

Ethiopian Minister visits APLF

Hong Kong
Published: 19 March, 2018

Dr Arkebe Oqubay, Minister and Special Adviser to the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, visited the APLF Leather & Materials+ event in Hong Kong last week to attend the fair and outline the business opportunities for the leather supply chain.

Speaking during at a press conference at the APLF on March 14, Dr Oqubay said that the leather industry in Ethiopia was growing fast and was an attractive place to invest. He said that the government was offering businesses a range of opportunities for foreign direct investment (FDI) which includes some tax-free incentives for up to 10 years.

“Ethiopia was the second largest FDI for the leather industry in 2017 after Vietnam. We have duty privileges with many countries including the EU and USA for our exports,” he said.

Dr Oqubay confirmed that a railway line has now been established between Addis Ababa and the port in neighbouring Djibouti and that any leather industry investors would have access to a larger source of workers as well as the largest raw materials supply in Africa. The railway corridor allows a nine-hour rail journey for goods to be shipped from Addis to the port.

“We want to create many jobs for our citizens in Ethiopia and we are offering opportunities for a vertically integrated, environmentally sustainable supply chain and we offer the use of green energy through hydro-electric power,” he added.

He said that the annual population growth of the country is anticipated to be 2.4 million per annum (107.5 million in 2018) and the government is committed to increasing jobs and investment into the country.

Ethiopia is already the location of a number of foreign owned tanneries and leather product factories and Dr Oqubay said that retail giants such as H&M and Inditex Groups had established offices in the country.



Dr Arkebe Oqubay,

Minister and Special Adviser to the Prime Minister of Ethiopia

Other articles of interest

- [A Minister at APLF](#)
- [Busy APLF throws up mixed market signals](#)
- [APLF Leather fair off to a flyer](#)

- **APLF 2018 is an important moment**