

Embassy of Ethiopia receives award for its Leadership Role and Support for Diaspora Activities

African Leadership Magazine, a Nigerian-based business magazine, awarded the Embassy of Ethiopia an award for its leadership role and support for Diaspora activities on 31st July at the 2011 edition of the African Business Leadership Awards ceremony in London.

This year's awards ceremony took place at the Park Plaza Riverbank Hotel in London. The evening was put together to celebrate select individuals and organizations who were contributing immensely to the economy of Africa both at home on the continent and in the Diaspora.

The Embassy took the award in recognition of its contribution in various development forums here in London particularly in parliamentary debates and its contribution to supporting the African Diaspora.

Mrs. Hirut Zemene (Trade and Investment Counsellor), received the award on behalf of H.E. Ambassador Berhanu Kebede, and delivered a speech of good will from the Embassy.



In the speech Mrs. Zemene thanked the Magazine for honouring the Embassy with such an award and highlighted the positive role that media outlets such as Africa Leadership Magazine, play in portraying the true image of Africa, noting that Africans are the right people to tell their own story. She also encouraged others in the field to be part of this very exciting growth momentum.

She depicted Ethiopia's plan for a rapid development, its success in achieving the MDGs and the Ethiopian Diaspora's role in national development.

"My country Ethiopia," she said, "has registered double digit growth of 11 percent GDP in the past seven consecutive years. It has met four out of seven Millennium Development Goals, and is on track to meet the remaining MDG targets in the coming 4 years...We were able to achieve this growth by implementing consecutive five-year development plans."

Mrs. Zemene also noted the strong development cooperation that Ethiopia enjoys with the UK and hailed efforts the Diaspora is making to contribute to national growth, not only in Ethiopia, but also in other African economies.

“In Ethiopia for example, the Diaspora has been instrumental in the transfer of knowledge, technology and finance - the remittance that is funneled equals the amount of our export earnings. Most importantly, the Diaspora is boosting confidence of FDI flow to the continent.”



Group picture of this year's award winners

The award recipients at this year's award ceremony included the telecommunications giant Starcomms Plc Nigeria; Embassy of Ethiopia UK; Prof. Margee Ensign, Mr. Koffi Williams, Mr. Charles Simpasa, Nadabo Energy Group, amongst others. Responding the award recipients all promised to rise to the challenge of business leadership in Africa, assuring that the awards conferred on them would only act as a spur for greater service to the continent. The Embassy of Ethiopia was the only mission to receive such an award at this year's ceremony.

The event had previously held in Accra, Nairobi, Paris, Houston Texas and London. It is organized by the African Leadership magazine to celebrate outstanding growth of the African industry sectors and to foster international cooperation and an optimal networking opportunity for African industry professionals.

African Leadership is a pan-African, international magazine published by African Leadership (UK) Limited in collaboration with Leadership and Events Limited, an international media communications and publishing group, and is dedicated to bringing the best of Africa to a global audience, while evolving solutions to the peculiar challenges faced by African people. Through its magazine and publications, the group also organizes conferences, summits, award ceremonies, roundtables, workshops and lecture series as a way of galvanizing action towards changes of position in key challenge areas.