

The Law Faculty of Addis Ababa University, in partnership with sponsors DLA Piper and LexisNexis®, cordially invites you to a conference on law and economic development on Thursday, November 13, 2008 at the Sheraton Addis in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

SHERATON ADDIS

Taitu Street
Addis Ababa

RSVP BY OCTOBER 31, 2008

Please call or e-mail one of the following contacts to confirm your attendance at the conference.

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**CONFERENCE ON
ETHIOPIAN LAW AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Hosted by the Addis Ababa University Faculty of Law

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2008
SHERATON ADDIS
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**



EVERYTHING MATTERS

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The Conference on Ethiopian Law and Economic Development focuses on the most important legal pathways to strengthen Ethiopia's economic development. The program will emphasize the state of the law in key areas, review best practices in other countries in Africa and create an open atmosphere where academia, the corporate sector and government can explore ideas about legal advances essential to build a stronger and broader economy. The conference will be hosted by the Addis Ababa University Faculty of Law and sponsored by DLA Piper and LexisNexis®. Conference speakers will include prominent government officials, members of academia, delegates from non-governmental organizations and representatives of the Ethiopian business community.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Individuals and organizations interested in learning more about the vital importance of law in economic development; business representatives considering investment in Ethiopia; legal practitioners and academics, both domestic and abroad; representatives of governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations; and law students.

ABOUT THE LAW FACULTY AT ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY

Founded in 1963 with the assistance of international academics, Addis Ababa University Faculty of Law is the premier law school in Ethiopia. With the country's largest undergraduate program and its only graduate law program, the Law Faculty provides a training ground for future leaders of all sectors of Ethiopian society.

ABOUT NEW PERIMETER AND DLA PIPER

DLA Piper is a leading international law firm with 65 offices in 25 countries. Its nonprofit affiliate New Perimeter was created to address issues of global importance on a pro bono basis. Through New Perimeter, DLA Piper is assisting the Addis Ababa Law Faculty with curriculum development, teaching and expansion of its research capability.

ABOUT LEXISNEXIS

LexisNexis® is a leading provider of information and services solutions, including its flagship Web-based Lexis® and Nexis® research services, to a wide range of professionals in the legal, risk management, corporate, government, law enforcement, accounting and academic markets.

PROPOSED AGENDA

8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Registration

9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Welcome, Introduction and Conference Overview

9:45 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions

World Trade Organization

This session will review the status of Ethiopia's accession to the World Trade Organization treaty and the importance of accession to economic development.

Dispute Resolution in the Promotion of Economic Development

Successful economic development requires stable legal systems through which both domestic and international disputes may be consistently resolved. The panel will discuss the current status of dispute resolution, best practices, possible reforms and how the dispute resolution process can promote economic development.

11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

Microfinance: Financing for Entrepreneurs

Microfinance can usefully promote economic development, particularly in more rural areas of Ethiopia. This panel will discuss the current status of microfinancing activities in Ethiopia and throughout Africa, analyze legal reforms that may be warranted to encourage expansion of microlending activity and consider ways to improve the outreach of microfinance organizations.

Foreign Investor Protection

This session will explore the current status of laws affecting foreign investments, the advantages and disadvantages of using international instruments in transactions, the risks and rewards of investing in an emerging economy and ways to advance investor protection to secure out-of-country investments.

1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Luncheon for all participants with keynote speaker

2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

Legal Infrastructure for Capital Formation in Private Enterprise

In this session, the panel will discuss the existing laws for establishing legal entities, sharing capital and decision making, while considering possible improvements, especially revision of the Commercial Code to encourage capital formation and promote entrepreneurial success.

Taxation and Economic Development

This session will explore the relationship between taxation and economic development, focusing on the challenges to tax administrators and foreign investors in developing economies and the relationship between foreign direct investment and resources devoted to tax administration.

4:15 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Closing Session

The organizers will provide an overview of the day's discussion and the goals suggested by the conference.

5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Networking Event

