



Press Release from Africa leather and Leather products Institute (ALLPI)

November 30, 2017

Preparations in place to hold Annual Regional Consultative Forum 2017 in Livingstone, Zambia

“Hastening Technology Transfer & Trade promotion with a Focus of Transforming from Commodity to Product Dependence!”

Africa, particularly the COMESA region, is recognized as a continent with immense potential, in development of Leather sector because of its large livestock base that is estimated at 21% of the global total. In spite of the huge resource, the sector's overall economic contribution is low because it is dominated by the production and trade of raw-material and semi-processed leather. This scenario is characterized by low levels of technical sophistication, low productivity, earnings and creation of low quality jobs.

It is estimated that at full potential, Africa would earn an additional US\$ 4 billion from trading in leather and leather products.

ALLPI headquartered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, is an Intergovernmental Institution mandated to spearhead the development of the leather sector in Africa. Its main prerogative is to facilitate the transformation of the industry into the Production and Trade of manufactured and competitive products. It supports member states with policy/strategy, projects design and implementation, capacity building in production and entrepreneurship skills, business incubation and clustering, technological transfer and

promotion of trade. In the next 10 years it has set its goals in mainstreaming the SME's in the region into transformative drivers towards sustainable development of the leather sector. Its interventions are anchored on an innovative approach called 'The Triple Helix'. It entails a participatory, collaborative and dynamic interaction of the Public, Private and the Academia in the designing, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of interventions.

ALLPI is organizing its 11th Annual Regional Consultative Forum, that is scheduled to be held on 13th and 14th December 2017 mainly to promote technology transfer, inter and intra trade promotion and networking, research development and innovation in the leather sector. The forum will be held under the theme "Hastening Technology Transfer & Trade promotion with a focus of Transforming from Commodity to Product Dependence!". Furthermore, it will explore mechanisms on the provision of developing human capital, finance and technology for enterprises in the leather sector in Africa.

Among the major activities to be conducted during the forum are presentations on Tanning clinic from raw hides and skins to high quality finished leather, ready for the premier fashion shows of Milan, Paris and New York; B2B Meetings, sharing the regional leather sector success stories; and identifying key challenges and interventions towards achieving sustainable regional leather sector development and SME's product display and promotion activities are in the planning.

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