



# Ethiopian News

December 2013 Issue

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**Ethiopia and G8 improve land governance.....3**  
**New \$100bn energy strategy to generate 37,000MW.....4**  
**Ethiopian Ambassador briefs UK business representatives.....7**  
**Ethiopian Airlines “African Airline of the Year”.....8**  
**UNESCO inscribes Meskel Celebrations on Representative List; 4.4 m year-old horse fossil found....9**  
**Dub Colossus win cross-cultural award.....10**  
**Have UK businesses missed the train in Ethiopia?.....13**  
**‘Sincerely, Ethiopia’: New documentary unveils inspiring tales from Ethiopia.....15**



## Season's Greetings & Best Wishes for the New Year

From Everyone at the Ethiopian Embassy

### Bradford Confers Honorary Doctorate on Ethiopia's Deputy PM



Bradford University has conferred an Honorary Doctorate in Education on H.E. Demeke Mekonnen, Deputy Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

The Deputy PM earned his post-graduate degree in Peace Studies from Bradford where he read philosophy, history, sociology and politics,

which have informed his career.

He has delivered outstanding service in his current post and also in his previous posts as Minister for Education and, prior to that, as Deputy Head of the

Amhara Regional State. Expansion of educational facilities, quality improvement and popularizing science and technology at all levels were the hallmarks of his time at the Ministry of Education, which laid the foundations for capacity building, crucial for speedy sustainable economic growth.

About 24 million Ethiopians now attend school, and hundreds of thousands of young men and women study at newly established public universities and colleges. Graduates are in high demand in one of the fastest growing economies on the emerging continent of Africa.

Head of the Peace Studies Department at Bradford, Professor David Francis, described the Deputy PM as “a diligent and outstanding student, focused on his research and his studies”, who “has worked tirelessly to put education at the heart of Ethiopia's post-war economic growth, development and socio-political transformation. “We are privileged that our Honorary Graduand 2013 is the first, in the history of Peace Studies, to hold such a high-profile public office, serving as Deputy PM in one of

Africa's most populous and strategically important players in continental and global affairs," the professor said.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Brian Cantor CBE, assured the Deputy PM of his determination to strengthen existing relations between the University of Bradford and higher learning institutes in Ethiopia.



H.E. Demeke Mekonnen underlined the critical role education plays in the fight against poverty saying "I have been part of the leadership that brought about a paradigm shift giving emphasis to science and technology, to enhance our capacity to improve the livelihoods of our citizens."

"Ethiopia..has grown in double digits over the last decade and we are determined to maintain the rate of growth and sustain the on-going transformation. With determination, our vision of Ethiopia, fully transformed into a democratically mature, stable and peaceful nation with freedom and opportunity for all, will become a reality."

The DPM gave a public lecture under the theme "*Building Peace after War: the Growth & Transformation of Ethiopia*", expounding how Ethiopia had emerged from complex political, economic and social problems into a nation of peace and stability with a fast growing economy.

"The pro-poor economic policies of the government", he said, "focus on infrastructure and human capital development, major expansion of social services in the health and education sectors, and the consolidation of peace and stability."



Effective development programmes have lifted millions out of poverty, reducing the prevalence rate from 54 to 29.6 per cent over the past two decades with per capita income doubling in the same period. Mega projects support the national objective of joining the community of middle-income countries by 2023, sustaining Ethiopia's Renaissance.

The Deputy Prime Minister was also invited by Bradford's Lord Mayor, H.E. Khadim Hussain, to visit the City Hall for a consultation with council officials about forging relationships with the City of Bradford.

### **...Further support for Nottingham scholarships**

While in the UK, DPM Mekonnen also visited Nottingham University where, accompanied by the Ethiopian Ambassador to the UK, H.E. Berhanu Kebede, he met recipients of the University's joint **Developing Solutions** - an Ethiopian Government scholarship scheme, for which he pledged his continued support and visited the campus, meeting Ethiopian students there.

Developing Solutions supports students on a one-year Masters of Science (MSc) programme in development and sustainability, and has allowed the University to invest in the growth of emerging nations through highly-skilled individuals.

During the visit, the Deputy PM and the University confirmed their support for scholarships for the best and brightest Ethiopian students to undertake postgraduate studies at the University. He also met and held talks with the Vice-Chancellor of the University and Foreign Secretary of the Royal Society, renowned chemist Professor Martyn Poliakoff, who recently won an award in

recognition of his extensive work to develop links between Nottingham and universities in Ethiopia. The professor, who hosted the visit, said “I was delighted to welcome the Deputy PM and the Ambassador. We discussed progress and the Deputy PM met and heard first-hand about the experiences of students. We look forward to welcoming more Ethiopian students here next year.”



**Foreground (l-r): H.E. Ambassador Berhanu Kebede, Prof. Martyn Poliakoff and H.E. Deputy PM Ato Demeke Mekonnen; Background (l-r): Ethiopian students Habtamu Melesse, Girma Worku Awoke, and Getaneh Adera Nigusie**

The Deputy PM thanked Professor Poliakoff and his colleagues for the pivotal role they have played in forging this partnership. “I believe very strongly that this relation will grow in time,” he said.

The Royal Society supports the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences which has been active in promoting scientific research since its establishment a few years back.

While in Nottingham, the Deputy Premier also paid a visit to the Queen's Medical Centre where he was shown around by resident Ethiopian Neurosurgeon, Mekdim Tsegaye. One of the biggest health facilities in the UK its emergency ward is famous for its highly efficient services.

He also met and held talks with senior officials of the British Council on ways to further enhance the existing cooperation, and especially on a new co-operation, where Britain could share its experience on the university-industry nexus.

**The full press release can be found on our website: [www.ethioembassy.org.uk](http://www.ethioembassy.org.uk).**

## **Leicester-Gondar link boosted by web launch**

The University of Leicester recently announced the launch of the Leicester Gondar CTP website, which will maximise the bond between the institutions by offering medical teaching in an easy-to-use format. The University of Leicester has been medically linked with hospitals and the University of Gondar since 1996.



The website was developed by staff at Leicester who formed the Project to encourage collaborative teaching and working between Leicester and Gondar.

The project came about after a visit to Gondar where it was discovered that, while the clinicians were of excellent quality, they were quite isolated and in the early stages of developing medical sub-specialties. The project was set up to provide useful learning material for trainees in both Leicester and Gondar with the aim that material will be provided from both ends of the link.

The website was officially launched at the Royal College of Physicians Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2013 at the University of Leicester's Stamford Court Conference venue where demonstrations were given.

**Further information can be found on <http://leicestergondarlink.com/>.**

## **Ethiopia and G8 improve land governance**

Marking the handover of the G8 presidency from the UK to Russia on 9<sup>th</sup> December, the governments of Ethiopia, the United Kingdom, the United States and Germany announced a partnership to improve rural land governance to support economic growth in Ethiopia and protect the land rights of local citizens.

Building on existing programs, the partnership will increase collaboration between Ethiopia and its development partners and will support improved rural land tenure security for all Ethiopians, in



part, through appropriate land use management in communal and pastoral areas. It will strengthen transparency in land governance by promoting responsible agricultural investment through an improved legal framework and better regulatory practices.

The Minister of Agriculture, H.E. Tefera Derbew, welcomed the partnership, noting that it will support the implementation of Ethiopia's **Rural Land Administration and Use Plan**, helping Ethiopia sustain its economic development by strengthening rural land governance, fostering food security and realizing the "constitutionally recognized rural land-related rights of nations, nationalities and people of Ethiopia", he said.

International Development Minister Lynne Featherstone MP welcomed the announcement saying, "Having secure rights to land will help people across Ethiopia to grow the food they need, boost incomes, defuse conflicts and deal with the impact of climate change. This joint partnership will make sure Ethiopia can make the most of its valuable resources and attract the investment and income needed to boost growth and fight poverty."

Seven partnerships between G8 member states and developing countries were made in June 2013 at the G8 **Open for Growth** Summit. They were designed to support governments as they align their country frameworks with globally agreed-upon voluntary guidelines on governance of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security and improve rural land governance and tenure practices.

It is a continuation of commitments made under the **New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition**, set by African heads of state, corporate leaders and G8 members, and takes note of the **AU Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges**.

### **New \$100bn energy strategy to generate 37,000MW**

The Ethiopian Electric and Power Corporation (EEPCo) announced Ethiopia's ambitious new power strategy, which will boost electricity production to 37,000MW by 2037 under a new 25-year master plan.

Ethiopia will export over 4,000MW of hydropower to nine countries in the East African region, eventually extending to Northern and Southern African countries. Ethiopia currently exports 60MW of electricity to Djibouti and 100MW to Sudan boosting the country's income considerably.



The cost of the plan, \$100 billion, will be secured from local sources and international funds. 16,000km of high voltage transmission lines will be built in the next 10 years as part of the plan.

Experts say the country will control a huge regional market, giving Addis Ababa a strategic economic and political advantage in the region.

To reach these targets, Ethiopia has adopted a number of projects including the construction of the 6,000MW Grand Ethiopian Renaissance dam at a cost of \$4 billion on the River Nile. The project, currently at 34%, will be completed by 2017. An American-Icelandic company, Reykjavik, is investing \$4bn, generating 1,000MW of geothermal energy; the largest wind farm in Africa, Ashegoda, was inaugurated in October at a cost of \$290m and generates up to 120MW, expanding to about 900MW by 2015.

Ethiopia's current power production stands at around 2,300MW. Under the 5-year Growth and Transformation Plan, the country plans to increase generation to 10,000MW to meet increased demand and help sustain annual economic growth, to reach 15% by 2015. Ethiopia has the potential to produce 45,000MW from hydro-power alone. Last year Ethiopia's energy industry grew by around 18%.

## **Ethio-Sudan transmission line inaugurated**

Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn and President Omar Hassan Al Bashir of Sudan inaugurated the \$35m Ethio-Sudan Power Systems Interconnection, which will connect Gondar-Shehedi-Metema with Gedarif in East Sudan.

The project, now completed, with a capacity of 100MW, was launched in 2006 and for the past year, the interconnection has been on a test run.

The capacity of the transmission line is expected to double in a few weeks' time. The project enables Ethiopia to export 100MW of electricity, for revenue of \$100-\$150m a year.



At the inauguration, Alemayehu Tegenu, Minister of Water, Irrigation and Energy said “the completion of the project will elevate the economic and political relations of the two brotherly countries to a higher level” noting that increasing border trade is pushing the demand for power. He affirmed Ethiopia's readiness to supply electricity not only to Sudan but to the region as a whole given its huge renewable energy sources.

This project will help alleviate low power voltage problems in East Sudan and reduce Gedaref State's dependency on thermal power.

Prime Minister Hailemariam thanked the government and people of Sudan for their efforts and reaffirmed the current Ethiopian leadership's commitment to continue building on the foundation laid by the late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi and President Al Bashir.

## **Gibe III to go operational in September 2014**

The Gilgel Gibe III hydroelectric dam, one of the biggest power generating projects in Ethiopia, is 80% complete and is expected to go fully operational in September 2014, adding 1,870MW of electric power to the national grid.

Water, Irrigation and Energy Minister, Alemayehu Tegenu, said ongoing projects like the 254MW Genale Dam and the Adama II wind farm are also progressing well.

Ethiopia will generate 10,000MW by 2015, and projects like Gilgel Gibe III will provide energy for the domestic market, where demand has rapidly expanded owing to extensive infrastructure construction and increasing industry. Electricity is being exported to Djibouti and Sudan and power transmission lines to Kenya are currently being installed.

Ethiopia sees energy development as instrumental in enhancing regional integration.

## **New Climate Innovation Centre launched**

A \$5m grant agreement was signed between Addis Ababa University and the World Bank for the launch of a new Ethiopian Climate Innovation Centre (CIC) in the first quarter of next year.

The centre will collaborate closely with the Ethiopian Government, aligning its priorities with its Climate Resilient Green Economy Strategy.

The Ethiopia CIC, spearheaded by infoDev, a global World Bank innovation program, will accelerate the use of emerging technologies in locally owned and developed solutions to climate change.

The centre will be established through a consortium led by the Horn of Africa Regional Environment Center (HoAREC), a regional institution at Addis Ababa University, Meta Meta, Climate Science Center, and Maxwell Stamp.

It will provide financing as well as mentorship and advisory services to a growing number of local climate innovators and entrepreneurs and encourage innovative solutions to problems of climate change while creating jobs and improving livelihoods. It will support about 20 sustainable



climate technology ventures in its first year, more than two hundred over the next ten years and will provide up to 12,000 direct and indirect jobs.

**Education budget increased; World Bank supports education transformation plan**

The Ministry of Education has stepped up its budget for education to 25.4bn Birr so as to satisfy the growing demand for a trained workforce.

As Ethiopia continues to invest heavily in its children, the World Bank has approved major financing for transforming the quality of teaching and learning for more than 21 million children in primary and secondary schools across the country.

Ethiopia's primary school enrolment rate has tripled in recent years, from 25% in 1996/97 to 88% in 2009/10. It is also one of the few countries in Africa that implements National Learning Assessments for specific grades at four-year intervals.

"While Ethiopia is still working to bring every child into school, it is very encouraging that so much attention is being paid right now both to measure and improve the quality of education in the country," said Guang Zhe Chen, World Bank Country Director for Ethiopia.

"As with all modern economies, better-quality education is necessary to create a skilled labour force - a prerequisite for Ethiopia to sustain its recent rapid economic growth and to realise its goal of becoming a middle income country."

The Ethiopia General Education Quality Improvement Project will receive coordinated financing of \$550 million from many partners.

Of this, \$130 million is an International Development Association credit and \$100m is a Global Partnership for Education grant. Bilateral contributors include the UK's DfID (\$185 million), Finland (\$27 million), USAID (\$20 million), and Italy (\$10 million).

The project will help students gain proficiency in mathematics, the sciences and languages and will work towards these goals by improving the curriculum, making more textbooks available, and strengthening the National Learning Assessment

and school inspection systems. It also includes programs for teacher development.

Girls and women will greatly benefit from it. "Of the millions of students whose needs will be addressed through the project, over half are girls; and a targeted 60% of the teachers benefitting from training are women."

**Ethiopia to help train Namibians in health**

Ethiopia and Namibia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for Ethiopia to provide Namibia with health professionals and for it to continue to provide scholarships for an agreed number of Namibian students.

Namibia's Minister of Health and Social Services, Dr Richard Kamwi, said his country had decided to introduce a health extension program in all regions of the country similar to Ethiopia's. The Ethiopian Ministry of Health has been assisting in a pilot program in which 40 Namibians were trained and a total of 565 Health Extension Workers are currently undergoing training this year.

Ethiopia's Health Minister, Dr Kesetebirhan Admasu, said Ethiopia has made significant progress in improving health delivery with extension workers promoting disease prevention in communities, hygiene, sanitation and immunization and performing maternal and child health assessments.

Ethiopia has already achieved targets on combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases and has already reduced its under-5 mortality rate by two thirds, meeting early the target set under the Millennium Development Goals. It has also undertaken serious measures to reduce maternal mortality through the provision of skilled birth attendants and family planning services at all levels of the health care system.

**EU and Ethiopia sign €212.4m aid deal**

The European Union has signed a development grant with Ethiopia worth €212.4m (\$287.26m) to help finance road construction and projects targeting maternal health and drought resilience.

Of the budget, €49 million is earmarked for road building, €50 million to help fight the effects of



drought, €70 million to help increase access to education and health and increase service quality, and €40 million to improving maternal health.

"This support will boost Ethiopia's efforts to increase economic growth and reduce poverty," said EU Commissioner for Development, Andris Piebalgs. "Our co-operation has already changed many people's lives for the better; together we will build on this, continuing to reduce poverty and foster sustainable growth. Strengthening the resilience of the population to future droughts and the economic shocks that result from them is also essential in Ethiopia".

## TRADE & INVESTMENT

### **Ethiopian Ambassador briefs UK business representatives**

H.E. Ambassador Berhanu Kebede gave a detailed account of progress made in Ethiopia in terms of nation building, democratisation and economic development, to more than 60 influential business representatives from the UK, at a breakfast briefing organised by DLA Piper on 13<sup>th</sup> November, as part of their World View Series.



Topics included improving social services such as health and education and the mega infrastructure projects that are driving the country's growth and contributing positively towards regional economic cooperation. He also spoke of the increased production and modernization of the agriculture sector and encouraged participants to do business in Ethiopia.

Chaired by Lord Clement-Jones CBE, London Managing Partner at DLA Piper, the briefing was followed by a question and answer session and generated interest from a range of companies who wish to seize the opportunity to invest in Ethiopia, which the Embassy will follow up.

### **Ethiopian Commodity Exchange to go online**

To ease the process of commodity transactions and facilitate improved access to information for market players, the Ethiopian Commodity Exchange (ECX) is preparing to introduce on-line trading and establish Remote Trading centres in multiple locations across the country.

This will bring enhanced efficiency and increased liquidity as it will allow participation in the commodity transaction process without the need to be physically present on the ECX trading floors, making ECX more accessible to its stakeholders, especially the millions of small-holder farmers.

The Investment Climate Facility for Africa (ICF) is forwarding \$2.2m towards the total cost of \$3.8m, and the balance will be covered by the Ethiopian government.

The ICF's Board Co-Chair said they "are happy to be involved in this project. It is symbolic of what is happening all over Africa, in terms of opening up the market to those concerned – the millions of farmers."

The ECX has been hailed as an institutionalized market place that has transformed Ethiopia's commodity market by providing unprecedented market and information access to Ethiopian farmers and traders.

### **Zemedeneh Negatu makes New-African's 2013 100 Most Influential Africans**

The December issue of *New-African* magazine carries its annual list of the "100 most influential Africans" which, it says, represents a list of individuals who have "significantly impacted and realigned the continent's landscape in their fields of endeavour, contributed to redefining the African narrative in 2013 and are expected to play a big role in 2014."

There are six categories: politics & international organisations, business, civil society, science/academia, religion/traditional, media, arts and culture and sports.

Ethiopian Zemedeneh Negatu, highly respected Founder and Managing Partner of Ernst and Young, made it on the list this year.



“Anyone who has done business in Ethiopia will have come across Zemedeneh Negatu...Recently his firm has been responsible for many of the country’s major deals, including British alcoholic beverages company Diageo’s purchase of a local brewery. A true global citizen, having lived and worked extensively in North and Latin America as well as Saudi Arabia, Zem, as he is affectionately known, is often the spokesperson for the private sector at the country’s official international roadshows. He is part of a select group of business leaders whom senior members of government consult during their strategy meeting retreats.”

Zemedeneh, who is Ethiopian by birth but an American citizen, is admired for his tireless effort to promote Africa and Ethiopia to international investors. He was the lead author of EY’s report in 2009, the first to forecast that Ethiopia will become a middle-income country by 2025 with a GDP of over \$400 billion.

Last year’s list had three Ethiopians, Sheikh Mohammed al Amoudi, the billionaire owner of Midroc, Eleni G/Medhin, the founder and former CEO of the Ethiopian Commodity Exchange and Tirunesh Dibaba the 10,000 meters Olympic gold medal winner. The 2011 list had one Ethiopian, the long-distance legend athlete Haile Gebreselasse.

### **Horticultural products earn 264 million birr**

The Ethiopian Horticulture Development Agency has announced that 264m birr has been secured from the export of horticultural products in the last budget year. Flowers brought in 212m birr and the balance was from fruit, vegetables and herbs.



Around 90% of the total flower exports go to Europe and the balance to the Middle East, Asia and America.

Plans are afoot to expand flower exports to new destinations and to engage more foreign investors in the sector.

### **Ethiopian Airlines “African Airline of the Year”**

Ethiopian Airlines, the fastest growing and the most profitable African airline, won the 2013 African Airline of the Year Award from the African Airlines Association at its 45<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly meeting in Mombasa, Kenya. Ethiopian was recognized by the African Airlines Association for its global standard service, fast expanding network and continuous profitability.

Ethiopian Airlines Group CEO, Mr. Tewolde Gebremariam, on receiving the award said, "...it is a special honour for us to receive this prestigious award...[which] is a tribute to our 7,000+ employees, who are the main reason behind our success and who are working very hard every day to make Ethiopian shine high in the sky.”

“It is also recognition of the successful implementation of our 15 year strategic roadmap,



Vision 2025, now in its fourth year. We are meeting and even exceeding the ambitious network and fleet expansion, and revenue and passenger growth targets of our Vision 2025.”



Ethiopian CEO receiving the award from IATA Director-General and Chief Executive Officer Tony Tyler

Today, Ethiopian has the youngest and most modern fleet in Africa and an extensive global network covering practically all sub-Saharan Africa and five continents. With our multiple hub strategy, through our partner African airlines, ASKY in West Africa and Malawi Airlines in Southern Africa, we are more than ever bringing Africa together and closer to the world. This is facilitating the flow of investment, tourism and trade in Africa and contributing to the rise of our great continent”, Tewelde said.

In the year 2013, Ethiopian Airlines has also won the SKYTRAX award for "Best Airline Staff Service in Africa" and the Passengers Choice Award for "Best Airline in Africa".

## TOURISM & CULTURE

### UNESCO inscribes Meskel Celebrations on its Representative List

The Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Heritage inscribed Meskel festivities on the Representative List of the Intangible Heritage of Humanity, which serves to raise awareness of intangible heritage and provide recognition to communities’ traditions and know-how that reflect their cultural diversity.

The festival of Meskel is celebrated across Ethiopia on 26<sup>th</sup> September to commemorate the finding of the True Cross. Celebrations centre around the burning of the Demera bonfire in Meskel Square in Addis Ababa.



Meskel Celebrations in Meskel Square Addis Ababa ©ARCCH

Hundreds of thousands of people from diverse communities flock to the square as colourfully dressed priests chant hymns and prayers and perform their unique rhythmic dance. Meskel brings families and communities together from across the nation and promotes spiritual life through reconciliation, social cohesion and peaceful coexistence.

### Ethiopian parks generate over 5 million birr in 3 months

The Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA) said 5.39 million birr was obtained from 11,768 tourists who visited various parks in Ethiopia during the first quarter of this fiscal year.

Of the tourists, around 6,345 are foreigners, while the remaining 5,423 are local tourists.

In related development, the authority provided awareness raising training on the necessity and benefits of wildlife to 24,224 people living around animal sanctuary.

### 4.4 million year-old horse fossil found in Ethiopia

A new species of fossil horse that lived 4.4 million years ago in Ethiopia was discovered by two teams of researchers.

About the size of a small zebra, *Eurygnathohippus woldegabrieli*, had three-toed hooves and grazed the grasslands and shrubby woods in the Afar Region, the scientists say.

Scott Simpson, co-author of the research says the horse fills a gap in the evolutionary history of horses but is also important for documenting how old a fossil locality is and in reconstructing habitats of human forebears of the time.

The researchers found the first *E. woldegabrieli* teeth and bones in 2001, in the Gona area of the Afar Region. This fossil horse was among the diverse array of animals that lived in the same areas as the ancient human ancestor *Ardipithecus ramidus*, commonly called Ardi.

"The fossil search team spreads out to survey for fossils in the now arid badlands of the Ethiopian desert," Simpson said. "Among the many fossils we found are the two ends of the foreleg bone -- the canon -- brilliant white and well preserved in the red-tinted earth."

A year later, they returned and found part of the connecting shaft, which was split lengthwise but provided the crucial full length of the bone. The long slender bone indicates this ancient species was an adept runner, similar to modern zebras, and analyses of their teeth indicated they relied heavily on eating grasses in the grassy woodland environment.

The horse had longer legs than ancestral horses that lived and fed in forests about 6 million to 10 million years ago, Simpson said. The change helped the more recent horses cover long distances as they grazed and flee lions, sabre-tooth cats and hunting hyenas that would run down their prey.

The other fossils they found included teeth, which are taller than their ancestors' and with crowns worn flatter -- more signs the horses had adapted to a grazing life.

Analyses of the isotopic composition of the enamel confirmed that *E. woldegabrieli* subsisted on grass.

The bones, which remain at the National Museum of Ethiopia in Addis Ababa, showed this was a significantly different animal than the horses more than 5 million years old, and those 3.5 million years old and younger.

The findings are published in the Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology.

### ...280,000 year-old javelins also discovered

The oldest known stone-tipped javelins, roughly 280,000 years old, have been discovered in the Gademotta Formation in Ethiopia's Rift Valley. The javelins predate the earliest known fossils of our species, *Homo sapiens*, by about 80,000 years, meaning our ancestors were more advanced than previously thought.

Findings can be found online in the journal *PLOS ONE*, which states that the weapons were made from obsidian - a naturally occurring volcanic glass known for its high blast resistance and strength.

### Dub Colossus win cross-cultural award



Leading world music magazine, *Songlines*, recognised Ethio-UK band, Dub Colossus with a Cross Cultural Collaboration award for their album *Dub Me Tender Vol 1+2*.

H.E. Ambassador Berhanu Kebede presented group leader, Nick Page, with the award at the winner's concert on 13<sup>th</sup> December. It is an honour to be here tonight to present this award, the Ambassador said, thanking the group for bringing Ethiopian music to a wider audience.



H.E. Ambassador Berhanu Presenting the award to Nick Page  
©Alex Harvey-Brown - Savannah Photographic 2013

Started by Nick Page - aka Dubulah - in 2008, their music explores traditional Azmari styles, 60s Ethiopian pop, Ethiojazz and 70s Jamaican dub



reggae. Their first album, 'A Town Called Addis' released in 2008, was hailed as one of the most inventive fusion albums of the year, with its blend of contemporary and traditional Ethiopian styles, jazz and dub reggae.



Nick Page with the Ethiopian band members

The rest of the line-up at the winner's concert held at the Barbican centre in London included "Africa's premier diva", Angelique Kidjo who got the Best Artist Award. Mokoomba from Zimbabwe thrilled audiences with their afro-fusion music and slick dance routines. They got the Best Newcomer award and French-based collective Lo'Jo won the Best Group Award.

### **Ethiopians in the UK celebrate NNP Day**

Ethiopia's Nations, Nationalities and People's Day (NNPD) was marked in London on 8<sup>th</sup> December by members of the Diaspora resident in the UK, reflecting on the significant gains made in all regions in the spheres of politics, economics, social and civil rights.

The celebrations took place at the Ethiopian Embassy in London and were organised by the Ethiopian Somali community in the UK, in collaboration with various development associations.

In Ethiopia's new federal and democratic system the equality of nations and nationalities is the linchpin for unity in diversity and underlies relationships between the regional states – the building blocks of the federal government. Intensive development programmes have significantly improved livelihoods through changes

effected in agriculture, manufacturing, education, health, infrastructure and communications.



H.E. Berhanu Kebede, Ethiopian Ambassador to the UK, in a speech he gave at the celebrations, congratulated compatriots on the successes they have achieved and called for further engagement in the implementation of mega projects, including the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), railway networks, roads, educational and health facilities and telecommunications.

The Ethiopian people must remain fully engaged to deepen gains in the political, social and economic sectors, he said, while urging the Diaspora to play a role in boosting investment, knowledge transfer, and trade and business promotion, to see through the current five-year Growth and Transformation Plan.

The Ethiopian Constitution provides respect and promotion of indigenous traditions, cultures, and languages. Each Ethiopian has a voice and is a stakeholder in the country's development.

Entrenching democratic institutions, capacity building and good governance will remain the government's priority, the Ambassador said, and urged participants to use every opportunity for the realization of Ethiopia's renaissance.

Ethiopia has become a destination for investors owing to its conducive environment, a huge market of over 90 million people and an emerging



economy which has expanded in double digits over the last decade.

There has been a huge increase in provision of education and health facilities, construction of roads and potable water, improved services to pastoralists and women in the emerging Ethiopian Somali Regional State, which hosted this year's NNPD. The Chairman of the Ethiopian Somali Diaspora Forum, Mr Nuur Hussein, urged compatriots to support development efforts in the Somali region and beyond to bring about national economic and social transformation. Representatives from a range of development associations also spoke at the event.

Certificates of appreciation were presented to individuals and organizations for their outstanding contribution to the furtherance of community participation. A musical show and cultural dances celebrated the Ethiopia's diverse traditions and a cake was cut as part of the celebrations. The Ambassador and other guests visited a display of Somali traditional and cultural goods. A minute of silence was observed in memory of the recently departed South African Leader, Nelson Mandela.

## SPORTS

### **More than 30,000 take part in the Great Ethiopian Run**



On 24<sup>th</sup> November, an estimated 30,000 runners took part in the 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the Great Ethiopian Run, Africa's biggest 10K event, with Tsegaye Atsedu and Netsanet Gudeta becoming the new champions.

This year's race was staged on a new and harder course in the northern part of the city and

attracted more than 500 elite runners as well as several hundred runners from overseas.

Tsegay won the men's race in a time of 29:21, saying "This gives me more confidence...I'm happy to win and I know now I'm in good shape."

In the women's race Netsanet, who hails from the small town of Bekoji which has produced the likes of Kenenisa Bekele, Derartu Tulu and Tirunesh Dibaba, finished the race in 33:23.

In related developments, the world running organisation, the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races (AIMS), awarded the Great Ethiopian Run as the winner of the inaugural AIMS Social Award, which highlights races working towards achieving the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

### **Ethiopia nominated for CAF National Team of the Year award**



The Walya Antelopes of Ethiopia have been nominated for the 2013 Glo-CAF National Team of the Year Award.

"Ethiopia had a stellar year reaching the finals of the Africa Cup of Nation for the first time since 1982. Parading a squad dominated by homegrown players, the Walyas made a statement at the continental championship in South Africa, despite housed in the same group with eventual finalists, Burkina Faso and Nigeria. They also reached the playoffs for the 2014 FIFA World Cup, the closest they had come to reaching the Mundial. Ethiopia also qualified for the Orange CHAN South Africa 2014," the statement said.

The Stallions of Burkina Faso and the Super Eagles of Nigeria have also been nominated for the same

award. Winners will be announced at the Glo-CAF Awards Gala scheduled for 9<sup>th</sup> January 2014 in Lagos, Nigeria.

## ETHIOPIA IN THE NEWS

### Putting best foot forward in Africa

Chinese footwear maker, Huajian Group has teamed up with The China-Africa Development Plan and the Ethiopian Ministry of Industry to establish a light-manufacturing base in Ethiopia, making Ethiopia the hub for the global footwear industry and creating more than 100,000 jobs locally in the next 10 years.



Artist's impression of the Ethiopia-China Light Manufacturing Special Economic Zone. [©China Daily]

The Ethiopia-China Light Manufacturing Special Economic Zone will have facilities for shoemaking, other light manufacturing, commercial facilities and residential communities. It will house more than 50,000 families and generate revenue of \$4 billion from exports.

The full article can be found on the following link: <http://www.ecns.cn/business/2013/12-16/92752.shtml>

### Have UK businesses missed the train in Ethiopia?

**BBC NEWS** James Jeffery reports rail infrastructure development in Ethiopia and the lack of involvement from British companies. Currently, 2,000km of railway is being built across the Ethiopian countryside, the first phase of an endeavour to create a new 5,000km network.

“Currently no British companies are involved, despite Ethiopia approaching the UK for assistance at the start, and the project being constructed according to official UK railway industry standards.”

“...in Addis Ababa, construction of the Light Rail Transit (LRT) - similar to London's Docklands Light Railway - will give the capital its first mass transit system, transforming mobility...”

“It is not too late for UK businesses to get involved in the second phase of Ethiopia's railway infrastructure construction...financial constraints on UK companies investing in Ethiopia are easing due to the active involvement of the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD), the UK's official export credit agency.”

Full article on: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-24869433>



Also read, *Chinese investment triggers new era of east African rail building* by the Financial Times where Javier Blas reports on how Chinese and private equity investors are financing the building of thousands of kilometres of tracks in east Africa to profit from booming regional trade, which has tripled over the past decade.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/24bc5ae6-5756-11e3-b615-00144feabdc0.html?siteedition=uk#axzz2lvvkIVIV>

### Ethiopia spearheads green energy in Africa

**news24** Breaking News. First. Jenny Vaughan reports on Ethiopia's green energy revolution, increasing energy production capacity from the 2,177MW to 10,000MW by 2015.



The recently-launched Ashegoda windfarm, with its capacity of 120MW, making it Africa's largest, is the first of several planned wind farms in the country.

"With its multi-billion dollar projects in wind, hydropower, solar and geothermal energy, Ethiopia's pioneering green energy efforts aim to supply power to its 91 million people and boost its economy by exporting power to neighbouring countries."

Minister for Water and Energy Alemayehu Tegenu says he hopes Ethiopia's aggressive investments in wind and other renewable energy resources will persuade other African countries to follow suit.

"We don't want to keep African populations in the dark for a long time, we have to run very fast to access light for industry and for social and economic development," he said.

The full article on news24 is on the following link: <http://www.news24.com/Green/News/Ethiopia-spearheads-green-energy-in-Africa-20131204>

**Ethiopia hailed as 'African lion' with fastest creation of millionaires**

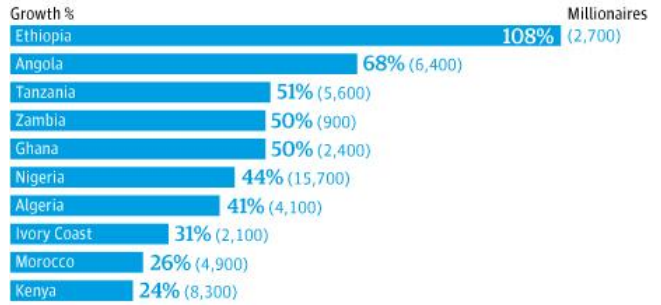
**theguardian** Africa Correspondent David Smith reports on the recent study by New World Wealth which shows that Ethiopia is creating millionaires at a faster rate than any other country on the continent.

"Michael Buerk's famished Ethiopia of 1984 has become a nation achieving 93% GDP growth in six years...Whereas much of Africa's boom has been driven by mineral resources, leading sectors for millionaires in Ethiopia include agriculture, manufacturing and transport...A construction boom is underway in the capital, Addis Ababa, but

Amare Abebaw, a social entrepreneur, said the rest of the world does still did not appreciate the country's extraordinary transformation.

**African millionaires**

**Fastest growing countries, 2007-2013**



Read more on: <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/dec/04/ethiopia-faster-rate-millionaires-michael-buerk>

Also read, **Ethiopia is where Africa's super-rich roam**: "Long seen as synonymous with poverty and droughts, Ethiopia has broken all stereotypes and seen the largest increase in number of dollar millionaires in Africa...as its economy soars...The country saw the number of millionaires grow from 1,300 to 2,700 in six years - a whopping 108% increase."

<http://www.zawya.com/story/Ethiopia-is-where-Africas-superrich-roam-ZAWYA20131205055239/>

**Africa's super telescopes 'will inspire science boom'**



Oliver Joy reports on the pan-African astronomy drive taking form with observatories scattered across Africa, with South Africa taking the lead with the best resources.

"Telescopes and observatories will continue to spring up in Africa as international cooperation and investment flows into the continent, according to Abiy Tekola, assistant secretary-general at the East African Astronomical Society (EAAS).

He said such a trend "will eventually feed into the economic development of the region."



“In October, Ethiopia opened East Africa's largest observatory, in the Entoto Mountains on the outskirts of the capital Addis Ababa.



Engineers assemble the telescopes in the Entoto Mountains

The facility -- run by the Ethiopian Space Science Society (ESSS) -- is the first step towards a space program, according to group director Solomon Belay.

He said the project, which includes two large telescopes and cost \$3.4 million, will inspire children "towards science and technology especially in physics, mathematics, medicine (and) engineering."

The full article is on: <http://edition.cnn.com/2013/12/12/tech/innovation/africas-super-telescopes/>

### **‘Sincerely, Ethiopia’: New documentary unveils inspiring tales from Ethiopia**

Lilly Workneh reports on budding filmmaker Nathan Araya’s latest documentary, *Sincerely Ethiopia*, which aims to tackle the public’s negative perceptions of his homeland by shifting his film’s focus to display a more positive portrayal of Ethiopian life and culture.

*Sincerely, Ethiopia*

“To much of the world, Ethiopia, along with other large parts of Africa, is often depicted as a poverty-

stricken, famine-saturated land crumbling from conflict...To Ethiopian natives, the country is seen in a more honest and uplifting light that exposes the people’s strong sense of pride and the land’s transcendent beauty often reflected in its rich culture...Yet while the challenges Ethiopia has faced (and currently still tackles) are well documented, the admirable ability of its people to overcome hardships has often been overlooked – until now.”

The trailer and article can be found on: <http://thegrio.com/2013/12/04/sincerely-ethiopia-new-documentary-unveils-inspiring-tales-from-ethiopia/2/>.

More information on the film can also be found on <http://sincerelyethiopia.com/>.

### **The story of a girl activist – Ethiopia**

**theguardian** Anna Leach profiles UNICEF’s Goodwill Ambassador, Hannah Godefa, who advocates for girls to have equal opportunities in education. By creating a resource mobilisation project called Pencil Mountain, over half a million school resources have been delivered to Ethiopian children.



She lists meeting the Ethiopian Prime Minister as one of her proudest moments. “They are in a great position to implement change in educational rights.”

The full article can be found on: <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2013/dec/12/girl-advocates-hannah-godefa-ethiopia-interview>

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### **The world bids farewell to Nelson Mandela**



Ethiopia joined Africa and the rest of the world in bidding farewell to the former president of South Africa, H.E. Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, who died on 6<sup>th</sup> December at the age of 95.

Speaking at Hon. Mandela's state funeral on 15<sup>th</sup> December in Qunu, Ethiopia's Prime Minister and Chairman of the African Union, H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn, said Africa is indebted to the former president for the sacrifices he made.

He said Mandela held a special place in Ethiopian and African hearts, and his life had been a "record of all the trials and tribulations" endured by Africa "at the hands of ruthless colonisers."

"Madiba's life has been a record of trials and tribulations an entire continent has to endure. His life was a struggle against unparalleled odds... a life of perseverance in the face of seemingly insurmountable challenges," Prime Minister Hailemariam stated. Humanity is better because it had the good fortune of having Mandela he noted, which is regarded as a source of wisdom and as its torch bearer in times of utter darkness.

"We should all count ourselves lucky to draw a lesson or two from the life of this towering figure," he added.

More than 4,000 people, including Mandela's family members, African leaders and several heads of state, attended the final farewell service in a specially erected marquee. The burial marked the end of a week of a 10-day official morning and a week memorial events for Mr. Mandela which have attracted thousands of South Africans and world leaders.

On hearing news of Mandela's death, Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn expressed most

profound sympathies. In his message, PM Hailemariam stressed the special place the former freedom fighter has in the hearts of all Ethiopians. He recalled the brief period that Nelson Mandela spent in Ethiopia during his exile in the 1960s and expressed Ethiopia's commitment to uphold the messages of selflessness, humility and dedication to the struggle for freedom and human dignity that the towering African icon taught humanity.

Ethiopia's president, Mulatu Teshome, also expressed his deepest sorrow over the passing of the former South African leader.

### **Agreements for railway project and natural gas reserves development signed**

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development signed a \$1.4 billion agreement with Swiss bank, Credit Suisse for the construction of a section of the national railway grid – from Awash to Woldiya.

Credit Suisse also announced its desire to extend loans to European and American companies willing to engage in rail and energy projects in Ethiopia.

In related developments, the Ministry of Mines and Energy also signed an agreement with a Chinese company to develop the Kalub and Hilala gas fields in the Somali Regional State. Under the agreement, the Chinese company is expected to develop the gas fields within two years. The Kalub and Hilala gas fields are estimated to contain 116 billion cubic meters of natural gas.

### **Addis has a new sister city**

Mayor Vincent C. Gray of the District of Columbia, Washington DC and Mayor Diriba Kuma of Addis Ababa signed a Sister City Agreement between Addis Ababa and the District on 11<sup>th</sup> December.

The agreement will facilitate cultural and educational exchanges for the benefit of residents in both cities as well as provide an opportunity for the District and Addis Ababa to share information and collaborate on mutual priorities in many areas, including economic development, public health, urban planning, transportation and youth engagement. This agreement will be in force for a period of five years.

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