

The 8th All African Leather Fair was Held at the Millennium Hall.

Addis Ababa 23 February, 2015: The 8th edition of the All African Leather Fair was conducted at the millennium hall here in Addis Ababa from 20 Feb-23 Feb 2015.

On his opening address State Minister for The Ministry of Industry Tadese Haile said that, the Government had identified the leather industry as a priority sector for development due to its potential for employment generation, export earnings, and its strong linkage to the agriculture sector.



He added, the country was endowed with unexploited resources and was strategically placed near to European and Middle East markets with other major advantages of low cost electric power and cheap labor. Local and foreign leather industries were key players in transferring technologies, in creating job opportunities, in exporting competitive leather products.

The President of the Ethiopian Leather Industries Association, Yigzaw Assefa on his behalf said that, nearly 200 exhibitors were participating at the 8th All African Leather Fair, 49 of which came from overseas.

The Director of COMESA's Leather and Leather Products Institute, Mwinyikione Mwinyihija, said that, Ethiopia is striving to fully utilize the sector in order to maximize benefits, and said the only country in Africa that has a policy framework that could boost the leather industry. He welcomed efforts of Ethiopia towards developing the sector and said it could be a model for African countries.

European Union Delegation Head to Ethiopia Ambassador Chantal Hebberecht said that the leather and leather products industry shows great potential based on the impressive livestock resources at Ethiopia's disposal. The livestock resource made up of more than 100 million cattle, sheep and goats, represents a potential of some 20 million hides and skins renowned for their quality at international level.

A comprehensive range of products relating to the leather industry including finished leather, footwear, leather garments, leather goods like gloves, wallets, bags, components and accessories to the leather industry were exhibited.