

## **A Week in the Horn**

### **23<sup>rd</sup> August 2013**

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#### **News in Brief**

##### **African Union**

A Symposium on Climate Change, Pan Africanism and African Renaissance, was held on Friday (August 16) in Addis Ababa as part of the year-long celebrations commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the OAU/AU. It was organized by the African Union's Department for Rural Economy and Agriculture to help generate debate on the implications of Climate Change for Africa's sustainable development.

##### **Ethiopia**

The first anniversary of the late Prime Minister Meles' death was commemorated in Addis Ababa on Tuesday (20<sup>th</sup> August 2013) with the inauguration of the Meles Zenawi Memorial Park which will be home to a Library and Research Center, and the laying of a foundation stone. The anniversary was commemorated throughout the country. Among those attending were the Presidents of Sudan, Djibouti and Somalia and the Vice-President of Uganda. (See article)

Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn met with the United Nations Special Representative for Somalia, Nicholas Kay, on Friday (August 16). He reaffirmed Ethiopia's commitment to support Somali government efforts to reach agreement with its regional states.

Foreign Minister, Dr Tedros Adhanom held talks with Mr Young-Mok Kim, President of Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) on Monday (August 19) who is on a visit to Ethiopia to look at KOICA projects in Ethiopia (See article)

Dr Tedros met a group of US Senators on Wednesday (August 21). Discussions focused on US support to Ethiopia in the health and agriculture sectors, through PEPFAR, the Safety Net program and the Agricultural Transformation Agency. The talks also covered ways to combat religious extremism and the problems of adoption.

Ethiopia's Ethio-Telecom signed an \$800 million deal with China's ZTE on Sunday (August 18) to expand mobile phone infrastructure and introduce a high-speed 4G broadband network in Addis Ababa and a 3G service for the rest of the country. This is half of a \$1.6 billion project for Huawei Technologies Co Ltd signed the other half last month.

Ethiopia won three gold, three silver and four bronze medals in the World Championships in Moscow, finishing sixth in the medals' table, its highest ever position.

## **Djibouti**

Djibouti's opposition Party Union for National Salvation (USN) said on Monday (August 19) that it had reached an agreement with the government addressing USN's concerns over February's elections. Discussions followed a call by President Ismail Omar Guelleh in June for all parties to engage in dialogue.

The European Naval Force (EUNAVFOR) flagship, HNLMS Johan de Witt, in Djibouti, on Monday (August 19) launched a one-week training course on Maritime Security for participants from Somalia, Puntland, Galmudug, Somaliland and Djibouti.

Djibouti won its first medal at the World Championships in 22 years; a bronze medal for the men's 800m.

## **Eritrea**

Yemane Gebremeskel, the Director of President Isaias' Office, in a rare interview with a foreign journalist visiting Asmara, said on Tuesday (August 20) that Eritrea would like to see an end to its isolation.

## **Kenya**

President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya, on a visit to China this week, held talks with President Xi Jinping and signed a series of co-operation agreements worth \$5 billion on energy development, environmental protection, agreements to build a railway line and improve wildlife protection as well as personal and party exchanges.

Kenya won five gold, four silver and three bronze medals in the World Championships in Moscow, finishing fourth in the medals' table, behind the Russian Federation, the United States and Jamaica.

Defense Ministers from the Horn of Africa and from East Africa met in Nairobi last weekend. It was the 15<sup>th</sup> ordinary meeting of the Council of Defense Ministers of the East African Standby Force (EASF). (See article)

Kenyan police intensified a major manhunt for a heavily armed Al-Shabaab force which attacked a police post in north-east Kenya killing four police officers, on Friday (August 16). Three days later, twenty Al-Shabaab militia were killed in a shoot-out trying to cross back into Somalia.

## **Somalia**

Somalia's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Fowzia Yusuf headed a government delegation to China this week, the first official visit to China by a senior official of the current government.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs for Somalia (OCHA) said over 105 cases of polio had been confirmed in Somalia which had been declared free of the virus six years ago. Cases have also been reported in north-east Kenya and Somaliland.

President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud held talks in Addis Ababa with Prime Minister Hailemariam (Tuesday, August 20) on the relationship between the Somali government and regional administrations in Somalia.

IGAD organized talks in Addis Ababa this week between Somali government officials and representatives of the administration of Ahmed Madobe, the leader of the Raskamboni militia in Kismayo. The United Nations Special Representative for Somalia, Mr Nicholas Kay, participated.

A Swedish politician, Ann-Margarethe Livh of the Left Party, was injured in a shooting in Mogadishu this week. Two people were killed in the attack, another Swede and a bodyguard.

### **South Sudan**

South Sudanese President, Salva Kiir assured Egypt's Foreign Minister, Nabil Fahmy, on a visit to Juba this week that South Sudan would support the Egyptian government's bid to reclaim membership at the African Union. The Egyptian Foreign Minister delivered an invitation to President Kiir to visit Cairo, which was said to have been accepted.

South Sudan Council of Ministers on Friday (August 16) unanimously passed a resolution supporting the country's bid to join the Nile Basin Initiative.

The team investigating the death of Koul Deng Kuol, the chief of the Dinka Ngok, who was killed in Abyei in May, arrived in Juba this week. It was set up following an AU Peace and Security Council decision to have a joint investigation of the killing by the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan, the AU and the UN.

### **Sudan**

President Omar Al-Bashir, addressing the opening of a two-day meeting of the Group of the African Ministers of Finance and Governors of Central Banks at the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund on Wednesday (August 21), urged the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to remove obstacles hindering Africa's economic development.

Sudan's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ali Ahmed Karti, began an official visit to China on Wednesday (August 21).

Mohamed Chambas, head of the African Union United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) and Joint Chief Mediator in Darfur, met representatives of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and of the Minni Minnawi faction of the Sudan Liberation Movement on Tuesday (August 20) in Arusha. International observers from the AU, EU, Arab League, and UN Security Council representatives are attending.

Following a meeting with the AU's Ad Hoc Investigative Mechanism (AIM) in Khartoum over the weekend, Sudan says it will give a written response to South Sudan's accusations that it supported rebel groups in South Sudan.

The Sudan Government has organized a memorial ceremony for the late Prime Minister Meles to be held on Saturday (August 24) at the Friendship Hall in Khartoum. Ethiopia's Foreign Minister, Dr Tedros and a delegation from Addis Ababa, will attend.

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## Commemoration of the first anniversary of Prime Minister Meles' death.....

This week the first anniversary of the passing away of former Prime Minister Meles Zenawi on August 20, 2012, was commemorated through a series of different activities throughout the country and among Ethiopians in the Diaspora. Memorial services and commemorations of the anniversary have been held in many of Ethiopia's embassies, in Washington, Beijing, London, Frankfurt, Stockholm, Rome and around the world. In remembrance of the late Prime Minister's contribution to the fight against the global threat of climate change, and his championship of building a green economy in Ethiopia, over a billion tree seedlings were planted across the nation, and 300,000 hectares have been turned into a total of 10,000 parks dedicated to him. On Monday evening, hundreds of thousands of Addis Ababa residents held a candlelight vigil in Meskal Square.

The anniversary culminated in a commemoration held at the Meles Zenawi Memorial Park, which will be home to a new Library and Research Center, and where a foundation stone for the Meles was laid by Prime Minister Hailemariam and Presidents and Heads of delegations from neighboring countries attending the Memorial service. The Park, appropriately based on the Gulele Botanical Gardens, will be the site of the Meles Zenawi Foundation. The Memorial Park is a comprehensive concept that includes uniquely designed research and conference facilities, library, offices and a guest house; a tranquil site for the late Prime Minister's tomb; artworks integrated into the landscape and sites that communicate Meles' life to visitors as they walk along a path through restored indigenous forest, comprising trees and plants from all over Ethiopia. The Meles Zenawi Foundation will support scholarly studies on his life and works, taking forward his lifelong commitment to peace, justice, climate-resilient economic development, good governance and democracy for the peoples of Ethiopia and of Africa. In addition to the Library and Research Center within the Memorial Park, the Foundation will support environmental protection through advocacy and education, the production of education programs as well as provide study grants and awards for outstanding achievements.

The occasion was attended by over 800 invited guests including President Omar Al-Bashir of Sudan, President Ismail Omar Guelleh of Djibouti and President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud of Somalia and Vice-President Edward Ssevandi of Uganda as well as the Foreign Ministers of Rwanda and South Sudan and the Chief Cabinet Secretary of Kenya, and Prime Minister Hailemariam, ministers, regional presidents, academics and international friends and colleagues of the late Prime Minister.

W/ro Azeb Mesfin, the widow of the late Prime Minister, who is the President of the Meles Zenawi Foundation, spoke of the "values and legacies of the fighter and the compatriot Meles, who was martyred while effectively and consciously leading the struggle to change the destiny of Ethiopia and Ethiopians". She noted that "when Meles took the helm of the leadership of this country, Ethiopia was shattered as it was drowning in a quagmire of abject poverty and repression. Far worse, the brutal Derg had turned the rural part of the country into bomb sites and fields of war; the urban areas were abattoirs in which there had been carnage of innocent civilians." She said Meles, convinced that it was possible to put an end to the suffering and subjugation of Ethiopians, had waged an armed struggle with his fellow compatriots bringing about the end of the brutal military junta, the Derg. W/ro Azeb described Meles in the post-Derg era as the architect of the new Ethiopia who had put in place "the effective safeguards through a constitutional order to ensure that we never again slide back into those dark times and help the nation to strive to achieve rapid and equitable economic growth." She added that the commemoration and inauguration of the memorial renewed "our commitment to continue Meles' work in building a developmental democratic state."

Prime Minister Hailemariam referred to the immense shock and concern at Meles' unexpected death, not least because of the immense role he had and the unparalleled leadership qualities he had displayed. It was, he said, important to remember that Ethiopia had remained stable, contrary

to the forecast of many, and this was because Meles “our great leader and comrade Meles made the Ethiopian Peoples’ Revolutionary Democratic Front a party that stands on an unshakable ideological, political and organizational foundation.” The party had therefore “managed to continue on the path set by its leader and proved itself a party able to surmount any crisis and any circumstances.” The leadership had been able to navigate successfully the shock of Meles’ death but also implement his plans for the transformation of Ethiopia. The Prime Minister said that “Meles’ foresight enabled him to experiment with the untraveled path of creating a democratic developmental state and leading the nation on this new path of a democratic journey.” He also paid tribute to the way Meles had understood the immense challenge of climate change and the importance of his unwavering commitment and effort towards build a climate-change-resilient economy in Ethiopia as an example for the world at large.

President Omar Al-Bashir of Sudan remembered Meles as a man who had a tremendous role in cementing the historic relationship between Sudan and Ethiopia and as someone who had worked tirelessly to bring about peace in Sudan and the region. He specifically cited Meles’ role in the negotiations between Sudan and South Sudan. President Ismail Omar Guelleh of Djibouti preferred to describe Meles as an industrious scholar who had labored in pursuit of knowledge for the betterment of the people of Ethiopia. He was, he said, a man “who continually preached the importance of investment in human capital in order to free Africa from the bondage of aid dependency and to achieve development.” President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud underlined that Meles’ role in the stability of Somalia was “unforgettable, and it remains alive in the hearts of Somalis.” Uganda’s Vice-President Ssevandi described Meles as a different leader who had put his country on the right development track. He cited the growth of Ethiopia’s power supply from 200MW to 2000MW as concrete evidence of his commitment to the development of Ethiopia and of Africa. The Foreign Minister of Rwanda described Meles as a selfless leader who dedicated his search for answers to the development of Ethiopia and of Africa. She said “we take pride in Meles’ transformational leadership. It led to most impressive levels of socio-economic development in the shortest possible time.” She added, “Ethiopia’s growth over the last nine years and significant poverty reduction by 10% over a five year period is testimony to his impact.” The Foreign Minister of South Sudan, Barnaba Marial Benjamin, said Meles had played a great role in realizing the South Sudan’s right to self-determination, and South Sudan would always remember him for his noble deeds. He would always remain “in the hearts of South Sudanese”. He added that “whenever Africa thinks of Meles, development, growth, far sightedness, peace lovingness, and his role as a voice of the voiceless, as a spokesperson for Africa. He will always be remembered.”

#### **.....Scholarly testimonies to the value of Meles’ life and thought**

One of the events scheduled to commemorate the anniversary of the death of the late Prime Minister was a session in which scholars and a former high-level US diplomat spoke of the life and the thoughts of the man they had known and worked with. Meles was portrayed in their statements as a tireless man of erudition who dedicated his life to pursue the quest for a development paradigm capable of pulling Africa out of poverty and economic stagnation and marked with his own indelible signs as a scholar and leader in the creation and practice of the developmental state. Meles’ incisive analysis and articulation of the developmental state model, and his fierce critique of the neo-liberal development paradigm as an ineffectual development model, was underlined by all three speakers.

Akbar Noman, Professor of Economics at Columbia University, who has long studied the economy of developing countries, described Meles as a rare political leader who had the acumen, the intellectual vigor and the determination to make scholarly contribution whilst in office. Noman, who edited a book of journal articles to which Meles contributed a paper titled “States and Markets: Neoliberal Limitations and the Case for a Developmental State”, believes that Meles’ strong advocacy of the necessity for strong state intervention in the economy had deep resonance in altering the discourse on the development of Africa. He said: “his well-researched and carefully

thought through criticisms of what came to be called the “Washington Consensus” conditionality on Ethiopia and Africa both contributed to and mutually influenced the critiques of some leading economists such as Joseph Stiglitz.” He told the audience that he believed that Meles helped change some of the thinking of the IMF through his influence on Professor Stiglitz as he inspired, encouraged and helped the latter in his work as a professor of economics.

Professor Noman added that he also believed that **if the IMF had heeded the arguments of Meles against the risk of an excessive rapid liberalization, that the 1998 Asian Crisis and the Global recession that ensued in 2008 might have been averted.** Speaking of the renaissance Ethiopia is currently experiencing, Professor Noman said: “It would have been pretty much impossible then and probably even as late as the mid-1990s when I started working on Ethiopia at the World Bank, that the country would have experienced economic growth of around 10-11 per cent a year in the last 7 years or so of Prime Minister Meles’ stewardship of the economy. Growth may have slowed down last year to a still impressive 8 per cent but that was all the more remarkable in the face of the prolonged global recession and it remains among the highest economic growth rates in the world.”

Dr Alex De Waal, currently working at the World Peace Foundation at Tufts College began his remarks by narrating his reminiscences of his first personal encounter with Meles during the years of struggle, remembering: “Comrade Meles was also capable of articulating the most complicated analysis into just a handful of sentences, telegraphic and precise.” In his presentation of Meles’ thoughts Dr De Waal chose to highlight his contribution to the foreign policy of Ethiopia as informed “by a deep sense of history and the structural determinants of politics.” De Waal defined Meles’ view as follows: “The centerpiece of what we might call the “Meles Zenawi doctrine” of national security was promoting and defending national economic development. For without the conquest of poverty, Ethiopia would remain weak and vulnerable, no matter how many tanks and helicopter gunships it might be able to deploy.” He added that this led to the idea of strategic engagement with neighboring countries, with Africa, and the world. Meles “consistently emphasized the economic and infrastructural integration of Ethiopia with all of its neighbors, especially in terms of transport, communications, and energy.” Dr De Waal further noted that for Meles redefining national pride was something that had to be conjoined as a blend of Ethiopia’s traditional pride with its development aspirations. In fact, he rendered the traditional view of national pride irrelevant, describing it as “Jingoism with an empty stomach.” Rather than approaching national security “from the outside in”, accepting the framework of others for what Ethiopia was and how it should act, Meles insisted that “Ethiopians must take the lead in defining the world they want.” The third leg of Ethiopia’s foreign policy, De Waal noted, was the reality of globalization. Meles and Ethiopia’s foreign policy view of globalization was a phenomenon that posed a challenge to the development of the nation and at the same time brought opportunities to contribute to Meles’ thinking on foreign relations.

Jendayi Frazer, former US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, and now Professor at Carnegie Mellon University, was the third speaker at the memorial service. She spoke about Meles’ diplomatic work on the basis of her own personal experience as Assistant Secretary of State in the State Department, describing him as deftly managing “complex diplomatic relations with the West especially the US, often called the most powerful nation in the world” and emphasizing that Meles didn’t seem to notice or mind this. “He deferred to no one when it came to setting a course for Ethiopia and Africa’s future,” she said. He managed to build state-to-state and personal relationships of mutual respect, even while there were policy differences. She also noted that every US President that had worked with Meles admired and respected him. Not many leaders, she added, could manage such a diverse group, of different political persuasions, for the benefit of advancing the mutual interests of both countries. From a Pan-African perspective, Professor Frazer also underlined the importance of Meles’ leadership to African and Black Self-Determination and suggested this was as important as Menelik’s defeat of Italian aggression at Adwa. Meles’ role “in the defeat of the Derg and his leadership in the transformation of Ethiopia’s

economy to start the process of liberating 90 million people from poverty” will, she said, “be an inspiration for young Pan-Africans everywhere.”

### **Achievements of the second phase of the Protection of Basic Services Program**

The second phase of the Protection of Basic Services program (PBSII 2009-2012), which ended last year, was an exceptionally successful program. It provided major support for the expansion of basic services towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2015. The MDGs have been a challenge in which Ethiopia, starting from a poor base, has made outstanding progress, and is on line to achieve all by 2015.

The Protection of Basic Services program, the first stage of which ran from 2006 to 2009, remains an important aid instrument that has helped to improve service delivery while strengthening Ethiopia's governance system. The program in particular has played a major role in strengthening the public finance system and social accountability at the local level nationwide. It also helped to strengthen dialogue and partnership with Ethiopia's development partners. The program itself is a self-critical program, with built-in monitoring, review and dialogue mechanisms, all taken very seriously by the government. It has shown its ability to respond to a variety of challenges in the course of its implementation, including a number of unfounded criticisms despite the almost universal agreement that its implementation has been highly successful.

The Government's current development plan is the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) (2010-2015). This builds on the Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction Program 2002–2004/5 and the Plan For Accelerated and Sustained Development to End Poverty 2005–2010 (PASDEP). It sets out a development agenda to keep Ethiopia on a rapid, broad-based and equitable development path, which will include achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 and contribute towards the long-term goal of achieving middle-income status for Ethiopia by 2020–2023. The Government considers the PBS Program to be an essential and integral element of the Growth and Transformation Plan.

The Government's PBS II implementation report was published in June this year by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED). This underlines that of all Ethiopia's major development programs, the PBS is the one that has best followed the principles of aid effectiveness. The report emphasizes that the program operates wholly through government systems and its multi-sectoral approach is consistent with Ethiopia's system of decentralized budgeting and implementation. The PBS program promotes harmonization among Ethiopia's Development Partners and its built-in system of monitoring, focused on six-monthly Joint Review and Implementation Support missions has effectively promoted constructive dialogue between partners and provided the basis for continual improvement of performance. According to the report, the complementary components of Transparency, Social Accountability and Monitoring and Evaluation, have been, and remain, directly relevant in addressing capacity issues and performance weaknesses. The result has been to provide for consistent strengthening of service delivery performance. The report notes that these components became increasingly effective during PBS II, and indeed the management of the program became increasingly streamlined and effective. Overall, the report makes it clear that the effectiveness and efficiency of the PBS program has been consistently demonstrated both through the system of continual monitoring, and by repeated independent evaluations and reviews of both different components of the program and of the program as a whole.

The PBS II has registered significant achievements in various social sectors that have contributed extensively to the overall economic development registered during the past few years. The results achieved in education reflect these developments: primary school (grade 1-8) net enrolment rose from 68% in 2004/05 to 85.3% in 2010/2011, and the primary school completion rate (grade 8) increased from 34% to 48%. The gender parity index for grades 1–4 has reached 94%.

The report detailed the even more spectacular progress in the health sector. Real expenditure on health services in the *woredas* (districts) and regions increased by an average of 12% a year, resulting in an overall increase in real terms of 92% over the period 2004/05–2010/2011. During the period, public expenditure per capita on health services has shown an average increment of 9% a year. This expenditure does not, however, include the benefits these *woredas* and regions obtained in the form of Special Purpose Grants, from other donors and NGO projects as well as the support received in kind (including, for example, the medical supplies provided under the health commodities component of the PBS program). The report noted that the rapid increase in health expenditure in real terms in the regions and *woredas* has facilitated progress towards achieving the MDGs. The number of health staff has increased between 2004/05 and 2010/11, from 7,090 to 37,000. This is in line with increases in the number of health facilities at all levels. Between 2005/06 and 2010/11, the number of health posts increased from 4,211 to 14,416; the number of health centers from 519 to 2,689; and public hospitals from 79 to 111. The ratio of health extension workers to population has consequently improved from 1:4,369 in 2006/07 to 1:2,647 in 2010/11.

According to the report, the under-5 mortality rate has also declined from 123/1000 live births in 2004/05 to 88/1000 live births in 2010/11; infant mortality has dropped from 77% to 59%; and vaccination rates increased (from 76.8% in 2006/07 for DPT3+HepB3+HiB3 to 84.7% in 2010/11). Disappointingly, however, the report stated that the final 2011 Demographic and Health Survey identified persistently high maternal mortality rates (at around 676 per 100,000 live births).

In agriculture, the report said that public expenditure growth rates in real terms remained subdued over the period of PBS II, with only an average annual increase in real terms of 2%. This did not even keep up with population growth. However, the number of projects financed by development assistance more than doubled, from 20,000 in 2004/05 to 55,500 in 2010/11; and the number of households that received agricultural extension services has increased rapidly over the past few years - from 5 million in 2006/07 to 8.85 million in 2010/11. Nevertheless, the report indicated that the data available for results in the agricultural sector was insufficient to draw any firm conclusions about links between extension services and agricultural performance.

The report notes that the growth in resources devoted to facilitating rural population access to water and to rural roads has had a noticeable impact on results. The proportion of the rural population which has access to potable water within a 1.5 km radius rose **from 35% in 2004/05 to 71.3% in 2010/11**; the percentage of defective water supplies fell from 30% in 2004/05 to 20% in 2010/11. The average distance from an all-weather road decreased to 3.5 hours in 2011 from 4.5 hours in 2007. It declined further, to 2.9 hours in 2012.

In general, the report makes it very clear that PBS II has contributed substantially to the overall development registered by various sectors of the economy, especially in the areas of health and education and other social service sectors, as well as in, for example, agricultural production which increased overall from 202 to 235 million quintals. Perhaps of greatest significance, as the report emphasizes, is that the share of the population below the poverty line, fell by an impressive 11 per cent, from 38.7% in 2005 to 27.6% in 2012.

The report underlines the fact that the Protecting Basic Services program, as those involved all agree, has been an outstanding example of the success of development aid. This is why it must not be derailed by unfounded and what certainly appear to be politically motivated allegations. The Ethiopian government, it might be noted, takes very seriously any issues arising from the implementation of the PBS. It is totally committed, as it has demonstrated on a number of occasions, to working closely with Ethiopia's development partners to investigate and rectify any genuine problems that arise. The Government is very aware that it and its development partners



have a joint responsibility to ensure the continued operation of a program which has registered an outstanding record in benefiting millions of Ethiopians over the last decade.

### **Dr Tedros holds talks with the President of KOICA**

Foreign Minister, Dr Tedros Adhanom received and held talks with Mr Young-Mok Kim, President of the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) on Monday this week (August 19). Mr Kim had earlier been on a visit to a KOICA model village in Arsi, Oromia Regional State, and he hailed the changes he had witnessed in the village. The residents of the village, with the support of KOICA, had been able to improve their agricultural and livestock productivity through the utilization of improved agricultural systems. They had built new houses and started using electricity to power modern appliances through solar panels supplied by KOICA. Mr Kim said KOICA was keen to expand its activities in rural development. This was indeed essential to narrow the gap in living standards between the urban and rural dwellers. The village project is run through the Saemaul Movement Volunteers' Project which was first started in the 1970's by former President Park. The Saemaul Movement is a unique Korean philosophy which seeks community development through "diligence, self-help and cooperation", aiming to change the livelihood of people and their attitudes.

According to Mr Kim, KOICA's second and other major activity in Ethiopia is centred on increasing Ethiopia's industrial capacity through vocational training. To support this, KOICA has built a vocational training center in Mekelle, Tigray Regional State. It is also working on a public private partnership scheme, with the LG Company to build a vocational school to train youngsters in electronics and electrical work. Mr Kim mentioned that KOICA was also involved in preliminary talks to start a similar project with Samsung.

Dr Tedros said that he appreciated the development cooperation between Korea and Ethiopia and expressed his hope that the historic ties between the two countries would continue to expand and strengthen through increased investment and cooperation. He noted, in particular, that his own visit to Korea earlier this year enabled him to appreciate the growing interest of large companies like Samsung in investing in Ethiopia. Dr Tedros said Ethiopia would greatly appreciate KOICA's assistance in encouraging Korean companies to come to Ethiopia. After all, he pointed out, Ethiopia, with its fast growing economy, substantial population, large scale market possibilities, its excellent air transport network throughout Africa and its conducive investment regime with a wide range of incentives, offered major opportunities for profitable investment. One example of the potential for Korean investors was floriculture, particularly since Ethiopian Airlines was now the first African airline to fly direct from Africa to Korea, making transportation of flowers easy.

Dr Tedros also raised the Modjo-Awasa road project, which is being built with the support of the African Development Bank and the Korean EXIM Bank, noting that there had been delays. He suggested that there was a need to expedite the project. Mr Kim reassured Dr Tedros that he would discuss the matter with the management of the Korean EXIM Bank. Dr Tedros underlined his appreciation of the work of the Saemaul Movement Volunteer Projects, which he said had benefitted immensely the people living in Arsi, where KOICA had the its pilot project.

Dr Tedros also briefed the KOICA president on a number of issues related to peace and security in the region, particularly about the current situation in Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan and Eritrea. With regard to Somalia, Dr Tedros noted that there was a window of hope there for sustaining the improved if still fragile security situation, once the misunderstandings between the regional states and the Somali Federal Government have been resolved, and the threat of Al-Shabaab had been finally removed altogether. Dr Tedros commented on the worrying internal situation in Eritrea and detailed how the regime continued to try to perpetuate instability throughout the region. He also gave an account of the peace negotiations between Sudan and South Sudan and detailed Ethiopia's role in mediating between the two sides through bilateral and multilateral fora

including IGAD and the African Union. Dr Tedros also told Mr Young-Mok-Kim that Ethiopia would much appreciate it if South Korea's President Park Guen-hye was able to attend next January's African Union Summit. Her presence would, he said, be greatly welcomed and would strongly underline the growing ties between Korea and Africa.

Mr Young-Mok Kim, who was in Ethiopia for a two-day visit, also met with Dr Abraham Tekeste, State Minister of Finance and Economic Development. On that occasion, KOICA's president said that KOICA had been highly impressed with the mid-term performance of the Growth and Transformation Plan. He said that KOICA in the future would aim to formulate cooperative partnership plans in a synchronized manner with the GTP.

### **Representative Karen Bass reflects on last week's AGOA Forum**

Last week Ethiopia hosted the 12<sup>th</sup> African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Ministerial Forum here in Addis Ababa, attended by representatives of the 39 Sub-Saharan states in AGOA and by a top level US Delegation headed by Ambassador Michael Froman, United States Trade Representative, and including Senator John Isakson and other officials and members of Congress. As we noted last week, the Forum, which acknowledged that AGOA was the cornerstone of the United States Government's trade policy towards Africa and that there had been remarkable growth in the partnership between the United States and Africa in general, agreed on the need for enhanced political dialogue between US and Africa. It also called for the reauthorization of AGOA for at least another 15 years and on the need for capacity building to generate private sector engagement, increased trade and market access, as well as underlining the importance of encouraging the US investment in Africa, upholding AGOA preferences for items exported from Africa and for expanding and diversifying AGOA eligible exports, for the extension of preferences to other Sub-Saharan Least Developed Countries and for the overall improvement of Africa's investment climate.

A leading member of the American delegation to the Forum was Representative Karen Bass (California's 37<sup>th</sup> District), who is the Ranking Member of House of Representative's Committee on Foreign Affairs subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations. This week she reflected on the AGOA Forum and her hopes for its extension, noting that over the years, AGOA had helped develop African industry, particularly in [textile and apparel sectors](#), and that "it had also created hundreds of thousands of African jobs, pulled millions out of poverty and empowered women across the continent." As a result, Representative Bass noted that one of AGOA's greatest benefits was that it prioritized trade as an alternative to traditional aid paradigms.

She pointed out that since AGOA's inception, sub-Saharan Africa had experienced steady growth with [six of the world's fastest growing economies on the continent](#). African markets, she said, were now poised for similar gains in the years ahead. Imagine for a moment, she added, if there was a doubling or tripling in the number of African nations that experienced near double-digit growth. It would mean a decade characterized by the expansion of new markets, countless middle-class consumers with disposable incomes, and opportunities to leverage and engage both the U.S. and African private sectors.

Representative Bass pointed out that Forum participants had noted AGOA's benefits to America, creating jobs and opportunities in the United States as well as Africa. Major companies in the US had purchased products made in Africa and sold them to American consumers. She said she had seen the production of a textile company in Ethiopia which had produced fabrics [purchased by the US company J. Crew](#) and used in New York Fashion Week. AGOA in fact offered win-win opportunities for both the U.S. and for African nations.

Representative Bass said she had chosen to participate in this year's AGOA Forum for two reasons. The first was to ensure that Forum participants, particularly African governments, understood that many Members of Congress had invested in AGOA's future. She had sat on a panel with Senator Isakson where they could both underline the fact that AGOA had support from both Democrats and Republicans and from both Houses of Congress. Her second reason for participating was to listen and learn from African nations that wanted to see AGOA renewed – its current format ends in 2015. Members of Congress might have particular views about how to strengthen the legislation, but it was important to listen to those who had most to gain from AGOA's benefits and understand the challenges they faced. She noted, for example, that last year, when African nations were urgently requesting an early extension of AGOA's fabric provision, it was only at the last minute that this proved possible. The delay in approving a resolution for this promptly in Congress meant the [loss of thousands of jobs across Africa](#).

Now, of course, African nations are pressing Members of Congress and the Administration for a speedy renewal of AGOA and calling for a [15-year extension](#). This would certainly provide predictability for U.S. importers and investors as well as for African countries. It would also allow for both AGOA-participating nations and for the US to capitalize on the mutual benefits. Representative Bass noted over the next year, the Office of the United States Trade Representative would be launching a comprehensive review of AGOA, and that members of both the House of Representatives and the Senate and their respective Committees of Jurisdictions had also indicated a wish to evaluate AGOA. She welcomed these developments.

Representative Bass pointed out that President Obama had made major efforts to address the critical demand in Africa for infrastructure development, power generation, regional trade, and technical assistance. The President, during his recent visit to Africa, had announced "[Trade Africa](#)" and "[Power Africa](#)", and the House Foreign Affairs Committee had recently introduced the "[Electrify Africa Act 2013](#)", intended to complement the President's programs. All this could substantially increase power generation on the continent. It would also have the effect of expanding and improving U.S. trade and investment environments with the continent as well as expanding African markets and provide further opportunities for American business.

AGOA, she said, was "an important component of a burgeoning trade and investment relationship between the United States and African nations." It would not, of course, solve all of Africa's challenges, but this year's Forum had presented some of the successes achieved by African nations over a period that had demonstrated impressive economic expansion. She said the Forum also reminded [all] that there was still much to be done to ensure full utilization of AGOA by African nations. She therefore hoped that agreement would be found over the next year to some of the most important questions posed at this year's Forum, and that with "decisive leadership and strong bipartisan and bicameral support, successful votes on AGOA's renewal" would be possible before the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress adjourned.

### **[Meeting of the East African Standby Force Ministers of Defence in Nairobi](#)**

Defense Ministers from the Horn of Africa and from East Africa met in Nairobi last weekend. It was the 15<sup>th</sup> ordinary meeting of the Council of Defense Ministers of the East African Standby Force (EASF). Discussions covered the progress in establishing EASF, formerly known as the Eastern Africa Standby Brigade (EASBRIG), and consideration of strategies to strengthen it. EASF currently draws its membership from 10 active member states: Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda. Tanzania, as a member of the East African Community, can be a member, but like Mauritius it is linked to the Southern African Standby Brigade. Eritrea is also eligible but has not participated in any of the discussions and meetings. South Sudan has applied for membership.

The EASF was established by the MoU signed by the Eastern Africa Heads of State and Government in April 2005 but unlike the other standby brigade mechanisms that are hosted by Regional Economic Communities to provide appropriate political oversight for conflict prevention and management, there was no operational REC. The Eastern Africa Brigade Coordination Mechanism (EASBRICOM) was therefore established to coordinate EASF activities. EASBRICOM is located in Nairobi along with the Planning Element and the Standby Force headquarters. The Logistics Base and the Brigade Headquarters are in Addis Ababa.

EASF Policy Framework provides for the establishment of a multi-dimensional regional peace and security structure with political, planning, logistical and mission-level management capability. Its role includes force preparation, training, generation, employment, deployment and sustainment as well as observer missions, early-warning and post-conflict reconstruction. The civilian component of EASF covers such issues as respect for human rights, safety for displaced people, initiation of dialogue for a ceasefire, monitoring disarmament and demobilization and encouraging re-integration.

EASF is one of the five regional components of the African Standby Force being established by the African Union for the purpose of containing conflicts and enhancing peace and security. The African Standby Force is to be made up of five brigades, and to have civilian and police components as well as military units. The brigades are divided among the five regional blocks of Eastern, Southern, Central, Western and Northern Africa, but progress has been slow. Originally intended to be operational by 2008, it was postponed to 2010, then to 2013 and now to 2015.

The establishment of the African Standby Force is taking place in two parts, the first the establishment of the brigade-sized regional standby forces of 4,500 troops through the Regional Economic Communities. Once these are operational the African Union will handle peacekeeping operations as part of the AU Peace and Security Architecture, ready to be called upon from contributing countries at short notice to intervene in cases of conflict anywhere in Africa. The aim is for the Force to be a rapid reaction force, able to deploy in two weeks in cases of sporadic conflict and within 30 days of approval by the Africa Union Commission for normal operations.

Each brigade has its own planning element and brigade headquarters, as well as assigned units from member states. They are also each intended to have an early-warning mechanism to allow for the dispatch of an advance party for conflict resolution and peace enforcement experts to any area showing signs of imminent conflict.

The speed of development of the brigades has varied but the East African Standby Force has made some impressive progress. General Cyrille Ndayirukiye, Director of EASF Coordinating Mechanism (EASFCOM), says EASF has developed to the point where it will certainly be a fully operational and multi-dimensional integrated force, ready for deployment, by 2015. It will provide a regional mechanism with capability for rapid deployment of forces to carry out preventive deployment, rapid intervention, peace support/stability operations and peace enforcement. General Ndayirukiye also notes the importance of adequate financing and technical skills to boost the capacity of a regional force to respond to security challenges, pointing out that member states and international partners need "to mobilize resources to ensure the regional standby force executes its mandate of enhancing peace, security and development." EASF still remains dependent upon external support coming from a variety of countries and organizations in the 'Friends of EASF' set up in 2007.

In fact, EASBRIG/EASF has carried out several successful training exercises, in Kenya in 2008, in Djibouti in 2009 and in Sudan in 2011. The most recent was in Uganda in May this year. Entitled Mashariki Salam "Peaceful Eastern Africa" it involved over 2,000 personnel. After the exercise, the Brigade Commander, General Bakasumba, declared the force would have full operational capacity

by 2015 which he said meant it “will be able to undertake any mission assigned by the United Nations or by the African Union.”

At last Saturday’s meeting, Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Defense Rachael Omamo said that "An Eastern African Standby Force has the obligation to live up to its broad mandate of ensuring sustainable regional peace and security alongside being a multiplier for regional tranquility, growth and prosperity." She challenged governments in the region to empower the standby force to achieve its strategic objectives: "Cohesive political structures, focused leadership as well as functional operational systems are prerequisites for realization of our organization's full operational capability," and emphasized that the region was far from insulated from the complexities of life that bring about social instability, upheavals and general insecurity as events in the Great Lakes region, Somalia and Sudan underlined.