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## Addis Chamber conducts midterm review of the five year strategic plan



By Staff Reporter

Addis Chamber is currently carrying out the five year strategic plan (2021-2026) embracing diverse goals and pillars that are designed to support business communities. At the midst of such endeavors comes the mid-term strategic review session that finds out major achievements, non-accomplished tasks, impediments

and future directions.

The successive meetings held by senior management of Addis Chamber thoroughly reviewed the upcoming 2017 e.c annual plans, future strategic directions, risks and assumptions that is expected to be approved by board of directors

## Carbon Tax to Consider Development Needs and National Context, calls for a workshop hosted by Addis Chamber



By Ashenafi Mitiku

(Addis Chamber July 18, 2024): Global environmental issues such as climate change, global warming and environmental pollution are spiraling with an alarming rate posing significant challenge for humanities and the entire ecosystem. According to the recent UNDP report, environmental pollution has been one of the most serious problems facing human beings. Thus, life is now threatened by many diseases and dangers due to the harmful activities to the environment.

Likewise countries like Ethiopia are facing the brunt of climate change posing to recurrent drought and flooding compelling communities to

displace and lost their agricultural produce. Such concerns are also attracting global leaders to review

their mode of development in a manner that considers environmental protection. In the case of Ethiopia transport sector such as road and aviation sectors takes the lead in polluting the environment, unveils the latest study commissioned by Addis Chamber. According to the same study manufacturing industries such as leather, textile and plastic industries takes the lion share in harming the environment thus the study calls for carbon tax to be levied on such companies.

In a workshop hosted by Addis Chamber with the support of Danish Industries, industrial leaders, heads of association and business leaders have come together to dwell on the essence of carbon tax as part of ESG and resource efficiency. Concerns are growing tremendously towards environmental issues, said Seyoum Chane, Deputy Secretary General from Addis Chamber in his opening

remark and he said Addis Chamber is currently working together with key stakeholders to empower business communities on the need to undertake businesses by considering safe and clean environment.

Ethiopia needs an environmental tax to sufficiently protect the environmental pollution, says Abera Demiss( PhD) researcher while presenting his paper during the workshop. He, however argued that there is no formulated tax policy to collect environmental tax and charging rate thus making the action challenging.

Business communities in Ethiopia shall consider the existing and upcoming challenges in terms of international and national policies and regulatory directives and the country also need to mobilize financial capacity building and technical support to carry out its low carbon initiatives, said Mensur Dessie, lead climate change negotiator from Ethiopia while sharing his thought at the workshop.

Discussants of the workshop majorly business leaders shared their views and concerns towards carbon tax, current status, challenges and priorities to be considered. Such concerns include the need to reconcile current development need of the country and carbon tax, the need to narrow the information gap towards carbon tax, the need to trade off carbon tax measures vis-à-vis with emerging regional markets.

Discussants of the workshop also strongly argue that there is no room for businesses to pay tax in the Ethiopian context as in the case of manufacturing that don't contribute to climate change as compared to industries located in developed and developing countries. Such arguments also accompanied by the fact that manufacturing plants such as beverage and water producing companies are paid for different kinds of funds such as water fund in the form of excise tax and no need to be subjected to double taxation.



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# Editorial

## Let's do our part to make the role of media a reality for business and economic growth in Ethiopia!

Media is one of the forces that contribute to the overall development of a country. These objections are by conveying a country's trade and economic information. Such institutions are also key to attract foreign direct investment, one of the engines of growth and development in any country.

In addition to this, media plays a significant role in providing up-to-date information to the public engaged in trade and investment, serving as a platform for the private sector and government policy makers to exchange information on trade and investment issues and to come up with solutions, so that the barriers to the private sector can be improved and the private sector's contribution to the development of the national economy can be strengthened. To implement this, Addis Chamber is working closely with the relevant media using partnership as a key tool.

As part of such efforts, the Chamber dedicated the annual media day that envisages honoring and acknowledging media houses and journalists for their contributions of reporting economic and business affairs unfolding in Ethiopia. The annual media day that was marked for the second time brought together journalists, public relations professionals, representatives of business organizations and invited guests to reconsider synergy to promote business and socio economic development in Ethiopia.

Furthermore, Addis Chamber firmly believes that the spirit of cooperation and partnership between media institutions and chambers will continue to be strengthened. In particular, understanding that information is not only a source of energy, but also a forum for the formulation, measurement and feedback of economic development ideas, business and investment are dressed in a global aspect. Thus Addis Chamber calls on media professionals and experts to fulfill their national responsibilities for betterment of societies and business and economic development!

## Rigorous Policies are Imperative to unleash the potential from plastic waste, study finds out

By Ashenafi Mitiku

Every year around six million tons of plastic waste will be released to the local environment in Ethiopia and out this only the meager part, six percent will be recycled leaving the vast majority to be abandoned affecting human health, flora and fauna, a new study finds out. This is highlighted during a training workshop hosted by Addis Chamber with the support of DI.

As one of the key areas of intervention, Addis Chamber undertakes diverse projects to promote circular economy among its members to enable them competitive in today's global market that requires stringent ESG standards and practices under the wider circular economic framework, says Seyoum Chane, Deputy Secretary General



from Addis Chamber in his opening remark.

The workshop also highlights food and beverage industries to take the lead in consuming huge amount of plastic as input for packing their produce and yet the culture of recycling is at infant level among industries, says Mihiret T/Mariam from PETCO Ethiopia, works on waste management.

Despite the existing laws and proclamation on environmental pollution including plastic waste, the challenges associated with plastic pollution remains unabated affecting human health and water bodies such as lakes, says Mihiret T/Mariam while sharing her thought on the subject matter. According to the expert plastic waste can generate enormous job opportunities and enabler for the national economy to thrive however challenges associated

with policy, infrastructure provision, lack of persistent input, long value chain actors of the sector along with insufficient funding for promoting plastic recycling to remained vital challenges of the sector.

With complex challenges of the sector, there need to be diverse approach to deal with plastic pollution and to promote plastic recycling, says Mihiret while suggesting for the potential solutions including enacting Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR), banning single use plastic, raising awareness of communities, promoting infrastructure for waste management and recycling schemes, viable policy framework to engage private sector on plastic recycling businesses, enhancing Public Private Dialogue and so on.

## Addis Chamber has officially unveils the 2024/25 Almanac mobile ups



By Staff Reporter

In a bid to enhance its business information service to its members, Addis Chamber has played commendable role in dispatching business directory for the wider business communities to address the information gap in the business landscape.

In its latest measure, Addis Chamber took a land mark move in introducing a financial almanac to business communities, the first of its kind in the country, with special focus on the Ethiopian finance sector.

Introduced both in published and mobile ups, the financial almanac is anticipated to address the information gap in the finance industry as well as to provide latest economic and financial data for business communities and the entire population, it was disclosed during the launching ceremony held on late June 2024.

## Local Companies are key to support TVET Institutions to fill the skilled work force, finds out a panel hosted by Addis Chamber

By Ashenafi Mitiku

**Addis Chamber, June 28, 2024:** With the theme “Enhancing TVET Trainers, Awareness of Skill Demands in Agro Processing” a consultative meeting was convened to discuss on the current challenges of skilled work force to address competitiveness and enhance productivity among companies and industries. Hosted by Addis Chamber, the consultative meeting brought together representatives of local agro industries, TVET institutions, Addis Chamber Business and Innovation Center (BIC) and DI East Africa senior experts.

In his key note address to the meeting, Seyoum Chane, Deputy Secretary General from Addis Chamber said that the conference



is hosted to enhance and update TVET trainers towards addressing challenges faced by industries and companies. Thus Addis Chamber is enthusiastic to address the skilled workforce gap observed in Ethiopia by closely working with TVET institutes and development partners like the Confederation of Danish Industries (DI) with the ultimate objective of boosting employment

opportunities and vibrant companies that can produce quality products and services, underlines the Deputy Secretary.

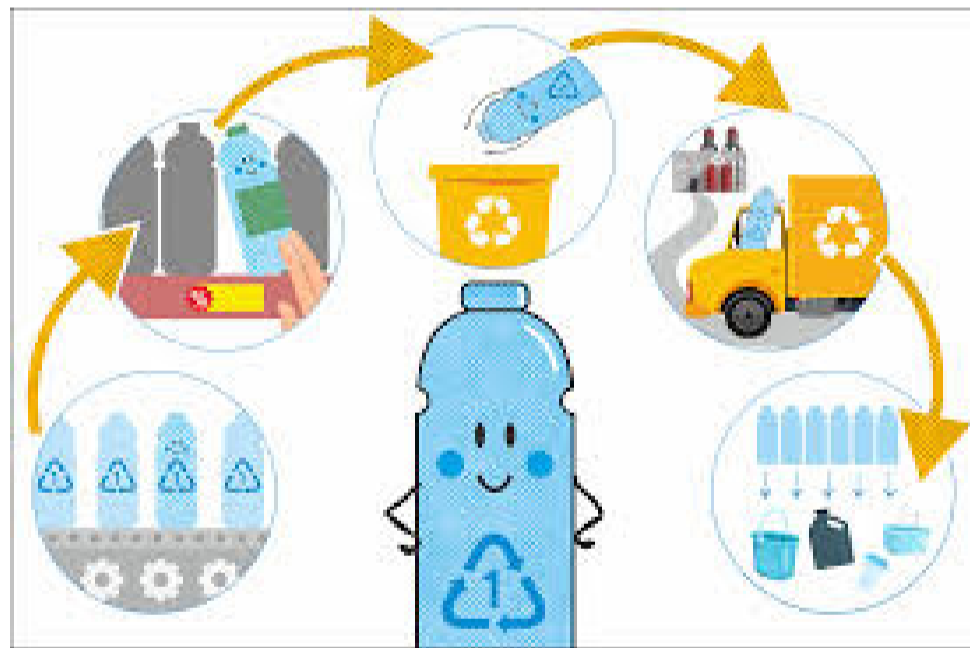
Experts from DI East Africa on their part shared their immense and long years of experience how to address challenges associated with skilled workforce. While sharing her experience, Millicent from DI

East Africa underscores the role of local companies to support TVET Institutes in a bid to fill the skilled labor gap among companies.

Discussants of the workshop also called for the need to address the misguide perception towards TVETs role, the need to boost motivation such as life skill training, capacity buildings, and lack of adequate agro industries to accommodate TVET trainers among others.

Participants of the session also called for Addis Chamber to uphold its role as a catalyst to address the diverse challenges faced by local companies. It is also disclosed that Addis Chamber to design strategic planning to support TVET to address the challenges of skilled workforce that are deployed or employed among companies.

## Gov't should incentivize Recycling Investment, survey



The rapid expansion of urbanization, notably Addis, has given way for sanitary and environmental problems. The problem of solid waste is one among others. Though there are several new prints of modernization in the city of Addis, the problems in relation to solid waste management remain still unresolved, said a survey commissioned by Addis Chamber.

According to the findings, the volume of waste disposal has out weighted allocated resources

and the capacity of the responsible institutions, said the resource person, Abel Girma. According to the study, a person in the city generates about 50 kg of waste every year. About half of city's waste is collected from households and share of plastic is 15%.

The rapid population growth particularly high rural-urban migration rate and expansion of number of plastic wares and packages are the root causes. There are improvements in terms of public

awareness on waste disposal that should be promoted by reinforcing instructional revision, capacity building and crafting incentives for recycling investment projects, Abel recommended.

The City Administration has set up a public agency and involved young and women under micro and small enterprises to deal city's waste management is a commendable effort, said Gezahgn Megersa. In reaction to the demand side of city's waste management he said that there are challenges including lack of skilled manpower, difficulty in getting of credit and lack of incentives for prospective investors.

There are about 10 plastic recyclers scattered around the outskirts of the city with limited recycling capacity.

However, reported show that those firms however, have managed to bring in about USD 10 million by exporting recycled plastic wares. He believes that the recycling sector has the capacity to generate

foreign currency, employment and contribute to the national green legacy initiative. Therefore, the government has to give a serious attention to the sector and has to put in place more attracting policy provisions for incoming private investment, it was suggested.

Addis Chamber has been closely monitoring policy challenges affecting the business community and conducting surveys on various sectors for many years now, said Deputy Secretary General of Addis Chamber, Zekarias Assefa.

The findings of surveys will be processed, consolidated and submitted to public agencies for policy influence, he added. The consumption of plastic products is increasing in double digits annually since 2011 and has more than tripled in total since then. The packaging sector consumes about 60% followed by construction sector 10% and automotive 7%, it was reported.

## Addis chamber recognizes Media houses for promoting trade and investment in the country



Addis Chamber recognizes Media houses for their contribution in supporting its overarching mission of promoting trade and investment in Ethiopia. Official recognition has been made during the Annual Chamber-Media Day marked by Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce early July, 2024 at the Interluxury Hotel. The Chamber organized

this media day with the motto “the Role of Media in Green Growth Initiatives”. The program is aimed to build strong partnership between the

chamber and media houses operating in the country.

The annual media day, which is marked by Addis Chamber, has brought together key players of the media industry in Ethiopia. In his official opening address to attendees of the event, Seyoum Chane, Deputy Secretary General of Addis Chamber vows to continue disseminating evidence based advocacy and business news information to the wider public to ensure development in Ethiopia.

He also commends the role of media in closely working with Addis Chamber that turns its 78th anniversary and looking for continued interaction with media. In his closing remark, Shibeshi Bettemariam, Secretary General of Addis Chamber commends and lauds the role of media in creating vibrant business and economy in any society and he also calls for journalists to keep their professional integrity while undertaking their duties.

During the event Addis Chamber extends awards to 15 media institutions for their dedication of promoting trade and investment for the last 10 and more years. The other major programs accompanied the event include capacity building to media professionals on two timely topics namely, environmental reporting and media ethics by resource persons Hailemariam Mesfin and Fithawok Yewondossen respectively.

Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce is a 78 years old active business membership organization in Ethiopia. The chamber provides various business development and advocacy services to help businesses grow and thrive in the country. Over the past years, the chamber in collaboration with various media agencies has rigorously worked as an institutional platform for the private sector to air their concerns to government and policy makers.

## Addis Chamber trains SMEs on Company Good Governance

By Yidnekachew Alemayehu

The principles, different aspects corporate governance, techniques of installing good governance in to enterprises were some of the major points discussed during the training session. Telaye Kassahun (PhD), the resource person said company governance models are fluid and adaptive to the nature of a given enterprise. So that any enterprise

can implement the same regardless of its size, location and production capacity though integrating the code of conduct of good governance and business ethics in to its system. The capacitating SMEs to adopt company good governance is important for ensuring growth and sustainability at their early stage and subsequently uphold the culture of good governance in the future. Nowadays, company

good governance has become in the EU markets, he said, adding that our SMEs have to adopt it at their young stage as part of building competitiveness. SMEs have to embrace the modern conception of running business by serving customers and the local community.

Installing good governance contributes to sustainability of enterprises that again leads to

success. He believes, however that implementing company good governance principles also helps enterprises establish corporate reputation, build trustworthiness, open doors to a wider market. The tailored training was jointly organized by Addis Chamber and the Danish Industry, it was reported



## **An Invitation to Attend a Training Course Entitled: Customer Service**

### **Training Date, Time and Venue:**

From July 22 - 26, 2024 for five half days from 8:30AM - 12:30PM in the morning at **Wabi Shebele Hotel**.

### **Objective of the Training:**

- To disclose to participants the benefits and advantages that can be gained by rendering good customer service to customers; to acquaint participants with the basic ideas of customer service; to equip participants with effective techniques and tools that enable them to give excellent service to both internal and external customers and to show participants the benefits and ways of handling and solving customer complaints.

### **Course Contents:**

- Basic concepts of service quality
- The organization and its customers
- Understanding the Critical Role of Good Customer Service
- The art of giving good service
- Service parameters
- The influence of front office personnel
- Understanding customer behavior
- Communication skills
- Dealing with difficult people
- Complaint handling

### **Target groups:**

Employees of an organization with frequent and direct contact with customers, Marketing Managers, Marketing Officers, Sales Agents, any staff member of a service industry and others interested in this important training.

### **Training fee:**

Birr 4,250 per person for members and Birr 5,100 per person for non-members.

### **For registration and inquiries:**

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## Ethiopia Should be Allowed to Return to AGOA



BY MULUGETA GUDETA

The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) provides duty free treatment to goods of designated sub-Saharan African countries. The benefits of AGOA were evident particularly by providing access to the American market for goods produced by selected African countries. There are many African countries that have benefited from AGOA. However, Ethiopia is actually one of the few African countries that have been suspended from AGOA for non-economic reasons.

When it was first launched back in May 2000, AGOA was a purely economic initiative following. Later on it became a tool for promoting US diplomatic objectives. Diplomacy should rather promote economic cooperation among countries on a win-win basis instead of serving as a tool of economic punishment particularly in Africa where poverty and joblessness two of the major economic headaches impacting the welfare of tens of millions of young people in particular. Private enterprises are also sustaining collateral damages as fallouts from prohibition in bilateral and unilateral economic cooperation such as AGOA.

Private sector development in Ethiopia has been stifled in the past and the state sector had remained dominant in the economy. This process has both frustrated private sector growth domestically as well

as discouraged Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in general and investment flow from the United States in particular. It seems that times have now changed and that Ethio-American business relations have entered a new and promising period, particularly after the economic reforms in Ethiopia.

However, Ethiopia's suspension from AGOA has hindered rather than promoting economic cooperation with the US.

Economic cooperation between the US and Ethiopia has followed an unsteady course, sometimes showing signs of favorable growth and at other times suffering setbacks. Ethiopian private sector exports to the US in the past have been stagnating due to unfavorable political factors. The United States being the largest and most advanced economy in the world had a great deal of potentials and resources to help put the Ethiopian private sector along a growth trajectory. However this is easier said than done as the records clearly show.

Vibrant cooperation was not possible due to past policy constraints. Ethiopia being one of the most promising developing economies, it could have benefitted immensely from US private businesses had they been allowed to operate in the country without unnecessary constraints. The ban imposed on Ethiopian private sector exporters from benefitting from AGOA in the last few years has caused visible

damages to the emerging small and medium enterprises that were booming in the years prior to the AGOA prohibition.

The Ethiopian economy in general has not yet fully recovered from decades of stagnation. For the last forty years, the economy has remained captive to what is called state-led growth strategy. The state sector has dominated the private sector that has remained weak and fledgling, fighting for its survival instead of serving as an engine of fast growth. Banks had remained under state control and private banks only emerged in the last 30 years or so.

Although the growth of the financial sector is remarkable now, it is still working under capacity as foreign banks are still prohibited from entering the local economy. There is not a single stock exchange in the country although there had been mounting pressure from private banks and businesses to establish one. It is to be recalled that the Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce and Sector Association (Addis Chamber) was instrumental in the initiation as well as during the debates around financial liberalization that never materialized.

Since the reform program has set in Ethiopia, the opportunity is created for revisiting bilateral business relations between Ethiopia and the US. New opportunities had emerged for more meaningful business relations between the American and Ethiopian business sectors. In the past, American assistance or support mainly focused on government to government relations. The Ethiopian private sector could not benefit fully from American assistance in terms of joint investments, financial flow, technological innovation as well as knowledge transfer in business management in particular.

However, even under difficult circumstances, the American government and the US private sector have made important contributions to stimulate the Ethiopian private sector. AGOA is of course an important milestone of

cooperation between the two sides as well as the expression of American commitment to the growth of the private sector in Ethiopia. AGOA has offered many opportunities for Ethiopian businesses to export goods to the American market free of tariffs and duties

Unfortunately, local businesses have not been able to fully exploit this opportunity. Even though Ethiopia is one of the biggest exporters of coffee to the American market, the volumes of exports have not shown dramatic increases under the AGOA regime. The Textiles and leather industries too have not fully made use of the opportunities AGOA offers to boost their exports and earn more hard currency.

Many African countries have benefited from this historic opportunity that is still in place while others could not make optimal use of the business opportunities it offers. For instance, Uganda is often mentioned as a better performer under the AGOA deal. On the other hand, Ethiopian private businesses have proved too timid or too weak to perform better than they did so far. This is largely due to internal structural weaknesses and investment constraints from which Ethiopian private sector businesses are still suffering from. However, this is not to say that no local industry has performed well in the American market.

If the American government is committed to the development of the Ethiopian economy, it has to display a more vigorous engagement to help boost the local private sector. In this context, allowing Ethiopia to benefit from AGOA-led business opportunities is something imperative if business relations between the two countries are expected to return to the previously promising levels. AGOA has proved its potential for lifting small and medium enterprises and set them on a fast growth trajectory. If the US is serious with helping Ethiopia's economic recovery and recovery, it has to allow it to return to AGOA with renewed vigor.



# Addis Chamber

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## Addis Chamber Training Institute (ACTI)



### List of Upcoming Training Programs

No.	Training Topic	Duration	Time	Training Fee		Venue	Remark
				Member	Non Mem.		
1	Customer Service	July 22-26, 2024	8:30AM - 12:30PM	4,250	5,100	Wabi Shebele Hotel	5 half days
2	International Trade Service & Ethiopian Export/Import Banking Practice	July 29 - Aug. 2, 2024	8:30AM - 12:30PM	4,250	5,100	Wabi Shebele Hotel	5 half days
3	Business Plan Preparation	July 29 - Aug. 2, 2024	1:30PM - 5:30PM	4,250	5,100	Wabi Shebele Hotel	5 half days
4	Basic Managerial Skills	August 5-9, 2024	8:30AM - 12:30PM	4,250	5,100	Wabi Shebele Hotel	5 half days
5	International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)	August 12-24, 2024	8:30AM - 12:30PM	12,750	15,300	Wabi Shebele Hotel	15 half days
6	Transformational Leadership	August 13-15, 2024	8:30AM - 5:30PM	10,310	12,375	Hotel	3 full days
7	Basic Managerial Skills	August 5-9, 2024	1:30PM - 5:30PM	4,250	5,100	Wabi Shebele Hotel	5 half days
8	Records Management	August 26-30, 2024	1:30PM - 5:30PM	4,250	5,100	Wabi Shebele Hotel	5 half days
9	Taxation in Ethiopia	September 2-6, 2024	8:30AM - 12:30PM	4,250	5,100	Wabi Shebele Hotel	5 half days
10	Office Operations Management	September 2-6, 2024	1:30PM - 5:30PM	4,250	5,100	Wabi Shebele Hotel	5 half days

For further information, please contact the Training Institute through 011-551-3882, 0911194965, 0913249766, 0911343078, 0911160585, [dejedesalegn@gmail.com](mailto:dejedesalegn@gmail.com), [assefakasa2@gmail.com](mailto:assefakasa2@gmail.com), [hiwottlhn9@gmail.com](mailto:hiwottlhn9@gmail.com) and [hime.by@gmail.com](mailto:hime.by@gmail.com).



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