



Ethiopian News

April 2016 Issue

Congratulations



Ethiopian Airlines turns 70! (page 10)



New Ambassador attends GERD celebrations

Over 500 Ethiopians gathered at Camden Town Hall on 17th April to celebrate the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), which is currently under construction to the north-west of Lake Tana - the source of the Nile - 70km from the Sudanese border.

The event was organised to thank those who had contributed to the construction of the Dam and Ethiopians from London and other cities around the UK were in attendance.

Ethiopia's newly appointed Ambassador to the United Kingdom, **His Excellency Hailemichael Aberra Afework, PhD**, took advantage of the opportunity to introduce himself to the Ethiopian community and praised the enthusiastic support that the Ethiopian diaspora in the UK had given, and continues to give, to the GERD project. The support, he said, "is highly appreciated by the government." He called on the community to strengthen its efforts. The event was a resounding success.

More than 50% of the construction of the dam has so far been completed and production of its first electricity will commence in July, reaching full capacity by October 2017.



New Ambassador - Background:

Ambassador Hailemichael Aberra Afewerk was President of the Ethiopian Civil Service University from January 1999 to January 2016 when the University benefitted from sharing experiences with institutions in five African countries, seven European countries, the USA and Canada, and five Asian countries including India and China. During his time there, the Civil Service University garnered six Public Service awards, notably one from the United Nations Public Service on Better Service Delivery (June 2013). H.E.'s PhD is from the University of London, Institute of Education and Addis Ababa University.

Dr Tedros visits Ivory Coast

On 31st March, Dr Tedros finished a fruitful visit to Cote d'Ivoire marking 50 years of friendship. During his trip the Foreign Minister expressed his solidarity with Cote d'Ivoire after the terrorist attack at Grand Bassam, stating: "On behalf of our government and on behalf of the people of Ethiopia, I would like to express our deep sympathy and also our condolences to the families of the victims. I

came here to show our solidarity with the Government and people of Ivory Coast. The attack on Ivory Coast by terrorists is an attack on Africa and an attack on the whole world. This cowardly attack on innocent people should strengthen our resolve to fight terrorism whenever wherever." In light of this, Cote d'Ivoire and Ethiopia have agreed to co-operate on information sharing and sharing of know-how to defeat terrorism.

Dr Tedros also visited the National Centre for Agronomic Research (CRNA) and signed a co-operation agreement regarding agricultural research with Cote d'Ivoire. He stated how impressed he was with Cote d'Ivoire's decision to focus on agriculture and diversifying its exports when many African countries are focusing on other areas and importing much of their food. This, he said, was a good model to follow and hoped that co-operation with the research centre would also allow for value addition which was another important part of development that African countries were not taking advantage of.



During his visit he saw the famous Mimosa football Academy, a model he said he hoped Ethiopia would emulate within the coming 10 years.

There were also discussions between Ethiopian Airlines and Air Cote d'Ivoire along the lines of capacity building given that Ethiopia hosts the continent's biggest aviation academy. Ties in this

sector, Dr Tedros said, will bring the African continent closer together, uniting Africa's sky.

Dr Tedros and his Ivorian counterpart, HE Dr Abdallah Toikeusse, signed agreements on health and general co-operation alongside agriculture and anti-terrorism co-operation. Dr Abdallah said that the visit represented a convergence of visions for Cote d'Ivoire and Ethiopia and that the two countries' private sectors should work together for overall development. He also hoped that Cote d'Ivoire could learn from Ethiopia's experience of developing the livestock sector.



During his speech marking the end of his trip, Dr Tedros expressed the desire that these agreements be built on, with a visit from an Ivorian delegation to Addis and ministerial commission in Ethiopia leading to further agreements. Now, he highlighted, it is important to implement the current agreements aggressively.

Dr Tedros closed his speech at the end of the visit by saying that both Cote d'Ivoire and Ethiopia were ready to realise the 2063 vision of Africa as a united, peaceful and prosperous continent and that the Cote d'Ivoire-Ethiopia partnership was a model for the future. He thanked everyone for such a hospitable welcome that was "beyond words", finishing by saying "Long live [the] Cote d'Ivoire-Ethiopia relationship. Long live [the] Cote d'Ivoire-Ethiopia friendship."



Tana Security Forum takes place in Bahir Dar

On Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th April the Tana Forum on "Africa in the Global Security Agenda" took place in Bahir Dar. Attended by over 230 people, including high-profile participants such as former UN Secretary-General Kofi Anan, former Nigerian President Olusegan Obasanjo and Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desselegn, the Forum addressed Africa's role in the international security arena. Other participants included Heads of State and Government, academics, representatives of NGOs, students, and representatives of the media.

Opening the Forum PM Dessalegn said that African solutions needed to be found to African problems by collecting and analysing information and upgrading local institutions. Kofi Anan suggested that a strong national security force was important for Africa to assert itself and that Africa, as a continent, needed to have a strong and consistent voice at the UN Security Council. In this respect, the Munich Security Council Chairperson, Wolfgang Ischinger said that Africa had a legitimate right to expect at a minimum one permanent seat at the UN Security Council. He also called for greater involvement of women in matters of peace, security and conflict resolution.

In concluding the Forum, PM Dessalegn announced the formation of the Tana Foundation which, he stated, would be of major importance in securing the objectives and principles of the Forum and Pan-Africanism in general. Mr Obasanjo said on the

successful completion of the Forum: “What we said we wanted to achieve through the Tana Forum, we have achieved it.”

The Tana Forum Board was established in 2009 in an effort to reposition Africa in the global security agenda. This Forum marks the end of its 5-year term and a new board will be designated soon.



Ethiopia and Ghana sign agreement on peacekeeping and conflict prevention

On 9th April, Foreign Affairs Minister of Ethiopia Dr Tedros Adhanom, and his Ghanaian counterpart Ms Hanna Tetteh, signed an agreement enabling the two countries to share experiences and lessons learned from peacekeeping missions and conflict prevention initiatives. Specifically, Ethiopia will be co-operating with the Kofi Anan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) in Accra.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, PM Hailemariam said conflict, instability and terrorism are the main threats facing the continent which means countries need to come together in a continent-wide response. Both Ghana and Ethiopia have been taking leading roles in responding to terrorism and instability across the continent, the Prime Minister also stated.

President Mahama of Ghana, for his part, said that he hoped his country would learn from Ethiopia’s experiences with terrorism and that Ghanaian officials would travel to Ethiopia to note best practices.



Donors bequeath 798 mln USD to drought in Ethiopia

An exceptionally strong El Niño phenomenon has caused severe drought in some areas of Ethiopia. Over recent months, the Ethiopian government has distributed food from grain stores around the country and has spent over \$766.7 million from its own coffers to mitigate the impact of the drought, by buying grain internally and importing grain from the international markets. The government imported 602,000 metric tonnes of wheat from the international market to cover needs until May with a further 500,000 metric tonnes in April which will cover needs until September. This puts the sum total of wheat purchased from the international market at 1.1 million metric tonnes. This figure does not include domestic purchase of oil, maize and sorghum.

The government appealed some months ago for assistance in replenishing the stores and the international community has so far donated \$798 million said Debebe Zewde at the National Disaster Risk Management Commission. This constitutes 54% of the \$1.4 billion humanitarian assistance needed. By mid-April over \$709 million had been transferred to sector offices in order to provide drought victims with water, food and health services.



The government is expected to allot additional funds in the coming budget year (ie from July) for the period after September 2016. More than 10.2 million Ethiopians are in need of food aid at present.

Editorial

The return to Juba of the First Vice President of South Sudan, Dr Riek Machar is being hailed as a strong indication that the agreement he signed in August 2015 with President Salva Kiir is holding. This is good news for South Sudan because it signals a return towards political and economic stability which is badly needed in a country that had been a scene of civil war and the resulting loss of life, destruction of property, and massive dislocation of people.

There are encouraging signs in Somalia too, where presidential elections are expected to take place this year and the leaders representing the various regions of the country are cooperating to make that happen. A recent IMF report on Somalia stated, among other things, that the country's effort to rebuild economic and social infrastructure was beginning to bear fruit.

Such news will bring a sigh of relief to the Horn of Africa, and particularly to people of the two countries who have gone through many trials and tribulations because of the civil war. However, the task lying ahead is daunting and requires the continued support of the countries of the region, IGAD, the African Union and the international community.

Ethiopia believes that regional peace and security in the Horn of Africa is part and parcel of its own peace and security. There were many instances in the past when Ethiopia's security was adversely affected due to instability in one or another part of the region. The recent cross-border attack by Murle tribesmen from South Sudan, which resulted in the tragic deaths of over 200 Ethiopians and the kidnapping of 125 children, is a case in point. Such occurrences have very little chance of succeeding in an environment of regional cooperation in peace and security.

Ethiopia is therefore encouraged by the positive signals coming from the two countries and will always continue to work hard, along with the other countries of the region and international partners, to strengthen regional peace and security.

IGAD Cancer Resource Mobilization Conference kicks off



A resource mobilisation conference aimed at establishing IGAD's regional cancer centre of excellence kicked off in Addis Ababa on 19th April. The centre will offer high quality cancer services to IGAD member states.

The overall objective of the two-day conference was to mobilise adequate technical and financial resources from IGAD partners so that the establishment and operation of the regional cancer centre would become a reality, said IGAD's Health and Social Development Programme Secretary, Fathia Alwan. The conference is expected to develop a platform for strengthening collaboration and cooperation in order to realise the centre's core



objectives of treatment, management, training and research. It will also identify good practices in the region.

IGAD plans to establish a mechanism through which effective referral linkages and exchange of relevant information is maintained within the member countries.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has identified cancer as a major health threat in Africa. Cognizant of this, the IGAD Council of Ministers endorsed the establishment of the centre in Addis Ababa in 2011. This decision was reconfirmed at the first IGAD International Scientific Conference on Health held in Addis Ababa in December, 2014.



Ethiopia’s “rapid growth” trajectory to continue

Ethiopia's economy is set to continue growing, despite various challenges, said Ahmed Shide, State Minister of Finance and Economic Cooperation.

Speaking about the impressive growth during the previous 12 years and forecasting the current year's growth, the State Minister said Ethiopia would sustain its rapid double-digit economic growth, and this year, he added "we also expect similar growth even though there might be a little impact from the drought situation as well as from the world economic situation."

The recently implemented second Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP II) was designed to sustain growth and further transform the structure of the economy. Key factors would be the growing

contribution of smallholder agriculture, the government's commitment to job creation and service delivery expansion and its public and other infrastructural investment, increasing industrialisation and human skill development. The Plan will encourage the "momentum of growth". Infrastructure investment will expand further as will human skill development and institution building, to attract foreign direct investment as well as unleash the potential of the domestic private sector.



Minister Ahmed Shide

The main domestic challenge is the current drought while global challenges include the decline of commodity prices, which have had both positive and negative effects; Ethiopia benefitted from falling oil prices but falling global prices of some agricultural exports like sesame had a negative impact. However, "because of the diversified nature of the sources of recent growth, and the comprehensive development approach that the Government was following, the expectation was that the current global impact would be minimal."

Huge potential for investing in Ethiopia



Dr Martyn Davies,
Managing Director for
Emerging Markets and
Africa at Deloitte Frontier

Advisory, South Africa, recently wrote an analysis of Ethiopia "Economic growth, Ethiopian Style" in *Business Day* and *Fortune*.

His analysis offers insights into how the country became one of Africa's fastest-growing economies, stressing that Ethiopia was "averaging 10.9% annual growth during the period 2004-2014, despite not producing any oil". And the economic sector growth is not driven by an over-inflated commodities market. As a result, "a number of major companies are beginning to sit up and take notice of the potential that the country has to offer".

KKR, General Electric, Orange, Etur Textile, the BDL Group, Diageo, SABMiller, PPC and Starwood Hotels, which have made significant investments in Ethiopia in recent years.

Attractions include tax incentives for investment in high-priority sectors, including tourism, agro-processing, leather and leather goods, manufacturing, textiles, chemicals and



Significant spending on infrastructure and a nascent consumer market, a stable economy, and competitive labour costs are attractive to investors. Opportunities abound - "Ethiopia is the last sizeable country in the world that has not had sweeping telecommunications liberalization", he said.

Dr Davies says that Ethiopia is following its own developmental state approach with "massive expenditure on infrastructure and a growth mentality that is not driven by any 'big bang' liberalization, but rather a more gradualist approach."

Business cases "should be carefully planned, in partnership with experts with deep sectoral expertise in frontier markets." But, he adds that "significant changes are beginning to make the country increasingly attractive and turning that old picture on its head" and lists multinational companies, such as Heineken, the Blackstone Group,

pharmaceuticals, and mineral and metal processing. The Government is also revising its Commercial Code to enhance the business-operating environment which will "simplify regulations for potential investors, standardize accounting practices to assess operating liabilities, including tax, accurately increase the protection of shareholders, and modernize trade and registration procedures and processes."

In the last four years, state-run industrial zones have been established, a top priority in GTPII, and there are also five privately owned industrial zones with a further five currently under construction. Dr Davies says "**of all the talk of industrialization in Africa, I would argue that Ethiopia presents the greatest potential for low-end but high-employment-generating manufacturing,**" especially as the cost of production in China's eastern provinces is rising. Placing production off-shore provides real potential for Ethiopia.



In addition to its local market, Ethiopia is a member of COMESA, offering preferential access to 19 countries with a combined population of 390 million. COMESA, of course, aims to create a common market with the free movement of capital and labour, and with no tariffs levied on goods for the whole of Eastern and Southern Africa.



He notes that agriculture remains an important contributor to Ethiopia's economy but its share of GDP has been steadily decreasing, down to 42% in 2014 from 52% in 1990. Services now make up 42% and industry 15%. Industry, he says, includes a "small but growing" manufacturing sector (4%). But agriculture still remains the backbone of the country's economy, accounting for almost 80% of employment and up to 70% of export earnings.

Dr Davies mentions "a shift in the center of gravity of growth, from West to East Africa... with investors looking towards East Africa for the high-growth that capital requires. He concludes that Ethiopia is "a true frontier economy that presents long-term opportunities for capital seeking to invest in one of Africa's newest growth prospects."

Ethiopia "a star on the rise"



IHS, a US-based consultancy firm, in a study on foreign direct investment (FDI), identified Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Ghana in a list of 15 hotspot

investment destinations around the world. It described Ethiopia as "a star on the rise", with strategic policy reforms to build up its industrial sector, and accelerated infrastructure development.



China engages with Ethiopia textile and livestock industries

The world's largest wool textile manufacturer, Jiangsu Sunshine Group from China, will invest \$350 million in a textile plant in Ethiopia. The plant, located in an industrial park in Adama city, is part of a push to enable Ethiopia to become a textile hub in Africa. It is hoped the plant will produce 10 million metres of worsted wool fabrics and 1.5 million finished pieces.

Jiangsu Group has an annual production capacity of 3.5 million sets of high-grade men's suits and women's wear as well as 3.5 million metres of superfine worsted wool fabrics.

In related news, in early April a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the State Minister of Livestock and Fisheries, Misrak Mekonnen, and the Assistant President for Chinese CGCOC Group, Mr Gao Lei. The move is part of the Livestock Master Plan aiming to strengthen the sector, which is already responsible for 16% of Ethiopia's GDP, and boost export-oriented production.

CGCOC and the Ministry have been working together since January on developing capacity



building, improving the inspection and quarantine system, creating a quality veterinary service, improving disease prevention and implementing an animal product traceability system. Assistant President Gao Lei also noted that the Memorandum opened the door for more technology transfer and agricultural investment.

China moves forward in US\$4billion investment in Ogaden gas

Poly-GCL, a joint venture between state-owned China Poly Group and Hong-Kong-based Golden Concord Holdings, has announced that it is moving ahead with its investment in natural gas in Ethiopia's Ogaden region.



Research into the \$4 billion project drilling in Hilala and Calub fields recently yielded better than expected results, with Linag Jin, Gas Manager at commodities consultancy JYD, telling Interfax Energy that “three sets of oil and gas shows had been detected.”

Poly-GCL signed five production sharing contracts with the Ethiopian Ministry of Mines in November 2013 for two development blocks and eight exploration blocks spanning 12 million hectares. It is thought that the blocks have technically recoverable reserves of 10 billion+ cubic metres of gas.

The foundation stone of the project was laid in early March and construction is hoped to be completed by August. Poly-GLC will be using this year to find financial backers. Poly-GCL envisage the initial

capacity of its terminals being 3mtpa [million tonnes per annum] each, rising to 10mtpa.

Ethiopia secures financing for Koysbo Dam

In last month's newsletter it was reported that Ethiopia was planning a new 2,000MW hydropower dam. Ethiopia has now secured the financing for this dam from an Italian export credit agency, Servizi Assicurativi del Commercio Estero (SACE).

The dam will be situated on the lower banks of the Omo river in southern Ethiopia and is estimated to cost around US\$1.7 billion.

Oman Products Exhibition takes place in Addis

On Monday 11th April the Omani Products Exhibition 2016 (OPEX) opened in Addis Ababa with over 100 companies in attendance, representing industries from food to furniture and manufacturing to medicine.

Ethiopia is the first country outside of the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries to host OpeX. It was chosen as the location as a result of a study done by Ithraa and a local firm which concluded that there were plentiful opportunities in Ethiopia for Oman's non-oil products.



Speaking at the Exhibition, Fahmy Al Hinai, honorary consul of Ethiopia in Oman and Vice-Chairman of the OpeX Organisation Committee, said: “The event is vital due to the fact that it stimulates the marketing of the Omani products and

expands their markets.” He also noted that Ethiopia was an important jumping off point for Omani companies seeking to access the markets in other countries in the region and that soon the tasks of the Oman-Ethiopia Friendship Committee would begin. He further noted that efforts were already underway to establish an Ethiopian Embassy in the Sultanate.

On the sidelines of the event, three agreements were signed. First, Mahmoud bin Sakhi Al Balushi, CEO of Al Madina Logistics and CEO of Beckman Logistics and Transport Company, agreed to provide clearing and forwarding services and facilitate trade between Ethiopia and Oman. Second, Said bin Abdullah Al Sagri, CEO of Windows 2000, and Daniel Berhan, an investor in Ethiopia, signed an agreement to establish a factory in Ethiopia to service local and neighbouring markets. The agreement also aimed to bring expertise in window manufacturing to Oman. Lastly, Areej Vegetable Oils & Derivatives and Ethiopia Almen Group agreed to distribute and import most of the types of oils that Areej produces in Oman.



On top of this, President Mulatu has encouraged Omani investment in manufacturing, as opposed to trade and services, as it is more profitable and there exist better incentives. The leader of the Omani trade delegation, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Ali Masoud Ali Al Sunalidy, noted the successful import/export relationship between Ethiopia and Oman that has existed for two years. He said that the Omani government was willing to

discuss logistical problems in this relationship, such as at Djibouti port. He also announced that more Omani businessmen would be visiting Ethiopia by the end of the year in order to establish business to business relations.

Happy Birthday Ethiopian Airlines!



On 8th April Ethiopian Airlines held its 70th birthday celebrating a long and dedicated journey to becoming the most successful airline in Africa.

Over the last 70 years Ethiopian has brought Africa, as a continent, closer together as well as bringing Africa closer to the rest of the world. It has connected 51 cities in Africa with the major trading hubs worldwide. Indeed, with its star alliance members, it covers the globe.

Each day 240 flights are operated by the airline using a next generation advanced fleet of B-787 Dreamliners, Airbus A-350 and the B-737 MAX, at the forefront of aviation in Africa and across the globe. The airline is the fastest growing, most profitable and largest airline in Africa, also operating Africa’s largest cargo service, the largest and most advanced aviation academy in Africa and the best MRO services.

Group Chief Executive Officer, Tewolde Gebremariam, had this to say: “Seventy years is a long time, but Ethiopian is still young, strong, forward looking and ready to contribute its own share of an integrated, prosperous and peaceful

Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena in line with the African Union agenda 2063.”

“The billions of dollars we invested in our modern fleet, aviation infrastructure, human resource development and operating systems are a testimony that shows Ethiopian is positioned [on] a solid foundation to scale up the growth in its Vision 2025... we are very excited to continue to lead the 21st century aviation development [on] the continent of Africa.”

“Ethiopian airlines employees, the management and the board of directors have been demonstrating unique levels of dedication and commitment to their airline and this is the main success factor in the last 70 years, we take this opportunity to recognize and thank all of our employees, present and past, for their extraordinary hard work and success.”

“We have been competing and winning every business of our customers in the hyper competitive global airline industry in the last 70 years, and we are prepared to do so now more than ever in the past. We thank our more than 7 million annual passengers for their strong vote of confidence in choosing to fly with us and for their loyalty and support.”



Ethiopian has had a lot to celebrate in the last 70 years

“Aviation is a cluster of value chain businesses and we would not have achieved such a remarkable success had it not been for the strong support of our stakeholders; we thank the various airport authorities, civil aviation authorities, travel

agencies, tour operators, cargo forwarders in our main hub Addis Ababa and our global destinations, suppliers and partner airlines, the Ethiopian Government and other governments.”

Simien Lodge receives Silver prize at Africa Responsible Tourism Awards 2016

“Simien Lodge, the highest hotel in Africa at 3,260 metres altitude in the Simien Mountain National Park, has just been awarded the Silver prize in the African Responsible Tourism Awards.



These awards are presented annually at [the] World Travel Market in Cape Town, South Africa to the tourism enterprises that show good practices in their various fields. The competition was tough and there were originally 60 companies long-listed. This was reduced to 24 on a short-list just before the opening of the event on the 6th April. Lodge Manager Seifu Dessalegn and European Sales Manager Greta Iori travelled to Cape Town to pick up the coveted prize of the world-wide tourism industry. “We were up against a lot of strong competition,” says Greta. “It is the first time that an Ethiopian company has been recognised in the African Tourism Awards. This really puts our country on the map.”

Simien Lodge received the award for their work supporting the community in the Simien Mountains. Over the years this has varied from the donation of a brand new bus to the local *woreda* for transport in the mountains to the manufacture of hundreds of desks for local schools. The lodge has encouraged

the donation of medical equipment supplied by generous tourists including an ophthalmic microscope for cataract surgery to Gonder hospital.

Nick Crane, the lodge director, was quoted as saying, "It was always our objective to support the local community as much as possible whilst making the clear distinction that we are not an NGO or philanthropic agency. We are a private business with a human heart."



A shot of the rooms offered by the Lodge

This is not the first time that the lodge has been recognised by the tourism industry for having done outstanding work. Last October Simien Lodge was second in the Skal International awards, a tourism association that is now active in 83 countries. A Skal club is now planned for Addis Ababa.

Certainly the staff seem happy. Forty jobs have been created plus many additional incomes from the suppliers of the lodge. Nobody ever leaves the company and they all appreciate working in a dynamic environment with a management that strives to work ethically and environmentally."



(Source: Simien Lodge Press release).

Ethiopia in the News



Does money grow on trees in Ethiopia?

CNN Africa reported in April on the burgeoning bamboo industry in Ethiopia. The report stated that Ethiopia is home to 68% of Africa's total bamboo, which amounts to approximately 1 million hectares. 30% of this bamboo is located in the highlands and 70% in the lowlands.

In the past the Ethiopian bamboo industry merely supplied incense sticks and toothpicks but now it makes products as diverse as furniture, flooring and charcoal briquettes. This development has, in part, been facilitated by experience sharing with the Chinese, who generate \$30 million each year from their bamboo industry and have 8 million jobs in the sector.

Bamboo is an environmentally friendly alternative to harvesting timber in Ethiopia. The plant has the highest growth cycle in the world, growing at an average of 91cm each day [sic]. It can also be harvest after three years in comparison to the 10-20-years period of time it takes for trees to reach harvesting maturity.



For more information click here:
<http://goo.gl/SRupLB>



Buried Treasure

This month, NADFAS published an article concerning the Maryam Anza archaeological site near Hawzien, Gheralta Plateau, in north eastern Ethiopia. Louise

Schofield is one member of a team of archaeologists comprising people from England, Ireland and Ethiopia who have “discovered the remains of an exceptionally rich centre of the Axumite Kingdom- an ancient naval power and trading nation that flourished in the first to seventh century AD.”

The beginning of the story starts in 2008 when Laura and a colleague, Jerry O’Dwyer, found a large toppled stele carved with an inscription and a disc and crescent moon. However, much time passed when neither funding nor interest for a dig could be garnered. This changed when Abreha, a farmer in the same region, found an object glistening in the soil after a rainshower. He saved the object for Laura knowing that she liked “old things”. This object was a “delicate, beautiful and rare glass perfume bottle – an import in ancient times into Ethiopia from a distant region of the Roman Empire.”



Over the past two years the focus has been on excavating an ancient cemetery which was located by farmers building irrigation trenches into the countryside. The site has burials dating back to the 2nd and 4th centuries and

during 2015 seven graves were excavated. One of the graves held a young woman, buried with luxurious items such as an elaborate Roman bronze cosmetic spoon, a lump of kohl and several items of pottery. These riches show social status and suggest there was an area of wealth in this region trading with the Roman empire. Recent discoveries of a rich

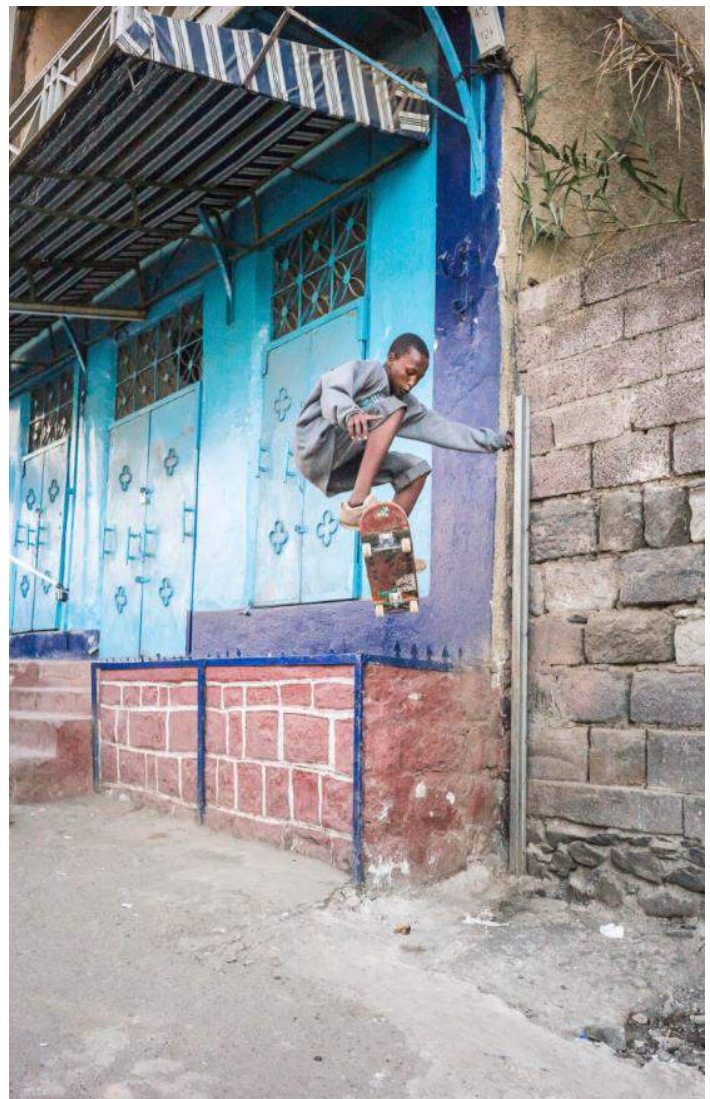
gold vein running through the area as well as ancient mining sites support this.

For more information on this fascinating find, click here: <http://goo.gl/5zMR6I> (pages 36-37)

huck

Skating Beyond Borders

Last month Huck Magazine posted an article about Ethiopia’s emerging skate scene. The author, Jason Nicco-Annan, writes: “In just three short years, the emerging skate scene has been one of the most inspiring avenues of self-discovery and expression for Ethiopian teens living in the city of Addis Ababa.”



In 2013 a local grassroots movement called *Ethiopia Skate* was established seeking to link pro-skaters from all over the world with kids in Addis Ababa. The movement took off with many international skateboarders getting involved in a variety of ways such as by providing tuition on the ground in Addis or donating gear to the movement.

A collaboration between *Ethiopia Skate* and *Make Life Skate Life* is working to build Ethiopia's first skate park in Addis Ababa. Groundwork began on March 25th with 50+ volunteers and was completed on April 17th.



Berlin-based photographer Daniel Reiter went to Addis to see what all the fuss was about and took some great photos while he was there. The rest of the article is an interview with Daniel. To read more and see his pictures, which were on display in London in April, click here: <http://goo.gl/eF8D3a>

The BBC also featured this story with interviews from Yared Eyastu (a skater) and Sean Stromsoe from Ethiopia Skate. They described how skating in Addis started with a few children sharing five skateboards and now holds more than 150 children completely captivated. As a new sport for the country there is always a lot of interest from locals, both children and adults, and much enthusiasm.

They also noted how there were at least 15 nationalities helping to build the skate park together and that it was inspirational for them and the children to see a dream they have worked so hard to achieve, genuinely be realised. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p03r1nmc>



Meet the Dibabas: The Fastest Family on the Planet

Chloe Malle from Vogue Magazine has caught up with the Dibaba family in Entoto and Addis Ababa to see, in such a running-mad country, what on earth makes the Dibabas this special!

Here is a selection of quotes from the article:

'The Dibabas' dominance in the field of distance running has captivated the track-and-field community. "There are a few running families, but not like the Dibabas," says the Ethiopian track legend Haile Gebrselassie. These are the only siblings in recorded history to hold concurrent world records, and they are as charmingly unassuming in person as they are fearsome on the track.'

'In fact there are seven Dibaba siblings, and all of them run. "What the Dibabas have is what Serena and Venus have, except there are more of them," says Ato Boldon, NBC's track analyst. "It's not a stretch to say they are the world's fastest family." Tirunesh is the most decorated, with three Olympic gold medals; Genzebe is tipped to win her first

in Rio. Their older sister, Ejegayehu, 34, is an Olympian, too, with a silver from Athens, and their cousin Derartu Tulu was the first black African woman to win an Olympic gold, in the 1992 games. “World records, Olympic medals, world championships—the Dibabas’ accomplishments are unprecedented in this sport,” says Boldon.’



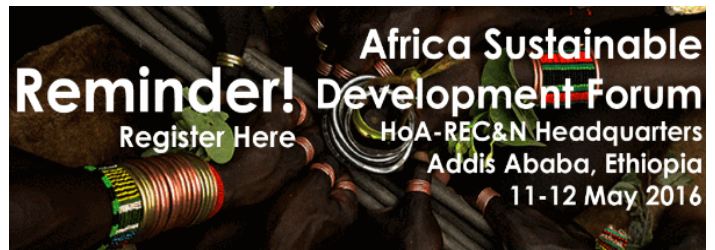
For more information click here: <http://goo.gl/NALMWL>

Coming up in Ethiopia this month:

HE Hailemariam Dessalegn and several cabinet ministers look forward to welcoming a small, select group of business leaders to Addis Ababa between 10th-12th May for a high-level trade and investment mission led by the newly appointed UK Prime Minister’s Trade Envoy Richard Benyon MP.

Ethiopia High Level Investment Mission

10th - 12th May 2016, Addis Ababa

Africa Sustainable Development Forum
 Register Here
 HoA - REC&N Headquarters
 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
 11-12 May 2016

Wishing everybody all the best for Ramadan and a Melkam Fassika!





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