



Ethiopian News

Autumn 2018

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PM Abiy to host meeting with Ethiopian Diaspora in Europe

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New Hope for Ethiopia as it ushers in the New Year

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Editorial

New Year, New Hope Ethiopia celebrates 1st Meskeram 2011



Photo: A woman with a face painting of Ethiopia and Eritrea flags, at a ceremony to welcome President Isaias Afewerki to Ethiopia, following the signing of the historic peace agreement that ended a 20-year state of war.

Ethiopia's New Year falls on 11th September and this year - 2011 in the Ethiopian calendar - there was much to celebrate, as Ethiopians from across the country and from abroad, celebrated together in peace and unity.

Most eye-catching was the peaceful conclusion to the 20-year conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea, which made news around the world and has produced positive reverberations across the African continent and beyond. There has also been a process of reconciliation at home where Ethiopia has witnessed an influx of diaspora Ethiopians, including high-profile opposition figures and government critics, back from exile to contribute positively to the change taking place domestically. They have responded to PM Abiy's invitation to come home and work together to bring peace and

prosperity; competing political parties have already begun the grassroots work necessary to building political consensus.

Recent reforms have brought many opportunities in the political sphere - the government is widening the political space - and in the economy, which is to be partly liberalised, there is a fresh determination to see the reforms come to fruition.

President Mulatu Teshome, celebrating the New Year in Mekelle with the National Defence Force North Division, called on Ethiopians to "stand united for development to compensate for the time lost over the past years due to instability in the country" and urged Ethiopians to "join hands for peace, love and our common goals...making 2011 a year in which we all work together with a single

goal, to realize our country's growth and development by eradicating poverty from our beloved country, continuing to build tolerance and listen to each other."

Religious leaders of all denominations also called for tolerance and urged people to live up to their history of living together in harmony. These included the Ethiopian Orthodox, the Catholic and Evangelical churches and the Ethiopian Islamic Affairs Supreme Council, who all addressed their comments to young people in particular.

Speaking to a huge mixed gathering at the Millennium Hall on New Year's Eve, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed emphasized that "Ethiopia is a country we share, and we have to work for peaceful co-existence and prosperity."

On New Year's Day, the Prime Minister, together with President Isaias of Eritrea and military officers from both countries, opened Debay Sima-Burre and Serha-Zalambesa border crossing points, uniting families from both sides of the border for the first time in 20 years. The opening reaffirmed the commitment of both sides to peace, though cross-border trade, currency exchanges and other details have yet to be finalized.

Foreign Minister Dr Workneh reminded Ethiopians of the country's greatness and underlined the importance of "strengthening the long march to realize Ethiopia's rise once again, which would be won with love and reconciliation." The New Year would provide "a showcase of Ethiopia's grand diplomatic and political success story, to benefit the Horn of Africa and Africa as a whole." The closure of the chapter of conflict with Eritrea and the launch of efforts to resolve any remaining conflicts between neighbours was, he said, a milestone towards peace in the region. It would transform the political landscape of the Horn of Africa, and was already beginning to do so, establishing peaceful co-existence that will lead to full integration at regional and continental level.

At its September conference, the ruling party debated securing Ethiopia's renaissance "by advancing ongoing reform within the purview of developmental democracy." The radical forging of a new consensus, introduced by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, will ensure an ever-brighter future for Ethiopia.

ETHIOPIA IN UK

African Heads of Mission Meeting held in Edinburgh

Ambassador Hailemichael led an Embassy delegation from the Business and Public Diplomacy Departments at the 2018 African Heads of Mission meeting in Edinburgh from 19th to 21st September, which brought together 15 African Ambassadors and their trade and education attaches.



The main objective of the meeting was to promote opportunities to increase trade, investment and knowledge sharing between Scotland and Africa. The 3-day programme included sector-specific roundtables, focused seminars, private G2B meetings and bi-lateral government meetings.

The programme included a range of sectors in which Scotland excels, and are considered priorities by many African Governments, such as renewable energy, education, oil and gas and agriculture.



Ambassador Hailemichael (l) with the Scottish Minister for Trade, Investment & Innovation, Ivan McKee MSP and Amare Shumet



The Ambassador with Her Majesty's Trade Commissioner for Africa, Emma Wade-Smith

On 21st September the Scotland Africa Trade and Investment Meeting took place at the Edinburgh Business School at Heriot Watt University.

On the side-lines of the meetings the Ambassador met with companies from a range of sectors such as Education, Renewable Energy, Agriculture, FinTech and more, to explore opportunities of mutual interest, including the upcoming UK-Ethiopia Trade and Investment Forum, to be held in London on 16th October. See page 12 for further information.

The programme was organised by the Scotland Africa Business Exchange (SABE), an independent consultancy which aims to increase trade, investment and knowledge sharing between Scotland and Africa.

Ethiopia to host Social Enterprise World Forum 2019

A delegation from Ethiopia led by H.E. Jantrar Abay, Minister of Urban Development and Housing, and Ambassador Hailemichael attended this year's **Social Enterprise World Forum** in Edinburgh, where it was announced that the Social Enterprise World Forum 2019 will take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

As the forum drew to a close, the 'waka' - a wooden model of a Maori canoe - was handed over from Scotland to Ethiopia, accompanied by an energetic and colourful traditional Ethiopian dance performance by renowned crew, Dan-Kira, which was so infectious that dozens of delegates joined the official delegation - which included ministers from Scotland and Ethiopia - dancing on the stage.



The Ethiopia Forum will be the 12th annual forum and will be the first time it is hosted by a developing country. The aim is to catalyse the area's young and dynamic social enterprise movement - both within Ethiopia and more widely across Africa. Members of the social enterprise movement from all the other continents will be there too, learning from each other and sharing their experiences.

Kibret Abebe, chair of Social Enterprise Ethiopia, a social enterprise support body created at the end of 2017, said he was delighted that Addis Ababa had won the bid to host the forum.



Ambassador Hailemichael (3rd left) and H.E. Jantrar (center) with the Ethiopian Delegation

With over 100 million inhabitants, Ethiopia already boasts an estimated 55,000 social enterprises, according to British Council research published last year. Some of the most well-known examples include Tebita Ambulance (founded by Abebe) and Whiz Kids Workshop.

The British Council has played a key role in recent years in helping to support the development of social enterprise in Ethiopia and is co-hosting the forum in 2019. Moses Anibaba, the British Council's regional director for Sub-Saharan Africa, pointed out that in the next 20 years, 50% of the world's working age population would be in Africa.

"Harnessing this enormous population of entrepreneurs, innovators and talent is critical to spur the growth of social entrepreneurship globally, as it generates employment, reduces inequalities and addresses entrenched social problems," he said.

He added that hosting the Social Enterprise World Forum 2019 in Addis Ababa would support this growth.

Gerry Higgins, chief executive of CEIS and founder of the SEWF, said: "The Social Enterprise World Forum is looking forward to having a very rich dialogue with social enterprises from around the world in Ethiopia in 2019. We are excited to have our first forum in a developing country, engaging with inspirational social enterprise leaders in Ethiopia and throughout Africa and collaborating for a sustainable legacy."

50th anniversary of the first Blue Nile expedition commemorated

On 2nd October, the Scientific Exploration Society commemorated the 50th anniversary of the exploration of Ethiopia's Blue Nile River at a special event at the Royal Geographical Society in London.

Mr Fekadu Beyene, Head of Diaspora Affairs (Chargé d'Affaires) attended on behalf of the Embassy and was joined by some of the members of the expedition and a number of VIPs, including members of the Royal Family.

In 1968, Colonel John Blashford-Snell led a 70-strong Anglo-Ethiopian team of civilians and servicemen on the first descent of the infamous Blue Nile, at the invitation of Emperor Haile Selassie.



John welcomed a packed theatre of guests, presenting an illustrated talk about the historic expedition, accompanied by some members of the expedition. Said to be one of the great expeditions of the last century, it was described by the *Daily Telegraph* as 'the conquest of the Everest of Rivers'.

The commemoration also included an exhibition of equipment used on the expedition, including one of the original Avon white water boats.



Tis Issat Falls on the Blue Nile

Until 1968 all attempts to explore the Blue Nile, which runs through the highlands of Ethiopia, had failed.

The team set out from the main base in Ethiopia in late July 1968, reaching their goal in September of that year.

More than 70 papers have been published covering the scientific work of the expedition. The use of the Avon inflatable boats led to the development of

white-water rafting. The expedition film was widely acclaimed on TV and the historian Richard Snailham wrote the official book *The Blue Nile Revealed*.

The expedition attracted widespread support, including from The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, who had recently visited Ethiopia and been taken by the emperor to view the Blue Nile's *Tis Issat Falls*.

After the success of this expedition, John and colleagues founded the Scientific Exploration Society in 1969, in order to initiate a worldwide programme of scientific expeditions for the exploration of remote regions of the earth; focusing on scientific research, conservation, education and

community aid projects, particularly in under-resourced environments.

The Society is one of the longest running exploration organisations in the world, with an unrivalled record of initiating over 150 expeditions since it began, achieving many 'world firsts' in exploration, pioneering and testing specialist equipment in the field and developing leadership skills.

At the conclusion of the event, one lucky winner won a holiday to Ethiopia courtesy of Ethiopian Airlines and Far & Wild Travel. Funds from the raffle were donated to the CURE hospital in Ethiopia that provides life changing orthopaedic operations for young children.

The Embassy at UK party conferences

The Embassy's Minister Counsellor for political affairs, Mrs Nardos Ayalew, attended three Autumn party conferences, shortly after arriving in the UK to take up her new post, meeting the Liberal Democrats in Brighton, Labour in Liverpool and the Conservatives in Birmingham. In addition to listening to the debates in the conference halls she attended fringe meetings on a range of issues. This year, the topics were, for obvious reasons, largely focussed on Brexit.



Ms Nardos Ayalew with Lord Adonis

Ethiopia's relations with the UK are excellent and the Embassy looks forward to building on these strong foundations, to the mutual benefit of both countries, particularly in the political – peace and security - and business domains.

Eritrean artist presents sculpture of peace to Prime Minister Abiy

Following the historic rapprochement between Ethiopia and Eritrea, London-based Eritrean Artist, Biniam Ghide, felt compelled to construct a sculpture of peace for Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed.



Biniam showcased his artwork at the Embassy in the presence of the Head of Diaspora Affairs, Mr Fekadu Beyene. The Embassy will facilitate the delivery of the sculpture to the Prime Minister in Ethiopia.

Biniam now dreams of making a large sculpture/monument on the Ethio-Eritrean border.

Ethiopia and Eritrea sign peace agreement in Saudi Arabia



Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and Eritrean President Isaias Afewerki signed a historic peace agreement on 16th September in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, in the presence of Saudi Arabia's King Salman, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, and United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

The Jeddah Peace Accord is aimed at strengthening security and stability in the region at large and is the second peace deal the two countries have signed since they ended decades of enmity in July by signing the "Joint Declaration of Peace and Friendship".

Since then, relations between the two countries have gone from strength to strength. On 11th

September, two land border crossings between Ethiopia and Eritrea were reopened for the first time in 20 years. Air links, embassies and trade routes have also been re-opened.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres described the signing as an "historic event."

He expressed his "deep appreciation" for the role played by Saudi Arabia, before paying tribute "on one hand to the courage, vision and wisdom of the Prime Minister of Ethiopia - who has had the capacity to overcome enormous resistance from the past and open a new chapter in the history of his country - and also the way the President of Eritrea has promptly responded to his peace initiatives."

Seizing on the implications for the whole region, Mr Guterres said that the agreement meant “there is a wind of hope blowing in the Horn of Africa.”

In a statement, the Saudi government said “the peace deal resulted in restoration of normal relations between the countries, on the basis of the close bonds of geography, history and culture between the two nations and their peoples. The kingdom of Saudi Arabia praised the leaders of Ethiopia and Eritrea for exercising leadership and courage to restore the brotherly relations between the two countries, thus forming the foundation for a new phase that will bring significant developments in the relations between the two nations in all fields.”

PM Abiy and President Isaias were also awarded the Order of Abdul Aziz Al Saud Medal, the kingdom's highest civilian honour, for their efforts.

Ethiopia inaugurates Africa’s first waste-to-energy plant

On 19th August, Ethiopia inaugurated the Reppie waste-to-energy facility, the first of its kind in Africa, that is expected to process 1,400 tons of solid waste a day into energy.



The Reppie waste-to-energy facility in Addis Ababa was fully financed by the Ethiopian government, and backed by British contractor, Cambridge Industries and China National Electrical Engineering Company.

Speaking at the inauguration, Ethiopian President Mulatu Teshome said investment in energy projects is crucial if Ethiopia is to achieve its aim of becoming an environmentally friendly industrialized middle-income economy over the next decade.

“The growth of the energy sector has been a key driver of economic growth in Ethiopia, this happened because electricity supply is much needed in order for the economy to transition from predominantly agricultural to industrial and to attract local and foreign investors,” the President said.

“Ethiopia has been investing extensively in hydro power, geothermal, wind and solar energy and now biomass to boost the manufacturing sector with a supply of clean, renewable energy,” he said. “The Reppie waste-to-energy project is part of that grand strategy.”

“The Ethiopian government hopes, with the commissioning of this project, it can turn an increasing urban rubbish menace into an economic boon,” he added.

Reppie is located on the outskirts of Addis Ababa next to one of the city’s largest rubbish dump site called Koshe.

Construction of the plant began in 2014 at a cost of around \$118m. The incinerated waste will generate steam, which will then drive a turbine that produces electricity at a projected power level of 25 megawatts a day.

The project has created jobs for 1,300 Ethiopians and 286 expatriates.

New project manager for Renaissance Dam

Following the tragic death of Engineer Simegnaw Bekele in July, Engineer Kifle Horo has been appointed as the new project manager for the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, with Engineer Epherem Woldekidan and Fekadu Kebede appointed as his deputies.

The Renaissance Dam will generate 6,450MW upon completion and will be the biggest hydro-electric dam in Africa. It is currently over 60% complete.

Ethiopia launches drone technology to deliver medical supplies



Ethiopia has begun using drone technology to deliver life-saving medical supplies such as vaccines and blood to remote areas. Ethiopia is the third country in Africa to use such technology after Rwanda and Malawi.

Health Minister Amir Abiy saw off the first successful drone delivery of vaccines from Bishoftu to Adama on 1st October.

The drones, designed and built in Ethiopia in collaboration with the Ministry of Science and Technology, have a cargo capacity of five kilograms, can maintain an altitude of 5,000m and can travel at 120 km an hour.

The Ministry of Science and Technology invested \$144,990 for the pilot project and plans to launch 26 additional drones over the next six months.

TRAVEL & TOURISM

Historic Al-Nejashi Mosque – the first in Africa – restored

The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) completed the restoration of the Al-Nejashi mosque, the tomb of the Abyssinian King Ahmed Nejashi, and 15 tombs of the companions of the Prophet Muhammad.



Located in the town of Wukro, 790 kilometers (over 490 miles) north of Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa, Al-Nejashi is said to be the first mosque in Africa. It is named after Nejashi, who hosted companions of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad who escaped persecution in Makkah.

In a statement, the TIKA said the restoration is part of a scheme to promote common cultural values and assets abroad and to contribute to the development of inter-governmental cooperation.

As part of the project, the road that leads to the mosque was restored.

"The project restored the tombs and made them fit for visitors. The design will promote tourism and, as a result, contribute to infrastructure such as hotels, shopping malls, restaurants and museums in the area," it added.

Al-Nejashi mosque holds an important place in Islamic history. This is where the first hijra (migration) took place by the companions of Prophet Muhammad following persecution and torture in Mecca.

On the Prophet's orders, they crossed the Red Sea and reached the Horn of Africa to establish the first Muslim community of Africa. Al-Nejashi welcomed the immigrants and guaranteed them protection.

Wild Frontiers hosts Ethiopia evening

The Embassy joined tour operator, *Wild Frontiers* experts, Jonny Bealby and Marc Leaderman on 19th September for their **Ethiopian Evening** held at the Frontline Club in London.

Guests from all backgrounds gathered to learn more about travelling in Ethiopia through an immersive talk that explored Ethiopia's diverse regions: from the lush Simien Mountains, the architectural wonders of the historic north, where rock-hewn churches and castles have stood the test of time; to the Danakil Depression, one of the lowest, hottest and harshest environments on earth; and the Omo Valley's immense natural beauty and wildlife in the deep south.

Welcoming guests, founder Jonny Bealby spoke of Ethiopia's historical north, a region he visited for the first time while riding his motorbike around Africa in the early 90s.



Wild Frontiers is an award-winning adventure travel company, founded in 2002. They specialise in stylish and original small group tours and tailor-made holidays worldwide.

Hyatt to open first Ethiopia hotel



Hyatt Hotels Corporation announced that it would open its first hotel in Ethiopia by the end of the year, as it strengthens its

brand across Africa.

Referring to Ethiopia's recent reforms aimed at opening up the economy to private investment, Kurt Straub, the company's vice president for the Middle East and Africa, said in an interview with Bloomberg, that "Things are opening up in Ethiopia, it's very exciting what's going on there...It's much easier now that it's open, there's a path."



Wild Frontiers has a long history with Ethiopia being the third country it ran group tours to 16 years ago. Jonny has revisited Ethiopia many times and holds Ethiopia and its people close to his heart.

"Ethiopia warrants at least one visit. It's an utterly different experience every time you go...Ethiopian people have the spirit about them which is wonderful. You're always made to feel welcome," he said.

Wild Frontiers Director of Operations, Marc Leaderman spoke of Ethiopia's cultural south, a fascinating region that is home to many ethnic groups - from the Mursi, renowned for their lip-plates to the Hamar people famous for their bull-jumping coming of age ceremony.



Standard room at Hyatt Regency Addis Ababa

Hyatt Regency Addis Ababa will feature 180 guestrooms and will be situated in central Kirkos district, an ideal location for business travellers.

This location will offer excellent access to some of Addis Ababa's most significant destinations, including Meskel Square, the National Palace, the UNECA Conference Centre, and the African Union headquarters. The lively Mercato district, Africa's largest open market and home to the largest mosque in Ethiopia, will be easily reached from the hotel, and the airport will be less than four miles away.

Hyatt will operate the Ethiopian hotel through a management contract with U.K.-based ASB Development Ltd. Hyatt is also looking into opening outlets in Hawassa and Mekelle.

New mega airport to be built in Bishoftu

Ethiopian Airlines is planning to build a new airport with an annual capacity of 80 million passengers in Bishoftu, about 48km southeast of the capital Addis Ababa.



Ethiopian Airlines CEO Tewolde Gebremariam said that consultation was under way with the Oromia Regional State to acquire the land needed for the airport and an accompanying hotel.

Ethiopia's main airport, Bole International Airport, is one of the busiest across Africa given that it connects thousands of passengers that travel on the national carrier, Ethiopian.

...New passenger terminal at Bole partially starts operations

The new passenger terminal being built at Addis Ababa Bole International Airport has begun providing some services.

The terminal is part of an expansion project being conducted to ease congestion at the existing

terminal and properly serve the ever-increasing number of passengers.

Once fully operational, the passenger terminal will accommodate 20 million passengers a year.

Transport Minister Siraj Fegessa and other stakeholders have visited the various expansion projects including a five star hotel being developed by Ethiopian Airlines nearby.

Speaking on the occasion, Ethiopian Airlines Group CEO Tewelde Gebremariam said that the expansion project had reached 83%.

The existing passenger terminal has a capacity of five million passengers. However, it has been accommodating 11 million passengers, creating congestion.

Transport Minister Siraj Fegessa said that expansion of the terminal would help enhance the country's capacity in the sector and play a pivotal role in the expansion of tourism.

The terminal, costing \$345 million, is expected to be fully operational after three months.



TRADE AND INVESTMENT

Ethiopia invites UK partners to invest in Africa's fastest-growing economy

Senior ministerial delegation to showcase wealth of opportunities at London Forum



UK-Ethiopia Trade & Investment Forum

16th October 2018, London



Ethiopia has enjoyed close economic, diplomatic and cultural relations with the United Kingdom over the centuries. Trade between the two countries has been steadily growing, with this year especially presenting an opportune moment for UK businesses to invest in one of Africa's fastest-growing economies.

A high-level ministerial delegation from the Government of Ethiopia and the private sector, led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E Dr Workneh Gebeyehu, is coming to London on 16th October for a full-day trade and investment forum, representing the first significant overseas trade and investment mission for the new Ethiopian Government.

The Forum promises to showcase the vast opportunities that Ethiopia has to offer and aims to encourage inward investment into the country while boosting bilateral trade.

The latest UNCTAD report puts Ethiopia among the top countries in Africa attracting FDI. In 2017, Ethiopia received \$3.6 billion (approximately £2.7 billion) in FDI and is now the second largest recipient of FDI in Africa. With a view to becoming a middle-income country over the next decade, the government is currently undertaking ambitious plans to diversify the economy. New economic reforms, as well as incentives, will help sustain the rapid growth.

“
**Ethiopia is
open and
ready for
business.**”

Commenting on the upcoming Forum, Ethiopia's Ambassador to the United Kingdom, H.E. Dr. Hailemichael Aberra Afework said: “This Forum will present an exceptional opportunity for UK businesses to discover the wide range of economic opportunities Ethiopia has to offer. UK businesses, including Diageo, Unilever and Pittards, are already operating in Ethiopia and we wish to invite more businesses to discover why Ethiopia

is emerging as a top destination for inward investment. My government appreciates the strong commitment exhibited by the UK government to strengthen the trade and investment ties between our two countries. We are delighted with the deepening UK interest in Ethiopia and stand ready to provide the necessary support to companies wishing to invest in our country. Ethiopia is open and ready for business.”

The British Prime Minister's trade envoy to Ethiopia, Jeremy Lefroy MP, said: “I am greatly looking forward to the UK-Ethiopia Trade and Investment Forum. This is an important further step in the growing trade and investment relationship between the UK and Ethiopia and a clear sign of the UK Government's strong commitment to it. On my four visits as Envoy to Ethiopia in the past 12 months, I have been greatly impressed by the Ethiopian Government's investment in infrastructure and industrial development, and the

very high priority given to job creation and skills development.”

“

Each time Ethiopia has a impressed as an outstanding destination for UK investment

Atam Sandhu, Chief Executive of Developing Markets Associates, organisers of the Forum said: “This will be the third Investment Forum and fourth event that we have organised together with the Ethiopian government, owing to the increased interest in the market. Each time Ethiopia has impressed as an outstanding destination for UK investment and with the positive moves being made by this administration, and the strengthening of ties between the two countries as exhibited by this event, we expect that this will only become truer in the coming months and years. We look forward to playing our small part in this success story.”

The Forum will feature five key sessions on Ethiopia’s evolving policy landscape, the economic growth story and bankable projects:

- ‘Economic Overview and Policy Reform’ session, to be chaired by the Lord Sheikh
- Spotlight on Trade and Investment
- ‘Mining and Energy’ session, to be chaired by Sir Henry Bellingham
- Spotlight on Agriculture
- ‘Industry and Manufacturing’ session, to be chaired by Africa Matters Limited

The Forum will represent a fantastic opportunity for delegates in the UK to network with Ethiopian officials and businesses and to discover the many advantages of doing business in Ethiopia.

The 2018 UK-Ethiopia Investment Forum will take place in London on 16th October 2018 and is jointly organised by Developing Markets Associates (DMA), the Ethiopian and UK Governments and Wafa Marketing & Promotion, Ethiopia.

To view the agenda and register your interest, please visit: <http://bit.ly/InvestEthiopia> or contact events@developingmarkets.com.

Ethiopia to grow by 8.5% in 2018-19: IMF

An International Monetary Fund (IMF) staff team led by Mr Julio Escolano visited Addis Ababa from 10th–26th September to conduct the 2018 Article IV consultation discussions with Ethiopia.

At the conclusion of the visit, Mr Escolano said, in a statement, that:

“Over the last decade, Ethiopia has maintained high economic growth and made commendable progress in considerably reducing poverty and improving living standards...Growth is expected to step up in 2018/9 to 8.5%, supported by stronger confidence as the uncertainty of the previous year recedes, and the availability of domestic and foreign direct investment improves. The authorities’ strategy to shift the engine of economic activity to private sector development while the public sector consolidates is appropriate to maintain strong growth. The mission supports the ambitious reform agenda announced by the Prime Minister, aimed at opening up important parts of economy to competition and encouraging private sector investment. At the same time, measures to reduce public sector borrowing and bring inflation back to target need to be intensified, as external imbalances and indebtedness remain a source of macroeconomic risk.”

The IMF staff team had the opportunity to present its key findings and recommendations to Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, National Bank of Ethiopia Governor Yinager Desse, Minister of Finance and Economic Cooperation Abraham Tekeste, and other key policymakers.



Substantive technical and policy discussions were also held with officials of other government agencies, representatives of public enterprises and the private sector, labour unions, and development partners.

Ethiopia attracts over \$4 billion FDI

During the last fiscal year, which ended on 8th July, Ethiopia attracted more than \$4 billion foreign direct investment (FDI) through investment from 156 companies.

FDI inflows to the country have accelerated in recent years, making Ethiopia one of the top performing African countries in such flows.



According to data released by the Ethiopia Investment Commission (EIC), the country's FDI inflow showed a five-fold increase in a decade, from \$814.6 million of the fiscal year 2007/2008 to \$4.17 billion in fiscal year 2016/17 that ended in July.

The increase in FDI is attributed to the successful economic diplomacy carried out by Ethiopian embassies and consular offices worldwide.

Works are underway to attract more investment into the country this fiscal year by taking advantage of the prevailing stable situation since Prime Minister Abiy took office in April this year.

Ethiopia tops league for hotel development in East Africa

Ethiopia topped the league for hotel development in East Africa, according to a regional focus from the influential annual hotel pipeline survey by Lagos-based W Hospitality Group.

Government incentives, international conferences and global bases for NGOs, embassies and aid agencies have all fuelled hotel growth in Addis Ababa, the report noted.

In addition to the upcoming branded supply in Addis, there is a large stock of unbranded rooms under construction - but many are stalled, looking for investors to help finish them.

The hotel development pipeline in Ethiopia is almost 50% up on last year's strong figures, with Addis Ababa accounting for 86% of the total, almost 5,000 rooms in 25 hotels. There is also planned expansion in Hawassa, Bahir Dar, Bishoftu, Gondar and Langano.

East Africa 2018				
Top 5 Countries	Hotels	Rooms	Pre-construction	Onsite
Ethiopia	31	5,717	2,284	3,433
Kenya	20	3,444	690	2,754
Tanzania	15	1,494	150	1,344
Uganda	9	1,238	791	447
Rwanda	7	655	198	457

Details of the survey, which covers the whole of the African continent, will be one of the key discussions at the Africa Hotel Investment Forum (AHIF) in Nairobi on 2nd-4th October.

Ethiopia opens logistics industry to foreign investors

The Ethiopian Investment Board has lifted the regulation that restricts foreign investment in the country's budding logistics sector, which to date, had been exclusively reserved for Ethiopian nationals.

The decision was made to make the logistics sector more efficient, professional and modern, through the injection of foreign capital and expertise.



According to a statement issued by the Investment Commission, the board has lifted the restrictions, including the provision of bonded warehouse, consolidation and deconsolidation services, and allows joint venture participation of international logistics service providers holding up to 49% or fewer stakes.

The opening-up of the logistics sector is part of the government's plan to open up the economy to foreign investment. Key sectors of the Ethiopian economy such as transportation, telecommunication and power generation will be partially liberalised.

Ethiopia offers opportunities for private companies in railway sector

The Ethiopian Railways Corporation (ERC) is offering opportunities for Public Private Partnership (PPP) to engage in the railway sector, with the aim of expanding public services, reducing project delays, and increasing resources utilisation.

Speaking at the Ethiopian Railway Summit, ERC CEO Dr Berhanu Beshah said Ethiopia has successfully completed East Africa's first Light Rail Transit and the Addis Ababa-Djibouti cross-border electrified standard gauge railway. Despite these great achievements, the country still has significant challenges including lack of capacity.

He noted "we need to further strengthen our capacity in planning, implementation, and maintaining various projects as well as expanding existing projects, and building new partnership to realise our ambitions."

According to Dr Berhanu, the support from partners will not only help the Ethiopian people to realise the vision for a modern national railway, but also contribute significantly to East Africa's regional transport and communication networks.

State Minister of Public Enterprises, Simegn Wube said the government has recently announced privatisation of some of the public enterprises including the railway sector, so engagement in joint ventures with national and international investors will be welcome.

The State Minister urged the participating companies to consider partaking in Ethiopia's fast-growing railway sector.



In related news, the Addis-Djibouti Railway was named 'Best Individual Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) Project in the Region (Middle East and Africa)' in the 2018 Asiamoney's New Silk Road Finance Awards.

The Addis to Djibouti standard gauge railway replaced an older line built 100 years ago and is the first trans-boundary and longest electrified railway in Africa.

The 756-kilometre railway line has cut the journey time between Addis and Djibouti to 12 hours from three days and provides Ethiopia with fast and reliable access to the sea.

Construction of the railway started in 2011 and commercial operations began in January 2018. The railway is jointly owned by the governments of Ethiopia and Djibouti. Chinese technicians and controllers will work on the railway for the next five years.

The Ethiopian section, which is the longest part, cost \$3.4 billion, 70% of which was funded by the Export-Import Bank of China; the remainder was funded by the Ethiopian government. The Djibouti government contributed \$878 million.

PVH, lead investor at Hawassa Industrial Park, wins Award for Corporate Excellence

PVH Corp., one of the world's largest apparel companies and owner of iconic brands such as Calvin Klein, Tommy Hilfiger and Speedo, was selected as one of two winners of the 2018 U.S. Secretary of State's Award for Corporate Excellence (ACE), an achievement recognizing U.S. firms that uphold high standards of responsible business conduct.



PVH receives the Sustainable Operations award as lead investor of Ethiopia's flagship apparel manufacturing facility, Hawassa Industrial Park. The honour recognises the company's unwavering commitment to people, the environment and the communities where it operates.

"We are in a unique position to make positive impacts in the places around the world where we work and live. One of those places is Ethiopia, where we set out almost five years ago to create a sustainable, vertically integrated, apparel manufacturing industry," said Emanuel Chirico, Chairman and CEO, PVH Corp.

In 2014, PVH approached some of its best suppliers to share its vision for Africa. The company set out to implement international standards and practices in building, fire and worker safety, environmental sustainability, as well as human rights to establish a stable manufacturing economy.

"Today, we are seeing our vision come to life at the Hawassa Industrial Park. We have focused on protecting the local environment, using sustainable energy and ensuring sufficient supplies of clean water. Creating a safe and inclusive workplace is also a priority, which provides real opportunities

for the residents of the surrounding area. We are honoured to receive this award and are proud of the operation we have established there."

Upon going fully operation within a few years, Hawassa Industrial Park is expected to create 60,000 jobs and features state-of-the-art machinery focused on environmentally advanced practices. The park's Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) effluent treatment facility recycles over 90% of the wastewater produced in the park. This helps preserve Lake Hawassa, which serves as the community's water supply and is the centre of the local ecosystem.

Established in 1999, the annual Secretary of State Award for Corporate Excellence recognizes U.S. companies representing American values in their business practices worldwide and contributing to the growth and sustainable development of the local economies in which they work.

"The ultimate goal for PVH's model industrial park is to provide a better future, not only for the workers and their families, but also to inspire responsible industrialization across Ethiopia for the betterment of its entire population and the creation of a new market for U.S. goods," according to a statement from the State Department.

Four industrial parks to be commissioned by the end of the year

Ethiopia plans to commission four Industrial Parks – Jimma, Adama, Dire Dawa and Arerti - before the end of 2018.

The Ethiopia Investment Commission also plans to start construction on Ayisha Industrial Park, located near the Djibouti port, in part to ease logistics cost for goods being transported from Ethiopia to the port of Djibouti for export.

As part of efforts to make Ethiopia a manufacturing hub, the government plans to increase the number of industrial parks to 30 by 2025 and become an industrialized middle-income economy. The government also wants to increase the GDP share of the manufacturing sector from the current 5% to around 22% by 2020.

PM Abiy's first Town Hall meeting with Ethiopian Diaspora in Europe

Ethiopians and Foreign Nationals of Ethiopian Origin invited to Frankfurt, Germany for H.E. Dr Abiy Ahmed's first Town Hall Meeting with the Diaspora in Europe



Following his successful U.S. Tour a few months ago, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed will welcome Ethiopians from across Europe to Frankfurt for his first town hall meeting with the Diaspora in Europe on Wednesday 31st October 2018 at Commerzbank-Arena. An invitation has also been extended to the Eritrean Diaspora residing in Europe.

The Ethiopian Embassy in London wishes to invite members of both the Ethiopian and Eritrean communities residing in the United Kingdom to register their interest to attend the meeting by completing the online form on: <http://bit.ly/DiasporaUK>. Registered users will receive further instructions as soon as they become available.

The Embassy's Diaspora Department can also be reached on 020 7589 7212 for further information.

PM Abiy will be in Germany from 30th October, where he is scheduled to meet with German Chancellor, Angela Merkel.

Date
31st October 2018

Time
13:00 (1:00pm)

Venue
**Commerzbank-Arena, Morfelder Landstrasse 362,
60528 Frankfurt am Main, Germany**

Commencement of Dedicated Open Hours for the Diaspora

With the ongoing winds of change in Ethiopia transforming the enabling environment for Ethiopians abroad, to unleash their talents and resources in support of the development of their motherland, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has made a clarion call to all Ethiopians in the diaspora.

In recent months, the Government has announced a number of initiatives aimed at catalysing greater engagement from the Diaspora. To these ends, it has facilitated the creation of a Diaspora Trust Fund and the appointment of a management board to oversee its affairs. Furthermore, the Council of Ministers has approved the establishment of a cross-cutting Diaspora Agency, mandated to engage in all matters relating to the Ethiopian diaspora.

Accordingly, the Ethiopian Embassy in London avails itself of this opportunity to announce the commencement of dedicated open hours for Ethiopian nationals and foreign nationals of Ethiopian origin residing in the UK. In addition to the regular services on offer from Monday-Friday, the dedicated open hours will serve all diaspora every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:00pm-5:00pm.

For further information, please contact the Diaspora Affairs Department at 0207 838 3873 or 0207 838 3886.

Ethiopian Diaspora Agency to be established

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced the establishment of an Ethiopian Diaspora Agency to engage, mobilise and facilitate Ethiopians and foreign nationals of Ethiopian origin in the development of their country.

Ministry Spokesperson Meles Alem said “Ethiopians in the Diaspora are committed to participate in the development of their country.”

The new agency is expected to create a conducive environment that helps Ethiopians residing overseas to contribute to the development of the country and benefit themselves.

The Ethiopian Diaspora Agency will work to ensure the protection of the rights and dignity of Ethiopians in the Diaspora.

Ethiopia is estimated to have between 3 and 5 million people in the diaspora, most of whom are in North America and Europe. The less than \$400 million remittance the country used to receive annually from its diaspora before 2009 has been increasing over past years.

Currently the country receives over \$4 billion in remittance from its citizens every year, which is one billion more than it is earning from export of goods.

The agency will have offices in all Ethiopian embassies, as well as at all levels of government administrations.

The Ethiopian Diaspora Agency will be accountable to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and manage its own budget and financial activities.



HOW CAN WE HELP?

Diaspora Open Hours

EVERY TUESDAY AND THURSDAY
3:00PM - 5:00PM

New Diaspora Registration Form



To allow us to provide essential services and news updates, especially in emergency cases, the Embassy wishes to invite members of the Ethiopian Diaspora in the UK to submit their contact details

online at: <http://bit.ly/DiasporaUK>.

Ethio-American Doctors Group – EU Conference

The European arm of the Ethio-American Doctors Group (EADG) will host their European Conference at the Embassy on Saturday 27th October with the aim of recruiting more members to join the Group.



Ethio-American Doctors Group
Ethiopians coming together for a purpose

The Ethio-American Doctors Group is an organization formed to establish a state-of-the-art, centre of excellence, internationally-accredited hospital in Ethiopia.

This transformative project will succeed with the commitment of doctors, nurses, pharmacists, biomedical engineers, other allied healthcare professionals, and business people of Ethiopian origin throughout the world.

The organization is currently over 300 members strong and is looking to recruit more members until 30th April 2019. Their target is to reach 500 total membership.



If you are a healthcare professional and wish to learn more about EADG, please register your attendance by emailing eu.eadg@gmail.com

Please feel free to share this with others who you believe would want to be part of this transformative project.

Date: **27th October 2018 at 1.00pm**

Venue: **Ethiopian Embassy, 17 Princes Gate, London SW7 1PZ**

RSVP: eu.eadg@gmail.com

ETHIOPIA IN UK

Ethiopia deploys hidden rabies vaccine in bid to protect endangered wolf



In a bid to protect the Ethiopian wolf, an oral vaccination campaign to pre-empt outbreaks of rabies has been deployed for the first time in their stronghold in the Bale Mountains.



The campaign was run by a team from the Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme in partnership with University of Oxford's Wildlife Conservation Research Unit and Born Free Foundation.

Ethiopian wolves can only be found in the mountains of Ethiopia, where some 500 survive in small populations. They are Africa's most endangered canid.

The oral vaccine approach will next be rolled out to cover all six surviving populations of the wolf.

Read more at <http://bit.ly/ETHWolf>

Girls 'assert independence' at Ethiopia Virgin Mary festival



The heavy rains in Ethiopia's northern Tigray region did not deter thousands of girls from taking part in the annual Ashenda festival, which celebrates the Virgin Mary.

The party goes on from sunrise to sunset. The celebrating girls see the festival as a source of fun and a place to assert their independence and freedom while keeping the thousands-year-old tradition alive.



The festival is growing into a bigger and more colorful spectacle each year and is now drawing thousands of visitors from around the country as well as foreign tourists.



The Ethiopian government plans to get the festival recognised by UNESCO.

Read more at <http://bit.ly/AshendaBBC>

VW mulls Ethiopia in Africa foray

BD

Volkswagen is considering setting up a component assembly plant in Ethiopia as part of its Africa expansion.



VW spokesperson Andile Dlamini said the company was exploring expansion into Ethiopia "and component assembly is the initial business we are looking at. Vehicle assembly is also under consideration in the long term."

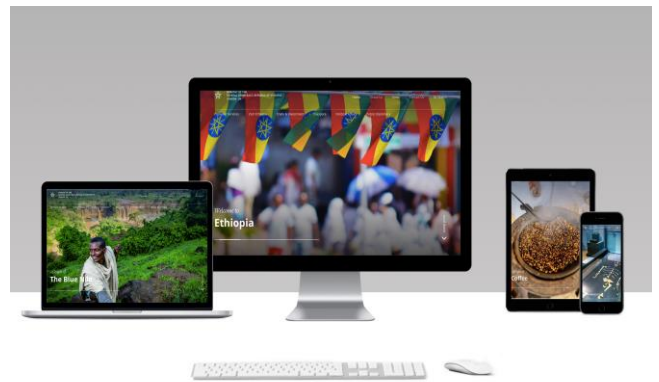
Establishment of the assembly plants could be initial steps towards building manufacturing capacity on the continent.

Dlamini said VW would continue to explore opportunities "as and when they present themselves. After having signed the MOUs in Ghana and Nigeria... the next country we are in discussion with is Ethiopia to explore potential opportunities going forward."

Read more at <http://bit.ly/VWEthiopia>

Website Feedback

It has been a year since we launched our new and improved Website, which is now mobile-friendly. Check it out at www.ethioembassy.org.uk.



As part of our ongoing work aimed at improving our website and delivering relevant content to you, we would appreciate any feedback you may have.

Please submit your feedback by emailing us at webmaster@ethioembassy.org.uk.

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