

Ethiopia holds leading status in coffee cupping in Africa

BY BELAYNEH TESFAYE

ADDIS ABABA – Twenty five coffee cuppers were certified yesterday by a US-based Coffee Quality Institute (CQI) as part of a training agreement with Fintrac-Ethiopia and the USAID-funded Ethiopia Agribusiness and Trade Expansion Programme (ATEP) with the backing of Central Liquor Unit (CLU) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

In the certification ceremony conducted at Addis Ababa Golf Club,

USAID Agribusiness and Trade Expansion Programme (ATEP) project director, Steven Humphreys said that the whole idea of the training and other efforts are to upgrade the quality of the Ethiopian coffee that enables it consistently have a higher price.

He further added that a lot of buyers are asking for "Q" grades in the international market. To this effect, this training has created more Ethiopian cuppers who are licensed in Q grading than in any other African countries.

Meanwhile, CQI Chief Technical Director, David Roche, assisted by an expert Coffee Corps Volunteer, Marty Curtis, are in Addis Ababa this week to oversee the official launch of the Q Coffee System in Ethiopia, which includes the evaluation of several coffee lots submitted for the 2008 Ethiopia Limited Coffee Auction to be held in June this year.

An internationally recognized system for grading coffee quality, the product of the Q Coffee System is a quality certification, as designated by the "Q" seal.



Coffee cuppers ceremony underway