

## **Proceeding and Financial Report**

The AHa Ethiopian Consumer Protection Association completed its stage-I and laying ground to step into stage II. In stage I two year project, “capacity building on competition policy in select countries of eastern and southern Africa code named 7UP3 Project” was initiated in some seven selected African countries. Ethiopia was included in this project. On this 1<sup>st</sup> stage, the Ethiopian Consumer Protection Association played a leading role in negotiating with Consumer Union Trust Society (CUTS), presenting preliminary country report in Uganda, conducting research survey in Ethiopia, preparing country research report, and launching three times workshops in collaboration with CUTS.

In the last two years, the association established members of National Reference Groups (NRGs), which consists of 50 individuals (experts) gathered from different sectors such as: Government and non-government organizations, business people and academics to comment, criticize, debate and develop the prepared country research report for the government policy input.

Accordingly, the association launched a half day workshop and presented its final draft country research report on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2006 in the presence of His Excellency, Mr. Yohannes Lentiso, member of house of people representatives and Mr. David Olongolo CUTS representative from Kenya as an honorable guests for the workshop respectively. On the NRG meeting, 23 members were participated.

Mr. Alemu Jotie, Chairperson of AHa ECoPA delivered his opening remarks and invited His Excellency Mr. Yohannes Lentiso, member of the parliament to deliver his valuable opening speech for the workshop participants. Mr. Jotie called upon the NRG members to contribute their part for the development of country research report by commenting, questioning and suggesting.

His Excellency Mr. Yohannes Lentiso, the honorable guest from the parliament forwarded his deep appreciation, on his behalf government, to Ethiopian Consumer Association for its deep concern and mentionable efforts exerted so far for the benefit of consumers in the Ethiopia.

In His speech, he underlined that the government is ready to work with ECoPA. He also emphasized all that government concern these days, is that of developing policies and laws which can protect consumers interest and welfare. In his speech, he urged the participant to have a good understanding and play crucial role to make the conference fruitful and effective so as to contribute for the development of country research report. (The opening speech is attached in annex)

Next to the speech of the His Excellency honorable guest, Mr. David CUTS representative, introduced the code name 7UP3 project. He explained that the project on competition policy, in seven Asian, Eastern and South African countries revealed the comparative interesting facts, in terms of the legal structure, regulatory framework and practical situation. He told participants that the project covers countries and the main questions included in the study are like what are the key competition concepts, what is the capacity required in terms of consumer protection and competition issues. He also noted that it is pivotal to see the gap between the legal framework and the implementation, and putting institutional structure should be the first task.

According to Mr. David, in the absence of institutional set up and in the presence of fragmented laws, it is very difficult to protect consumer's rights. He substantiated his position by stating the experience from Zambia and Cambodia where a lot has done in terms of intergraded regulatory framework and consumer's protection law.

Following the explanation of Mr. David, country research report entitled "competition scenario in Ethiopia" was presented by the board member of Ethiopian Consumer Protection Association, Ato Seifu Ali. The presentation applaud try to explain about the critical objective of the project and importance of competition policy legine in Ethiopia. The country survcy report nurturing the awarness of the society to protect their right and stand for fair trade practices. Eventually the presentations forward some idea for policy maker and parliament member viberantly stand for the formulation of competition policy and law in the country.

After the presentation, the facilitator of the workshop opened the stage for participants for questions, comments, suggestions, debates so that to develop the country research report.

At this juncture the facilitator told participants that one of the objectives of the workshop is to develop the country research report, through deep and wide discussions among participants whom believed to be in a position to identify and analyze the competition regime of Ethiopia.

During the session, a number of questions, suggestions and comments were forwarded that was followed by answers and discussion among participants. Among them the most important ones are summarized as follows.

One participant questioned about the sufficiency of the data used for sampling. It was also asked the accuracy of some figures on the line of GDP that are incorporated in the paper. In relation to that participant disclosed their worry that the sample data is so minimal to represent or reflect the consumer's situation and view in Ethiopia.

The presenter from ECoPA and Mr. David a CUTS representative, admitted the data sample size limitation and taken the issue raised in its constructive position. However, they responded as there was budget and manpower shortage. They also explained that the data was collected from key informants, at least to understand the general situation, not as such to know the details in each and every aspect of competition issues and consumers position. They also promised to update the figures of the GDP and others.

Another participant commented that the paper seems to repeat the idea that every business sector in Ethiopia should be liberalized. However, it was replied that everything can not be done with in overnight; it rather would be a result of a process, which requires full participation of the citizens and commitment of the government. In the discussion, it was also underlined that the main agenda of ECoPA in general and the workshop in particular is to contribute their own share and lobbying the government at any cost so as to catch up the developmental stage of other countries.

Participants also commented that the paper should begin by stating its limitations such as budget, man power and so on. This was taken as constructive comment for the paper development.

In the workshop it was also raised that the conclusion, the summary and the body part of the paper should support one another. It was suggested that the summary part is too brief to reflect all the important issues that are dealt up on in the body of the paper. This was also taken as constructive comment.

In the workshop, it was raised that Ethiopian is not ready at this time to meet with global market. On the other hand, globalization is inevitable which we are part of it. So, it was emphasized in the session that legal and regulatory structure which can promote competition should be established.

It was also deliberated on two important and sensitive business sectors, namely electricity and telecommunications participants disclosed that mobile and internet service that are being provided by the government owned sole telecom operator is so poor in its quality. Obviously, they are consumers who are ultimately affected negatively.

Finally, the workshop ended by mentioning that citizens should embark up on in the process of establishing competitive regime in Ethiopia. Consumers should actively participate in the process of lobbying the government to come up with appropriate competition policy and consumer's law.

We here by attached the list of attendants, the programmes and the financial report.

Alemu Jotie

Board Chairman and Facilitator of the workshop

Seifu Ali

Paper presenter Board member

### Financial Report for the NRG meeting

S/N	Expenditures Description	Amount in ETB	Expended in \$	Remarks
1	Facilitators, Presenter and Coordinator	2, 590.00	299.85	
2	NRG meeting facilities! Transportation, Photocopy and refreshment	4852.75	561.78	
3	Running Cost: Utility bills, rent, stationary and communication	3870.45 800+.	448.09	
4	Others	478.50	55.40	
	Total	11,791.70	1365.12	

N.B

The exchange rate is 1USD: 8.63762

The balance at hand is Birr 1, 157.88 or USD 134.88

**3rd National Reference Group Meeting of Ethiopian for the Capacity Building on competition Policy in  
selected Countries of Eastern and Southern Africa (7UP3) Project  
Ethiopian Consumer Protection Association Workshop Program.**

**Date** Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2006

**Venue** Ras Hotel

<b>Time</b>	<b>Session</b>	<b>Person</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Position</b>
8:30 – 9:00	Registration of Participants			
9:00 – 9:15	Opening Remark	Mr. Alemu Jote	AHa ECoPA	Chair Person of Board of Director
9:15 – 9:30	Opening Speech		Honorable Gust	
9:30 – 10:00	Introduction to Stage II	CUTS Representative	CUTS	CUTS Representative
10:00 – 10:20	Tea Break	ECoPA		
10:20 – 11:00	Presentation on Country Research Report	Mr. Seifu Ali	ECoPA	ECoPA Board Member
11:00 – 12:00	Floor discussion	NRG Group		
12:00 - 12:30	Summary and way forward	CUTS Representation		
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	ECoPA		

**3rd National Reference Group Meeting of Ethiopian for the Capacity Building on competition Policy in selected Countries of Eastern and Southern Africa (7UP3) Project Ethiopian Consumer Protection Association Participants Attend**

<b>No</b>	<b>Name of Participant</b>	<b>Name of Organization</b>	<b>Telephone No.</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Signature</b>
1	Etafa Emama	Ministry of Water Resources	251-011- 6636927 251-09-11121725	<a href="mailto:Etafa_emama@yahoo.com">Etafa_emama@yahoo.com</a>	
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3	Abeje Teffera	CRDA	251-011-4393493	<a href="mailto:abejcivil@yahoo.com">abejcivil@yahoo.com</a>	
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