



## **GTPA to receive \$2.5 million to support the process of establishing GTPA Chapters in Least Developing Countries**

12<sup>th</sup> December 2017

GTPA is a new not-for-profit, membership-based organisation connecting individuals and organisations to a trusted network with recognised capabilities that power supply chains and their communities around the world.

GTPA is the only organisation globally to develop the international standard for certifying trade professionals. The Global Trade Professional (GTP) Programme, has been developed under ISO/IEC 17024, for the certification of professional competence in the field of global trade.

The GTPA was launched by the Hon Minister Ciobo MP, Australia's Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment on the 12th December. The launch was part of the biennial Trade and Sustainable Development Symposium, organised by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) held alongside the WTO Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires. Last night, Minister Ciobo also announced that Australia will be the first country to provide \$2.5 million of funding over three years to the GTPA enabling it to support at least six Developing Countries (LDCs) in South East Asia and the Pacific on their journey to the establishment of local GTPA Chapters.

Lisa McAuley, Executive Director of the GTPA said "The GTPA, through local chapters and through the global network of experts, can be a vital asset in raising professional competencies and promoting world-class practices in international trade. Local chapters of the GTPA can serve as critical nodes in Trading Out of Poverty strategies. The GTPA can provide the framework and infrastructure for the development and deployment of just such a network."

GTPA is about creating interconnecting ecosystems across all aspects of global trade based on building strategic partnerships with local organisations interested in establishing a GTPA Chapter in their country.

GTPA is now looking to collaborate with existing export associations or chambers of commerce globally to build value and delivery capabilities in-market in both developed and LDCs.

A GTPA Chapter will assist existing organisations expand their product and service offerings to incorporate the Global Trade Professional Programme (GTP) along with other GTPA activities, with the announcement of this grant we can now provide a practical solution to assist LDCs in six countries on this journey.

"It is very important to the Board of the GTPA that we can provide pathways for engagement for businesses located in LDCs and the first step towards this is to identify how we provide a sustainable and practical means for LDCs to be a participant in the GTPA and drive competency recognition and capacity building in their markets." Ms McAuley said

GTPA is about working together to empower practical Aid for Trade initiatives to assist SMEs.

The elements of a GTPA Chapter value proposition for the six countries selected will be the ability to connect businesses in their country to a global trade ecosystem, deliver programmes together to support SME engagement in global trade and use the GTPA network to transfer knowledge and competency development. The GTPA Chapters will also engage with the GTPA network on supporting trade related



research and identifying skills development gaps to support SMEs in market as well as strategic advocacy training.

Building GTPA Chapters in LDCs will assist countries to support SMEs in their country to access globally trusted networks and the GTPA community.

The announcement of the grant will provide critical support for GTPA to engage in long-term, sustainable trade development solutions for LDCs and provide practical mentorship to our partners to facilitate SME capacity and capability building in global trade.

The GTPA will work in line with proven international development and economic development practice, supporting SMEs, women-owned businesses and other groups or sectors of activity that deliver demonstrable, measurable impact and value, and will engage closely with international institutions, multilateral development banks, export credit agencies and others critical to advancing economic inclusion and Trade out of Poverty outcomes.

#### **Media enquiries- General**

Lisa McAuley

Executive Director

GTPA

E: [lisamcauley@gtpalliance.com](mailto:lisamcauley@gtpalliance.com)

T: + 61 430 172 458