



Ethiopian News

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PM Meles, climate change support for Africa essential



Prime Minister Meles Zenawi has stressed that African leaders have no chance of forcing western countries to deliver the billions of dollars they promised to clean up the effects of climate change, but warned that Africa would not accept any future global agreements reached on climate change if the funds are not provided.

"There would not be a binding climate change agreement acceptable to Africa unless the issues of funding are addressed. I hope we would not have to resort to that," the Prime Minister said after chairing an 11th May AU meeting that discussed a common African position.

During the climate change talks in Copenhagen in December 2009, rich countries had promised to provide US\$ 30 billion between 2010 and 2012 to Africa for adaptation and mitigation efforts and \$100bn a year from 2020.

The PM insisted on a clear set of agreements by the African leaders ahead of the climate negotiations. Meles said the representatives of the Conference of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change, had made clear that the issue of financing for the effects of climate change to Africa was critical for future success.

PM Meles to represent Africa at G20 Summit in Canada

The Ethiopian Prime Minister, Meles Zenawi, has been invited to represent Africa at the G20 Summit to be held in Toronto on 26th to 27th June.

Canada, as host of the summit, announced the special invitees - which also included leaders from Malawi, the Netherlands, Spain and Vietnam – in a statement issued while Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper was travelling in Europe to consult with leaders about the G20 agenda.

This will be the second time PM Meles has been selected to represent Africa in its climate change negotiations with developing countries.

The G20 meeting will follow a 25th to 26th June summit of the Group of Eight leading industrialised countries to be held in Muskoka, Ontario, north of Toronto.

EU to deploy 150 observers for Ethiopia polls

The European Union (EU) has decided to deploy 150 monitors for Ethiopia's elections in May.

Ninety of those observers have already arrived in Ethiopia and the rest are expected one week before the May 23rd elections.



The ninety observers, who are "long-term" observers, will observe all phases of the election from the opening of polling stations to voting,



closing and counting and are expected to talk with regional election officials, representatives of political parties and civic organisations and the general public. They will observe the process of election preparations and listen to complaints. Their findings will be part of the overall evaluation and assessment of the process by the European Union Election Observation Mission.

More than 30 million Ethiopians have registered for the election, according to the National Election Board of Ethiopia. Voters will choose among candidates for 547 seats in the federal parliament and for candidates in regional councils throughout the nation.

PM Meles addresses World Economic Forum in Dar

Prime Minister Meles Zenawi stressed the importance of policy in the development and industrialisation of Africa in a well-attended conference on 6th May in Dar-es-Salaam.

He said that some countries, including Tanzania, had effective policies in place and were accelerating economic development. He said full support and encouragement of small-scale agriculture is absolutely key in these policies. “To enable the small-scale farmer to produce more, more technology is not necessarily the most important area now,” he said. “If we were to combine the technologies that have already been tested in Ethiopia and Tanzania we would have enough technology in our hands to double or even triple agricultural production.” He added that the problem was “a shortage of proper market institutions that intensify the technological systems that support the farmers”. Effective policy and institutional transformation were both needed. “Moisture stress and rains failing is part of our life and, in this regard, we are going to be working in an environment which is decidedly more hostile than usual – moisture stress is more severe and utilising

existing technologies, such as moisture retention programmes, scaling them up, becomes the key issue.”

In a message to partners who want to assist Africa, he urged “please stop dissecting climate change and development, it’s the same thing, it is the same projectory of development, but more severe. We just need more support because of the same problem. Please do not create artificial barriers between adaptation and mitigation. When we adapt to climate change we can only do it in a manner that can mitigate climate change.”

Public meeting with high level government officials held in London

A high level delegation, led by H.E. Ambassador Tewelde Gebru held a public meeting in London on 24th April. The delegation included W/ro Genet Wolde, Speaker of the House of the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region, Ato Alemayehu Atomsa, Head of Public Relations of the Oromia Region and Ato Tesfaye Wolde, a Representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



The government officials gave a detailed account to a great number of participants of different political persuasions, about the political, economic and social developments that are taking place in Ethiopia.

They covered the wide range of development activities being carried out to expand the healthcare

service as well as the coverage of primary, secondary, tertiary and vocational education throughout the country.

Primary education is now accessible to all children. The expansion of secondary education in the country is increasing fast, while 23 universities have been constructed and ten more are in the pipeline, which will greatly improve tertiary education. In line with the expansion of education coverage, the government is implementing a range of strategies that will improve the quality of education.

In the health sector, besides constructing health posts in every Kebele in the country, 30,000 health extension workers have been trained and deployed, most of whom are women.

With regard to infrastructure development, by this year the country's road network had increased by 20 percent since 2005.



In the telecommunications sector, fibre-optic cables now link Ethiopia with the rest of the world through major ports in neighboring countries, school-net and agri-net programmes are being implemented and land-line and mobile telephone coverage have massively expanded during the past 5 years.

Regarding the expansion of the supply of electricity, mega hydro-electric projects have been constructed in different parts of the country and power coverage has grown immensely.

As a result of all these development activities, Ethiopia has registered double digit economic growth for the past six consecutive years.

Concerning the upcoming Fourth National election scheduled to take place on 23rd May, the members of the delegation gave detailed accounts about the measures taken so far. The three main aims of the government are first, to conduct a free, fair and democratic election, second to make the election credible so that it satisfies the public and finally to win the majority vote and lead the country for the coming five years.

To achieve these targets, the officials said, the election law has been improved, a new electoral board has been established with the participating opposition political parties and a new election code of conduct has been agreed and signed by 65 parties, including the ruling party, which was later made law by the parliament.

In addition, media air-time has been allocated to contesting parties so they can reach out and communicate their party policies and programmes to the voters. Financial support has also been allocated for political parties and international and local observers are ready to observe the elections.

Ethiopia doubles 5-year budget for roads

Ethiopia plans to double the budget of the Ethiopian Roads Authority (ERA) for five years and has allocated 70 billion Birr for building roads.



The ERA had requested about 150 billion birr for the next five-year third phase of the Plan for

Accelerated and Sustainable Development to Eradicate Poverty (PASDEP), and the government allocated about 70 billion birr, double the roads budget of the previous five year PASDEP.

ERA also disclosed that it has undertaken construction, upgrading and renovation as well as seasonal and regular maintenance works on more than 12,000km of roads at a cost of 9.7 billion Birr during the last nine months and has plans to undertake construction and maintenance works on 16,811km of roads this year. The road projects completed during the last nine months include the Kombolcha-Woldiya, Shashemene-Doddola, Gashena-Woldiyay and Dera-Magna roads.

New roads have been feeding the rapid economic growth in Ethiopia.

A number of agreements aimed at launching road construction projects were also signed between the authority and construction companies during this time.

The authority carried out the activities as part of its annual action plan - the 3rd round of the Road Sector Development Programme (RSDP) -and had implemented about 99% of its action plan by the end of the third quarter of the current Ethiopian fiscal year.

Transport projects to be further boosted

The Ethiopian government is to invest billions of dollars in large government projects, which are already in the pipeline. The projects include a light railway line in Addis Ababa and a new Ethio-Djibouti railway line, both undertaken by the Railway Corporation, and nine new vessels for Ethiopian Shipping Lines (ESL).

Getachew Bekure (PhD), director general of the Railway Corporation said the city railway project, known as Light Rail Transit Project, will include two lines, one reaching from Ayat through Tor Hayloch

(Army Hospital) to Jimma Ber, and the other from Shiro Meda to Kality. The total length of the line is expected to be 300km.



The other rail project is a 656km train track which will be part of the new Ethio-Djibouti Railway Line. Four companies have signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ethio-Djibouti Railway Corporation to undertake their own feasibility studies. These include an Indian company - Overseas Infrastructure Alliance (OIA), two Chinese companies - China Communication Construction Company (CCCC) and China Railway Group (CRG), and a Russian company. The line is estimated to cost 1.5 billion Birr. The long-term vision of the government of Ethiopia is to set up 5,000km of railway lines nationwide.

Ethiopian Shipping Lines also plans to acquire seven multipurpose ships and two oil tankers, which are expected to cost 290 million dollars.

Ethiopia opens 420MW dam, plans power exports

Ethiopia opened the Beles Hydro Electric Power Generation Project on 5th May. It will produce 420MW of hydropower as part of efforts to beat energy shortages, and eventually helping to make Ethiopia one of Africa's power exporters.

The new dam took five years to complete and cost about €370 million. The Italian government covered €220 million of the cost with the Ethiopian Government providing the balance.



The new dam raises the power-generating capacity in Ethiopia to almost 2,000 MW.

Ethiopia plans to spend \$12 billion over 25 years in improving its power-generating capabilities. Five other hydropower projects are under construction, some funded by the World Bank. Power demand in Africa will rise by 15,000MW between 2007 and 2030.

Meanwhile, the Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation (EEPCo) has revealed its plan to produce 13,472 MW of power at a cost of 58 billion Birr in the next five years.

EEPCo's five-year plan comprises four strategic plans. Producing 1,994 megawatts of power by completing the construction of several power plants already underway will be the first step to be implemented.

The second step will see EEPCo utilising a contractual agreement it signed with foreign companies for the construction of new hydro power plants and wind farms during its last five year plan. This contractual agreement alone is to generate some 1,418 MW of power.

Projects currently under construction and the sum of projects in the first and second strategic plans should help raise power generation to 7,003 MW in the third phase of the plan.

New power plants are to be realised in the fourth phase of the strategic plan, for an anticipated 3,057 MW. EEPCo's power production by the end of the next five year period should total 13,472 MW.

Government committed to rapid growth of agriculture: IFPRI

According to a research paper by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the Government of Ethiopia is committed to the rapid growth of agriculture as a means of accelerating economic transformation and reducing poverty.

IFPRI said that there is substantial evidence that raising agriculture productivity is possible and that agricultural growth plays a key role in economic growth, particularly in low income countries.



The paper examines the implications of commitment to both growth and reduction of poverty, analyses the progress underway and diagnoses the critical elements of change in policy required to reach the objectives.

Combining a review of experiences of other developing countries with an analysis of growth multipliers for Ethiopia, the paper argues that a high rate of agricultural growth has far-reaching positive implications for increasing employment and accelerating poverty reduction. High agricultural growth also helps to avoid the creation of mega cities with large slum populations.

In order to achieve this rapid growth with positive economy-wide linkages, it is necessary to engage "middle farmers", large enough to adopt to new technologies and produce significant marketed surpluses, but small and numerous enough to have

spending patterns that drive a vibrant rural non-farm sector.

Maintaining a growth rate in agricultural GDP of 6% would provide enough employment growth to contribute to rapid economic transformation of the economy and rapid decline in poverty.

Given the low level of crop yields relative to those of other countries with comparable resources, and relative to best farmers and experiment stations, a high rate of growth in agricultural productivity appears to be feasible.

Current government policies are generally consistent with attaining continued high agricultural growth rates. However, reforms are needed to accelerate growth in improved seed production and distribution, and to improve fertilizer distribution and to accelerate growth in fertilizer use, the research paper indicated.

A copy of the research paper can be found on the IFPRI website:

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publication/esswp010.pdf>

Ethiopia obtains over \$1.2 bn from exports

The Ministry of Trade and Industry said that Ethiopia has obtained more than \$1.2 billion from a range of items exported during the past nine months.

The revenue was obtained from 677,316 tonnes of coffee, meat, livestock, pulses, oilseeds, spices, cut flowers, vegetables and fruit exported to various countries, including China, the Netherlands, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland and African and other European countries.

The revenue obtained from this period has shown a \$244 million increase from that of the same period last budget year.

Ethiopia plans to obtain more than \$2 billion from exports in the current budget year.

Integrated interventions on malaria paying off

The Ministry of Health has announced that, owing to the government's concerted intervention, the burden of malaria has been decreased significantly across the nation.

World Malaria Day was observed on 25th April in Ethiopia under the theme *Let's Prevent Malaria Together*.



Ethiopia's prevention-based health policy is bringing remarkable changes. The ministry said that Ethiopia is making efforts to meet the objective of being a malaria-free nation by 2020. Controlling malaria is a key component of achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), especially the reduction of poverty, of disease and of child mortality and the improvement of maternal health.

In Ethiopia, the number of people who die from malaria has been halved through the distribution of nearly 20 million insecticide-treated bed-nets and widespread use of drugs. The dramatic fall in deaths from a disease that killed one in four people in Ethiopia was made possible with global fund support, and crucially, a small army of motivated health workers who have travelled the nation's highways, taking full advantage of the new road networks.

A nationwide campaign protects the most vulnerable – women, children and the elderly. The programme is made possible by broadening outreach through the training of 30,000 health workers, who serve as health service extension workers. The extension workers have been

mobilised to transfer health skills into the community and have created the necessary conditions for the community to alter their lifestyle, which is instrumental in the prevention and control of malaria.

Ethiopia set to join ACBF

African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) Executive Secretary, Dr. Frannie Leautier, has announced the decision by Ethiopia to be a member of the Foundation.



Ethiopia will be the 44th African country to join ACBF, which was established in 1991.

According to Dr. Leautier, ACBF is going to support the manufacturing and textile sectors of Ethiopia by building the managerial skills of professionals in these sectors.

ACBF channels financial support to capacity building to strengthen the core public sector. It also supports regional initiatives in the area of specialising training, policy analysis, applied policy research, negotiation and advocacy. The African Development Bank, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations Development Programme and bilateral donors are members of the Foundation.

Ethiopia launches its first science academy

Ethiopian scientists fulfilled a decades-old ambition by setting up the country's first science academy on 10th April.

The launch of the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences (EAS) in the capital Addis Ababa will bring Ethiopia

in line with a growing number of African countries establishing such organisations to promote quality in research and offer science advice to governments.

The EAS will start out with a founding membership of around 50 fellows from both the natural and social sciences. New fellows will be elected by the members each year.

The idea for an Ethiopian Academy was first mooted by pioneering scientists in the 1960s, but was derailed by political instability in the 1970s and 1980s. The idea was only resurrected a few years ago, driven by researchers at Addis Ababa University with the support of the UK Royal Society.

The academy will support policy-makers by preparing position papers on the challenges facing Ethiopia, such as population growth or water security.

Growing political interest in science in Ethiopia has helped get the academy off the ground. There is a much better appreciation in the government of the role of science can play in development. The Ethiopian government has also embarked on a plan to build 13 new universities in the country.

Tourism

Gebreselassie inaugurates new resort

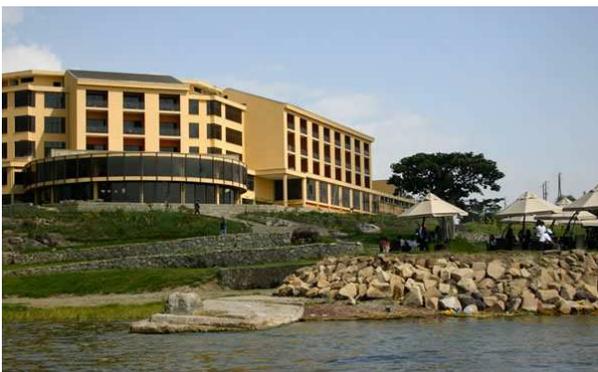
Renowned Ethiopian athlete, Haile Gebreselassie added yet another chapter to his distinguished career by playing host to a gathering of luminaries from the sport world at the opening of his resort hotel on the shores of Lake Hawassa, about four hours drive south of Addis Ababa.

Among those in attendance were his close friend and greatest rival, Kenya's Paul Tergat, his younger Ethiopian compatriots Tirunesh Dibaba and her husband Sileshi Sihine.

The centrepiece of the weekend festivities was the **Every One Races in Hawassa**, a full morning of road races starting outside the doors of the resort, featuring a half-marathon, two elite 7km races, children's races and a mass participation 7km. The races will be an annual event to help publicise an international health campaign of the same name whose aim is to reduce infant and maternal mortality in Ethiopia.



Haile Resort, a low-rise resort-style hotel with 112 rooms encompassing 7.5 acres of tropical beauty is just a walk away from Lake Hawassa, and features a variety of activities, whether business meetings or a family vacation. It features panoramic views over the lake, a pool, spas and a full gym. Plans are being made to add tennis courts and an outdoor track.



The project has been more than four years in the making. Gebreselassie was given some of the land by the Southern Regional Government following his second Olympic title ten years ago.

Ethiopia promoting its tourism potential at Shanghai Expo

Ethiopia's participation in the Shanghai 2010 Expo plays a significant role in introducing its tourism potential to the world.

The Ethiopia Pavilion which has the theme, *Blended Legacy of Cities: the Ethiopian Experience*, will showcase the country's ancient civilization that has been passed on for centuries, essence of wisdom and urban evolution, as well as how Ethiopians protect cultural tradition and historic heritage and address the challenges of urbanization.



The pavilion is divided into three exhibition areas: the Ancient City-Harar Jugol, the Story of Coffee and the Eight World Heritage Sites. The most eye-catching area is 'the Ancient City-Harar Jugol'. Passing through the city gate and wall to the street, you will be impressed by a range of magnificent architecture, such as the most ancient mosque in Africa and the residence of French poet Arthur Rimbaud. The thriving marketplace, crowded with bustling vendors, will show you a vivid picture of people's life in the Ancient City, Harar Jugol. At one end of the street under a big Ethiopian-style umbrella, the Story of Coffee is unveiled. You can join in a local coffee party for a break. At the other end, another area is dedicated to Ethiopia's Eight World Heritage Sites.

The replica of the one of the world's most famous and oldest human skeletons, Lucy, is also on display at the expo.

The 2010 Shanghai Expo was opened on 1st May and will remain open for six months. Some 400,000 people are expected to visit the expo on a daily basis.

Events

Ethiopia observes World IP Day

Ethiopia observed the World Intellectual Property Day on 26th April under the theme *Technology Transfer and Traditional Knowledge for Sustainable National Development*.

The day was observed for the 10th time internationally under the theme *Innovation - Linking the World*.

The Ethiopian Intellectual Property Office (EIPO) said that observing the day was aimed at raising the awareness of the public on the impact of intellectual property in everyday life. It also encourages the practical implementation of creativity and innovation.

Ethiopia marks National Earth Day



Ethiopia, which has become Africa's mouthpiece in the climate change negotiations with developed nations, celebrated National Earth Day on 22nd April with a number of events to raise public awareness on climate change.

Earth Day, celebrated for the second time in Ethiopia, underlined the point that the environment was not separate from health, population, economic development, gender or cultural preservation. All were interconnected elements of the environment.

A number of film festivals took place screening environmentally and socially responsible films, and

lectures were given by scholars from various universities around the country.

A central reason for celebrating Earth Day was to help make the public realise the rapid degradation of the environment and the depletion of natural resources due to human intervention. This year, the day also marked the conclusion of the "Green Generation Campaign" which had been designed to encourage people to participate in building solutions to urgent national and global issues.

Sport

Ethiopians end Kenyan reigns at London and Dublin Marathons

Tsegay Kebede won the 2010 London Marathon for the first time in a time of 2:05:18, ending a six-year dominance by Kenyan athletes at the event.



Kebede, an Olympic bronze medallist and last year's runner up, forced the pace with six miles remaining to finish over a minute ahead of his rivals despite being bothered by the wet conditions.

Kenya's Emmanuel Mutai finished second with Morocco's Joauad Gharib finishing third.

In the women's race, Aselefech Mergia of Ethiopia came third with Russia's Liliya Shobukhova coming first.

In related news, Ethiopian runner, Urga Negewo won the 29th Belfast Marathon in an exciting finish at Ormeau Park.

Negewo, 24, sprinted away from Belfast-based Kenyan, John Mutai in the closing stages to win in a time of 2:16:53. Mutai was going for his fourth successive win in the race.

News in Brief

Ethiopia celebrates 69th Anniversary of Victory Day against Italian invasion

Ethiopia observed the 69th anniversary of its victory over Italian invaders who attempted to colonise the country. The day was colourfully observed with a range of activities, especially in the capital Addis Ababa.



Thousands of people, senior government officials, members of the diplomatic corps and patriots attended the national celebrations at the National Victory Monument located at the Arat Kilo area of Addis Ababa.

President Girma Woldegiorgis called upon the present generation to register victory against poverty and backwardness, just like the gallant Ethiopian patriots who defeated invaders to safeguard the territorial integrity of the country.

This year's National Victory Day was special in that it was being celebrated at a time when the nation is bracing itself for the 4th national elections. The president urged every citizen to play a role in making the upcoming elections free, fair and democratic.

Liya Kebede in Time's '100 Most Influential People' List



Ethiopian supermodel, Liya Kebede, has been named one of the top 100 most influential people in the world for 2010 by Time Magazine.

Liya Kebede is the most decorated Ethiopian model as well as maternal health advocate, clothing designer and actress. According to Forbes, Kebede was the 11th highest paid top model in the world in 2007. Since 2005, she has served as WHO's Goodwill Ambassador for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health. She also founded the Liya Kebede Foundation with a similar mission. This year, in recognition of her work in this field, the World Economic Forum named her a Young Global Leader.

Jonathan Dimbleby – new series on Africa

A new TV series on Africa with Jonathan Dimbleby launches on BBC2 on Sunday 30th May. A programme on Ethiopia in the series is scheduled to be broadcast on Sunday 6th June. ***An African Journey with Jonathan Dimbleby*** will “challenge a host of prevailing misconceptions and with the insight of one of the UK's most respected journalists, the series paints the continent in an entirely new and refreshing light,” according to the BBC. Scheduling may change so check TV listings and look out for promotional slots on BBC2 and other BBC channels.

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