



Ethiopian News

Summer 2017

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Melkam Addis Amet!

'Back to the Future' in Ethiopia as it ushers in the year 2010

© Ethiopian Tourism Organisation





Ethiopians celebrate New Year

Ethiopia started its New Year 2010, *Enkutatash*, on 11th September with celebrations across the country.

Ethiopian New Year comes at a time when the heavy rainfall starts to cease, and the bright sun comes to shine over the green land covered with golden flowers known in Amharic as “*Adey Abeba*”, which appears in abundance this time of the year.

Various events were organised at national level for 10 consecutive days (from 1st September) to welcome the New Year.

Government Communications Affairs Minister, Dr Negeri Lecho said, that Ethiopia has made significant gains in the socio-economic and political sectors over the past ten years. Adding the events will help inspire the government and the people of Ethiopia for further successes.

The events offered opportunities for the people and government of Ethiopia to scale up best practices and rectify challenges faced during the past ten years.

The 10-day celebrations included: Love Day, Mothers’ and Children’s Day, Elders’ Day, Peace Day, Reading Day, Green Development Day, Respect Day, National Feelings Day, Unity Day and Ethiopia Day.

Ethiopian President Mulatu Teshome, in his New Year message, said the events highlighted Ethiopia’s significant gains in the socio-economic and political sectors over the past decade.

Background

Ethiopia has its own unique calendar of 13 months - 12 of which have 30 days each, and the 13th month called *Pagumen* has 5 days, or 6 in a leap year.

The Ethiopian calendar is similar to the Egyptian Coptic calendar having a year of 13 months, 365 days and 366 days in a leap year (every fourth year) and it is much influenced by the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church, which follows its ancient calendar rules and beliefs.

The Ethiopian Calendar is seven to eight years behind the Gregorian Calendar, owing to alternate calculations in determining the date of the annunciation of the birth of Jesus.

President Mulatu calls for ‘year of resplendence’



President Dr Mulatu Teshome, in a New Year message to the nations, nationalities and peoples of Ethiopia, called on all citizens to strive to ensure that the New Year be accompanied by an invigorated spirit of patriotism and a culture of relentless hard work in the realisation of the Ethiopian Renaissance. He said this time of the year is when the government and citizens alike, collectively renew their pledge to leave no stone unturned in sustaining our fast-growing economy, elevating Ethiopia's growth to new heights in the upcoming "Ethiopian year of resplendence". He also stated that in our quest to defeat extreme poverty, we need to redouble our multi-faceted efforts to further enhance our competitive edge in the export market by giving priority attention to the global value-added goods and services chains. This, in turn, will allow us to create an enabling environment to speed up our nation's pursuit of industrialisation.

We also need to intensify our efforts to maintain the momentum of our agriculture-led industrialization policy which continues to equip

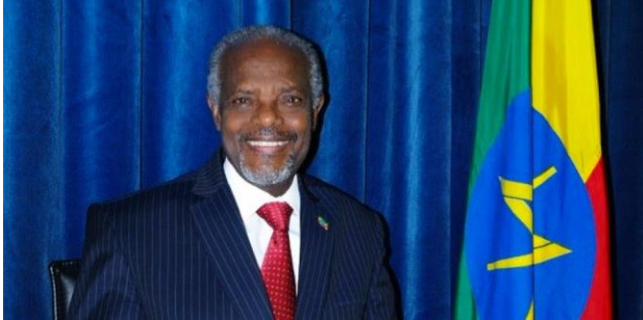
small holder farmers and pastoralists with the knowledge and modern skills required to increase productivity, he said.

The President also highlighted that, while it is the primary duty of the government to maintain law and order and guide the democratisation and development of the nation, it must be the duty of each law-abiding citizen to nip in the bud events that disrupt peace. The President also remarked on the amnesty given to prisoners, at the recommendation of the Parole Board, stating his confidence that the recently released will go forward in the spirit of the Federal Constitution to engage in the development of the nation.

Prime Minister Hailemariam, on his part, wished all Ethiopians a Happy New Year and called on the people to continue their efforts to actively promote the growth and renaissance process that the country had begun, in the coming Ethiopian New Year. He wished all "a new era of peace, prosperity and love."

ETHIOPIA IN UK

Ambassador Hailemichael's New Year message



Fellow Ethiopians, friends of Ethiopia, on the occasion of the Ethiopian New Year my wife, Abebetch Zeleke Aweke, and all Embassy staff, join me in wishing you all our heart-felt best wishes as we usher in the year 2010 in the Ethiopian Calendar.

The past year has allowed us to sustain our continued growth rate, making Ethiopia one of the fastest-growing economies in the world.

We now find ourselves in the mood of high hope that the conscientious endeavour the nation has exhibited in the past 12 months will start yielding great dividends to Ethiopia in the coming year. The ushering in of Industrial Parks in Hawassa and Mekele, as well as the imminent commencement of services on the Addis-Djibouti Railway are expected to enhance the flow of foreign direct investment into Ethiopia.

I want to avail myself of this auspicious occasion and encourage Ethiopia's sizeable community in the United Kingdom to access Ethiopia's vast investment opportunities. In this regard, the Embassy's committed staff are more than happy to assist you. Our revamped website – www.ethioembassy.org.uk – which became operational on Ethiopian New Year, is designed to serve your needs effectively.

Melkam Addis Amet!

Happy New Year

Gebeya launches in the UK

Gebeya, a Pan-African Edtech and IT Service Marketplace company, launched its developers' marketplace platform in London on 7th September.



The digital skills gap has become one of the more pressing problems facing UK businesses. Gebeya aims to satiate this ever-growing demand for qualified digital talent across Europe by enabling organisations, SME's and entrepreneurs to hire top software developers on demand.

'We are excited with our success so far but our growth reflects the increased demand for digital talent in the global market. In this regard, we have created a self-sustainable ecosystem that trains, hires, and incubates the best of African talent so as to produce world class software developers and mitigate the global demand of digital talent,' says Amadou Daffe, Co-Founder and CEO at Gebeya.

The developers' marketplace will match customers with highly skilled, certified and multilingual software developers to develop innovative technological solutions, improve development efficiency, scalability and mobile success. In order to maintain quality, software developers will undergo an intensive 6 months of hands-on practical training that focuses on cutting edge technologies that are running the global digital industry today. Upon graduation will they be placed on the platform which currently has a pool of software developers who have worked on widely successful projects across Africa, Europe and USA.

Gebeya opened its first office in Addis Ababa only a year ago. Since then it has more than tripled in size, expanding to Nairobi (Kenya), Silicon Valley (U.S.) and now London. Gebeya means 'market' in Amharic.

ETHIOPIA AT THE UN

Ethiopia assumes presidency of the UN Security Council



Ethiopia assumed the presidency of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on 1st September 2017.

One of Ethiopia's priorities during its membership of the United Nations Security Council has been strengthening the partnership between the UN and the African Union in the area of peace and security and during its presidency of the Council Ethiopia will highlight this issue. This emanates from the growing recognition that a stronger global-regional partnership is needed to effectively respond to the peace and security challenges and threats of our time and improve our collective security.

On this basis, Ethiopia led the UNSC delegation that participated at the 11th Annual Joint Consultative Meeting with the African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC), which took place on 7th and 8th September 2017 at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa. As president of the Security Council, Ethiopia co-chaired this meeting together with the current chairperson of the AUPSC.

The annual Consultation was held after the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership that the Secretary General Antonio Guterres and the African Union Commission chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat signed on 19th April 2017, which is a clear testament of the two organizations' renewed commitment to work together, to, among other things, address common challenges of peace and security on the African continent.

The Security Council, on numerous occasions, has reiterated its commitment to the cooperation between the United Nations and regional and sub-regional organizations in relation to the maintenance of international peace and security, consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations.

In addition to the AU-UN partnership, African issues, such as Somalia, South Sudan and the Lake Chad region, will be considered during the month, along with other issues of international peace and security that the Council has been seized with.

The highlight of the Ethiopia's Presidency was the High-Level Open Debate on the Reform of the UN Peacekeeping Operations, held on 20th September, chaired by PM Hailemariam. The debate focussed on recommendations from the previous Secretary-General and on the reform process initiated by the current Secretary-General. All 15 countries of the Security Council unanimously backed the resolution on UN Peacekeeping reform, urging higher efficiency of peacekeeping operations, including through more thorough planning.

Ethiopia is the largest African contributor to UN peacekeeping forces and the second largest contributor in the world with some 12,968 peacekeepers dispatched all over the world.

As one of the leading troop-contributing countries to UN Peacekeeping, Ethiopia attaches great importance to the reform and strengthening of UN Peacekeeping so that it may be fit to address the challenges of the 21st century.

Background

Ethiopia's two-year term in the Security Council as a non-permanent member started on 1st January 2017. Ethiopia served on the Council as an elected member twice, in 1967 and '68, and in 1989 and '90.

Ethiopia, as host to the headquarters of the African Union and the Chair of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), has been playing an important role in promoting peace and stability in the region and across the continent.

Ethiopia chairs the Security Council's Ad-Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa and in its activities in the Council, Ethiopia tries to play a constructive role in finding peace in conflict-affected countries and in contributing to help address global problems such as terrorism, nuclear non-proliferation and the international refugee crisis.

The UN will not be able to handle today's peace and security challenges alone and in the spirit of chapter VIII of the UN Charter, Ethiopia advocates for greater strategic coherence between regional mechanisms, such as the AU and in addressing today's peace and security challenges.

Note: Look out for our September newsletter, which will include detailed coverage of Ethiopia at the UN.

LOCAL NEWS

UK's Minister for Africa in debut visit to Ethiopia

As part of his 7-day visit to East Africa, the UK's Minister of State for Africa, Rory Stewart MP, visited Ethiopia to see how UK aid is being implemented in the region.

In meetings with Deputy Prime Minister Demeke Mekonnen and Finance Minister Dr Abraham Tekeste, Mr Stewart highlighted UK efforts and urged the Ethiopian Government to continue to increase its own response, working with the international community.

The two sides discussed the recurring drought in Ethiopia and the humanitarian support being given by the government to cope with its impact.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mrs Hirut Zemene, receiving Mr Stewart, said Ethiopia had strong mutual understanding with the UK on regional and bilateral consular issues. Mr Stewart underlined UK support for AMISOM work in stabilizing Somalia and also noted the UK's cooperation with Ethiopia and its concern for the security of the country.



"I was delighted to make my first visit to Ethiopia as Minister for Africa, marking the fifth visit by a UK Minister this year. The UK-Ethiopia partnership spans many issues critical to both our countries, from the reduction of poverty in Ethiopia to security and stability in the Horn of Africa," he said.

"We have a strong and historic relationship with Ethiopia and the UK is committed to building on this, through new economic partnerships and assistance and support with regional security and humanitarian issues," he added.

He also discussed the UK-African Union partnership with AU Commission Chairperson Moussa Faki

Mahamat and Commissioners for Peace and Security Ambassador Smail Chergui, Trade & Industry Albert Muchanga and Infrastructure & Energy Dr Amani Abou-Zeid.

"I was pleased to meet the AU Commission Chairperson to discuss shared peace, security, development and prosperity priorities. I look forward to working more closely in partnership with them in the future," he said.

Tigray project wins gold for land restoration

A project in the Tigray Region of Ethiopia has won a United Nations-backed gold award for greening its drylands, beating 26 other nominated policies to the prize.



Also known as the "Oscar for Best Policies", the **Future Policy Award**, organised by the World Future Council and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), highlights the world's policies that best combatted desertification and land degradation this year.

"Tigray's win of the Gold Future Policy Award is sending a strong, empowering message: they show how a small region in a climate vulnerable country can find a smart and highly effective way to successfully address a global challenge. This is placing Ethiopia firmly on the map as an environmental leader."

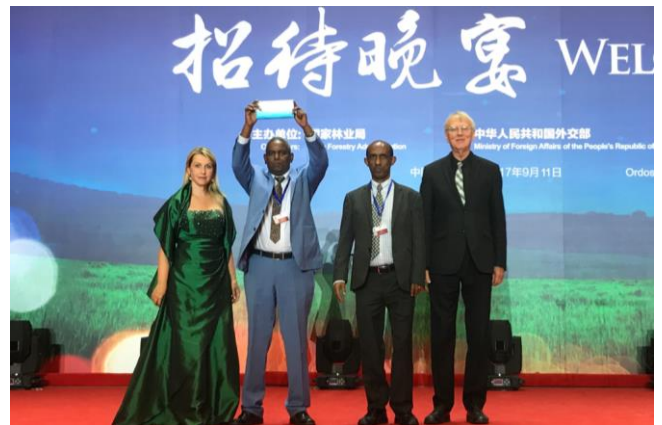
Alexandra Wandel, Director and Vice-Chair, Management Board of the World Future Council.

This award recognises the work of the Tigray regional government, which has mobilised villagers to volunteer 20 days a year to build terraces, irrigation projects, build stone walls on mountains and hillsides, and other projects, to restore land on a massive scale. As a result, erosion has decreased significantly, groundwater levels are recharged, and the uptake of sustainable agricultural practices made a significant contribution to food self-sufficiency and economic growth.

Since 1991 Tigray has managed to improve soil and water conservation, and closed off 1.2 million hectares of land to allow plants to regrow.

"Ethiopia's Tigray region shows that restoration of degraded land can be a reality ...The model provides hope for other African countries to follow suit," Alexandra said to Thomson Reuters Foundation.

"The Tigray region of Ethiopia is now greener than it has ever been during the last 145 years," said Chris Reij, desertification expert at the World Resources Institute. "This is not due to an increase in rainfall, but due to human investment in restoring degraded land to productivity."



During the award ceremony, held at the 13th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD in Ordos, Inner Mongolia (China), H.E. Abay Weldu, President of Tigray State, said, "I am honoured as head of the Regional Government of Tigray knowing that Tigray has won the Gold Future Policy Award 2017. The people of Tigray demonstrate that all challenges can be overcome if the leadership is addressing the will, need and priority of the people. Tigray's people have proved that development is possible without harming our mother Earth."

The ceremony was attended by 300 high-level guests and ministers from all over the world.

The Future Policy Award is the only award which honours policies rather than people on an international level. Each year, the World Future Council chooses a topic for the Future Policy Award on which policy progress is particularly urgent. In 2017, in partnership with the UNCCD, laws and policies were evaluated that contribute to the protection of life and livelihoods in the drylands, and help achieve Sustainable Development Goal 15, target 3, to “combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.”

Delivery of healthcare services up three-fold

The number of Ethiopians receiving medical services has reached 75% the over past decade – from 20 million more than ten years ago, to 75 million at present – due to the increase in the number of health posts across the country.



The number of health posts increased from 10,000 in 2007 to over 16,000 to date, health stations from 700 to 3,000, and hospitals from 93 to 311.

The Ministry of Health is currently implementing a twenty-year health strategy that is divided in four chapters.

One of the major focus areas for the Ministry has been reduction of the mortality rate for Ethiopian mothers and under-five children and prevention of communicable diseases. Positive changes have been registered in maternal and infant mortality, HIV/AIDS, malaria and other communicable diseases as well as nutrition.

In addition, pre-natal services that stood at 61% have now been fully met. The number of Ethiopian health extension workers has also increased from over 24,000 to almost 40,000; nurses from over 16,000 to more than 60,000 and medical doctors from 2,000 to over 6,700.

However, the number of Ethiopian specialist doctors is still low. Member of Medical Professionals Association, Dr Yeneneh Getachew, said that shortage of specialists is a critical area that requires special attention.

Health Policy Planning Deputy Director at Ethiopian Ministry of Health, Masoud Mohammed, said that in addition to the present 1,000 specialists in the country 1,050 have applied for enrolment in the upcoming academic year, adding that the government is implementing a five-year plan that will solve the lack of quality health service delivery systems and transform the health sector.

..WHO standard for health facilities raised to 40%

The Ministry of Health says Ethiopia has raised the number of health facilities which meet requirements of the World Health Organization (WHO) to 40% from only 7% 10 years ago.

The rise in number of standard health facilities, coupled with a remarkable increase of trained health professionals, helped Ethiopia register major successes in preventing the spread of communicable diseases.

Potable water demands of 8.1m to be met

Ethiopia plans to meet the drinkable water demands of 8.1 million people in the current Ethiopian Fiscal Year 2017/18 (by 8th July 2018)

Sileshi Bekele, Minister of Water, Irrigation and Energy (MoWIE) said in the previous fiscal year, 2016/17, the Ministry managed to meet the drinkable water needs of 5.9 million people.

The minister said they have plans to hire 25,000 new graduates during the current fiscal year, who will work on 110,000 hectares of land set aside for water irrigation projects.

The ministry will also hire 260,000 Ethiopians on a temporary work basis to help meet the government's plans to create employment opportunities for young people.

The youth, who make up 60% of Ethiopia's 100 million population, enter into the job market at a rate of 2 million annually.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Construction, upgrading of 58 road projects to commence

The Ethiopian Roads Authority (ERA) will start the construction and upgrading of 58 road projects in September at a cost of 45 billion Birr.



3,171km of roads will be built in the Oromia, Amhara, SNNP, Tigray, Afar and Gambella Regional States and will take up to three years to complete.

The roads, especially in rural areas, will help connect towns and villages and help farmers market agricultural products and improve other social services such as access to health care facilities. The authority is also building 706km of road, 14 asphalt roads in all, in various parts of the country.

The late PM Meles Zenawi remembered

Commemorations were held in Ethiopia and in capital cities around the world on the fifth anniversary of the passing of Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, who died on 20th August 2012.

In London, an event organised by young Ethiopians celebrated his life and legacy, pledging to carry his work forward. Similar events were held in other capitals.

In Ethiopia, opening a tree-planting ceremony at Gullele Botanical Garden, Addis Ababa, President Mulatu Teshome spoke of the peace and development plans evolved by "the late, great leader", which had helped create a better Ethiopia. "Meles made great sacrifices to see the present Ethiopia on the path of transformation", the President said, adding that it is the responsibility of the current generation to carry forward his legacy.



PM Hailemariam planting a tree at Gullele Botanical Garden

PM Hailemariam praised Meles, saying his contribution was immense and had increased Ethiopia's recognition both in Africa and globally. Gemedo Dale, Minister of Forestry and Climate, spoke of PM Meles as "a prime contributor in initiating Ethiopia's Climate-Resilient Green

Economy (CRGE), making the issue a global agenda.”

Senior government officials and Addis Ababa residents then attended the opening of an exhibition at Gullele commemorating Meles, and a photo exhibition celebrating his life also opened at the Addis Ababa exhibition centre. Sporting events were held nationwide.

Meles Foundation President Azeb Mesfin, the former PM’s wife, said a discussion forum and symposium “showcased Meles’ contribution to Ethiopia and Africa as a whole”. On behalf of Africa, PM Meles led worldwide calls for making climate change a global agenda, particularly from the time of the 2009 Copenhagen climate summit.

Guests from abroad and at home later witnessed the laying of a foundation stone, within the compound of the Meles Zenawi Foundation, in the name of the nations and nationalities who died fighting for Ethiopia’s freedom from oppression.

PM Meles made a major contribution to the realisation of the federal system, which guarantees nations and nationalities the right to self-determination and devolution of power which he believed were necessary for the eradication of poverty, arguing that democracy and development are key and that poverty reduction programmes within an inclusive democratic system will bring about development.

Meles originated the idea of the construction of Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam based on the ownership, finance and skills of Ethiopians. He was a strategic decision-maker who pushed for Ethiopia to effectively utilize its own natural resources.

...African scholars commend the late PM’s legacy

On 21st August, in an act of remembrance, African scholars and senior Ethiopian government officials attended panel discussions at the UNECA headquarters, to discuss his contribution to transforming Ethiopia’s socio-economic development. Presentations were given on Meles’ legacy concerning Ethiopia’s current national development path, the agricultural-led industrialization strategy that has brought double-digit growth for over a decade, tolerance, youth and women and the green economy.

Neway Gebreab, Chief Economic Adviser to the Prime Minister, said the agricultural-led development strategy, designed by PM Meles, continues to play a great role in the country’s sustainable growth. Agricultural yields increased to 22 quintals per hectare compared to 10 quintals twenty years ago, helping farmers to become self-sufficient and to supply surplus yields to the market, he said. The strategy is an engine for Ethiopia’s growth and its ongoing efforts to move to an industry-led economy, considered as Meles’ major legacy.

...Media coverage

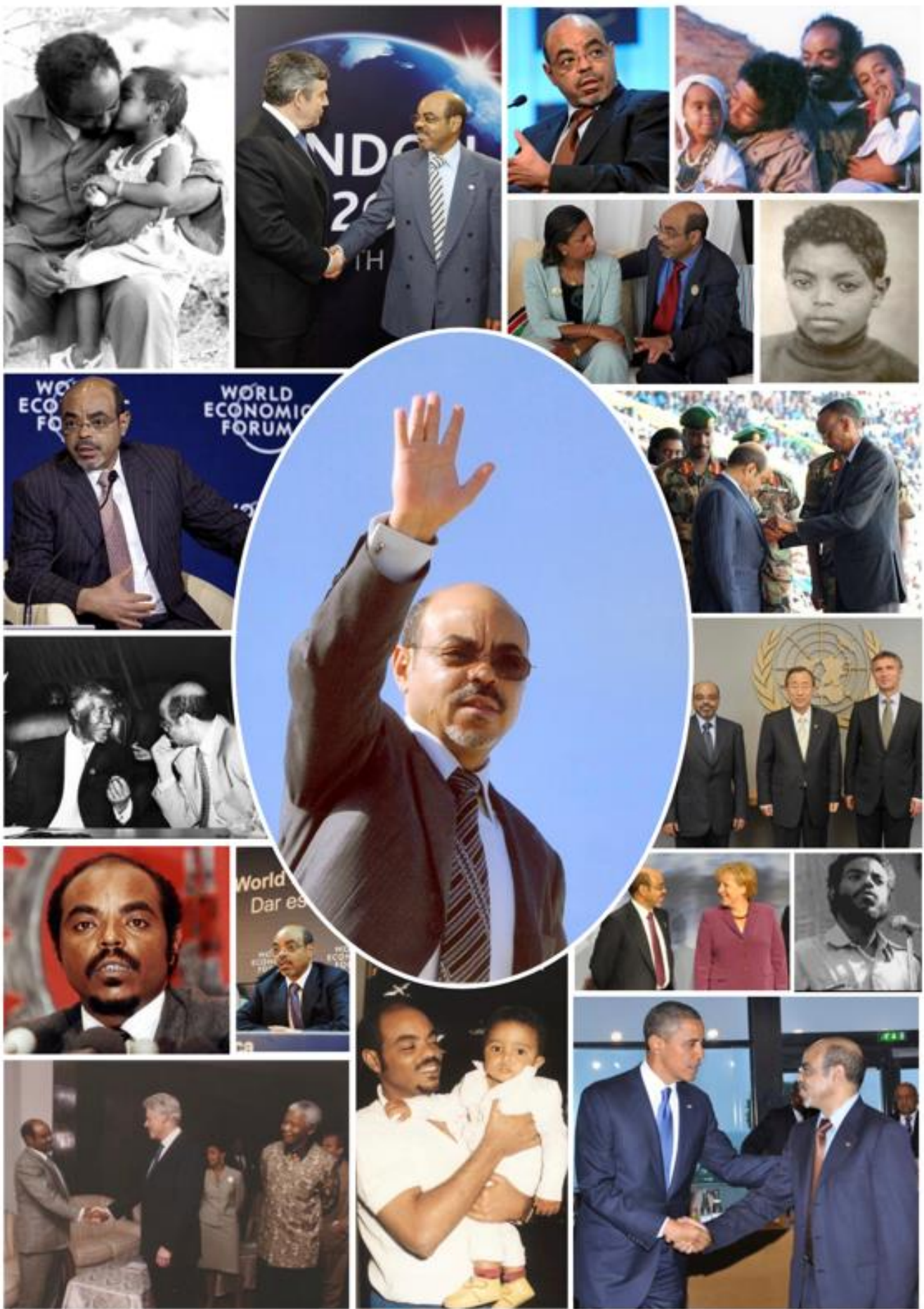
In one Ethiopian newspaper, PM Meles was described as “a staunch fighter for the promotion of democracy, a seasoned statesman and eloquent diplomat of the highest calibre, architect of democratic development policies, whose legacy is compounded with a major paradigm shift in the transition from neo-liberal and liberal thinking, which was considered as the only and the highest level of democracy in the world, to a philosophy of developmental democracy as a viable alternative for Ethiopia and Africa.”

It also commended Meles’ contribution to developing the first democratic constitution of the country, “a cornerstone for the establishment of a new political system in Ethiopia”. “For the first time in the history of Ethiopia, full-ledged policy and strategy documents in which the developmental democratic priorities of the country are explicitly charted out were prepared during his time.”

Regional media outlets reported on the life of the late PM. One described Meles’ resolve to join a rebel movement in 1975 as a decision that “changed Ethiopia forever, both socially and economically.”

Meles served as president of the transitional government of Ethiopia from 1991 to 1995, then became prime minister and was a pioneering figure who helped shape Ethiopia’s current ruling political party, the Ethiopian Peoples’ Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF).

In related news, during the 29th African Union Summit, a decision was made to erect a statue of the late PM Meles, in recognition of his contributions to the AU and his contribution to ensuring Africa’s voice was heard at different global forums.



H.E. Prime Minister Meles Zenawi

1955 – 2012

May He Rest in Eternal Peace

TRADE AND INVESTMENT

Ethiopia to earn \$271 million from textile exports

During the current fiscal year, Ethiopia plans to earn \$271 million from textile exports and create 30,000 jobs, in its effort to become the top textile manufacturing and exporting country in Africa through various industrial parks.

According to the State Minister of Industry, \$89.3 million was earned and 17,000 jobs created during the 2016-17 fiscal year.



The government has a keen interest to support the textile sector in order to generate foreign exchange, create job opportunities for many Ethiopians and to increase the quality of textile products.

...industrial parks attracting foreign companies

Foreign companies are investing in Ethiopia's new industrial parks as it bids to become Africa's manufacturing powerhouse and a leading textile and apparel exporter.

Ethiopia aims to increase its current revenue from exporting textile and apparel materials from close to \$150 million to more than \$1 billion.

The flagship Hawassa Industrial Park has already started bringing in hard currency. According to an Ethiopian Textile Industry Development Institute recent report, close to \$1.5 million a month is being earned from export of textile and garments products from Hawassa. One fourth of the targeted over \$400 million foreign currency is expected to be earned during the current fiscal year from the

Hawassa industrial park alone. Eight factories are presently exporting their products abroad, while 10 other companies set their plan to start export from September.



Hawassa Industrial Park

Mekelle Industrial Park is also attracting international companies. The park, which is currently recruiting companies to its compound, said seven foreign companies have already secured sheds to commence assembling textile and garment factories.

Kombolcha Industrial Park is following suit. Trybus group, a textile and apparel materials producing company based in the United States, is the latest firm to sign up. It produces brands like Q by Flynt and Steve Harvey, and signed a MoU with the Ethiopian Investment Commission to set up a manufacturing center in Kombolcha. As part of the MoU, Trybus will create employment for more than 1,500 Ethiopians during the first phase of operation. The company aims to hire more than 5,500 workers when its operations are in full swing.

PM Hailemariam, speaking in connection with his country's ambition to attract world-class exporters, said that Ethiopia's favourable business environment "has attracted huge Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), despite the global decline."

As Ethiopia is becoming Africa's manufacturing powerhouse and a leading textile and apparel exporter, the government expects the three

industrial parks to lure a great number of competitive foreign companies.

More than \$1 billion has been budgeted for the construction of industrial parks in the second five-year Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP-II) period, effective from 2015 to 2020.

20% rise in FDI inflows

In the just concluded fiscal year (2016/17), Ethiopia attracted \$3.8 billion in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) - a 20% increase from the previous fiscal year.

According to the Ethiopian Investment Commission, during the 2016/17 fiscal year, 381 projects went operational creating more than 71,000 temporary and permanent jobs to Ethiopians.

FDI



In that same fiscal year, around 28 companies with a combined capital of \$1.48 billion went into agreements with the Ethiopian government in eight industrial parks.

The Ethiopian government is giving tremendous incentives and support to local and foreign investors, to ensure FDI inflows continue on a growth trajectory in the current fiscal years with more to come. Investors mainly engaged in agriculture, manufacturing, health, education, mining and construction.

\$271 million earned from flower and horticulture exports

Ethiopia earned \$271 million from the export of flower and horticulture products during the just concluded 2016-17 Ethiopian fiscal year.

According to the Ethiopian Horticulture and Agriculture Investment Authority, flower exports

took the lion's-share of the total revenue, generating \$218 million, while the remainder went to horticulture products, vegetable and fruits.



Ethiopia is the second biggest flower exporter in Africa after Kenya. Most of Ethiopia's flower and horticulture products are exported to Europe.

Dangote's Ethiopia plant earns over \$85 million

Dangote Cement PLC earned more than \$85.8 million income from its Ethiopia plant in the concluded Ethiopian Fiscal Year (2016/17) that ended on July 8.

The revenue was secured from the export of more than 2 million tonnes of cement, with more than \$1 million of the total income obtained from exports to Kenya and Djibouti.

Dangote's Ethiopia plant is the second top earner of all the plants controlled by Africa's richest man, Aliko Dangote, next to his plant in Nigeria.

As part of efforts to boost its income, the company has built a cement-bag manufacturing plant, which manufactures 120 million bags annually, at a cost of more than \$21.5 million. The bag factory could create 300-500 jobs for locals.

Millions earned from Addis Light Rail

The Ethiopian Railway Corporation (ERC) said it earned \$5 million in revenue from the Addis Ababa Light Rail Transit (AA-LRT) during the just concluded Ethiopian Fiscal Year 2016/17.

The revenue was earned through fare collection from an estimated 35 million passengers and will be used to manage part of the operational costs of the electrified rail.

Commissioned in September 2015, the Addis Ababa Light Railway is the first of its kind in Africa built at a cost of \$475 million.



The Addis Ababa Light Rail Transit

It is estimated that AA-LRT currently transports around 60,000 people a day, significantly reducing traffic congestion in Addis Ababa, which is home to around four million residents.

The project has so far created 13,000 jobs.

Ethiopia to manufacture veterinary drugs

In line with the second Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP II), the National Veterinary Institute of Ethiopia is set to manufacture veterinary drugs to substitute imported drugs.

The Institute, the sole veterinary vaccine production centre in Ethiopia, will start a trial production at the end of this year. The drug manufacturing plant will cost over 100 million birr.

The infrastructure of the Institute, which has attracted the Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Control Center (PANVAC), has allowed it to acquire responsibility for producing and supplying vaccines for preferential trade area countries of Eastern, Western and Southern Africa.

Using state of the art equipment and materials appropriate for modern research and production techniques, the Institute with a production capacity of 200 million doses a year, currently exports vaccines to over 26 African countries.

During the just concluded Ethiopian budget year, 265 million doses of vaccines were produced and distributed across the country and 32 million doses were exported, earning \$1.1 million in revenue.

By the end of the second five-year Growth and Transformation Plan period, the Institute plans to increase vaccine production to over 351 million doses.

Established in Bishoftu in 1964, the institute produces vaccines mainly for cattle, goat, sheep, donkey, camels and dogs.

Ethiopia joins Silk Road Chamber of Commerce

The Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Associations (ECCSA) is now a member of the Silk Road Chamber of International Commerce (SRCIC), an international, non-governmental organisation, aiming to promote the renaissance of the Silk Road and to enable business participation in the investment and trade opportunities it offers.

The Chamber received its membership certificate during the 2017 Silk Road Business Summit held in Xian city, central China.

Representatives of 52 chambers of commerce and industry and over 500 businessmen, state authorities' representatives and diplomats from all over the world, attended the Summit.

Women engaging in agri-business investment

According to the Ministry of Women's and Children's Affairs, more than 1.5 million women, organized in credit and saving associations, will engage in agri-business investment the current Ethiopian fiscal year (2017/18).

The Ministry, together with the Federal Cooperative Agency, has prepared an agri-business package to boost the financial empowerment of women and allow them to engage in investment.

Implementation of the package will start this Ethiopia fiscal year in the Amhara, Tigray, Oromia and SNNP Regional States, following a successful one-year pilot programme.

According to data obtained from the Federal Cooperative Agency, there are more than 20,000 credit and saving associations across the country. The associations have more than 3.4 million members and 11 billion birr capital.

TRAVEL AND TOURISM

Tourist arrivals in Ethiopia to rise by 5.7%

According to the 7th edition of the 'Hotels Outlook: 2017-2021' by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), tourist arrivals in Ethiopia in 2017 could reach 918,010, a 5.7% increase from the 868,780 registered in 2016.

This boost to the hospitality sector will generate more foreign earnings and the hotel sector will benefit from an increase in the number of inbound travellers with the expected opening of some international hotel brands. Five international hotel brands are currently under construction.



Sheraton Hotel Addis Ababa

International visitors are widely varied; it is a diverse market catering for both business travellers and tourists.

Government plans include expanding Ethiopian Airlines' footprint of regional and international routes and Addis Ababa international airport is also undergoing an expansion that will enable it to service 20 million passengers a year by 2019.

Addis Ababa will continue to grow as a regional business hub, supporting expansion in the hotel sector. Hotels in the city currently have a 60% occupancy rate. Addis Ababa is host to numerous conferences, mainly because it has the third-largest diplomatic community in the world, after New York and Geneva.

"The growing presence of international brands demonstrates confidence in Ethiopia's tourism growth, particularly opportunities linked to business and diplomatic travel," said Pietro Calicchio, Hospitality & Gaming Industry leader for PwC Southern Africa.

Addis gets first revolving restaurant

Center Point Addis Restaurant, the first revolving restaurant in Addis Ababa with a panoramic view of the capital, opened on 24th August.



View of Addis from the Restaurant

The restaurant can accommodate 120 people at a time and will take 55 minutes to go round. It serves mainly international cuisines.

The restaurant is part of a 400 million Birr expansion project by Intercontinental Addis Hotel, which is located in Kazanchis, a neighbourhood that is fast becoming a hub for hotels.

Ethiopian declared Best International Airline at Ghana Aviation Awards

Ethiopian Airlines, the largest airline in Africa, won three awards at the 2nd Ghana National Aviation Awards held in Accra on 1st September.

Ethiopian was crowned the '**Best International Airline of the Year**', '**Best African Airline of the Year**' and received the '**The Best Airline Operator Award**'.

Deputy Minister of Aviation, Mr Kwabena Okyere-Darko, presenting the awards to the Area Manager of Ethiopian Airlines in Ghana Mrs Genet W/Michael, commended the Airline for its continuous improvement.

Receiving the awards, Mrs Genet W/Michael said, "On behalf of Ethiopian Airlines Group and on my own behalf, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to our esteemed customers for their vote of confidence. Our passengers are our best promoters. They have shown confidence in our product."

Mrs Genet also thanked the organisers of the Ghana National Aviation Awards and the Government of Ghana for its support to Ethiopian.

Ethiopian Airlines is an award winning airline graced recently by SkyTrax, as 'the Best African Airline'.

...non-stop flights to Sao Paulo

Ethiopian Airlines has finalised preparations to start non-stop direct flights to Sao Paulo, Brazil, currently operated via Lome, Togo, effective 16th September.



Sao Paulo, the biggest city in Brazil and in the southern hemisphere, is the economic and financial hub of the country hosting the headquarters of numerous major corporations.

Ethiopian made its debut flight to Sao Paulo in 2013; coordinating its schedules with its partner airline in West Africa, ASKY, to give short, seamless and convenient connections to West Africa passengers travelling to and from Brazil.

...new B787-9 jetliners coming

Ethiopian Airlines, is set to take delivery of the first of the four Boeing B787-9 aircraft in October.

In 2015, the airline placed orders for four B787-9 aircraft, an extended version of B787-8 Dreamliner aircraft.

Ethiopian was the first in Africa and only the second in the world next to Japan to acquire and operate B787-8 mid-size twin-engine aircraft in 2012. Today the airline operates 19 B787-8 aircraft.

...signs up for Sabre passenger reservations system

Ethiopian Airlines renewed its passenger reservations system with global travel technology provider, Sabre Corporation. The airline also signed up for a suite of new technology solutions to support its continued growth as a world-class carrier.

Consistently posting record profits for the past seven years, Ethiopian Airlines has been using Sabre's technology for its core reservations, network planning and e-commerce since 2005. Despite the daunting challenges in African aviation, Ethiopian Airlines has continued to thrive, becoming the leading Aviation group in Africa, nine years ahead of its 15 years strategic growth roadmap, Vision 2025.

"Ethiopian Airlines is one of aviation's most compelling success stories, having overcome industry challenges to drive rapid and sustained growth on a continent where profitability in aviation is extremely rare," said Dino Gelmetti, vice president, Airline Solutions, Sabre. "For more than a decade, Sabre's technology has been helping Ethiopian Airlines maximize profits and offer a network of flights more extensive than any other African airline. As a result, it is now spearheading the African aviation industry and is a benchmark of success for other carriers on the continent and beyond."

SPORTS

The Legend Returns!

Kenenisa to defend Berlin Marathon title

Kenenisa Bekele, the second fastest marathoner of all-time and the most successful long-distance track runner in history, will join Kenyans Eliud Kipchoge and Wilson Kipsang at the BMW Berlin Marathon on 24th September.

The addition of Kenenisa adds even more power to an already high calibre field which now includes three of the distance's five fastest men.

In Berlin last year, Kenenisa set a personal best of 2:03:03, just six seconds shy of the world record, producing history's second fastest run.



Kenenisa is a three-time Olympic champion and was world champion on five occasions at 5000m and 10,000m, he has also won 11 world cross-country titles over the short and long distances. For good measure, he also holds the world records for 5000m and 10,000m.

Bekele turned to the marathon in 2014. Next month's Berlin race will be his eighth over the distance which began with a victorious debut in Paris with 2:05:04.

Tirunesh Dibaba set sights on Chicago Marathon following success in London

The queen of distance running, Tirunesh Dibaba a.k.a. the baby-faced destroyer, who claimed her sixth world medal in the women's 10,000m final at the World Championships in London, will take part in the Chicago Marathon on 8th October.



Tirunesh said she intends to break records. "I've always been building to marathons," she said. "I

want to use my 10k foot speed and make history (in Chicago)."

The course record in Chicago is 2:17:18, set by Great Britain's Paula Radcliffe in October 2002. On a similarly flat course, Dibaba finished second at April's London Marathon, running in 2:17:56, becoming the third-fastest female marathon runner of all time.

During the World Championships in London, Tirunesh ran 31:02.69 for silver in the women's 10,000m final behind team-mate Almaz Ayana, who won easily in 30:16.32.

At the age of 32, Dibaba is one of the best runners in history, and her marathon career is just getting started.

Muktar and Mo Farah face off again in Zurich

Following the nail-biting race in London for the World Championships in August, when Ethiopia's Muktar Edris beat Mo Farah in the 5,000m finals, the two went head to head again at the Zurich Diamond League in what was Mo Farah's last race on the track.

This proved to be yet another dramatic finish which saw Mo Farah win by the skin of his teeth, clinching the 5,000 metres.



World champion Muktar Edris came powering through the last stretch, set to sneak victory on the line. However Edris fell to the ground after being clipped from behind by American Paul Chelimo, in turn tripping Ethiopian Yomif Kejelcha on the outside.

Chelimo stumbled over the line in second and Edris's momentum took him over in third. Chelimo was later disqualified for obstruction pushing Edris and Kejelcha in second and third place, respectively. Another Ethiopian, Solomon Barega, finished in 4th place.

Mo Farah will now run marathons from next year.

Ethiopia goes for gold in Birmingham

Ethiopia's Habtamu Alemu and Dawit Seyaum won the women's 800m and 1500m, respectively, at the Birmingham Diamond League a week after the IAAF World Championships in London.

Habtamu Alemu won the 800m in 1:59.60 after a sprint finish with Britain's Lynsey Sharp second in 1:59.97, and USA's Charlene Lipsey third in 2:00.97.



Dawit won comfortably in the women's 1500m, her time of 4:01.36 almost a second better than Kenyan runner-up Winny Chebet, second in 4:02.24, and Morocco's Rababe Arafai, third in 4:02.95.

DIASPORA NEWS

Ethiopians contribute \$460 million to Renaissance Dam

The Ethiopian National Council for the Coordination of Public Participation on the Construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) said Ethiopians have so far contributed around \$460 million towards the construction of the Dam, through various schemes including bond sales, athletic events and lottery draws.

Of the total, \$4.9 million was from Ethiopians and foreign nationals of Ethiopian origin in the diaspora.



Construction of the \$4.7 billion dam began in April 2011 and it is now 60% complete. When fully operational, it will generate up to 6,450MW of electricity. Preparations are underway to install two 375MW turbines for test power.

The dam is funded solely by domestic funds (from Ethiopians and foreign nationals of Ethiopian origin) and has been billed as a landmark project signalling Ethiopia's renaissance.

...power lines ready for transmission

Ethiopian Electric Power announced that 500kV high power transmission lines and distribution stations are in place, ready to carry electric power when the GERD starts generating.

Over 28 billion Birr was expended on the construction of the power distribution stations.

NEWS IN BRIEF

BBC launches services for Ethiopia

Hot on the heels of the launch of the BBC's new Pidgin language service, the BBC World Service launched three websites for Ethiopia and neighbouring Eritrea as part of its biggest expansion since the 1940s.



The *Amharic*, *Afaan Oromo* and *Tigrinya* sites' launch will be followed in a few months by the launch of radio programmes in the three languages.

The new Facebook pages in the three languages have already generated a lot of interest. The Afaan Oromo site had more than 30,000 likes after just three days.

Former Ethiopian Finance Minister joins Harvard advisory board

Sufian Ahmed, Ethiopia's distinguished former Minister of Finance, has been appointed to the Advisory Board of the Harvard Ministerial Leadership Programme.



Mr Ahmed served as Finance Minister from 1995 to 2016 and is widely acclaimed as the architect of Ethiopia's impressive economic progress over the past 20 years.

He is currently Special Advisor on Macro-Economic Development to Ethiopia's Prime Minister.

Prisoners pardoned for New Year

In keeping with custom, in the run up to the Ethiopian New Year, thousands of prisoners were granted a pardon by authorities after showing remorse and meeting the requirements for clemency.

According to reports, 1,981 prisoners from the Amhara regional state were pardoned and 957 from Tigray Regional State.

All released prisoners were encouraged to rejoin their respective communities and play an active role in building their lives and their societies.

ETHIOPIA IN THE NEWS

The 10 most beautiful destinations on Earth – by the world's greatest photographers



Leading French photographer Eric Lafforgue picks Ethiopia, where he says "You can do it all: portraits, landscapes, street life, wild animals, events..."



"Ethiopia is not one country, but several countries all in one...There's incredible diversity - rock churches in Lalibela with pilgrims dressed in white, just like in biblical scenes. Tribes from the Omo Valley, celebrating impressive ceremonies...Salt lakes welcoming camel caravans in the legendary Danakil, with an active volcano spitting lava at your feet, and ancient Muslim cities, such as Harar, where you'll be hypnotised by the chants of the Sufis...For the animal lovers, there's the endemic wolf from Bale Mountains National Park and the gelada baboon in the Simien Mountains National Park...**Ethiopia is a heaven for photographers."**

Read more at <https://goo.gl/Q86rXb>

A First-Timer's Guide to Ethiopia



Ethiopia is one of the oldest countries in the world: its long archaeological history – which traces back to the first humans – has left behind a succession of ancient treasures. With nine UNESCO World Heritage Sites and a slew of national parks and mountain ranges, Ethiopia ticks all the boxes.

In recent years, Ethiopia has experienced a tourism push, thanks to a massive upsurge in foreign investment and the construction of proper infrastructure. The country is now back on its feet and ready to welcome travellers again.

Why should you go?

As a result [of never being colonised] Ethiopia has a treasure trove of immaculately preserved historic churches, monasteries and ancient towers.

Which sights should I not miss?

The country's most visited sight is the 900-year-old rock-hewn churches of Lalibela.



History buffs should not miss the ancient capital of Gondar – lauded as the Camelot of Africa – and its treasure trove of 16th-century palaces, lavish castles and sprawling gardens. For natural landscapes, the Simien Mountains are home to Ethiopia's highest peaks.

What's the food like?

[Ethiopian food] is some of the most diverse on the continent. The main staple, injera, is prepared on a big flat pan, and topped with mounds of spicy meat stews, colourful vegetable curries and even raw cubes of beef. It may taste tangy, bitter and even slightly sour at first, but give it another few mouthfuls and it will surely grow on you.

When's the best time to go?

The best time to travel to Ethiopia is from mid-October to January, when the rains have subsided and the countryside is lush and green.

Read more at <https://goo.gl/nKTFwA>

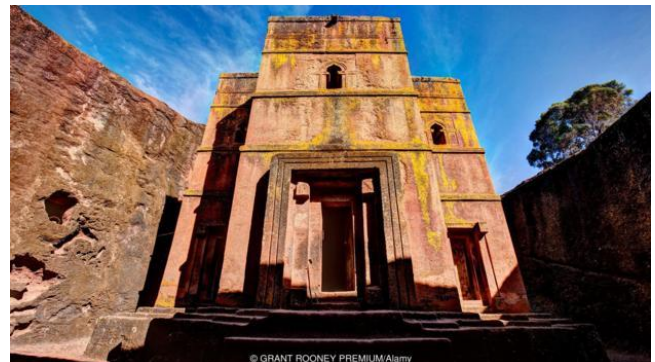
Ethiopia's miraculous underground churches



For centuries, the origin of Lalibela's rock-hewn churches has eluded everyone except locals, who firmly believe they were carved by angels.

I have always questioned God's existence, but in the northern Ethiopian town of Lalibela, I was presented with fairly substantial evidence, writes Jack Barker.

Christian since 330AD, Ethiopia claims to be the oldest Christian country in the world...faith has remained strong over the centuries; Lalibela's medieval rock-hewn churches are clear proof of that. Each of the 11 monolithic structures is dramatically stamped into the mountainous landscape, plunging 40 to 50m into the Earth and pierced with cross-shaped chiselled openings to let sunlight into the hollowed-out interior.



There are several theories surrounding the creation of these extraordinary places of worship. Some believe they were carved by the Knights Templar, Christian crusaders, during the 13th Century. But there's no concrete evidence of their involvement.

The one propagated by the small museum near the entrance to the churches – is that they were hewn under the orders of King Lalibela, emperor of Ethiopia during the late 12th and early 13th centuries.

Thousands of worshippers attending daily services at the churches accept a much more divine explanation: King Lalibela was assisted by an army of angels, who completed the 11 churches in one night.

Read more at <https://goo.gl/xzefmx>

Something Beautiful from Ethiopia

Selamta Yami Mengistu founded Rosa Abyssinica in 2004 to reflect her desire to make “something beautiful from Ethiopia”, while envisioning a way to incentivize Ethiopia’s educated but unemployed women to stay in the country. Her solution? Start a company that employs a mostly-female, at-risk workforce. Her product? Leather goods, chosen due to the high regard held for Ethiopian leather by foreign entrepreneurs.



“I thought, if someone from overseas is saying that Ethiopian leather is some of the best they’ve seen in the world, and if the government is supporting it, let’s see what I can do with it...Plus, the price doesn’t hurt. Ethiopian leather is very affordable.”

– Yami Mengistu, Rosa Abyssinica

Ethiopian leather derives its high quality from the finer, thinner and softer nature of Ethiopian animal hides. The country is located on fertile highlands at such an elevation that the animals aren’t bothered by swarms of insects...Usually those nasty creatures feed on fleas, resulting in hornet scars in the hides.”

Read more at <https://goo.gl/jMHVGR>

The Rise Of "Made In Ethiopia" – With The Backing Of Beijing



At the Chinese factory of JP Textile at Hawassa industrial park, Ethiopians are busy working on spinning and thread-dyeing machines. Soon, they will transform the thread imported from China into cloth fabric. Then this fabric will be shaped into

“Made in Ethiopia” shirts for brands such as Calvin Klein or Tommy Hilfiger, so they can be exported to wealthy customers in Europe and the United States.



Hawassa, which was built by the Chinese in just nine months, is officially operational. The \$260 million project is proof of the quick industrialization of Ethiopia. China, its first trade partner, is leading this process: whether it's construction, transportation, or telecommunications, Beijing has invested in all sectors...China has also built a new railway between Addis Ababa and Djibouti.

All in all, the 279 Chinese companies operating in Ethiopia registered more than \$550 million in financial capital over the past five years. In 20 years, Chinese investments have totaled more than \$4 billion and are said to have created 111,000 jobs.

A mainly farming country, Ethiopia wants to become the “industrial hub” of Africa. To become a middle-income country by 2025, Addis Ababa is strictly applying the second phase of its growth and development plan (GTPII) with Beijing’s unfailing support.

Read more at <https://goo.gl/APVsJW>

Why is Ethiopian Airlines so successful?



Many national airlines in Africa have struggled over the years, several have gone bust and a few are a constant drain on taxpayers.

But Ethiopian Airlines is one of the big success stories in African aviation. In 2016 Ethiopian made more profit than all of the other African airlines put together!

So why does this model work, when for other state-owned carriers in Africa, it doesn't?

BBC's Alastair Leithead sat with the chief executive of Ethiopian Airlines, Tewolde GebreMariam, to find out more.

The full interview can be found at <https://goo.gl/neEiZD>.

How Women in Ethiopia Empower Communities Through Nutrition



The Health Extension Worker programme is a key pillar of Ethiopia's health care system...Health Extension Workers like Aynalem are agents of transformation.



They train hundreds of other women in their communities, empowering them to make informed decisions for their families, completely transforming the health profile of the region...one of the most significant features of this transformation is the reduction in rates of child malnutrition.

Read more at <https://goo.gl/Grwb7G>

How we're creating 'super plants' to help humanity



According to researchers at the Botanical Gardens at Kew, there are plenty more ways we could be harnessing the power of plants. From fire-proof forests to famine-stopping 'bananas on steroids', scientists are juicing up nature's bounty to solve the 21st Century's problems.

Bananas on steroids

Well, not quite bananas. The *enset* is a member of the banana family that has been cultivated in Ethiopia for tens of thousands of years – the Ethiopians in fact have over 200 names for it – and

it has several different uses. As well as being a staple crop in Africa it can make rope, medicine, shelter, animal feed and clothes, not to mention also providing an ideal microclimate for coffee plants to flourish in. It withstands drought, heavy rain and flooding. Basically – is there anything that this 'false banana' can't do?



Scientists have been investigating where else this climate-smart plant could be grown, particularly in other African regions and in countries that face famines. It feeds more people per square metre of crop than most cereals and is made into three foods – a sour-tasting dough, soups and porridges, and a boiled root similar to a potato.

But first, they're going to have to figure out how to gather its seeds – at the moment, farmers take cuttings from the plants to grow more of them, meaning no one actually knows how *enset* is pollinated. Once they work out this super banana's secrets, there's no telling the good it could do.

Read more at <https://goo.gl/dcQf56>

Ingredient Spotlight: Teff, Ethiopia's Favorite Ancient Super Grain

Have you heard of the Ethiopian superfood called "teff" before?

This special little gluten free ancient grain (it's actually only about the size of a poppy seed) has been touted by experts as the "next quinoa", so expect to see a lot of it in the future, even though it's been harvested for thousands of years.. Teff is thought to be one of the first foods domesticated by human beings, and to have originated in Ethiopia.

It's extremely easy to swap teff in for many staple ingredients you already have in your pantry (and

many products you buy could actually already be infused with teff!). For instance, did you know teff can take the place of quinoa and granola in many oatmeal recipes?



Want to know more? Read on to further acquaint yourself with teff, Ethiopians' choice food, and learn how to begin incorporating it into your daily diet - <https://goo.gl/cD3iQ6>

Ethiopia Skate is building a vibrant community of skateboarders across the country



Best known for middle-distance and long-distance running, Ethiopia's skateboarding culture is on the rise thanks to **Ethiopia Skate**, a grassroots community working to empower youth by providing access to skateboarding materials and creating skate spots.



The lack of an easily accessible skate spot in Addis Ababa led to the construction of Ethiopia's first and only free-of-charge public skate park, **Addis Skatepark**, in 2016. Currently, over 150 skateboarders have fun in that space.

With this thriving skateboarding culture, it won't be surprising to see Ethiopia topping the international skateboarding rankings in the future!

Read more at <https://goo.gl/ggwN1K>

NOTICE

Change of Consular Services Fees

The Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia would like to bring to your attention the new *Consular Service Payment Tariff*, indicating the change of fees for our consular services and visas.

The new directive entered into force here at the Embassy on 4th September 2017.

A full list of fees can be found on our new website www.ethioembassy.org.uk

New Embassy website now live

Following a few months of planning, we are pleased to announce the launch of our new look website, which went live on 11th September to coincide with Ethiopian New Year. The new site is part of our mission's Digital Diplomacy Strategy, which focuses on engaging new audiences, while continuing to develop high-quality digital experiences for our current audiences.



We wanted a website that is easy to navigate and helpful in its tone, design and more importantly, information, ditching the starchiness and releasing something modern and visually appealing.

More and more people now use their smartphones or tablets, so we revamped the design to make it easier to access our website on those devices and on desktops and laptops.

Welcome to our new look website...now mobile friendly



www.ethioembassy.org.uk

We really hope you like the fresh new look and the improved navigation that will allow you to find the information you need more quickly and easily.

We value your opinion

We would like to hear your feedback so we can continue to improve our website and your experience of using it through future development.

You can share your thoughts via our online feedback form.

To report any technical issues please email us on webmaster@ethioembassy.org.uk

Highlights of the new site:

- ✓ Works beautifully on all devices, from the tiniest mobile to the biggest TV screen
- ✓ The homepage is now more visually engaging and streamlined to offer different ways to explore the services that we offer
- ✓ You can search for general content and news, and narrow the search down by using filters
- ✓ Signing up to our monthly newsletter to keep up to date with the latest news about Ethiopia is now easier

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