

Ethiopian Construction and Health Sector Roundtable held at the British Expertise

Ambassador Berhanu Kebede addressed members of British Expertise on 10th February 2011 at a roundtable held on Ethiopia's infrastructure and health sectors. The meeting was organized by Dominic James of British Expertise, in cooperation with the Embassy of Ethiopia.

On the occasion Ambassador Berhanu invited participants to consider the roundtable as an eye opener which will encourage participation in Ethiopia's infrastructure and health sectors, which is one of the most important focuses of the country's Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP). He also addressed a range of issues raised by participants, such as the modality of entry, the security and stability of the region and on securing finance for the projects.

Trade and Investment counselor of the Embassy, Hirut Zemene, made a detailed presentation on the major infrastructure sectors to be built up in the coming five years in meeting the GTP objectives. The railway, hydropower and road sectors were the focus of the discussion in the infrastructure area. Opportunities were promoted for interested companies to participate in the area of turnkey arrangements, securing finance and participating in the construction sector, consultancy and capacity building.



In the health sector, opportunities for building state-of-the-art hospitals, diagnostic centres and pharmaceuticals were promoted. Participants were informed about the extensive market opportunities that they can find in building such health facilities in a country whose capital, Addis Ababa, hosts the AU, various UN agencies and more than 100 diplomatic missions.

Participants have expressed interest in studying possible areas of cooperation by securing finance for the infrastructure sector, training, in facilitating further similar promotional forums in their representative areas where the Embassy could provide more presentations.

On the occasion, the UKTI representative, Simon Brown encouraged participants to take part in the Trade Mission to East Africa which is to be held from 21st 20th March 2011, and which will include Ethiopia, in order that they may learn more about the opportunities that exist in the country.

The round table discussion created an opportunity for participants to further pursue their interests by contacting the Embassy. The Embassy promised to facilitate cooperation with lead organisations responsible for the execution of projects in Ethiopia, such as the Ethiopian Railway Corporation, the Ethiopian Roads Authority, the Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation as well as the Ministry of Health, in order to satisfy the companies' interest.

*****ENDS*****

Embassy of the FDR of Ethiopia

LONDON