



Ethiopian News

December 2015 Issue

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- **Climate Change and Energy:**
 - COP21 pages 1-4
 - Energy developments pages 4-5
- **Political Developments pages 5-10**
- **Trade and Investment pages 10-13**
- **Culture and Society pages 13-16**
- **Ethiopia in the News page 16**

CONNECT WITH US:



www.twitter.com/EthioEmbassyUK



www.facebook.com/EthioEmbassyUK



www.google.com/+EthioEmbassyLDN



Progress on climate change at COP21

Heads of state and government representing more than 190 nations gathered in Paris for COP 21 - the 21st session of the 'Conference of the Parties' from 30th November to 12th December, to discuss a new global agreement on climate change. This was the first time that so many world leaders had gathered to discuss one issue, demonstrating the urgency to develop a global strategy to combat the adverse effects of climate change and limit rising temperatures.

Ethiopia was represented by a high-powered delegation led by Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn.

The first two days of the conference were devoted to speeches made by heads of state. Prime Minister

Hailemariam Desalegn stressed that Ethiopia had made impressive strides over the past decade, meeting almost all of the millennium development goals and has now embarked on the sustainable development goals with a deep sense of commitment to achieving all of them.



COP21 - CMP11
PARIS 2015
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

He also underlined the country's commitment to becoming a middle income country through its ongoing **climate resilient green economic strategy** which aims at making Ethiopia carbon neutral by 2030, cutting emissions by 64% in the process. Despite this progress, the PM stressed that

“climate change, weather variability and related disasters, threaten our lives, livelihoods and hard fought development gains.” He added “We have not caused climate change, nor can we solve it on our own.” All countries must work together to ensure that the temperature rise is kept to well below 1.5 degrees.

He called for a peak of global emissions as soon as possible, followed by a sustainable but timely decrease with global support. The Climate Summit in Paris, he noted, has to act and produce a legally binding, durable and fair agreement. (To watch his speech, follow this link: <http://goo.gl/yRrvnn>).



Ethiopia is vigorously pursuing a renewable energy programme, playing a leading role in Africa. It is committed to clean and green energy, having submitted its Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) in June 2015.

Reaching agreement, many immediately called the conference a “historical turning point” in the fight against climate change.

PM Hailemariam called for carbon pricing, backed by Merkel and World Bank

At a COP21 high-level panel meeting, PM Desalegn made the case for **greater carbon pricing** as one of a range of global initiatives and policies that would reduce carbon emissions.

The PM noted the dual effects carbon pricing can have. Not only does it provide a strong incentive for

countries to cut their carbon emissions, it also provides ready financial capital that can be used to support climate change initiatives around the world.

German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, echoed this, stating that introducing carbon pricing can force governments and companies to realise more efficient ways to generate energy which will in turn create better market incentives to transition to a low carbon economy. Dr Jim Yong Kim, President of the World Bank, agreed, adding that “the most direct and certain path to zero net carbon emissions before the end of the century is carbon pricing.” Carbon pricing shifts the burden back to those countries who are more responsible for climate change, he said.

Currently 40 governments and 23 state or regional governments have implemented carbon pricing, and Ethiopia has piloted a carbon pricing scheme. Australia also signed a declaration calling for new rules on international carbon trading, which may indicate a softening of the coalition government’s 6-year veto on carbon pricing. The coalition is due to review their climate policy in 2017.

Africa at COP21

President of the African Development Bank, Akinwumi Adesina, wrote in *The Guardian* about what Africa brings to the table:

- African nations have demonstrated a greater commitment to cutting their carbon emissions in their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) than higher polluting nations
- Africa’s potential in renewable energy is incredible. It could generate an additional 10 terawatts of solar energy, 1,300 gigawatts of wind power, and 15GW of geothermal energy, which could be used by nations near and far

- The continent has an estimated 650 million hectares of untouched forestland which acts as a carbon sink for 1.2 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide each year.

Akinwumi listed what African nations want:

- African countries are asking for adequate finance (\$11 billion) for them to adapt to climate change
- Africa seeks investment of at least US\$55 billion per year in its energy sector which offers incredible business opportunities and global benefits.
- The continent stands with the International Panel on Climate Change and calls for a limit on the global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees, instead of 2 degrees.

To read the full article follow this link:

<http://goo.gl/BmB27W>



Ethiopia is committed to energy generation from wind power

Ethiopia joins AFR100 Initiative

At the Global Landscapes Forum, at COP21, several African countries joined together under the name AFR100 with the aim of restoring 100 million hectares of degraded and deforested land in Africa by 2030, one tree at a time.

Deforestation has so far been responsible for approximately 15% of global carbon emissions, making this a hugely important project. Planting

more trees improves soil fertility, increases food security and biodiversity, reduces desertification, and generally improves a country's ability to be resilient to climate change.



Led by the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and in conjunction with the World Bank and the German government, the US\$1 billion project has so far been joined by DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Niger, Rwanda, Togo and Uganda. US\$540 million will be sourced from private investors.

AFR100 supports the Bonn Challenge which seeks to restore 150 million hectares of land globally by 2020, the New York Declaration on Forests which extended the Bonn Challenge to 350 million hectares by 2030, and the **African Resilient Landscapes Initiative** promoting integrated landscape management with the goal of adapting to and mitigating the effects of climate change. This initiative will also build on schemes already underway in Ethiopia such as those in the Tigray region where 1 million hectares of land has already been restored, making the area more drought-resistant.

Ethiopia one of four greenest countries in world

As part of COP21, Climate Action Tracker undertook a study of country commitments to achieve the conference's objectives. Ethiopia, alongside Bhutan, Costa Rica and Morocco, earned the highest classification as one of the four greenest countries in the world. The report discussed Ethiopia's INDC and its Climate Resilient Green Economy Strategy.

Conclusion

The rich will mobilize \$100 billion a year from 2020 to help the developing countries adapt to climate change, and this figure will be progressively scaled up. The Paris Agreement recognised the need to reward developing countries for their action towards building a carbon neutral economy by establishing result-based payments for alternative policies.

Africa requires around \$11 billion for adaptation and funding should increase with the launch of the **Green Climate Fund** which will devote 50% of its funding to adaptation. It will also be “gender responsive”, to tackle the special vulnerability faced by rural women. Climate financing should become more responsive to the priorities of the recipients rather than those of the donors, and funds need to be more flexible, less risk averse and more transparent. Developing countries require technology transfer and financing.

The Paris Agreement includes the need to review national implementation activities every five years (though no sanctions are mentioned). The UN is hoping that peer pressure will keep countries on track because the Agreements are not legally binding.

Pledges will be reviewed in 2019 and countries will undergo a “global stock-take” of all emissions in 2013 and every five years thereafter. For further details on the outcome of COP21 see *A Week in the Horn of Africa* of 18th December at www.MFA.gov.et



[The African Renewable Energy Initiative could make Africa world's cleanest continent](#)

The African Renewable Energy Initiative (Arei) aims to develop a minimum of 10GW of new

renewable energy generation capacity by 2020 and to build on this developing at least 300GW by 2030.

Detailed plans will be put forward by each country in the next five years though the African Development Bank (AfDB) and other financial institutions including the World Bank have pledged an initial \$5 billion for the initiative which is expected to cost in the region of \$500 billion.



The plan aims to develop more solar, hydro, wind and geothermal energy generation plants as well as thousands of new small-scale ‘virtual power stations’. These would distribute electricity via mini-grids bypassing the need for transmission lines which are responsible for the loss of up to a quarter of power.

The President of the AfDB stated at COP21 where the initiative was launched, that currently the African continent loses approximately 4% of its GDP due to a lack of clean energy.

The initiative is just one part of an increasingly strong pan-African response to the threats and realities of climate change.

[Plans to generate 950 mega watts of power from sugar](#)

By the end of the second Growth and Transformation period in 2020, Ethiopia plans to be producing 950 megawatts of electric power from biproducts from its sugar development projects, announced the Ethiopian Sugar Corporation.

This information comes from Zemedkun Tekile, corporate communication Director of the ESC, who also added that this amount of power will be three times more than the installed capacity of Tekeze Hydro Electric Dam which currently produces 300 mega watts.

It is expected that the sugar factories themselves will consume 550 mega watts of power, leaving 400 mega watts to supply the national grid.

On top of this, the ethanol being produced in the factories is also being blended with benzene in order to reduce the country's dependence on imported petrol.

ESC further announced in December that by the end of 2015 Ethiopia will no longer need to import sugar because new factories that have begun testing production will soon become fully operational.



[Ethiopia and Kenya sign cross-border peace and development agreement](#)



Kenya, Ethiopia, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the UN launched a cross-border initiative on 7 December to generate peace and sustainability in northern Marsabit county, Kenya, and southern Borana zone, Ethiopia.

Both President Uhuru Kenyatta and Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn launched the US\$200 million five-year cross-border Integrated Programme for Sustainable Peace and Socio-economic Transformation. It is hoped that the Programme

will foster environmental protection, trade, development and peace in the area.

The cross-border region has poor infrastructure and service provision as well as low literacy and high poverty levels. Scarcity of resources has often been cited as a reason for triggering conflict among resident pastoralist communities especially over water and grazing land, which makes this development programme a major step forward.

Informal trade does already exist between the two areas but the initiative will focus on the area's untapped energy and mining resources as well as the meat and livestock trade while also aiming to generate jobs, especially for the local youth. Other facets of the agreement include improved access to and provision of healthcare and education as well as efforts to increase trust between the communities.

The programme will involve a variety of stakeholders including civil society, the private sector, faith-based organisations, development agencies, philanthropic organisations and peace committees, building on pre-existing development initiatives in the area.



[Ethiopia to be connected to its neighbours by railway by 2025](#)

While speaking to Turkish delegates from Yapi Merkezi construction company building the Awash-Woldiya Railway Project, President Mulatu Teshome announced that by 2025 Ethiopia's railway coverage would have reached 5,000 km.

During the discussions, the President stated that this network would reach Djibouti, Kenya, Sudan and South Sudan.

Currently the Awash-Woldiya railway project has reached 25% completion, amounting to 370km. It has created 2,500 jobs and will cost a total of US\$1.4 billion.

Turkey is among the top three countries in terms of foreign direct investment in Ethiopia. The President also urged the business delegation to consider investing in the energy sector.

[Senior Al Shabab commander detained by Somali army and AMISOM](#)

In early December Somalia's national army, backed by the AU mission in Somalia (AMISOM) arrested Moalim Hundow, a senior Al Shabaab commander in Bula-Burte, Hiiraan region of central Somalia.

Abdulasis Durow, the District commissioner of Bula-Burte said: 'We have arrested Hundow, Al-Shabaab commander in the area who has been forcefully collecting levies from herdsmen and farmers. There was no other casualty. We will continue the fight against Al-Shabaab'.

The commissioner said they would not allow Al-Shabaab to collect unjustified levies and that they would intensify the war against the militants. Al-Shabaab insurgents lost key towns to AMISOM forces both in 2014 and 2015.

[EU mobilises €125 million for countries affected by El Niño](#)



On 2 December the EU announced it would provide countries affected by the El Niño phenomenon with €125 million. €119 million of this will be sourced from the European Development Fund, while €6 million will come from the humanitarian budget.

The funds will contribute to both emergency assistance in the short-term including nutrition, water and sanitation, and health and shelter, as well as increasing the long-term resilience of affected countries in the long-term.

[New partnership for Ethiopian and Nigerian Commodity Marketing](#)



Towards the latter part of 2015 Nigeria and Ethiopia engaged in talks concerning a technical partnership for joint trading of commodities for West and East Africa, and the two countries.

When operational, workers from the Ethiopian Commodity Exchange will train Nigerian workers on technical operations, including on programmes like internships. The Ethiopian Commodity Exchange is also planning to 'enter into market information services whereby they will be listing commercially viable Nigerian agricultural commodities such as maize, sesame, cotton, cow pea, cashew nuts and cotton', said Zaheera Bab-Ari, MD and CEO of NCX.

It is hoped the arrangement will boost production of farmers and enable farmers to have access to new markets.

[Peace and Development Conference underway in Oromia](#)

In recent weeks, there have been media reports about demonstrations that turned violent in parts of the Oromia region in Ethiopia. The situation is now calm and the federal and regional authorities are carrying out investigations into the violence and several of the towns affected by the violence are organizing peace and development conferences to address the root causes of the disturbances.



The issue that initially led to protests was the absence of clarity over the status of the *draft*

Joint Integrated Master Plan of Addis Ababa. The draft Plan was unclear and questions were rightfully raised about its intentions. The Government, both at federal and regional levels, welcomed input and consistently made it clear that there were no barriers to raising any questions and that wide, in-depth, discussions on the draft Plan with the public would be scheduled *before any steps towards implementation would take place*. Nor were there any objections to peaceful and lawful protests.

In December 2015, a series of peaceful protests took place in some of schools and universities in the Oromia Regional State with students wanting to make clear their concern about some aspects of the draft Plan. But the peaceful, legitimate protests were hijacked by some anti-peace elements, including opposition groups in the Diaspora who remain determined to create chaos and instability in the region. They misled people about the Plan and about the stage it had reached and claimed it was about to be implemented. As demonstrations escalated into violent confrontations there was, regrettably, loss life and destruction of property. In some areas, this turned into banditry and lawlessness with criminal attacks against innocent people and the destruction of property.

In some cases, these armed men made no secret of the fact that they were supported by foreign-based violent organisations such as OLF and Ginbot 7. Based in Asmara, Eritrea, Ginbot 7 was declared a terrorist organisation by the Ethiopian Parliament due to its terrorist activities. Its leader recently admitted that members of Ginbot 7 are actively engaged in fomenting the violence in some parts of

Oromia. Facebook and other social media have been filled with deliberate efforts to incite ethnic tension.

From the outset of the protests, the Oromia Regional State authorities have made it clear that there will be adequate consultations with the public and they urged those protesting to refrain from violence, but also have a duty to preserve law and order and prevent violence and destruction. Both the Federal Government and the Oromia Regional Government have expressed their regrets for any deaths that have occurred, and expressed condolences to the families of those who have lost their lives or who have been injured in the demonstrations. The situation has returned to normalcy and investigations and discussions on the Plan and related issues are underway.

[Ethiopia Bid for UNSC Membership](#)

The Ethiopian government has expressed an interest in becoming a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. The UNSC has fifteen members, five permanent - the USA, Russia, China, France and the United Kingdom - with veto power, and 10 non-permanent members, which are elected every two years. Ethiopia has been a member on two occasions in 1967/1968 and 1989/1990.

Ethiopia is one of the only two African founding members of the United Nations Organisation which was set up following the end of the Second World War, the other being Liberia. The principle of collective security at the heart of the UN charter has particular significance for Ethiopia as this was seen as an improvement on the failed attempts of the League of Nations to bring world peace. History remembers the failure of the League of Nations to live up to its obligations when Ethiopia was attacked by fascist Italy in the run up to the Second World War when Emperor Haileselassie made a famous speech admonishing the League for its failure to assist Ethiopia. This indeed was one of the major reasons behind the adoption of collective

security and the cooperation that formed the basis of the UN charter.

Ethiopia has since gained a significant amount from the UNSC but believes there are a number of areas in which reform is required to further invigorate the UN's role in addressing challenges in world security, climate change and the economic problems that face all humanity.

Ethiopia believes that the voice of Africa in the UN and its institutions such as the Security Council deserves to be heard more prominently. It has accordingly been strongly supportive of a permanent seat for Africa in the United Nations Security Council. As the only supra-national organization enjoying the membership of virtually the entire world, the United Nations is far better placed than any other body to effectively address the challenges that face humanity today.

[Ethiopia enters the NCIP](#)



On 10th December, Ethiopia joined the Northern Corridor Integration Projects initiative, creating a new trading bloc with Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan and Uganda, thereby reshaping the regional economy and politics.

Started by presidents Paul Kagame of Rwanda, Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, and Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya, the initiative developed as a way to improve trade between the three countries.

At the 12th **Heads of State meeting in Kigali**, Ethiopian Foreign Minister, Dr Tedros Adhanom,

said his country had submitted a letter to join the initiative after being an observer for six years. “The northern corridor projects have been practical and successful due to the political will demonstrated by its leaders,” he said.

Ethiopia joining is considered a game changer, especially regarding the future handling of the proposed crude oil pipeline through Kenya and Uganda. Since South Sudan and Ethiopia are located on the northern side of Kenya, they are expected to fully support the passage of the crude oil through the northern route. Kenya has been optimistic that the pipeline will eventually pass through the Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia Transport (Lapsset) corridor.

[Ethiopian Investment Seminar held in Tokyo](#)

On December 17 an Ethiopian Investment Seminar was jointly hosted by the Ethiopian Embassy in Tokyo and the Japan Institute for Overseas Investment, also in Tokyo.

HE Dr Tedros Adhanom, Minister for Foreign Affairs, attended the seminar and gave a key-note address stating that Ethiopia has benefited from the expansion of Japan's Kaizen philosophy and from a policy of industrial dialogue. Dr Tedros also noted that the Japanese government's support for Ethiopian Airlines to begin flying to Japan has been an important enabling factor in boosting trade, investment and tourism ties, as well as people-to-people relations.

The minister stated that Ethiopia offers potential investors an excellent business environment with political and macroeconomic stability, abundant natural resources and a trainable workforce. The country also offers low-cost energy, and a sizeable and captive market. Dr Tedros assured Japanese investors of the continuous support various Ethiopian agencies would give to those interested in investing in Ethiopia's industrial parks.

HE Dr Markos Tekle, Ambassador of Ethiopia to Japan briefed investors and companies on

Ethiopia's investment laws and progress that has been made in the industrial zones.

[Gambella hosts Nationalities Day](#)



Gambella Regional State hosted this year's 10th Nations, Nationalities and People's Day (NNPD) on 9th December, constructing a 35,000 capacity modern stadium, 400 cultural huts, guest houses, roads, power-lines and other infrastructure for the occasion.



Thousands of people, representing all the nations and nationalities of Ethiopia, were present. VIP guests

included Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn and First Lady, Roman Tesfay, Deputy Prime Minister Demeke Mekonen, and other high-ranking federal and regional government officials, and members of the diplomatic corps. President of Sudan, Omar al-Bashir, was the Guest of Honour.

The Prime Minister said that the economic growth registered during the past decade "was the result of the joint efforts and collaboration of all the nations and nationalities of the country". He called on them to scale up their support for the growth and transformation of the country, stressing that the

adoption of the Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia had laid the foundation for Ethiopians to exercise their rights as well as allow them to benefit from the gains of development. The PM also urged all Ethiopians to play their part in the efforts to achieve sustainable peace and development throughout the [Horn] region.

President Omar al-Bashir expressed his pleasure in participating in the event, and said his government would continue to enhance people-to-people as well as government-to-government cooperation between Sudan and Ethiopia.

The Regional State President, Gatluak Tut Kot, stressed the substantial and tangible results in infrastructure and social and economic developments that had been achieved in Gambella State following the adoption of the Constitution. He said that hosting the 10th Nations, Nationalities and People's Day had helped promote the region and had contributed to strengthening developmental works in the region and in the country as a whole.

Commenting on the celebrations, Getachew Reda, the Head of the Government Communication Affairs Office, stressed that the Government was working hard to enhance mutual benefits and growth among the regions through development of health, education, and other infrastructure.

Next year's Nations and Nationalities Day will be hosted by Harar.

[Addis Ababa University organises conference on 'Journalism in a Global Context'](#)

On 11 December Addis Ababa University hosted a conference promoting the quality of foreign reporting of Europe and Africa. The meeting centred on improving foreign coverage, especially of migration, and business and governance.



The Deputy Chief of Staff of the AU Commission, Ambassador Febe Potgieter-Gubule, shared the AU's experiences with working with media. He stated that the AU specifically encourages coverage of agricultural transformation, infrastructure development and urbanisation. An important theme was the concept that unless Africa begins to speak for itself and tell its own story, true and relevant international coverage will remain a difficult and challenging task.

The conference was organised in conjunction with the AAU School of Journalism, the Erich Brost Institute for International Journalism and TU Dortmund University, Germany.

Demeke vows to make Ethiopia a hub for medical tourism



Ethiopia will build a health system that satisfies the health demands of Ethiopians and will also make Ethiopia a hub for medical tourism,

Deputy Prime Minister Demeke Mekonnen announced, while inaugurating the new 230 million Birr unit of the Menelik II Referral Hospital. The new 8-storey building will enable the hospital to increase its patient capacity from 200 to 556. The Deputy PM also laid a foundation stone for the construction of an eye treatment centre.

Health manpower development will be a key priority in the efforts to improve the health sector over the coming five years, Dr Kestoberhan Admasu, Minister of Health (MoH) stated.

Ethiopia to host Aid and Development Forum Africa summit in 2016

Addis Ababa has been chosen as the venue for the 2016 Aid and Development Forum Africa Summit,

once again demonstrating the capital's worldwide appeal as a conference destination. UN agencies, international and regional NGOs, CBOs, investors, donors, research institutes and the private sector will all attend the summit provisionally set for the 2-3 February 2016.



The focus of the summit this year will be technological innovation and creating best practices to improve aid delivery and development strategy in East Africa, with panel discussions, workshops, interactive round tables and case studies. Key organisations in attendance will include USAID, UNICEF, the World Bank, Save the Children, IFRC, World Vision and the World Food Programme.

The summit should provide a comprehensive overview of latest trends in humanitarian logistics, community health, WASH, security of aid workers and communities, camp management, mobile development, financing, and communication between aid agencies and communities.

Key speakers will include Nardos Bekele-Thomas, Resident Representative of the UNDP in Kenya and Resident Co-ordinator of the UN system in Kenya, as well as Dr Chukwodozie Ezigbalike, Chief of Data Technology Section at the Africa Centre for Statistics, UN Commission for Africa.

Minerals generate \$79 million+ in quarter year

According to the Ministry of Mines, Petroleum and Natural Gas, in the first quarter of the budget year Ethiopia has earned US\$79.3 million.

This revenue exceeded the amount earned in the same quarter last year by US\$13 million and was generated from gold, gemstone and tantalum said Bacha Faj, Public Relations Director at the Ministry.

[Joint Saudi-Ethiopian Committee begins its 4th session in Riyadh Dec 4](#)

The Joint Saudi-Ethiopian Committee began its 4th session at the Conferences Palace in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on 3rd December. The Ethiopian Delegation was headed by Tefera Deribew, Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and the Saudi delegation by Engineer Abdulrahman bin Abdulmohsen Al-Fadhli, Minister of Agriculture, who stressed the importance of this consultative session which, he said, was vital to strengthening economic, trade, investment, scientific and cultural cooperation between the two countries.

He stressed that the role of the private sector was instrumental in the implementation of economic cooperation projects in trade and investment. Minister Tefera praised the excellent relationship between the two countries, stating: “The Kingdom Saudi Arabia is one of the strongest economies in the world and we have in the Republic of Ethiopia investment opportunities that can attract the Saudi private sector to take advantage of them.” The two sides agreed to form three committees: the Committee of Foreign, Security & Labour Cooperation; the Economic & Technical Committee, and the Committee for Educational & Cultural Cooperation, Religious Affairs, Media, Youth and Sports.

[Ethiopia to invest in KEFI gold project](#)

KEFI Minerals, a gold and mineral exploration company, have received formal confirmation that the Ethiopian government intends to invest \$15-20 million in the Tulu Kapi Gold Project, which will give the government an equity interest in KEFI Minerals (Ethiopia) Ltd.

The intended investment by the government suggests a project value of approximately \$75 million at its current stage of development. The money the government invests will be used to finance roads, power and other associated infrastructure costs.

Last month saw the project’s preferred contractors appointed, and the progress of the project is reportedly on track. Financial predictions have increased over recent weeks with annual gold production during the first eight years rising from an expected 95,000 oz to 115,000 oz with an expected gold price range of \$1,100/oz to \$1,400/oz.

[SNC-Lavalin awarded potash mining facility contract](#)



A contract for a new greenfield potash mining and processing facility in the Dallol region of North Eastern

Ethiopia has been awarded to Canadian firm SNC-Lavalin by Yara International.

SNC-Lavalin is set to provide the front-end engineering design and the ECPM services, as well as assistance with the start-up and commissioning of the new facility.

The mine is expected to operate a solution-mining method to extract the deposit and will produce 600,000 tonnes of sulfate of potash per annum. It is set to be completed during the second half of 2018 and have a projected lifespan of 20 years.

[Bosch offers support to coffee industry](#)

The German multinational Bosch Group have announced that they will supply better processing equipment and expertise to the Ethiopian coffee industry with the aim of the lifting the industry’s quality and returns.

Speaking at the first International Coffee Processing and Packaging Round Table organised by the Group, Vandan Rughani the Managing Director of Bosch East Africa said: ‘We believe that technology is the best way that the coffee industry can move up the value chain in Ethiopia and compete globally... Bosch views this initiative as crucial to the progress

of the African continent both in terms of economic development and sustainability as well as enhancing food security.’

The United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) as well as industrial and agricultural institutions, big business, small and medium business owners, farmers civil societies and aid agencies will work with Bosch to realise this aim.

Currently one in five Ethiopians is involved in the coffee industry and the country is the sixth largest producer in the world, exporting over 150,000 tonnes each year. 90% of these exports, however, is not refined, processed or packaged, meaning that the majority of the profits are not generated in Ethiopia.

This initiative hopes to enable entrepreneurs and farmers in Ethiopia, the birthplace of coffee, to begin processing, roasting, manufacturing, packaging and distributing coffee, ensuring profits are kept in-country. New technology and technical solutions for advanced packaging appropriate for domestic and regional export markets are among the options discussed to achieve this.



BOSCH

Diageo partners with Gorta to support barley farmers

In a similar development, Diageo has announced a partnership with Gorta Self-Help Africa. Backed by the Irish government. The charity aims to support smallholder farming communities in Ethiopia by connecting small-scale barley farmers with the brewing company.

Diageo’s role will be to provide training, fertiliser, crop insurance and improved barley seeds to Gorta Self-Help farmers through Diageo’s subsidiary brewery, Meta. It is also hoping to buy back large

amounts of the barley seeds from the farmers to use in the Meta beer brewing process.

Poor quality seed is a problem in Ethiopia which results in poor harvests. Irish Aid has been a long-term partner in addressing this problem and the addition of Diageo in this process demonstrates what ‘good public-private partnership is all about’ said Gorta Self-Help Africa CEO Ray Jordan.

The Global Director of Sustainability for Diageo, David Croft, also stated that ‘Diageo is committed to creating shared value... We’re aiming to source 80% of all ingredients for African products within that continent by 2020, and 100% in Ethiopia in the next 2 years. It’s an ambitious target, and partnerships like this will help us achieve that goal.’

Ethiopia expects more South Korea investors in manufacturing sector

State Minister of Industry Tadesse Haile [ON THE RIGHT IN THE PHOTO] said Ethiopia is anticipating more South Korean



investors in its manufacturing sectors, particularly in textiles and the infrastructure and construction sectors.

The Ethio-Korea Business Forum, held on 4th December, was attended by more than 35 Korean investors and discussed the expansion of the Ethiopian textile industry and trade cooperation that includes strengthening of the cooperation between bilateral companies and generating new business opportunities.

Tadesse said the government of Ethiopia is committed to further strengthen the multifaceted cooperation between the two nations. Investment returns in Africa, particularly in Ethiopia, are higher

than in most developed countries with its untapped and wide market with low investment penetration and great potential, the State Minister indicated.

One notable example is that in October this year, South Korea's Shin Textile Solutions Company moved into the industrial park at Bole Lemi, employing over 3,000 people. More parks are being developed and opened in Hawassa, Mekelle, Dire Dawa and Kombolcha.

Omani companies to expand business opportunities with Ethiopia



More than 100 Omani companies representing a wide range of sectors, including natural resources, metal, wood and manufactured products, medical and pharmaceutical products, fertilisers, plastics, minerals, perfumes and leather goods, will participate in next year's Omani Products Exhibition (OPEX 2016), which will be held for the first time in Africa - from 11th to 14th April, at Millennium Hall, Addis Ababa.

The committee, formed by the Oman Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Oman Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the Public Authority for Investment Promotion & Export Development, said Ethiopia is a leading open market for Omani products and one of the fast-growing economies on the continent. It is the right time for Omani companies to seize on a wide range of opportunities for direct and joint-venture investments in the manufacturing sector in particular, it said.

OPEX 2016 will introduce high quality Omani products to Africa and play a focal role between Oman and Ethiopia, developing the business of domestic companies and expanding their trade to various regional and international markets. OPEX 2016 is building upon the success of the fourth Omani Products Exhibition held in 2015 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, and previous exhibitions in Dubai, Doha and Riyadh.

Ethiopia: Second largest African flower exporter

In December it was reported by Anadolu Agency that, after Kenya, Ethiopia exports the largest amount of flowers in Africa, with over 100 growers on 1,700 hectares. The Promotion and Information Service Head of Ethiopian Horticulture Producers Exporters Association also announced that Ethiopia would soon take Kenya's top spot.

The flower industry has been flourishing in Ethiopia as a result of excellent government initiatives and low labour costs. Flower growers are entitled to a five year tax holiday, duty free imports, access to bank loans and farm land, and exemption from payment of export customs duties as detailed by the Ethiopian Investment Code in 2001.

Currently investors from Ecuador, Kenya, the Netherlands, Tanzania and Uganda are investing in Ethiopian flower farms.



Glass bottle factory to be built

Goda Bottle and Glass Share Company is to build a bottle and glass factory near Adigrat in a project assumed to be worth around 600 million birr.

The factory will be built on 390,000 square metres of land and will have input from not just Goda Bottle and Glass Share, but three other overseas companies.

The project is expected to produce one million bottles annually while generating job opportunities for upwards of 400 people. Industry State Minister, Dr Mebrahtu Meles, stated that the factory will help to avoid foreign currency expenditure as well as expedite economic growth.

[Inflation falls to 10%](#)

In November, Ethiopia's year-on-year inflation fell to 10% from 11.8 % in October. More specifically, food inflation has shown a 4.7% decrease compared to the previous month due to a reduction in the price of cereals, pulses, vegetables and spices. The cost of clothing, footwear, construction material, firewood and household goods and furnishings did, however, increase.

[Ethiopia and China adopt visa-free agreement](#)

From December 7 2015 Chinese and Ethiopian citizens with diplomatic or service passports no longer need visas to travel across each other's borders. They are exempted from any visa requirement for a period of 30 days.

The new visa policy reflects the burgeoning Sino-Ethiopian relationship, which has been growing for the past decade or more. It will ensure the ease of people-to-people exchanges and co-operation.

[Ethiopian Airlines acquires fifth full flight simulator](#)

In December Ethiopian Airlines finalised the installation of its Boeing 777 Flight Simulator, manufactured by CAE Inc, for use training its pilots.

This is the fifth simulator Ethiopian has acquired, following the B767/B757, B737 NG, Q400 and the B787 simulator, which went operational in March and was the first of its kind acquired by an African airline. This addition reflects Ethiopian's aim to be

an aviation leader on the continent, equipping its force with state of the art equipment and technology.

The installation will reduce travel time for pilots in training to distant training facilities allowing them more quality time with their families at the base aside from the obvious advantage of training with the latest aviation technology.

The pilot training school of Ethiopian Aviation Academy is approved by the Ethiopian Civil Aviation Authority, European Safety Agency (EASA) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to give world class training in Commercial Pilot Licenses (CPL), Private Pilot Licenses (PPL) and Multi Pilot Licenses (MPL).

[Ethiopia National Museum named world's favourite museum 2015](#)

On 15 December at the official opening of the 2016 World Tourism, Culture and Travel Awards, the European Council on Tourism and Trade announced Ethiopia's National Museum in Addis Ababa as the world's favourite museum of 2015 for its priceless artefacts and outstanding contribution to our understanding of the development of human civilisation.

There were many reasons why the museum was chosen but among the most important was the fact that it was the only museum in 2015 to have both a European and an American delegation visit in the same year. It has also recently refurbished a wing in order to ensure the preservation of the artefacts.



The museum has a large and extremely varied collection, including fossilised remains of early humans, artefacts from former Ethiopian rulers, traditional and ceremonial costumes, pre-Axumite artefacts, and modern paintings. It has impressive collections of weaponry and agricultural and everyday objects from many of the different ethnic groups in Ethiopia, making it one of the largest ethnographic collections in the world.

The most famous attractions at the museum are the remains of Lucy and Salem, the world's oldest human remains, and the draw for both delegations this year.

The museum won the accolade while Ethiopia was also named by the same body as Tourism Destination of 2015 back in July.

[Fiche Chamballala recognised as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO](#)

The 10th session of the intergovernmental committee on the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage met in Windhoek in early December. 500 delegates from 100 countries were represented at the meeting with the Ethiopian delegation being led by Me'aza Gebremedhin, State Minister of Culture and Tourism.

Of the 35 proposed inscriptions, 23 were accepted including Fiche Chamballala, New Year among the Sidama people of Ethiopia. This will bring the number of UNESCO recognised intangible inscriptions in Ethiopia to two alongside Meskel Festival, the finding of the True Cross. Ethiopia also has 9 world heritage sites recognised by UNESCO.

Efforts have been made since 2012 in Ethiopia to register more intangible cultural heritages with UNESCO, so this development is the cause of much celebration. It will supplement the image of Ethiopia as an extremely culture-rich country bursting with religious and historical celebrations.

[Inactivated polio vaccination \(IPV\) introduced](#)

Ethiopia has now been free from the wild polio virus type 1 for the last 23 months. By introducing this vaccination Ethiopia joins the ranks of over 130 other countries using the vaccination to progress towards global eradication of the virus.

The co-ordination of this vaccine is the largest inoculation programme of its kind in history and is supported by a number of organisations including the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations (GAVI), UNICEF and the WHO.

Dr Kebede Worku had this to say: 'Ethiopia has been effectively polio-free for two years. This can be attributed to unwavering political commitment, robust primary healthcare platform and strong regional and international partnerships. Today's introduction of IPV signifies a surging momentum for a lasting polio-free Ethiopia. We should strengthen our health and community systems so that no child will be left unvaccinated. I have a firm belief that we can relegate polio to the footnote of the history of vaccine-preventable diseases.'

[New mobile app makes childbirth safer in Ethiopia](#)

Danish development organisation, Maternity Foundation, has developed a new mobile phone app with the aim of making childbirth safer in Ethiopia.



The 'Safe Delivery' app contains simple instructions, in both Amharic and English, with animated films detailing how to deal with emergency situations such as haemorrhaging, resuscitating newborns and dealing with infections. Importantly, the app can also be pre-installed and therefore can be

accessed if the user does not have access to the internet or good network coverage.

The Foundation, whose motto is 'No woman should die giving life', is looking to take advantage of the growing numbers of mobile phone users on Africa and is targeting midwives and healthcare professionals as well as mothers-to-be. Healthcare staff are being targeted because the app is often easier to understand than textbooks and is far quicker to update with better techniques.

The app was trialed on 78 mobiles in Gimbie, in the Oromo region. After one year the capacity of the app users to deal with bleeding increased from 20% to 60% and the ability to cope with newborn resuscitation rose from 30% to 70%.

Ethiopia in the News

BBC [An extraordinary 17th century African woman](#)

The BBC reported this month on the translation into English of the earliest known book-length biography of an African woman: 17th century Ethiopian saint Walatta Petros.

Walatta Petros was a non-violent defender of the Ethiopian church during a time of Jesuit invasion and also founded her own monastery. The translation brings to English details of 17th century daily life and history. To listen to the interview follow [this link:](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p03bbb3p)

The Telegraph [The world's most beautiful churches](#)

The Telegraph published a piece on the world's most beautiful churches featuring the rock-hewn churches at Lalibela. The piece highlighted the churches' history with King Lalibela hoping to

create a New Jerusalem at the site in the 12th century.

The churches are chiselled from living rocks with doors, walkways, columns, catacombs and hermit caves.



<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/artsandculture/11511958/The-worlds-most-beautiful-churches.html?frame=3254924>

FT Magazine [Genzebe Dibaba named woman of 2015: athlete](#)

The Financial Times named Genzebe Dibaba as one of their 'Women of 2015' in the athlete section.

2015 really was Dibaba's year. In February alone she broke three indoor world



records (1500m, 3000m and two miles). She went on to win the 1500m world title in Beijing and was also named International Association of Athletics Federation's women's athlete of the year. She said: 'It's amazing – 2015 has been a fantastic year for me because of the records I've broken and the wins I've had... I feel wonderful.'

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/1f3d9074-9d1a-11e5-b45d-4812f209f861.html>