



Ethiopian News

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PM Hailemariam to take over as AU chief

Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn will take over as chairman of the African Union from President Yayi Boni of Benin, the Foreign Ministry announced on 16th January – coinciding with the beginning of the celebrations of the 50th golden jubilee of the African Union (formerly Organisation of the African Unity).

The chairmanship rotates between Africa's five regions and PM Hailemariam will be officially voted in by member states at the opening of the African Union heads of state summit, which runs from 27th – 28th January.

Assuming the leadership of the AU for one year will allow Ethiopia to work actively in strengthening the organization, which advocates for peace and stability in the region.

Celebrations of the golden jubilee are set to continue until 25th May. The OAU was founded on 23rd May 1963.

New Foreign Minister's first official UK trip

H.E. Dr. Tedros Adhanom, on his first working visit to the UK in his new post as the new Foreign Minister of Ethiopia, met with UK officials on 10th January for discussions on both bilateral and regional issues.

The Minister met with Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the Rt. Hon William Hague, the

Secretary of State for International Development (DFID), the Rt. Hon. Justine Greening and UK Africa Minister, the Rt. Hon. Mark Simmonds and other FCO officials.



H.E. Dr. Tedros Adhanom with Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Rt. Hon. William Hague and below with Rt. Hon. Justine Greening



Both sides expressed their satisfaction at the expanding partnership between the two countries. Minister Tedros expressed his appreciation of the quality of the UK support for Ethiopia's capacity

building programme, which attaches key attention to the priority areas set by Ethiopia so that the country fully retains ownership.

On its part, the UK expressed its appreciation at the effective way that Ethiopia uses development finance and the productiveness of its various development programmes.

The two parties also discussed the peace and security of the sub-region, the situation in Somalia, Eritrea and the peace process in Sudan and South Sudan.

The Foreign Minister later met representatives of the business community and led a round-table discussion with over 30 UK companies who already invest in Ethiopia or are keen to do so.



The Minister gave a detailed briefing on the policy framework, the regulatory framework and expanding businesses and investment in Ethiopia. He addressed questions raised and gave comments on a wide range of issues.

The minister assured the participants of the commitment of his office to engaging them in the coming months and years with a view to making Ethiopia a trade and investment-friendly destination.

Please visit our website for a detailed release.

Minister Tedros urges Ethiopians to stand united to promote national interest



Minister for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Dr. Tedros Adhanom on 12th January called on the Ethiopian Diaspora to stand in unison to promote national interest irrespective of their political persuasion. He underlined the need for resilience and a sense of unity in safeguarding and promoting Ethiopia's national interest to bequeath a prosperous and viable Ethiopia to posterity.

Addressing the gathering, he said Ethiopia is on the right track to achieve the five-year Growth and Transformation Plan with a great sense of commitment and public ownership. He urged the Diaspora to intensify engagement in the implementation of mega projects including the Grand Renaissance Dam, railway networks and sugar factories which are now gaining momentum.

The Ethiopian Government is also focused on delivering on its promises on good governance, building of democratic institutions and expansion of education and health facilities as well as infrastructure development, crucial for the emerging economy to thrive, he said.

Following remarks by the Minister, members of the various development and professional associations, community and religious leaders expressed satisfaction over the performance of the Government in the pursuit of its development objectives and pledged more support to see all the schemes through, actively involving in trade, investment and tourism as well as knowledge and technology transfer.



In an open discussion that followed, a number of questions pertaining to housing, Eritrea, peace and security in the sub-region, food security, human trafficking, and investment privileges given to members of the Ethiopian Diaspora community, were raised to which the Minister gave explanations and elaborate replies.

Answering a query on Eritrea, the Minister reiterated Ethiopia's unwavering stance for peace and noted that the Eritrean regime has remained adamant and still continues to sponsor rebel groups and terrorists.

In introductory remarks, H.E. Berhanu Kebede, Ambassador to the UK and the Scandinavian countries, called on compatriots to remain engaged in all sectors of endeavour so that Ethiopia's bid for prosperity could come true, changing for the better, the living conditions of Ethiopians in all walks of life.



The Minister was presented with a bouquet of flowers from women members of the Ethiopian Somali Diaspora and received a tumultuous welcome at the meeting convened at the Ethiopian Embassy

The full article can be found on our website, www.ethioembassy.org.uk

World Bank praises Ethiopia's inflation battle; launches country partnership strategy

According to a new report by the World Bank, the Ethiopian economy has been growing at twice the rate of the rest of Africa, averaging, 10.6% GDP growth a year between 2004 and 2011 compared to 5.2% in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The Ethiopia Economic Update launched on 13th December attributes this impressive economic growth mainly to agricultural modernization, the development of new export sectors, strong global commodity demand, and government-led development investments.

"Two and a half million people in Ethiopia have been lifted out of poverty over the past five years as a result of strong economic growth, bringing the poverty rate down from 38.7 percent to 29.6 percent between 2004/05 and 2010/11", says Guang Zhe Chen, World Bank Country Director for Ethiopia. "The Government target to reduce poverty to 22.2 percent by 2014/15 is ambitious but attainable."

The Government of Ethiopia has also made progress in tackling the persistently high inflation, which affected the economy over the past two years, by tightening its fiscal and monetary stance. As a result, inflation is on a decreasing trend, falling from 33 percent in 2011 to 15.8 percent in October 2012 (year on year). This is good news for the poor and for the overall economy.

The Report illustrates comparisons of Ethiopia's development experience with those of China and Korea. These suggest Ethiopia is well on track for its development.

The full report can be accessed on the World Bank website:

<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/2012/11/17073947/ethiopia-economic-update-overcoming-inflation-raising-competitiveness>

In related news, the World Bank launched its new country partnership strategy for Ethiopia on 19th December covering the period 2013 to 2016.

The new strategy plans to offer \$4 billion to enhance competitiveness and employment generation and help Ethiopia address on-going

challenges and assist in the implementation of its development efforts. The money will be used to build on the progress achieved by Ethiopia over the past five years.

Ethiopia's Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Sufian Ahmed, who welcomed the new strategy and the World Bank's effort to support Ethiopia, said "the World Bank has been at the forefront in support of Ethiopia's revival and transformation". He said the strategy would be crucial to maintaining the country's 11% economic growth rate and to achieving the Millennium Development Goals set in the five year plan.

The World Bank's Country Director, Guang Chen, said the World Bank's four-year plan "is a result-based strategy anchored in the Ethiopia's Growth and Transformation Plan", which envisions Ethiopia extricating itself "from poverty to reach the level of a middle-income economy."

He said that the strategy, "coinciding with the World Development Report 2013 on jobs, puts particular emphasis on supporting Ethiopia's agenda in enhancing competitiveness and employment generation as one of the key pillars of the Country Partnership Strategy".

Ethiopia hosts international conference on child survival

From 16th to 18th January, Ethiopia hosted the international conference on child survival, under the theme ***African Leadership for Child Survival: A Promise Renewed***.



Participants of the conference held at African Union. ©UNICEF/Ethiopia 2013/Jiro Ose

The conference drew over 50 African health ministers as well as global experts on the issue, to ensure child survival is at the forefront of the social development agendas across the continent and to

refocus African leaders' attention on their country's efforts to sustain the gains made over the last two decades.

This conference follows last year's 'Child Survival Call to Action' in Washington, D.C. in June 2012, which was co-convened by the Governments of Ethiopia, India, and the United States and UNICEF, under the theme ***Committing to Child Survival: A Promise Renewed*** where more than 160 governments signed a pledge to eliminate all preventable child mortality in two decades.

The Ethiopian Government, in partnership with USAID, recommended that a uniform health evaluation process should be introduced in all of Africa to help reduce child deaths. The scorecard, which consists of three components, will publicly collect and report health data. At the end of the conference delegates adopted the health scorecard.



H.E. Dr. Kesetebirhan Admasu, Minister of Health of Ethiopia, speaking at the conference and below Dr. Tigest Kessela Mengestu of WHO praises the implementation of the health sector score card by Ethiopia. ©UNICEF/Ethiopia 2013/Jiro Ose



According to Ethiopia's Minister of Health, Kesetebirhan Admasu, the scorecard has been introduced at all governing levels in Ethiopia with remarkable results. It gives the government the opportunity to target parts of the country in need of health services. The minister believes that the scorecard can be adopted in all African countries.

Since 1990, the number of child deaths in sub-Saharan Africa has dropped by 39%. Many African countries are within reach of the 2015 millennium development goal to reduce the under-five mortality rate by two thirds. Yet even with the availability of proven, inexpensive, high-impact interventions for maternal, newborn, and child health, their adoption is slow and high rates of childhood illness and death persist in a number of countries. In sub-Saharan Africa 1 in 8 children die before they reach their fifth birthday.

Under the leadership of former Minister of Health Dr. Tedros Adhanom, Ethiopia more than halved its child mortality rates since 1990 through campaigns to increase the number of health workers and clinics. According to a study presented at the conference conducted between 2000 and 2011, Ethiopia is placed fourth among ten African countries in reducing under-5 mortality rates currently reduced to 88 per 10,000 live births from the 217 a few years ago.

Speaking at the conference, Health Minister Dr. Kesetebirhan Admassu said the huge investment in building a strong, well-functioning and accessible health delivery system enabled Ethiopia to minimise mortality rates. Access to basic health services was achieved through increasing the number of health facilities and health professionals. The Minister stressed the need to increase the current pace to achieve the more challenging goal of reducing child mortality below 20 per 1,000 live births by 2035.

Improvements in the child mortality rate among under-fives in Africa have been welcomed by UNICEF's Executive Director, Anthony Lake.

Hanna Godefa appointed UNICEF goodwill ambassador

Ethiopian-born Hanna Godefa, acclaimed for her enthusiastic efforts in fundraising for charities and

projects like the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, has been appointed goodwill Ambassador on Human Rights by UNICEF Ethiopia.

15 year-old Hannah, a young humanitarian and advocate for children, has been chosen for the Ambassadorship because she demonstrated commitment and dedication to promoting the rights of children and fearlessly talked about children's issues.



Speaking of her new title as a UNICEF Ambassador Hannah said, "It has always been my dream to help children who do not have the opportunities to reach their highest potential. The most important message I want to give to Ethiopian children is the value of education. Children are imaginative, intelligent and valuable and they truly can change the world if given the opportunities to learn." She added, "Working with UNICEF as an Ambassador will allow me to contribute to defending the rights of children, including the right to education, health, nutrition, water, sanitation, equality, protection and participation and ensure compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child because that's what UNICEF is all about."

She is the founder of "Pencil Mountain," a resource mobilisation project on basic school supplies to support children in the remote areas of Ethiopia. In the last seven years, Hannah's project has delivered 25,000 pencils to school children in Ethiopia followed by another batch of 400,000 with other basic school supplies. The Ministry of Education distributed the items all over the country with sponsorship by Ethiopian Airlines cargo. On her current trip to Ethiopia, she brought

along 600 books for Debreworkos University and wheelchairs for handicapped children.

Hannah currently resides in Canada with her family and is known for her moving speeches at events organised for the sale of Grand Renaissance Dam bonds.

UNICEF has 30 international, 11 continental and 200 national goodwill ambassadors.

Dr. Benyam elected on the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

Dr. Benyam Dawit Mezmur, an Ethiopian Professor of Law, was elected as a member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on 18th December at a meeting of the State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Dr. Benyam received the fifth largest vote and was the only African candidate elected from among the six who vied for the same position.

Dr. Benyam, 32, is currently an Assistant Professor at Addis Ababa University, Faculty of Law and is also the Chairperson of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child of the African Union.

In the last two decades, Ethiopia has made substantial progress in the promotion of child rights, including an astronomic increase in primary education enrolment, a significant reduction in child mortality and malnutrition, and encouraging results in promoting the equal rights of girls. The election of Ethiopia's candidate, Dr. Benyam, demonstrated the confidence of the State parties to the Convention in Ethiopia and its candidate.

Ethiopia introduces medical hotline

Ethiopia's first general medical hotline, **"HelloDoctor"**, was launched last month by a young doctor who started the service to improve access to healthcare across the country.

Dr. Yohans Wodaje said the hotline service aims at reaching and reinforcing health coverage in Ethiopia, especially in those parts where there are little or no quality basic healthcare services.

The languages used in the service are Amharic and English on a 24-hour basis, with plans in the near future to include three other regional languages - Tigrigna, Oromiffa and Somali.

"There are currently 18 million mobile phone subscribers in Ethiopia, and the growth of subscribers is increasing at a tremendous rate," Yohans said, adding that it has created an ideal solution by linking mobile usage to medical services to reinforce health coverage in Ethiopia, so that all Ethiopians can have access to medical assistance.

Ethiopia and UK sign a 14.9bn Birr agreement

On 8th January, Ethiopia and the UK signed a 14.9 billion Birr grant agreement, which will help Ethiopia intensify its fight against poverty, implement the Growth and Transformation Plan and utilise its resources efficiently.

The grant, signed by the Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Sofian Ahmed and Melanie Robinson, Director of the Department for International Development in Ethiopia, will be used to construct roads, support educational projects, potable water supplies, health support and other development throughout Ethiopia.

Ms. Robinson stressed that the UK will continue its support to Ethiopia.

UK company to construct Ethiopia's first waste to energy plant

The Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation and British company, Cambridge Industries Energy, have signed a \$120m agreement to construct a 50MW waste-to-energy plant in Addis Ababa.

The first of its kind in Sub-Saharan Africa, it is to be fully financed by the Ethiopian government and is expected to provide clean green power to the national grid and help manage solid waste generated in the city.

The contract was signed on 5th January in the presence of Mr. Greg Dorey, UK Ambassador to Ethiopia, Alemayehu Tegenu, Minister of Water & Energy, Debrezion Gebremicheal, Minister of

Communication & Information Technology and Newai Gebreab, Chief Economic Advisor to the PM.

Ambassador Dorey said "this project symbolises so much of the ethos of the Ethiopian government towards a green economy."

Mihret Debebe, CEO of EEPCo said that this project will diversify Ethiopia's power generation. EPPCo, which generates 2,000MW of power to date, is planning to increase its generation to 10,000Mw by 2014/15, of which 6.4% is to be generated from non-renewable energy.

Cambridge Industries is also conducting detailed feasibility studies throughout Ethiopia to recommend future projects in various cities including Dire Dawa, Adama, Mekelle, Gonder, Bahar Dar, Hawassa, and Jimma.

Cambridge Industries Energy is a holistic waste management and green power generation company, delivering leading technologies to address waste and energy deficiencies in Africa. They produce clean/green energy while at the same time reducing the amount of waste going to landfills and solving waste-related problems.

AfDB to launch \$124m green economy

This year, the African Development Bank (AfDB) will launch the first phase of a 'green economy' drought resilience project to provide long-lasting subsistence in drought-prone areas in Kenya, Djibouti and Ethiopia - in the Afar and Somali regions.

The funds will help restore subsistence farming through investment in natural resource and land management, help restore and protect the ecosystem and help rebuild agriculture and livestock infrastructure, contributing to improvement of storage, marketing and transport facilities including the upgrading of rural roads. The project will be managed by the African Development Fund, the concessionary arm of the AfDB.

Textile market growing

A growing number of major retailers are sourcing textiles and clothing from Ethiopia, as the country's industry undergoes a major expansion programme.

They include major UK retailers like H&M, Tesco, George and Primark.

Fassil Tadesse, President of the Ethiopian Textile and Garment Manufacturers Association, says 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%.

In the last financial year, Ethiopia's textile and clothing exports grew by 28% to \$84.6 million. The government has set ambitious goals for the industry, aiming to increase earnings to \$1bn by 2016. It also hopes to attract foreign direct investment worth \$1.6bn to build nearly two hundred new textile and clothing plants in the same period. Ato Fassil says these goals are "on track," with a growing number of manufacturers from overseas, particularly Turkey, India and China, investing along with an increasing number of local companies.

A key element of the expansion will be increasing the volume of cotton produced. There are an estimated 3m hectares available for cotton farming of which 30-40,000 hectares are currently used.

The full article on Ethiopia's textile industry by Jonathan Dyson can be found on the just-style website:

http://www.just-style.com/analysis/ethiopia-pushes-on-with-textile-and-clothing-expansion-plan_id116368.aspx

President Girma presents Ethiopian Airlines with Pioneering African Renaissance award

H.E. Girma W/Giorgis, President of Ethiopia, presented Ethiopian Airlines with pioneer of the bright future of the African Renaissance award.

In a ceremony organised to celebrate the 89th birthday of the President on 8th January, Ethiopian Airlines CEO, Tewolde Gebremariam, received the award. He also won the Africa CEO of the Year award at the Africa CEO Forum in November last year.

The award was given in recognition of the airline's continued growth and performance and for putting Ethiopia and the continent on the map by being the first airline outside Japan to own and operate the Dreamliner.

Ethiopian is currently implementing its 15-year strategic growth plan to become one of the leading Aviation Groups in Africa. Ethiopian is continuing to work as an ambassador for Ethiopia, attracting tourists to the country and to the continent, and is the only Africa air cargo operator supporting the growing export of Ethiopia and the rest of the continent.



A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 

Ethiopian Airlines, the fastest growing airline in Africa, made its maiden international flight to Cairo in 1946 and now the Airline provides dependable services to 70 international destinations spanning four continents.

Ethiopia in ABTA's 2013 trends report

On 27th December, ABTA – the Travel Association - released its **Travel Trends Report 2013**, developed in association with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, predicting that consumers will continue to look for good value in breaks in 2013 rather than cut back on their holidays. “While the mid-market is expected to continue to feel the squeeze, tailor-made packages, luxury holidays and all-inclusive breaks, are expected to be popular.”

In the report ABTA identified its “destinations to watch” in 2013, which includes a mixture of long, mid and short haul destinations including Ethiopia, Ecuador, New Zealand, and Tunisia. The report says that Ethiopia is emerging as a new destination for adventure tourists and cultural travellers. Visitors can expect to experience “spectacular scenery, welcoming people and a history going back thousands of years.”

Ethiopia is a land of extremes and contrasts containing the lush moors and mountains of the highlands, the jagged Simien Mountains - a

UNESCO World Heritage Site - the awesome Great Rift Valley, giant waterfalls and savannah teeming with wildlife.

Ethiopia’s cultural history dates back 3,000 years and the Ethiopian Orthodox Church is one of the most ancient of all Christian sects and its churches at Lalibela hewn out of solid rock are unmissable.

Food lovers are in for a treat as Ethiopian cuisine is one of the world's best kept secrets. Ethiopian food is an exotic spicy mix of vegetables, slow-simmered meat or grain stews, and fresh meat sautés.

American journalist on a 7-year walk from Ethiopia to Chile

Paul Salopek, journalist, writer and a two-time Pulitzer Prize winner, is undertaking an ambitious expedition to retrace on foot the path our ancient ancestors travelled as they migrated across the world.



Equipped only with what he can carry in his backpack, Paul's goal is to cover the major global stories of our time by walking alongside the people who live them on a daily basis: “cattle nomads, artists, traders, villagers, farmers, and scientists”. Producing a global mosaic of stories, faces, sounds and landscapes that highlight the pathways that connect us to each other.

The 50-year-old journalist left a small Ethiopian village on foot on 10th January to embark on a 21,000 mile journey, across 30 borders and will retrace the steps of humans’ migration from Africa

until he gets to Tierra del Fuego, at the southern tip of Chile.



Herto Bouri, a village in Ethiopia's Middle Awash valley, has the longest and most continuous record of human evolution of any place on Earth.

From Ethiopia's Rift Valley he will walk with Afar nomads to the Red Sea and cross over into Arabia, where he will follow the western coast north to the Middle East.

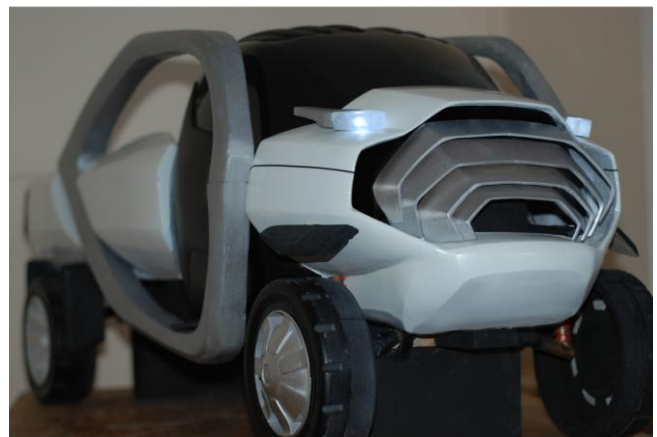
National Geographic, a major supporter of Paul's walk, will publish his dispatches, video and audio from the journey in a project titled *"Out of Eden"*.

Student showcases concept pick-up

Dawit Mallede, an Ethiopian Automotive Design student, showcased his design for a pick-up truck for the Ethiopian economy at Coventry University's Degree Show at the Transport Museum on 3rd December. The project was set up and sponsored by the Metal and Engineering Corporation of Ethiopia.

The idea of the design came about through the current processes taking place regarding automotive development in Ethiopia. Corporate Director of METEC, General Kinfe Dagnaw, and Dawit set a brief of designing a vehicle that could be hired for the transportation of all goods.

Agriculture is a major aspect of the Ethiopian economy and the country relies a lot on road transport. This rugged monster concept can carry out straightforward procedures that old trucks struggle with because of the terrain.



The *Taqalay Concept* is a high-riding intelligent machine that protects occupants and goods with its strengthened steel horns which can be used to lift goods in. Like African women carrying goods on their heads, it centralizes the weight force of extra cargo to the middle of the wheel-base. This means it will carry 50% more than other pick-ups with the same dimension with no need to extend its length. Ultimately, the Taqalay is intended to be manufactured and serviced by METEC. Its targeted market is middle-class, self-employed Ethiopians who cannot afford the high taxes involved in buying the common pick-up's from Japan such as Toyota and Nissan.

Luxury Ethiopian products showcased

Danaqa World Chic, a luxury retail outlet based in Notting Hill, showcased their ethical bespoke Ethiopian-made products at a pre-Christmas event held at the Embassy on 14th December. The event's main aim was to highlight the potential within Ethiopia for modern design and quality craftsmanship.

What comes to mind when you think of Ethiopia? David Thomas' (Danaqa's CEO) answer is simple – "You should think of luxury products, handmade and finished using Ethiopian inputs, by Ethiopian producers – a leather handbag, silk scarf, a silver necklace".



Large bags made of strong Ethiopian leather, with traditional Ethiopian tribal jewellery



Ethiopian hand-woven sheer silk/cotton shawl and (right) an elegant scarf style necklace made of a mixture of black leather and silver with feature silver piece.

H.E. Ambassador Berhanu Kebede welcomed David's concept and said Ethiopia is registering double digit growth and implementing the five-year Growth and Transformation Plan. The Ethiopian government has for the last ten years worked to improve the investment environment by revising the investment code, building infrastructure and introducing sectoral policies. Danaqa supports the government priority of promoting small and micro businesses.

David said the main purpose of the event was to talk about issues of perception and reputation, and the impact that they have on a business and investment environment. Having lived in Ethiopia for four years, he said that the image people have of Ethiopia is often very different from reality.

"Ethiopia, like most of Sub-Saharan Africa, is a country with lots of different things going on, a massive growing middle class and massive potential," he said. The idea behind Danaqa is that there are reputation issues that get in the way of that potential and one way to help Ethiopia to grow is to change that reputation.



CEO of Danaqa, David Thomas, speaking at the event

Danaqa showcases the connection between the developing world and luxury design. The name Danaqa is linked to *Dinknesh* (Lucy, our oldest ancestor) and comes from the Ethiopian 'to be pleasantly surprised', which is something shoppers will be when they visit the shop.

"Danaqa works exclusively with women-only small and medium businesses that produce unique products...there are thousands of talented women and small businesses in Ethiopia that have potential in a massive range of industries."

David also urged businesses to invest in Ethiopia.

SPORTS

Dibaba, Ethiopia's golden girl

CNN features Ethiopia's three-time Olympic champion, Tirunesh Dibaba, in their Human to Hero series this month.

In an article on the CNN website by Paul Gittings, Tirunesh reveals how Ethiopia breeds some of the world's best long distance runners.

Born in Bekoji, the home town of many famous Ethiopian athletes, Tirunesh says she grew up doing errands and that running is her source of enjoyment. "It's because of running that I am well

known around the world. For me, it's the ultimate thing."



On the 2016 Rio Olympics she says: "I want to do something special that is historic and unforgettable. Especially in the Olympic marathon, I want to compete there. I believe that is what is left for me to achieve."

Human to Hero gets to the heart of what it takes to be the best in the fields of sport, architecture, dance, fashion and music. The show explores the discipline, dedication and determination involved, as well as the sources of inspiration.

The full article can be found on CNN's website: <http://edition.cnn.com/2013/01/02/sport/tirunesh-dibaba-olympics-ethiopia/index.html>.

Video: <http://edition.cnn.com/video/#/video/sports/2013/01/02/huma-to-hero-tirunesh-dibaba-ethiopia-running.cnn>.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Meles Foundation to be established; CNN names Meles among "notable people we lost in 2012"

On 17th January the House of People's Representatives endorsed a proclamation establishing the **Meles Foundation**. The Foundation, when established, will include a mausoleum where the body of the late premier will be laid to rest, a public park and library which will, among other things, be tasked to collect and catalogue the works of the late premier, and writings and documentary videos on his life and works.

The Foundation will also have the duty of facilitating conditions for research that focuses on economics, development and democracy. It will produce popular and educational works about

building a green economy and make scholarships available for women. MP Asmelash Woldeleslasie, Chair of the Legal, Justice and Administration Standing Committee said "the Foundation will enable us to continue with the ideals of the developmental state, of equality, and democracy that Meles fought for since his youth."

As part of complete coverage on 'Year in Review', CNN named the late Prime Minister Meles among notable people lost in 2012. CNN say PM Meles was "a strongman in the troubled Horn of Africa and a key United States ally."

PM Meles died on 20th August at the age of 57, after a life of dedication to the development of Ethiopia and firmly stood for African interests. He put his country on the map globally and diplomatically.



"Let's make optimal use of whatever support we have managed to mobilise. Let's ensure that the people always benefit, that we listen to them...we are of no use unless we serve and listen to them." - PM Meles 1955 - 2012

Ethiopia's infrastructure spend highest in Africa

"Addis Ababa is devoting \$1.3bn annually to infrastructure, which is 10 per cent of its GDP... Ethiopia's spending on infrastructure is by far the highest on the continent. At a more basic human level it is a sign of optimism and hope for the future." - according to an article written by Catherine Grant-Makokera and Itumeleng Rantao of the South African Institute of International Affairs.



Entitled *"The awakening of a sleeping giant"* the authors report that Ethiopia's Growth and Transformation Plan has made energy and transport infrastructure priorities. They note the ambitious plans to improve infrastructure facilities for its over 80 million people and the progress already made in roads and hydropower projects.

The report cites the huge construction in Addis as stunning. "When you walk on the streets of Addis Ababa, it feels like the city is one big building site" adding "the boom in construction in Ethiopia is mainly driven by infrastructure development objectives."

The full article can be found on the following link: <http://www.nation.co.ke/Features/DN2/The-awakening-of-a-sleeping-giant/-/957860/1642874/-/14i9le9/-/index.html>

COP18: Ethiopia shining example of carbon neutral growth

Lars Lokke Ramussen, Chairman of the Global Green Growth Institute, during the COP18 UN Climate Change Conference in Qatar in December, said that Ethiopia's plan to become a middle-income country by 2025 in a carbon neutral way will "not only have a significant impact in the country but in the whole of Africa, giving countries a good example to follow."

The Global Green Growth institute has been working with the Ethiopian government since 2010, giving planning assistance and helping Ethiopia utilise its green growth opportunities, focusing on three key sectors: agriculture, forestry, and power.

Mobile subscribers now over 18 million

The number of mobile subscribers in Ethiopia has now reached over 18 million. Of these, 3.4 million mobile subscribers use the system to access internet service.

Dr. Debretsion Gebremichael, Information and Communication Technology Minister with the rank of Deputy PM, said the government is increasing access to Information and Communication Technology as well as improving its quality.

The aim is to reach 45m subscribers by the end of 2014. Wireless coverage has now reached 73%.

Gidabo project 47.8% complete

The Ministry of Water and Energy in December announced that 47.8% of the Gidabo irrigation project has been constructed and is to be finalised by the end of this Ethiopian budget year.

The project, launched 3 years ago in Oromia and the Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples' state, will cost over 303.3 million birr.

The project will develop 7,374 hectares of land and benefit 79,820 households once complete.

Nine new ships for Ethiopia

Ethiopian Shipping and Logistics Enterprise announced that Ethiopia will acquire nine new ships within the current Ethiopian fiscal year, to strengthen its maritime transport capacity.

The vessels, under construction in China at a cost of 4 billion birr, are expected to be handed over in June, and will increase the amount of cargo carried from 20% to 50%.

The Enterprise received two vessels from China last December.

Government Communications Affairs Office launches new website

On 10th January, the Government Communication Affairs Office (GCAO) launched a new website which gives information on the government and on the Office's services.

The website, www.gcao.gov.et, will help to facilitate public access to online government information and services and enable visitors to speedily navigate through information.

The website also gives online services to journalists applying for press licenses. In September 2012, the Office launched a website dedicated to the late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, www.meleszenawi.gov.et

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