



Initiative Africa NEWSLETTER

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Innovative Grant Fund (IGF) Supported Training was Delivered

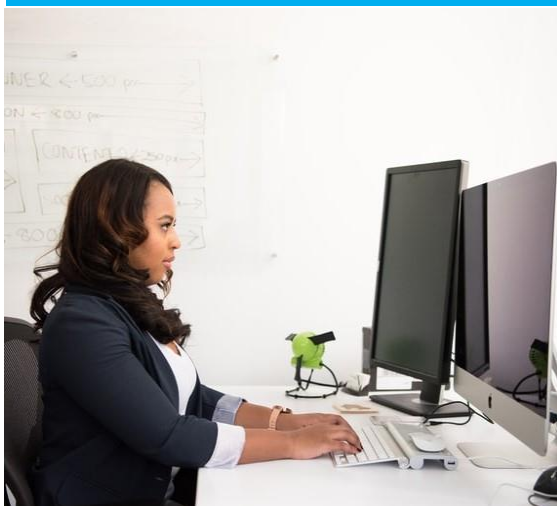
Burayu Women Traders' Association -
one of the beneficiaries of Initiative
Africa's Innovative.....

Page 01



Upcoming Mayors' Conference

Initiative Africa is proud to be coordinating the steering committee for the upcoming Mayors Conference tentatively to held on March 25 and 26 at Skylight Hotel. The conference will be organized by the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Association (ECCSA) and the Ministry of Urban Development and Construction (MoUDC) with the theme "Cities as Engines of Business Proliferation: What is Missing in Ethiopia's Context?"



Workshop on Sida's New development strategy for Ethiopia

Initiative Africa attended Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency's [Sida] validation workshop for the Multi-Dimensional Poverty Analysis on Ethiopia. Initiative Africa provided its feedback on the report and gave inputs for the upcoming Swedish development strategy for Ethiopia.

Initiative Africa is Embarking on Voter Education for the 6th National Election

Initiative Africa's experience on election related activities (especially on the 2005 election) tells us that.....

Page 02



A Training Supported by the Innovative Grant Fund (IGF) was D

Burayu Women Traders' Association - one of the beneficiaries of Initiative Africa's Innovative Grant Fund (IGF)- facilitated a training from February 24th to 26th, 2021. The training was aimed at helping Burayu Women Traders' Association's members improve their businesses and entrepreneurship skills which have also been affected by the global pandemic.

More than 60 members participated in the training and focused on How to start business; how to run businesses to be profitable; and financial issues like saving, need of daily sales and record keeping.

Burayu Women Traders' Association is one of the 38 Business Membership Organizations (BMOs) which received the IGF.

The main aim of the IGF

- Support Business Membership Organizations (BMOs) through the Innovative Grant Fund (IGF), to Serve Business.
- Build the capacity of Business Membership Organizations (BMOs) and Chambers of Commerce, to Promote Trade and Private sector.
- Assist Business Membership Organizations (BMOs) and Chambers of Commerce, in Organizing regional level Public Private Dialogues (PPD).

This Innovative Grant Fund (IGF) program is supported by Embassy of Sweden Addis Abeba.





Initiative Africa is Embarking on Voter Education for the 6th National Election

Initiative Africa's experience on election related activities (especially on the 2005 election) tells us that it has championed on voter education, organized debate sessions, and conducted public opinion polls.

As a politically non-partisan organization and accredited by the National Election Board of Ethiopia (NEBE), IA will work on voter education and organizing debates among candidates at national and regional level in the 6th national election.

One of IA's mission is to strengthen democratic values by increasing voter education. IA's voter education will provide citizens of a democracy with basic information about participating in elections. The focus is often on **how** to vote rather than **who** to vote for.

Using different modalities, IA's voter education would provide citizens with knowledge regarding:

- **Why citizens need to participate in election** – it is their right to approve or change the government to suit their wish for their country.
- **How to register to vote** - most democracies require citizens to first register as a prerequisite to voting in elections.
- **How to complete ballot papers** - filling out ballots incorrectly can mean an individual's vote is misrepresented in the final count or counted as invalid. Therefore, clearly demonstrating how ballots are to be correctly filled out is essential while avoiding unnecessary conflicts.
- **The electoral system** - it is important that citizens know how their votes will contribute to the result in an election.

IA is now preparing for organization of different debate sessions both at national and regional level. The debates will be broadcasted using different channels.

Consultative Meeting on Challenges and Prospects of the African Continental Free Trade Area

Initiative Africa participated in a workshop organized by the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Association in collaboration with the Pan African Chamber of Commerce and Industry titled “Challenges and Prospects of the African Continental Free Trade Area”. The workshop was attended by the different Regional Chambers of Commerce and Sectoral Associations along with selected guests from the board members of ECCSA, representatives of regional chambers and sectoral associations, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the media. The consultative meeting was attended by a total 31 high level chamber leadership, government ministries representatives and the media.

