

**FEDERATION OF EAST AFRICAN FREIGHT FORWARDERS ASSOCIATIONS**

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# Federation of East African Freight Forwarders Associations (FEAFFA)

## Quarterly Report on COMPETE grant

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, APR - JUN 2011

**Vision:** To be a model professional Association in Freight

## Table of Content

- A. General Information
- B. Overview
- C. Activity Matrix
  - Institutional development and self sustainability
  - Lobbying and advocacy
  - Membership services
  
  - Professionalism, Certification and Accreditation
  - Knowledge Management
- D. Conclusion
- E. Annexes

### Section A. General Information

<b>Name of Organization:</b>	Federation of East African Freight Forwarders Associations (FEAFFA)
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<b>Organization's Contact Person:</b>	John K. Mathenge, Regional Executive Officer
<b>P F Tracking Number:</b>	<b><u>FEA-STA-010-012</u></b>
<b>Title of Activity:</b>	Strengthening FEAFFA to become a self sustaining regional business association effective in championing the growth and development of an efficient, professional, self-regulated and competitive freight logistics industry.
<b>Start Date of Reporting Period:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2011
<b>End Date of Report:</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> Jun 2011

## Section B. Overview

During the quarter under review, a number of activities were executed. There were however some activities that could take place. The meeting between the Board of FEAFFA and the Commissioner Generals of East Africa Revenue Authorities is a case in point. The meeting was postponed at the very minutes owing to other urgent activities involving the Commissioner Generals.

Detailed review report is provided in the matrix below.

## Section C. Activity Matrix

Pillar	Activity and target	Status and Comment
PCA	To publicize FEAFFA in order to enhance its visibility	FEAFFA attended and participated in an Integrity workshop on weighbridge management, axle load control and overloading on Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> April 2011 at the Ole serene Hotel. The workshop was aimed at sensitizing the Cargo owners and their service providers on the effects of overloading, update stakeholders on measures being undertaken to curb the vice and provide a forum for them to share challenges, experiences and benefits of compliance.  FEAFFA also distributed its publicity materials, brochures, training and directory fliers.
Knowledge Management	To test, populate and deploy the online information portal	Having developed the portal, collection of data is underway to populate. This is being done with the Partnership of TMEA.
Membership Services	To expand membership of the Federation.	FEAFFA approached the national freight forwarding association of Ethiopia to join the Federation and the matter is under discussion.
Lobbying and Advocacy	To participate in an Institutionalized Dialogue Mechanism for Private Sector and Civil Society Organizations and consultation on the EAC development strategy stakeholders' workshops	FEAFFA participated in the private sector and civil society consultative meetings in Arusha - Tanzania. The meetings took place from 3 <sup>rd</sup> to 7 <sup>th</sup> May and brought together private sector and civil society stakeholders from within the East Africa community. The two meetings were organized by the East Africa Community. The main objective of the first meeting was to discuss the public private dialogue mechanism within the EAC as provided for by <i>Article. 127</i> of the Treaty that

		<p>established the EAC. The article directs the Secretary General to develop a dialogue mechanism with the private sector and civil society organizations. The main objective of the second meeting was to get the input of Private Sector Organization/Civil Sector Organisation in drafting the EAC development strategy 2011- 2016</p> <p>The main recommendation was to hire a consultant to develop the draft framework for the EAC private sector/civil society dialogue mechanism closely coordinating with the EAC secretariat, the EABC and East Africa Civil Society Organisations Forum (EACSOF). This will be shared with the stakeholders for their input in another workshop.</p>
	<p>To participate in an Alternative System for Secure Electronic Transit (ASSET) sensitization meeting in Dar Es Salaam.</p>	<p>The half day sensitization meeting was organized in Tanzania. The Alternative System for Secure Electronic Transit (ASSET) is a new trade facilitation instrument proposed as an alternative to the current transit bonds system.</p> <p>Initial indications were that the scheme was viable and the study and pilot proof of concept were a good starting point. The stakeholders raised some key issues for consideration for example the limited existing infrastructure, regulation, policies and cost benefit to the importers among others.</p>
	<p>To Facilitate in a East Africa Customs Freight Forwarding Practising Certificate (EACFFPC) Curriculum Implementation Committee (CIC) Meeting in Arusha - Tanzania</p>	<p>The 6<sup>th</sup> CIC meeting was held on 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> May in Mt. Meru Hotel, Arusha, Tanzania. The meeting reviewed the status of the implementation of the training programme, and came up with areas of immediate concern that needed urgent attention among them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the EACFFPC Curriculum and training materials</li> <li>• Mainstreaming of the programme under the EAC</li> <li>• Expansion of training delivery</li> <li>• High-Level Policy meeting to revise the</li> </ul>

		<p>programme's policy etc. (<i>Resolutions of the meeting are attached</i>)</p> <p>TMEA provided the financial support for the meeting.</p>
	To facilitate a meeting between the CIC and Directorate of Customs of EAC in Arusha, Tanzania	<p>The meeting was held between FEAFFA Secretariat, chair of CIC and the Director of Customs at EAC. The main objectives of the meeting were :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance collaboration with EAC Secretariat in training of Customs agents</li> <li>• Explore possibility of anchoring the EACFFPC programme under the Directorate.</li> <li>• Seek partnership of the Directorate in the establishment of the proposed accreditation system for capacity building programmes of Customs agents as well as in the establishment of a registration board for practitioners in the sector.</li> </ul>
	To participate in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Roundtable on the impact and Risk of Trade and Investments in East Africa	<p>The event organized by African Trade Insurance Agency (ATIA) provided a platform for the public and private sectors to discuss Africa's risk outlook and make proposals for making Africa more attractive to investment through minimization of risks. Participants included ministers from several African countries, diplomats, International and African private sector, multilateral community etc.</p> <p>Among others, the following topics were discussed:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Integration cooperation : Foundation for growth and prosperity</li> <li>• Private Investment in Africa and the Middle East – Challenges &amp; opportunities</li> <li>• Africa's risk perception – The media as a force for change</li> </ul> <p>Participants embraced regional integration as the only option for a disadvantaged and highly fragmented Africa to harness the opportunity of being the lead global investment haven</p>
	To participate in the Oversight Committee on Axle Load Control workshop in Jacaranda, Westlands	<p>The two day meeting was held at Jacaranda Hotel in Nairobi on the 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> May 2011. FEAFFA made a presentation on the perspective of clearing and forwarding agents on the issue of axle load control.</p> <p>The key output was a strategy on how the committee</p>

		<p>would expedite axle load control in Kenya. All the stakeholders represented on the committee were assigned to different sub-committees that were tasked to lead the oversight committee in the different aspects. FEAFFA is on the Legal review and enforcement subcommittee.</p> <p>The sub committees are yet to meet and draw up their terms of reference.</p>
	<p>Meeting with Commissioner Generals of East Africa Revenue Authorities and EAC Director of Customs</p>	<p>The meeting was slotted for early May but was rescheduled to October/November this year. This was occasioned by a meeting of the Ministers of Finance in the Region, which was urgently organised in the month thereby necessitating rescheduling of the meeting by the Commissioner Generals.</p>
	<p>To hold meetings with Commissioners of Customs and National Chairpersons of associations at country level on implementation of EACFFPC programme. Achieved 90%</p>	<p>The series of meetings was used to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To brief the Commissioners of Customs and the Chairpersons of the national associations on the outcome of the last CIC meeting.</li> <li>2. To brief the Commissioners of Customs and the Chairpersons of the national associations on the proposed support by TMEA towards expansion of training capacity at national level.</li> <li>3. To explore the possibility of holding an EACFFPC High Level Policy meeting to review implementation of the EACFFPC training programme and revise the policy framework.</li> <li>4. To discuss with the National Curriculum Implementation Committee (NCIC) the modalities/framework for expansion of training capacity at national level.</li> </ol> <p>Except for Kenya, meetings have been held in all the other countries and support of the Commissioners and national associations is overwhelming. The Commissioners and the Chairpersons of the national associations have agreed to entrench partnership in the implementing the training programme through the signing of Memorandum of Understanding. They have also endorsed the proposed High Level Policy Meeting.</p>

	To participate in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> African Regional Freight Forwarders Conference 2011	FEAFFA participated in a 2-day WCA conference held in Intercontinental Hotel, Nairobi from June 26 – 28 <sup>th</sup> June 2011. Freight Forwarders from most parts of Africa and the world attended. FEAFFA was one of the promoters and made a presentation on at the meeting.
	To participate in the regional validation workshop on improving trade facilitation in East African community countries held on 28-29 <sup>th</sup> June 2011, Arusha.	<p>The workshop was a follow up of an earlier conference held in Dar es salaam in July 2010 that discussed a wide range of issues on trade facilitation and came up with an action plan aimed at improving trade facilitation in the region. Imani Development was tasked to prepare a detailed report. It is this report that the workshop was called to discuss and validate.</p> <p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To validate and give further inputs to the Imani Development report</li> <li>- To validate the plan of action and roadmap for improving trade facilitation in EAC partner states</li> <li>- To get indications from Common wealth Secretariat on actions whose implementation it will support under the umbrella of institutions identified as responsible for spearheading actions at national and regional level.</li> </ul>
	To organize a Board Meeting	This activity was postponed from May to July 2011
	To market the regional directory of freight forwarders	This is a continuing activity and the directory is expected to be in the market effective August 2011
	To Assess the NTBs elimination process and develop relevant policy papers	This activity is not funded under the grant. Efforts have been beefed up to source for funding. However some efforts were made to coordinate data collection on transit indicators from freight forwarders along the northern corridor in collaboration with USAID-COMPETE.
	To facilitate seminars on corporate governance International Best practices	This activity has been scheduled for August after the launch of Code of Conduct since it is one of the platforms that FEAFFA is encouraging International Best Practices.

	Publish the second issue of the FEAFFA e newsletter	The second issue of the FEAFFA newsletter has been circulated to the FEAFFA members, partners and key stakeholders. It covered key developments within the logistics industry in the just ended quarter.
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**Section C. Conclusion**

During the third quarter, the following activities are planned:

- FEAFFA Board meeting
- Development of regional examination policies
- Launch the FEAFFA Code of Conduct
- Hold a women only seminar
- Review the East Africa Customs Freight Forwarding Practising Certificate Curriculum and training materials

**End**