<u>**Press Release**</u>

<u>**India Innovation & Technology Expo and Conference**</u>

The **India Innovation & Technology Expo and Conference** was held at the MInT headquarters in Addis Ababa from 9-14 December 2019. It was jointly inaugurated by H.E Dr. Getahun Mekuria, Minister of Innovation & Technology (MInT), Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, and H.E. Mr. Anurag Srivastava, Ambassador of India to Ethiopia and the African Union. The Expo & Conference forms part of a unique programme - **"India Ethiopia Innovation & Technology Commercialization Programme (IEITCP)"** which was announced during the Global R&D Summit held on 21-22 February 2019 in Hyderabad, India, by Hon'ble Dr. Harsh Vardhan, India's Union Minister of Science & Technology, and, Health & Family Welfare, together with Hon'ble Dr. Getahun Mekuria.

A video message from Hon'ble Dr. Harsh Vardhan, India's Union Minister of Science & Technology, and, Health & Family Welfare specially recorded for the occasion was played to kick-off the event. Inaugurating the event, H.E Dr. Getahun Mekuria welcomed the launch of the Programme and acknowledged India's growing ties with Africa. He said that Ethiopia hopes to benefit from the growing innovation, science and technology collaborations and investments from India. Hon'ble Minister also emphasized that the Programme would play a

pivotal role in further developing the innovation ecosystem as well as fostering enterprise creation and spurring economic growth in Ethiopia. He thanked the Government of India for its support in sharing with Ethiopia robust, affordable, easily deployable technologies and innovations in priority sectors like healthcare, agriculture, IT & ICT, water & sanitation, animal husbandry, mines & minerals, petroleum & natural gas, and, environment & forestry.

Ambassador Anurag Srivastava thanked the Ministry of Innovation & Technology (MInT), Government of Ethiopia, Department of Science & Technology, Government of India, FICCI and other partners for their enthusiastic support which ensured that the Innovation Programme became a reality in a short period to time. He mentioned that the objective of the programme was to strengthen bilateral relationship between India & Ethiopia based on science, technology and innovation as well as identify and utilize validated Indian technologies/innovations to create sustainable joint projects/ventures in Ethiopia. Ambassador Srivastava also highlighted that the innovation programme with Ethiopia had been conceived as part of India's commitment under the India-Africa Forum Summit-III held in October 2015 in New Delhi. It was inspired by the ten guiding principles of India's engagement with Africa as outlined by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Ambassador Anurag Srivastava informed that while the Programme started with the objective of identifying fifty validated Indian technologies/innovations and create similar number of joint projects/ventures over a period of five years, this number would, by no means, be a limiting one. He hoped that during the duration of the Programme, with the efforts put in by all partners, many more matched enterprises would be created. Ambassador mentioned that the

Indian companies represented at the Expo were a microcosm of India's technology and start up ecosystem. They hoped to share, work together, later even manufacture and transfer technologies, and to adapt the technologies and innovations as per the Ethiopian requirements, as the case may be.

Advisor of the Programme, Mr Munish Gupta listed the steps taken since the launch of the Programme in February 2019 to bring it to this stage. As a first step, FICCI and MInT identified the priority sector areas and specific interventions required for Ethiopia. Then on 24 May 2019, the Programme was officially launched in Addis Ababa. The Call for Applications launched in India from 18th June 2019 till 31st July 2019 through print and social media (digital marketing), roadshows (promotional workshops) in various cities received 300 applications. Technical and business experts went through a series of processes to examine the applications, call the first shortlist of 53 Indian companies for presentations and finally 31 companies were selected. The break-up of selected technologies was as follows: 29% from Healthcare, 26% from Agriculture & Food Processing, 19% from Renewable Energy, 10% from ICT & IT, 7% from Education, 6% from Water & Sanitation, and, 3% from Environment & Forestry.

As a second step, a call for Expression of Interest from potential Ethiopian partners was put out by the Ministry of Innovation and Technology, Government of Ethiopia, since 10 October 2019. The 31 shortlisted technologies were offered through a series of media campaigns, meetings, presentations and advertising. This campaign also enlisted stakeholders from the private and public sectors. The Call would remain open until the end of the Expo & Conference following which officials and experts from India and Ethiopia would screen the Ethiopian

applications in order to create a good match between Indian and Ethiopian companies and institutions so they could collaborate.

The India Innovation & Technology Expo and Conference received more than 500 visitors during the course of the week. At the end of the Expo, 150 applications were received from Ethiopia of which about 70 applications met all the criteria. From these, 54 applications have been shortlisted. 25 shortlisted applicants from India received a total of 54 interested potential matches from Ethiopia which makes it a very good start for the first year of this unique Programme.

As the next step, the matched Indian and Ethiopian companies will be invited to participate in a Bootcamp to be held sometime in February 2020 where experts from India and Ethiopia will be on hand to guide and support them to ensure they have picked a good business plan, created a synergistic working relationship and have a pathway to creating a sustainable enterprise in Ethiopia.

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