

Leather Research Industry Get-Together 2013: Global Alliances with Integrated Networking to GAIN value for Leather

A Report on the Inaugural Session of LERIG 2013 held during 4:00 and 5:00pm, 28th January 2013 at Triple Helix Auditorium, CSIR-CLRI



CSIR-CLRI, CHENNAI

January 28, 2013

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LERIG 2013 themed **Global Alliances with Integrated Networking to GAIN** value for Leather was inaugurated by Dr.T.Ramasami, Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Science and Technology; His Excellency Shri. Tadesse Haile, State Minister, Ministry of Industry and His Excellency Shri. Wondwossen Kiflu, State Minister, Ministry of Education, Federal Republic Democratic of Ethiopia by lighting the traditional lamp. Shri M. Rafeeq Ahmed, Member RC, CSIR- CLRI & President, AISTHMA and Shri N. Shafeeq Ahmed, Vice Chairman, CLE were other dignitaries who graced the inaugural session of LERIG 2013.



Prof. Dr. A.B Mandal, Director, CSIR-CLRI welcomed the distinguished dignitaries for the inauguration on the dais by presenting them with floral bouquets. In his Welcome address, Prof Dr. AB Mandal, Director, CSIR-CLRI thanked Dr.T.Ramasami and His Excellency State Ministers from Federal Republic Democratic of Ethiopia for sparing their valuable time and gracing the occasion. He also welcomed other distinguished guests for inaugural session of LERIG 2013. Dr. AB Mandal listed the achievements of CSIR-CLRI and asserted that CSIR-CLRI will strive further to strengthen its global leadership in leather.



Shri M. Rafeeqe Ahmed, President – AISTHMA and Member Research Council of CSIR-CLRI released a CD on DIRECTORY OF TANNERIES IN INDIA 2013. Shri M. Rafeeqe Ahmed in his presidential address highlighted the changes in the global market dynamics of leather trade and that the industry had achieved its desired targets despite un-conducive environment for leather trade especially in EU.



His Excellency Shri Tadesse Haile, State Minister, Ministry of Industry, Federal Republic Democratic of Ethiopia presented the MODEEUROPE 2013 awards to the industry members. Followed by the award presentation, he delivered his speech describing long term ties between Ethiopia and India ever since the independence of India and congratulated CSIR-CLRI for having chosen a wonderful theme of “Global Alliances with Integrated Networking” for LERIG 2013. Such alliances are very important to drive innovations and growth of the leather sector. He emphasized the imminent need for the alliance among various stakeholders to meet technological challenges and come out with integrated approach for the sustained development of global leather sector.



His Excellency Shri. Wondwossen Kiflu, State Minister, Ministry of Education, Federal Republic Democratic of Ethiopia presented Mecca Haji Abdul Wahid and Leather Chemical Manufacturer's Association Best Project Awards to best B.Tech and M.Tech project works. In his address His Excellency remarked about the expansion of Ethiopian educational institutions in Ethiopia acting as a reinforcement for the economic growth of Ethiopia. He said from 1 university before 18-20 years, today Ethiopia has more than 32 universities and this would not have been possible without the support of the professors from India



Shri N. Shafeeq Ahmed, Vice-Chairman for the Council of Leather Exports presented the CLE's design award 2013 to the best designers. In his address Shri. Shafeeq Ahmed appreciated the support rendered by CSIR-CLRI to the leather industry. He said CLRI is a one-stop shop for any problems of the industry. Shri. Shafeeq had requested the industry participants to take full benefit of LERIG 2013 with their participation in the sessions to follow. Mr. Shafeeq Ahmed also released the e-learning portal for leather products manufacture prepared by CLAD team of CSIR-CLRI



Dr. T. Ramasami, Secretary to Govt. of India, Department of Science and Technology released LERIG 2013 Souvenir and a book on Global Alliances of CSIR-CLRI. Dr. T. Ramasami in his guest address appreciated the dynamic changes happening in CSIR-CLRI and for continuing the tradition of instituting several awards and honors to motivate young talents in Leather sector. He said that Indian Ministry of Science and Technology has a dedicated fund to support S&T development of African nations and the availability of Raman fellowship for the African nationals to pursue PhD in Indian institutes and Universities. He requested the Leather industry to leverage on the strengths of the Indian Leather sector and build further.



Dr.N. K. Chandrababu, Chief Scientist, CSIR-CLRI and one of the Chief conveners of LERIG 2013 proposed a formal vote of thanks. He thanked all the dignitaries on and off the dais for their participation in the inauguration of LERIG 2013. He thanked the industry, institutions and trade bodies for their support for LERIG 2013 and welcomed the active participation of all the stakeholders for all the sessions on 29th and 30th January 2013.