



Ethiopian News

February 2013 Issue

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UK Deputy Prime Minister and International Development Minister visit Ethiopia

The Rt. Hon. Nick Clegg MP visited Ethiopia from 15th February on his first visit to Sub-Saharan Africa as Deputy Prime Minister (DPM). He was accompanied by International Development Minister Lynne Featherstone MP. The visit is part of the UK's engagement with Africa during its G8 presidency year. The delegation also visited Mozambique.

On his visit to Ethiopia, the DPM spoke with political and business leaders to discuss how the G8's agenda - trade, tax and transparency - can make a difference to African nations. The visit's purpose was also to support the UK's **Girls Education Challenge**.

Mr Clegg congratulated Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn and his government for the peaceful and smooth transition after the death of the late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi.

Discussions with PM Hailemariam focused on ways of ensuring sustainable peace and stability in the Horn, in particular in Somalia and the Sudans. PM Hailemariam said the two countries had agreed to collaborate on the London Conference on Somalia, scheduled to take place in May, to help ensure peace and stability in the Horn.

They also agreed to work closely to enhance trade and investment flows between Ethiopia and the UK. The Prime Minister said Ethiopia's tax reform

programme, implemented with the support of the British government, had enabled Ethiopia to double tax revenue in the last four years.



PM Hailemariam Dessalegn and DPM Nick Clegg

Mr Clegg said the British government would work closely with Ethiopia on socio-economic and political affairs in the Horn, and further strengthen bilateral relations. There was also agreement that Ethiopia, current chair of the African Union, and the UK would work together on issues related to trade and investment and tax.

Mr Clegg later told officials and African ambassadors that, during its presidency, the UK would be emphasizing how the G8 can help African nations by focusing on the global economy, specifically supporting free trade, tackling tax evasion and encouraging greater transparency and accountability - it was vital that the benefits of aid were not wiped out by losses sustained by multi-nationals or individuals manipulating countries' tax systems. "Many of the difficulties that

governments face in the developing world are becoming increasingly common in the developed world," suggesting that everyone should work together to overcome the problem of disappearing tax revenues.

Mr Clegg said the UK would meet its promise to spend 0.7% of its GDP on international aid in 2013 and the benefits of aid should not be wiped out by losses from other areas. "Ethiopia is our largest recipient of bilateral aid, and it is clear that it is helping," he said.

During discussions with H.E. Dr Tedros Adhanom, **Ethiopia's Foreign Minister**, Mr Clegg conveyed his admiration for Ethiopia's successful economic and social development over the past decade. He affirmed the UK's support for Ethiopia's positive role in mediation efforts between Sudan and South Sudan as well as committing further support to its involvement in the consolidation of peace and stability in Somalia.

Dr Tedros thanked the UK for its unwavering support for Ethiopia's comprehensive development initiatives while assuring the DPM that their partnership has always been appreciated by the people of Ethiopia. Mr Clegg also expressed his appreciation for the outstanding efforts Ethiopia had made in the pursuit of the green economy, describing it as "a world leader" in this regard. He congratulated the Minister on Ethiopia's attainment of six out of eight Millennium Development Goals.

Mr Clegg and Ms Featherstone visited Kokebe Tsebah Primary & Secondary school in Addis Ababa on 16th February launching the first **Girls Education Challenge Fund** projects in Ethiopia. The UK is providing £11m - complementing DFID's existing programmes, which support around one in ten primary school teachers in rural areas of Ethiopia - to support the education of 50,000 girls across Ethiopia. The programme will focus on innovative techniques such as using local languages, using radio to encourage parents to send their children to school and seeking to involve the private sector.

Most of the funds will assist girls who are unable to attend primary school by providing books and learning materials. Ato Demeke Mekonnen, Deputy

Prime Minister and Minister of Education, said that this, coupled with the activities of the government, will have a significant impact on strengthening **girls' education**. The enrolment rate of girls in primary education has met the Millennium Development Goal, with enrolment ratios standing at 51% for male students and 49% for females. Considerable progress has also been made at secondary level and he welcomed the additional support for **the government's aims and efforts**.



On 6th February, prior to the visit, the Deputy PM and Ms Featherstone held a reception on the **UK Presidency of the G8 and Africa**, for people interested in the objectives of the G8, and in engagement with Africa. H.E. Berhanu Kebede, **Ethiopia's Ambassador to the UK** was in attendance.



The DPM said, "**Many of the difficulties that governments face in the developing world are becoming increasingly common in the developed world.** For too long, the developed world ignored the way in which tax revenues, which rightfully belonged to developing countries, disappeared as people exploited different tax regimes, and made a mockery of governments in the developing world. We must work together to overcome it. To disrupt

the vicious cycle of inequity in the systems of tax and trade, we must first create a level playing field whereby responsible and thriving companies are attracted to trade and do business in a fair and transparent way.”



H.E. Ambassador Berhanu Kebede and The Rt. Hon. Nick Clegg MP at the reception

Ms Featherstone said, "In the year that we chair the G8, it is right that we use our aid and expertise to boost tax revenues in the poorest countries and help them to stand on their own two feet. Helping developing countries to collect taxes means they can improve their own public services such as health and education. It also helps attract the investment and trade they need to grow and develop.”

FCO Minister for Africa visits Ethiopia

UK Minister for Africa, Mark Simmonds MP, visited Ethiopia on 11th February to discuss bilateral and commercial relationships between the two countries and regional issues.

Mr Simmonds met the Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Dr Tedros Adhanom and the Minister of Industry, H.E. Ato Mekonnen Manyazewal, to discuss the growing bilateral trade between the UK and Ethiopia, as well as the current security situation in the Horn of Africa.

Dr Tedros expressed Ethiopia's interest in more UK investment in Ethiopia, particularly in the manufacturing sector.

UK investors are encouraged to invest especially in the textile, leather and leather products sub sector, Dr Tedros said

Mr Simmonds said, “Ethiopia is a partner of growing importance. It is now our biggest bilateral development partner in the world, with more spent here – and more productively – than anywhere else at present. We collaborate closely on regional security issues, not least in Somalia and the Sudans. And we work together on Pan-African and global issues such as combating dangerous climate change, which are in our mutual interests.”

He also toured Pittards Plc, one of the oldest UK companies operating in Ethiopia, and attended a reception with local businesses to discuss the business environment and how to better increase the commercial links between both countries.

Mr Simmonds also recently attended the 20th African Union Summit in Addis where he co-chaired with the Somali Foreign Minister a meeting of the international community on Somalia.

Ethiopia to participate at G20 in St. Petersburg

Russian President Vladimir Putin issued an official invitation on 20th February to the G20 heads of state and government to participate in the G20 Summit in St. Petersburg, to take place from 5th – 6th September 2013.

Ethiopia is invited as it currently holds the presidency of the African Union. Other leaders invited include Spain, Senegal (which holds the presidency of the New Partnership for Africa's Development in 2013), Kazakhstan (representing the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Customs Union, and the Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC)), Brunei (which holds the presidency of ASEAN in 2013) and Singapore (as the country presiding over the IMF's International Monetary and Financial Committee and president of the Global Governance Group (3G)).

Seven international organizations have also been invited including the UN, World Bank, the IMF, Financial Stability Board, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

Deputy PM meets Gordon Brown, UK MPs

Ethiopian Deputy PM, H.E. Ato Demeke Mekonnen, met and held talks with former British Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Gordon Brown, in his office at the House of Commons. Mr Brown is also the United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education.

The Deputy Premier, who is also Minister for Education, was in London as the head of a high-level delegation attending the **Education World Forum**, convened to debate the quantity, quality and impact of policy making.

The Forum ran from 28th to 30th January and was attended by representatives from over 100 countries. The delegation also took part in the British Council annual gathering for African Education Ministers on the teaching of science, technology, English, maths and ICT.

During the discussion with H.E. Mr Gordon Brown and his team, Ato Demeke outlined the latest educational developments in Ethiopia, focusing on quality of education, enrolment of students, teacher training, provision of educational materials and the utilization of ICT as part of the modernization and expansion of education.

Ethiopia, on track to achieve the MDGs targets for education, has made significant progress towards realising universal education, has bridged the gap between girl and boy students and improved the capacity of teachers, raising the quality of education and student enrolment at all levels.

The former British PM offered his condolences on the demise of the late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi and noted how much he valued the friendship with Ethiopia and pledged to support **Ethiopia's bid for** assistance from international organizations, including the World Bank, DfID, USAID, the UN agencies and other global partners, to expedite education strategies which reflect national priorities.

With a student population of 22 million, Ethiopia employs over 400,000 teachers serving 30,000 schools.

Ethiopia devotes 23% of its annual expenditure to education - 4.3% of its GDP - indicating its commitment to opening up opportunities.



The Deputy PM with the Rt. Hon. Michael Gove MP (left)

The Deputy Premier also met and held discussions with the UK Secretary of State for Education, the Rt. Hon. Michael Gove MP, on progress in improving access to and quality of education in Ethiopia.

He also had an audience with the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development, Ms Lynne Featherstone MP. They discussed the utilization of development finance and how best to further enhance gains made in various development programmes. Ms Featherstone pledged more support for development in Ethiopia, which has shown resilience in the fight against poverty.

Ato Demeke expressed satisfaction at the **UK's** high quality intervention which, he said, focused on **Ethiopia's priorities**. **The two parties** discussed issues related to quality of education and capacity building, the CSO law and the rights of women. Ato Demeke also met the Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Ethiopia, Laurence Robertson MP, and other members of the group.

They discussed development, elections - including the role of opposition parties - **Ethiopia's role** in the maintenance of peace and stability in the Horn of Africa, the improvements in education in Ethiopia, highlighting the constitutional multi-party system which Ethiopia is building with the support of development partners like the UK.

As Ethiopia currently holds the rotating AU chairmanship under the leadership of H.E. PM Hailemariam, Ato Demeke highlighted the centrepiece of future AU activities - infrastructure, agriculture development, conflict resolution, maintenance of peace and stability and promotion of good governance.

Mr Robertson expressed his condolences at the loss of a great leader, former Prime Minister Meles, and appreciated the progress made in many spheres as part of the drive to ensure growth and economic prosperity in Ethiopia.

The Deputy Premier said Ethiopia is determined to build a democratic order where the principle of unity in diversity is celebrated as an anchor with which the new Ethiopia would thrive. For Ethiopia to be viable and strong, he said, we have to nurture democracy, learning from the best practices of the developed nations.

Addis Ababa 5th in MasterCard African Cities Growth Index

The MasterCard African Cities Growth Index launched in January placed Addis Ababa 5th over 19 sub-Saharan African cities with the highest potential for growth over the next five years (2012 – 2017).



The Gotera Interchange in Addis Ababa

"As the entire African continent with its population of over one-billion people is experiencing fundamental transformation, this new index spotlights the economic and human factors driving urban growth over the next five years," Mastercard said in a statement.

The index, developed in the final quarter of 2012 by Professor George Angelopulo of the University of South Africa (Unisa), was launched at the second Africa Knowledge Forum in Johannesburg.

The index rankings were developed from published historical and projected data on typical factors affecting cities' growth, including economic data, governance levels, ease of doing business, infrastructure and human development factors, and population growth levels. Accra, Lusaka, Luanda and Dar es Salaam claimed top spots in the index.

2nd anniversary of Renaissance Dam to be celebrated; new ways of fundraising announced

The National Coordination Council for Renaissance Dam announced that second anniversary of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) will be celebrated colourfully.

The late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi laid the foundation for the construction of the Dam on 2nd April 2011.



The Dam - which will be the largest hydroelectric power plant in Africa when completed - is being constructed in Guba Woreda of Benishangul Gumuz State and will generate 6,000MW of power. It will create the country's largest artificial lake with 63 billion cubic metres of water, twice the size of Lake Tana, the source of the Blue Nile.

The entire cost for the construction of the Dam (80 billion Birr) is being covered by Ethiopia and GERD National Secretariat will shortly be introducing new ways of fundraising to help finance construction - a special lottery and musical

concerts and the mobilisation of 1 billion birr through Short Text Messages.

From the total of 11.127 billion pledged, 4.1 billion birr has been collected so far. Government and private employees have contributed 1.8 billion birr and have started a second round of pledges of their monthly salary.

As of November just over 14% of the construction had been completed and by the end of the year the project will be 26% complete. The dam is slated for completion in 2015.

Private sector to get involved in hydro supply

A feasibility study for the construction of five small-scale hydro-power plants, built and managed by private investors, is being evaluated by the Ministry of Water & Energy (MoWE).

Four cooperatives and a private investor from the Southern region have already been selected by the Ministry's Rural Electrification Fund (REF) to invest on the sites. The study, conducted by the Water Works Design & Supervision Enterprise (WWDSE), assessed the energy that could be produced from five different rivers in Amhara, Benishangul, Gambella, Oromia and the Southern Regional State.

The small-scale hydro-power plants can generate up to 10MW of electricity and can light up anything from a single home to an entire village. Unlike the bigger hydropower plants, the small-scale ones do not necessarily need a reservoir to store water.

"The cost and impact to the environment is smaller when building to a small scale," Mebrate Tafesse (PhD), CEO of WWDSE said.

The study was commissioned a year ago by the MoWE when approached by cooperatives and individuals keen to invest in electricity generation.

There are around 50 private investors involved in the generation and supply of energy, according to data from the Ethiopian Electric Agency.

Geothermal energy potential realised; Cluff Geothermal shortlisted

The World Bank and the Development Bank of Ethiopia are to support a programme to explore the country's geothermal energy potential.

A \$40m World Bank grant will help Ethiopia accelerate the development of renewable energy projects. It will cover the costs of early exploration and drilling activities. Private investors will then be invited to lead geothermal projects and develop power plants. Cluff Geothermal, a British company involved in developing Kenya's first geothermal project, has already been shortlisted. The company told the Guardian newspaper "In Ethiopia we have conducted a scoping environmental impact assessment on a site close to the town of Metehara," said MD George Day. "The government of Ethiopia has strong commitments to developing geothermal as part of its energy mix. We must remain patient while the country's regulatory framework is prepared for independent power producers such as ourselves. We are confident that this will be in the next six months."

Ethiopia unveiled an ambitious energy plan that requires a \$10.4-billion to be invested in the power sector over the next four years. According to the plan, some \$7-billion will go towards the construction of dams and harnessing other power generation sources, such as geothermal, wind and solar; \$1.8-billion will be required for investment in transmission facilities and \$1.6-billion in distribution systems.

The full article can be found on the Guardian website: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2013/feb/13/ethiopia-geothermal-energy-potential>

Thermal power expansion to commence at Aluto-Langano

Expansion work at the \$35m Aluto-Langano Geothermal Power Plant began in February with the digging of four wells which will boost the project's capacity to 70MW - 100MW when fully complete in 2016.

The project is part of the government's plan to raise power output to 10,000MW by 2015, to meet

growing demand, in line with the Growth and Transformation Plan. Increased thermal power, which is cheaper than hydro and diesel, will help the Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation to reduce the unit price it charges for power.

Geo-thermal exploration began in Ethiopia in 1969, with a survey that covered 150,000sqm in the Ethiopian Rift Valley, namely; Aluto-Langano, Tendaho, Corbetti, Abaya, Gedemsa and Tulu areas.

First Ethiopian-made solar PV module

The Metals and Engineering Corporation (MetEC) in collaboration with SKY Energy International started assembling photovoltaic solar panels for the first time in Ethiopia in February, after erecting a module assembly plant in Addis Ababa at a cost of \$5m.

The panels will be produced in different sizes, as needed, supplying 20MW of power, annually.

The factory is the first in Ethiopia and follows Dutch company Ubbink BV's opening of a PV module factory in neighbouring Kenya in August 2011.

The goal is to sell the panels to the Ethiopian market and eventually to neighbouring countries.

The government plans to have solar technologies represent 20% of its power capacity in the next five years.

400MW wind project launched

Terra Global Energy Developers, LLC (Terra), has announced the launch of a 400 MW wind energy project in Debre Birhan, Ethiopia. This move will make Terra the first US wind energy developer to enter Ethiopia's growing wind energy sector.

Construction of the project should begin in 2014 on a build and transfer basis for the Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation (EEPCo).

Dereje Abebe, CEO of Terra, said the project will "create jobs, increase electrification, and help power economic growth with clean and sustainable wind energy. Ethiopia has the wind and hydro resources to become Africa's

'powerhouse' for renewable energy generation and export."

Terra has been collecting wind data and characteristics on the Debre Birhan site since October 2012 as part of a year-long technical and financial feasibility study. "The wind data we are collecting is very encouraging," said Mr Abebe. "Terra is providing US technology, expertise, and investment, while helping Ethiopia to increase its wind energy sector capacity."

As part of Terra's local capacity building, it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with nearby Debre Birhan University School of Engineering to create a Wind Energy **Centre of Excellence**. Terra and its suppliers will provide data sensor and other equipment for hands-on student-led on-campus wind monitoring. Terra is also coordinating expert-led online wind energy technical education and student field experience sessions during the installation and commissioning of wind resource measurement equipment.

Ashegoda wind farm nearing completion

The Ashegoda wind farm project is nearing completion with 95% of construction completed. The wind farm has already begun generating 30MW energy with one turbine with the remaining part of the 120MW project to be completed soon.

The project is part of a government plan to generate up to 890 MW of wind energy by the end of the Growth and Transformation Plan period.

Ethiopia, AGRA launch \$5 million project targeting smallholder farmers

The Ministry of Agriculture and the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) launched a new \$5 million project on 4th February to double agricultural production by smallholder farmers in the next five years.

According to AGRA, the project, which will target over 90,000 smallholder farmers in six regional states, will include co-finance for the procurement of three lime-crushers to deal with high levels of acidity in soils in various states. Targeted Regional states include Oromia, Amhara, SNNPRS, Tigray, Gambela and Benshangul Gumuz.



The current project is among several initiatives that the Ministry of Agriculture has prioritised to tackle key agricultural productivity constraints in Ethiopia. In the next three years, the government plans to scale up improved soil fertility management packages to a minimum of 90,000 farming households, Prof. Tekalign Mamo, State Minister and Advisor to the Minister of Agriculture said.

Dr Bashir Jama, AGRA's Director for the Soil Health Programme said, "...we have chosen to implement this project in partnership with the Ethiopian government because we believe that the country has the potential to achieve a green revolution and become a net-exporter of food within the next few years if well supported. What is needed is sustained investments in the agricultural development sector and strategic support for smallholder farmers across the country through the provision of more improved seeds, integrated soil fertility management practices and good extension support," he added.

The project will target four key cereal crops; maize, teff, barley and wheat; and four grain legumes - soybeans, faba beans, lentils and chick peas. It will encourage farmers to adopt integrated soil fertility management approaches. It seeks to ensure a 100% increase in yields and a 60% increase in access to fertilizers and improved seeds for the 90,000 smallholder farmers.

WFP buys record quantity of maize from Ethiopia; USAID, Dupont join Ethiopia to boost harvests

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has announced that local farmer cooperatives in Ethiopia have begun selling the largest amount of maize ever to WFP, enough to support more than 1.8 million people for a month - the maize will be used for WFP relief distributions in Ethiopia.

"Our goal here is to support Ethiopia feeding itself," said WFP Country Director Abdou Dieng. "Buying food for our Ethiopia operation right here in Ethiopia makes sense in cost-effectiveness, and in providing a boost for the local economy by helping small farmers to get closer to markets."

This is done under the Purchase for Progress initiative (P4P) financed by the Bill and Melinda

Gates Foundation, implemented in collaboration with the Government of Ethiopia through the **Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA)**.

Food grown in Ethiopia is purchased by WFP in two ways: it buys from small-scale farmers and farmer cooperatives through P4P, and also buys large quantities of locally grown commodities through its regular procurement tender process.

WFP purchased more than 112,000 metric tonnes of food in Ethiopia in 2012 - more than any other country on the continent – and about 90% of this food has been used directly for WFP operations within Ethiopia. Last year WFP assisted more than six million people throughout Ethiopia, including refugees.

To support the cooperatives to fulfil their contracts, WFP provides technical assistance to farmers associations for storage and post-harvest handling and logistical support. Through agreements with local banks, several agricultural cooperatives were able to use their WFP contracts as collateral for loans to buy new equipment and aggregate more maize from their members.

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) partnered with DuPont and the Government of Ethiopia to help 30,000 smallholder farmers in Ethiopia produce more maize.

The maize improvement partnership was announced on 24th January in Davos in conjunction with the World Economic Forum, an annual gathering of public, private sector and academic leaders.

DuPont will invest more than \$3m over the next three years, which should increase smallholder maize farmers' productivity by up to 50% and reduce their post-harvest losses as much as 20%.

USAID supports Ethiopia's efforts to encourage collaborations to produce more commodities, including maize, an important food source and a significant contributor to the country's economic development.

"Investing in smallholder farmers remains the key to unlocking agricultural growth and transforming economies," said USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah.

In January 2012, USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah visited DuPont's agricultural research facility in Delaware. He said that USAID is "harnessing the power of this research" by partnering with DuPont's subsidiary Pioneer Hi-Bred and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to develop varieties of maize that efficiently use nitrogen. Pioneer is the second-largest seed company in the world.

"By partnering together, we are able to reach more smallholder farmers, helping them dramatically improve yields with less fertilizer," Shah said.

In May 2012, President Obama and other leaders of the Group of Eight (G8) major industrialized nations, African leaders and corporate leaders introduced the global **New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition** at the G8 summit in Washington. The alliance endorsed the plans of Ethiopia, Ghana and Tanzania to coordinate public and private investments with national agriculture development priorities.

In its plan, Ethiopia said it would facilitate foreign and national private sector investment and technology transfers in agricultural production and marketing, including improved seeds, fertilizer, irrigation, crop protection, training, post-harvest processing, storage, roads and financing.

DuPont said that it would work with Ethiopia's government to help the country's smallholder farmers benefit from its research and produce more food.

In September 2012, representatives of USAID, the World Bank, Ethiopia's government and other stakeholders met in Addis Ababa, to discuss ways to build commitments and accountability into the country's agricultural and investment policies.

"We understand that local solutions, local acceptance and community collaborations are critical to improving food security in Africa and around the world," DuPont Chief Executive Officer Ellen Kullman said in May 2012. She added that DuPont also would recruit local talent to run its African research and operations and ensure that its development solutions are economically, socially and environmentally sustainable.

Health extension programme in World Bank's study of universal health coverage

Ethiopia's Health Extension Programme (HEP) was among a set of 22 case studies of countries, selected by the World Bank, that have significantly expanded access to health care in the last decade.

Since the launch in 2003, major gains have been made in providing universal access to primary health care through the community-based health extension programme, which has hired and trained over 35,000 female health extension workers who have contributed significantly to better health outcomes in rural areas.

Researchers looked at countries' experiences with a set of parameters related to achieving universal health coverage (UHC), including designing and managing benefits packages, expanding coverage to the poorest and excluded populations, providing quality care, and health financing.

The case studies can be found on the [World Bank website](#).

World Bank supports Ethiopia's push to achieve historic health improvements

The World Bank (WB) has mobilised \$120m to help Ethiopia achieve far-reaching improvements in maternal and child health, and continue its progress towards meeting the 2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for health.

The Ethiopia Health MDGs Programme-for-Results was approved on 28th February. A \$100 million zero-interest credit will be disbursed to Ethiopia over the next four years on completion of specific health results, particularly those that improve the **health of the country's women and children**. Ethiopia will also receive a \$20m grant from the Health Results Innovation Trust Fund, managed by the WB and funded by the UK and Norway. The Trust Fund supports the use of results-based financing to improve the coverage of essential maternal and child health services.

In recent years, Ethiopia has made impressive progress in health, with child deaths falling by 30% between 2005 and 2011. By linking its new WB funding to deliverables - such as more skilled care

for expectant mothers - Ethiopia will increase the number of its mothers who survive childbirth.

“It is hugely encouraging that recent economic growth in Ethiopia has been accompanied by dramatic improvements in people’s healthcare,” said Guang Zhe Chen, WB Country Director for Ethiopia. **“The country is already on track to meet some of its Millennium Development Goals in health, including those for child survival, HIV/AIDS, and malaria. This programme will boost Ethiopia’s efforts to expand these results by providing financial incentives to improve the reach of basic health services across the country.”**

Ethiopia is the first beneficiary of the WB’s Programme-for-Results window for improving health in a country supported by its zero-interest lending facility called the International Development Association (IDA). Funds are released when better development results have been verifiably achieved.

Key results against which PforR funds will be disbursed to Ethiopia include: an increased share of deliveries attended by skilled health workers, timely immunization to protect children against five vaccine-preventable diseases, and pregnant women receiving at least one antenatal care visit in addition to effective data gathering and transparency.

Ethiopia has already deployed a large national network of more than 35,000 trained health workers and scaled up the government’s delivery of basic health services, in close alliance with the **UK’s Department for International Development**, the Netherlands, the Australian Agency for International Development, Spanish Development Cooperation, the World Bank, and other donor and partner groups.

“Focusing on results in health not only improves people’s lives, but is also one of the smartest investments that a country can make,” said Ritva Reinikka, WB Director for Human Development in Africa. **“In the long run, no nation can hope to sustain economic growth and thrive without successfully delivering high quality basic public services for all citizens.”**

Diaspora doctors to start specialised hospital

Ethio-American Doctors Group, an association of more than 150 Ethiopian doctors in the diaspora, are constructing a hospital in Ethiopia that will offer state-of-the-art medical treatment – to reduce the number of Ethiopians seeking medical facilities abroad.

The new hospital will include a medical school and research centre, featuring 27 medical specialities that are not currently on offer in Ethiopia.

Dr Yonas Legessa Cherinet of the Doctors Group said, **“...there are a variety of fields where service is very limited here...vascular surgery, urology, pulmonology, neuro-surgery and reproductive endocrinology. So many doctors are coming in with a range of specialities. There will be a core group of these specialists who will be coming here to lead some departments, to work here,”** said Yonas.

As for the people who will not be able to afford treatment at the facility, Yonas said money will be raised for those in financial need. **“We also have what we call the EDG fund, which will be taking 10 percent of our profit for people who cannot afford quality service,”** he said.

The hospital will open its doors by 2016 and employ 300 to 400 people, of whom 50 will be physicians. Some doctors from the diaspora will return to Ethiopia, while others will commit several weeks a year to an exchange of knowledge with the hospital.

3rd International Family Planning Conference to be held in Ethiopia

The Ministry of Health announced that Ethiopia will host the 3rd International Conference on Family Planning in November this year, in collaboration with the Bill and Melinda Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.



Up to 4,000 participants are expected to take part in the conference including many young people

and newly emerging leaders in the field of family planning and reproductive health.

The conference will provide a platform to highlight successes that have been achieved in family planning around the world and address remaining hurdles.

Ethiopia was selected as host because of its achievements in increasing the number of family planning service beneficiaries and successful health extension activities – they reached 5.6 million in 2012, up from 2.6 million in 2005.

Wales' Chief Veterinary Officer visits Ethiopia to explore TB vaccination

Dr Christianne Glossop, the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) for Wales, was in Ethiopia in February for a week to view its bovine TB cattle vaccination project.



Ethiopia has one of the largest cattle populations in the world, with an economy highly dependent on livestock. It also has a significant challenge with bovine TB.

During her trip, Dr Glossop met with the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, H.E. Ato Tefera Deribew, and Chief Veterinary Officer, Dr Bewket Siraw Adgeh to discuss TB eradication.

The Welsh Government believes that cattle vaccination could contribute to TB eradication and is keen to explore all options. It is developing a vaccination strategy, the first stage of which will be technical trials, and is working closely with the European Commission and colleagues in England. Legislation and technical issues mean European countries are not currently able to use such a vaccine.

“We want to develop a sustainable relationship with Ethiopia. They have practical experience of vaccinating cattle against TB and we have been focussing on TB testing, biosecurity and movement restrictions. There are opportunities for us to both help and learn from each other,” Dr Glossop said.

“Considering options for vaccination as part of our eradication plan is a priority for the Welsh Government. We know it is going to take time to get there, and that there are hurdles to be overcome but we are keen to do all we can to accelerate the process.”

“This visit to Ethiopia confirmed my view that cattle vaccination can only form part of a comprehensive TB eradication programme.”

Dr Glossop also visited a number of farms across the country to consider how lessons learned in Wales might feed into the establishment of training seminars and workshops for Ethiopian vets and cattle keepers.

The CVO visited Awash, Ziway and the highlands, where she visited different types of cattle production including mixed farms and commercial dairy herds, and spent time with Afar pastoralists. She lectured at the College of Veterinary Medicine and Agriculture in Debre Zeit.

“I plan to return to Ethiopia, as part of the Welsh Government’s Wales for Africa programme,” Dr Glossop said.

Last December she chaired an international workshop in Cardiff to advance thinking on the role that a cattle vaccine should play in TB eradication. Her observations from this Ethiopian trip will feed into further deliberations following **publication of the workshop’s report** in March.

Entrepreneurship programme launched

A new Entrepreneurship Development Programme was officially launched on 19th February in the presence of PM Hailemariam. A collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, the three-year programme will develop enterprises of over 200,000 entrepreneurs through provision of entrepreneurial skills training and business advisory services.

An additional 25,000 people will also be trained as Trainers and a further 20,000 trained as Business Advisors to support the implementation of the programme, to ensure the sustainability of the programme, a statement from UNDP said.

Established under the auspices of the Urban Development and Construction Ministry, the programme will cost \$26 million.

PM Hailemariam said the government gives prime attention to the programme which will provide training and back the **government's** efforts to create new jobs for those engaged in micro and small-scale enterprises and the youth and women.

The project will help to speed up industrial development, the Premier said and will help promote entrepreneurship.

Urban Development and Construction Minister, Mekuria Haile, said the project will contribute significantly to on-going efforts to become a middle-income country and would instil its culture of entrepreneurship.

Eugen Owusu, UNDP Representative to Ethiopia, said the programme will focus on both start-up entrepreneurs and existing enterprises and will be based on four pillars: institutional development, entrepreneurial development training, business development services and partnerships. These four pillars deal with the key challenges that entrepreneurs face in Ethiopia.

DPM meets with UK universities to promote partnership

H.E. Demeke Mekonnen discussed future links with higher learning institutions, including Northampton and Nottingham Universities.

He appreciated Northampton University's **intent to link up with Addis Ababa University and Addis Ababa Science and Technology College**, encouraging relationships that will boost leather technology, water quality and waste management in Ethiopia. Northampton proposed initiatives enhancing enterprise and employability in addition to the value chain approach that is in line with **Ethiopia's** development priorities.



Deputy PM with representatives from the University of Northampton - the university's vice-chancellor Prof. Nick Petford (2nd left), Dr Ian Brooks – Dean of Northampton Business School (2nd right) and Rachel Garwood, Director of Institute of Creative Leather Technology

They also discussed how Northampton University could support the leather industry in Ethiopia. In conjunction with Pittards Plc, the UK leather and leather products company, which owns Ethiopian Tannery, the University of Northampton hopes to develop the management skills in the Ethiopian leather industry, to boost significant growth and enhanced profitability for the industry.

Dr Brooks said: "The University's unique capabilities in leather technology and business capability can offer the Ethiopian leather industry support to help it become a world leader for leather; from innovation in animal stock management through to high quality products. "The industry is already robust, but we can transform its future, by helping it become a global brand of high quality."

The Ministry of Education has also reinvigorated its agreement for scholarships with Nottingham University, which will launch the programme next academic year.



Deputy PM with Prof. Martyn Poliakoff and Mr Vincenzo Raimo, Director of the International Office, Nottingham University

Professor Martyn Poliakoff, who is also Foreign Secretary of the Royal Society, appreciated Ethiopia's focus on engineering and technology and encouraged government support for the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences, which is working to bring on younger scientists.

UK school to build and run a school in Ethiopia

Broomwood Hall School, an independent preparatory school based in Wandsworth, London, has formed a charity (Broomwood African Education Foundation) to raise funds to build and run a school in Azezo, Gondar.

The new school is to be called St. George's (after the patron saint of both England and Ethiopia) and will be modelled as closely as possible, allowing for any obvious cultural differences, on the ethos and philosophy of Broomwood Hall, one of the most sought after schools in London.



Launched in June 2012, the project is the brainchild of Sir Malcolm and Lady Colquhoun, Broomwood Hall's founders and owners, who are working in partnership with Link Ethiopia, a charity which works to support education in Ethiopia and to increase cultural awareness between young people in Ethiopia and the UK.

H.E. Ambassador Berhanu Kebede and Mr Tewelde Mulugeta from the Public Diplomacy Department at the Embassy recently met with representatives from the school, project administrator Mrs Carol Rawlence and Mr Rupert Fane, to discuss the project. Ambassador Berhanu pledged his full support and commitment to the project.

The school is scheduled to open in September 2013 and has full support from the Ethiopian Government, which has given it a plot of land. It will enrol local boys and girls and will comprise of

two classes of 5-year olds and two classes of 6-years old – recruitment and selection of pupils is scheduled to start in March and will be exclusively for poor marginalised and vulnerable children who would otherwise be unable to attend school. The education provided will be free of charge, the idea being that the parents of Broomwood Hall will finance the running costs of St George's through their charitable fundraising.



Architectural rendering of St George's School

To help efforts in fundraising, the school has been hosting various events and projects including selling merchandise, Bollywood party last year and a Touch of Glamour event organised by the Parents Association. Recently, children at the school took part in a readathon raising £8,397 through sponsorship.



Students from Broomwood who raised the most money in their readathon challenge

So far the school has raised £110,000 and aims to raise £335,000 this year.

For more information on the project, please visit the Broomwood in Ethiopia website on: <http://www.broomwoodinethiopia.com/>

Ericsson launches 3G connectivity in the Ethiopian Millennium Village

World telecoms leader Ericsson has provided the network infrastructure and services to bring voice and data communications to the Millennium Village Project (MVP) in Koraro, a remote part of northern Ethiopia.

With access to 3G connectivity more than 4,000 students and their teachers at two schools involved in the Connect To Learn initiative will now have access to modern learning and teaching resources through Ericsson's cloud-computing solution. In addition, community health workers in the Millennium Villages will be using mobile phones provided by Sony Mobile and broadband access provided by Ericsson to deliver life-saving healthcare services directly to households and to collect health information for improved monitoring.

Elaine Weidman-Grunewald, Vice President and Head of Sustainability and Corporate Responsibility at Ericsson said: "Education is key to ending poverty and ensuring a better life for **people...**Many of the residents in this area rely on the **community clinic for healthcare...**Connecting the health clinic in Koraro is one part of a new joint continent-wide campaign that aims to train, equip and deploy one million community health workers throughout rural sub-Saharan Africa by the end of 2015, reaching millions of under-served people."

The deployment of Ericsson's cloud computing solution in Koraro, Masho and Megab Secondary Schools, includes netbooks and wireless terminals that enable both students and teachers to access educational resources on the Internet, along with basic ICT skills training for teachers.

Awash Teklehaimanot, Professor at Columbia University and Director of the Millennium Project in Ethiopia said "the people of Koraro Millennium Village, with the support of Ericsson, have benefited from 3G connectivity and Connect To Learn facilities. Students in two secondary schools are connected to the rest of the world using Ericsson donated laptop computers. Mobile phones are used by community health workers and health extension workers to advance community health efforts. With these facilities and development of

our staff, the Koraro cluster will serve as a centre of excellence and a model for scaling up of ICT solutions in Ethiopia"

In Koraro, community health workers use the Open MRS (medical record system) and a smartphone-based health-data management system to collect information and report on malaria and other diseases, the number of births, and the incidence of malnutrition and the health status of pregnant women during household visits. Many of these residents would otherwise have little or no access to the most fundamental aspects of health care services.

UNESCO-registered Sheka forest inaugurated

Ethiopia officially inaugurated the registration of Sheka forest by UNESCO as Global Biosphere Reserve in the first week of February, in a ceremony aimed at promoting the culture of the Shekicho community and their tradition of natural resource conservation.

UNESCO added Sheka forest to its global list of 599 Biosphere Reserves in 117 countries last year in Paris.

Sheka covers a total area of 238,750ha and consists of forests, bamboo thickets, wetlands, agriculture lands, rural settlements and towns. The forest in Sheka, part of the Southwest Highlands Forests of Ethiopia, is important for the conservation of the Afromontane forest vegetation types, especially the Afromontane Rainforest and Alpine Bamboo thickets. The area is rich in plant and animal life with over 38 threatened species of flora and fauna. The local population is deeply committed to maintaining the integrity of the ecosystem through the practice of ecologically sustainable agriculture.



Sheka Forest Biosphere Reserve

SNNP State Chief Shiferaw Shigute praised the “**wise forest conservation**” of the local community “which is recognised by UNESCO. The local people need to benefit more from the forest. In this regard, the government has been working with the people to ensure that the forest generates more **income for the local people**,” Shiferaw said.

He called upon the Sheka people to uphold and strengthen traditional forest conservation to ensure sustainable environment protection and to maintain the ecosystem.



Shesheko waterfall in Masha woreda

“The forest of Sheka is important in protecting watersheds that have local and international significance in the Nile, Omo-Gibe and Lake Turkana Basins,” Science and Technology State Minister Mahmuda Ahmed Ga’as, who was also at the ceremony, said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ethiopia launches unified utility billing system

A pioneering one-stop facility for bill payment was launched in earlier in February as part of the **government’s commitment to providing better services**.

Dubbed **Lehulu** (Amharic meaning ‘for all’), the system is said to be a first in Africa and will replace the existing utility payment centres for power, telecommunications and water, where citizens had to pay for the three utilities at different points.

Kifiya Financial Technology Plc, an Ethiopian company, will manage the new system and customers will be able to access services for longer including on Saturdays.

31 Lehulu centres have been operational since 3rd February in Addis Ababa, with a further 27 to be in place in the next three years. The plan will be rolled out in some of the country’s major cities, including Mekelle, Bahir Dar, Awassa and Adama.

By 2014, Kifiya plans to offer Lehulu customers bill payment transactions using their mobile phones.

Ethiopian company to build \$17.8m gold plant

Ezana Mining Development, an Ethiopian private company, is building a \$17.8 million gold plant Terakimti, in northern Tigray.

Construction of the plant has begun and it should be operational by the end of this fiscal year.

An agreement between Ezana and the Ministry of Mines was signed enabling Ezana to produce 2.017kg of gold within two years.

Established in June 1993, Ezana is one of the sister companies in the Endowment Fund for the Rehabilitation of Tigray (EFFORT). It has been conducting mining exploration in the northern part of the country for the past 20 years and it also explores for iron ores and supplies raw materials to sister company, Messebo Cement Factory.

Ethiopia earned \$654 million from the export of minerals, including gold, platinum, tantalum, decorative stones and gem stones in 2011/12, according to data from the Ministry of Mines.



This was largely accounted for by gold, of which 12 tonnes was exported for a total of \$602.4 million. MIDROC Gold Mine exported close to three tonnes of that total.

SPORTS

Dibaba to race in London marathon

Race organisers have announced that Tirunesh Dibaba, arguably the greatest women's distance runner of all time, will make her marathon debut at the London Marathon in April, joining fellow Ethiopian and 2012 Olympic women's marathon champion Tiki Gelana.

Tirunesh currently holds four world titles on the track at 5,000 and 10,000m, three Olympic golds including her second 10,000 in London last year, and four world cross-country titles.

The 27-year old athlete ran her first half-marathon last year in the Great North Run winning in an impressive 67.35 minutes.

Joining Tirunesh and Tiki in April will be Tsegaye Kebede, who won the 2012 Chicago marathon and the 2010 London race, Ayele Abshero, who won last year's Dubai marathon in the sixth-fastest time ever (2:04.23) and Feyisa Lilesa.

Over 36,000 amateur runners will take part this year aside from the elite athletes, making it the biggest marathon and highest charity fund-raising race in the world.

Tiki Gelana named 2012 world female athlete of the year

London 2012 Olympic Games Marathon champion, Tiki Gelana, was named female AIMS/ASICS World Athlete of the Year for 2012 in Marugame, Japan, on 3rd February, after winning the Kagawa Marugame Half Marathon earlier in the day – becoming the **first Ethiopian woman** to win the award.

President Emeritus of AIMS Hiroaki Chosa and AIMS Board Member and Vice President of the Japanese Athletics Federation Dr Keisuke Sawaki presented Gelana with the acclaimed Golden Shoe trophy.

25-year old Gelana, who broke the Olympic record in the marathon by finishing in 2:23:07, joins fellow Ethiopians Gezahenge Abera who won the

prestigious award in 2000 and Haile Gebrselassie who won the award in 2006, 2007 and 2008.



(l-r) President Emeritus of AIMS Hiroaki Chosa, Tiki Gelana and Vice President of the Japanese Athletics Federation Dr Keisuke Sawaki

President Paco Borao of sponsor AIMS said, "I am delighted that AIMS can recognise this fantastic athlete with the Award. Tiki demonstrated excellent form in 2012 culminating in her magnificent Gold Medal winning performance at the London Olympic Games. It is with great pleasure we recognise her achievements on behalf of the 350 members of AIMS in over 95 countries throughout the world."

Tiki said "To be named as AIMS/ASICS World Athlete of the Year is a fantastic honour. To see my name alongside such legendary names is an incredible feeling."

The men's 2012 AIMS/ASICS World Athlete of the Year will be named in the near future.

Haile targets hat trick in Vienna

Haile Gebrselassie, one of the greatest athletes of all time, will compete in the half marathon in Austria, staged parallel to the Vienna City Marathon on 14th April, hoping to add a third win after winning the OMV Champions Race for the past two years. The 39 year-old legend is also hoping to attack his own course record.

The Vienna City Marathon, now in its 30th edition, is an IAAF Gold Label Race. "We could not have hoped for a better ambassador for our jubilee race than Haile Gebrselassie. He loves Vienna's spectators – and I believe the same applies the other way round. Haile Gebrselassie still is the most thrilling personality in running worldwide. We are very proud that he again chose to run in Vienna," said Race Director Wolfgang Konrad.

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Published by the Press Office, Embassy of Ethiopia, London SW7 1PZ