



# Ethiopian News

December 2010 Issue

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*Best Wishes for a Happy  
and Prosperous New Year*

*From Everyone at the Ethiopian Embassy*



## The 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Federalism



### 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Federalism Equality and Unity in Diversity for Development

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 13-16 December 2010

The 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Federalism (ICF), which was held in Addis Ababa, concluded on 16<sup>th</sup> December, drawing valuable lessons from expert analysis and shared experience from participant states of their common endeavours.

The four-day conference, held under the theme *Equality and Unity in Diversity for Development*, is the first global conference to be held in Africa since its initiation in 1999 in Canada.

***Continued on page 2...***

## Deputy PM calls for return of looted treasures



Ethiopia's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister, Hailemariam Desalegn, has urged western

countries to return looted treasures to Ethiopia and Africa in general. An International Conference on *Preserving Ancient Manuscripts in Africa* was held at the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UN-ECA) Conference Centre in Addis Ababa on 17<sup>th</sup> December with the aim of seeking better ways and means of preserving Africa's ancient manuscripts, in which man's past glories and failures, achievements and frustrations and perfections and incongruities are documented.

***Continued on page 2...***

## The 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Federalism



### ***Continued from page 1***

At the closing session, Prime Minister Meles Zenawi said that Ethiopia and Africa in general have learnt valuable lessons from

“instructive debates and discussions” held in this year’s conference. “When we host this international conference, our hope was Ethiopians from all walks of life would get the opportunity to learn from experiences of federalism elsewhere to share the challenges with experts and partners around the world and learn valuable lessons to continuously refine and improve the system of governance,” PM Meles said.

Forty-five research papers analysing the experiences of Ethiopia, Africa and the world on Federalism were presented at the conference and will serve as an input for further researches. The conference attracted over 600 delegates from 40 nations who said that successful management of Ethiopia’s diversity through democratic federalism has enabled it to rewrite its history.

The keynote speech by the Prime Minister is available on demand. Please visit our website [www.ethioembassy.org.uk](http://www.ethioembassy.org.uk) or send an email to [info@ethioembassy.org.uk](mailto:info@ethioembassy.org.uk).

### **Deputy PM calls for return of looted treasures**

#### ***Continued from page 1***

In his address to the conference, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister, Hailemariam Desalegn, urged western countries to return looted treasures, which include centuries’ old manuscripts. “Over the

centuries, unfortunately, several European invaders have desecrated, destroyed or looted African treasures,” he said. “These looted items have become the main attractions in many European and North American museums and galleries.”

Africa’s ancient civilisations, he said, are distinguished by the unparalleled architectural and engineering techniques, as well as advancement in music, art and literature. “The educational, scientific and research values of these manuscripts are immense,” he added. According to the Deputy PM, “They are the foundation of our pride and pillars of our identity and if managed properly, they can be sources of economic development and can also generate income through tourism.”

African professional conservators and curators are working hard to redress the conditions of the manuscripts, however, this should not be left to Africa alone. It is a global task because preserving Africa’s ancient manuscripts is preserving the trajectory of human development, not just an African history, the Deputy PM added.

Currently, the Ethiopian National Archives and Library Agency (ENALA) has a collection of 880 irreplaceable manuscripts and archives, old printed books and miscellaneous documents. The microfilm department attached to this section also has 16,000 microfilmed manuscripts. Information obtained from ENALA also shows that out of these collected materials, twelve of them are registered in the “Memory of the World” as the heritage of literary documents by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). Considering the importance of preserving

Ethiopia's literary heritage, the Government of Ethiopia has established relevant bodies, institutions and organisations to manage the resources properly.

The conference concluded on 19<sup>th</sup> December with several scholars presenting their papers on topics related to African manuscripts. Among them was founder of the Institute of Ethiopian Studies, Professor Richard Pankhurst, who critically examined the challenges facing Ethiopia in the area of archival management and research using primary material. Professor Pankhurst is one of the founding members of AFROMET (Association for the Return of the Magdala African Treasures) and led the campaign for the return of the Obelisk of Axum to Ethiopia, which was re-erected in Axum in 2008.

### **The Cancun Climate Change Conference**

The United Nations Climate Change Conference in Cancun, Mexico, was held from 29<sup>th</sup> November to 10<sup>th</sup> December.

Prime Minister Meles addressed the Plenary Session of the Conference on behalf of the African Group, calling upon the international community to disburse the \$30 billion fast start finance promised in Copenhagen. He emphasized that the delivery of the fast start finance would help build trust and noted that its delivery had to be transparent. He reiterated the point that while Africa contributed to virtually nothing to global warming, it was suffering earlier and more seriously as a result of the effect of others.

“For Africa, climate change was not about future risks that might or might not happen.

Many countries are already facing increasing drought and unprecedented levels of flooding. This bizarre combination is already devastating agriculture output and causing starvation. Every day of delay in the negotiations meant more lives lost,” the Prime Minister said.



Together with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon and Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg, PM Meles also took part in a high level side event on the report of the Secretary-General's High Level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing (AGF). He furthermore took part in two Heads of State and Government Dialogue sessions hosted by the President of Mexico, Mr. Felipe Calderón.

The agreements reached at Cancun allow for rebuilding trust in the multilateral process as well as serving as key building blocks for a future, legally-binding agreement on climate change. They contain all the elements that Africa put forward as priority outcomes. With respect to long-term finance, for example, the parties have agreed to the establishment of the Green Climate Fund by a Transitional Committee and this is to provide US\$100 billion a year by 2020. Agreement was also reached on enhancing delivery and transparency of the fast start finance process. This will allow for up to US\$30 billion from 2010 to 2012. Other



agreements have also been reached on REDD+, and on the development and transfer of appropriate technology and adaptation.

### **House approves five loan and grant agreements**

The House of People's Representatives approved five loan and grant agreements which will help achieve the goals of the five year Growth and Transformation Plan.

The first agreement was a \$150 million loan and grant signed by the International Development Association (IDA), which will be used for the implantation of the Agriculture Growth Project (AGP). This will benefit more than two million households in 83 *woredas* through developing and strengthening the institutional capacity of farmers' organisations and small scale rural infrastructure development.

The House also approved another \$80 million loan agreement with IDA, which will be used for the Energy Access Project. The loan will be used to complete installation of distribution networks and build substations that will oversee continued electrification of towns.

A \$94.4 million loan agreement was also signed by the Ethiopian Government and the Export and Import Bank of China to finance the Adama Wind Power Construction Project.

Another \$213.3 million was signed between Ethiopia and the Export Import Bank of India to develop the sugar industry. This loan will enable the factory to raise its annual sugar production to 1.5 million tonnes in five years. At present, production stands at 300,000 tonnes.

Finally, the House also endorsed a \$72.6 million Units of Account loan agreement with the African Development Bank (AfDB) for the Protection of Basic Services Phase II, which will help Ethiopia expand access and improve the quality of basic services in education, health, agriculture, water supply and sanitation, as well as rural roads, among others.

### **AfDB provides Ethiopia \$232 million in loan and grants to boost energy sector**

Ethiopia and the African Development Bank (AfDB) signed a supplementary financing agreement of over \$200 million, in the form of a loan and grant, to fund the expansion of Ethiopia's electricity grid. Minister for Finance and Economic Development, Sufian Ahmed, and AfDB Resident Representative in Ethiopia, Lamin Barrow, signed the agreement. According to the agreement, about \$130 million of the money is a loan while the balance is a grant. The finance will be used to fund the electricity transmission system development project, a key part of Ethiopia's overall electrification plans.

The funds will be used for projects intended to provide sustainable power for the northern, eastern and southern parts of the country, which will allow the transmission of reliable power from the interconnected system. It will also facilitate the implementation of a rural electrification programme, reduce high transmission losses and improve system efficiency, sustainability and reliability.

Signing the accord, the AfDB representative said that the finance would also help strengthen regional interconnection between Djibouti, Kenya, Sudan and eventually with

other parts of East Africa. The support will enable Ethiopia to further exploit its hydroelectric potential, increase its foreign currency earnings for sustained economic growth and reduce poverty.

The current Ethiopia Electricity Transmission System Improvement Project consists of the construction, on a turnkey basis, of four 230-kV transmission lines, construction of 12 associated sub-stations, upgrading of four major sub-stations in Addis Ababa and consultancy services for drawing up a power distribution master plan in Addis Ababa.

Meanwhile it has been recently revealed that after completion of repairs on the 420MW Gilgel Gibe II, Ethiopia will start exporting power to neighbouring Djibouti and also to Sudan with transmission lines “near to completion”. And according to Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation, by March 2013, another power line should be completed to Kenya, in time for the scheduled opening of the 1,870MW Gibe III project later that year.

The Government of Ethiopia launched a five year Growth and Transformation Plan earlier this year targeting a huge expansion of infrastructure, with power production set to increase from 2,000MW to 10,000MW and expand electricity coverage to 75% of the population. According to a study conducted by EEPCo, Ethiopia has the potential to generate over 60,000MW electric power from hydroelectric (45,000MW), wind (10,000) and geothermal sources (5,000MW).

Ethiopia plans to spend \$12 billion over 25 years on fully realising its ambition to become a power exporter.

## Tekeze hydro project among Power Engineering Projects of the Year

*Power Engineering* magazine recognised the 2010 Projects of the Year Award finalists and announced winners on December 14<sup>th</sup> at the Power-Gen International conference and exhibition in Orlando, Florida.

This year’s winners and honourable mentions produced facilities and/or technologies that ushered in breakthrough solutions in four categories: coal-fired, gas-fired, nuclear and renewable/sustainable.

The Tekeze hydro project in Ethiopia won the Project of the Year Award for the renewable/sustainable project.



The Tekeze Hydropower project is located on the Tekeze River, a tributary of the Nile. The \$350 million project, funded by the Government of Ethiopia and owned by the Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation (EEPCo), adds 40% more electricity capacity to the country and was the largest public works project in Ethiopia’s history at the time of construction.

Power generation in Ethiopia comes primarily from hydroelectric sources due to the lack of natural resources and cost of imported fuels.

The Tekeze Hydropower project dates back to 1995 when the Ethiopian Ministry of Water Resources conducted a study identifying the site as one of the two preferred dam sites for hydropower development. In 1998, modifications to the existing design for the dam, powerhouse and tunnel system were made, resulting in cost savings.

A multi-stage impoundment approach was implemented during construction, which allowed the river diversion to be closed in May 2007, nearly two years prior to dam completion. This allowed for more than 3 billion m<sup>3</sup> of water to be retained, advancing generation by more than one full year. The value of the water captured via early impoundment was worth approximately \$40 million. In addition to power generation, the Tekeze dam enables regulation of river flow, allowing downstream communities year-round access to the water supply.

### **Ethiopia grants UK firm exploration rights for gold**

Ethiopia issued exploration rights to UK-based Sheba Exploration for two sites in northern Tigray.

Sheba Exploration have a license for gold and base metals covering about 110 square km, and is valid for an initial term of three years and thereafter may either be renewed for two years or be converted into a mining license. The new (and exclusive) license is a consolidation of two pre-existing prospecting licenses namely,

Finarwa and Winibo. Sheba Exploration said it had identified “significant” gold and copper mineralisation in the area during preliminary work in 2007-2009 and aims to delineate an extensive gold mineralised system within the next year at Finarwa, while at Winibo, they aim to define a small to medium scale bedded copper drill target.

Ethiopia has identified possible gold reserves of up to 500 tonnes in different regions and wants to attract active investors to explore the reserves. Some companies are also exploring for gemstones like opal, emerald and ruby in various projects scattered around Ethiopia.

In the year 2009/2010 Ethiopia’s gold export earnings almost tripled to \$300 million from \$105 million in 2008/2009.

### **British firms urged to invest in key EA sectors**

British firms have been urged to invest in East Africa’s key growth sectors such as energy and telecoms that harbour huge revenue potential.

The East Africa Association (EAA), a lobby of UK companies operating in the region, said a buoyant investment climate in the region presented an opportunity for its membership to grow their portfolio.

The association’s CEO John Small said that these countries are growing at emerging market rates and increased demand for supplies and services in green energy, infrastructure development and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) provided an opportunity for British firms.

Natural resources discoveries have also increased interest and opportunity in the

region. In September, UK Company Tullow Oil announced it had acquired a 50% interest of the East African Rift Basins of Ethiopia and Kenya. “This means UK companies offering expertise in energy, engineering and infrastructure - such as rigs, roads and pipelines - are in high demand,” Mr. Small said. He added that the resilience of the region’s economies in the wake of the recent global economic downturn further boosted its credential as an investment hub.

### **Kadanuumuu listed as one of the top 10 discoveries of 2010**

*Archaeology* magazine unveiled a Top 10 list in their latest issue that includes the unearthing of the bones of a 3.6-million-year-old human ancestor in Ethiopia, the discoveries of ancient tombs in Asia and Central America and the decoding of the Neanderthal genome by European scientists.



For the last 35 years, the short-legged “Lucy” skeleton has led some scientists to argue that *Australopithecus afarensis* did not stand fully upright or walk like modern humans, and instead got around by “knuckle-walking” like apes. Now, the discovery of a 3.6-

million-year-old “beanpole” on the Ethiopian plains - christened “Kadanuumuu,” or “Big Man” in the Afar language – “puts that tired debate to rest,” said the magazine. The new fossil demonstrates that these early human ancestors were fully bipedal.

Many dozens of *A. afarensis* fossils have been uncovered since Lucy was discovered in 1974, but none as complete as this one. Kadanuumuu’s forearm was first extracted from a hunk of mudstone in February 2005, and subsequent expeditions uncovered an entire knee, part of a pelvis, and well preserved sections of the thorax.

### **Researcher identifies 2<sup>nd</sup> oldest Ethiopian manuscript in existence in HMML’s archives**

Ted Erho, a doctoral student at Durham University, recently spent six weeks at Hill Museum & Manuscript Library (HMML) studying *Ge’ez* (classical Ethiopic) manuscripts.

HMML’s microfilm and digital collections are the richest resource for the study of Ethiopian manuscripts in the world.

Supported by one of HMML’s Heckman scholarships, Erho made stunning discoveries for both Ethiopian and biblical studies during his time at HMML.

Working with previously-uncatalogued manuscripts from HMML’s Ethiopian Manuscript Microfilm Library, Erho has identified the second oldest Ethiopic manuscript in existence (the oldest is the famous Abba Garima Gospels), which also contains the oldest known copies of books from the Old Testament. This manuscript, EMML 6977, dates prior to the Solomonic Era in Ethiopia, which began in 1270 CE and contains the books of Job and Daniel, as well as two homilies.

He also identified the oldest known major *Ge’ez* codex of the Old Testament (EMML 9001), which contains the entire Book of Jubilees, considered to be a canonical book by the

Ethiopian Orthodox Church. Its presence in this manuscript is now the oldest known copy of the Book of Jubilees.



This microfilm image is from EMML 9001, recently found to be one of the oldest Ethiopian manuscripts preserved.

Finally, Mr. Erho is cataloguing the biblical manuscripts from Gunda Gunde in northern Ethiopia, numbering more than fifty of the 220 manuscripts in the Gunda Gunde collection photographed in 2006 by Michael Gervers and Ewa Balicka-Witakowska in an expedition sponsored by HMML. All but one of the Old Testament manuscripts at Gunda Gunde are from the 16<sup>th</sup> century or before, exceptionally early for Ethiopian manuscripts.

In related news, a 15<sup>th</sup> century Ethiopian icon of the infant Christ child sitting on his mother's knee was cleaned and repaired at the Monastery of Saint Stephen's, Hayq, by a British charity, The Ethiopian Heritage Fund.

The central panel of the icon had become blackened over the centuries with the sprinkling of perfume that monks use as they worship and is now back to its former glory. The monks at the Monastery of St. Stephen on an island in Lake Hayq, northern Ethiopia, believe the icon - known as *The One Who Listens*, to be miraculous.



The 15th century Ethiopian icon of the infant Christ child sitting on his mother's knee can be revealed after it was cleaned by a British charity Photo: The Ethiopian Heritage Fund

The icon is one of the most celebrated in Ethiopia and is now housed in a special museum that had been built at the Debra Estifanos monastery on Lake Hayq, with other relics.

The Ethiopian Heritage Fund, started August 2005, works together with the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahido church to aid the conservation of relics and to provide advice and education on their maintenance. Its other stated aim is to raise awareness of these beautiful objects within Ethiopia and thereby internationally increasing tourism to rural areas. The Fund is entirely financed by donations and by those involved giving their expertise to the projects. Other projects the charity has done include conservation of the

Garima Gospels (the oldest illustrated Christian work in the world), located in the Monastery of Abuna Garima in the Tigray region; and the cleaning and repairing of a large 15th century Marian Panel, the Rema Icon, among others.

### Number of Walia Ibex, Swayne's Hartebeest on the rise

The Ethiopian Wildlife Development and Conservation Authority (EWDCA) said the number of the endemic wildlife, Walia Ibex and Swayne's Hartebeest, has been increasing.

The census conducted recently by the authority indicated that the number of Walia Ibex increased to 700 from 150, 20 years ago. The number of Swayne's Hartebeest which live in Senkele Swayne's Hartebeest Sanctuary in Shashemene area also reached 750, up from less than 200 in 2003.



Swayne's Hartebeest (left) and the Walia Ibex (right)

The increase is due to the attention paid by the government to wildlife resources, awareness raising campaigns carried out by the authority, expansion on infrastructures and training offered to employees of parks.

EWDCA is undertaking strong inspection in 11 parks and two sanctuaries, and activities are also underway to designate 14 parks and relocate people living in sanctuaries to other areas so as to protect wildlife resources.

## Sport

### Gebreselassie to run Vienna Marathon

Haile Gebreselassie's first European appearance next year will be a half marathon during the Vienna City Marathon on April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

Marathon organisers announced that the 37-year old world record holder will compete in a unique format.

"He will do a half marathon...and try to overtake the top marathon runners who have started in front of him," organizer Wolfgang Konrad said.

It is to be recalled that Haile Gebreselassie, also announced that he will compete in next year's Tokyo marathon on 27<sup>th</sup> February, reversing his decision to quit racing during the New York City Marathon at the beginning of November, when he had a knee injury. He also confirmed that he will continue to run until the 2012 London Olympics.

Gebreselassie is widely regarded as one of the greatest long distance runners ever. He has won two Olympic gold medals and four world titles for 10,000 metres. He set the marathon world record in Berlin two years ago.

### Champions return to London marathon to face tough test



Tsegaye Kebede will defend his Virgin London Marathon title in April 2011, with race organisers predicting a course record.



Kebede finished just nine seconds outside Samuel Wanjiru’s landmark time of 2hr 5min 10sec, when he took the title in 2010.

The event will feature last year’s top three in both the men’s and women’s races, where Ethiopia’s Aselefech Mergia came third. With six men in the field quicker than two hours six minutes and no fewer than 14 women with personal bests below two hours 24 minutes, gaining a podium place in 2011 will be tougher than ever.

The Virgin London Marathon will take place on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2011.

**Mengistu Worku, the greatest Ethiopian footballer of all time, passes away**

Mengistu Worku, the greatest Ethiopian footballer of all time, passed away on December 16<sup>th</sup> aged 70 after undergoing a two-year treatment in Bangkok.



Mengistu, was named the “Ethiopian Kopa”, after the great French footballer of the 50s Raymond Kopa, because of his dribbling ability and swiftness in his movements.

He is most popularly known for scoring 2 goals in the final of the 3<sup>rd</sup> African Cup of Nations against Egypt, where Ethiopia won the tournament. Mengistu finished as top scorer of that tournament with 3 goals. He took part in six African Cup of Nations tournaments and is the seventh-highest scorer in the history of the tournament with 10 goals (1959 - 1970).



Mengistu Worku with the Ethiopian national team that won the 3rd African Cup (1962). L. to R. standing: Luciano Vassalo (captain), Awad Mohammed, Tesfaye GebreMedhin, Berhe Goytom, Asmelash Berhe, Kiflom Araya, Gashe Tilahun (trainer); L. to R. sitting: Girma Zeleke, Gila-Michael T. Mariam, Italo Vassalo, Getachew Wolde, Mengistu Worku.

He debuted with Saint-George FC in 1957 and remained with the club for the entirety of his career where he wore the no.8 shirt and on December 20<sup>th</sup> Saint George FC announced that the no.8 jersey worn by the late Mengistu Worku, has been retired as part of the club’s effort to honour the football legend,

Mengistu retired in 1972 and coached the national team after retirement, leading them to their first-ever CECAFA cup title in 1987.

*Merry Christmas*

*to all Ethiopian Diaspora*

*From Everyone at the Ethiopian Embassy*

Ethiopia is one of the oldest nations in Africa. It still follows the ancient Julian calendar, so Ethiopians celebrate Christmas on January 7<sup>th</sup>. The Ethiopian Christmas is called *Genna*.

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter via email, please send an email to [info@ethioembassy.org.uk](mailto:info@ethioembassy.org.uk).

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