

**Issue No. 13****9 December 2014**

In Washington, Director General Li meets acting World Bank VP for Africa

During his recent visit to Washington, DC, Director General LI Yong met Jan Walliser, acting World Bank Vice President for Africa, and discussed the establishment of a mechanism for regular engagement between the two institutions. They noted the potential for UNIDO to collaborate with the World Bank's International Development Association, as well as joint capacity building in Ethiopia, and the possibility of cooperating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Tanzania when and where opportunities may arise. Walliser also voiced support for the idea of UNIDO co-sponsoring the China-Africa Investment Fair and organizing a side event on investment promotion for agro-food parks in Addis Ababa in March 2015.

UNIDO mission to Ethiopia advances Programme for Country Partnership

Ongoing and future cooperation in line with the Programme for Country Partnership for Ethiopia was the focus of a week-long mission to Ethiopia by Aurelia Calabrò, Chief of UNIDO's Agro-Industries Technology Unit.

In the capital, Addis Ababa, she had a series of meetings with government officials and key counterparts:

- At a workshop chaired by Ato Tadesse Haile, State Minister for Industry, the results of a cluster diagnostic study, which is part of a UNIDO project, were presented.
- At a separate event, held at the University of Addis Ababa, certificates were handed out to the 50 or so students that attended a UNIDO-supported two-month enterprise resource planning course for the leather and leather products industry. The course has helped most of them to find job opportunities or establish their own companies.
- Ongoing and future joint activities, including those focusing on rural women entrepreneurship development, were discussed at a meeting with Nigest Haile, CEO of the Centre of African Women Economic Empowerment.
- Future synergies for the development of a technical assistance project were the topic of a discussion with the Director of the COMESA-Leather and Leather Products Institute. The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa Countries (COMESA) includes: Angola, Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The project will be funded through the EU/AU office on regional trade development for the leather and leather products industry in selected COMESA countries.

Aurelia Calabrò also visited four micro-workshops located in Addis Ababa's Merkato leather footwear cluster, which is being supported by the UNIDO Cluster Development Programme. The workshops employ from between 15 and 30 people, and produce an average of 150 shoes each day.





In Adama, the capital of Oromia region, the results of a feasibility study on the Modjo Leather City were presented at a meeting attended by the State Minister for Industry, the head of the Leather Industry Development Institute (LIDI) and a range of stakeholders, as well as local authorities. Participants endorsed the study and thanked UNIDO for this work, calling it an “important milestone”.

A visit to the Adama Spinning Factory was also on the agenda. Established in 2008 as a yarn-spinning manufacturer, the company has a yearly turnover of USD 20 million and exports to Europe and South-East Asia. It uses state-of-the-art spinning machines and is certified with ISO 9001: 2008 QMS and Worldwide Responsible Accredited Production (WRAP). It produces 100 per cent cotton carded and combed yarn suitable for weaving and knitting purposes. Visit the company’s website at: <http://www.adamaspinning.com/>

Members of the diplomatic corps in Ethiopia voice support for the work of UNIDO

Italy’s Ambassador to Ethiopia, Giuseppe Mistretta, thanked UNIDO for the invitation to the second ISID Forum and reiterated his country’s support for the implementation of UNIDO’s flagship programme for Ethiopia. The meeting was also attended by the Director of the Italian Cooperation Office in Addis Ababa, Fabio Melloni.

Ambassador Kazuhiro Suzuki of Japan, who also attended the second ISID Forum, was briefed on UNIDO’s activities in the field of agro-industries in Ethiopia. Projects on coffee value chains and leather products were discussed, and in this context the ambassador expressed interest in developing further cooperation and creating synergies with Japan.

Ambassador Alfredo Miranda of Mexico expressed his country’s interest in cooperating with UNIDO on an agribusiness development project to help rural communities in Tigray establish a stable source of income. The project focuses on Beles, a type of cactus which provides a highly nutritious food source that can be processed into a diverse range of food products.

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