoubtedly provide valuable guidance as to how to address the increasing concerns among the peoples of the world with the rational utilization of renewable natural resources, and with the conservation of the environment from pollution. Finally He wished a delightful and stimulating Congress to the participants, speakers and moderators during the congress session and officially opened a Hybrid congress from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The following topics were covered by the Leather development speakers from all over the world during the congress:

- » The Relation of Leather to the Livestock and Meat Industry
- » Footwear and Leather Goods Global Perspective
- » Luxury and Fashion Leather World
- » Leather Processing and Sustainability
- » Leather value chain and sustainability as the industry driver
- » Practical Solutions for Deploying Polymer Sphere Technology at Production Scale
- » Sustainability through Standards with Integrity
- » Regional and International Trade and Policy
- » Tannery of the Future / Self Assessment programme.

The session was officially closed by ALLPI Ag. ED and the secretary of ICT after a detail discussion and deliberation of the day's activity.

Enhancing Ecommerce platform for SME's Development

ALLPI put in place an Agreement with CRDLE, a technology company with innovators who believe Africa can do better than its 2% market share of the world's trade by participating Africa SME's on Ecommerce platform. The objective is to Provide Capacity Building Training for leather SMEs on E-Commerce Platform features, usage.

The purpose of the agreement is to provide the framework of cooperation between CRDLE and ALLPI in development of the leather sector in Africa, involving:

- a) Capacity Building;
- b) Trade and Marketing Promotion;
- c) Information sharing;

The components of the agreement are

CRDLE will prepare and share free presentations to leather companies in Africa that teach marketing, sales, and communication techniques that help African companies attract more international buyers.

CRDLE and AFRICA LEATHER AND LEATHER PRODUCTS INSTITUTE can come together to prepare free webinars that promote leather in Africa to global buyers

AFRICA LEATHER AND LEATHER PRODUCTS INSTITUTE will promote CRDLE's platform to leather companies in Africa and/or provide business names and contact information of leather companies in Africa who may wish to be contacted by CRDLE.

Delivery of footwear and leather goods making tools and equipment to SMEs Incubation/Service Centers

ALLPI is proud to announce the delivery of footwear and leather goods making equipment and tools to 5 beneficiary countries' (Burundi, Eritrea, Kenya, Rwanda and Zambia) SMEs Incubation/Service centers. The Equipment and tools are procured under the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) Technical Assistance Grant of 400,000 USD for financing of a technical assistance to support the Leather footwear Industry Incubators in favour of business entrepreneurs, in 6 countries, namely, Burundi, Eritrea, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia.

- » Burundi: Equipment and tools for a total sum of 52,995.00 EUR delivered to the SMEs Incubation Center in Bujumbura, Burundi
- » Kenya: Equipment and tools for a total sum of 56,675.00 EUR delivered to the Training and Production Center for Shoe Industry, Thika, Kenya
- » Rwanda: Equipment and tools for a total sum of 58,715.00EUR delivered to Masaka Business Incubation Center, Kigali, Rwanda
- » Zambia: Equipment and tools for a total sum of 57,445.00EUR delivered to the Cooperative



College, in Lusaka, Zambia

The delivery included Cutting presses, Skiving machines, Stitching machines, Roughing machines, Sole pressing machines, Glue reactivating machines, Lasting pins, different hand tools, working tables and trolleys to the following incubation/service centers that also host satellite design studios:

- » Eritrea: Equipment and tools for a total sum of 52,955.00EUR delivered to the SMEs Incubation Center (IDSC) in Asmara, Eritrea.

The equipment and tools, destined to the incubation center/satellite design studio in Kampala, Uganda, for a total sum of 50,745.00EUR, is in the process of port clearance at Mombasa, Kenya.

ALLPI is also facilitating the installation and commissioning of the equipment, and training of operators in all the beneficiary countries.

ALLPI embarked on Online Training Courses

Africa Leather and Leather Products Institute (ALLPI), in its effort to capacitate leather-based SMEs in Africa, has designed two courses to be available online.

The titles of the two courses are "Footwear Design & Pattern Making" and "Leather Footwear & Leather Goods Design, Craftsmanship and Export Readiness".

The two courses are designed such that trainees can easily understand the content through simulations, interactions and quizzes.

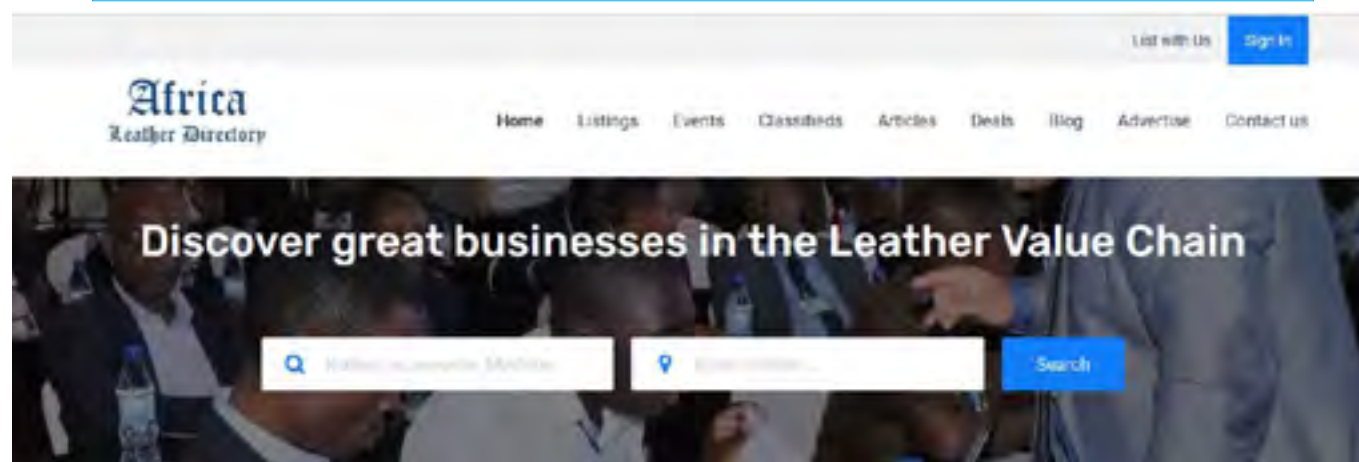
In addition, the courses are designed considering SMEs already in the leather business and those want to join the leather business.

The benefits of designing such online courses are to reach out trainees who are:

- » Busy with work or any other commitment which do not allow them to attend courses on specific dates with a fixed schedule.
- » Located in conflict and post conflict areas and/or restricted in their mobility due to security reasons;
- » Limited from participating in classroom sessions due to cultural or religious beliefs;

ALLPI is working hard to make the courses available online to the expected SMEs through the Internet-based learning management systems.

ALLPI enacted on Africa leather and leather products, allied industries, and institutions' Online Directory



This intervention is meant for categorizing enterprises on LVC in selected countries in Africa by niche, location, activity, or size of and it will be done by compiling information both manually or through an automated online search software. The intent of this directory is to enhance the R&D activity of the region regarding the challenges encountered along LVC as well as boosting B2B, B2C and C2C linkages in the region. In future it will be enhanced to be a platform e-trade in the region where partners can transact on-line.

The E-directory now runs on : <https://www.directory.allpi.int/> with over 270 enterprises on LVC in selected countries in Africa.

The directory is comprised of enterprises, allied industries and institutions in the following order:

- » Raw hides and skins harvesting
- » Tanneries
- » Manufacturers of leather products
- » Leather products outlets/shops and boutiques
- » Manufacturers of Machinery and tools
- » Chemicals producers
- » Associations
- » Leather and Leather products training institutions
- » Others

Each enterprise can be accessed with the following

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information:

- » Business name,
- » Addresses
- » Telephone numbers
- » Location
- » Profile information
- » Type of service or products the business provides
- » Logos or products pictures
- » The number of employees
- » The served region
- » Staff and their skills
- » Trade information

Africa Leather manufacturers represented on the 12th Edition of the AALF 2021

Africa Leather and Leather Products Institute (ALLPI) as part of its strategic activities, has supported 9 export-potential SMEs in the leather sector from 9 ALLPI Member States, namely, Burundi, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Uganda, Sudan and Zambia to participate during the 12th Edition of All Africa Leather Fair 2021.

ALLPI's objective to support SMEs participation in this fair is to enable them to create business networking and marketing linkages.

By participating in the leather Event, sponsored leather-based SMEs from Member States has achieved the following results:

- » SMEs were facilitated to visit the factories to create input output linkages
- » Technical knowledge was transferred during the factory visit;
- » The participants able to know their product status and identify the improvement areas for competitiveness;
- » Business linkages for input provisions (like shoe lace, lasts, finished leather, soles, etc) from the

trade fair participants was made;

- » Involve in investment promotion discussion sessions to attract investors to their own country which will helps them for technology transfer;
- » Participants got the new idea of Marketing by learning from other participants from different part of the world;
- » Learning new designs from other participants;
- » Understanding new quality dimensions.

The 12th Edition of All Africa Leather Fair 2021 was organized by Messe Frankfurt Exhibition GmbH at the Skylight Hotel / Addis Ababa / Ethiopia, from 3rd – 6th December 2021. for the first time after a COVID 19 pandemic hit the world. In this regard the 6th Africa sourcing and Fashion week 2021 event was also held in the same day and platform.

ALLPI Co-sponsored and co-organized this edition which is an Ideal Platform for Leather and Leather Products and allied Industries markets in Africa. The other co-organized Institutions are the Ethiopian Ministry of Industry (Mol), The Leather Industry Development Institute (LIDI), and the Ethiopian Leather Industries



Association (ELIA).

The Trade Fair was officially opened by the State Ministry of the Ministry of Industry of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, H.E. Shisema Gebreselassie. In addition, opening speech was made by the ALLPI Programs Coordinator Mr. Ghebregziabher Ghebremedhin during the press conference and official opening session.

The 12th Edition of AALF 2021 was able to attract a number of producers and buyers of leather and leather products as well as global investors from various countries. The Event was attended by 150 exhibitors from 25 countries and exhibited by more than 4000 visitors. The participation was more than expected since we are at the middle of the COVID pandemic era.

The major objective of the AALF was to bring together the leather and leather products and allied industries from all over the world under one roof and to enable them to interact and make business deals as well as share experiences on the latest technology in the leather and Leather products industry.

In addition, a half-day discussion Workshop with ALLPI sponsored participants, which was facilitated and sponsored by ALLPI, was held at the Ambassador, Addis Ababa on 5th December 2021. All the nine sponsored participants the ALLPI Team attended the discussion Workshop.

The objective of the workshop was to give information about ALLPI's ongoing activities to support Member States and to get feedback about the trade fair participation.

During the workshop Prof. Mekonnen H/Mariam Advisor to the Executive Director welcomed the participants and made opening statements on behalf of Executive

Director of ALLPI and chaired the discussion.

The participants reflected the following points during the meeting. Especially the challenges they have encountered during the COVID 19 era:

- » Getting accessories and other inputs from domestic as well as global market were very difficult (99% of the order was cancelled and struggled to see another alternative market)
- » The lock down affected the business severely;
- » Some alternative businesses like providing masks and sanitizer were taken by big companies which left the SMEs without penetrating the market;
- » The raw hides sold to west Africa as a food item makes shortage to get hides as a raw material for tannery;
- » Pricing mechanism was difficult- the export of hides and skins and the import of finished product was a challenge;
- » Farmers do not consider hides and skins as important product;
- » limitation of knowledge and skill to participate on digital marketing of products;
- » Production of leather products were very limited.
- » the fashion industry demands from subsistence to high price investment
- » very limited investment in leather sector along the value chain.
- » very few tanneries produce finished leather – they produce below their capacity due to semi processed export;
- » even if there is a supportive policy for leather sector development there is implementation challenge;

Africa Leather and Leather Products Institute's Office Building is on Major Maintenance

ALLPI (COMESA – LLPI was its former name) used to make its office first at Productivity Improvement Center of Ethiopian Management Institute and then at Leather and Leather Products Technology Institute – LLPTI (Currently Leather Industry Development Institute (LIDI).

Later on in the year 2007, it moved to a new building constructed on 18,129 m2 of land provided by the Government of Ethiopia, the host country.

The building had encountered serious cracks when

the Institute erected temporary offices of Containers and started major maintenance in 2021 by entering agreement with Ethiopian Construction Design and Supervision Works Corporation Building and Urban Design Supervision Works Sector, the Consultant and SINSIF Construction, the Constructor.

According to the consultant's report of 8th January 2022, 45% of the work was performed and it has now been in good progress.



ABOUT ALLPI



Leather for Health, Wealth and Luxury!

Africa Leather and Leather Products Institute (ALLPI) was chartered in 1990, with the endorsement of 17 COMESA Heads of State. ALLPI's main Mandate is to support the development of the leather sector in the Region. Over the years the Institute has created strong strategic linkages with Public and Private Sector Institutions in member countries. In addition to this, ALLPI 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.

ALLPI is headquartered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; and currently its membership encompasses ten countries, namely Burundi, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Uganda, Sudan, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The Institute has short term plans to expand its operations to Eswatini, Egypt, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Mauritius 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 ALLPI highly accessible and convenient for our regional and international partners and clients.

ALLPI Vision:

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

ALLPI Mission:

To facilitate Member States and link partners, enterprises and institutions for value addition, sustainability and competitiveness in the leather sector through Sharing of Knowledge.

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