



Ethiopian News

Summer 2018

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History in the Making

New dawn for Ethio-Eritrea relations as peace deal signed





Ethiopia and Eritrea enter new chapter of cooperation following historic peace deal



Photo: PM Abiy with Eritrean High-Level Delegation, led by Foreign Minister Osman Sale Mohammed (second left) in Addis Ababa (June 2018)

The 9th July 2018 will go down history as the day Ethiopia and Eritrea declared an end to the state of war that existed between the two nations.

In a historic visit to Asmara, Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and President Isaias Afewerki of Eritrea signed a Joint Declaration of Peace and Friendship.

This landmark visit follows weeks of deliberations between the two nations, starting with Ethiopia fully accepting the Algiers Peace Agreement signed in 2000 and the subsequent official visit by a high-level Eritrean delegation led by Foreign Minister Osman Saleh for peace talks in June.

At a dinner hosted in honour of the visiting Eritrean delegation in June. PM Abiy noted that this historic occasion was a "new dawn in Ethio-Eritrean relations."

Expressing his gratitude for the PM's olive branch, President Isaias Afewerki reciprocated, reiterating that Ethiopia and Eritrea share lots of commonalities that run the gamut from culture and languages to politics and the economy.



PM Abiy is received by President Isaias Afewerki in Asmara



Scores of Eritreans flock the street to greet PM Abiy and his delegation

...restoration of diplomatic, economic and social ties

PM Abiy arrived in the Eritrean capital on 8th July, warmly welcomed by President Isaias Afewerki, for a bilateral summit, the first of its kind in 20 years, aimed at repairing relations between the two countries and deepening people-to-people ties.

In unimaginable scenes, thousands of Eritreans lined the streets of Asmara in song and dance, cheering to welcome PM Abiy and his delegation.



PM Abiy in talks with President Isaias

Following discussions between the two leaders, it was agreed that diplomatic relations between the two nations would be restored.

Prime Minister Abiy, in a speech at the National Palace said, "We have agreed to reopen embassies in our respective countries, allow our people to visit each other's cities and allow our airlines and ports to operate freely." Flights will begin on 18th July.

"Ethiopians can visit their families, friends and loved ones in Eritrea; similarly, Eritreans can visit their Ethiopian families and friends," the Premier said, adding that it has been "agreed to bring down the wall between us."

"Now there is no border between Ethiopia and Eritrea. That border line has gone today...love is greater than modern weapons."

“Love can win hearts, and we have seen a great deal of it today here in Asmara.

“War is not an option for the people of Eritrea and Ethiopia. What we need now is love.”

The Eritrean leader also expressed his delight about the new era of friendly relations between the two countries:

“I congratulate Abiy [Ahmed] for arriving at this point for which he has gone a long way. With the coming of Ahmed, I can understand the true feeling of the Eritrean public to the people of Ethiopia. I want to congratulate the people of Eritrea and Ethiopia.

“We can imagine that the decisions the prime minister of Ethiopia took was not a simple one. But we can assure you we will face the future together. We will work as one,” he said.

...President Isaias’ visit to Ethiopia cements ties

Days after signing the historic peace agreement, an Eritrean delegation led by President Isaias Afewerki made a landmark visit to Ethiopia on 14th July to further cement ties between the two nations.

President Isaias was warmly welcomed by high ranking government officials, including Prime Minister Dr Abiy Ahmed and Deputy Prime Minister Demeke Mekonnen. Thousands of residents waving Ethiopian and Eritrean flags lined the streets of Addis Ababa, from Bole International Airport to the National Palace, to welcome President Isaias, whose motorcade was escorted by traditional horsemen.



Prime Minister Abiy hosted a State Luncheon in honour of President Isaias at the National Palace, where President Isaias was honoured with a surprise gift of a horse, a shield and a spear by Oromia Regional State President, Lemma Megersa.



A spear and a shield are the most prized possessions of a traditional Oromo warrior.

“[Ethiopia and Eritrea] are no longer people of two countries. We are one.”

In a speech he made during the luncheon, President Isaias said, “Words cannot express the joy we are feeling now. History is being made as we speak.”

...celebrating peace and harmony

A key cultural dinner and concert was held at the Millennium Hall on 15th July dedicated to celebrating the peace and harmony between Ethiopia and Eritrea.



Addressing thousands of guests who were in attendance, PM Abiy said, “Peace is the mother of

freedom and freedom in turn is the mother of prosperity". The premier said the value of peace and freedom is equated with the value of health, he said, and the value of health is often overlooked when we are healthy, while its value is fully appreciated when we are sick. Equally, he said, the value of peace and freedom is often measured differently in times of peace and of war.

On his part, President Isaias, speaking in Amharic, said, "I am glad to convey the message of peace and love of the people of Eritrea to the people of Ethiopia". He added, "We are determined to go ahead with such momentum of peace and love".

"We will not let anyone spoil our peace and love as well as mutual growth and development," he said.

During the three-day visit, the delegation also visited the Hawassa Industrial Park. While in Hawassa, PM Abiy hosted President Isaias over a 'cheko' and 'genfo' breakfast, traditional cuisine of the Oromo ethnic group in Ethiopia. He was also gifted a horse and a camel, which are national symbols in the two countries.

...Eritrean Embassy in Addis Ababa reopened

To mark the conclusion of the three-day visit, the Eritrean Embassy in Addis Ababa was reopened on 16th July by Eritrean President Isaias Afewerki, in the presence of Prime Minister Dr Abiy Ahmed and other senior government officials.



PM Abiy hands over the keys of the Eritrean Embassy to President Isaias

The two leaders jointly raised the Eritrean flag as a military band played the Eritrean national anthem.



The Joint Declaration of Peace and Friendship between Ethiopia and Eritrea

The peace declaration specifies five pillars, and states that:

1. The state of war between Ethiopia and Eritrea has come to an end. A new era of peace and friendship has been opened.
2. The two governments will endeavour to forge intimate political, economic, social, cultural and security cooperation that serves and advances the vital interests of their peoples.
3. Transport, trade and communications links between the two countries will resume; diplomatic ties and activities will restart.
4. The decision on the boundary between the two countries will be implemented.
5. Both countries will jointly endeavour to ensure regional peace, development and cooperation.

...Ethiopian Airlines to resume flights

Ethiopian Airlines has resumed daily Addis Ababa-Asmara flights as of 18th July 2018.

Group CEO, Tewolde GebreMariam said: "We at Ethiopian feel an immense honour and joy to resume scheduled flights to Asmara after 20 years, following the visit to Eritrea by H.E. PM Abiy Ahmed. With the opening of a new chapter of peace and friendship between the two sisterly countries, we look forward to starting flights to Asmara with the B787, the most technologically advanced commercial aircraft, with unparalleled on-board comfort.

The resumption of air links will play a critical role in boosting the overall political, economic, trade and people-to-people ties between the two countries.

Thanks to Ethiopian's extensive network of more than 114 international destinations across 5 continents, our flights to Asmara will avail best connectivity options to the vast Eritrean diaspora community across the world and will boost the flow of investment, trade and tourism into Eritrea.

Very quickly, we plan to operate multiple daily services and to start cargo flights in view of the huge market potential between the two sisterly countries."

...International phone connection restored

Direct international telephone connection between the two countries was restored on 9th July, with Ethiotelcom sending messages to its subscribers announcing that connections between Ethiopia and Eritrea have resumed.

...National committees to be established

In a press conference following the visit, Foreign Minister Workneh Gebeyehu of Ethiopia said that the two nations are to establish national committees in the economic, political, security and military fields.

"The national committees...will work out the exact time and date of the implementation plan... We've already established two commissions headed by the respective foreign ministers of both countries," the Minister said, adding that "sub-committees will

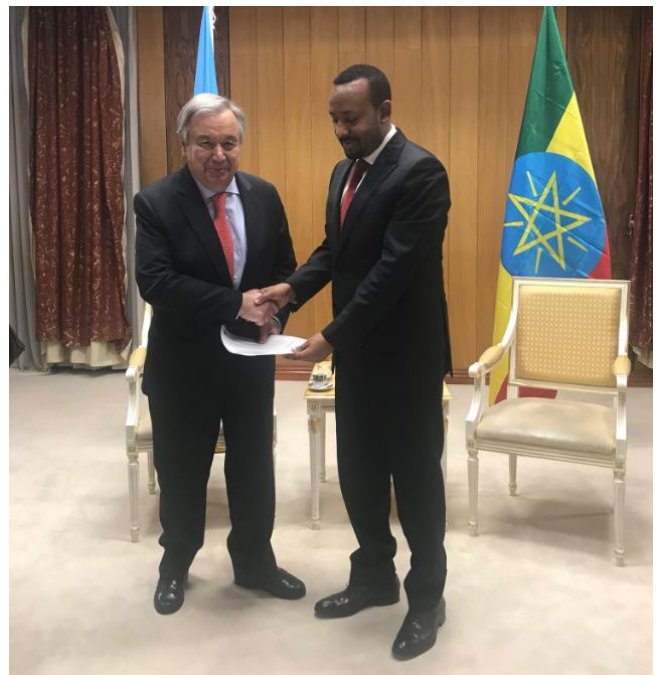
work out in detail when and how each and every issue will be implemented."

On 5th June, the executive committee of the ruling party, the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) passed a decision expressing commitment to an unconditional implementation of the year 2000 Algiers peace agreement with Eritrea, which a technical committee will oversee.

The agreement ended a two-year border war (1998-2000) that killed about 70,000 people, but a tense armed standoff continued, with the two countries engaging in occasional skirmishes.

...Ethiopia requests lifting of Eritrea sanctions

Upon arrival in Addis Ababa on 9th July, Prime Minister Abiy held a meeting with visiting UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, where Ethiopia officially submitted a request for the United Nations to lift sanctions imposed on Eritrea.



The UN Security Council imposed sanctions against Eritrea in 2009 for its ties to Somalia extremist groups.

Mr Guterres expressed his hope that the Security Council would soon lift the sanctions, saying "If the reasons that led to the sanctions will no longer exist ...they will naturally become obsolete."

The World Reacts

UK government welcomes peace agreement



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Harriett Baldwin, Minister of State for Africa at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, said in a statement: “In agreeing the Joint Declaration on 9th July, Prime Minister Abiy and President Isaias have taken a momentous step towards building a lasting peace between Ethiopia and Eritrea. This historic agreement will mark the end of 20 years of conflict and greatly strengthen the political and economic ties that will benefit, not just the populations of both countries, but also enhance security and prosperity across the Horn of Africa.

The UK remains a steadfast partner to the region and stands ready to provide support to both parties as they work through the details necessary to implement the agreement. We call on other countries of the region and beyond to likewise, lend their support.”

...UN Security Council hails ‘historic and significant’ peace declaration



In a press statement, members of the UN Security Council commended the signing of the Joint Declaration by Ethiopia and Eritrea, and welcomed the commitment by both parties to resume diplomatic ties and open a new chapter of cooperation and partnership. They also took note of the five-point plan and welcomed the agreement to implement the decision by the Ethiopia-Eritrea Boundary Commission.

The members of the Security Council noted that this represents a historic and significant development with far-reaching positive consequences for the Horn of Africa and beyond.

The Council also “recognized the call in the Joint Declaration for solidarity and support and encouraged all actors to offer their support to the peace process” adding that members “stand ready to support Eritrea and Ethiopia in their implementation of the Joint Declaration.”

...AU welcomes Ethiopia-Eritrea reconciliation



In a statement, the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, Moussa Faki Mahamat, said he welcomed the Joint Declaration signed by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and President Isaias Afewerki and commended the two leaders for “choosing the courageous path of reconciliation, in the interest of their people, the region and Africa as a whole.”

The Chairperson of the Commission stressed that the ongoing normalization process between Eritrea and Ethiopia is a milestone in Africa’s efforts to silence the guns by 2020. This example is worthy of emulation by all parties to conflicts and crises in other parts of the continent, he said, adding that he looks forward to renewed efforts by all concerned with the view to overcoming protracted conflicts and defusing existing tensions.

The Chairperson reiterated the readiness of the African Union to assist Eritrea and Ethiopia in whatever way they deem appropriate, as they implement the process of normalizing their relations.

...European Union



The European Union (EU) also welcomed the signature of the joint declaration between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

“The signing of the Joint Declaration of Peace and Friendship represents an historic and courageous move by Eritrean President Isaias Afewerki and Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed,” said Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Vice President of the EU Commission.

“Breaking a twenty-year-old deadlock in bilateral relations, it raises unprecedented prospects for reconciliation and paves the way for enhanced regional cooperation and stability in the Horn of Africa,” she added.

“The European Union stands ready to mobilize the support needed to consolidate the normalization of relations between Ethiopia and Eritrea, and to build on new opportunities for regional cooperation.”

LOCAL NEWS

PM Abiy's Message of Love, Forgiveness and Togetherness in Meskel Square



A historic rally in support of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed was held in Addis Ababa's Meskel Square on 23rd June in the presence of hundreds of thousands of people from across the country and from different backgrounds.

The rally was intended to encourage and recognize the changes brought about by the Prime Minister since he assumed the Premiership post.

Addressing the rally, Prime Minister Abiy praised the people of Ethiopia for their determination and commitment to being part of the wave of radical changes that are sweeping the nation, and encouraged people to believe in the prospect of a bright future for the country.

Dr Abiy expressed "the extraordinary optimism, honour and great pleasure" he felt for "seeing so many Ethiopians gathered on this special occasion

to celebrate love, forgiveness, unity and harmony as defining values of the nation."



He said: "We have not yet served six months [his government], we have not yet lifted the shadow of overwhelming challenges ahead of us; therefore, we have yet to earn your gratitude."

“My fellow Ethiopians, filled with hope, you commenced today with a grand gesture of appreciation, believing that hatred has ruined us and reduced our standing, but love will offer dividend and create a bridge. Armed with love and harmony, we can realize our aspirations. Today’s extraordinary occasion marks the start of a journey to the greater heights to which we aspire to reach.”

Honouring the sacrifices so many martyrs have paid to achieve the betterment of the nation, Dr Abiy said “it is imperative to express gratitude to those martyrs who did not live to witness this day, who died so that we could live, who were dishonoured so that we could walk in dignity, who were incarcerated so that we could walk free, who sacrificed their lives so that we could live ours. They could have lived without us; but we would not be here without them.”

The PM added: “On the day we stop saying ‘this region is mine! This boundary is mine! Leave our lands!’ ...when we stand unified from the east, west, north and south, and when our Palace and Parliament is open to the public...when you teach your children patriotism and national pride as well as the indigenous alphabets and cover them with a sheath of Ethiopianism... when you treat mothers, sisters and all women equally and with respect...then you can consider your gratitude received and the whole world would stand to witness it.”

The PM stressed that “change does not come through the involvement of a few active players with a majority being spectators but the participation of all. He emphasized the need to put in place a rich culture of professionalism at all levels of governance and underlined the irreplaceable role intellectuals and experts could play in bringing fresh ideas and finding new and innovative ways of doing things.

He encouraged religious leaders, the Ethiopian diaspora, political parties, teachers and the young, to eradicate prejudice and corruption and defend the nation and citizens suffering from mistreatment and march together in a noble quest for progress and prosperity. Ethiopia plays a critical role across the African continent, especially in the sub-region, and he said that if it was “to remain as Africa’s bastion of peace, its relations with neighbouring

countries must be founded on love, shared concerns and benefits.”

Shortly after his speech, a grenade attack occurred at the rally, claiming the lives of two individuals and leaving scores injured.

The Prime Minister was unscathed and in a live broadcast on Ethiopian Television shortly afterwards, expressed his condolences to the families of those affected and said the attack had been orchestrated by anti-peace forces who wanted to undermine the rally. The perpetrators will face justice. A dozen suspects have so far been arrested and are currently under police investigation.



“All victims are martyrs of love and peace,” the Premier said.

“Love always wins.”

Experts from the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation are providing technical assistance in bringing the perpetrators to justice.

A few hours after the live broadcast, the PM visited the victims, offering his heartfelt encouragement and gave blood.

On social media, Fitsum Arega, the Prime Minister’s Chief of Staff, announced that “every year Ethiopia will commemorate 23rd June as a National Day of Love, Forgiveness and Togetherness.”

A transcript of the PM’s speech is available. Requests can be sent to the Press Office at press@ethioembassy.org.uk.

UN High Commissioner commends ongoing reforms in Ethiopia

In his opening statement at the 38th Session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein commended the reforms undertaken by Ethiopia's Prime Minister Dr Abiy Ahmed, saying:



“During my second mission to Ethiopia, in April, I was encouraged by the Prime Minister’s commitment to undertake reforms that could well advance the rule of law, and respect for fundamental human rights and principles, including a broad space for expression, peaceful assembly and civil society participation.

The recent conclusion of an MOU will facilitate an extensive role for the Office in the country. I applaud the lifting of the state of emergency, and the release of a number of political detainees. While recognising challenges, I look forward to assisting the authorities in furthering respect for the human rights of all in Ethiopia.”

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Philips to build Ethiopia’s first specialized Cardiac Care Centre

Philips, a global leader in health technology, and the governments of Ethiopia and the Netherlands, have signed a 7-year agreement to build Ethiopia’s first specialized Cardiac Care Centre to address the critical shortage of cardiology services in Ethiopia.



Under the agreement, valued at approximately €40 million, Philips will be responsible for the full turnkey design, construction, equipping and commissioning of the hospital location, as well as staff education and equipment maintenance for five years after completion. The new centre will be developed within the compound of the existing Tikur Anbessa Specialized Hospital (TASH) in Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia.



The new specialist cardiac care centre will comprise a 7-storey building covering 7,200 square metres with three operating rooms, two cath labs, 94 beds, and full diagnostic and examination suites.

Scheduled for completion in mid-2020, the new centre will have the physical capacity to perform 500 surgeries, 1,600 cath lab diagnoses, and 500 cath lab interventions once operational.

The agreement not only covers construction of the new cardiac care centre, but also renovation of an existing section of the TASH hospital. Renovation of an existing floor in the hospital will begin by June, 2018, and is expected to be completed before the end of the year.

200,000km roads by 2020

The Ethiopian Roads Authority said that it is planning to meet its road network goal of 200,000 km by 2020, which marks the end of the country's second five-year Growth and Transformation Plan.



Ethiopia's main-road coverage has increased from less than 19,000 km to 113,000 km during the last 27 years. Road access has now also reached 1.23 km per 1,000 Ethiopians.

Voith opens new East Africa hub in Addis Ababa

Technology group Voith has opened a new East Africa Hub in Addis Ababa, highlighting Ethiopia's active contribution to the development of electricity generation from hydropower in East Africa.

Planning and coordinating of projects in nine countries in the east of the continent will be conducted from this new facility.

The opening ceremony was attended by Ethiopia's State Minister of Water, Irrigation and Electricity Dr Frehiwot Woldehanna, German Ambassador to Ethiopia Brita Wagener, Uwe Wehnhardt, CEO of Voith Hydro and Member of the Corporate

Management Board, and numerous guests from the business and political arenas.



“Good market conditions and the proximity to our customers and partners, as well as the hydropower market potential and impressive economic development in recent years make Ethiopia an ideal base for our new site,” explains Uwe Wehnhardt, CEO of Voith.

With a hydropower potential of 45,000mw, Ethiopia has one of the largest resources on the African continent. Since 2011, the country has been boosting the development of renewable energies and aims to be the energy hub for East Africa in the medium term.



Gibe III Hydropower plant, inaugurated in December 2016, is the tallest RCC dam in the world with an installed capacity of 1,870 MW

“Due to the longstanding history of hydropower projects in Ethiopia there are a large number of well-trained experts in the country. Some of these experts are now supporting us in our new East Africa Hub,” said Wehnhardt. The good logistics are also a point in favour of Ethiopia. For example, all the countries serviced - Egypt, Kenya, Sudan, South Sudan, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia - can be reached by direct flights in just a few hours.



Editorial



Reinvigorating Democracy Through Reform

The triumphant entry of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) forces into Addis Ababa on 28th May 1991 marked the closing of a turbulent chapter of Ethiopia's history, and the opening of a new one that paved the way for the adoption of an all-inclusive federal democratic system in Ethiopia.

In the last twenty-seven years, Ethiopia has witnessed massive economic and social transformation that has changed the livelihoods of the majority of its citizens. Successive development plans, implemented by the government of Ethiopia, were instrumental in putting the country on a sound and sustainable growth trajectory. The implementation of broad-based, pro-poor socio-economic policies and strategies have enabled the country to register remarkable economic growth and bring about notable social-economic and political developments.

During the last quarter of a century or so, and particularly in the past 15 years, the economy has shown an average growth rate of 10.1%. As a result, the poverty rate fell from 44% in 2000 to 23.5% in 2015/16, the Gross National Income (GNI) per capita reached US\$800 and life expectancy increased to 65.48 years from 47 in 2000. According to the latest International Monetary Fund forecasts,

Ethiopia's growth is expected to stay high in 2017/18.

The notable achievements in socio-economic sectors, such as education and training, and health provision have transformed public well-being and, thereby, the economy of the country. There are now 33 million students in primary, secondary and tertiary education and the number of universities has reached 53 from two universities in 1991.

Ethiopia has completed massive infrastructure projects including the construction of roads, airports, railways, telecommunications and renewable energy. Since 1991, Ethiopia's road network has increased six-fold from 19,017km to 113,000km.

To cope with ever-increasing energy demands and to sustain the impetus of its thriving economy, Ethiopia has embarked on huge renewable energy generation schemes, which are central to the realization of the Climate Resilient Development Strategy, with the objective of achieving zero emissions by 2025. Today, Ethiopia's electricity generating capacity has reached 4400mw from 375mw in early 1990 and is well on its way to producing 10,000 MW of clean and green electricity by 2020. The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, currently under construction, will provide an

additional 6,450MW of electricity upon completion in the coming few years.

As a mosaic of nations and nationalities, Ethiopia celebrates unity in diversity in a pluralist and democratic order. Ensuring order is essential to ascertaining citizens' rights, affirming good governance, and assuring stable working and living conditions. Strengthening democratic institutions and widening political participation is important, to mobilize around common goals and to involve the people in nation building. The government has therefore set out various reforms and taken a series of measures that will further propel rapid economic growth, ensure good governance and the rapid delivery of services to meet public demands.

Equally important, over the years, Ethiopia's role in the maintenance of regional peace and security has delivered tremendous results, thanks to its well-crafted policies and to its commitment to peaceful means of conflict resolution and its active participation in numerous international and regional affairs, particularly in United Nations and African Union peace-keeping operations.

ETHIOPIA IN THE UK

National Day celebrated at time of renewal

Over 300 guests attended a garden party on 6th June to celebrate Ethiopia's National Day (Ginbot 20), which commemorates the triumphant entry of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) forces into Addis Ababa on 28th May 1991.

In his welcoming speech, Ambassador Hailemichael Abera Afework spoke of the "monumental crossroads" that Ethiopia faced 27 years ago, when "confronted with the existential choice between dissolution and evolution." The Ambassador listed the "transformational change in our country's history" while recognising "the sacrifices made by those before us, in pursuit of a greater Ethiopia."

His Excellency highlighted the most recent reforms under new Prime Minister, Dr Abiy Ahmed, aimed at "widening the political landscape, speeding up economic development, strengthening the rule of law and fostering national unity." Noteworthy achievements so far include "the release of



thousands of prisoners, the holding of wide-spread public consultations, negotiations with local opposition parties and those abroad” and the “offering of amnesty to the members of these groups to facilitate their re-engagement in the democratic process.”



The Ambassador also highlighted the EPRDF Executive Council’s decision “to expand mixed ownership or outright full privatisation of state-owned enterprises” and its intention “to implement the Algiers Agreement and the Ethio-Eritrea Boundary Commission’s decision.”

He concluded by thanking the UK Government and people for “their enduring commitment to the development and prosperity of Ethiopia over the last twenty-seven years”, when “our close partnership on issues of peace and security, terrorism, climate change and migration has remained steady and consistent, yielding results in the face of an ever-changing global context.”

The Minister of State for Africa at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO), Harriet Baldwin MP, represented by Mr Julian Reilly, the Head of East Africa Department, praised the two countries strong bilateral relations, especially in economic development and regional and international security, adding, “It is a time of great opportunity, new Prime Minister Abiy is driving forward a really exciting agenda of reforms, seizing new opportunities. This is great for Ethiopia, it is also great for British business, with huge commercial opportunity. The PM’s Trade Envoy Jeremy Lefroy was in Ethiopia only last week.”

Laurence Robertson MP, Chair of the Ethiopia and Djibouti All Party Parliamentary Group, congratulated Ethiopia on the smooth transition of power and looked forward to the many business opportunities that Ethiopia offers, especially in the new economic climate.



Celebrity guests included TV space scientist Professor Brian Cox and Ethiopian-born British Poet Lemn Sissay.

Guests enjoyed exquisite Ethiopian cuisine from Mesi’s Kitchen restaurant in London, Ethiopian wines and the Ethiopian Coffee Ceremony, and were entertained by the renowned dance troupe, Dankira, with a wide range of Ethiopian music.



The evening showcased investment in Ethiopia – all of the evening’s sponsors encouraged investors by example, as they all invest in or trade with Ethiopia.

The flowers, courtesy of JZ flowers, a leading producer of floral bouquets for UK retailers, are found in Aldi stores in the UK and Ireland. Their Ethiopian roses are sourced through Herburg Roses, who are based in the Sher complex in Ziway.



The wine was from Awash Winery in Ethiopia, courtesy of 8 Miles LLP, a UK-based private equity firm who invest in African businesses. In July 2013, a consortium led by 8 Miles acquired a 100% interest in Awash Wine Share Company.



Ethiopian Airlines, the fastest growing airline in Africa and SKYTRAX certified four-star airline, transported the wine from Ethiopia.

The premium Yayu Wild Forest coffee was provided by Union Hand-Roasted Coffee, an award-winning artisan coffee producer and roaster based in East London. Their Yayu and Yirgacheffee coffees from

Ethiopia are available at Waitrose stores and online on Ocado and on the Union Hand-Roasted website.



Video coverage of the reception can be found on our YouTube page: bit.ly/YTGinbot20

Photos can be found on our Flickr page: bit.ly/Ginbot20Flickr



PM Abiy in call with PM Theresa May

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed spoke with his British counterpart Prime Minister Theresa May on 31st May to discuss bilateral relations.



PM May congratulated PM Abiy on his appointment and said the UK firmly supported his reform and reconciliation efforts.

The Prime Minister also thanked PM Abiy for the release of prisoners including British national Andargachew Tsege.

They discussed the importance of development assistance, including the support the UK provides to bolster education, economic reform, industrialisation, anti-corruption and job creation in Ethiopia.

They also discussed how the two countries could deepen their trade links and touched on how the UK's expertise in infrastructure and financing could support Ethiopia's economic development agenda.

Dr Amir makes debut UK visit as Health Minister

Dr Amir Aman, Ethiopia's Minister of Health, visited the UK in late June for the first time, and met the Minister of State for Africa at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, Harriet Baldwin MP, Department for International Development (DFID) representatives, a range of NGOs and Ethiopian diaspora doctors who wish to support Ethiopia's medical sector.

The Minister updated Ms Baldwin on Ethiopia's health sector project improvements and thanked her for the continuing support from DFID and generally praised the support of the UK government and people.

His briefing covered achievements in maternal health and improvements in service delivery.



Dr Amir with Africa Minister Harriet Baldwin and Ambassador Hailemichael (r)

The Health Minister also met with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), which is renowned for its research, postgraduate studies and continuing education in public and global health. While at LSHTM, he met Ethiopians who are studying health service capacity building at Masters and PhD level, such as short-term training and research in collaboration and capacity building. LSHTM has projects in Ethiopia covering the digitalisation of services with a focus on human resource development training.

The Health Minister also met with NGOs Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) and Big Win, who both support health sector projects in Ethiopia especially in water and sanitation in schools and in communities.

The Minister met with a group of Ethiopian Diaspora doctors and health professionals from hospitals and universities, including highly-skilled neuro-surgeons, cardiologists and dentists and briefed them on Ethiopia's health policy at primary, secondary and tertiary levels. The Minister outlined the current status of health in the country and invited them to participate in the health sector in person, whether by teaching, investing or linking UK hospitals with their Ethiopian counterparts.

A diaspora coordination office has been established in the Ministry of Health, to support diaspora affairs and will regularly communicate with Ethiopian Embassies around the world.

International Day of Peacekeepers observed in London

Deputy Head of Mission, Mr Ababi Demissie, laid a wreath at the Cenotaph in London on 23rd May, in memory of UN Peacekeepers from Ethiopia and around the world, who have lost their lives in the name of peace.



Among those who attended the ceremony were veterans of the UN Veteran Association, Tessa Antony, Princess of Luxembourg, Lord Ahmad Minister of State for the UN and the ambassadors, defence attachés, and representatives of 110 different Embassies and High Commissions.

The memorial ceremony also marked the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the first UN peacekeeping mission.

From the early days of UN peacekeeping to some of today's most vital operations, Ethiopian men and women have played an important role in the Organization's efforts to advance peace in the world's hot spots. Ethiopia's participation in UN-authorized operations dates back to 1951, as part of the UN multinational force in the Korean War.

Ethiopia participated in a Security Council authorized UN military presence to restore order in the Republic of the Congo. Ethiopian troops are seen here in Debre Zeit before departing for the Congo in July 1960.

Ethiopia is the largest troop contributor to UN peacekeeping with over 8,300 uniformed personnel, the vast majority serve in Darfur (UNAMID), Abyei (UNISFA) and South Sudan (UNMISS).



...Fallen Ethiopian peacekeepers receive Dag Hammarskjöld Medal

In related news, six Ethiopian soldiers who lost their lives in 2017 while serving in UN peacekeeping operations were posthumously awarded the Dag Hammarskjöld Medal, as part of the commemoration of the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers.



Ambassador Mahlet Hailu, Deputy Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations, received the medal from Secretary-General António Guterres.

The six fallen Ethiopian peacekeepers are:

- **Sergeant Gebrewahid DERSE** and **Private Tibebu MAMO** who served with the African Union - UNAMID
- **Private Shibiru ABASINIMBO**, **S. SGT Bahta BEYENE** and **Corporal Solomon Berele FENETE** who were deployed with UNISFA
- **Private Mohamed ABAWARE** who served in UNMISS.

TRADE AND INVESTMENT

Ethiopia to partially liberalise economy

The Executive Committee of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) has passed a decision to partially liberalise the economy to increase the role of Ethiopian Diaspora and potential local and foreign investors in Ethiopia's fast-growing economy.

Mixed ownership or full privatisation of state-owned enterprises such as railway projects, sugar development projects, industrial parks, hotels and other manufacturing industries.

The committee also announced directions to part privatise Ethio-telecom, Ethiopian Airlines, electric power generation projects, the Ethiopian Shipping and Logistics Services Enterprise, with the government having the majority stake.

Ethiopia starts crude oil production

Ethiopia officially started crude oil production in the Ogaden Region, Ethiopian Somali regional state, on 27th June.



File photo

Chief Administrator of the Regional State, Abdi Mohammed, and Government Communication Affairs Office Minister, Ahmed Shide, and other senior government officials attended the launching ceremony.

Chinese Poly-GCL Petroleum Investment Limited will start producing 450 barrels of crude oil per day.

Nutropia signs contract to build one of the largest poultry farms in Africa

Ethiopia's Nutropia Poultry & Feed has signed a contract with Dutch company, Agrotop - a leading global player in livestock turnkey projects, to develop a large-scale chicken farm in Addis Ababa.



Agrotop will design, build and equip the project and provide know-how transfer and management services to Nutropia. With its headquarters in Addis Ababa, the new farm will eventually produce 24,000 tons of chicken meat a year.

Nutropia plans to start with an initial investment capital of €20 million. The first stage, which is expected to start by the end of 2018, will consist of a hatchery, broiler farms and slaughterhouse capable of providing 4,700 tons of poultry meat annually.

The vertically integrated broiler and poultry feed farms will provide chicken meat at affordable prices to the domestic Ethiopian market and to the East African and Middle Eastern markets.

Once completed, the Nutropia project will include a parent stock rearing farm, a parent stock production farm, six broiler farms, a hatchery, slaughterhouse and poultry feed mill.

Agrotop will provide the latest technology to develop a project that is both economically efficient and environmentally sustainable. The strictest biosecurity standards will be adopted to safeguard bird and public health. Agrotop will provide experienced managers who will work alongside and train the local management so that good results will be assured from day one. The locally trained management will be the core that the future expansion will be built around.

Ethiopia launches online visas for all international visitors

From 1st June, all international visitors to Ethiopia can apply for their visas online.

The e-visa service, initially launched in June 2017, was only available to a limited number of countries. Under the new initiative by the Main Department for Immigration and Nationality Affairs of Ethiopia, in collaboration with Ethiopian Airlines, all international visitors will now be able to travel to Ethiopia by processing their visa online.



The e-visa is processed and issued online on a single webpage where applicants apply, pay and secure their entry visa.

Once the application is approved, applicants will receive an email authorising them to travel to Ethiopia and they will get their passport stamped with the visa upon arrival in Addis Ababa.

Speaking of the newly revamped service, Group CEO of Ethiopian Airlines, Mr Tewolde GebreMariam, said, *“Ethiopia, is endowed with historical places, natural beauty, colourful and diverse cultural activities and various endemic wild animals which are of great interest to international tourists. However, we have not made the best use of*

these natural resources to attract a large number of tourists. This project is part of a new initiative to transform the tourism sector in the country.”

Online visa application will promote tourism, trade, and investment to the country. It will save time and cost for travellers to Ethiopia, and is simple and convenient.

“With direct flights to/from more than 110 destinations from all corners of the world operated by the most modern airplanes, we will continue to make travel to Ethiopia, dependable, easy, convenient and affordable. I take this opportunity to thank our IT team and our colleagues at the Main Department for Immigration & Nationality Affairs for the commendable collaboration and a job well done.”

Mr Gebreyohannes Teklu, Director at the Main Department for Immigration & Nationality Affairs, said *“We are glad that we have been working together with Ethiopian Airlines for the effective implementation of e-visa facilities at Bole International Airport. International visitors from any country in the world will make use of this service. We have set up a dedicated contact centre to provide a responsive service during or after travellers’ experience with our online service.”*



WELCOME TO ETHIOPIAN E-VISA

Official Ethiopian e-Visa website

To get your e-Visa, please visit the Ethiopian Immigration and Nationality Affairs Main Department website at www.evisa.gov.et

Ethiopian Airlines opens up Africa to the North with new Manchester route

- Flights start 1st December 2018 and will operate 4 times a week
- 400,000 people set to benefit from the route
- Fares from £499



Manchester Airport CEO Andrew Cowan and Ethiopian Airlines CEO Tewolde Gebremariam announce the new route

On 14th May, Ethiopian Airlines, the largest airline group in Africa, confirmed it will operate a four-times-a-week service to Addis Ababa from Manchester Airport.

The landmark route will connect the North of the United Kingdom to the world's most important markets, with connections to more than 58 countries across Africa.

Ethiopian, which flies to more destinations in Africa than any other carrier, will operate the ultramodern B-787 on the route with business and economy classes.

The new route will serve as a key trade route for Northern businesses, opening up fresh export opportunities and delivering cost and journey time savings to those already operating there.

The service will start on 1st December, initially transiting via Brussels. It will leave Manchester at 19:00, arriving at Addis Ababa Bole International Airport at 06:00, providing significant onward connectivity options from the African hub. On the return it will depart Addis Ababa at 00:45 and arrive in Manchester at 06:55.

Manchester Airport CEO Andrew Cowan said: "The introduction of this route underlines the critical role Manchester Airport plays in connecting the people

and businesses of the North to the world's most important markets. This service will provide vital connectivity to one of the continent's most important hub airports. That will unlock dozens more destinations across Africa through Ethiopian Airlines' unrivalled network, meaning the North will be better connected to this part of the world than ever before."

Ethiopian Airlines CEO, Tewolde Gebremariam said: "We are elated to start services to Manchester, our second destination in the UK next to London Heathrow, which we have been serving since 1973. As the leading African carrier with the widest network on the continent, passengers from Manchester will enjoy convenient and seamless connectivity options to 58 African destinations operated with a cutting-edge fleet like the B-787 and A350, which offer our passengers unparalleled comfort on board our flights, along with our African flavoured Ethiopian hospitality."

"The socio-economic implication of the new flight is immense. With vast investment and trade potentials between Africa and the UK, the upcoming flight holds the promise of boosting trade, investment and tourism with ample business opportunities for investors and business people from both regions."

Alex Marshall, Group Marketing and Compliance Director, Clarke Energy (Liverpool) & Northern Powerhouse Export Champion, said: "With our extensive operations across Africa, we are pleased to learn about this new flight to Addis Ababa from Manchester Airport, giving us extensive new route options across the continent. The route has the potential to be a massive benefit to our business through journey time savings and the excellent onward connectivity Ethiopian Airlines will provide."

Sheona Southern, Managing Director of Marketing Manchester, said: "The new route connecting Manchester with Addis Ababa is a great success for Greater Manchester and for the wider North of England. This opens up Greater Manchester to visitors, businesses investors and students from a new continent. Greater Manchester's growth strategy has internationalisation at its heart, and Manchester has set a clear target to become a top global city by

2035. If we're to achieve this aim, it's vital that we continue to increase our connections with major international hubs, increasing the opportunities for global networks to choose Manchester as a place to visit, meet, invest and study in. In this respect, this new route with Ethiopian Airlines is a huge step forward."

Ethiopia is Africa's second largest country by population, with its hub airport perfectly placed to provide onward connectivity, particularly to sub-Saharan countries.

The new route is set to benefit 400,000 people in Manchester Airport's extensive catchment area, who currently travel to Addis Ababa and other key cities across Africa via other means. The new service has therefore been heralded by Northern businesses and organisations, with the route saving travel time and unlocking vital economic, trade and investment opportunities.

Ethiopian Airlines was founded in 1945 and from its hub in Addis Ababa has connections to 58 cities across Africa, and a further 67 international routes across Europe, Asia and the Americas. The multi award-winning airline offers passengers an excellent on-board service.

The new route is testament to Manchester Airport's position as the second hub in the UK, the global gateway for the North. Return economy fares start from £499 with business class at £1,999.

Milestones and more awards!

Ethiopian makes African Aviation History with 100th Aircraft in Active Service

On 5th June, Ethiopian Airlines took delivery of its 100th aircraft, a Boeing 787-900, becoming the first African airline to operate a 100 aircraft fleet.

Speaking on the occasion, Group CEO, Mr Tewolde Gebemariam said: "It is an immense honour for all of us at Ethiopian to reach the milestone of 100 aircraft, a continuation of our historical aviation leadership role in Africa and a testimony of the successful implementation of our fast, profitable and sustainable growth plan, Vision 2025."

Ethiopian was the first to avail jet service in the continent back in 1962, and operated the first African B767 in 1984, the first African B777-200LR in 2010, the first African B787-800 Dreamliner and B777-200 freighter in 2012, the first African A350 in 2016 and the first African B787-9 aircraft in 2017.



Ethiopian now operates one of the youngest and most modern 100 aircraft, with an average age of less than 5 years. Fleet modernization and expansion is one of the four critical pillars of our Vision 2025 strategic roadmap, in support of our fast expanding network, which has now reached over 110 international destinations covering 5 continents.

This 100 fleet milestone, which we have achieved ahead of our Vision 2025 targets, compels us to phase in more aircraft and further expand our network, so as to meet the growing travel needs of our continent and support its economic development and integration by facilitating the flow of investment, trade and tourism. We will continue to connect more and more Africans with their fellow citizens on the continent and with their brothers and sisters in the rest of the world to make life better every single day.”

...Africa’s largest 737 MAX

In related news, on 2nd July Ethiopian Airlines took delivery of the largest B737 MAX fleet in Africa.

The B737 MAX 8 features the new Boeing sky interior, highlighted by modern sculpted sidewalls and window reveals, LED lighting that enhance the sense of spaciousness ultimately boosting customers’ experience. The environmentally

friendly aircraft has minimal carbon emission and consumes 15% less fuel than the 737-NG.

CEO Tewelde GebreMariam, said, “The latest acquisition is an affirmation of our continuing pioneering role in African aviation. We are glad to include the B737 MAX 8, the latest in Boeing’s single-aisle series, in our young, modern fleet.”



With this delivery, Ethiopian’s fleet of Boeing airplanes grows to 73 jets, including the 787 Dreamliner, 777, 737 MAX, and the 757 and 767.

“Ethiopian Airlines continues to fly at the forefront of Africa’s commercial aviation industry by operating the most advanced airplanes,” said Marty Bentrott, Boeing Sales vice president for Middle East, Turkey, Russia, Central Asia & Africa. “We are honoured by Ethiopian’s continuing confidence in Boeing airplanes and we look forward to growing our five-decade long partnership.”

...wins 2018 TripAdvisor Travellers’ Choice Award



Ethiopian Airlines, the SKYTRAX certified Four Star Global Airline, has been recognized by TripAdvisor as having the “Best Business Class in Africa and Indian Ocean”.

The award is based on TripAdvisor’s reviews and ratings gathered from travellers worldwide over a year. Ethiopian was recognized for its outstanding service, as well as the quality and value in its service delivery.

Group CEO Ethiopian Airlines, Tewelde GebreMariam, said: “We are highly honoured to

receive this award from TripAdvisor...I wish to thank the TripAdvisor community for their resounding vote of confidence in our premium class product and service...We will continue to invest in the latest technology aircraft that offer unmatched on-board comfort and to enhance our premium on-ground and on-board offerings with a superior level of service so as to meet the high expectations of premium travellers and remain their airline of choice."

"We're thrilled to recognize the global TripAdvisor community's favourite airlines and shine a spotlight on the carriers around the world that provide the very best flying experiences, including Ethiopian Airlines," said Bryan Saltzburg, senior vice president and general manager for TripAdvisor Flights. "As the airline industry introduces new fare products and a widening array of in-flight offerings, consumers continue to seek out the carriers that deliver value and quality experience."

...wins Airline Reliability Award for 7th year in a row



Ethiopian Airlines won the 2017 Airline Reliability Performance Award for the 7th year in a row, from Bombardier Aerospace.

Mr Tewolde Gebremariam, said the award was "the fruit of continued dedication and hard work of our employees and especially those working in our light aircraft and turbo-prop section. We are committed to providing to our esteemed customers reliable schedule and punctual flights at all times. This is a testament of our dedication to operational excellence in our domestic and regional routes."

Ethiopian currently operates 21 Q-400 Next Gen aircraft, including the only Q-400 double cabin in Africa, which has the quietest engine in its category. The Q-400 is an ideal aircraft for domestic and regional flights with a speed closer to narrow body jet airplanes and with reduced fuel consumption and emissions.

The Airline Reliability Performance Award recognizes operators of Bombardier CRJ Series regional jets and Q Series turboprops who have achieved the highest rates of dispatch reliability.

Registration open for Great Ethiopian Run

Registration for international participants wishing to take part in the 2018 Total Great Ethiopian Run in Addis Ababa on 18th November is in full swing with more than 200 international participants already registered.



www.ethiopianrun.org

GreatEthiopianRun

GreatEthRun



Although registration is now closed in Ethiopia with all 40,000 standard entry places for local residents selling out within 4 days, there is still time to register as an international participant through Ethiopia Specialist travel agency Tadele Travel (www.tadeletravel.com).

44,000 participants are expected to take part in this year's 18th edition of the race, making it one of the world's biggest 10km races and by far the biggest on the African continent.

If you're interested in a place, email Richard Nerurkar at richard@tadeletravel.com.

SPORTS

Queen of distance running retains Manchester Run crown

Ethiopia's distance running queen, Tirunesh Dibaba won the Great Manchester Run on 20th May for the third year in a row, clocking 31:08.



Tirunesh, the triple Olympic champion has previously won in 2013, 2014, 2016 and 2017.

Bamlak Tessema flies Ethiopia's flag at World Cup



Ethiopia's most experience referee Bamlak Tessema Weyesa was selected by FIFA as one of 36 referees to officiate the World Cup in Russia.

Bamlak began his refereeing career in 2003 and rose from domestic games to international matches in just six years.

He became one of Fifa's listed referees in 2009 and took charge of the CECAFA Cup Final in 2010.

Since then, Weyesa has been a regular across African international tournaments, taking charge of African Cup of Nation games and World Cup qualifiers.

Away from football, he is a medical researcher, clinical coordinator and graduated from Addis Ababa University with a degree in sociology.

ETHIOPIA IN THE NEWS

Business leaders hail 'immense' potential of new Manchester-Ethiopia flight

 Business leaders have hailed the 'immense' potential of Manchester Airport's first ever service to Ethiopia. Ethiopian Airlines will operate a four-times-a-week service to Addis Ababa from 1st December.



Ethiopia is the fourth largest economy in sub-Saharan Africa and is predicted to be the third largest by 2025. UK exports to Ethiopia grew from £80 million in 2010 to £108 million in 2014.

A number of UK businesses are already operating in Ethiopia including Tesco, Unilever, Diageo and Glaxo Smithkline. Other British firms have also invested in sectors such as mining, food and drink, the leather industry and renewable energy.

With vast trade and investment potential between the two countries, and beyond across Africa, the new Ethiopian Airlines Manchester - Ethiopia route will serve as a key trade route for northern businesses.

Read more at bit.ly/MAN-ADD

Ethiopia's scheme to help the poor is setting an example

The Economist

Ethiopia's Urban Productive Safety Net Project is among the largest social programmes in sub-Saharan Africa. About 400,000 Ethiopians in 11 cities are already enrolled, and the government hopes it will eventually help 4.7m people in almost 1,000 towns. In addition to the paid work, beneficiaries are also giving training. Those who want to start their own businesses are given grants.

Ethiopia's programme is a step towards building a national social-security system that will, in time, replace a hotch-potch of small ones. It builds on Ethiopia's flagship rural safety-net, which is the largest of its kind on the continent and covers some 10 million poor people in the countryside (out of a total population of about 102m). The government has committed \$150m to fund the new scheme and the World Bank has stumped up the remaining \$300m needed for the first five years. Ethiopia hopes that within ten years it will no longer need help financing the programme.

Read more at bit.ly/etPSNP

Unreal Views of The Trippy Colours In Ethiopia's Danakil Desert

WIRED

German Photographer Ulrike Crespo commenting on the "fantastical landscape" of the

Danakil Desert said: "I was climbing a small hill in the Afar Triangle of northern Ethiopia when the colors suddenly changed. The dusty browns and grays of the desert gave way to oranges, yellows, and greens so vivid they seemed unnatural...It was almost like a hallucinogenic trip."



The surreal colours come from the sulphur, potash, and other minerals that saturate the Dallol hydrothermal field. It sits amid crusty salt plains in the Danakil Depression, a 3,800-square-mile bowl that dips more than 400 feet below sea level, thanks to three slowly separating tectonic plates. As those plates pull apart, hot springs bubble up into acidic pools that form ethereal crystals and pillars as the briny waters evaporate.

More photos at bit.ly/VisitET11

Exploring one of the hottest places on earth in Ethiopia



Similarly, Juan Martinez, in a Deutsche Welle feature on the Danakil says: "If you are looking to see one of the most extraordinary places on Earth in the most natural way possible, Danakil should be on top of your list. From the colourless views in Karum, the neon sceneries in Dallol to the black lava in Erta Ale, a trip to Danakil is a journey through an entire spectrum of colours that, every once in a while, will make you forget you're still on planet Earth."

Read more at bit.ly/VisitET12

Liya Kebede and Pierre Hardy on Fusing Ethiopian and French Craftsmanship

VOGUE

Ethiopian model Liya Kebede is connecting artisans from Ethiopia with those from France in a new accessory collection with French designer, Pierre Hardy.



A shoe and handbag collection with handmade Ethiopian cotton from Lemlem, founded 10 years



ago by Kebede celebrating “Made in Africa” craft, features fabrics made by a group of tradition, weavers who had no market for their work.

Kebede’s mission to expand production and jobs across Africa resonated with Hardy. She's enthusiastic about having Hardy on board: “I find him super original and super talented in what he does. It was wonderful to connect the artisans of Ethiopia with the artisans in France, and to create a bridge between these two worlds.”

Read more at bit.ly/PierreHardyXLemlem

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bath Spa University explores links with Ethiopia

In May, Deputy Head of Mission, Mr Ababi Demissie, met with Prof John Strachan, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Dean of Graduate College and Dr Rebecca McGuire-Snieckus, Associate Academic Director of the Global Academy of Liberal Arts (GALA), from Bath Spa University, to discuss possible areas of collaboration with universities in Ethiopia.



Further discussions followed with a visit to the City of Bath, which has a strong Ethiopian connection, and the university itself where Mr Demissie met with more university officials to explore areas where Ethiopian universities could benefit from links.

Since the visit, Prof Strachan and Dr McGuire-Snieckus have visited Addis Ababa University to identify key areas for collaboration between their institutions and across the network of the Global Academy of Liberal Arts.

Ethiopia lifts State of Emergency

On 5th June, the House of People’s Representatives (HPR), passed the draft law proposed by the Council of Ministers to lift the State of Emergency, that was declared on 16th February 2018.

Minister of State for Africa at the FCO, Harriett Baldwin MP, welcomed the decision, saying: “...Combined with other steps taken towards reconciliation, this sends a positive signal about Prime Minister Abiy’s intention to broaden political space in Ethiopia.

“Ethiopia remains a key partner for the UK and I look forward to continuing our dialogue on such reforms, as well as on crucial matters of economic development, regional and international security.”

Sahle-Work Zewde appointed Head of the UN Office to the AU



United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has appointed Ms Sahle-Work Zewde of Ethiopia as his Special Representative to the African Union and Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU) at the level of Under-Secretary-General.

Ms Zewde is the first woman appointed to this position and brings three decades of progressively responsible experience at national, regional and international levels.

DIASPORA CORNER

Ethiopian Business Club seeks Diaspora members



The Ethiopian Business Club (EBC) will be hosting two “Exploration Meetings” in July and August, in Partnership with British African Business Alliance (BABA) in order to

define and set in motion the Club in the UK.

Led by members of the Ethiopian community in the UK, EBC aims to develop a pipeline of bankable business projects for its members.

They are currently looking to meet entrepreneurs, business owners and managers, investors, funders and development specialists, senior officials from African government bodies and members of the African Diaspora to join the Club and act as catalysts to accelerate the development of business in Ethiopia.

EBC meets monthly in London. The next two meetings take place on Wednesday 25th July and Wednesday 29th August 2018.

The event is FREE to EBC and BABA Members. There will be a £10 charge for Guests. Register on www.eventbrite.co.uk search 'Ethiopian Business Club UK'.

EVENTS

London Artist's portrait of Ethiopian on display at the Royal Academy Summer Show

London-based British artist Catherine Chambers' portrait of her Ethiopian friend, *Girma*, is currently on display at the Royal Academy Summer Show, which runs until 19th August.

Girma is a tailor from Ethiopia's historic city of Lalibela, which has become Catherine's second home due to her frequent visits and links with the local community.

Now in its 250th anniversary, the exhibition displays works in a variety of mediums and genres by emerging and established artists. This year's edition is curated by Grayson Perry RA and will be the biggest in its history with over 1,200 works on display.

In an exclusive with the Embassy, Catherine told us that she is inspired by the environment around her and spending much of her time in Ethiopia, naturally many of her paintings involve her friends there.

"My degree is in drawing and I used to work solely in pencil, I liked colour and appreciated painters but had not found the inspiration or confidence to work in this way...After university I visited Uganda, where the bright bold use of colour completely woke me up. I came back to England desperate to use such colours but did not have a subject I was truly passionate about," she said.



Portrait of Girma by Catherine Chambers

Catherine then planned a trip to travel through Africa, with Ethiopia being her starting point down to South Africa.

"I had allowed myself two weeks in Ethiopia, but when I arrived the rich culture and the genuine friendliness of the people completely captured me, and I did not want to leave!"

Two weeks turned into a month, then I left but only reached as far as Tanzania before turning back to spend another 3 months exploring Ethiopia! In this time, I made friends that are as dear to me as family, and a second home in Lalibela, where I visit as often as possible now," she added.

“On my first return to London, I was given a great opportunity to be artist in residence through the Kentish Town Improvement Trust. I used this opportunity to paint the people I had met and the stories I had heard during my time in Ethiopia. A few years on I am still full to the brim with inspiration from Ethiopia, and it continues to be a focus in my work.”

“I paint people who stand out to me, usually people I am in awe of...To paint them is to pay them respect in a way...To have one of my portraits selected for the Royal Academy Summer Show is an honour and I am happy to share the wonders of Ethiopia with the large audience that the Royal Academy attracts.”



Catherine at the Summer Exhibition with her painting of Girma at the top, in the main room, Grayson Perry's yellow room.

During her time in Ethiopia, Catherine explored the art scene there where she has many artist friends. In 2017, she curated the exhibition "Peace" at the Italian Cultural Institute for three Ethiopian artists.



Catherine's portrait of Yeabsra

Catherine hopes one day to have the opportunity to exhibit her own paintings within Ethiopia. “I take so much inspiration from Ethiopia, I hope one day to bring some back! I mainly paint 'ordinary' people who may never have been to an exhibition before. To have the opportunity for the people I paint to see their own

portraits in real life would be truly special, for me and for them - particularly my painting of Yeabsra, who is as good as family to me, she was the first portrait I painted and my true muse!”

The RA Summer Exhibition runs daily from 12th June - 19th August 2018, 10am – 6pm, and 10am – 10pm on Fridays, at the Royal Academy of Arts.

Tickets: £18 (without donation £16). Concessions available. Under-16s go free with a fee-paying adult.

For more information, visit bit.ly/RASummer18.

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