



The African IP Trust Inception Conference

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

April 7 – April 10

2010

April 7, 2010

Dear Colleagues and Friends,



Welcome to Ethiopia. We're glad you are able to join us here in Addis-Ababa, for The African IP Trust Inception Conference, and hope that you find your stay both culturally rewarding and educational. This country has blazed a strong path in standing up for farmer's rights to own fine coffee trademarks in the international business environment. The struggle was heroic and it is truly fitting that the African IP Trust will be born in Ethiopia, now famous for the hugely successful attempt to bring "big coffee" to make a good business decision to become licensed distributors.

As you know, this conference marks both the culmination and the beginning of a lot of hard work to achieve some of the most exciting strategic changes for Africa. All Africans are finally able to assert their right to do business in the modern economy. Farmers have gained the necessary tools to negotiate, and to manage cultural, traditional, and modern creativity to the fullest extent. Africans are gaining the power to influence consumer purchasing, on both merit and good marketing. They are gaining the power to overcome those who would prefer to maintain the status quo – a status quo where 95% of the income from the best products of Africa never reaches the continent. Finally, Africans have gained the ability for cultures to nurture, build and develop ancient and proud traditions with the economic resources that the culture generates.

The key to all of these successes lies within the concept of Intellectual Property Value Capture. IP Value Capture ultimately achieves all of the above-mentioned tools without dependency, and in our own hands. I ask of all of you here today to explore this model, to grasp the implications, and to design the best ways to engage all Africans in replicating the success Ethiopia has found here.

The decisions to be made today are directional, but have the potential to be far-reaching and historic. The goal is to create a functioning and lasting legacy transferable across all African borders that all Africans can use and benefit from fully.

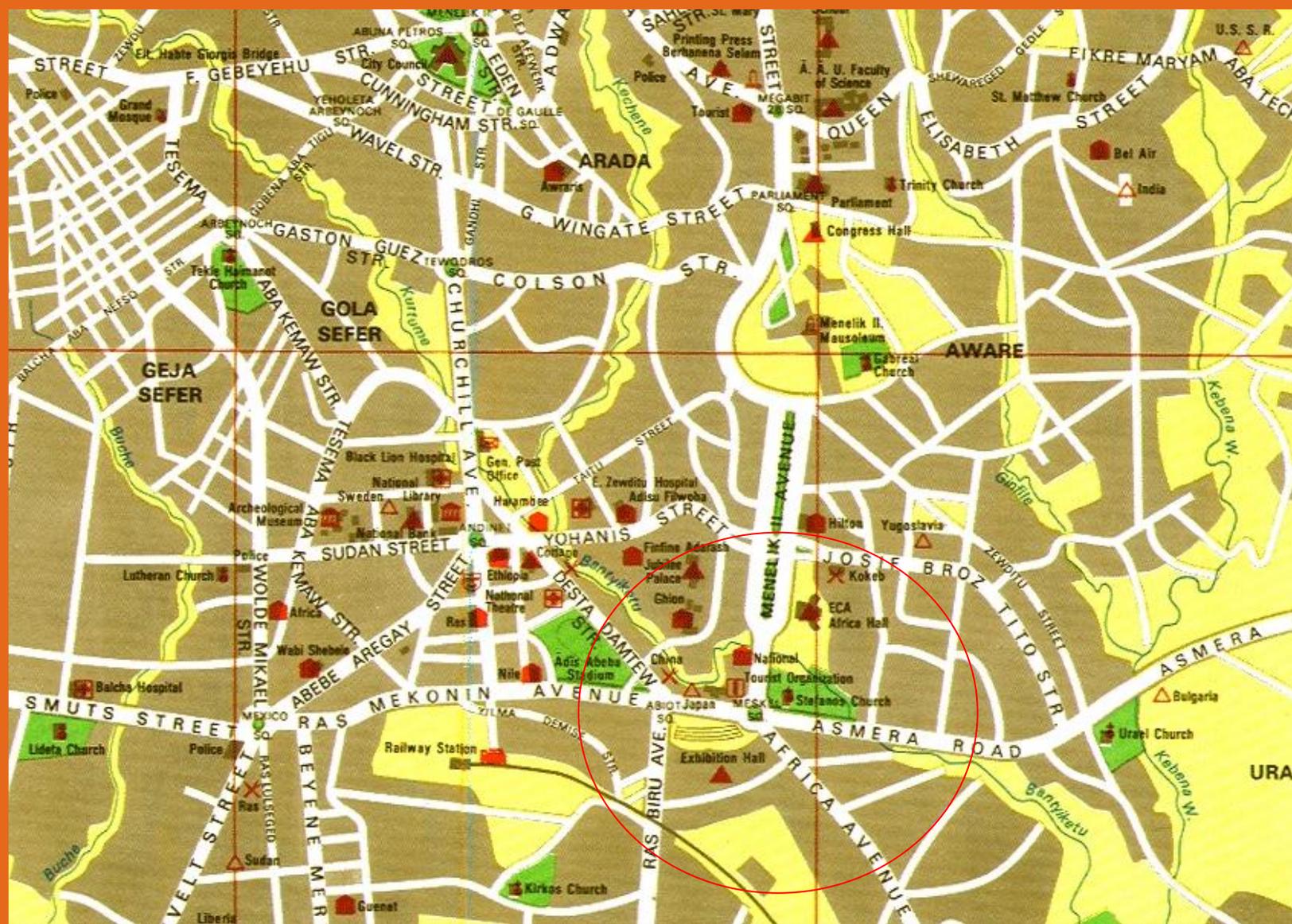
Again, I welcome each of you to Addis. I am greatly enthused by your presence here today, and can assure you that by being here you add a critical component to the most exciting strategic changes for Africa. There is a lot of exciting work to be done, so let's get going!

With warmest personal regards,

The Right Honourable Paul Boateng

ADDIS ABABA

Often referred to as the “capital of Africa,” Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, with its long diplomatic and diverse history, seems an ideal place to convene this auspicious conference. Host to over 80 nationalities and over 80 languages, Addis Ababa represents all of the ethnic groups in Ethiopia, and serves as the epicenter of the country. An axis for cultural confluence, Addis is home to both the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union. The capital of Ethiopia is also home to the largest open-air market in Africa, in the Merkato district.



AREA ATTRACTIONS

- Post Office Museum
- Ethnological and Archaeological Museum
- Trinity Cathedral
- National Museum of Ethiopia
- Martyrs' Monument
- Lion Cage
- African Union Headquarters
- Merkato (biggest open-air market in Africa)

FOREWARD

BY RON LAYTON



The method that we call Intellectual Property Value Capture is practical and effective, now being employed by millions of farmers and artisans, tribes people and Intellectual Property creators. Corporate business has used it for decades. These creators of distinctive products, which are highly valued in world retail markets, can and will use the method, with understanding and skill. Almost daily, there are new requests for education, training, support and technical assistance to implement IP Value Capture strategies that matter very much to the Intellectual Property owners of Africa.

Although some distributors and brokers see the world in zero-sum terms and resist low-income farmers using the method, it will be in their long term interest to let go of this attitude and become lively, engaged distributors working with the African rights owners. Starbucks changed their resistance to support, once they came to see the Ethiopian producers of the finest heritage coffees in the world as equal partners. The fine coffee then became more traceable, more available and it became clear to them that empowered partners are the best type. The farmers knew this, of course, so were entitled to stand up for their rights, ably supported by their government, social entrepreneurs like Tadesse Meskela and a coalition of highly reputable supporters. These included the Hon. Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland, who is supporting our collective work during this conference on the creation of the African IP Trust. Mary, the fine team at Arnold and Porter and many others are anticipating that the outcomes of April 7-11 will strengthen the future of many millions of Africans.

Acknowledgments

- **H.E. DIRECTOR MELES ZENAWI**, leader of the Ethiopian negotiating team, whose vision to hold strong on "assets of future generations of Ethiopians" gave key guidance to the management of the disputes with "big coffee"
- **HAILE GEBRE**, social entrepreneur and re-builder of Ethiopian cooperatives, a vital part of the structure of the coffee initiative
- **GETACHEW MENGISITE**, dedicated Ethiopian lead on the coffee initiative and partner to Light Years IP for the last six years
- **ELENI GABREMAHDIN**, whose analysis of the domestic supply chain influenced the successful design of the coffee initiative
- **H.E. AMBASSADOR SAMUEL ASSEFA**, partner in the conduct of difficult negotiations with Starbucks
- **H.E. AMBASSADOR KASSAHUN AYELE**, originator of negotiations with Starbucks
- **EYOB TOLINA**, constant supporter of LYIP relationship with Ethiopia
- **SOLOMON KEBEDE**, dedicated to the coffee farmers from the start of the initiative
- **20 CAMPAIGNING ORGANIZATIONS** that supported Ethiopia and 110,000 people worldwide who expressed their support in writing

THE INCEPTION CONFERENCE PURPOSE IS TO GUIDE THE AFRICAN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY TRUST

The goal of this conference is to consider all types of challenges facing millions of low-income African Intellectual Property (IP) owners and to design the ways the African IP Trust can implement the following functions:

- Help stakeholders aiming to control brands and other Intellectual Property and distribution
- Develop processes for defining the qualification of relevant stakeholders with a fair claim to ownership of brands and other Intellectual Property instruments
- Help stakeholders to design organizing structures, suitable for each different situation, structuring the group ownership entities for their IP (brands, marks, designs, trade secrets, etc.) in transparent, participatory and legally robust ways
- Facilitate membership for all, to enable collective rights and ownership
- Negotiate across national borders, all along the supply chain
- Act as the authority to enforce licensing and ownership, enforcing ownership, particularly in developed countries
- Own Intellectual Property, as necessary, during interim periods when stakeholders are forming representative organizations, so that the new entity can hold rights in trust for unidentified members of ownership groups
- Campaign by persuading opposition corporations or trade associations, as exemplified in the Ethiopian coffee initiative in the successful struggle over trademark ownership with “big coffee” in the U.S.
- Provide an "umbrella" of protection for qualifying groups of owners, gradually extending this to millions of Africans
- Facilitate the transition from aid dependency toward IP ownership and improved negotiating positions
- Generate funding for continuing these activities permanently

The African IP Trust then holds the fundamental principle of the overall development approach - to expand the choices of African farmers and producers from only dependency on commodity markets to ownership and management of brands and distribution in retail markets.

Expected outcomes of the Inception Conference will be guidance on:

1. Legal Structuring of the African IP Trust
2. Political and Geographical Positioning
3. Outreach, Education and Training Policies
4. Umbrella Functions
5. Board Appointments, Alliances and Partnerships
6. Securing Permanent Financing for the Initial Priorities of the Work Program

The inception conference will work hard on the practical elements needed for large numbers of producers, artisans, farmers and other rights owners to move to being able to manage IP enforcement in export markets. Decisions will be made on work program details and the most effective ways to move the interests of such producers forward to ***“ownership and business use of valuable IP that is being used to increase income”***

THE AFRICAN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY TRUST
INCEPTION
CONFERENCE
AGENDA

Wednesday April 7— Saturday, April 10
2010

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 2010

8:00PM - Welcome dinner Hotel Warka Dining Room

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2010

8:45AM - 9:30AM – Registration VIP Room 8th floor

9:30AM - Introduction and Welcoming Remarks

The Right Honourable Paul Boateng, Board of Directors, Interim Chair
Diane E. Watson, US Congresswoman
Ron Layton, CEO, Light Years IP

10:30AM - 12:30PM - **Session One**

What is IP Value Capture (IPVC)?
Why it Matters and Methods
Chaired by *the Right Honourable Paul Boateng* with *Ron Layton*
and *Dr. Brindle*

12:30PM - 1:30PM - LUNCH

1:30PM - 3:00PM - **Session Two**

The Challenges of IPVC for African stakeholders
Categories of Risk: Political, Business opposition and other risks
The case of Ethiopian Coffee
Chaired by *Ron Layton* with *Getachew Mengistie*

3:00PM - 3:30PM BREAK

3:30PM - 5:30PM - **Session Three**
Why do we need an African IP Trust?
Chaired by *Carrie LaCrosse* with *Ron Layton* and *Dr. Brindle*

8:00PM - **Yod Abyssinia Restaurant**
Dinner and Ethiopian traditional dance show

FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 2010

8:30AM - 10:00AM - **Session Four**

Determining Membership in IP owning stakeholder groups
Chaired by *Dr. John Kilama* with *Michael Frankel*

10:00AM - 10:30AM - **BREAK**

10:30AM - 12:30PM - **Session Five**

The African IP Trust Umbrella Concept
Chaired by *Ron Layton*

12:30PM - 1:30PM - **LUNCH**

1:30PM - 3:00PM - **Session Six (Closing Session)**

Priorities and Decisions
Chaired by *the Right Honourable Paul Boateng*

3:00PM - 3:30PM **BREAK**

3:30PM - 5:00PM **Session Six (Continued)**

SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 2010

10:00AM – 1:00PM **Summary Workshop**



P

articipant Bios

ARNOLD & PORTER LLP

Arnold & Porter LLP stands today as a preeminent international law firm on an outstanding record of commitment, excellence, and innovation, practicing in more than 25 distinct areas of the law on six continents, including Intellectual Property. The firm and its associates serve clients conducting business in a multitude of locations, providing expert navigation of the waters of business, regulation, and law in multiple jurisdictions worldwide. Living their corporate social responsibility commitment to both local and global communities, Arnold and Porter maintain one of the largest and most meaningful pro bono practices. Setting an enviable standard, they were one of the top three pro bono firms named by *The American Lawyer*. The firm remains committed to working with groups of African farmers, producers, artisans and other IP owners, providing the legal structure and foundation for both. The firm's partnership with Light Years IP and Ethiopia, since 2004, has been highly successful, delivering Ethiopia with key trademark ownership against major opposition in the U.S. and Japan.

RT. HON. PAUL BOATENG

INTERIM CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Paul Yaw Boateng is a British-Ghanaian politician, the first person of African descent to serve in a British cabinet. He received his law degree from the University of Bristol. He continued to become the first African government minister as Parliamentary under Secretary of State and the Department of Health in Britain. In 2001, the Hon. Boateng was made Financial Secretary of the Treasury, and soon stepped up to become Chief Secretary to the Treasury. In March of 2005, he was named High Commissioner to South Africa. Honourary Boateng has been integral to the implementation of Intellectual Property in African countries and is vital to the development of the Africa IP Trust. As a member of her Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council he enjoys the style of The Right Honourable.

MEG BRINDLE, PhD

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, LIGHT YEARS IP

Meg Brindle, PhD is Associate Professor of Management in the Public and International Affairs Department at George Mason University. She has taught over 100 MBA and MPA courses in organizational management and health policy at George Mason and Carnegie Mellon University, in the MBA and Public Policy Schools and participated in establishing the Carnegie Mellon, DC campus curriculum. Dr. Brindle has worked with Light Years IP for two years conducting research; grant-writing; and writing a book with Ron Layton on Intellectual Property Value Capture, and has participated in workshops in IP Business Strategies in Lusaka, Zambia and Kampala, Uganda, and Kingstown, Barbados. Dr. Brindle has published two books: ***Managing Power through Lateral Networking; and Taking Charge of Management Fads: A New Look at an Old Force.*** Her most recent publication, with Ron Layton, Ming-ru Chu and Alison Dressler, for Light Years IP is ***Intellectual Property Value Capture: Caribbean Opportunities for Higher Income, 2010.*** In summer, 2010, she will lead a student trip to Nairobi, Kenya for peer-peer training with the Maasai.



MICHAEL FRANKEL **FOUNDER AND MANAGING PARTNER, FRANKEL LAWYERS**

Michael Frankel has been practicing law for 30 years in Intellectual Property, Media, Entertainment, Indigenous Australian Law, and Public Policy Law. He is a partner in Frankel Lawyers and between 1985 and 1995 he was a member of the Federal Attorney-General's Copyright Law Review Committee. Mr. Frankel played a key role in the introduction of Moral Rights protection for Authors and Creators into Copyright Act. He is currently a member of the Media and Communications Committee, and is a trustee of Australian Society of Authors Benevolent Fund, since 2005. Michael was awarded Order of Australia AM, for his contribution to arts, cultural and Intellectual Property rights, media, law and Indigenous rights. In recognition of his contribution to authors and publishing, Michael was honored with Life Membership to the Australian Society of Authors.

MOHAMMED GARAD **VICE PRESIDENT, LIGHT YEARS IP**

Mohammed started his career in international trade at the Ethiopian Customs. He was Ethiopia's Trade Counselor in Washington DC from 1993 to 2001. After joining Light Years IP in the summer of 2007, he took over the project management role of the Ethiopian Coffee Trademarking and Licensing Initiative. He currently serves as a board director and vice president of LYIP. Educated as a lawyer from Haile Selassie I University and Harvard Law School, Mohammed has dedicated most of his professional life to international trade with a passion to use his expertise to assist developing countries secure sound economic benefit from their exports.

DR. JOHN KILAMA **INTERIM MEMBER, BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Dr. Kilama has expertise in several effective partnerships between multinational corporations and institutions in developing nations. Born in Uganda, Dr. Kilama received a Ph.D. in Medicinal Chemistry from the University of Arizona. Dr. Kilama worked at the DuPont Corp. and is the holder of several patents. He was on the Board of Directors of Public Interest Intellectual Property Advisors, Inc. in Washington, DC. Concurrently, he is a Director and Founder of KICG, an organization with a mission to facilitate good management of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) at institutional and national levels in emerging markets while serving on the Board of Pytica, Inc. He is an Advisor of Global Health at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and Scientific Advisor to the Institute of OneWorld Health and the International Organization for Chemistry in Development (IOCD), Belgium.

CARRIE LACROSSE **SR. FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFF., U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

Ms. LaCrosse specializes in Intellectual Property and innovation policy, with emphasis on pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, sub-Saharan Africa, economic development, technology transfer, multilateral negotiation, and foreign technical assistance and training. She is also certified with American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). Ms. LaCrosse is a graduate from the University of New Mexico and Harvard University Kennedy School of Government. She has been extremely influential and successful in her role as Senior Foreign Affairs Officer at the U.S. Department of State and has proven a strong asset to the mission of The African IP Trust.



RON LAYTON**FOUNDER AND CEO, LIGHT YEARS IP**

Ron is educated in economics and mathematics and led project teams on numerous development projects in more than 30 developing countries for the UNDP, DFID, the OAS, WIPO, the Australian Government aid program, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (CFTC) and many governments. He has specialized in Intellectual Property for 33 years and in Intellectual Property for Development for 18 of those years. He began in 1977-80, originating and implementing jurisdictional Intellectual Property solutions in developing countries with very limited and weak economies. To acquire direct understanding of the role of Intellectual Property business strategies in trade, he formed an Intellectual Property company in 1986, began earning international Intellectual Property income and successfully distributed film product and derivative consumer products to over 100 world markets. In 2000, he drew together the Intellectual Property export business experience and his experience in development to carry out his long term vision of working with millions of farmers, artisans and producers with the IP Value Capture method, through Light Years IP. In February 2004, Ron was elected as a Global Fellow by the Ashoka Foundation, recognition as a leading social entrepreneur working on a global level.

SHAOLIN MEIGURAN**PROJECT OFFICER, MAASAI COMMUNITY TRUST**

Shaolin Meiguran is the Project Officer for Maasai Community Trust (MCT). He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Linguistics from the University of Nairobi. He has over five years of experience in community development work as Sponsor Relations Coordinator for Child Fund International in Maasai Districts in Kenya. He will be a Maasai Community Trust coordinator during the inception conference of the African IP Trust in Addis Ababa.

GETACHEW MENGISTIE**FMR. DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ETHIOPIAN IPO**

Getachew Mengistie became interested in Intellectual Property immediately after his graduation from the Addis Ababa University Law School in 1986 when he joined the Ethiopian Science and Technology Commission. He became the team leader of a select group of lawyers who were entrusted with the task of undertaking a study to establish the Ethiopian Intellectual Property Office (EIPO). When EIPO was established in 2003, Getachew became its first Director General. Teaming up with Ron Layton from Light Years IP, Getachew led the Ethiopian Fine Coffee Trademarking and Licensing Initiative from 2004 to 2008. In 2006, he was selected as a Yale World Fellow and completed an Intellectual Property program at Yale University. Getachew is currently working as an Intellectual Property consultant, training and assisting a number of African countries with their Intellectual Property policies and regulations.

TADESSE MESKELA**PRESIDENT, OROMIA COFFEE FARMERS' CO-OP UNION**

Tadesse is dedicated and driven to improving the lives of poor farmers. Starting from the early 1990s when he was working as a senior expert in the Oromia Agricultural Bureau promoting the co-operative model in the regional state, he was instrumental in establishing the Oromia Co-operatives Union. When Oromia Coffee Farmers' Co-operative Union was established in 1999 with 35 member co-operatives, he became its president. In 2007, he became the central character in the famous coffee documentary, ***Black Gold***, which traced the plight of poor Ethiopian coffee farmers to the unfair trade practices of industrial market coffee buyers, who enriched themselves from the fine coffees they bought cheaply from poor African producers.



DIANE MILLER**GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT, LYIP**

Diane Miller is an internationally recognized expert in the social enterprise field. In the role of a system change catalyst, connecting both concepts and people, she has been instrumental in forging tri-sector public-private partnerships, specializing in building economic competitiveness strategies in emerging economies. Her partnerships include the Inter-American Development Bank, the Governments of Bermuda, The Bahamas, and Jamaica. Diane brings over three decades of experience and a wealth of knowledge in government relations, marketing, and legislative advocacy to her current endeavors of social enterprise on the Continent of Africa. The recipient of numerous awards and honors, she is a devoted champion of issues of equity.

ABDULRAZAK OUMER**ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL, IP OFFICE**

After graduating in 1980 from Asmara University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics, Abdulrazak joined the Ethiopian Defense Industry Commission, where he worked for seven years as quality control engineer. He completed his graduate education at Addis Ababa University's Technology Faculty in 2004 earning his Master of Science degree and rejoined the Defense Industry Commission as the Head of Standard and Quality Department. From 1987-2000, he became a lecturer in engineering at Adama University in Nazareth. In 2004, he joined the Ethiopian Intellectual Property Office as Patent Examination Team Leader and became Senior Advisor to the General Director in 2008. He was appointed as Acting Director General at the beginning of this year.

HON. MARY ROBINSON**FMR. PRESIDENT OF IRELAND**

Robinson was educated at Trinity College and King's Inns in Dublin and at Harvard University in the United States. She served at Trinity College as Reid Professor of penal legislation, constitutional and criminal law, and the law of evidence (1969–75) and lecturer in European Community law (1975–90). A distinguished constitutional lawyer and a renowned supporter of human rights, she was elected to the Royal Irish Academy and was a member of the International Commission of Jurists in Geneva (1987–90). Nominated by the Labour Party and supported by the Green Party and the Workers' Party, Robinson became Ireland's first woman president in 1990 by mobilizing a liberal constituency and merging it with a more conservative constituency. Strongly committed to human rights, she was the first head of state to visit Somalia after it suffered from civil war and famine in 1992 and the first to visit Rwanda after the genocide in that country in 1994. Before her term as president expired, she took up the post of UNHCHR. As high commissioner, Robinson changed the priorities of her office to emphasize the promotion of human rights at the national and regional levels. In 2001 Robinson served as secretary-general of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Durban, South Africa.



PETER ROBLEH

(Biography not available)

**SR. REGIONAL ADVISOR, APTC****H.E. JUNEYDI SADDO****MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

Minister Juneydi graduated from Addis Ababa University in 1984 with a B.S. in Geology and started working as a geologist at Water Supply and Sewerage Authority. In 1987, he obtained an Environmental Sciences Advanced Post Graduate Diploma from the University of East Anglia in the United Kingdom and went on to graduate with a M.S. in Hydrogeology and Groundwater Engineering from Birmingham University in 1989. He worked at Addis Ababa Water and Sewerage Authority before being appointed to head of Water, Mines and Energy Bureau of Oromia Regional State in 1995. In 2000, he moved to Oromia Regional State, as head of the Economic Affairs Department. One year later, he was elected President of The Regional State. In 2005, he was appointed Minister for Transport and Communication. While a cabinet minister, he obtained a second Masters degree with honors from Azusa Pacific University in the United States. In 2008, he was assigned with the task of establishing the Ministry of Science and Technology, where he still presides after becoming its first minister.

KIFLE SHENKORU**HEAD OF LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, WIPO**

Kifle Shenkoru is dedicated to developing a balanced and accessible Intellectual Property system to the least developed countries. Before joining WIPO, he was an Intergovernmental Support expert at the International Trade Division of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). He worked on several Multilateral Trade Negotiations. Kifle started his career as an Ethiopian diplomat representing his country at United Nations, OAU and many other international organization conferences and negotiations.

PETER OLE SAPALAN**CHAIRMAN, MAASAI COMMUNITY TRUST**

Peter Ole Sapalan is a founding member and Chairman of the Maasai Community Trust (MCT). He has amassed an impressive background through many years of experience in the management of public affairs. Mr. Sapalan is a key member of the Maasai Council of Elders and con-currently serves on the Board of Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS). He has lived his deep commitment to asserting the Intellectual Property rights of indigenous peoples, including the Maasai, by overcoming the challenges they continue to face and pursuing their rightful place in the global marketplace. He is assisting the MCT to potentially work with the African IP Trust.

ELIZABETH TAMALE**MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY**

Elizabeth Tamale is currently a Principal Commercial Officer in the department of External Trade, Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry of Uganda, responsible for the WTO negotiations, preparing draft country positions. She is a focal point for Trade Related Intellectual Property (TRIPS) and secretary for WTO Inter institutional subcommittee on WTO, and National Committee on Trade Facilitation. Previously, she worked as an Associate Consultant with The Ssemwanga Center participating in export strategy formulation and trade information needs assessments. Ms. Tamale is a board member of Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB) and holds a B.A. Hons. in Sociology and Social Administration from Makerere University Kampala and an M.A. from University of East Anglia UK.



PAULINE TIFFEN**VICE PRESIDENT, LIGHT YEARS IP**

Ms. Tiffen has an extensive background in advisory, executive and non-executive positions within the academic, public, private, academic and non-profit sectors. With her expertise in co-operative and community and development organizations she founded two pioneering fair trade companies: Cafedirect and The Day Chocolate Company. She has served as a Founding Board member of the International Federation of Alternative Trade (IFAT) and, since 2003, Board Member and adviser of the North American Fair Trade Federation. Since 2000 she has been an Operations Adviser to the World Bank, and has been working at the WB and International Finance Corporation on corporate social responsibility. Pauline holds a Master's degree from the University of Michigan; is a Fulbright Scholar and has been awarded a MacArthur Foundation NGO Fellowship for her work in conflict in trade in Africa.

ALBERT TUCKER**HEAD OF COMIC RELIEF**

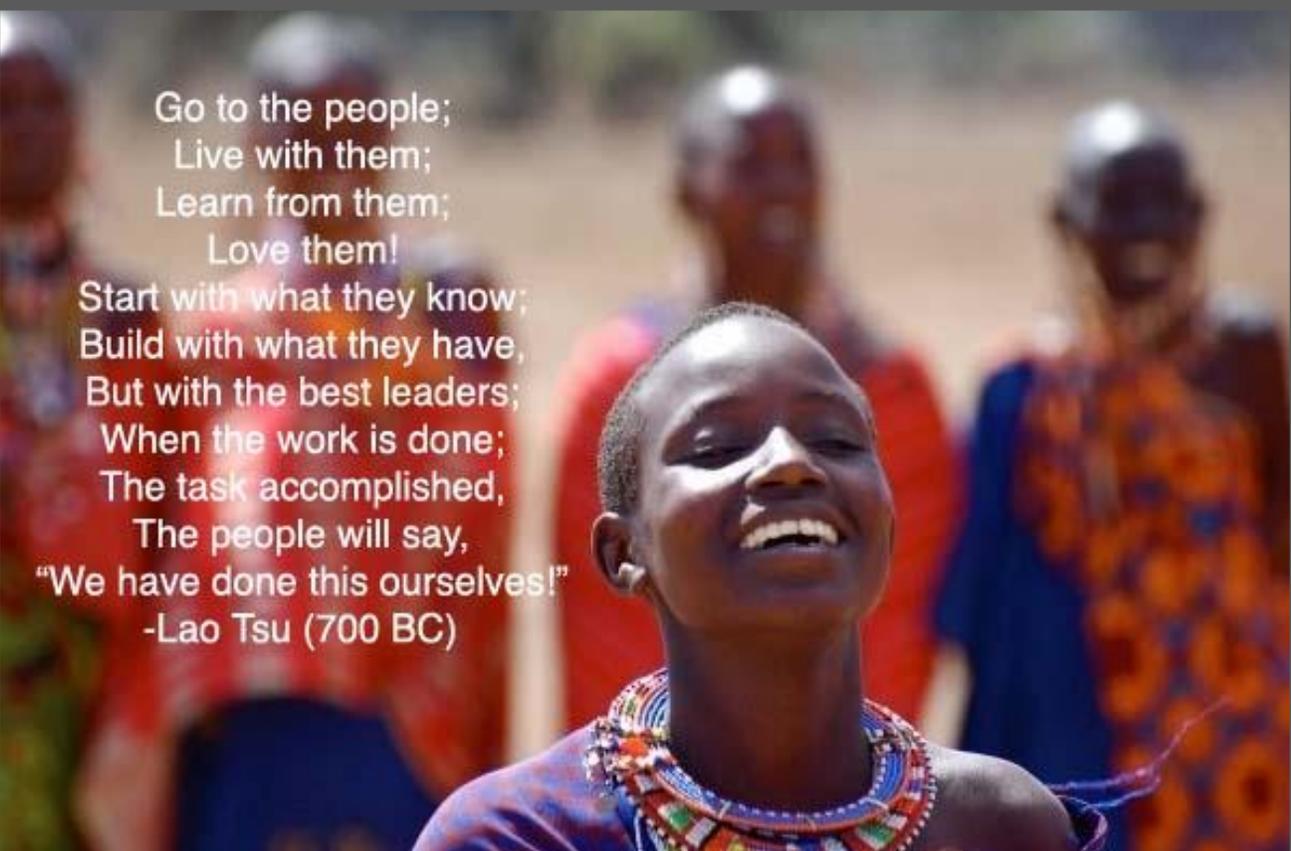
Albert Tucker is currently an independent consultant, adviser and Non Executive Director. He is a leading figure in the fair trade movement, community regeneration and sustainable development. A trusted advocate for poor small scale farmers in global trade and policy, he has a strong track record in leading and building successful social enterprises, working to multiple bottom lines e.g. Cafedirect, Divine Chocolate, and Twin Trading. He has been a champion and advocate of small scale producers for many years. He has had a strong track record with leading charitable development funders, in particular - City Parochial Foundation, Comic Relief and BIG Lottery - financing UK and International development. He also has strong media experience, as well as, over 20 years experience of Senior Management roles in the public and private sector. He has an M.A. in Social Policy and Administration.

HON. DIANE E. WATSON**INTERIM MEMBER, BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

California Congresswoman Diane E. Watson holds a Ph.D. in Educational Administration from the Claremont Graduate School. During her tenure in the California State Senate from 1978 to 1998, Congresswoman Watson became a statewide and national advocate for health care, consumer protection, women, and children. In 1999, President Clinton appointed her to serve as the United States Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia until 2001 when she was elected to the House of Representatives. The Congresswoman serves on the House Foreign Affairs Committee. In that capacity she serves on the Subcommittee for Africa and Global Health amongst others. Congresswoman Watson has been a passionate champion for the economic advancement of Africa for over three decades and a strong supporter of the work of Light Years IP.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADE OFFICE (USPTO)

The strength and validity of the U.S. Economy depends directly on effective mechanisms that protect new ideas and investments in innovation and entrepreneurs. As part of this mission, the USPTO awards grants to small businesses and entrepreneurs for the advancement and protection of Intellectual Property (IP) rights. The agency works the U.S. Government to promote stronger, more effective Intellectual Property protection worldwide. The USPTO also works with other agencies to secure strong Intellectual Property provisions in free trade and other international agreements. The USPTO recently awarded Light Years IP with a grant to initiate a new organization, the Africa IP Trust, which will work toward strengthening negotiating rights for the Intellectual Property of African farmers. With this support of the USPTO, Light Years IP is further able to work with African farmers on assessing their rights to protect their investments and their livelihoods. Light Years IP is truly grateful to be recognized by the USPTO.



Go to the people;
Live with them;
Learn from them;
Love them!
Start with what they know;
Build with what they have,
But with the best leaders;
When the work is done;
The task accomplished,
The people will say,
"We have done this ourselves!"
-Lao Tsu (700 BC)

SPECIAL THANKS

VOLUNTEERS

NATALIE GIANNE
SARAH HOYT
OLIVIA PHILIPP
BORIS POPOVIC
KAREN ROSENFELD
TIFFANY WILLIAMS

ABOVE AND BEYOND

MAGGIE CROSBY, Event Coordinator
...for simply everything.

ABEL HAILU, Hotel Intercontinental
...for his many kind and exemplary services.

CARITA MARROW, Graphic Artist
...for her exquisite design and execution.



“However long the night, the dawn
will break”

African Proverb



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