



Ethiopian News

October 2010 Issue

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The Ethiopian Embassy in collaboration with the Royal Geographical Society presents...

Ethiopia - A Journey to the Lost Kingdom

Jonathan Dimpleby (An African Journey) and Gus Casely-Hayford (Lost Kingdoms of Africa) discuss the ancient, modern and often misunderstood Ethiopia. Chaired by renowned travel writer and broadcaster, Frances Linzee Gordon (the first Lonely Planet Guide to Ethiopia).

Tickets selling fast. Book online at <http://www.rgs.org/travel>.
Debate £10 (includes drink - doors open at 6.00pm)

PM Meles sworn in for another term; appoints new ministers

Ethiopia's leader, Meles Zenawi was sworn in to serve for another five-year term as Ethiopia's Prime Minister at the opening session of by the House of People's Representative (HPR) on 4th October.



The House said that PM Meles in his leadership has steered the nation in a development trajectory that has registered double digit growth over the past seven years. Ethiopia has raised its profile in international fora, it said, through the able leadership of the premier.

The House believes that PM Meles is a capable leader who can ensure the renaissance of Ethiopia and the successful implementation of the five year Growth and Transformation Plan.

Talking of his premiership, PM Meles expressed his commitment to serve the nation with integrity and dedication according to the law of the land.

On 5th October, the Prime Minister appointed 20 ministers and presented them to the House of People's Representative (HPR), which it subsequently endorsed.

Accordingly, H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn was appointed as the new Minister for Foreign Affairs and Deputy Prime Minister.

Copies of the Deputy Prime Minister's resume are available on request; please send an email to info@ethioembassy.org.uk. The full list of ministers and state ministers can be found on our website, www.ethioembassy.org.uk.

Ethiopian-Somali Diaspora organise Peace and Development Conference

The Peace and Development Conference of the Ethiopian-Somali Diaspora Community was held on 23rd October in London. Members of the Diaspora expressed their full support of the recently signed peace agreement between the Government of Ethiopia and the UWSLF and ONLF.



The conference was graced, among others, by the presence and active participation of H.E. Abdulfatah Abdulahi, Chairman of the Ethiopian Somali People Democratic Party (ESDP) and Minister of Labour and Social Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, as well as H.E. Abdi Mohammed Omar, President of the Somali Regional State of Ethiopia.

The high-level government delegation briefed the gathering about the political and socio-economic development of the Somali Regional State and of Ethiopia as a whole.



Representatives of the Diaspora community who have been to the Somali Regional State of Ethiopia also gave eye witness accounts of the achievements registered in the spheres of peace and development and called upon the Diaspora community to continue with fervour and commitment, to further strengthen the political and economic gains registered.

The conference, which drew a cross-section of the Diaspora community in the United Kingdom, successfully concluded its deliberation by issuing a final communiqué.

For a copy of the full press statement and the final communiqué, please send an email to info@ethioembassy.org.uk.

IMF: Ethiopia one of the five biggest economies in Sub-Saharan Africa

Ethiopia's economy is predicted to increase by between 8 and 8.5% in 2010-11, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The IMF's Regional Economic Outlook report released on 25th October, said Ethiopia was one of the five biggest economies in Sub-Saharan Africa. Ethiopia was listed with South Africa, Nigeria, Angola and Kenya as accounting for two-thirds of the region's output and just under half of its population.

IMF data highlights that Ethiopia, East Africa's biggest economy, has been growing in double digits since 2005.

The group of five biggest economies in Sub-Saharan Africa is quite diverse and includes a middle-income oil importer, two oil exporters (one of which is also now middle income) and two low-income oil importers (Ethiopia and Kenya), with a more diversified export base.

In Ethiopia, the economy has recently enjoyed strong and broad-based growth, including rising contributions from the service sectors and industry.

Climate Change advisory group agrees on \$100 billion support to developing countries

The high-level advisory group on climate change financing has agreed on \$100 billion per annum support for tackling the effect of climate change in developing countries.

Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, who is leading Africa's negotiation team on climate change, said that the group, which held its third meeting in Addis Ababa on 13th October, clearly identified governmental and non-governmental finance sources.

The group held its meeting at the seventh African Development Forum, which was held in Addis Ababa, with a dedication to climate change.

The group is co-chaired by PM Meles and the Norwegian Premier, Jens Stoltenberg.

The \$100 billion support to developing countries affected by climate change would help them in mitigating and adapting to climate change.

United Nations officials also called on industrialised countries to live up to their pledges to help the developing nations adapt to climate change.

On 12th October, the African Development Bank (AfDB) proposed the establishment of an African Green Fund (AGF) aimed at managing resources allocated to Africa for the impact of climate change. The purpose of the AGF is to receive and manage resources allocated to Africa from all sources, including the fast-track financing and long-term pledges made under the Copenhagen Accord, to finance projects and programmes that contribute to climate resilient and low carbon development in Africa.

The hosting and management of the AGF in Africa and by the Bank will increase Africa's access to the commitments under the Copenhagen Accord. This will enhance Africa's confidence to contribute to

the climate change debate as part of the solution to a global climate change deal.

The AfDB is a significant and committed contributor to development in Africa and, in particular, was established for the purpose of contributing to the sustainable economic development and social progress of its African member states.

First ever Carbon Credit Trade

The World Bank paid \$34,000 for the purchase of carbon credit from the Humbo Community Based Forest Management Project, marking the first ever incident of carbon trade in Ethiopia.

The project was initiated by World Vision Ethiopia in Humbo, Wolayta Sodo, in the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples (SNNP) Regional State. World Vision organised 800 members into seven cooperatives, to be engaged in forest development, with the purpose of making a living from carbon trading instead of the sale of firewood.



Humbo mountain is thriving after early regeneration efforts. Photo © World Vision

The Humbo Forest, which covers an area of 2,728 hectares, was the first large-scale forestry project in Africa to be registered by the United Nations under the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol. It was registered earlier this year with a promise that the Bio Carbon Fund of the World Bank would buy credit for half of the 330,000 tonnes of carbon the forest would absorb.

The World Bank has committed to buy a total of \$726,000 worth of credit, at \$4 per metric tonne, from the Humbo Project over 10 years. The project also aims to recharge ground water, improve biodiversity and reduce soil erosion, flooding and drought.

Carbon trading was conceived in response to increasing climate change caused by greenhouse gas emissions which are largely emitted by countries in the developed world, with Africa only contributing to 3 to 4 percent of global emissions.

After 10 years, half the trees will be cut for the stumps to grow new shoots and the timber will be sold and the revenues shared among the members of the cooperatives. The project started in 2006 with financial assistance of \$700,000 from the World Bank, which helped to plant 1.3 million seeds.

Government aims to become leading power exporter in East Africa

The Ministry of Industry has announced that Ethiopia will meet an ambitious vision of becoming a leading energy exporter in East Africa.

Speaking at the first symposium on financing energy infrastructure in Eastern Africa held in Addis Ababa, State Minister, Tadesse Hailu, said that Ethiopia, in the next few years, will invest \$17 billion in the energy sector to meet the target of being a regional powerhouse.

The state minister also extended invitations to investors to engage in the energy sector in Ethiopia.

Ethiopia has achieved double digit economic growth for the last seven years. Ethiopia's power demand has been boosted up to 2,000 MW from 800MW a few years ago and in the coming years the capacity will increase to 10,000MW.



Ethiopia currently has initial agreements to export 200MW to Sudan, 500MW to Kenya and 200MW to Djibouti, and is also considering a 26km undersea cable to export electricity to Yemen via Djibouti.

The Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation (EEPCo) said that Ethiopia will begin generating 30MW of electric power using wind beginning from February 2011 for the first time. The first phase of the Ashegoda Wind Farm Project, being constructed in Tigray State is almost completed. The project, being constructed in three phases, will enable Ethiopia to generate 120MW of electric power. Construction of the remaining two phases is also well underway.

Ethiopia is said to have the potential to generate up to 45,000MW of electric power from water, 10,000Mw from wind energy and up to 5,000MW from geothermal energy.

AfDB to Finance \$230m Power Project in Ethiopia



The African Development Bank (AfDB) is to provide \$230 million loan for the development of the Ethiopian electric power transmission network. The transmission line will be installed from Welkite-Hossana-Jimma, Gilgel Gibe I-Jimma-Agaro-Bedele, Alamat-Mekelle and Koka-Dire Dawa.

According to Solomon Asfaw, energy specialist with AfDB, the bank is expected to extend the loan to

support the power transmission network. Solomon said the fund will be used for the installation of a 948km-long power transmission line that transmits 230KV of electricity. The fund will finance four power transmission projects.

Speaking at the symposium on financing energy infrastructure in Africa held in Addis Ababa, Alemayehu Tegenu, Minister of Water and Energy (MoWE), invited international financial institutions to fund hydro-power projects in Ethiopia.

Holland Car launches city buses

Holland Car Plc. inaugurated city buses it had assembled, the first of their kind in Ethiopia's automotive industry, on 16th October, the company's 5th anniversary.

As 60% of the parts are manufactured locally, the bus marks a departure from the company's usual practice. To date, the cars which they assembled relied on imports for 90% of their parts.



The buses can carry 250 passengers and were assembled at Holland Car's new plant in Burayu Town, in the Oromia Special Zone.

The bus, designed in collaboration with Motio BV Design and Engineering Enterprise, a Dutch company, is durable and suitable for all kinds of roads. Holland Car plans to export the bus and expects to sell 500 to 700 buses in Ethiopia.

Holland Car was established as a joint venture between Tadesse Teseema, CEO of the company, and Trento BV Engineering, a Dutch company. It is based in Modjo, 65km from Addis Ababa. The company has sold thousands of cars under the Abay, Awash, Shebelle and Tekeze brands. It is

currently developing a new plant, dubbed Cassiopeia, for the assembly of commercial cars such as pickups.

World Bank approves \$150 million funding to Ethiopia's agricultural sector

The World Bank Board of Executive Directors approved funding of \$150 million (\$108.4 million as credit and \$41.6 million as grant) to the Government of Ethiopia on 1st October.

The funding will be utilised to support increased agricultural productivity, enhanced market access for key crops and livestock products, and improved food security.

The Agricultural Growth Programme (AGP) will initially target 83 high-potential *woredas* (districts) with increased participation of farmers, particularly women and youths, in defining the support they need to raise productivity and access markets.

Agriculture in Ethiopia is the largest contributor to overall economic growth and poverty reduction. Ethiopia has significant agricultural potential because of its water resources, its vast fertile land area, and its large labour pool.

Developing the agricultural sector is central to the Government's development strategy and an important element of the current World Bank Country Assistance Strategy (CAS) for Ethiopia.

The AGP will support the Government in reducing food insecurity, vulnerability and environmental degradation by providing farmers with improved access to knowledge and information, market, finance and other services through support from key public and private institutions, including farmer organisations and public advisory services.

The project will be implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MoARD).

Commodity Exchange rakes in 44 million Birr

The Ethiopian Commodity Exchange (ECX) earned 44 million Birr in operational revenues during the 2009/10 fiscal year, an increase from 17.4 million Birr the previous year.

Established in 2008, the ECX has been extending its trading activities from one hour of trading a week to all day throughout the week. As a result, it has increased its monthly trade value from 83 million Birr to 491 million Birr in 2009.



Unwashed coffee accounted for 61% of the total transactions, increasing the trade volume from 138,000 tonnes to 221,000 tonnes. This also increased the trade value from 2.7 billion Birr to 6.7 billion Birr, a 148% increase. Other main trading products include sesame, maize and wheat.

In the coming months, the agricultural sector will experience a major peak season for crop production, as farmers get ready to harvest sesame. Ethiopia is the world's 4th largest sesame producer after China, India and Myanmar.

Eleni Gebre-Medhin addresses the World Food Prize Conference

Eleni Gebre-Medhin, CEO of the Ethiopian Commodity Exchange, spoke at the World Food Prize Conference on 14th October.

She said developing countries will need stronger connections to world markets in order to reduce food insecurity and maintain prices. "Trading floors in developing nations give farmers more-accurate pricing information and encourage construction of storage facilities, roads and telephone networks needed to foster agriculture, Gebre-Medhin said. Farmers in Ethiopia, with experience in commodity

trading, 'think global and multinational, rather than thinking local', she said. 'That means they're able to make better decisions on when to sell' and pay closer attention to crop quality.

Former U.N. Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, in his speech, discussed topics related to food security, saying that discrimination against women is limiting agricultural development in Africa.

The World Food Prize recognises achievement in food and agriculture that alleviates hunger and poverty globally. The annual conference brings together governments, businesses and humanitarian organisations to discuss farming and international development.

Ethiopian scientists discover 22 million year old fossil, fauna and flora

Addis Ababa University's College of Development Dean, Dr. Mulugeta Fesseha, has announced that a group of Ethiopian scientists have discovered 22 million years old fossils, amphibians, fish, mammals and numerous plants on a new locality in the Mush basin, 257km north east of Addis Ababa.

Dr. Mulugeta, who is the principal investigator, said it is the only African site of its age.

The research was launched in 2007 by four Ethiopian scientists and four foreign researchers and would assist understanding of the origin of the Mush sedimentary basin and the ancient climate and vegetation in the locality.

The research would also help reconstruct the holistic ancient environment of the Mush basin and use the reconstructed Mush basin vegetation and climate as a reference for historical and future global warming events.

The outputs of the research will play a critical role in the overarching paleo-environmental reconstruction research that will produce models and explain records of fauna, flora and climate in East Africa over the last 30 million years.

Tourism

2,000 foreign tourists visit Simien Mountains National Park

More than 2,000 foreign and local tourists have visited the Simien Mountains National Park over the last three months, a 10% increase on last year, Office Head, Maru Bidgign said. Of the total, 157 were local tourists.

There are 11 tour operators within the park, which is home to endemic animals such as the Red Fox, Walia and Gelada Baboons.

Events

Dub Colossus to return to London in November

Dub Colossus will perform live in London on 10th November at the Bloomsbury Ballroom, for the only UK show of 2010.



In 2006 Nick Page, British producer, multi-instrumentalist and founding member of Transglobal Underground and Syriona, first travelled to Addis Ababa to collaborate with musicians and explore traditional Azmari styles, 60s Ethiopian pop, Ethiojazz and 70s Jamaican Dub Reggae. He came across some amazingly talented artists - female vocalists Tsedenia Gebremarkos and Sintayehu 'Mimi' Zenebe, Ethiojazz pianist Samuel Yirga, tenor sax player Feleke Hailu and Teremage Woretaw on *messenqo* (one-string fiddle) and vocals. Dub Colossus was born, and soon their critically acclaimed debut album *A Town Called Addis*, as well

as the subsequent *Return to Addis* EP were released, and amazing live shows followed.

In March 2011 Dub Colossus will release a new album *Addis Through the Looking Glass*, to be preceded by the *Rockers Meet Addis Uptown* EP, which features a cover version of the Jamaican reggae classic "Uptown Top Ranking", originally by Althea & Donna.

The mighty 12-piece live band, mixing up traditional Ethiopian sounds with sturdy reggae rhythms and a modern dub twist, will transport you to the sultry clubs and pounding dancehalls of Addis Ababa. Tickets can be purchased on the door or in advance from *Ticketweb*.

Africa seizes Green Economy with major conference

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has announced that a major Africa-wide conference - highlighting how it can transit to a low-carbon, resource-efficient Green Economy - will take place next year in response to the call by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN).

In a statement released by UNEP, the conference will showcase how smart policy moves and creative investments across sectors, ranging from agriculture and transport to fisheries and forests, can drive green and sustainable growth alongside job creation and livelihoods for Africa's one billion citizens.

The conference will be among the first fruits of a partnership on Africa's options for a Green Economy - backed by the African Union, the African Development Bank, the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the UNEP - that emerged during the 7th African Development Forum in Addis Ababa this October.

Since launching the Green Economy Initiative in 2008, many countries have come forward seeking

advice from UNEP on how they can tailor their economies along such a path.

Africa's young business leaders to meet in Ethiopia

Africa's emerging business leaders will converge in Addis Ababa to discuss investment opportunities and the challenges facing the continent in global trade in November.

The meeting, the first of its kind, will be attended by approximately 200 young businessmen and women. The leaders are expected to discuss the theme '*How does Africa become prosperous*' and will also spearhead partnership between countries, companies and organisations on the continent. The leaders were chosen for their distinguished leadership in business, government and non-profit organisations and are also viewed as the next face of Africa in business.

The meeting, organised by South African-based African Leadership Network (ALN), will take place between 3rd and 6th November and will be chaired by Dr. Eleni Gebre-Medhin, founder and CEO of the Ethiopian Commodity Exchange; Sim Tshabalala, CEO of Standard Bank South Africa; and Bill Egbe, President of Coca-Cola South Africa.

Sessions will also focus on understanding the current business environment in Africa, crafting a vision for Africa's prosperity, outlining practical steps towards prosperity, and how a prosperous Africa can be better managed.

Sports

Meseret Defar nominated for IAAF World Athlete of the Year award

Ethiopia's World Indoors and Continental Cup 3,000m champion, Meseret Defar, was named as one of the female candidates on the International Association of Athletics Federation's (IAAF) list of athletes for November's World Athlete of the Year Awards to be held in Monaco.



Ten men and ten women were named in the initial list, from which three will be shortlisted with the help of the votes, which will be added to a poll of IAAF Athletics Family members. A shortlist of three finalists will be presented to a special jury of the International Athletic Foundation, who will then make a final selection of the World Athlete of the Year.

Meseret has won medals at top-tier international competitions including Olympic and World Championship gold medals over 5,000 metres. She broke the world record in the event in 2006, broke it again in 2007 and held it until 2008, when fellow Ethiopian Tirunesh Dibaba beat her time.

Defar has been successful in the 5,000 m at the Olympic Games, taking gold at the 2004 Athens Olympics and bronze at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. She has experienced similar success in the World Championships, taking silver in the 2005 Helsinki Championships and gold at the 2007 Osaka Championships.

Defar holds the indoor records for the 5,000 and 3,000 metres and the two-mile run. She has dominated the 3,000m indoor event, winning three consecutive gold medals at the IAAF World Indoor Championships.

The winners will be announced live on stage at the 2010 IAAF World Athletics Gala in Monaco on 21st November.

Getu Feleke sets new course record for Amsterdam Marathon

Getu Feleke won the 35th edition of the Amsterdam Marathon by setting a new course record of 2:05:44, lowering the previous best time set last year by Gilbert Yegon of Kenya by 34 seconds.

The 23-year old Ethiopian who ran 2:09:32 at last year's competition, improved his time in the marathon in May when he finished 4th in the Volkswagen Prague Marathon in 2:08:04.

Chala Dechase, Cherkos Feleke and Hailu Mekonnen finished 3rd, 4th and 5th, respectively, with Cherkos Feleke making his debut by finishing within 2:07:37.

In the women's race, defending champion Eyerusalem Kuma finished in second place in 2:27:04. Her compatriots Robe Guta, Woinshet Girma and Shitaye Bedaso finished 3rd, 4th and 5th.

News in Brief

Foundation selects Dr. Tedros for Jimmy and Rosallynn award

The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) has selected Dr. Tedros Adhanom for the Jimmy and Rosallynn Carter Humanitarian Award.

The Award which is for Humanitarian Contributions to the Health of Humankind was established in 1997 by the NFID Board of Directors to honour those individuals whose outstanding humanitarian efforts and achievements have contributed significantly to improving the health of humankind.



Dr. Tedros, in his five years as Health Minister, has led the effort to protect all Ethiopians at risk from malaria. 20 million long-lasting insecticidal bed nets were distributed to cover an estimated 50 million people at risk with malaria, one of the most ambitious and successful effort in public health history. He has also improved the quality and access to health services with a campaign that recruited and trained 30,000 health extension workers who live and work in rural Ethiopia. Treatments for trachoma also increased from 1.7m in 2005 to 13.4m annually.

Former recipients of the award include former US president Bill Clinton, and Bill and Melinda Gates.

Gilgel Gibe II to begin operation in November

In his address to the parliament on 19th October, Prime Minister Meles Zenawi announced that Gilgel Gibe II hydroelectric power plant will start its work in November.

Gilgel Gibe II, which lies 250km south west of Addis Ababa, can generate 420MW of electricity and uses water from Gilgel Gibe I to generate power.

In related news, *Power Engineering Magazine* has singled out the Ethiopian Hydroelectric Dam, Tekeze, which was inaugurated earlier this year, as the best project of the year.

About 11 projects of similar standing, from around the world, have been considered for the award and Tekeze happened to be one of the last two, British

Columbia's Canon Creak Hydroelectric Power Station is the other contender.

Tekeze hydroelectric station, with four turbines, has a capacity of 300MW.

Ethiopia inaugurates the first agricultural products' quality control laboratory

The first Agricultural Products' Quality Monitoring and Testing Laboratory (QMTL) established by the Ministry of Agriculture was inaugurated on 18th October.

The laboratory was established with the aim of improving the quality and profitability of exportable agricultural products. It is equipped with the latest analytical instruments and gives quality and safety accreditation for fruits, vegetables, flowers, coffee beans, oil seeds and other matrices such as water and soil.

Ethiopian Airlines appoints its first female captain

On 14th October, Ethiopian Airlines announced that it had officially appointed its first female commercial flight Captain, Amsale Gualu Endegnanew.

Captain Amsale joined Ethiopian Pilot Training School in 2000 and started her career as first officer in 2002. Her first flight as captain was a Q-400 aircraft from Addis Ababa to Bahir Dar.

Ethiopian Airlines currently has four female pilots working as first officers. Captain Amsale said it was a great privilege to become the first female captain of the national carrier.

Ethiopian film to compete at Oscars

"The Athlete" (*Atletu*), an internationally acclaimed film based on the true story of Abebe Bikila, Ethiopia's legendary and greatest athlete of all time, is one of the entries competing for the best foreign film at the Oscars from 65 nations.



"The Athlete" is an uplifting story about Abebe Bikila, who became the first black African to win a marathon gold medal at the Rome Olympics (barefoot). Years later, he repeated his victory and record at the Tokyo Games making him the first runner ever to accomplish this consecutively.

The winner will be announced in February 2011.

2010 African Banker Awards

Amhara Credit and Savings Institution (ACSI) was the Microfinance Institution of the Year at the 2010 African Banker Awards at a gala dinner and awards ceremony in Washington on 8th October.

Commenting on this year's awards, Omar Ben Yedder, publisher of African Magazine said that banking is still growing rapidly throughout Africa and large groups are diversifying their activities and product offerings. He added that this is necessary as the private sector needs strong banking institutions.

The African Bankers Awards is organised by the African Banker magazine and IC Events.

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