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Feb./Mar. 2024

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Addis Chamber Signs an MoU with Ethiopian **Coffee Associations for Common Cause**



By Staff Reporter

Addis Chamber and the Ethiopian Coffee Association have agreed to work together in the areas of advocacy, research and training. While signing the agreement, Mesenbet Shenkute, President of Addis Chamber, said that her organization is keen to address the exising challenges hovering around coffee export jointly with the concerned entities. She also noted that Addis Chamber can leverage its power as it is a member of the world chamber of Commerce.

Desalegn Jema President of the Ethiopian Coffee Association on his part said that his association is delignted to work with Addis Chamber adding that the two organizations in one way or the other will have common objectives and tasks to carry out.

During the signage, it is disclosed that the current poltical crisis unfoling at the Red Sea in hampering flow of logistics including the coffee export with its own financial implications. The security threat posed by Houtis along the Red Sea is blamed to discourage shipping companies to sail and transport goods around the Red Sea, it is noted.

In order to address such challenges, national committee is established to share recommendations for the government to take decisions that protects the interest and security of businesses that crosses the Sea.

Addis Chamber marks the International Women's Day calling for more policy measures to empower women



By Ashenafi Mitiku

With the theme "Women in Manufacturing" Addis Chamber has celebrated the International Women's Day (March 8) with panel discussion. Marking the event every year, the International women's day has attracted successful women in business and leadership who shared their knowledge and expertise for the panel.

In her remark, Mesenbet Shenkute, president of Addis Chamber, said that women plays little role in the economy of the country as well as rarely benefitted due to countless challenges and some of the factors include lack of access to finance for women that hampers them to be active economically. Particularly this is clearly manifested in women who are engaged in manufacturing sector.

Although the government provides incentives for import substitution sectors, yet id didn't fully address and respond to the demand of women in manufacturing calling for more policy provisions and incentives to make women more competitive in the manufacturing sector, said the president.

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Forum For ExEcutive Leaders FEEL



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Former President of Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce and Ethiopia Chamber of Commerce

Executive Director of Initiative Africa and Pan-Africa Chamber of Commerce and Industry



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ADDIS BUSINESS | FEB./MAR. 2024



Editorial

Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce & Sectoral Associations Monthly Newspaper

ADDIS BUSINESS

MARCH 2024

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Ensuring the Economic & Political Rights of Women for Sustainable Development!

Ensuring the economic, social & political rights of women shouldn't be negotiated as women plays indispensable role in any society be it locally or globally. It is also pretty clear that the need to empower women and girls in the fields of innovation, science, economy, and other streams should be practical and beyond rhetoric and the need to walk the talk to support women and girls in real terms should start now.

Despite the massive efforts of supporting and empowering women at globally, yet it will take long to fully address and respond to the diverse needs of women. As one of active BMOs, Addis Chamber is exerting an effort to empower women in economic terms by designing different projects that considers economic empowerment of women such as job creation, entrepreneurship and leadership among others. However, such kinds of interventions should be meticulously crafted in a way that enables women to be productive and self-sufficient in their way of life. In addition, empowering women shouldn't come at easy price rather it requires favorable doing business environment that can boost the livelihoods of women.

Despite the positive changes observed towards women in Ethiopia, much remains to be done to further support and benefit women in all aspects of life. By facilitating and creating favorable working conditions, the lives of women will be changed and incentivizing them through policy measures is one of key measures to be taken to change the lives of women and their families, and dependents. While marking March 8, it is highly recommended to support women in Ethiopia that are engaged in manufacturing sector and find durable solutions for the diverse challenge they are facing so that they become producers as well as sources of job creation for other citizens. To beef up the idea, it is imperative to encourage women to be innovative, creative, and source of employment that eventually address other women that are deemed to be marginalized economically and politically.

Meanwhile Addis Chamber will keep on supporting needy women to be self-sufficient, productive and active citizens that can contribute for development. Thus Addis Chamber calls for other partners and stakeholders to make synergy for betterment of women that comprises half of the entire population in Ethiopia and across the globe.

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The 26th Addis Chamber International Trade Fair (26th ACITF) an ideal platform to connect businesses, it was noted



(Addis Chamber, February 2024): Revolving around the theme"Spurring Development through Innovation" the 26th Chamber Addis International Trade Fair (26th ACITF) that was held at Addis Ababa Exhibition and Development Center said to be an ideal platform to link businesses from diverse sectors. Joined by business communities, exhibitors, visitors, diplomatic

corps, government representatives and invited guests, the annual event displayed diverse products and technologies to tap on it.

Chamber 26th Addis International Trade Fair (26th ACITF) is the second trade show of the year that is taking place from February 22 -26, 2024. In her welcoming remark, Mesenbet Shenkute, President of Addis Chamber commends the initiative of the government to provide new technologies to bolster ease of doing business environment and yet much remains to be done to fully support and empower the business communities, urges the president.

While addressing the fair, Meketa Adafre, representative of Addis Ababa Trade Bureau, acknowledges the role that has been played by Addis Chamber in promoting business and investment using trade fairs adding on this he said that the city trade bureau will be committed to render support in multiple business projects to be undertaken by Addis Chamber.

High costs of logistics and transportation and imported raw materials for the manufacturing sector, limited study and action on export incentives, low level labor productivity, weak rural infrastructure, weak supply chain integration and low level of technology and the likes are some of the challenges mentioned by the speaker.

He however remind the current endeavor of the government towards improving infrastructure such as ICT, revising investment incentives, capacity building and promoting international market opportunities among others.

Zekarias Assefa, Deputy Secretary General of Addis Chamber in his remark said that conducting mega trade fair is one of the key mandates and strategies entrusted to Addis Chamber for business connectivity and networking. As part of this initiative, Addis Chamber has continued to create series of stages to meet the ever changing needs of the business community and its members.

Addis Chamber marks the International Women's Day...

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Addressing the panel, Hana Arayasellassie, Commissioner from Ethiopian Investment Commission, highlighted the emphasis given to private sector in its homegrown economic reform. She also said that the government took numerous legal and policy measures to support and empower women economically. However she argued that much remains to be done to attract more women to engage in manufacturing and expressed the readiness of her organization to work with Addis Chamber to address the concern shared by the panel.

While sharing her thought to the panel, Nigist Haile, (PhD) founder executive director from Center for Accelerated Women's Economic Empowerment (CAWEE) highlighted the major economic concerns facing women such as unfair payment in manufacturing areas and women in business are unable to save more money due to high rental price, unfair competition in bidding and special preference

Melika Bedri, the seasoned banker and founder of Islamic Bank, Zemzem, shared her vast experience and challenges facing women in the

finance sector that includes shortage of debt money to be dispersed for creditors.. Despite the various challenges facing women in business, new window of opportunities are emerging for women in business such as the provision of matching fund at larger investment. However, much attention has to be given to middle level businesses that graduated from small business.

role of women in waste management businesses and she said that more than 75 percent are women who are engaged in waste collection.

However due to the informal nature of the business, women receive unfair payment with lack of social security by accompanied stereotyping towards women that are engaged in waste collection and management. Proceeding to the presentation, participants of the panel have forwarded opinions and questions regarding women and equality. Some of those concerns include among others the need to should be provided to support As one of those panelists of the engage more women in plastic event, Mihret T/Mariam, from recycling, the need to involve women PECTO Ethiopia highlighted the in business in regional markets, how to access to joint venture for women in business and the need to facilitate industrial parks for middle level investors.



Credit rating is a versatile tool/systemic infrastructure with a multitude of benefits to businesses in different industries and sectors, it was disclosed during a high profile consultative meeting hosted by Addis Chamber



By Ashenafi Mitiku

(Addis Chamber, February 2024,): With the theme "Introducing Credit Rating as capital market service to businesses in Ethiopia" a high profile consultative meeting took place to discuss and introduce credit rating to diverse business actors majorly financial institutions and business and development consulting firms among others.

The panel addressed key issues of credit rating such as regulatory regimes of credit rating, the aligning or interfacing credit rating with capital market, the importance of credit rating for financial sector and national development, the basics of credit rating and services and global standards, best practices and requirements of credit rating.

Hosted by Addis Chamber jointly with International Credit Rating Agency, ICRA, the consultative meeting shared the thoughts and experience of senior experts and professionals from the sector. "I am extremely honored to welcome you all to this exceptional and pioneering workshop on credit rating services and the importance of it for Ethiopian businesses", briefs Shibeshi Bettemariam, Secretary General of Addis Chamber in his

introductory remark. Credit rating assists investors involved in the capital market services in assessing

credit risk associated with various fixed income securities such as bonds and asset bank securities helping them make informed investment decisions and this is on top of transparency that credit rating brings to the market thereby standardizing measures of credit risks and which in turn promote liquidity and efficiency of the market that we are going to establish in Ethiopia, further remarks the Secretary General.

All put together, credit rating plays a crucial role in facilitating efficient allocation of capital, in managing credit risk, and in promoting financial stability across various sectors of the economy,, listed or otherwise, credit rating helps companies establish their credibility and reliability in the eyes of lenders, suppliers, and potential partners and investors, further states the Secretary General. Globally the rating industry that is operating at national level with the comparative rating of national economy hasn't seen any new entrants for more than a century, said Mesenbet Shenkute, President of Addis Chamber in her opening remark. As Addis Chamber, we believe that various services including credit rating for which we gathered today are important ingredients for the development of effective capital market in Ethiopia, further remarks the president.

"We are here to cater the African market as we are fully accredited by the central bank of Tanzania and the first international credit rating agency to be accredited by central bank of Tanzania", said Hassan Mansur, ICRA Director, from Tanzania while addressing in his remark at the meeting.

Moderated by Tilahun Ismail (PhD) CEO of ESX , the consultative meeting was accompanied by panel discussion that invited key players of the financial sector from Ethiopia and other parts of the world.

In most countries of the world "credit rating is everything" said Hikmet Abdella, Director General from Accounting and Auditing Board of Ethiopia(AABE), and in Ethiopia the way we conduct businesses also emulates with the rest of the world and for many years credit worthiness depends wholly on collateral and therefore credit rating don't need such instruments of credit rating or credit scores for individuals, thus limiting access to finance as well as discouraging entrepreneurship in the country, underlines Hikmet and commended the initiatives taken by Addis Chamber to promote credit rating in Ethiopia.

Estifanos Melkamu , legal advisor from Ethiopian Capital Market Authority on his part briefed the panel regarding credit rating and its interface with Ethiopian capital market and securities exchange and stating that the major role of the ECMA to protect the investors by introducing multiple regulatory frameworks.

Asfaw Alemu, President of Dashen Bank S.C, one of the biggest financial institute in Ethiopia highlighted the significance of credit rating services in changing the finance landscapes in Ethiopia through providing valuable information about counter parties that in turn would mitigate risks and ensures sustainability. He also said that introducing credit rating services in Ethiopia to improve the doing business environment as well as to attract FDI in the country.

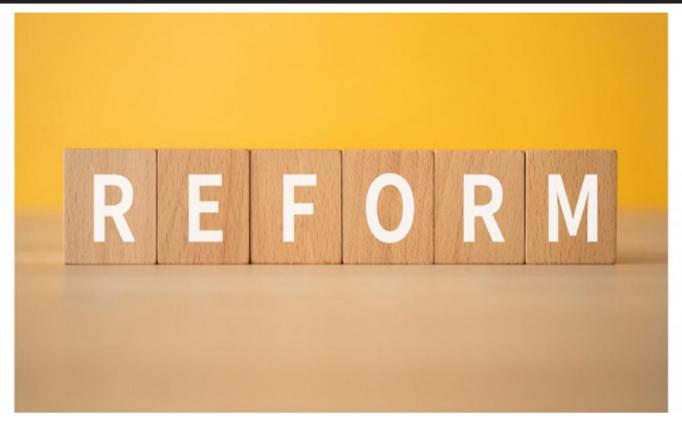
In addition he said, allocation of resources have to be optimized for sustainable business and investment to thrive.

Solomon Gizaw from HST said that introducing credit market in the Ethiopian economy, we can fasten growth and development of the country while forwarding his thought on. While briefing the panel, Solomon Gizaw highlighted the need to differentiate credit rating and credit score for more clarity adding that mandates of individuals, corporations and governments have to be clearly known for effective implementation of credit rating in countries like Ethiopia where small businesses takes the largest stake.

In addition the panel hosted the speeches of Zeshan Khan, global general manager of ICRA who said that credit rating is the best choice to promote trade and investment as these services acquires their own methodologies, practices and regulatory requirements to and in the meantime Zeshaan warmly acknowledges Addis Chamber for its commitment to promote credit rating services among business communities in Ethiopia. World has become a global village and we have to be connected, and we have to collaborate each other if we want to grow, said Zeshaan emphasizing on the importance of credit rating for Ethiopia. Such kinds of services will boost the credibility of local banks, insurance companies and other investments to get finance and trust of the international business communities, further said the speaker.

The high profile panel discussion also hosted discussions and reflections from participants of the two sessions. Some of the key opinions and concerns related to CR include the difficulty of implementing CR among local financial institutions, the need to acquire data and setting up infrastructure and skilled labor, the methodology of credit worthiness to assess creditors etc.

African countries should unite on the reform of the global financial architecture



By Ashenafi Mitiku

Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, 5 March 2024 (ECA) - The 56th Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning Economic Development (COM2024) closed in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe with a consensus that African countries should with one voice, advocate for the reform of the global financial architecture for it to be fit for purpose and serve Africa's development priorities.

The ministers also called upon countries to develop instruments and institutions that can bridge the technology gap and develop innovative financing mechanisms that can work for Africa with the right governance frameworks.

"We, African Ministers Finance, Planning and Economic Development having deliberated on the theme of the conference, note that Africa is off track in most indicators of the 2030 Agenda of the Sustainable Development and has ministers in their statement.

year "Also, the first 10 implementation plan of the African transformation Agenda 2063 has just ended with visible achievements in some areas and shortcomings in others."

In this regard, the ministers noted that Africa requires an additional \$1.6 trillion by 2030 to achieve the SDG goals and that the actual expenditure on the attainment if the goals on the continent falls short of the amount required to achieve them.

Claver Gatete UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) said the resolution adopted on tax cooperation is important as it will help countries strengthen domestic resource mobilization and prepare for the Financing for Development Conference that will take place in 2025.

"This, indeed, marks a pivotal step towards fostering a fair and equitable global economic system," said "Building inclusive green economies in Africa is not merely an anecdote but a pressing imperative that demands our concerted action," said Mr. Gatete.

"In addition, the innovative solutions proposed, and the partnerships forged underscore our resolve to advance economic prosperity for all Africans."

He indicated that ECA is reorienting its work, with particular focus on deepening our intellectual leadership even regressed in some," said the on technology, infrastructure and climate.

> "This will enable us to better support countries to accelerate the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the SDGs," he said.

> The ECA Executive Secretary extended his heartfelt gratitude on behalf of ECA to the President, the entire government and to the people of Zimbabwe for their warm hospitality.

> In their statement, the African ministers raised their concern over

the public debt burden in Africa that has worsened during the past decade, with the average debt-togross-domestic-product ratio on the continent sharply increasing since the 2010s, from 39.49 per cent between 2010 and 2014, to 56.41 per cent between 2015 and 2019, to 70.47 per cent in 2020.

In addition to the need for increased financing, they said, there is a need for more effective policy and regulatory frameworks to help to close development and climate finance gaps in Africa, and that a supportive policy environment for scaling up renewable energy.

Mthuli Ncube, Minister of Finance, Development Economic and Investment Promotion said that the economic growth in Africa remained subdued in 2023, amid tight monetary policies, low demand for African exports and global factors such as the geopolitical tensions, leading to elevated food and fuel costs, as well as limited fiscal space. This is also being compounded by the imposition of unilateral sanctions on some African member states by the developed world.

"The Conference explored policy options that encompass reforming the global financial architecture, boosting private sector participation, exploring innovative financing tools, implementing the African Continental Free Trade Area and fostering regional and global cooperative initiatives to drive climate resilience and sustainable development across the continent,"

said Mr.Ncube.

He noted that countries should urgently transition to inclusive green economies, to restructure the global financial landscape, to accelerate regional integration, and to provide tailored support for our Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and do not leave behind Middle Income Countries caught in the development

The ministers recommended that the Economic Commission for Africa and its partners to systematically support the sustainable debt coalition in contributing to efforts to tackle the foreign debt challenges faced by Africa and the reform of the global financial architecture.

On the reform of the global financial architecture the ministers called upon ECA to intensify its work in ensuring the timely reform of the global financial institutions to make them fit for purpose and able to serve the interests of Africa and developing countries elsewhere in the world.

ECA, they said should collaborate with the African Union and other partners, to take steps to enhance the role of science and technology in the transformation of Africa into an inclusive green economy, including through the establishment of harmonized rules and principles in respect of the promotion. protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights within the African Continental Free Trade Area.

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Financial Market's Liberalization VS Its Economic Implications in the Ethiopia Context



Etsubdink Sileshi (Ph.D.)

people discussing about the potential consequences of foreign investors a draft proposal accepted by the employees and others chatting and Ethiopian financial market to foreign ownership, the number of branches manners in which they transfer best practices and technology-all these are important to know how much the Ethiopian economy benefits the appetite of foreign investors is affected by how the regulatory and related concerns. Though the hope that the Ethiopian economy will soon experience a full-fledged financial liberalization (development and opening of forex market,

equity market, security market and other sorts of financial markets), These days, it is common to listen to this article presents some of the views surrounding financial market liberalization. There is no question in the banking industry following on the ever-increasing attractiveness of the Ethiopian economy to foreign Ethiopian Council of Ministers. The investors, especially the service impact of the new capital market in sector such as financing due to high Ethiopia is also one part of current rate of return, high proportion of economic affairs. This article's youth population (hence, a growing focuses on the opening of the banking market), the inevitable rise of a sector and its pros and cons. One can considerable middle class, more come across business people, bank importantly the untapped financial potential due to limited access of trying to make sense of the cons financial services and lack of various and pros, especially what there is types of financial markets. Now for them of this first stage financial let's see three perspectives about market opening. However, partly economic liberalization, especially due to lack of detailed information the financial one while keeping in and partly due to peoples' tendency mind the opening of the Ethiopian to see things in general terms, it is banking sectors to foreign investors. rare to find people with first-hand The debate on economic liberalization knowledge of the opening of the in developing countries which encompasses other related processes investors. Factors like the degree of such as privatization and deregulation goes as far back, at least, to the 1980s. they can open (if any), the type There has been fierce resistance at of financial services they provide, the intellectual and policy making the nature of capital mobilization, level given that domestic private more importantly the mode of sectors were undeveloped as a result factor payment (say in the form of unable to take over and efficiently dividend or expat salary) and the run previously public owned businesses. Besides, the opening of the developing economies to foreign multinationals was (is still in some sectors and in many countries from this opening. At the same time about four decades later) considered problematic since they are too big to compete with and too complex to be framework addresses the above monitored by low-income countries' existing institutional frameworks. immediate opening of the banking In developing countries (when will sector seems very limited, with the they finish their development?) opening up the economy as a whole, especially opening institutions such as banks to foreign investors are seen in relation to political, security,

and economic sovereignty (national interest) lenses. There are those who say that only the power of domestic financial institutions can slowly but sustainably help grow the economy. Among their claims, they argue that foreign bank entry is often accompanied by frequent -(1) financial crises, (2) currency market crises, and (3) market instability and general economic chaos. (4) In addition, foreign banks provide loans to those businesses which are large and have relations with the outside world or whose products are tradable while small companies (usually in the non- tradable sector) may rarely benefit directly from foreign financial institutions. (5) They bring about a kind of "brain drain" by luring experts from local banks. Later, the profits are distributed to their shareholders (abroad). (6) And one more important line of argument is that even if foreign investors pump in foreign currency in to the local economy around their entrance, over time, they have to transfer back the returns to their shareholders in hard currency. One may ask "well! where is their benefit in terms of foreign currency, then?". One way of addressing this question is that foreign investors help businesses flourish (become productive) and generate hard currency via exports. However, isolating their impact in this regard requires cautious research as there are always many moving pieces in an economy and we don't easily know what causes what.

In stark contrast to these arguments, there are groups that advocate for free flow of goods, services and capital within countries as well as across borders with minimal government intervention. They argue that life would be better off if producers consumers met voluntarily without government interference. Their thoughts related to whether banks should enter or not are fetched from the same line of reasoning. In their view, free trade is the only way to wealth and prosperity. They argue that the source of marketinduced financial crises, market shocks and general economic chaos is government intervention, not the market itself. Wounds and illnesses caused by the free market itself are treated and healed by its antibodies (supply and demand). According to these ivory-tower elites, we should not trust nearly anything the government prescribes for the reason

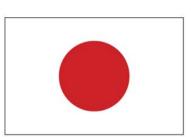
that the medicines it prescribes cause worse harm than the original disease. From their point of view, when foreign banks come in, what follows is (1) the financial sector develops, (2) a country's economy will grow because credit and savings will expand, making trade easier and production sustainable. (3) As competition between financial institutions heats up, consumers benefit (savers get high interest rates, borrowers pay low interest rates) and inefficient and unprofitable banks exit from the market, so the loss of resources is reduced. Since businesses can freely move and compete, it will increase their profitability too. (5) When foreign investors come in, they bring not only foreign currency but also FDI follows them as there may be organizations that have ties to or trust them. Usually, proponents of such unbridled free trade do not take the various contextual differences say between Ethiopia and Germany or the US and India. For them, it doesn't matter whether you practiced free trade (hence developed appropriate regulatory frameworks) for centuries or you got your independence about seventy years ago. Hidden in their argument is the naked truth that companies in their countries are big and have been in the game for a long time. Thus, they can beat any newly coming competitor be it at home or

The right way in this regard seems the middle way. Those who favor this approach say that it is possible to increase the blessings and reduce the burdens of opening up an economy by using appropriate institutional restraints so that unbridled capitalism cannot destroy an economy at the same time by encouraging competition which will help avoid institutional(economic) stagnation. If governments, in countries like Ethiopia, cautiously put in place appropriate institutional frameworks, opening up the financial sector may help bring about financial deepening, economic growth and development. And in the short term they may help alleviate foreign currency shortages. To sum it up, like every other policy action, the coming in or lack thereof foreign investors to the banking sector of Ethiopia by itself cannot be good or bad. It is what we really do with this policy that matters and determines the net benefits of these measures.

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Japan donates \$1 million to UNICEF to provide lifesaving Water Sanitation and Hygiene services to flood-affected populations in Ethiopia





From the People of Japan

Addis Ababa, 19 March 2024-The Government of Japan, through granted \$1 million (56 million Ethiopian Birr) to provide lifesaving Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services to flood-affected In addition, a comprehensive WASH populations in Somali, Afar, South Ethiopia, and South-West Ethiopia regions. The funding aims to support the rehabilitation of flood-affected

non-functional water schemes and expansion to existing sources its partnership with UNICEF, has to address the issue of safe water shortages as well as the integration of WASH infrastructure rehabilitation in health institutions.

social behaviour change and risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) will be used to increase people's knowledge,

attitude, and practices to enable them to prevent WASH-related disease outbreaks, including cholera, among flood-affected communities by promoting sustainable hygiene practices, enhancing community engagement, and leveraging local influencers."Japan has continued supporting Ethiopia in tackling issues related to vulnerable children and communities through UNICEF.

Water Sanitation and Hygiene services are crucial for people in flood-affected areas. This funding is in line with the women, peace and security agenda which is strongly committed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Japan," said H.E. Mr SHIBATA Hironori, the Ambassador of Japan to Ethiopia.

Indian Business Delegation made consultation with Management of Addis **Chamber to promote Business Jointly**



By Staff Reporter

The Global Indian Business Group and Indian International Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture met their counterparts this time with senior management of Addis Chamber to boost trade and investment between the two countries, Ethiopia and India, where the later become the biggest trading part for Ethiopia. During the joint meeting, the two parties have agreed to work business sectors such as pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, plastic products, agricultural technologies and information communication technologies among others.

In their discussion, Zekarias Assefa, Deputy Secretary General, from Addis Chamber expressed willingness and commitment of his chamber to undertake the joint business deal made by the two parties.

Delegates from Indian companies showed their interest to engage in export and import business in business areas where there is high demand whether it is in India or Ethiopia. Likewise Ethiopian business owners expressed their interest to trade with their Indian counterparts.





Women in Leader Ship and Governance Training

Objective: - To enhance women leaders' capacity by broadening and deepening knowledge of leadership, governance, and increase effectiveness of your team.

Target groups: - Women in senior corporate positions, business executives, and those aspire to serve on boards, as well as those already serving on boards.

★ Capital Market Training

Objective: Objective of the training is to provide a contextual overview about how the capital market will operate when it commences in near future and will give the essential skills by engaging on the capital market for successful wealth creation/maximization.

Target Group: - Board of Directors, Senior Businesses Executives and Executives who are responsible for making investment decisions at corporate level.

Corporate Governance Training

Objective: The general objective of the training is to provide the conceptual understanding of corporate governance and board of directors and executives, develop the competencies required to implement best corporate governance practices, share experiences and build networks among directors and executives.

For further information please contact Wrt Tsion Wudmatas 0913842645 or W/ro Helina Tilahun 0911458459 or iod.aaccsa@gmail.com.



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