



# Ethiopian News

June 2011 Issue

## Inside this Issue:

Ethiopia begins electricity exports to neighbouring Djibouti, then to Sudan - plans major export project; launches first ever wind farm.....	page 3
Bethlehem Tilahun Alemu wins 2011 Outstanding Businesswoman of the Year Award.....	page 5
Ambassador visits Coventry University.....	page 6
UNESCO adds Konso cultural landscape to World Heritage List.....	page 7

### U.N. council approves Ethiopian troops for Abyei

The U.N. Security Council has unanimously approved a U.S.-drafted resolution authorising deployment of 4,200 Ethiopian troops to Sudan's disputed Abyei region for a six-month period.

The resolution establishes a new U.N. peacekeeping force, called the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA). Its adoption comes after north and south Sudan signed a deal in Addis Ababa to demilitarise Abyei and let Ethiopian troops monitor the peace.

The Government of Ethiopia accepted the deployment after The Government of Sudan and the Government of Southern Sudan expressed their consent at the African Union High Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) meeting held in Addis Ababa.

The resolution gives UNISFA the authority to use force in self-defence and to protect civilians and humanitarian aid. The resolution said the 15-nation council was "deeply concerned by the current situation in the Abyei Area, and by all acts of violence committed against civilians in violation of international humanitarian law and human rights law including the killing and displacement of ... civilians."

North and South Sudan signed a border security agreement on 29<sup>th</sup> June, facilitated by the AUHIP, chaired by former South African president, Thabo Mbeki.

The Agreement on Border Security and the Joint Security Mechanism (JPSM) is another building block

for ensuring stability and unhindered development along the common border between north and south Sudan.

UNISFA will assist the two parties in drawing up the requirements for the security arrangements for the Safe Demilitarised Border Zone (SDBZ).

The AUHIP welcomed this agreement as a significant contribution towards the ongoing efforts to create stable and peaceful relations between the two sovereign Sudanese States.

The Panel was also confident that the Parties will conclude all the necessary agreements and arrangements to create a soft-border between the two Sudanese States. South Sudan is due to secede from the north to form a new nation on 9<sup>th</sup> July.

### UK, Ethiopia sign Avoidance of Double Taxation treaty at trade, tourism and investment forum



H.E. Ambassador Berhanu Kebede and Africa Minister Henry Bellingham MP, sign the agreement, while ministers look on

H.E. Berhanu Kebede, Ethiopian Ambassador to the UK, and Henry Bellingham MP, Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister for Africa, signed the Convention for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital Gains between the UK and Ethiopia on 9<sup>th</sup> June.

The treaty will provide tax stability to the residents of the UK and Ethiopia and facilitate mutual economic cooperation as well as stimulate the flow of investment, technology and services.

On the same day, at the IET Savoy Place in London, the UK-Ethiopia Investment, Trade and Tourism Forum, the first of its kind in the UK, opened in the presence of Ethiopian Deputy Prime Minister & Minister for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn, a high level delegation of cabinet ministers from Ethiopia, investors, entrepreneurs, invited guests and members of the Ethiopian community in the UK.

The highly acclaimed day-long forum, hosted by Developing Markets Associates (DMA) and Africa Matters Ltd in conjunction with the Embassy of Ethiopia and WAFA, was attended by over 350 delegates.



The Forum was opened with addresses by H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn, H.E. Berhanu Kebede, Henry Bellingham MP - UK Minister for Africa, Baroness Lynda Chalker – Chairman of Africa Matters Ltd and Atam Sandhu – Chief Executive of DMA.

In a key-note address at the Forum, Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Minister Hailemariam Desalegn

said the organization of such a Forum, when the Five Year Growth and Transformation Plan is picking up, is an opportune moment to speed up further the momentum of Ethiopian development by engaging in investment, trade and tourism for mutual benefit.



“Ethiopia,” the Deputy Premier said, “has drawn up foreign policy focused squarely on tackling economic backwardness, desperate poverty, lack of good governance and democracy. That is why economic diplomacy is at the centre of our foreign policy, as a nation seeking rapid economic development together with the objective of advancing democracy.”

According to the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, the role of the private sector is central in the GTP which embraces massive infrastructure development, or social overhead capital schemes, including railway, highways, telecommunications and hydropower and wind power to propel the economy in the desired direction.

UK Minister for Africa, Henry Bellingham MP, on his part highlighted the excellent relationship the UK has with Ethiopia, and outlined the intention to double trade with Ethiopia by 2015 from £200 million to £400 million.

The UK Government would like to see business partnership with the emerging Africa thrive by boosting support to British businesses interested in making the economic link between the private sectors of the nations. He added that Britain would be not just reactive but proactive especially in key sectors like mining and education.

Ethiopian Ambassador to the UK, Ambassador Berhanu Kebede told participants at the Forum that Ethiopia has become one of Africa’s investment destinations and urged businesses and companies to explore opportunities to

engage in agriculture, agro-processing, energy, infrastructure, tourism and mining.

The Forum was addressed by a wide range of distinguished speakers from government and business and covered major economic sectors in four sessions with particular focus on investment in mining, energy, agriculture and agro-processing, tourism and infrastructure.

Speakers and sessions' chairpersons at the Forum included Lawrence Robertson MP, Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Ethiopia; Myles Wickstead CBE, former British Ambassador to Ethiopia and Djibouti; Richard Chase, CEO of Nyota Minerals; Reginald Hankey, CEO of Pittards Plc; John Small, CEO of the Eastern African Association; Keith Bowers, Adviser Ethiopian Film Initiative; and Atam Sandhu, Chief Executive of Developing Market Associations.

Presentations were also made by Ethiopian based companies. Among them were Zemedeneh Negatu, Managing Partner of Ernst & Young, Ethiopia Office; Tewodros Ashenafi, Chairman and CEO of Southwest Energy; Demissie Assefa, CEO of Goh Capital Partners; Tony Hickey, CEO of Ethiopian Quadrants and Dr. Eleni Gebre Medhin, Head of the Ethiopian Commodity Exchange.

Following the closing remarks, a Gala reception was hosted by Diageo.

For more coverage on the Forum including the programme, press release, speeches, pictures and presentations, please visit our website [www.ethioembassy.org.uk](http://www.ethioembassy.org.uk) or send an email to [angela@ethioembassy.org.uk](mailto:angela@ethioembassy.org.uk). The text of the new Convention is also available on the HM Revenue & Customs website.

### **Ethiopia's budget gets a 39% boost**

The House of Peoples' Representatives of Ethiopia approved a close to 118 billion Birr (close to \$7 billion) national budget for the next fiscal year (from 8<sup>th</sup> July 2011 to 7<sup>th</sup> July 2012), up 39% from the previous fiscal year budget.

Ethiopia's ambitious five-year Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) and attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are among the reasons for this year's budget increment.

Of the total budget, 48 billion Birr (40%) will be spent on infrastructure development and the balance goes to capital expenditure, while recurrent expenditure stood at 23 billion Birr. Some 31 billion Birr (around 39% of the total) is allocated to regional states in the form of budget subsidy.

The budget document, presented to the House by Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Sufian Ahmed, also shows that 81% of the total capital budget will be invested in roads, education, agriculture, water, rural electricity and health development. MDG-related activities will also get a total of 15 billion Birr.

The Government plans to collect around 79 billion Birr from domestic tax and non-tax revenue and 21.4 billion from foreign aid. While 6.6 billion Birr and 10.6 billion Birr is expected to be obtained in loans from foreign and domestic financial sources, respectively.

### **Ethiopia begins electricity exports to neighbouring Djibouti, then to Sudan - plans major export project; launches first ever wind farm**

On 27<sup>th</sup> May, Ethiopia began power exports to its Horn of Africa neighbour Djibouti with an output of about 50MW.

The connection will bring Djibouti cheap energy to fund its industrial development and is expected to generate \$10 million for Ethiopia in the first year. The foreign exchange earned by Ethiopia can then be ploughed back into the fund for its Universal Electrification Access Programme.

According to the Government's five-year Growth and Transformation Plan, Ethiopia plans to increase access to electricity to as much as 75% of the population by July 2015, up from the current 41%.

Ethiopia is currently undertaking construction of Africa's biggest dam over the Nile River, near the Sudanese border, costing \$4.76 billion. It is expected to generate 5,250MW upon completion. The *Renaissance Dam* will be funded by Ethiopia, partly through the sale of government bonds. The dam will not only benefit Ethiopia, but also neighbouring Egypt and Sudan.

CEO of Ethiopian Electric and Power Corporation (EEPCo), Miheret Debebe, announced that, as part of Ethiopia's plan to become a regional power exporter, the country will start supplying electric power to neighbouring Sudan as of July 2011, following the completion of transmission grids between Ethiopia and Sudan.

In addition to this, Ethiopia will also provide 5MW to Kenya's northern Moyale town in July and plans to construct a 1,300km 500kV transmission interconnector with Kenya to sell electricity, while an agreement has been signed to further connect Yemen through Djibouti's underwater sea cable.



Another project, a 3,000km 500kV line linking Ethiopia with Sudan and Egypt is also planned.

And according to Debebe, EEPCo is expected to generate enough power in the next 36 months to enable Ethiopia to honour electric power demands from its neighbours.

Work on four new dams on the Nile River to add 11,000MW to Ethiopia's grid will start after 2015, with the power mainly being exported to neighbouring countries.

Meanwhile, Ethiopia is also set to launch its first ever wind farm in July. The €210 million Ashegoda Wind Farm, dubbed the biggest wind farm in sub-Saharan Africa, will provide the country with 120MW.

The three-phased project, under construction in Ashegoda, 20km southwest of Mekelle, will start projection of its first megawatt of electricity in July 2011. The first phase with an installed capacity of

30MW will be fully operational by September 2011 and connected to the national grid. The project will be fully completed by February 2013.

This adds to a number of hydropower projects and is part of the country's plan to reach a power generating capacity of around 10,000MW in the next five years.

Ethiopia plans to produce as much as 8,000MW of additional electricity from hydropower sources and most of its power will be traded among nine countries that are expected to be connected to a regional grid by 2016.

Ethiopia's aim is to produce 20,000MW of power within the next 10 years and plans to spend \$12 billion over 25 years to raise its power generating capability. Its current generating capacity is 2,000MW but it has a potential hydropower capacity of 45,000MW, the second highest in Africa after the Democratic Republic of Congo.

### **World Bank provides \$60million to support Ethiopia's food production**

The World Bank Board of Executive Directors approved an International Development Association (IDA) credit of \$60 million in additional financing to the Government of Ethiopia in support of its efforts to sustainably increase agricultural output and productivity in the Project Area.

This objective will be achieved by developing 20,000 hectares of irrigation and related infrastructure (drainage and access roads), providing support to the Government and the project beneficiaries for agricultural and market development and for sustainable irrigation management.

Irrigation development is a key priority. In Ethiopia's Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP), "Maintaining agriculture as a major source of economic growth" is stipulated as one of five central pillars to drive growth and development in the country. The plan outlines that the "Expansion of small scale irrigation will be given priority while due attention will be given to medium and large scale irrigation to the [full] extent possible".

Ethiopia's current emphasis on expanded investment in irrigation has benefited from achievements in recent years under the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) which was actively supported by the World Bank in past years. The Eastern Nile Council of Ministers (ENCOM) decided in March 2001 that funding should be sought to advance studies of promising irrigation and drainage sites to feasibility and design level. In October 2004, ENCOM agreed to fast-track the preparation of the Irrigation and Drainage (I&D) project which was then prepared by the Ethiopia's government. The project was approved by the World Bank's Board of Executive Directors in June 2007 at the same time as the West Delta irrigation project in Egypt.

The proposed additional financing (AF) would help complete the original project objectives in the context of an unanticipated financing gap. Detailed engineering designs have produced higher cost estimates than the preliminary cost estimates based on the conceptual design used for the purposes of project appraisal. The additional funding will allow the government to complete the construction of the two large irrigation schemes initially included in the project to their full extent, namely Megech-Seraba and Ribb schemes. The financing would cover cost increases, a provision for small post-construction improvement works, and a significant increase of the budget allocated to the implementation of the Environmental Management Plan of the two schemes, based on the detailed costing provided in the respective Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) reports. Despite the significant cost increase, the revised economic analysis shows that the economic rate of return for the project is still significantly higher than the cost of capital.

"This project has the potential and the ambition to transform agricultural practices in the Project Area from subsistence, low-input-low-output type of farming to a more entrepreneurial type of farming generating surpluses out of which the smallholder beneficiaries will be able to cover the cost of irrigation service, thus ensuring long term sustainability," said Francois Onimus, the World Bank's project task team leader.

### Bethlehem Tilahun Alemu wins 2011 Outstanding Businesswoman of the Year Award



Bethlehem Tilahun Alemu, founder and managing director of trailblazing footwear brand, SoleRebels and one of the World Economic Forum's Young Global Leaders of 2011, has been named Outstanding Businesswoman of the Year at the 2011 African Business Awards.

"I am excited and deeply honoured by this award. I accept it on behalf of all the persons who have played and continue to play a role in my success. My success has been and continues to be a truly collective effort," Bethlehem said as she received the award.

Chosen from a field of deeply distinguished business leaders from across the continent, Bethlehem is the first Ethiopian to ever win the award.

Omar Ben Yedder, Publisher of African Business magazine, stated: "Bethlehem is truly a remarkable entrepreneur and leader. She has built an incredibly successful company and a global brand from scratch. At the same time, she has empowered her community and her country while presenting a galvanized, dynamic face of African creativity to the global market. With that in mind, we are excited and honoured to name her Outstanding Business Woman of the year."

More information about SoleRebels can be found at <http://solerebelsfootwear.weebly.com/>

### 9 ships being built for Ethiopian Shipping Lines

Nine ships are being built for Ethiopian Shipping Lines S.C. with a view to enabling the company to give reliable transportation services for export and import goods.

Company Managing Director, Ambachew Abraha, said that seven of the vessels are multipurpose while the rest are for transporting petroleum.

Ambachew said the ships will significantly contribute to building up the overall capacity of the company and making its freight service more reliable.

The company has also launched dry port and multimodal transport services. Currently, two dry ports are in service in the country.

The dry ports helped to reduce unnecessary cost caused by delay of import goods at Djibouti Port.

He said establishing additional dry ports and reinforcing the multi-modal transport service is crucial as the economy is growing at a faster rate.

### ECX seeking expansion

Ethiopia's Commodity Exchange (ECX) plans to double the agricultural items it trades to eight by next year and to introduce forward and future contracts within three years.

CEO of ECX, Dr. Eleni Gebre-Madhin said that she plans to introduce sorghum, chick peas, lentils and niger seeds by expanding warehouse facilities.

The ECX was launched in mid-2008 and trades coffee, maize, sesame and white pea beans through an open cry system.

Ethiopia, Africa's biggest coffee producer, intends to boost its agricultural output by 2015 under the five-year Growth and Transformation Plan, raising coffee production from 300,000 tonnes to 700,000 tonnes.

Dr. Eleni said that ECX plans to introduce three to five new commodities each year for the next four years and meet the increase in the volumes of commodities it already has.

According to company figures, ECX's traded volumes reached 502,000 tonnes this year, up from 221,000 last year.

### Ambassador visits Coventry University

A team of diplomats led by H.E. Ambassador Berhanu Kebede visited Coventry University on 3<sup>rd</sup> June to explore opportunities for collaboration between Coventry University and Ethiopian universities.

Upon arrival the Ambassador and his team were given a warm welcome and introduced to the Pro-Vice Chancellor for International Affairs, Dr. David Pilsbury, Tim Hunt, Regional Manager Africa & Middle East, and Wendy Hunt, Partnerships Manager.



(l-r) Mr. Tewelde Mulugeta, Head of PR and Public Diplomacy at the Embassy, H.E. Ambassador Berhanu Kebede, Wendy Hunt and Dr. David Pilsbury.

During discussions at his office, Dr. Pilsbury briefed the Ambassador on how the University has gone global, focusing on opportunities, recasting its objectives, and internationalizing its curriculum.

He said the university is committed to international cooperation, to student and staff mobility, to collective curriculum development and to working with overseas partners to tackle issues of global concern. In this context, he noted that there are opportunities to develop meaningful links with Ethiopia.

The university has been engaged with African countries and there is a growing relationship with India and China. With a rise in the number of African students, there is the possibility of research links focusing on the wider continent that will encourage

field trips and case studies at the centre of which could be African people.

Dr. Pilsbury mentioned industrial designing, disaster management, peace and reconciliation, business incubation and sustainable agriculture as some of the courses offered by the university.

Ambassador Berhanu in turn briefed the Coventry team on progress made in Ethiopia in the expansion of education with particular focus on tertiary education.

He said Ethiopia, as a country committed to poverty alleviation, has been working alongside partners to achieve universal education, improve quality of education and making tertiary education accessible to all through the involvement of both public and private higher learning institutions.

The number of public universities is expected to reach 31 – now at 21, with a vision to produce skilled manpower needed for a fast growing economy like Ethiopia, a nation determined to empower citizens so they may carve their future.

Ambassador Berhanu underlined Ethiopia’s desire to establish relations with Coventry University, reputed for the quality education it provides, to help train university lecturers and rectors for the new universities in different parts of Ethiopia.

The latest Ethiopian development programme, the Five Year Growth and Transformation Plan, (GTP), envisages achieving universal primary education by 2015 and doubling both the GDP and agricultural production.

The meeting was followed by a tour of the Coventry School of Art and Design (CSAD) degree show. During his visit, the Ambassador met Gabriel Leul, an Ethiopian final year student on the MDes Automotive and Transport Design course. For his final project, Gabriel designed a tram for Addis Ababa. Gabriel is among the would-be young industrious entrepreneurs the country will rely on in its endeavour to beat its formidable enemy, poverty.

Gabriel has had the chance to showcase his model to senior government officials, including the Deputy

Prime Minister and the Minister of Transport, who have encouraged his creativity and pledged support for the realization of his entrepreneurship.



Gabriel Leul showing the Ambassador his model (below).



### **UNESCO adds Konso cultural landscape to World Heritage List**

UNESCO’s World Heritage committee has approved nine more sites, including Konso Cultural Landscape, for UNESCO’s World Heritage List.

Konso Cultural Landscape is a 55km<sup>2</sup> arid property of stone-walled terraces and fortified settlements in the Konso highlands of Ethiopia. It constitutes a spectacular example of a living cultural tradition stretching back 21 generations (more than 400 years) adapted to its dry hostile environment. The landscape demonstrates the shared values, social cohesion and engineering knowledge of its communities.

The site also features anthropomorphic wooden statues - grouped to represent respected members of their communities and heroic events - which are an



exceptional living testimony to funerary traditions that are on the verge of disappearing. Stone steles in the towns express a complex system of marking the passing of generations of leaders.

Ethiopia has eight other sites on the UNESCO World Heritage List. These include;

- The ruins of the ancient city of **Aksum**, found close to Ethiopia's northern border. The ruins, dating from between the 1st and the 13th century A.D., include monolithic obelisks, giant stelae, royal tombs and the ruins of ancient castles. (Listed in 1980)
- The fortress-city of **Fasil Ghebbi** which was the residence of the Ethiopian emperor Fasilides and his successors in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. Surrounded by a 900-m-long wall, the city contains palaces, churches, monasteries and unique public and private buildings marked by Hindu and Arab influences, subsequently transformed by the Baroque style brought to Gondar by the Jesuit missionaries. (Listed in 1979)



(l-r) Obelisks from the ruins of the ancient city of Aksum and the rock-hewn churches of Lalibela.

- The fortified historic town of **Harar**, located in the eastern part of the country. The walls surrounding this sacred Muslim city were built between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. Harar Jugol, said to be the fourth holiest city of Islam, numbers 82 mosques, three of which date from the 10<sup>th</sup> century, and 102 shrines, but the townhouses with their exceptional interior design

constitute the most spectacular part of Harar's cultural heritage. (Listed in 2006)

- **The Lower Valley of the Awash** which contains one of the most important groupings of palaeontological sites on the African continent. The remains found at the site, the oldest of which date back at least 4 million years, provide evidence of human evolution which has modified our conception of the history of humankind. The most spectacular discovery came in 1974, when 52 fragments of a skeleton enabled the famous Lucy to be reconstructed. (Listed in 1980)
- **The lower valley of the Omo**, a prehistoric site near Lake Turkana, is renowned the world over. The discovery of many fossils there, especially *Homo gracilis*, has been of fundamental importance in the study of human evolution. (Listed in 1980)
- **The Rock-Hewn Churches of Lalibela** - 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. (Listed in 1978)
- **Tiya** is among the most important of the roughly 160 archaeological sites discovered so far in the Soddo region, south of Addis Ababa. The site contains 36 monuments, including 32 carved stelae covered with symbols, most of which are difficult to decipher. They are the remains of an ancient Ethiopian culture whose age has not yet been precisely determined. (Listed in 1980)
- **Simien National Park** - Massive erosion over the years on the Ethiopian plateau has created one of the most spectacular landscapes in the world, with jagged mountain peaks, deep valleys and sharp precipices dropping some 1,500m. The park is home to some extremely rare animals such as the Gelada baboon, the Simien fox and the Walia ibex, a goat found nowhere else in the world. (Listed in 1978)

## Events

### Addis to host 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Ethiopian Economy

The 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on the Ethiopian Economy organised by the Ethiopian Economic Association (EEA) will be held from 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> July.

More than 90 papers covering a wide range of topics relevant to the Ethiopian economy will be presented at the three-day conference.

The conference has proved to be an excellent forum at which not only resident Ethiopian researchers, but also Ethiopian and non-Ethiopian researchers based abroad, present and discuss research findings.

Since its inception, the EEA has been engaged in conducting research, organising annual conferences and publishing journals, magazines and books on all aspects of the Ethiopian economy.

### Ethiopia to host the 12<sup>th</sup> AGOA Forum in 2013

The African Ministerial Consultative Group meeting held in Lusaka on 8<sup>th</sup> June accepted Ethiopia's offer to host the 12<sup>th</sup> Africa Growth and Opportunity Act Forum (AGOA) to be held in 2013.

AGOA Forum meetings which bring together government officials, civil society representatives and business leaders from both the United States and Africa are held alternately in the United States and in one of the AGOA eligible countries in Africa. This year's AGOA meeting was held in Zambia, and AGOA 2012 will be held in the USA.

AGOA represents U.S. trade and investment policy towards Africa. It was set up with the specific objective of increasing and diversifying African exports to the US market and increasing US investment in Africa. It provides trade preferences to 37 Sub-Saharan African countries, offering duty free access to the US market for around 1,600 product tariff lines. The items include clothing, footwear, wine, certain motor vehicle components, a variety of agricultural products, chemicals and steel. AGOA was signed into law in May 2000 by the then president Bill Clinton. The Act originally covered an eight year

period up to September 2008, but an extension was signed by President George Bush in July 2004 for AGOA to extend to 2015.

### Ethiopia hosts EU business forum

Ethiopia hosted its first European Union (EU) business forum in Addis Ababa on 10<sup>th</sup> June. The meeting was aimed at enhancing trade ties between Ethiopia and EU member states.

The business forum, organized by the Delegation of the EU to Ethiopia in collaboration with the diplomatic corps of EU Member States accredited to Ethiopia, also intends to bring Ethiopian businesses closer to Europe.

The conference also envisaged presenting selected financing opportunities for companies offered by EU Member States.

The European Union is the world's largest single market with more than 500 million consumers, and 30 percent of all Ethiopian exports go to its member states, making the union the largest market for the Horn of Africa country.

"One reason for this is that Ethiopian businesses enjoy preferential conditions to export to the EU with duty and quota free entry for all products. The EU has also traditionally been an important investor in Ethiopia," said the EU delegation.

Between 2000 and 2008, companies from EU Member States invested over €2 billion in Ethiopia. The average cost for a single investment license is over €1million.

Five EU countries, namely Britain, Germany, Italy, Sweden and the Netherlands, accounted for more than 84% of the total amount.

## News in Brief

### UK Ethiopian Diaspora celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of May 28 in London

Ethiopian Diaspora members residing in the UK celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the demise of the Derg, pledging to mobilize funds for the Renaissance

Dam, a symbol of a viable and prosperous Ethiopia, in the presence of a high level Ethiopian delegation led by the Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Minister Hailemariam Desalegn.



Addressing a packed hall at the London Ethiopian Embassy, Ato Hailemariam Desalegn congratulated Ethiopians on their achievements in changing the political and economic landscape of Ethiopia through implementing government policies that focused on development that brought tangible changes to peoples' living conditions.

He said Ethiopia, which is on the right track to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015, has a robust economy that will grow by over 14 per cent in the best case scenario, making it possible for the nation to join the middle income community of nations in a relatively short time.

The Deputy Premier & Foreign Minister urged compatriots to be more engaged in investment and knowledge transfer for the realisation of the Five Year Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP).

Apart from the massive projects on road, telecommunications, schools, health facilities, railroads and factories, the Deputy Premier noted, the Ethiopian Government and Ethiopians from all walks of life have committed themselves to proving that they will take charge of the construction of the Renaissance Dam, capable of generating 5,250MW of power, showcasing the country's bright future and potential.

The Ethiopian Government, he said, is committed to raise the funds locally for this grand project and has

set up a national council to oversee resource mobilisation and the proper utilisation of funds.

The inspiration that permeated the gathering was evident when participants rushed to register to buy Renaissance Dam bonds and make pledges that sealed the conviction that Ethiopians are now confident of taking the destiny of their country into their own hands.

Speaking at the reception, Ambassador Berhanu Kebede, urged the Diaspora to seize the opportunity and remain engaged in the building of the new Ethiopia where its people live in peace, equality and harmony.

Present on the occasion were Ministers and members of the Ethiopian high level delegation, and invited guests.

#### **Haile Gebrselassie to return to Berlin Marathon**

Race organisers have announced that Haile Gebrselassie will compete in the Berlin Marathon this September. The 38-year-old won the race four straight years from 2006 to 2009 and has set the world record twice there. In 2007, he set the current record of 2:03:59 and remains the world-record holder in the marathon despite Geoffrey Mutai's 2:03:02 at the Boston Marathon earlier this year. Mutai's time was not sanctioned due to the Boston course being too straight and containing too much downhill.

#### **ERA Signs 2.6 Billion Birr Road Upgrade Agreement**

The Ethiopian Roads Authority (ERA) has signed an agreement providing for upgrading of four roads at a cost of 2.6 billion Birr with local and foreign private construction firms. The roads - Laska-Salayish, Arkit-Hossaenna, Mehal Meda and Dejen-Felegeberhan - whose total length covers 353km are part of the Fourth Road Sector Development Programme.

Some of the roads will be upgraded to asphalt level, according to the agreement.

Over 90% of the fund for the construction of the road will be covered by the government and the balance by the World Bank.