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Director General visits Ethiopia to discuss progress of the Programme for Country Partnership



During his visit to Addis Ababa from 30 to 31 March, Director General, LI Yong, met the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Haile Mariam Desalegn, and discussed the progress of the Programme for Country Partnership (PCP). The prime minister re-confirmed the commitment of his government to the implementation of the programme.

The Director General was briefed on the progress made to date in this regard by the Minister of Industry, Ahmed Abtew, and two State ministers, Tadesse Haile, and Mebratu Meles.

The Ministry of Industry has established a National Technical Task Force comprised of representatives of different ministries and institutes, as well as from the private sector.

A High-Level Joint Steering Committee has also been established under the leadership of the Prime Minister. It is co-chaired by the Ministry of Industry and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development. The committee is composed of heads of development finance institutions (DFIs), development partners and representatives of international companies operating in Ethiopia.

While the national task force focuses on the execution of projects and programmes, the High-Level Joint Steering Committee is expected to provide strategic guidance on the implementation of the PCP, prioritize projects and programmes, and allocate resources for the execution of the PCP.

The State Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Ahmed Shedi, said that the Ministry was coordinating work with a range of development partners and DFIs for the implementation of the PCP and that the programme was in line with the country's growth and transformation plan.

Carlos Lopez, the head of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), also expressed full support for the Programmes for Country Partnership for Ethiopia and Senegal, adding that UNECA was ready to collaborate on their implementation.



Industrial zone in Ethiopia example of way forward

The Director General also visited the Bole Lemi Industrial Zone in the suburbs of the Ethiopian capital, which currently covers some 156 hectares of land. It was developed with the help of a USD 250 million loan from the World Bank.

One of the companies operating in the industrial zone, George Shoe Factory, produces around 4,000 pairs of shoes a day. This number is expected to rise to 6,000 pairs once the factory is at full capacity. The factory has so far created jobs for more than 1,500 young people, most of them women.

The industrial zone houses Chinese, Kenyan, Pakistani and Sri Lankan companies that produce garments for export.



Scaling up investments for PCP Ethiopia projects

A number of commercial banks and DFIs have indicated their interest in scaling up investments in projects that feature under the Programme for Country Partnership for Ethiopia.

During a recent visit to Adama Spinning, a textile company located in the Nazareth/Adama, Oromia region, UNIDO experts were informed of the company's interest in establishing an integrated textile plant which would include cotton production, ginning, spinning, textile fabrics and garments manufacturing. The World Bank's International Finance Corporation has expressed interest in funding the project.

Discussions between the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the Government of Ethiopia have also been held regarding the financing of the Modjo Leather City project. The UNIDO project manager and Government of Ethiopia officials will present a feasibility study to the EIB in April.

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