



Ethiopian News

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Ethiopia: The Diplomatic Hub of Africa

Tributes paid to Meles and his legacy



Tributes were paid to Ethiopia’s exceptional leader, Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, for his outstanding contribution to the renaissance of both Ethiopia and Africa during his tenure, which spanned two decades. He passed away in August last year, mourned by millions.

An audience of over 700 guests, including UK ministers, diplomats and members of the Ethiopian community paid tribute to Meles at a commemorative occasion organized by the Ethiopian Embassy.



Former UK Prime Minister, **H.E. Gordon Brown**, began by stating “no one did more to eradicate the evil of poverty than Prime Minister Meles.” He praised the political change that Meles had wrought and the economic take-off that his policies had brought about. “But for Meles” he said,

“growth had to have a purpose, economics was a branch of ethics”, this meant improving the lives of millions of Ethiopians with the opening of innumerable clinics, schools and the slashing of poverty rates. “There will be statues, streets and schools named after PM Meles, but perhaps his best memorial will be the future millions of Ethiopians who will have chances that they could not have had without him. Let us re-dedicate ourselves to creating opportunities for the excluded.”

Former Secretary of State at DFID, the **Rt. Hon Clare Short**, spoke of her admiration for “the most intelligent politician I’ve ever met in my life”. Despite setbacks, Meles had made monumental progress with well-founded policies such as universal education for girls, fighting corruption and impressive economic growth. Meles championed the developmental state and Ethiopia is as such a model to other countries.

LSE professor **Lord Stern of Brentford**, a former Chief Economist of the World Bank and author of the Stern Report, said Meles oversaw a transformation of economic and human development of extraordinary proportions. Meles was supremely analytical and quantitative, as well as brilliantly political and strategic and as a result effectively prevented 5 million deaths. Meles was a key player at climate change fora and co-chaired the UN Advisory Group on Climate Financing in 2010. The BRICS-led development bank was in large measure Meles’ conception and which he knew, before he died, was likely to go forward – “the decision to do so was taken last month.”

Shadow Spokesperson on foreign affairs **Lord Triesman** said PM Meles was “a man of action and a fiercely independent thinker” who advocated “durable development” where “Ethiopian dynamism” would replace aid. His “forensic intellect and ability to act effectively” came to the fore at Gleneagles in 2005. Academic and writer **Dr Jenny Hammond**, read her poem about Meles’ love and respect for peasant farmers. In 1986, Meles told Jenny “To see us [fighters] as givers in the revolution is to have a totally false picture. We received training from them in how to survive in the forest, which wild plants are edible and useful and which are not.” This bond “deepened with the years.”

Lord Boateng said “Meles would take his place among the great African leaders on the walls of the AU building for keeping alive the flame of PanAfricanism. Meles “never accepted the perceived wisdom” but prioritised higher education and agriculture, counter to World Bank contemporary advice. **Jonathan Dibleby** praised the progress that Meles had brought about despite living in such a “tough region”. His legacy would be completed by coming generations. Concluding the event, **Lord Malloch-Brown**, Former Minister of State for Africa at the FCO said the amount of academic work Meles produced was so colossal that “it was difficult to believe sometimes that he was also running a country.” He was taken from us before the revolution was complete but “Ethiopia is marching on” and he was a great foot soldier and a great African.



Dankira cultural troupe sang in honour of the late PM.

Laurence Robertson MP and former Ambassador to Ethiopia, **Myles Wickstead**, also spoke.

Ethiopia’s Ambassador to the UK thanked the speakers and announced the recently launched **Meles Foundation**, dedicated to advancing the PM’s lifelong commitment to peace, justice, economic development, good governance, and democracy and the new life that he had breathed into Africa’s aspiration for peace, democracy and development. Inspired by Meles’ vision, we, the people of Ethiopia, will work hard for the realisation of the Renaissance dam and other mega projects and, in full appreciation of his legacy, will keep Meles alive and among us.”

The full press release is available on our website.

PM Hailemariam at the Somalia Conference

UK Prime Minister David Cameron, and President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud of Somalia, co-hosted the second Somalia Conference on 7th May, attended by more than 50 partner countries and organisations across the international community. Among those present were the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, the Presidents of Djibouti, Kenya and Uganda and the Secretary General of IGAD.

Last year's London Conference had played a key role in the successful completion of the Road Map that led to the establishment of the Federal Government in Mogadishu. Ethiopian PM Hailemariam Desalegn expressed gratitude to those who organized this second gathering whose aim was to find lasting solutions for Somali and the wider region after decades of conflict.



The PM hoped this second conference would expedite the establishment of local and regional administrations and the Federal institutions' capacity to deliver basic services, so that Somalis can have confidence in their institutions. He hoped the international community would bring pressure and support to bear on the monumental task of finding lasting peace and stability, not just in Somalia, but also throughout the region as a whole. The Conference should, the PM said, offer a valuable opportunity to harmonize the international community's efforts to support the political process in Somalia and to avoid "the rather counter-productive proliferation of initiatives from different quarters however well intentioned".

Support for strengthening the Somali security apparatus should be given top priority - re-orienting the focus of the international community's support onto long-term reconstruction of the country, backing words with action on the ground.

A vibrant, functioning and peaceful Somalia means the difference between the series of debilitating crises and an economically integrated region that can contribute to global development as well as international peace and stability. We as neighbours are more than eager to close the chapter of conflict that has sapped most of our resources and imperiled our region for far too long, he said, and open a new one where economic cooperation and development come centre-stage.

The PM held bilateral meetings with a number of officials including Prime Minister David Cameron, Foreign Secretary William Hague and International Development Secretary Justine Greening. The PM and Foreign Secretary Hague discussed how the international community could support the Somalia government's priorities for rebuilding the country, with the Foreign Secretary acknowledging the important role Ethiopia has played in bringing greater stability in Somalia.



PM Hailemariam with the Rt Hon William Hague

The Conference agreed that Somalia had made significant progress and congratulated all who had made that possible, notably the Somali people, Federal Government, MPs, civil society and the diaspora. A determination to support Somalia over the long-term was also recognised and the conference looked forward to further progress ahead of a meeting of IGAD on the margins of the AU Summit in May 2013.

The meeting concluded with the UK, United States and other international donors pledging more than \$300 million to help Somalia rebuild after two decades of chaos and war. The UK will commit \$15.5m towards developing the Somali armed forces and \$22.5m to strengthen the police and train judges and lawyers.

The full communiqué and speeches are available on our website, www.ethioembassy.org.uk

PM Hailemariam, debut visit to Europe

H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn made his first official visit to Europe as Prime Minister of Ethiopia mid-April – his first outside Africa - signalling Ethiopia's commitment to excellent relations with the European Union.

The PM held bilateral talks with the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, on the political and economic relations between the EU and Ethiopia, and regional security challenges.

President Barroso noted that the EU's relationship with Ethiopia is more mature - "it's not just development assistance, it's also political cooperation, it's also what we can do together to tackle some common challenges".

Europe is the destination for over 40% of Ethiopia's exports, making the EU Ethiopia's most important trade partner.

Barroso said the EU is "ready to support the Ethiopian Government in its long-term vision leading to growth and increased investment". He congratulated Ethiopia on its progress in poverty reduction and Millennium Development Goal achievements, adding "We look forward to continuing this good cooperation throughout the 11th European Development Fund, which will apply as of next year, with an even stronger focus on health issues. It is my pleasure to announce today that the EU has already now agreed to an additional allocation of €30 million for maternal health."



He commended the PM on Ethiopia's important role on a number of regional issues and crisis situations in the Horn of Africa and beyond. As

chair of the AU, Ethiopia will represent Africa at the G20 summit and during climate negotiations.

PM Hailemariam also met the President of the EU Parliament, Martin Schultz - who praised Ethiopia's fast economic growth which had enhanced development – and the President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy, with whom he discussed bilateral ties and issues relating to the Horn region and beyond, including Somalia.



PM Desalegn with European Council President Herman Van Rompuy

Van Rompuy said, "The continued significant and broad-based economic growth in Ethiopia is very encouraging, it is well above the Sub-Saharan Africa average. Equally remarkable is the country's progress in poverty reduction and MDG achievements, and the country's recent successful efforts in reducing inflation."

Over 300 European companies are active in Ethiopia and the EU stands ready to support the Government in its long-term vision, leading to growth and increased investment. The EU fully supports Ethiopia's efforts to join the WTO. Development cooperation is also progressing well, the President said.

During his trip, the PM also held talks with MEPs, covering Ethiopia's land provision procedure for foreign investors and current developments in Somalia and other issues. Ethiopia has designed appropriate policies to address its internal problems and to ensure peace and development. Regarding land provision, the PM said there are 18m hectares of unused land in the country of which only 2.6m hectares have so far been awarded to investors. Of this, only 400,000 hectares have been handed over to foreign investors, and this does not amount to "land grabbing".

The PM called on the international community to support ongoing efforts to sustain peace and stability in Somalia. He said the Ethiopian government has offered a peace proposal that would advance peaceful neighbourliness with Eritrea.

Dr Tedros highlights Africa's growth on second official UK visit



Ethiopia's Foreign Minister, H.E. Dr Tedros Adhanom, concluded his second official UK visit on 13th May.

At his first meeting with members of the Diaspora, the Minister urged

Ethiopians in the UK to engage more in nation building. He discussed the GTP, highlighting gains made in investment, trade and infrastructure development that are paying dividends to Ethiopians at all levels.

Halfway through the 5-year GTP, he said, we are on the right track and there is the goodwill and commitment to achieve goals which include doubling agricultural production and ensuring the structural transformation as a launch-pad for even faster economic growth.

Generation of up to 8,000MW of hydropower, construction of roads and railway networks, expansion of education and health facilities, further improvement of good governance and consolidation of democratic institutions will remain the core preoccupation of both Government and people.

H.E. Berhanu Kebede, Ethiopian Ambassador to the UK and Scandinavian Countries, expressed gratitude to participants for their keen interest and engagement. Present on the occasion were Ethiopian Diaspora professionals, leaders and members of various development associations, religious and community leaders.

As Chair of the Executive Council of the African Union, Dr Tedros addressed the **Africa Jubilee**

Business Forum in London, held under the theme, **"African-British Business Partnerships at 50 and Beyond"**. Dr Tedros told participants that African continent is "slowly but surely shedding the stereotype image of famine, drought, conflict, poverty and dictatorship."



(l-r) H.E. Mr. Roy W. Blackbeard, High Commissioner of the Republic of Botswana and Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps in London; H.E. Dr. Tedros Adhanom; The Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP and Dr Mohan Kaul, Chairman of the Commonwealth Business Council.

The Forum opened in the presence of UK Deputy PM Nick Clegg MP, with a focus on new ways of capitalizing on opportunities for business in emerging African economies.

Two private sector companies from Ethiopia participated at the conference - Zemedeneh Negatu of Ernst and Young and Tewodros Ashenafi of SouthWest Energy - and alluded to the conducive environment that exists on the African continent and in Ethiopia. They made detailed interventions, showing how FDI could be more profitable in Africa, referring to the improved conditions in social, infrastructure and service growth indicators.

Dr Tedros, in a presentation at a Chatham House platform, said once the marginalised continent, Africa has now emerged, as some put it, as "the new Eldorado" - at a time when much of the developed world is suffering from the economic slump - thus rekindling a great sense of hope and optimism. Discussing the theme, **"The Future of the AU: Fifty Years of the Organization of African Unity-African Union"**, the Minister said Africa's profile on the world stage has been raised and it is now a force to be reckoned with.

The Foreign Minister also met and held talks with the UK Minister for Africa, Mr Mark Simmonds MP whom he briefed on the situation in Somalia, Sudan and the sub-region and on the outcomes of the recent IGAD summit and Ministerial meeting.



Minister Simmonds appreciated Ethiopia's contribution to the 7th May Somalia Conference and commended Ethiopia's efforts for peace and stability in the region. He reiterated gratitude for its contribution and support for the government of Somalia, alongside other IGAD member countries and for Ethiopia's development efforts and the excellent partnership and bilateral relations between the two countries.

Full coverage of the Minister's visit can be found on our website: <http://www.ethioembassy.org.uk/>

Ethiopia registers double-digit growth

PM Hailemariam Desalegn said Ethiopia's economy has grown by 10.5% on average during the first two years of the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP), despite the current challenges of the global economic crisis.

Presenting the 2012/13 (8 month) performance report to parliament, the PM said that though the growth is not as high as expected, it is immense, making Ethiopia one of the fastest growing economies in Sub-Saharan Africa.

By supplying basic commodities in abundance and controlling money supply, inflation has been reduced to 7.6%.

Agricultural produce stood at 22.9m tonnes from over 12.27m hectares of land.

Foreign export trade generated \$2 billion in the reported period, showing a 54.5% performance, compared to the \$3.7 billion projected target.

The PM attributed the decrease in export performance mainly to the decline in interest for gold and flowers in the global market and failure to supply some products in bulk.

The implementation of Ethiopia's mega projects is progressing as planned, he said, citing the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, Gibe-III and the Addis Ababa Light Railway as cases in point.

19.6% of construction of the Renaissance Dam has been completed, which should rise to 26% by the end of this budget year (June).

Gibe-III hydro power project is now 71% complete and 94% of the interim target set to construct 7,546-km rural roads has so far been completed.

With regards to education, the PM said efforts would be made to repeat the 94% girls' primary education enrolment rate success in the technical and vocational education sectors.

Remarkable achievements have also been registered in the health sector.

Ambassador visits ARKeX

Ethiopia's Ambassador to the UK and Scandanavian Countries, H.E. Berhanu Kebede, visited ARKeX, a geophysical service company for the oil & gas industries, in April to learn more about a technology that is helping change the fortunes of Ethiopia.

ARKeX has been working closely with Ethiopia in gas and oil exploration, performing airborne Full Tensor Gravity Gradiometry (FTG) surveys. FTG is a geophysical surveying technology utilised by ARKeX that is helping oil & gas exploration companies accelerate their search for oil in the vast unexplored regions of Ethiopia and other areas in East Africa.

Meeting with ARKeX CEO, Mr John Siegfried, the Ambassador said Ethiopia is open for business and keen to develop relations with British companies. "Ethiopia is a country with enormous untapped resources and we are keen to foster new trade and

investment opportunities. The emerging petroleum industry is of great importance to us and it is good to meet companies like ARKeX who are assisting Ethiopia along this path...We are on the verge of discovering new oil, so the acquaintance of this company with Ethiopia will help us make important progress," he said.



H.E. Ambassador Berhanu Kebede and Mr. John Siegfried,
CEO ARKeX

Mr Siegfried said, "In Ethiopia there are immense areas with little or no exploration data. Our technology allows for rapid and cost effective surveying of these regions, which can help determine what parts will be most prospective and therefore profitable to oil and gas exploration companies, and in turn, the Ethiopian people. We are enormously honoured to host His Excellency Ambassador Berhanu Kebede in our Cambridge offices and we look forward to again working in his beautiful country."

UK to assist Ethiopia in tax collection

The UK government has announced that it will work with the Ethiopian and Tanzanian governments in capacity building projects, assisting them to put in place more effective tax administration.

Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury David Gauke MP made the announcement at the St Martin's Tax debate '*Tax, law and morality, which way now?*' on 7th May, where he said "This government is committed to building capacity within the governments of developing countries so that they can make changes that will have long-term benefits. One crucial part of this is providing expertise in tax collection."

The new tax capacity building programme, the Developing Countries Capacity Building Unit, which is funded by DFID and run by HMRC, will work together with the Ethiopian Revenue and Customs Authority (ERCA) to tailor HMRC best practice to the infrastructure and resources available to help these countries to strengthen their tax administrations and bring in the tax that they are due.

The first phase of HMRC's partnership with ERCA dates back to 2010 and there has been an annual 40% increase in revenue collection in Ethiopia.

HMRC tax professionals will work with their Ethiopia counterparts to look at a range of areas in the administration of their tax in a 'health check' of their system – including how the revenue authority is structured, how much tax is collected and what legislation is in place. The findings of the 'health check' will be used to establish where the programmes should focus.

Prime Minister David Cameron has identified tax, including capacity-building in developing countries, as a key priority ahead of the G8 summit, which the UK will chair.

TRADE AND INVESTMENT

Ethio-UK economic ties growing

Speaking at an event organised in connection with the 86th birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth II in Addis Ababa, British Ambassador to Ethiopia, H.E. Mr Greg Dorey, said economic ties between Ethiopia and the UK are on the rise, with increased participation from British investors in Ethiopia.

In 2012, the UK imported £86m worth of products from Ethiopia, three-fold of the value five years before. Ethiopia's imports from the UK reached £103m.

Diageo PLC, a British company, recently acquired Meta Brewery at a cost of \$225m, London-based alternative asset manager Duet Group and Vasari have also invested up to \$90m in Dashen Brewery.



Pittards Plc, a UK leather company, has expanded its activities through supplying finished products.

Other British companies are also engaged in petroleum and gas exploration, mining and the leather sector in Ethiopia and more companies are preparing to invest.

Britain is supporting Ethiopia's overall development endeavours where commendable results are being registered. The Ambassador lauded Ethiopia's role in East Africa and across the continent and said that the country's efforts to maintain sustainable peace in Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan are exemplary.

East Africa's first denim plant in Ethiopia

A denim manufacturing plant is being set up in Ethiopia, the first of its kind in East Africa, creating jobs for 350 Ethiopians.

Kanoria African Textiles Plc, a subsidiary of India's Kanoria Chemicals & Industries, once completed in January in Bishoftu town in Oromiya, will produce 12m metres of denim a year. Construction of the plant will start by the end of May after the environmental assessment has been finalised.

Ethiopia to establish trade enterprise, institutes to aid industrial development

PM Hailemariam Desalegn has announced Government plans to establish a trade enterprise responsible for undertaking market intelligence and other related tasks, including identifying better market opportunities for Ethiopia's exports and alternative foreign markets selling import commodities at competitive prices without compromising quality.

This will help keep imported inflation under control and minimise foreign currency expenditure. The establishment of the enterprise will also help to carry out the country's trade in a more coordinated and organized manner.

In related news, the government is also proposing to establish two more institutes during the next fiscal year to strengthen and regulate various industries as part of government efforts to transform the manufacturing sector.

The Food, Beverage & Pharmaceuticals Industry Development Institute, which will be merged with the Meat and Dairy Technology Development Institute, currently under the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Chemicals & Construction Materials Development Institute are expected to become operational this coming year once the Council of Ministers has approved them.

The Leather and Leather Products Technology Institute (LLPTI), the Textile Industry Development Institute (TIDI), and the Ethiopian Metal Industries Development Institute (EMIDI), have already been established to help development and competitiveness in these sectors.

TOURISM

Lucy home after 5-year tour of the U.S.

The 3.2m year old hominid Lucy or '*Dinknesh*', returned to Ethiopia on 1st May following a 5-year tour of the US, was welcomed by the State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dawano Kedir, General-Director at the Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritage, Yonas Desta, and Professor Donald Johnson who discovered Lucy in Afar in 1974.

During the past five years, under an agreement between the Ministry and the Houston Museum of Natural Science, Lucy was exhibited along with 148 other historical Ethiopian artefacts in a number of US cities. More than 350,000 visitors went to see the "*Lucy: Ethiopia's hidden heritage*" exhibition, which earned \$1.5 million.

Lucy's exhibit will open to visitors in the coming weeks. A special visit will be arranged for African leaders to coincide with the celebrations of the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the OAU/AU.

SPORTS

Kebede wins London Marathon

On 21st April, Tsegay Kebede won his second London Marathon title in a time of 2:06:04, beating the pre-race favourite and Olympic champions. Ethiopia's Ayele Abshiro finished third in 2:06:57

and Kenya's Emmanuel Mutaia finished second in 2:06:33.

In the women's category, Olympic champion Tiki Gelana finished 16th due to an injury she sustained when she collided with a wheelchair racer just after 15km. She braved the injury and stayed with the leaders past the half-way mark, but soon began to drift back before being reduced to a jog in the latter stages. Priscah Jeptoo of Kenya won in 2:20:15, followed by fellow Kenyan Edna Kiplagat (2:21:32) and Yukiko Akaba of Japan (2:24:43).

Gebrselassie in Vienna hat-trick



Long distance legend, Haile Gebrselassie, won his third consecutive Vienna half marathon in 1:01:14. The 40-year old Olympic champion, took the lead half way through the race – his first this year – to beat Kenya's Hosea Kipkemboi (1:02:01) and compatriot Mekuant Ayenew (1:02:21). After finishing, Gebrselassie said, "I enjoyed the amazing atmosphere...I think I can still run faster than today."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ethiopian first to resume Dreamliner flights

On 27th April, Ethiopian Airlines became the first airline in the world to resume Dreamliner flights, since all fifty 787s around the world were grounded due to battery malfunctions.



The flight from Addis Ababa to Nairobi came after regulators approved a new battery design.

TESCO to export Ethiopia's footwear

The UK's TESCO PLC is preparing to export footwear from four Ethiopian leather factories, according to the Ethiopian Leather Industry Development Institute (LIDI).

Tikur Abay, Peacock, Anbessa and Ramsey are the four footwear factories that the retailer is negotiating with, said LIDI Corporate Communication Director, Berhanu Serjebo.

TESCO's efforts to import Ethiopia's footwear will help attain the target set for earnings from the sector in the Growth and Transformation Plan. Ethiopia envisages earning \$500m from the leather sector a year by the end of the five-year GTP.

Ethiopia in new power deal

Ethiopia has signed a \$1bn contract to build two transmission lines, with a combined capacity of nearly 1,000kilovolts, linking the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) to the central power grid. The three-year project, to be funded by the Export-Import Bank of China, is "another milestone in (realising) Ethiopia's development objective". With the capacity to produce 6,000MW, the GERD will be Africa's largest dam.

With its capacity to produce up to 45,000MW of hydro power, (the second highest potential in Africa), Ethiopia plans to export more power to neighbouring countries. Several dams are under construction, but wind, geothermal and solar projects are also underway.

More Ethiopians enrol for adult education

Recent reports show that adult education in Ethiopia is on the rise in many parts of Ethiopia under initiatives of the Ministry of Education.

The ministry's adult education programme enlightens adults in the countryside not only with reading and writing skills but also with life skills, including healthy habits and productive agricultural practices.



Garage Zone in the Ethiopian Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR), is offering adult education to around 84,000 adults in rural areas. The same is happening in West Gojjam Zone, where 11,000 adults are attending programmes.

The majority following the education in Garage Zone are women whose involvement is very effective in changing a range of social aspects in society.

Child mortality rate falls 40%

The child mortality rate in Ethiopia has been reduced by 40% over the last two decades according to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The 14th **Mothers International Conference** said progress in Ethiopia has been impressive in preventing child deaths from preventable disease. UNICEF highlighted a national immunization programme against measles and the distribution of millions of insecticide-treated bed-nets in malaria-prone areas since 2005, enough to protect over 10 million families.

Ethiopia has laid solid foundations to sustain and accelerate the decline in child mortality, said the report.

ETHIOPIA IN THE NEWS

Five-year plan dispels nation's negative image

Once riven by famine, Ethiopia is making giant strides, reports Elissa Jobson in *The Times*.

"Ethiopia is on the up. Annual GDP growth rates of more than 10% between 2004 and 2011, a 30% decrease in those living below the poverty line since 2004/5, and a 40% reduction in child mortality during the past five years, underline the advances that the nation has made," reports Ms Jobson.

The government is determined to transcend the negative stereotype that Ethiopia has with an ambitious plan to become a middle-income country by 2023, achieving food security by 2015. Its five-year Growth and Transformation Plan envisages sustained, rapid and broad-based economic growth and attainment of the UN Millennium Development Goals.

The full article can be found on *The Times* website: http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/public/developingafrika/article3753194.ece?CMP=OTH-gnws-standard-2013_04_30

Africa's economic boom: countries to watch

Matthew Hawkins reporting for *The Christian Science Monitor*, says Ethiopia is among five African economies growing at a brisk pace.

T. Rowe Price's *Global Connections* identifies five most-promising countries in Sub-Saharan Africa – "Ethiopia represents a huge market that can drive economic growth and integration in the Horn of Africa region. Ethiopia's economic growth has been fuelled by hydroelectric power, which enables it to export electricity to neighbouring countries. Price says that Ethiopia has also benefited from large-scale government investment in agriculture, industrialization, and infrastructure."

Full article on: <http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Africa/Africa-Monitor/2013/0412/Africa-s-economic-boom-Five-countries-to-watch>

Ethiopia's improved business environment benefitting entrepreneurs

Ethiopia has experienced impressive economic growth in the past few years and, according to the IMF, is estimated to become one of the top 10 fastest growing economies in the world over the next five years, writes Kate Douglas in an article published in **How We Made It In Africa**.

According to a recent report, *Accelerating Entrepreneurship in Africa*, Ethiopia has seen regulatory and institutional reforms such as improved business registration requirements, which have helped strengthen investor confidence in the market.

"Results from Ethiopia reflect a positive outlook for conducting business as the country continues to embark on a cautious programme of economic

reform, including the privatisation of state enterprises and rationalisation of government regulation,” stated the research.

The results showed that Ethiopia outperforms other sub-Saharan countries in areas such as legislation, administrative burdens and legitimacy of entrepreneurship.

The full article can be found on the following link: <http://www.howwemadeitinafrica.com/how-ethiopias-improved-business-environment-is-benefitting-entrepreneurs/26024/>

SouthWest in east Africa oil boom: FT

Ethiopia's SouthWest Energy was featured in the Financial Times on 7th April. The company is set to profit from east Africa's oil and gas exploration boom after securing encouraging estimates for the amount of oil contained in its licences across the country.

Full story on the following link: http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/ecf9f45c-9f8f-11e2-968b-00144feabdc0.html?ftcamp=published_links%2Frss%2Fcompanies_oil-gas%2Ffeed%2F%2Fproduct#axzz2PrcFb1q6

Ethiopia in Bamboo Revolution; reversing deforestation

Ed McKenna reports that Ethiopia is poised to become a frontier for the bamboo industrial revolution in Africa, with a combination of an abundance of bamboo and eager foreign investment.

With its one million hectares of commercially untapped bamboo – the largest in East Africa - Ethiopia had no formal bamboo economy until 2012. The country plans to increase its bamboo cover to two million hectares in the next five years, making it an attractive forestry investment destination. The government is encouraging farmers and enterprises to develop the sector for economic and environmental benefits.

Flooring and outdoor decking are currently one of the fastest-growing markets in Europe for the wood industry. Africa Bamboo Plc, a public-private partnership set up with Ethiopian partners and supported by German Development Cooperation in 2012, plans to invest €10 million over the next five years in their Ethiopia-based manufacturing operation, supplying to European and United

States markets. The company plans to export 100,000 sq metres of bamboo flooring products by 2014. By 2016 this figure is expected to rise to 500,000 sq metres.

Full story via the *Guardian* website: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2013/apr/10/ethiopia-bamboo>

Also in the *Guardian*, Mark Tran reports on Ethiopia's use of forest communities to **reverse deforestation**. Growth in forest cover and increasing incomes for the communities involved has been recorded on pilot schemes: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2013/apr/15/ethiopia-forest-communities-reverse-deforestation>

Africa's Rift Valley from above



© Photograph: Michael Poliza - The Simien Mountains, Ethiopia - A World Heritage Site and national park, with the tallest peak Ras Dashen reaching 4,619 metres, this region is best known as the habitat of Gelada baboons and Ethiopian wolves.

German photographer Michael Poliza took to the skies by helicopter to capture the extraordinary landscapes of the Rift Valley in Kenya and Ethiopia from the air. These images appear in his books **Kenya** and **Eyes Over Africa**.

The amazing photos can be found on the *Guardian's* website: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/travel/interactive/2013/apr/19/africa-rift-valley-ethiopia-kenya-gallery>

Also read the *Guardian's* guide by Henry Wismayer to Rift Valley holidays, from Jordan to East Africa: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/travel/2013/apr/19/great-rift-valley-africa-adventure-holidays>

- **Brave Africa's lowest point: Danakil Depression, Ethiopia**
- **Trek over the 'roof of Africa': Simien Mountains, Ethiopia**



Ethiopian wolf adventure



The Independent on 13th April featured a trekking holiday in Ethiopia's Bale Mountains where thrill-seekers get to see "one of Africa's rarest species."

The Ethiopian wolf is the world's rarest canid, and Africa's most endangered carnivore. According to Chris Goodman of Oxford

University-supported Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme (EWCP), there are probably 420 to 430 wolves in all Ethiopia, with the highest concentration being in the Bale Mountains.

You can read Nick Redmayne's article on the following link: <http://www.independent.co.uk/travel/africa/cry-wolf-on-an-ethiopian-adventure-8569398.html#>

Geographic technology helps put Ethiopia on map of global health success

DKT Ethiopia has transformed its system for tracking contraceptive sales in just six years, helping create a family planning and HIV prevention success story in the Horn of Africa.

According to a *Huffington Post* article, DKT Ethiopia now uses GIS (Geographic Information System), a tool to display and analyze sales, finance and inventory information geographically - an improvement from using pins and pencils - giving DKT the ability to know how its contraceptive sales are going in every corner of Ethiopia.

"Over the last decade, Ethiopia has become a success story in both family planning and HIV prevention: it has more than quadrupled its Contraceptive Prevalence Rate for modern methods from 6.3% in 2000 to 27.3% in 2011. And, according to UNAIDS, Ethiopia decreased its HIV prevalence by 90% from 2001 to 2011, the greatest decrease of any country in Africa and second in the entire world (Nepal decreased its rate by 91%)."

DKT Ethiopia is an affiliate of DKT International, a non-profit organization that seeks to provide couples with affordable and safe options for family planning and HIV prevention in 19 low- and middle-income countries.

The full article can be accessed on the following link: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-j-olson/ethiopia-family-planning_b_3139666.html

Ethiopia, the new sourcing destination

According to an article published in the *Stitch Times* magazine, Ethiopia is another rising star for sourcing garments and is fast developing its textile and garment industry, offering competitive prices in the international market and attracting larger and new buyers.

Hennes & Mauritz (H&M) became the latest high street giant to begin purchasing textiles and garments from Ethiopia in November and is now sourcing knitwear from the MAA Garment & Textile Factory, based in Mekele, northern Ethiopia. UK retailers Tesco, George and Primark also began sourcing from Ethiopia earlier this year.

According to Fasil Tadesse, President of the Ethiopian Textile and Garment Manufacturers Association (ETGMA), the UK now accounts for 10% of Ethiopia's textile and garment exports, with other countries in Europe taking 50% and the US taking 40%.

The Ethiopian government has set ambitious goals for the industry to expand them more rapidly. In 2007 it set a target for the industry of increasing its annual earnings to \$1bn by 2016. It also hopes to attract foreign direct investment worth US\$1.6bn to build 191 new textile and clothing plants during that time.

The full article can be accessed on the following link: <http://www.fibre2fashion.com/industry-article/47/4685/ethiopia-is-the-new-sourcing-destination1.asp>



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