



# Ethiopian News

July 2011 Issue

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### Embassy of Ethiopia receives award for its Leadership Role and Support for Diaspora Activities

African Leadership Magazine, a Nigeria-based business magazine, presented the Embassy of Ethiopia with an award for its leadership role and support for Diaspora activities on 31<sup>st</sup> July at the 2011 African Business Leadership Awards ceremony in London.

The evening celebrated individuals and organizations who are contributing to the economy of Africa both at home on the continent and in the Diaspora.

The Embassy was recognised for its contribution to development forums here in London particularly in parliamentary debates and its contribution to supporting the African Diaspora.



Mrs. Hirut Zemene (Trade and Investment Counsellor), received the award on behalf of H.E. Ambassador Berhanu Kebede, and delivered a speech of good will from the Embassy.

In her speech she highlighted the positive role that media outlets such as Africa Leadership Magazine, play in portraying the true image of Africa, noting that Africans are the right people to tell their own story. She encouraged others in the field to be part of this very exciting growth momentum.

She outlined Ethiopia's plan for rapid development, its success in achieving the MDGs and the Ethiopian Diaspora's role in national development.

"Ethiopia has registered double digit growth of 11 percent GDP in the past seven consecutive years. It has met four out of seven Millennium Development Goals, and is on track to meet the remaining MDG targets in the coming four years, she said."

Mrs. Zemene noted the strong development cooperation that Ethiopia enjoys with the UK and hailed efforts the Diaspora is making to contribute to national growth, not only in Ethiopia, but also in other African economies.

"In Ethiopia for example, the Diaspora has been instrumental in the transfer of knowledge, technology and finance - the remittances they send are equal to the country's export earnings. Most importantly, the Diaspora is encouraging FDI flows to the continent."

Award recipients included the telecommunications giant Starcomms Plc Nigeria; the Embassy of Ethiopia UK; Prof. Margee Ensign, Mr. Koffi Williams, Mr. Charles Simpasa and Nadabo Energy Group. Recipients said the awards conferred on them would act as a spur for greater service to the continent. The

Embassy of Ethiopia was the only mission to receive such an award at this year's ceremony.

### **UK Foreign Minister and Minister for Africa visit Ethiopia**

The UK Foreign Minister, William Hague MP, was in Ethiopia on 8<sup>th</sup> July where he held meetings with Prime Minister Meles Zenawi and Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hailemariam Desalegn to discuss bilateral, humanitarian and regional issues including Libya, Sudan and Somalia.



Ahead of his arrival in Ethiopia, Mr. Hague said, "I am very pleased to be visiting Ethiopia, the UK's relationship with Ethiopia is strong, and based on numerous shared interests and values. This government recently decided to double aid to Ethiopia based on the strong developmental progress. This makes Ethiopia the largest recipient of UK aid in the world."

"In addition to development issues, the UK and Ethiopia are working closely together on regional security, and I commend Prime Minister Meles for the positive role he is playing with both North and South Sudan."

A range of issues was discussed including how the UK and Ethiopia can continue to work together to strengthen stability in Sudan and Somalia and how the UK can support an effective response to the humanitarian situation in the Horn of Africa.

The Foreign Secretary also met with African Union Chairperson, Dr. Jean Ping and Deputy Chairperson Erastus Mwencha, to discuss issues of mutual interest. He also met with Somaliland President Silanyo and Somaliland Foreign Minister Omar, where

they discussed the situation in Somalia, and what the international community should do to promote peace in the country.

Henry Bellingham MP, UK Minister for Africa, was also in Ethiopia in July for a 5-day visit, where he also held meetings with the PM and Deputy Prime Minister & Minister for Foreign Affairs to discuss bilateral issues.

The Minister also met with representatives of British businesses in Ethiopia, visited British tannery, Pittards in Mojo, and visited the Ethiopian Commodity Exchange to get a better understanding of the commodities market in Ethiopia.

Before the conclusion of his visit, Mr. Bellingham held talks with Ethiopian athletes who hope to participate in the London 2012 Olympics.

He also held another meeting with African Union Deputy-Chairperson Erastus Mwencha, with a particular focus on trade.



Henry Bellingham MP with African Union Deputy-Chairperson Erastus Mwencha

Prior to his visit, Mr Bellingham said "I'm delighted to be visiting Ethiopia for the first time. Ethiopia is a very important partner for the UK. The two countries have many shared interests, including trade and investment, economic and social development, regional security and governance issues. I look forward to having open, constructive and wide-ranging discussions with Prime Minister Meles and Deputy Prime Minister Hailemariam. I'm particularly delighted that I will be meeting Ethiopian athletes, who are training hard with a view to participating in the 2012 London Olympics. The UK is proud to host

such an important sporting event". He added, "Ethiopia has a strong legacy in the Olympics and we would like all Ethiopians to be part of the London Olympics".

### **Ethiopian Road Construction Corporation established**

A new government development agency, Ethiopian Road Construction Corporation, has been established under the Ministry of Transport.

Set up on 8<sup>th</sup> July, it will carry out road and bridge construction and maintenance works in Ethiopia, as well as in other countries. It will also provide construction equipment and machinery maintenance and rental services. In future, the corporation plans to manufacture construction equipment.

The corporation will administer ten road maintenance projects, eight road construction projects and 45 departments.

### **Update on the current drought situation in Ethiopia**

East Africa is currently experiencing the worst drought in 60 years. In Somalia famine has been declared.

In Ethiopia, although the situation remains serious, the emergency is being contained, though in the southern and south eastern lowlands of Ethiopia there is an increasing need to truck water supplies into a number of areas. The current focus for rehabilitation of water resources is in the Oromiya Regional State as earlier developments in the Somali Regional State has meant that 90% of the boreholes in that region are now functioning.

Food distribution in affected areas began in February and has continued since then. Under the existing food safety-net procedures (food for work), there were substantial supplies of pre-positioned food in place, which meant the government could respond rapidly to the situation once the extent of the drought became clear.

Ethiopia's state minister of agriculture, Mitiku Kassa, says more than 4.5 million people (total pop. 82m) will need food assistance because of the shortage of rain in south and south-east Ethiopia during the Belg

(short) rainy season. The Ethiopian government in April appealed for \$398.4 million to provide emergency food assistance for millions of drought victims. About 380,000 metric tonnes of food is required. In addition, food supplements costing \$37 million are required.

The Disaster Pre-emergency and Response Unit and the Ministry of Agriculture are jointly assisting the worst hit areas. Up to now, Ethiopia has been feeding those who need assistance using its food reserves. Ethiopia is anticipating that the international community will deliver assistance before the national reserves are depleted so that this work can continue without a gap.

WFP Director, Josette Sheeran, has commented that the crisis would have been worse if not for the early warning system and quick response programmes that had been established.

In addition, Ethiopia is hosting refugees from Somalia in its Dollo Ado camp near the Somali border.

Those in need are being fed and we very much hope that the international community will, in a timely and uninterrupted manner, help Ethiopia to continue the assistance it is providing here too.

The UK government has so far provided \$61 million (£38 million) of aid and a further \$73 million (£52 million) for the Horn of Africa.

Contact the press office for further details of how Ethiopia is determined to tackle a variety of development problems. Ethiopia's Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) is available and gives a detailed account of what will be achieved in the coming five years.

### **Ethiopia to launch World Bank funded irrigation projects in Nile Basin**

Ethiopia is finalising feasibility studies and detailed design work for a World Bank funded 100,000 hectare irrigation project in its Nile Basin.

Back in 2008, the World Bank approved a loan of \$100 million to help Ethiopia increase agricultural productivity, accelerate growth and reduce rural poverty.



The project aims to develop 20,000 hectares of land using Lake Tana, the largest lake in Ethiopia, and the Ribb River.

Feasibility studies for Megech-Robit, Negeso and Upper Beles irrigation projects to develop an additional 80,000 hectares of land are also finalised.

The irrigation projects will play a significant role in increasing agricultural productivity six fold and ensure the country's sustainable growth.

The Ethiopian government has allocated \$10 million for the irrigation projects on top of the soft loan extended by the World Bank.

The projects will help transform subsistence farming of the people living around the project area into market oriented surplus farming.

### **Ethiopia's exports hit \$2.7 billion; coffee and textile exports soar**

Ethiopia received \$2.7 billion in revenue from exports during its just ended financial year.

Coffee remains Ethiopia's highest foreign currency earner fetching \$841.6 million from the export of nearly 200,000 tonnes in 2010/11, a 59% increase from the previous year and a 124% increase from 2008/09.

This is by far the most successful year for Ethiopian coffee exporters.

The introduction of the commodity exchange market and high global commodity prices led to the increase in coffee production. The Ethiopian Commodity Exchange, launched in 2008, promotes transparent trading and prevents hoarding. It trades coffee, maize, sesame and white pea beans through an outcry system.

Under the 5-year Growth and Transformation Plan, Ethiopia intends to double its agricultural output by 2015, raising coffee sales to 700,000 tonnes from 300,000 tonnes.

Ethiopia, Africa's biggest coffee exporter and the birthplace of coffee, projects it will earn \$3 billion in export revenue for 2010/11 after a resurgence of

coffee sales and diversification into new commodities.

According to the Ministry of Trade's annual report, the manufacturing sector generated \$207.7 million, minerals earned \$400 million and the remainder came from other agricultural commodities.

Exports of textiles earned Ethiopia \$62.2 million, a staggering 178% rise from the previous budget year which stood at \$23.2 million. During the last month of this budget year alone, Ethiopia secured \$6.9 million.

Ethiopia believes its exports during the year 2011/12 will fetch between \$4 billion and \$4.5 billion.

### **Diaspora investment reaches 19.4 billion Birr**

Diaspora Information and Research Directorate in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Ethiopians in the Diaspora and foreign nationals of Ethiopian origin have invested 19.4 billion Birr at home with over 2,235 investment projects registered over the past ten years.

The projects focused on hotels, real estate, agriculture and construction. A total of 1,141 projects have been operational and the remaining 1,925 are under construction.

Diaspora Information and Research Director, Tesfaye Wolde, said that Diaspora engagement in knowledge transfer is also on the rise with many involved in teaching in many of Ethiopia's universities.

Ethiopians in the Diaspora have also expressed their backing for the successful completion of the Renaissance Dam by purchasing bonds worth millions of Birr.

### **National Council approves EIA report on Grand Renaissance Dam**

The National Coordination Council for construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam Project approved the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report conducted by a neutral professional study on the Dam on 18<sup>th</sup> July.

At its extraordinary session, the Council also agreed to convert the donations made by employees of government and private organizations to bond purchase. So far the amount of employee donations, estimated at three billion Birr, accounts for 4% of the total cost for construction of the dam.



The Grand Renaissance Dam

The Impact Assessment confirmed that the construction of the Dam will not have a negative impact on lower riparian countries.

The Council Secretary, Bereket Simon, said a tripartite committee comprising the Ethiopian, Egyptian and Sudanese governments would conduct additional studies on the Dam.

He said the government of Ethiopia will never allow negative impacts on Nile riparian countries. It is working for fair utilisation of the Nile water among all riparian countries.

The Council has reached agreement that natural resources conservation and development works should further be strengthened in the coming five years.

Rehabilitation and afforestation works carried out over the past years have helped to increase the country's forest coverage, Bereket said.

Terraces and dykes constructed with the active participation of farmers have helped to restore natural resources in areas covering thousands of hectares of land.

Investors are buying bonds besides supporting the construction of the dam and the public have shown enthusiasm towards the project.

Bereket said the amount of funds solicited so far through donations and bond sales would be made official in the near future.

Ethiopians living in foreign countries are buying bonds for construction of the Dam and a detailed plan has been prepared to solicit their support in an organized manner.

The executive committee of the council has approved the plan and is discussing the plan with Ethiopian missions around the world.

The decision of the executive committee of the council would be presented to the federal government for approval.

The council expressed its gratitude to those, who pledged funds for the construction of the dam.

### **Ethiopian Airlines is Africa's most profitable airline for third consecutive year**

Ethiopian Airlines is once again Africa's most profitable airline, according to 2011 World Airline Report by Air Transport World (ATW). For Fiscal Year 2010 which ended in June, Ethiopian Airlines made a net profit of \$121.4 million, ranking it the most profitable airline in Africa by far. Second place South African Airways made a net profit of 78.9 million.



Ethiopian's revenue for FY 2010 was \$1.3 Billion. In the 2010 World Airline Report, Ethiopian Airlines was ranked the 16<sup>th</sup> most profitable airline in the world. In 2009, Ethiopian was ranked 25<sup>th</sup> in the World's Top 25 Airlines, appearing for the first time.

By revenue, Ethiopia Airlines is ranked third after South African Airways and Egypt Air. By number of passengers carried Ethiopian is third after Egypt Air and South African Airways. Ethiopian carried 3,344,000 passengers in 2010, an increase of 14.8% from the previous year.

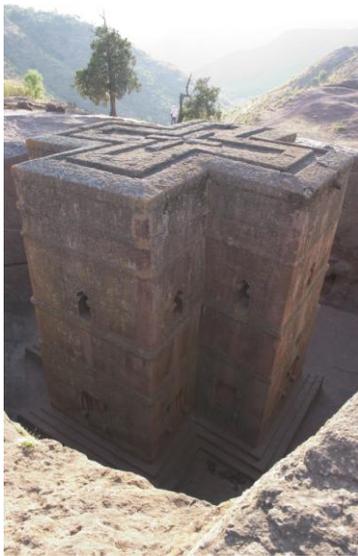
Ethiopian Airlines will officially join Star Alliance later this year becoming the third carrier from Africa in the alliance. ATW also reports that Ethiopian will launch its second North American destination when it starts Addis Ababa-Toronto Pearson flights in December. Currently it serves Washington Dulles daily from Addis Ababa using a 777-200LR. It is also expecting the delivery of two new 777 freighters on lease by the end of 2012.

### **Lalibela secures over 79 million Birr income from tourism**

Over 79 million Birr income was secured from tourists who visited the historical, cultural and religious sites of Lalibela town, during the just ended budget year.

More than 66,700 tourists visited the site – an increase of over 30,600, more than 52,600 being foreign tourists.

Expansion of infrastructure, construction of modern hotels and promotional activities led to the growth in the number of visitors.



Lalibella, home to the Rock-Hewn Churches, has been on UNESCO's World Heritage List since 1978. The 11 medieval monolithic cave churches of this 13<sup>th</sup> century 'New Jerusalem' are situated in a mountainous region in the heart of Ethiopia near a traditional village with circular-shaped dwellings. Lalibela is a high place of Ethiopian Christianity, still today a place of pilgrimage and devotion. Lalibela is particularly famous for its festivals on 7<sup>th</sup> Jan

Christmas or "Ledet" and 19<sup>th</sup> Jan for Epiphany or "Timkat".

### **Ethiopian wins Research4Life Global Case Study competition**

Research4Life partners on 19<sup>th</sup> July announced that Mr. Mulugeta Bayisa, a physiotherapist from Ethiopia together with Dr. Arun Neopane, a paediatrician from Nepal were chosen as joint winners in the "Access to Scientific Research Literature" global case study competition on how HINARI, AGORA, and/or OARE have impacted both work and communities.

They were chosen from over 60 entries to the competition held in celebration of the 10 year anniversary of the launch of HINARI and the Research4Life programme.

The competition drew entries from more than 30 countries, and represented the broad range of institutions which have access to the HINARI, AGORA and/or OARE programmes. Multimedia and print entries came from researchers, librarians and health professionals who shared their insights on how Research4Life can benefit eligible institutions in developing countries.

Joint winner Mr. Mulugeta Bayisa is a physiotherapist based at the University of Gondar, College of Medicine and Health Sciences in Ethiopia. He also teaches undergraduate students in both clinical and classroom environments. Using HINARI, he co-developed an innovative therapeutic exercise programme for adults living with HIV and AIDS to improve the health related quality of life, which is now being implemented by the University Hospital. Mr. Bayisa also developed evidence-based physiotherapy management guidelines for children with obstetric brachial plexus palsy, and developed a programme of effective spinal manipulative therapy for acute low back pain in adults. Mr. Bayisa is testimony to how an initiative such as Research4Life can change people's lives, "I can stand confident in front of people and tell them that I can make a real difference with the help of Research 4Life," he states.

Research4Life is the collective name for three public-private partnerships which seek to help achieve the UN's Millennium Development Goals by providing the

developing world with access to critical scientific research.

## Events

### Art of Ethiopia 2011

Art of Ethiopia 2011 will be exhibiting nearly 400 works of art from 43 of Ethiopia's leading established artists at the Sheraton Addis, in Ethiopia from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> August. In addition to the work of well-known artists, visitors will also have the opportunity to view the works of some exciting new talents, showcasing the future of Ethiopian art.

The Sheraton Addis has long been a patron of Ethiopian art. Alongside this exhibition, the hotel also boasts 80 works by local artists which are on permanent display as part of the hotel's collection. The hotel has also produced a catalogue of the art works on display featuring biographies of each artist. Proceeds from the sale of these catalogues will go to the Sheraton Addis Art Endowment Fund, set up to support art initiatives in Ethiopia.

### Ethiopia to Host ICASA 2011



The International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections in Africa (ICASA) will be held in Addis Ababa from 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> December 2011, under the theme "OWN, SCALE-UP & SUSTAIN".

The Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA) selected Ethiopia based on interest expressed by the Ethiopian Government to host the conference, and its ability to meet the set criteria. Over 10,000 delegates from around the world including scientists, health professionals, policy makers, heads of state and dignitaries, people living with HIV (PLHIV), community leaders and activists working in the fields of HIV and AIDS, sexually transmitted infections, Tuberculosis & Malaria are expected to attend this conference.

ICASA 2011 comes at a time when the world commemorates significant milestones in the history of the AIDS pandemic.

This interactive international AIDS conference taking place in Addis Ababa marks 30 years since AIDS was first discovered as a threat to human beings, 10 years since the United Nations General Assembly Political Declaration on AIDS; and 5 years since the Declaration towards universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support

This High-Level Conference will seek to promote achievements in AIDS response and to strengthen the partnership between governments, civil society, communities and development partners. The specific objectives of ICASA 2011 are:

- To serve as an advocacy platform to mobilize African leaders, partners and the communities to increase ownership, commitment and support to the response
  - To provide a forum for exchange of knowledge, skills and consolidation of experiences and best practices in Africa and around the globe to scale up evidence-based response to HIV/AIDS/STIs, TB and Malaria to achieve the MDGs
  - To use as a forum - to link and hold accountable political and national leaders, the scientific community, practitioners, communities, civil societies - the private sector and partners to scale-up and sustain the response
  - To create opportunities to define priorities and set policy and programme agenda to enhance mobilization and effective utilization of resources
- Participants are invited to register and submit abstracts in advance. Please visit <http://icasa2011addis.org> to register.

### Ethiopia to host 4<sup>th</sup> African Institute of Mathematical Sciences

Ethiopia hopes to become the next African centre of excellence in mathematical sciences, after Ghana, Senegal and South Africa, with the opening of the fourth African Institute of Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) planned for next year.

Founded in Cape Town in 2003 AIMS is a pan-African centre for postgraduate training and research, providing advanced, broadly applicable mathematical skills to talented students.



A detailed action plan is being put together and construction of the institute is expected to begin following a final go-ahead from the government.

Semu Mitiku, acting chairperson of AIMS-Ethiopia, hopes the centre will be ready to admit students from around the continent in September 2012. Initially, Ethiopia has plans to accept up to 35 students from across the continent.

The Next Einstein Initiative, a programme set up by AIMS-South Africa to oversee the setting up of 15 such institutes across Africa, will part-fund the Ethiopian institute. Ethiopia will provide matching funds for construction and provide running costs.

Training at AIMS-Ethiopia will focus on mathematical modelling applicable to areas relevant to the country's development, such as agriculture and climate change.

## Sports

### Sofia Assefa wins 3000m Steeplechase at Aviva Grand Prix



23 year old Sofia Assefa of Ethiopia beat fellow compatriot Almaz Ayana in the 3,000m steeplechase run at the Aviva Grand Prix held in Birmingham on 10<sup>th</sup> July.

Assefa's finishing time of 9:25.87, was almost five seconds better than second-placed Ayana. Another Ethiopian athlete Birtukan Adama finished 7<sup>th</sup> (9:41.95).

In the men's 5,000m race, Imane Merga finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place (13:07.63) with compatriot Yewew Alamirew coming in 4<sup>th</sup>.

## News in Brief

### South Sudan becomes AU's 54<sup>th</sup> member and UN's 193<sup>rd</sup>



On 9<sup>th</sup> July, Africa welcomed its 54<sup>th</sup> independent state, the Republic of South Sudan. The journey to Independence has been a long and

treacherous one, one that saw millions of Sudanese lose their lives and many more uprooted from a country they once called home.

The new state has received immediate recognition from many regional bodies and international states including permanent members of the UN Security Council. Prime Minister Meles Zenawi declared that Ethiopia "recognises the republic of South Sudan as an independent and sovereign state" and looked forward "to welcoming South Sudan as a full member of IGAD." Other countries have already started appointing ambassadors to the Republic of South Sudan. In this regard the UK took the lead, appointing Alastair McPhail as its Ambassador to the newly independent nation.

South Sudan proclaimed independence from Sudan on 9<sup>th</sup> July and was admitted by the General Assembly as the 193<sup>rd</sup> member of the UN on 14<sup>th</sup> July.

The AU said it had received more than the required majority votes to admit South Sudan as a member following a referendum held under the term of a 2005 peace deal.

### Online money transfer to Ethiopia

WorldRemit, a leading online money transfer business, has launched an online money transfer service that enables the Ethiopian Diaspora to send money back home using a variety of payment options including debit cards and credit cards.

In partnership with the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE), the new service will enable customers to send money from the privacy and convenience of their home or office, 24/7.

WorldRemit offers fees starting as low as £2.50 for transfers of up to \$100. Recipients can collect cash from any of CBE's 390 plus branches in Ethiopia, including more than 80 payout locations in Addis Ababa. As soon as a transaction is processed, the recipient gets an SMS on their mobile phone notifying them that they can collect cash from the nearest branch.

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

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