

DIALOGUE CORNER

News from the Secretariat

The Ethiopian Public Private Consultative Forum



E.P.P.C.F

Ethiopian Public Private Consultation Forum Secretariat

The Ethiopian Public Private Commerce and Sectoral Consultative Forum (EPPCF) Associations (ECCSA). The has been established by a EPPCF has been set up with Memorandum of the view of institutionalizing Understanding signed the Public Private Dialogue between the Former Ministry by providing a platform for of Trade and Industry and sectoral and cross-sectoral the Ethiopian Chamber of dialogue in a structured manner.

How does the EPPCF work?

The EPPCF Secretariat is under the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Associations (ECCSA). The Secretariat has a small team of three people: a Manager, Ato Teshome Beyene, a Private Sector Development Specialist, Ato Abebe Ababayehu and a Research and Communications officer, Wzt Leyou Tameru. The Secretariat is

principally funded by the International Finance Corporation (IFC). It began its operations in October 2011. The team has organized a few workshops in collaboration with other partners and is currently working on organizing consultation fora on both sectoral and federal level. It also plans to organize a National Business Conference to be chaired by H.E. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of Ethiopia.

ISSUE 1, FEBRUARY 2012

Highlights



Workshop on the role of the Constitution on the growth of the private sector in Ethiopia.

2



Workshop on the Growth and Transformation Plan of the government and discussion on the new law on land lease.

2



Workshop on trade and logistics and customs procedures. As well as the 2nd federal public private consultative forum

Training



The Secretariat as well as other stakeholders received a training on the Public Private Dialogue by James Brew

4

Workshop: The Private Sector and the Ethiopian Constitution

The Secretariat actively participated in a half-day symposium that took place on November 27, 2011 jointly organized by the ECCSA and the Ethiopian House of Federation, to discuss “The Role of the FDRE Constitution in Promoting Growth of the Private Sector,” and “Bottlenecks to Private Sector Growth in Ethiopia.” Senior government officials from different line ministries and people from the business sector attended this event. Ato Teshome

Beyene, Manager of the Secretariat, delivered a paper discussing the various impediments to private sector growth in Ethiopia from regulatory and implementation point of view. Senior government officials who were present at the forum acknowledged some of these impediments and promised to work together to address these constraints.



The symposium was attended by close to 450 people and the Secretariat received the attention of chamber members and government officials and, thereby, paved the way for future cooperation.

Workshop: New land lease law

The Secretariat, in collaboration with ECCSA secretariat, organized a half-day Business Forum on December 16, 2011 to discuss the Growth and Transformation Plan of Ethiopia and the newly passed proclamation on Urban Land Lease. H.E. Ato Neway Gebreab, Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister, discussed the Growth and Transformation Plan and the role expected of the private sector in the realization of the five-year economic plan.

An invited expert on land law discussed implications of the new land lease could be. It was a hotly debated proclamation, stirring many subsequent discussions on the law.



From left to right, Ato Teshome, Ato Eyessuswork (former ECCSA President), Ato Ali Hijira



Trade logistics: Workshop in preparation of Federal Forum

The EPPCF Secretariat has been working on organizing a Federal Business Forum with a specific focus on Trade logistics. The private sector development specialist, Abebe Ababayehu, has researched the custom clearance procedures as well as other impediments in trade and logistics in Ethiopia. He has identified specific hindrances in this sector and has drafted a position paper outlining them and providing recommendations.

In order to strengthen the draft position paper the Secretariat organized a small workshop on January 18th 2012. The workshop brought together a small group of freight forwarders, clearing agents as well as other professionals to discuss the draft position paper.

The participants gave positive feedback on issues raised in the paper and suggested additional topics. Furthermore they suggested additional solutions to the impediments outlined.

This workshop was instrumental in allowing the private sector especially Freight forwarders, clearing agents and other stakeholders to clearly express the regulatory impediments they face while conducting their business. It also served as a platform for the Secretariat promote public private dialogue as a tool to resolving regulatory or practical inconsistencies.

The 2nd Federal Public Private Consultative Forum

The 2nd Federal Public Private Consultative Forum was held on February 15th 2012 at the Sheraton Addis hotel. The forum was attended by high level officials from the public sector and concerned members of the business community. It was chaired by His Excellency the Minister of Trade Ato Kebede Chane and the President of the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Associations, Wzo Mulu Solomon.

The Forum was set off by an opening speech by the Minister of Trade, followed by that of the President of the Ethiopian Chamber. The position paper was presented by Abebe Ababayehu, PSD Specialist. There were 8 major discussion points outlined in this paper.

Following this presentation, members of the private sector

further elaborate on some of the impediments highlighted in the position paper.

The government then presented a detailed response to the issues presented. It accepted 7 of the 8 issues raised and committed to work with the private sector in order to resolve some of the impediments. One of the impediments raised was the lack of trained personnel at the customs clearance, and the government suggested that the private sector assist in training its staff.

Overall the forum was a very successful one as both public and private sector were able to come to a consensus and endorse recommendations suggested, as well as the agreement to create committees to follow up on the implementation.

For more information please follow the links below.



The forum was co-chaired by the Minister of Trade and the President of the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Associations

DIALOGUE CORNER

If you would like to contact us, please email the Communications officer at leyou.tameru@gmail.com

Links to articles on 2nd Federal Business Forum

Addis Fortune Newspaper:

<http://www.addisfortune.com/Devoid%20of%20Policy%20Debate,%20Public-Private%20Forum%20Zooms-In%20on%20Customs%20Flaws.htm>

Capital Newspaper:

http://www.capitalethiopia.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=575:freight-forwarders-cry-foul-as-esle-monopoly-grows-&catid=35:capital&Itemid=27