



Ethiopian News

February – March 2012

BUMPER ISSUE

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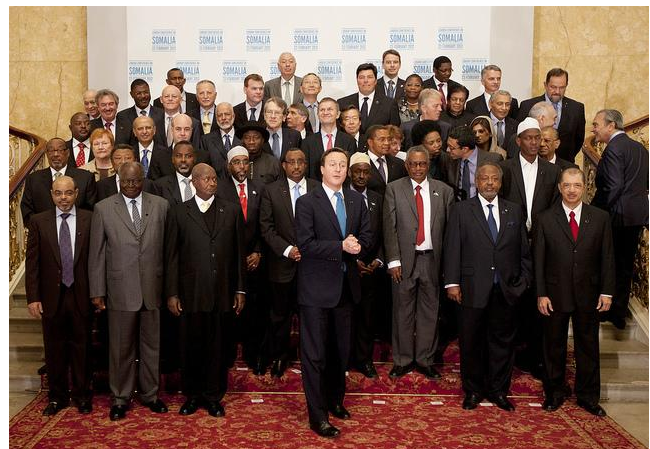
The London Conference on Somalia: Highlights



The London Conference on Somalia was hosted by UK Prime Minister, David Cameron, and attended by representatives from over 50 countries, the UN, the AU and Arab League. Among those present were the UN Secretary General, the American Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, leaders of western and Arab states, and of Somalia's neighbours, including Prime Minister Meles Zenawi and the Presidents of Djibouti, Burundi, Uganda and Kenya. Along with the Transitional Government of Somalia, there were representatives from Puntland, Galmudug regional administration and Ahlu Sunna wal Jama'a. There was also a delegation from Somaliland led by President Silanyo.

The conference took place at an opportune time with a series of successful military operations by the TFG and AMISOM, with assistance from Ethiopia and Kenya, and agreements to produce constitutional changes and an acceptable post-transitional government. AMISOM has successfully established control of Mogadishu and pressure on al-Shabaab in other areas is

growing as it is forced out of other parts of the country including, Baidoa.



Delegates during the Somalia Conference at Lancaster House in London

There was full agreement that the security and stability of Somalia is crucial for both regional states and the international community. The UK Foreign Secretary called the conference "a moment of opportunity", and Secretary Clinton noted that "for decades the world has focused on what we could prevent happening in Somalia, conflict, famine or other disasters; now we are focused on what we can build. The opportunity is real." UK Premier, David Cameron, told the conference that the young people who took up guns for al-Shabaab needed to be able to see that they could have a future in a prosperous and stable Somalia that "offers them what



everyone wants which is a job and a voice.” So the connection between military action and the political process were “two sides of the same coin”. He hoped the process would generate “new momentum”, and praised the “extraordinary bravery of African and Somali troops.”



Prime Minister Meles Zenawi with Foreign Secretary William Hague during a bilateral meeting at the conference

In his speech to the opening session, Prime Minister Meles said three recent events had convinced him the conference could become a real turning point for Somalia. One was the second Garowe conference which had come up with a clear roadmap charted by Somalis themselves for the post-August transition. Recent developments, including the liberation of Baidoa the previous day, had created an unprecedented opportunity to eradicate al-Shabaab’s menace. He noted that “residents of Baidoa braved the risk of al-Shabaab retaliation to come out in their tens of thousands to welcome their liberators.” Thirdly, the UN Security Council had decided to support the increase in the numbers of AMISOM. He was, therefore, “confident that the conference would play a vital role in mobilizing the necessary financial and logistical support for future AMISOM and humanitarian operations”. The Prime Minister, as the current chair of IGAD, stressed that violence and mayhem could and must be defeated. There could be no compromise with the hard-core of al-Shabaab

and the things it stands for. He stressed that all liberated areas should be supported in their efforts to put in place local administrations and to build up their capacity, urging the international community to help strengthen TFG capacity-building and to give its all-round support to humanitarian efforts. A lasting solution must be found to the humanitarian crisis within the framework of a long-term development programme.

The Conference on Somalia focused on seven key areas aimed at making Somalia and the region more stable. These were the political process, security, terrorism, piracy, stability, humanitarian issues and international coordination.

In conclusion, the conference expressed the hope that a new era of Somali politics, supported by the international community, would bring peace in the country. It said it was determined to place the interests of the Somali people at the heart of all actions, and redouble the international community’s efforts to support the people of Somalia in their search for a better future for their country.

For more information on the conference, including speeches and a communiqué, please send an email to info@ethioembassy.org.uk. Full coverage of the conference is also available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website.

11% growth projected for 2012

While addressing the House of Representatives early in February, Prime Minister Meles Zenawi said that Ethiopia projects an 11% economic growth this year. The agricultural sector is expected to grow by 8.5%, the industrial sector by 17.9% and the service sector by 11.5% said the Prime Minister.

Ethiopia has earned \$1.347 billion in revenue from exports in the first two quarters of the fiscal year, said the PM, presenting a six-month performance report. Revenue earned from

exports shows a 21% growth from that of the same period last year.

The Ethiopian government was able to raise 45.2 billion birr in revenue and spent 46.1 billion birr on various projects, without taking into account loans and grants designated for various ventures.

The budgetary deficit for this reported period stands at 941 million birr, showing a decrease because the government is no longer borrowing from the national bank he explained.

The rate of inflation has fallen from 40.6% last August to 32% in January because the government intervened in the market to buy and distribute basic foodstuffs thus enabling food prices to stabilize. The Ethiopian government expects inflation to reduce to single digits by the end of this financial year.

Minister of Health honoured by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Ethiopia's Minister of Health was honoured by the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine as one of its most distinguished former students.



Dr. Tedros was awarded an Honorary Fellowship – the School's most prestigious honour - during the annual graduation ceremony on 10th March. He was praised for his outstanding career including important contributions as a malariologist and public health leader.

He was also guest of honour at a reception for alumni and distance-learning students in the School's historic library on the eve of the graduation ceremony.

Honorary Fellowships are awarded triennially to people who have given exceptional service to the School or who have attained exceptional distinction in a subject taught at the School.

Dr Tedros completed a Masters in Immunology of Infectious Diseases at the School, graduating in 1992. On the occasion Dr Tedros said : "I am grateful to the School for providing me with practical skills and friends for life. The experience of studying alongside people from more than 100 different countries will enable the graduates of today to make a difference in the world and improve people's lives."



Dr. Tedros with his wife, Ambassador Berhanu Kebede and Professor Peter Piot (left)

Professor Peter Piot, Director of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, said: "The School is very proud to have one of the outstanding leaders of public health in the world as both an alumnus and an honorary fellow."

The School said that Dr Tedros was "an outstanding leader as the Minister of Health in Ethiopia" where "he has improved the primary healthcare system through training the providers and setting policies based on the research evidence". "Internationally, the School added Dr

Tedros “was the chair of the governing boards of UNAIDS, Roll Back Malaria Partnership, the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria.”



The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine is a world-leading centre for research and postgraduate education in public and global health, with 4000 students and more than 1300 staff working in over 100 countries. The School is one of the highest-rated research institutions in the UK, and was recently cited as one of the world’s top universities for collaborative research. The School's mission is to improve health and health equity in the UK and worldwide; working in partnership to achieve excellence in public and global health research, education and translation of knowledge into policy and practice.

Ethiopia strengthens links with the University of Nottingham

Links with the University of Nottingham’s were strengthened by a high-level visit from Ethiopia.

H.E. Berhanu Kebede, Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, led a delegation to the University to sign two new agreements on teaching and research.

The Ministry of Education and the University of Nottingham reached an agreement on providing for the development of Higher Education in

Ethiopia through jointly funded scholarships by the provision a joint Ethiopian Ministry of Education and University of Nottingham Developing Solutions Scholarships.

Five full tuition scholarships will be provided for young Ethiopian academics over the next five years, under the University of Nottingham’s Developing Solutions programme.

The scholarships are targeted at outstanding researchers in Ethiopia who will undertake one-year research programmes in subject areas that will help to advance the development of their own country.

They will work with some of Nottingham’s world-leading researchers – in fields such as biotechnology, biochemistry, engineering, health sciences and plant science – before putting their new knowledge to use in the development of Ethiopia. The first students are expected to start in September 2012.

On the occasion Ambassador Berhanu Kebede said: “It is a great pleasure for us to build on the momentum and engage further in wider co-operation with the University of Nottingham which has been a source of inspiration for a number of Ethiopian academics.”

The Ambassador was accompanied by Professor Admasu Tsegay, President of Addis Ababa University, and Professor Masresha Fetene, Vice-President.

The visit, on 13th March, also saw the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the University of Nottingham and Addis Ababa University. This will build on historically strong links in the area of Green Chemistry, where there are already a range of joint projects underway led by Professor Martyn Poliakoff CBE FRS in Nottingham and Dr Nigist Asfaw in Addis Ababa.

Green Chemistry — a field in which Nottingham



is a world leader — focuses on more sustainable ways of creating chemicals, and is now regarded as one of the major routes to more environmentally-friendly production of the chemicals that underpin modern society. Nottingham staff were instrumental in helping to introduce Green Chemistry to Ethiopia.

The latest MoU will seek to promote further collaboration in the area of staff and student exchange and research collaboration.

The strong relationship between The University of Nottingham and universities in Ethiopia goes back almost a decade. Ethiopian students are now studying in Nottingham, and Nottingham graduate Dr Ignacio Villar was formerly a lecturer at Addis Ababa University. Dr Pete Licence, Associate Professor and Reader in Chemistry at Nottingham, is Adjunct Professor in Addis.

Professor Sebsebe Demissew, keeper of the National Herbarium in Ethiopia, received an honorary doctorate from Nottingham in 2010 and is an Honorary Professor at the University's School of Biosciences.

Professor Christine Ennew, the University's Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Internationalisation, said: "Higher education in Ethiopia is expanding rapidly and has a key role to play in the country's economic and social development. We have welcomed a number of outstanding students from Ethiopia in the past and we are now in a

position to continue this on a systematic basis under the banner of our flagship "Developing Solutions" scholarship scheme."

The work of Nottingham academics with colleagues in Ethiopia began with a chance meeting between Professor Martyn Poliakoff and scientists from the University of Addis Ababa, while Martyn was on holiday in Ethiopia in 2003.

Today, Green Chemistry is sufficiently developed there to enable African scientists to participate more fully in the search for new chemicals, processes and techniques that could impact on millions of people.

Much current research is focused on the search for renewable feedstocks and more environmentally acceptable solvents as replacements for petroleum-based products. This makes Green Chemistry particularly relevant to the needs of African countries such as Ethiopia, faced with an increasing demand for chemicals, little or no indigenous oil, and rapidly expanding populations.

Professor Poliakoff has been instrumental in developing links between Nottingham and Addis Ababa through staff visits, conferences, workshops and collaborative research.

IMF says Ethiopia will join list of middle income countries soon

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said Ethiopia will join the list of middle income countries if its rapid growth further continues.

On 3rd March, Prime Minister Meles Zenawi held discussions with IMF Deputy Managing Director Naoyuki Shinohara who praised Ethiopia for its implementation of the Growth and Transformation Plan and expressed the IMF's commitment to working with Ethiopia. He said the IMF will further strengthen cooperation in



capacity building in the areas of tax collection and budget administration.

PM Meles briefed Shinohara on the on-going efforts of the government to reduce inflation.

The inflation rate is reducing, he said, adding, the measures being taken by the government will be further strengthened.

A team led by Shinohara discussed with Finance and Economic Development Minister Sufian Ahmed and also the Governor of the National Bank of Ethiopia, Gebrewold Atnafu, during its week-long stay in Ethiopia.

The IMF is an international organization that came into existence in 1945. Ethiopia was one of the 74 founding countries.

Ethio-Sudan transmission line completed

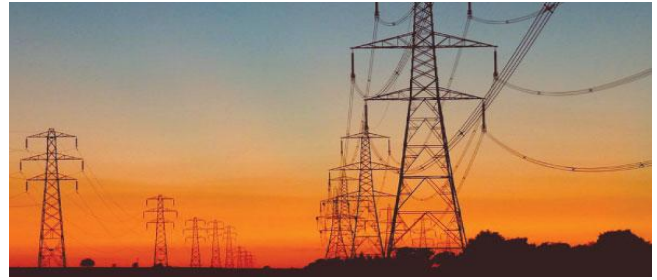
The Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation (EEPCo) has completed the construction of a power transmission line that connects the Ethiopian power grid to Sudan.

The 296km long, 230kV line, will enable Ethiopia to export 100MW of electricity to Sudan, making Khartoum the second beneficiary after Djibouti which imports 35MW of electricity. By 2016, Ethiopia will also export 400MW of power to Kenya.

The project was funded by the World Bank at a cost of \$41 million and will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions by utilising Ethiopia’s surplus hydro power.

Ethiopia has Africa’s second-biggest hydropower potential after the Congo, but only a portion of this huge resource has been exploited so far.

The Ethiopian Government has been investing in power plants over the past few years, making Ethiopia an emerging regional power hub. In the next five to ten years, Ethiopia hopes to make



Electricity, rather than coffee, its biggest export, when the power plants currently under construction and other new dams are complete.

Ethiopia's Ashegoda Wind Farm Technology started generating 30 MW in test mode. The farm, located about 760km north of Addis Ababa in Tigray Regional State, is set to have a total electricity generation capacity of 120MW.

Somaliland to be on Ethiopian grid

The Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation (EEPCo) is planning to link border towns of south-eastern Somaliland to Ethiopia’s grid.

Initial work to install electric transmission lines is in the early stages and it is not yet known when transmission will begin.

Ethiopia and Somaliland are negotiating an agreement to establish the conditions on which Ethiopia can supply electric power to capital of Somaliland, Hargeisa.

Universal primary education in Ethiopia by 2015

Ethiopia is on track to achieve the goal of universal primary education by 2015.

It currently has 28,000 primary schools compared to fewer than 2,000 primary schools 15 years ago and is on the verge of providing access to education for all of its 20 million school children.

The Government of Ethiopia has made huge investments in the education sector. One quarter of all public expenditure has been devoted to schools during the past few years, demonstrating

the priority the government gives to the development of education.

The World Bank's senior education specialist in Ethiopia, Rajendra Joshi, says the investment is beginning to pay off.

"If we look at the progress toward achieving universal primary education from 2003 to 2010, it increased by 40 percentage points, which is huge," said Joshi. "Ethiopia at the beginning of the '90s was one of the worst countries in terms of participation rates. Now participation rate in primary education is 86 percent - grades one to eight."

Opening the International Partnerships in Higher Education Conference on 13th February under the theme: "*Higher Education for Development*", Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister, Hailemariam Desalegn, said the amount of resources Ethiopia has been spending on the development and expansion of higher learning institutions has been growing steadily over the past years.

The Deputy PM said the number of universities, which numbered only two 20 years ago, has now reached 32.

The government has prioritised spending on education as the renaissance of Ethiopia cannot be realized without it.

Research papers prepared by professionals from the World Bank and higher learning institutions were presented during the conference.

Ethiopia's biggest cement factory inaugurated

Derba MIDROC Cement Plc, Ethiopia's biggest cement factory, was inaugurated on 5th February in the presence of Prime Minister Meles Zenawi and other invited guests at a ground-breaking ceremony held within the premises of the factory.

The \$351 million plant was built by MIDROC Ethiopia, owned by Sheik Mohammed al-Amoudi, an Ethiopian-born Saudi Arabian billionaire who is one of the biggest investors in the Horn of Africa.

Derba MIDROC, located about 70km northwest of Addis Ababa, will produce 8,000 metric tons of cement daily.



Prime Minister Meles Zenawi said the plant will contribute a lot to on-going development in the industry sector. It will also help the country to meet the increasing demand for cement in the construction sector.

The plant will raise the country's annual cement production to over 9 million tonnes.

Mohammed al-Amoudi said MIDROC will continue to contribute its share to the government's development efforts.

In this regard, MIDROC plans to build gypsum and marble factories over the coming 10 years at a cost of 100 billion Birr.

Ethiopia, a net importer of cement, plans to boost output by ten-fold by mid-2015 to 27 million tonnes, says the government.

The Derba plant will add 2.5 million tonnes of cement a year, while expansions to Mesobo Building Materials Production Plc and state-owned Mughher Cement Enterprise will add another 1 million, it said.



Ethiopia “will be self-sufficient in cement for the coming two to three years”. Derba Cement may earn more than 2 billion birr (\$115.9 million) annually.

Al-Amoudi’s company invested \$100 million in the operation, with the European Investment Bank, the African Development Bank, the International Finance Corp and the Development Bank of Ethiopia providing the rest of the funds.



Mohammed Al Amoudi started investing in Sweden in the 1970s and made his initial fortune in construction in Saudi Arabia.

He recently expanded into agriculture in Ethiopia, where he is growing rice, corn and other staples on thousands of acres for the home market as well as for export to Saudi Arabia. In February, he announced a further \$3.4 billion investment in Ethiopia in agriculture as well as cement, steel and transport via his newly formed Derba conglomerate.

He also owns oil refineries in Morocco and Sweden and oil fields off West Africa. His refiner, Preem, created an innovative biodiesel made from tall oil which cuts emissions by 16% when compared to traditional diesel oil.

In July last year, his Midroc Gold discovered over 33,000kg of gold deposits after seven years of exploration - this will boost production already started at two other mining locations.

In September, he plans to reopen two newly refurbished Ethiopian resorts - Blue Nile and Lake Tana - part of his eight hotel empire across Northern Africa. He plans to add to that next year with the African Union Grand Hotel which is a \$200 million 6-star hotel that is currently being built in Addis Ababa next to the African Union headquarters for the union's 50th anniversary celebration.

Mohammed Al Amoudi currently tops the Forbes 2012 Black Billionaires List and is the 61st richest person in the world.

First phase of Modjo Dry Port expansion complete

The Ethiopian Water Works Construction Enterprise is prepared to hand over the completed 254 million birr first part of the Modjo Dry Port expansion to the Shipping and Logistics Enterprise, Ethiopia.

The expansion project launched in 2010 is a year ahead of schedule. The expansion of Modjo Dry Port will enhance the import and export of goods and services and solve problems of congestion at Port Djibouti. The project will also allow for the inclusion of new technology to facilitate the operation of the dry port.

The completion of the project in addition to existing Semera Dry Port will enhance the ability of Ethiopian Shipping and Logistics Enterprise to handle the import and export of good services.

The expansion will increase capacity to 5,000 more containers, and permit access to roads, electricity and drainage systems.

The second phase of the Modjo Dry Port expansion programme will be launched soon and is expected to be finalised in two years.

Funding received to upgrade major roads

Ethiopia’s transport infrastructure is to be upgraded with a \$234.5 million loan from the African Development Bank.

The money will be used to reconstruct two roads that will connect Ethiopia to neighbouring countries in a bid to improve trade.

A 112km road from Bedele to Metu will be upgraded as part of a network that connects Addis Ababa with Juba, South Sudan. A 197km

road between Hawassa and Ageremariam – part of the Mombassa-Nairobi-Addis Ababa road corridor – will also be improved.

Ethiopia prioritised the Universal Road Accessibility Programme (URAP) as part of its poverty alleviation efforts, the Ministry of Transport said.

Speaking at a forum on 7th March, Transport Minister, Diriba Kuma, said encouraging results have been registered in implementing the URAP over the past seven months.

Ethiopia envisages constructing 71,000km of road in the five-year Growth and Transformation Plan - 11,000km has so far been accomplished.

Ethiopia has been building its capacity to produce locally machinery for the construction of roads, with 4,000 locally produced machines already distributed to various regions.

Presenting URAP's seven-month performance report, Ethiopian Roads Authority Director General, Zaid WoldeGebriel, said 26 billion Birr will be allocated to the programme.

Most of the 1,200 projects are underway in Oromia, Amhara and the Southern Ethiopia Peoples States.

The public at large is contributing through labour valued at an estimated 76.6 million birr so far.

251 consultants and 838 contractors are coordinating the construction work. The programme has created 86,300 jobs.

...\$133.7 million earned from horticulture export

Ethiopia has secured \$133.7 million from the export of horticultural crops in the last seven months (July 2011–January 2012), from the export of 1.1 billion flower stems and 72.8 thousand tonnes of fruit, vegetables and herbs - a \$22.7 million increase compared to last year.

More than \$107.5 million was obtained from flower exports, with the remainder obtained from the sale of fruit, vegetables and herbs, with the Netherlands, Germany, England, Belgium, Russia, Japan and the Middle East among the major recipients of the products.

Ethiopia's horticultural products are in very high demand. The Government provides incentives and support to investors and the number of local and foreign investors is on the rise.

By 2014, it hopes to generate more than \$530 million in revenue from flower exports alone.

More than 105 horticulture producer and exporter companies are in operation, of which 70% are foreign and joint venture investments.

Ethiopia recently started exporting organic bananas to Saudi Arabia. At least 11,400 farmers are involved in the project in land covering 3,100ha in the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and People's Region. Ethiopia was in the process of exporting 200 tonnes of bananas a week to the Jeddah market following an agreement with a foreign company interested in exporting.

...\$196 million earned from agriculture

\$196 million was secured from the export of agricultural products through the eastern part of Ethiopia in the first six months of the current Ethiopian fiscal year - exceeding the amount earned during the same period last year by \$9 million. Products primarily exported through this route include coffee, fruits and vegetables, oil seeds and live animals.

...Mining sector earns \$293 million

The Ministry of Mines said the mining sector earned \$293m over the last two quarters - \$1m more than the same period last year - with \$218.2m revenue earned by artisan miners.

Mining exports included gold (5484kg), tantalum (145 tonnes), precious stones and minerals (7339kg) marble (532m3) and platinum.

Additional income of \$600,000 was earned by geological surveys carried out by the Ministry of Mines. The ministry conducted 22,409 mining samples.

Ethiopia earned over \$500 million from mineral exports last budget year.

New textile projects to go operational

The Ethiopian textile industry will be boosted as several textile projects and expansion programmes are likely to become operational this fiscal year.

Eight projects, including new and capacity expansion projects, involving an investment of more than 4.4 billion birr, are likely to conclude this fiscal year.

Five of the on-going projects being constructed anew, with a total outlay of 3.4 billion birr, will generate 3,000 new jobs.

Three other on-going projects for capacity expansion of existing plants, costing over one billion birr, will generate 1,800 new jobs

According to the Ethiopian Textile Development Institute (TDI), Ethiopia exported around \$44 million worth of textiles and textile products during the last six months - around \$23 million higher than that of the same period last year.

Ethiopian textiles and textile products are mainly exported to China, Germany, Sudan, Belgium, Djibouti, Italy, the UK, Turkey, UAE and the US.

Ethiopian wins Gold African Airline Award

Ethiopian Airlines, Ethiopia's flag carrier, won the Gold Award in the African Airline of the Year

2011/12 Award organized by the African Aviation News Portal.

Ethiopian Airlines received a majority of the votes cast by readers and fans of African Aviation becoming the clear winner.



THE NEW SPIRIT OF AFRICA

The voting process was carried out on-line, in a poll set up on the African Aviation website, as well as various airline congress events and industry meetings attended by African Aviation officials. A total of votes exceeding 20,000 were registered. Kenya Airways was awarded the Silver and Precision Air, Tanzania the Bronze.

Ethiopia Airlines was also the recipient of the Airline of the Year Award for 2010 presented by the African Airlines Association, for recording strong financial achievements and consistent profitability. Ethiopian was also named Africa's most profitable airline by Air Transport World and received the Silver Boeing Performance Excellence Award in 2010.

In the past 65 years, Ethiopian Airlines has become one of the continent's most reputable airlines, unparalleled in Africa for its successful operations in industry service with maximum efficiency. It is at the leading edge of modern technology, maintaining the latest state-of-the-art fleets and providing excellent services to the pan African network and sixty two international destinations.

African Aviation, through its dedicated readers and followers, recognizes top industry organizations which have given excellent customer service, skills, ingenuity, creativity and success in Africa's flourishing tourism industry.

African Aviation's Airline of the Year Award is not just a measure of the airliners' worth but stands for the valuable recognition from their satisfied clientele in all sectors of the air travel industry. African Aviation has launched the search for the "African Airline of the Year 2012/2013".

Ethiopian Airlines also announced that it will grow its revenue by \$9.5 billion by 2025. Ethiopian Airlines will be the most competitive and leading aviation group in Africa by providing safe, market-driven and customer-focused passenger and cargo transport, aviation training, flight catering, maintenance repair, ground services, domestic and regional services by 2025, said the airline's Director of Sales and Service, Central and West Africa, Mr Aba Milki Abagaro

In February, Ethiopian Airlines said that it will not increase ticket prices for passengers to and from Europe to offset the European Union carbon emission costs levied on all airlines operating in Europe as part of the European Emission Trading Scheme.

The airline is in the process of modernizing its fleet changing over to aircraft with fewer emissions.



The Emission Trading Scheme has been effective as of the 1st day of the year and aims to protect the climate by requiring airlines flying to and from any destination in Europe to buy certificates for the carbon dioxide they emit.

Revenue from Tourism grows by 111%

The tourist industry in Ethiopia has seen a growth of 111% to \$253 million dollars in the first six months of the current fiscal year according to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

The number of tourists visiting the country has increased by 44% with 321,000 visitors during the last six months. The average length of stay for tourists to Ethiopia has also shown an increase from 4 days to 6 days.

The increase in the flow of tourists is primarily due to enhanced security and peace, despite the recent incident in Afar which was detrimental to the national image explained Sisay Teklu, from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

This is especially true as well-known tourist destinations in Libya, Egypt and Tunisia have recently suffered from conflict and instability, leading to an increase of tourists to Ethiopia.

Increasing efforts to promote Ethiopia as a major tourist destination are underway in major tourist producing destinations such as the UK, Italy and even Russia said Sisay. "And new tourist producing destinations such as India and China are showing more interest in visiting."

In line with the increasing tourist flow in the country, the Ministry has recently adopted new guidelines for tour operators, communities around tourist destinations and tourists.

The new guideline establishes the protection of Ethiopia's cultural heritage by tourists and communities around tourist destinations while tour operators are expected to publish the guidelines and implement them.

Tourists visiting Ethiopia can obtain information on the new guidelines from Ethiopian Embassies or consulates in their countries of origin or from tour operators in Ethiopia.

...Harar earns 10.8m Birr revenue from tourism

Over 10.8 million Birr revenue was secured from more than 13,000 tourists who visited historical, religious and cultural sites in the Harari State during the first seven months of this Ethiopian fiscal year, the state tourism bureau said.

Tourism development directorate director with the bureau, Yasmin Zekerya, said the amount exceeded two-fold that of last year. 10,000 of the tourists were domestic visitors.



Intensive promotional activities and the state being home of sites registered as world heritage sites contributed to the growth in the income.

The wall of Harar Town, locally known as the Jegol, ancient mosques and churches, tame hyenas and the residence of the French poet Arthur Rimbaud are among the attractions in the State. Arthur Rimbaud (1854-1891) spent his last 10 years in Harar.

UK team retrace the Napier Trail

Organised by Trailquest, a team of six riders coming from a range of backgrounds and with varying levels of experience ventured into Ethiopia to retrace the route of a Victorian rescue mission in 1868.

The route saw them travel from the bustling city of Addis Ababa, through Woldia, to Lalibela and then on towards Magdala.



L-R Tony Bethwaite, Pat Jeynes, Richard Cox, Rob Withey, Flavio Bonauti, Dean Miles and (seated) Ian Reed

The trip to Ethiopia had been all that had been anticipated according to Richard Jeynes, Managing Director of Trailquest.

Mr Jeynes said, “I have been delighted with the performance of the team. From the outset this was a serious challenge and all have performed beyond our expectations. We had a fantastic time in Ethiopia passing through spectacular scenery and meeting some delightful people – we look forward to organising further expeditions there in the future”.

In addition to the riding adventure, the team also delivered educational supplies to the charity Project Pencil Case that supports schools in Ethiopia and Help for Heroes.

Following their trip, Mr Jeynes made a courtesy visit to the Embassy and presented H.E. Ambassador Berhanu Kebede with a framed expedition badge and pictures of the expedition.



Napier Trail Expedition Badge



Richard Jeynes (second right), presenting the placard to H.E. Berhanu Kebede (centre), in the presence of diplomats (l-r) Mr. Demeke Atnafu, Mrs. Hirut Zemene and Mr. Tewolde Mulugeta

Richard's story is featured in the April 2012 edition of *Ride* magazine.



Trailquest is a Worcester-based expedition company specialising in providing training and support for motorcycle expeditions in remote regions (www.trailquestadventure.com).

Sports

Abebe Bikila in IAAF Hall of Fame



As part of the celebrations to mark the Centennial Year of the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), Lamine Diack, the President, announced the creation of the IAAF Hall of Fame at a press conference on 8th March.

A total of 24 athletes will become the inaugural Members of the IAAF Hall of Fame in 2012, with the Official Induction Ceremony taking place on 24th November at the IAAF Centenary Gala in Barcelona.

Abebe Bikila of Ethiopia was among the first 12 athletes announced on the eve of the IAAF World Indoor Championships in Istanbul.

The remaining 12 names will be made public between now and the gala in a series of announcements to coincide with important Centennial events, including the actual day of the IAAF Centenary on 17th July and the traditional IAAF Dinner on 2nd August in London on the eve of the start of the London Olympics.

Abebe Bikila's Profile in the Hall of Fame

Abebe Bikila's marathon victory at the 1960 Olympic Games was the first time that an Olympic gold medal had been won by a black athlete representing an African nation.

His triumph in Rome became a beacon for the generations of African runners, particularly from East Africa, that followed in his footsteps in subsequent decades.

Bikila ran barefoot through the Italian capital, an occasion made even more atmospheric by being the first Olympic marathon to be run at night, crossing the line in what was then a world best of 2:15:16.2.

Between 1960 and 1966, Bikila won 12 of the 13 marathons he contested; his only loss coming at the 1963 Boston Marathon where he finished 5th.

Due to an appendectomy six weeks beforehand, Bikila was far from the sole favourite for the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo but he proved his doubters wrong in emphatic fashion.

Now wearing running shoes, he forced the pace from 15km and had a clear lead by the halfway point, eventually crossing the line in 2:12:11.2, which took nearly two minutes off the previous world best.



Bikila also started the 1968 Olympic marathon but had to drop out at 17km due to leg problems.

In 1969, he tragically suffered a broken neck and spinal cord injuries in a car accident and was confined to a wheelchair for the rest of his life. He died from a brain haemorrhage in 1973 at the age of just 41, but Bikila remains to this day an iconic name in athletics.

British Ambassador honours Ethiopian Athletes

British Ambassador to Ethiopia, H.E. Mr Greg Dorey, hosted a reception in honour of Ethiopian athletes who hope to take part in the London 2012 Olympic Games, on 16th February. A large group of young and upcoming athletes and officials from Ethiopian Olympic Committee and the Athletics Federation attended the reception at the British Embassy.

Ambassador Greg Dorey said: “London 2012 will be a truly global celebration, bringing together athletes, fans, volunteers, businesses, media and international leaders from across the world. It will be a celebration of the global community, of cross-border relationships, of peace. Determination, hope and inspiration will underpin everything”.

Highlighting the role of the athletes in inspiring young Ethiopians, Ambassador Dorey said:

“Ethiopia is transforming rapidly. Schools are opening across the country. Roads are being constructed left, right and centre. The government wants to triple electricity output. For the first time in a generation, Ethiopians across the country can start to hope. And this hope is arguably strongest in the millions of young Ethiopians who will be inspired by each of you”.

The British embassy is organising a wide range of events to promote London 2012 that highlights the incredibly strong relationship between Ethiopia and the UK. In November 2011, an International Inspiration sports legacy programme, which aims to enrich the lives of thousands of children in Ethiopia through quality and inclusive physical education, sport and play launched in Ethiopia. In July 2011, the Embassy launched a radio programme on Sheger FM that highlights the hopes and preparation of Ethiopian athletes hoping to participate in the London Olympics.

Ethiopia marks 116th Battle of Adwa Victory

The 116th anniversary of the Victory of the Battle of Adwa, when Ethiopia defeated Italian invading forces, was celebrated colourfully on 2nd March throughout Ethiopia.

In the capital, Addis Ababa, the day was celebrated in the presence of thousands of city residents, war veterans and government officials.

Federal Parliamentary Speaker, Abadula Gameda laid a wreath at Menelik Square in commemoration of the martyrs who died defending the territorial integrity of the nation.

He urged young people to repeat the victory of their forefathers, on poverty. Addressing the crowd, Ethiopian Patriots Association President, Like Tiguhan Astatike Abata, also said they should do all they can to eliminate poverty.

GRAND RENAISSANCE DAM

EXPRESSION OF ETHIOPIA'S COMMITMENT TO THE BENEFIT OF ALL THE COUNTRIES OF THE NILE BASIN



Members of the Ethiopian-Somali Community in the UK buy bonds worth 7.18 million Birr



Members of the Ethiopian Somali Community in the UK raised £183,850 (5.1 million birr) in cash by buying Renaissance Dam bonds and have pledged a further £75,000 (2.08 million birr) bringing the total to 7.18 million birr. They did so at a meeting on 4th March, held in the presence of a high-level Government delegation led by H.E. Abdi Mohammud Omer, President of the Somali Regional State.

Involvement by the business community was very high, reflecting a determination to support the construction of the Renaissance Dam.



In an inspirational speech at the meeting, President Abdi commended the active involvement by community members in both national and regional development drives in the areas of investment and trade. He encouraged them in their conviction to see through the construction of the dam by purchasing bonds.



Citizens from all walks of life, he said, should take the initiative to buy the Bonds in support of the grand scheme, which is at the centre of the five-year Growth and Transformation Plan, which will support a faster rate of growth, in turn feeding the economy with the power it needs. He briefed the meeting about development activities in the Somali regional State focusing on education, health and infrastructure development that has been transforming living conditions. The president called for a heightened role for the Diaspora to ensure success in making poverty history.

H.E. Berhanu Kebede, Ethiopian Ambassador to the UK, and Ambassador Abdirashid Dulane, the Deputy Head of the Ethiopian Mission in London both urged members of the Ethiopian Somali community to raise to a new high their engagement in nation building efforts through the purchase of Bonds, which they said is pivotal for the attainment of speedy economic growth. Members of the community resolved to do what it takes for the realization of the construction of the Renaissance dam.

The Ethiopian Embassy in London has so far mobilized an equivalent of 10 million birr in cash in Bond sales and another 4.1 million in pledges bringing the total sum to 14.1 million birr.

Meanwhile, a documentary film entitled *Silent Cry Freedom of Peace* was premiered at the Copthorne Tara Hotel in the presence of H.E. President Abdi Mohamud Omer and hundreds of members of the Ethiopian Somali community residing in the UK.

The film depicts the atrocities committed by ONLF, a terrorist group bent on undermining peace and stability in the Somali region of Ethiopia. It also shows the economic success stories brought about as a result of the protracted effort of the regional administration and the Federal Government of Ethiopia.



In a speech made at the event, organised to present bond certificates to staff members, Ethiopian Ambassador to the UK, H.E. Berhanu Kebede, urged further commitment by encouraging Ethiopians and friends of Ethiopia to promote the purchase of bonds, which is advantageous both to the buyer and to the cause of the new Ethiopia.



The economic transformation of the region proved beyond doubt how the life of the people in the region is changing. The documentary investigates the situation on the ground showing the determination of the people making headway in all spheres of endeavour including education, health, irrigation, communication and infrastructure. It also narrates the suffering inflicted by anti-peace forces on people particularly those who were made orphans after losing families as a result of the atrocities committed by the terrorist group, ONLF.

London mission staff, after discussions on how to make available relevant information to all Ethiopians, foreign nationals of Ethiopian origin and friends of Ethiopia, seized the opportunity to show once again their resolve to seeing through the construction of the dam, which symbolises Ethiopia's renaissance.

The film reflects on the bright future awaiting youngsters in the region as development activities gain momentum through the active participation and ownership of the process by the people. Silent Cry is a charity founded in 2009 by a group of young students who wanted to illustrate the changes they would like to see in the world.

Resource mobilisation for the construction of the dam in the UK is gaining momentum with the total amount rising to over 6.8 million Birr in purchases, pledges and gifts.

Diplomats, local staff purchase bonds worth 1.5 million Birr

Institute conserving bio-diversity around Renaissance Dam

Diplomats and local staff at the Ethiopian Embassy in London have bought additional Renaissance Dam bonds worth over 1.5 million Birr.

The Institute of Biodiversity Conservation and Research (IBCR) said that activities are underway to conserve bio-diversity around the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam area.

This latest commitment follows a unanimous decision to buy more bonds in addition to earlier purchases and pledges.

Two teams of experts went to the area to conserve the biodiversity in a field gene bank.



The conservation activities were launched with a view to curtailing the loss of biodiversity as the dam project covers a large area. Efforts are also underway to conserve the bamboo biodiversity existing in the Benishangul Gumuz State.

The institute has been preserving plant genetic resources that could enhance productivity of pastoralist and semi-pastoralists residing in states in need of special support.

The Development Bank of Ethiopia (DBE) had projected that in the last two quarters it would sell 600 million birrs worth of bonds but actual sales exceeded one billion birr. In the current fiscal year, it aims to sell 1.5 billion birrs worth of bonds.

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