



Ethiopian News

January 2014 Issue

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The 22nd AU Summit; New AU Chairman announced



The 22nd African Union (AU) Summit opened on 30th January where AU Heads of State and Government launched the **2014 Year of Agriculture and Food Security**, while marking the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP). The Summit, officially opened by outgoing AU Chairman and Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Hailemariam Desalegn, was held under the theme, **“Transforming Africa's Agriculture: Harnessing Opportunities for Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development”**.

In his opening statement at the two-day talks, PM Hailemariam said that he is “deeply concerned by the emergence of new conflicts” that threaten

Africa's collective peace and stability. He said that the organization needed to find urgent solutions for South Sudan and the Central African Republic “to rescue these two sisterly countries from falling into the abyss.” Failure to do so, he said, will have serious implications for peace and security in the region and indeed the whole continent. He called on both sides in South Sudan to put down their arms. “Both protagonists should know that the problem cannot be resolved through the barrel of a gun...they should be fully committed to sitting at the negotiating table without any preconditions so as to find a political settlement to the crises,” he said. Under the auspices of IGAD, Ethiopia is helping to mediate the conflict in South Sudan.

PM Hailemariam said Africa needs to build on the progress it has achieved over the past year and to address emerging challenges on the continent. Reflecting on Ethiopia's Chairmanship of the past year, the PM said Ethiopia had achieved most of the priorities it set when it took over the chairmanship, including the celebration of the OAU/AU Golden Jubilee.

AU Commission Chair, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, told the Assembly that Africa needs to boost food production and improve its manufacturing to benefit from its natural resources and agricultural products. She stressed the need to tackle the root

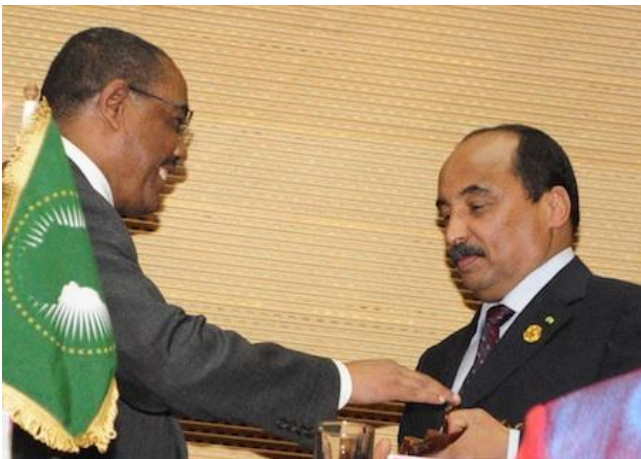
causes of conflicts and to empower young people and women to bring peace to Africa.



The Assembly observed a minute's silence in honour of the Late former President of the Republic of South Africa, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela

Mauritanian President, Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, was announced as the new AU Chairman, taking over from Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn.

In his opening remarks, President Aziz congratulated the outgoing chairman, PM Hailemariam, for the outstanding work accomplished during his one-year rotating tenure, adding that "he has contributed brilliantly to strengthening the role of Africa at both continental and international level". President Aziz pledged to work for the preservation of peace and unity, consolidation of democracy, freedom, security and good governance for a better life on the continent.



PM Hailemariam congratulated the new chairman and also pledged his full support as he continues to work to advance the objectives of the African Union.

Earlier, the AU welcomed Madagascar and Mali back into the continental body.

The Summit closed on 31st January with the adoption of key decisions which are posted in full on the AU website.

.....the 24th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the AU; Ethiopia elected onto Peace and Security Council

The 24th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the AU took place from 27th – 29th January. The council heard its annual report for the year 2013, and considered the progress report of the African Union Commission on the Africa 2063 Agenda and other items adopted by the Council. Matters relating to peace and security on the continent and Africa's partnership with the rest of the world were also discussed.

Dr Tedros Adhanom, Ethiopian Foreign Minister and Chairperson of the AU Executive Council, highlighted the peace and security situation on the African continent, especially South Sudan and Central African Republic. He also emphasized the need to help African states restore peace and stability and address their internal challenges.

At the same time, a meeting of the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) was also held on January 29, where elections of 10 new members of the Council were conducted. Ethiopia and Tanzania were selected as members for the next two years representing the Eastern Africa region. Also elected were Burundi and Chad from Central Africa region; Guinea, Gambia and Niger from Western Africa; Libya from North Africa; and South Africa and Namibia from the Southern region. The PSC is composed of 15 members of which five are elected for a three-year term and ten for a two-year term.

.....AU's first Ministerial Retreat

The African Union Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Members of the Executive Council took part in the AU's first Ministerial Retreat, held in Bahir Dar, under the theme "***Defining Agenda 2063: Towards a peaceful, integrated and prosperous Africa***". The three-day retreat concluded on 26th January with calls for commitments to meet the aspiration of the people of Africa by 2063.

In his closing remarks, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Minister for Foreign Affairs of

Ethiopia and Chairperson of the AU Executive Council, expressed satisfaction at the successful conclusion of the retreat, urging that it “should be the beginning of a strong political commitment to implement our vision and meet the aspirations of our peoples”.

Acknowledging Africa’s internal and external challenges that militate against its prospect for peace and prosperity, Dr Tedros emphasized the responsibility of African leaders to lay a solid foundation for the realization of the continent’s dream. “We should demonstrate strong leadership, political commitment and selfless sacrifice to make some of the tough decisions to ensure a better future for the African peoples,” he added.

The ministerial retreat listened to an imaginative e-mail from the future (2063), to Kwame Nkrumah, Pan Africanist and one of the founding fathers of the OAU, written by D. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, AUC Chairperson, which demonstrates the dreams and aspirations shared by all Africans i.e. for a peaceful, integrated and prosperous Africa.

The Chairperson, in her email from the future, said “Planning fifty years ahead allowed us to dream, think creatively, and sometimes crazily as one of the Ministers who hosted the 2014 ministerial retreat said, to see us leapfrog beyond the immediate challenges. (The complete email from the future can be found on the AU website)

The retreat also saw two proposals by the AUC Chairperson: establishing a Ministerial Committee, which will work together with UNECA and the African Development Bank to finalize Agenda 2063; and creating an African platform where political and business leaders, as well as all other concerned stakeholders, regularly meet to brainstorm on the continent’s development and integration agenda.

More information on the Summit can be found on the AU website: www.au.int

Education Minister makes debut London visit for Education World Forum

Ethiopia’s Minister of Education, H.E. Shiferaw Shigutie, attended the 2014 Education World Forum in London from 20th - 22nd January, his first

visit to the UK as education minister, he was accompanied by State Minister, H.E. Faud Ibrahim.



The forum is the largest gathering of education and skills ministers in the world and is the internationally recognised ministerial forum for debating future practice in education.



© Post Photography/EWF

This year’s theme was “**Planning for 2015: policy-making catalyst for a decade ahead: measurement, reach and enterprise**”, and brought together delegates representing over 75% of the world’s population including 90 ministers, experts and educational leaders, to share ideas, form collaborative links and discuss education policy. Ministers discussed the recent OECD’s PISA league table, launched by Andreas Schleicher last year.

During his week-long visit to the UK, Ato Shiferaw and Ato Faud met and held discussions with International Development Secretary, the Rt. Hon. Lynne Featherstone, on strengthening the relationship between the two governments in education, with special emphasis on the education of girls, women and disabled people. The Minister affirmed Ethiopia’s commitment to this endeavour.

The Ministers also held meetings with senior British Council staff and were briefed on the work of the council in different areas regarding effective education.

They also visited the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) and met with Professor Paul Webley, Director of SOAS, and discussed how to build collaboration in research and training in PhD



and Masters programmes. The two sides also exchanged opinions on distance education/e-learning. Experts from SOAS will visit Addis Ababa to pursue the areas of cooperation further.

On his final day, the Minister, accompanied by the Ethiopian Ambassador to the UK, H.E. Berhanu Kebede, visited Nottingham University, which has a long-standing relationship with Ethiopia through its **Developing Solutions** programme, which supports students on a one-year Masters of Science degree.

The Education Minister held talks with Prof. David Greenaway, President and Vice-Chancellor of the University, and Prof. Martyn Poliakoff, Research Professor in Chemistry at the University and Foreign Secretary and Vice-President of the Royal Society of Science. The talks mainly focused on strengthening the existing cooperation between the Ministry of Education and Nottingham University. Agreement was reached on revising the current Memorandum of Understanding, with special emphasis on PhD programmes. Minister Shiferaw also held discussions with Ethiopian students on the Masters degree in engineering course scholarship scheme.

**President of Somali Regional State meets
Ethiopian-Somali Diaspora in London**

The President of the Somali Regional State, H.E. Abedi Mohamed Omar, met more than 700 members of the Ethiopian-Somali Diaspora in the UK on 18th January, highlighting the on-going political and economic transformation that is taking place in the Region.



HE Mr Abedi was in London for a week-long official visit for a series of discussions with members of the Diaspora.



In his main address, he highlighted the construction of roads, water facilities, irrigation schemes and the provision of wireless telecommunication systems as major infrastructure developments in the region.

He cited the growth of primary education, the opening of several high schools and vocational training centres and Jijiga University. He also cited the improved access to health services with the establishment of clinics, health stations and hospitals, and stressed the pivotal role of the Jijiga referral hospital in improving the quality of health services.

The president stressed the importance of Nations and Nationalities Day, which the region had the honour to host for the first time on 8th December 2013. This important event, he said, gave the people and government of the region the opportunity to showcase the achievements made so far after successfully dislodging anti-peace elements operating in the region.

The president urged the Diaspora to participate with the Ethiopian-Somali Development Association and invest in the region and in the nation as a whole, and promote and facilitate investment from the UK and the rest of Europe.

Addis to host IAU astronomy office

The International Astronomical Union (IAU) has signed an agreement with partners in Ethiopia to host a regional office of astronomy in Addis Ababa - the first regional node to be established on the African continent. The new office cements Ethiopia's leading role in astronomical development in the East African region.

The Regional Office of Astronomical Development (ROAD) will be set up in collaboration with the Ethiopian Ministry of Science and Technology, the Ethiopian Ministry of Education, the Ethiopian Space Science Society and Addis Ababa University, and forms part of the IAU's strategic plan which aims to drive global education.

Director of Cape Town's IAU Office of Astronomy for Development, Kevin Govender, said "We are very excited about this collaboration, not only because of the visionary leadership shown within the country in terms of science and technology but because of the exemplary projects they have embarked on such as the Entoto Observatory and Space Science Research Centre...We have worked closely with the region for several years now and this agreement is a significant milestone for the growth and development of astronomy in East Africa."

Govender said regional nodes have already been established in China for the East Asian region and Thailand for the South East Asian region.

Grand Dam to be finished in three years

Ethiopia hopes to finalise the construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) within three years, with the project approaching 30% completion. The \$4.7 billion dam, being built in the Benishangul-Gumuz Region on the Nile River, will generate up to 6,000MW of electricity.

Ethiopia to sell 100MW to Yemen, efforts underway to attain GTP in energy

Ethiopia and Yemen will soon sign an agreement for the purchase of electric power, making Yemen the fourth country to buy electricity from Ethiopia. 100MW will be sold to Yemen for one year through a power cable to be laid on the Red Sea floor.

So far, Ethiopia has signed an agreement with Sudan to sell 200MW of electric power, of which 100MW is already underway. Kenya and Djibouti are also receiving 100MW and 50MW respectively.

The Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy will exert maximum efforts to achieve the energy target set in the Growth and Transformation Plan, in which electricity generation will increase to 10,000MW (currently 2,268MW) and its coverage to 75% (from 54%) by the end of 2015.

Water, Irrigation and Energy Minister, Alemayehu Tegen, said power projects with more than 8,500MW capacity are being implemented around

the country: 8,123MW from water, 153MW from wind, 300MW from solar and 50MW from garbage.

The ministry has also launched a solar project, which will be used to power up to 25,000 homes in rural areas. Since the launch, 23,000 solar systems have been installed. Ethiopia also plans to build 14,000 bio-gas technology plants within the GTP period - 3,500 bio-gas plants are being built every year. Ethiopia is saving 100MW daily through distributing power-saving bulbs to households, the Minister said.

Ethiopia has an exploitable power potential of 45,000MW from water, 1.3 millionMW from wind and over 7,000MW from geothermal energy.

Expansion of Aluto-Langano geothermal plant

Expansion work at the Aluto-Langano Geothermal Power Plant, to boost capacity to 70MW from 7MW, has launched at a cost of over \$30 million.

The cost will be covered by the Ethiopian government with financial assistance from the government of Japan (\$10m) and the World Bank.

The Rift Valley Lake located Aluto Langano is the first geothermal power plant in Ethiopia and covers an area of about 8km². It launched in 1998 as a pilot to test geothermal resources and identify any issues that could arise.

Various studies confirm that up to 100MW of electricity can be produced from the Aluto steam field, known as one of the highest temperature prospected areas in the country.

Health extension institution to be established

The Ministry of Health has announced that an International Health Extension Institution will be established, which will expand the Health Extension Programme in a more organised way and multiply the number of experts in the sector, including Health Extension Workers. A case team has been organized and is discussing the structure.

The flagship Health Extension Programme began in 2003 and is an innovative intervention which institutionalises primary healthcare, government leadership, and the alignment and support of

development partners. It is the main vehicle for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, especially in reducing mother and child mortality.

The institution will train students in pharmacy, laboratory and other health disciplines besides Health Extension, and community-based research.

The institution will help Ethiopia respond to requests from other countries for support to start their own Extension programme.

In Ethiopia, there are 137,000 health professionals, and 39,000 are active health extension workers in both urban and rural areas.

Maternity Worldwide - 11 years in Ethiopia

On 16th January, the Embassy and Maternity Worldwide hosted a “Symposium on Maternal and Newborn Health in Ethiopia”, in the presence of more than 40 guests who included NGOs, academics, donors, policy-makers and rotary clubs.

The event presented the Ethiopian government strategy of improving maternal and newborn health, how the UK government is supporting this, and showcased the work of Maternity Worldwide and its partners over the past 11 years in Ethiopia.



In opening remarks, H.E. Ambassador Berhanu Kebede said opening up educational opportunities and access to health facilities for all are among the government’s top priorities. Ethiopia has dramatically expanded key services, particularly to the rural population and the poor, especially women and children, as an integral part of the health sector development programme, and is meeting the Millennium Development Goals.

Ethiopia has significantly improved maternal healthcare - including pre-natal and post-natal care - and accessibility to health facilities with trained midwives. 39,000 health extension workers, most of them women, have been deployed in all

neighbourhoods, to bring about attitudinal change regarding sanitation and the use of contraceptives.

Child deaths have decreased by more than two-thirds over the past twenty years...This, was possible with the support of partners and NGOs like Maternity Worldwide, actively supporting mothers and children.

Ethiopia’s double-digit growth has also had a positive impact on increasing household incomes, which helped improve people’s health, he said.

Dr Adrian Brown, Chair and Co-founder of Maternity Worldwide, showcased the charity’s work in Ethiopia over the past 11 years, while also thanking the government for improving access to health in remote areas. Dr Karen Ballard, Director of Research for Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia, who is also a Maternity Worldwide volunteer, and Prof. Andrew Shennan from Kings College London, also gave presentations on their work in Ethiopia. Prof. Shennan showed a mobile blood pressure monitor which can be used in remote spots in Africa.



At a Q & A session participants discussed best practice and the future of maternal and newborn health in Ethiopia. Guests were treated to Ethiopian cuisine and coffee.

Ethiopia has an integrated maternal health programme, the success of which has meant that similar programmes run by Maternity Worldwide are currently being implemented in Malawi and Uganda.

Ethiopia and Italy sign healthcare agreement

Ethiopia and Italy have signed a grant agreement amounting to \$9.52m to support Ethiopia’s

healthcare programme to help achieve the MDG in health - reducing child mortality, improving maternal health and combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.

The grant will boost the already well-performing health sector which has already achieved one of the goals under MDG4 - reducing maternal mortality by two-thirds - ahead of the 2015 deadline.

TRADE & INVESTMENT

Dr Tedros attends UK business meeting

Foreign Affairs Minister, Dr Tedros Adhanom, on 9th January attended a business lunch organized by UK companies investing in Ethiopia in collaboration with the British Embassy in Addis.



Companies including Pittards, Diageo, Stratex and JCB, who are engaged in Ethiopia in the leather, brewery, mining and garment businesses, were present.

Dr Tedros told delegates that Ethiopia with its growing market size, its youthful labour force and its conducive investment climate offers great opportunities for UK investors. He thanked UK companies for choosing Ethiopia and reaffirmed the readiness of his office to support their efforts. He said, "It is through making your investment endeavours in Ethiopia comfortable that we can lure others to come".

He said the government is doing its level best to address any problems in telecom and energy

supplies, foreign currency, financial services and other investment related issues.

Ambassador Greg Dorey said bilateral relations between the UK and Ethiopia were developing steadily with growing UK investment. He said more UK investment was in the pipeline to take advantage of the investment climate in Ethiopia, and underlined the immense opportunities available for UK companies in different sectors.

Ambassador briefs City on Ethiopia's outlook

On 31st January, H.E. Berhanu Kebede, Ethiopia's Ambassador to the UK, spoke at an East Africa Business Breakfast on **Economic & Political Prospects 2014**, focusing on infrastructure, institutions and integration.



H.E. Ambassador Berhanu (second left) with the panel which included representatives from Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda

The Ambassador gave an overview of the prevailing business and investment-friendly environment in Ethiopia and outlined the pivotal role of the various infrastructure projects in transforming the Ethiopian economy and forging regional integration in the Horn of Africa.

The Ambassador stressed that all of Ethiopia's infrastructure projects have a regional element and cited the fact that Ethiopia already sells low-cost electricity to the Sudan, Djibouti and Kenya with plans to export to South Sudan and Yemen in the pipeline.

Rail and road projects also extend to neighbouring countries. Ethiopia has built strong institutions that have delivered education and health facilities to tens of millions of Ethiopians.



Other speakers represented Standard Chartered Bank, whose Africa researcher praised Ethiopia’s impressive but “quiet” progress, and heads of other African missions, all of whom stressed that the East African region is cohesive and provides huge markets as well as investment opportunities in large-scale infrastructure in all domains. Robert Franklin, Legal Director of law firm Clyde & Co, who hosted the event, was the concluding speaker.

Tolessa Shagi, the new Minister of Mines

Ethiopia’s House of Peoples’ Representatives has approved the appointment of Tolessa Shagi as head of the Ministry of Mines, replacing Sinknesh Ejigu, who has been appointed as Ethiopia’s ambassador to Brazil.

A geologist, Tolessa served the Geological Survey of Ethiopia (GSE) between 1983 and 1989, and was team leader until 1996. He also served as a Geo-technical expert at the then Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development.

Between 2006 and 2010, Tolessa held the post of director general of the GSE. In October 2011, he became State Minister for Mines.

Tolessa has a Bachelor’s degree in Geology from Addis Ababa University, and a Masters in Applied Geology from the Indian Institute of Technology.

3.6m hectares available for agro-investment

Ethiopia’s **Agriculture Investment and Land Administration Agency** says 3.6 million hectares of arable land is available to investors engaged in the agriculture sector. 470,000 hectares of land has been allocated so far to agro-investors.

The government wants to increase private sector participation in the agriculture sector and attractive investment policies and incentives are attracting more investors in coffee plantations.

The new agency is providing integrated support for investors in a bid to improve their land utilisation and also provides training to investors in coffee planting technologies that improve production and coffee quality.

50,000 hectares prepared for horticulture development; export earnings on the rise

The Ethiopian Horticulture Producers & Exporters Association says 50,000 hectares of land has been readied for lease to help absorb the increasing flow of investment into the horticulture sector.



Land with flowers, vegetables and fruits stand at 12,552 hectares (2011/12), with huge potential for further development. In the past 6 years, the industry has grown significantly, with over 120 companies engaged in horticulture.

Investors are attracted by incentives, such as low-cost labour and tax breaks, which have made Ethiopia a centre for foreign direct investment in horticulture. In five corridors - in Oromia, Amhara, Tigray, SNNP and Eastern region – land, labour and infrastructure are plentiful.

The sector generated \$265.71 million in 2011/12, a \$41.71 million increase on the previous year, and created a million jobs. Flowers took the lion’s share of export value, bringing in \$212.56m. Ethiopia is the second largest flower exporter in Africa, with Europe the major market destination.

\$164 million from manufacturing; \$1.3 billion from exports

Ethiopia has secured \$164.7 million from manufacturing during the past five months, from exports of textiles and garments, leather and leather products, food and beverages, chemicals and metal products, among others.

The export of leather and leather products earned the largest part of the revenue with more than \$55.3 million, followed by textiles and garments, generating more that 51.2 million. The export of meat and dairy products generated over \$30.1 million, while export of food, beverage and

pharmaceutical products contributed more than \$25.2 million.

The Ministry of Trade also announced that Ethiopia secured \$1.3 billion from export of 596.22 million tonnes of items exported to 106 countries.

Coffee and oil seeds are the top earners generating \$222.5 million and \$208.7 million respectively.

House ratifies new skin & hide proclamation

The House of People’s Representatives has ratified a new skin and hide trade proclamation that will speed up the trading system and improve service.

Skins and hides are awarded quality standards and there is a modern trading system within specially prepared centres. The proclamation also covers how to deal with traditionally prepared products.

The changes will boost income from the sector.

TOURISM & CULTURE

Rough Guides names Ethiopia No. 1 for 2014



Rough Guides, one of the UK’s leading publishers of travel guides, has declared Ethiopia the top country to visit in 2014.



Monolithic church in Lalibella

“This culturally rich East African nation has always been an enticing destination, and though it remains poor, independent travel around the country is becoming easier thanks to a boom in small hotels and restaurants. Take your pick of spell-binding

attractions: untouched national parks, the ancient cities of Axum, Harar and Lalibela, the world’s first coffee plantations, the largest cave in Africa at Sof Omar and the continent’s largest concentration of UNESCO sites.”

Addis Ababa – one of New York Times’ 52 Places to Go in 2014

The *New York Times* has placed Addis Ababa 13th in its list of 52 places to visit in 2014 for its budding art scene.



The Zoma Contemporary Art Center. Michel Temteme for The New York Times

Gisela Williams says, “Building on a strong historical legacy (**Addis boasts one of East Africa’s oldest art schools**) are a host of events scheduled for 2014: a photography festival, two film festivals and a jazz and world music festival. Thanks to the city’s diverse art institutions and galleries, including the artist-in-residence village Zoma Contemporary Art Center and the Asni Gallery, there is an art opening at least once a week. Even the local Sheraton puts on “Art of Ethiopia,” an annual show of new talent. But it’s the National Museum that, in May and June, will host this year’s blockbuster exhibit, “Ras Tafari: The Majesty and the Movement”, devoted to Emperor Haile Selassie I and Rastafarianism.”

Timket colourfully celebrated

Ethiopian Orthodox Christians across the country celebrated Timket (Epiphany) on 19th January. The day marks the ritual of reliving the baptism of Jesus Christ in the River Jordan.

In his annual address, attended by believers, diplomats and tourists, Abune Matias, the Patriarch of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahido Church, urged the gathering to contribute their share to the national development of Ethiopia. He also said that the aged culture of peaceful coexistence among believers of various religions should be maintained.



A priest carrying a Tabot

Hundreds of tourists make their way to Gondar in northern Ethiopia each year to experience this unique celebration. Festivities start on the eve of Timket, when a Tabot, a replica of the Ark of the Covenant, covered by silk, is carried in procession on the head of a priest, from the church to a water pool, accompanied by tens of thousands of believers, chanting, dancing and drum-beating, as in the Old Testament.



Crowds gather at the Fasilides' Bath in Gondar

Priests and believers complete an overnight vigil around the Arks til dawn, when the crowds gather around a pool. The chief priest blesses the water and many jump in, symbolically renewing their baptismal vows, others are sprinkled with water. The Arks are then paraded back in the same way.

Tigray earns 241.5 million birr from tourism

Tigray Culture and Tourism Agency said the state has secured over 241.5m birr from 18,000 tourists visiting historic and natural attractions over the past six months. 9,375 tourism jobs were created, mainly for young people.

SPORTS

Bekele to make marathon debut in Paris



World record holder, Kenenisa Bekele, will make his marathon debut on 6th April at the 38th

edition of the Schneider Electric Paris Marathon.

The triple Olympic Champion and five-time World Champion over 5,000m and 10,000 metres, wants to follow in the footsteps of Ethiopian legend, Haile Gebreselassie, who made a successful leap from the track to road.



Kenenisa will aim to beat the time set in 2012 by Kenyan Stanley Biwott of 2:05:10 and go for the record of the Paris Marathon. He will also try to match the best performance of all time by Kenyan Wilson Kipsang who finished the Berlin Marathon last year in 2:03:23.


More than 50,000 participants are scheduled to take part in the marathon.

ETHIOPIA IN THE NEWS

Ethiopia's model families hailed as agents of social transformation


theguardian Claire Provost reports on Ethiopia's effort to boost its healthcare statistics by encouraging rural households to adopt and disseminate a range of good habits.

"Ethiopia is increasingly touted as a family planning success story. The government, which has made maternal and child health national priorities, is proud of its statistics – the country's contraceptive prevalence rate, for example, jumped from 15% in 2005 to 29% in 2011 – and says efforts to reach remote, rural areas lie at the heart of its success...Along with trained, salaried health extension workers thousands of volunteers have been enlisted nationwide in the government's "health development army"."

 <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2014/jan/09/ethiopia-model-families-social-transformation-healthcare>

npr Also read Jason Beaubien's take on Ethiopia's health workers, *Simple, Cheap Health Remedies Cut Child Mortality in Ethiopia*, where he says "Poor countries are starting to realize something that richer ones sometimes forget: Basic, inexpensive measures can have dramatic impacts on the health of a country. And they can save thousands of lives."

"Ethiopia has made a tremendous achievement in the space of two decades. This progress isn't a result of expensive international aid or the recruitment of foreign doctors into Ethiopia. Instead, the country has invested in simple, bare-bone clinics scattered around the country run by community health workers."

 <http://www.npr.org/blogs/health/2013/12/19/255448192/simple-cheap-health-remedies-cut-child-mortality-in-ethiopia>

Teff, the new super food from Ethiopia



Teff, an ancient staple grain grown in Ethiopia, has started gaining popularity in the West in recent weeks as the next super food, rivalling quinoa.


Teff, a small seed about the size of a poppy seed, is gluten-free and rich in amino acids, protein, iron and calcium.



In Ethiopia, Teff is used to make *injera*, a sour dough, pancake-like bread, which is always accompanied by different types of *Wots* (sauce or stew).

Teff can substitute for wheat flour in anything from bread and pasta, to waffles and pizza bases.


theguardian Claire Provost and Elissa Jobson in *Move over quinoa, Ethiopia's teff poised to be next big super grain*, say the gluten-free market in the west is booming, and teff is showing up more and more in health food shops and speciality markets.

 <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2014/jan/23/quinoa-ethiopia-teff-super-grain>


Alex Renton also reporting for the Guardian in his article, *Get a taste for teff, the Ethiopian superfood*, says the grain is hot on the heels of other 'super foods' such as the acai berry and gives a couple of suggestions on how to use it.




Teff pancakes with berries and maple syrup by Sarah McCaffer, a chef at Edinburgh's Earthy Foods. Photograph: Alex Renton.

 <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/poverty-matters/2014/jan/23/get-taste-for-teff-ethiopia-superfood>


THE SUNDAY TIMES **Going gets teff for grain farmers:** The Sunday Times reports on Teff gaining popularity in Britain with Marks & Spencer among the big retailers looking at selling products made from teff.

 http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/Health/article1367941.ece?CMP=OTH-gnws-standard-2014_01_25


Also have a look at Tammy Ljungblad's slideshow on The Kansas City Star, *Teff, an Ethiopian grain, is popular for gluten-free diets*

 <http://www.kansascity.com/2014/01/14/4751424/teff-an-ethiopian-grain-is-popular.html>

Why 'super honey' is the bees' knees for wounds and infections

The Guardian reports on the increasing use of Surgihoney, made from organic honey, which is cost-effective and speeds healing of hard-to-treat injuries.

"A British nurse and wound care expert, Jill Brooks, has pioneered the use of Surgihoney in Sodo hospital in south-west Ethiopia and Kisumu hospital in Uganda, where she volunteers several times a year."

 <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/poverty-matters/2014/jan/01/surgihoney-treatment-infected-wounds>

Ethiopia's new generation of entrepreneurs


BBC NEWS James Jeffrey in Addis Ababa reports on Ethiopia's £16 million training and support scheme called the Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP), which was launched in 2013 and co-funded by the United Nations. The initiative will help establish a new generation of entrepreneurs who will create jobs and boost economic growth. The programme is provided for free, and will eventually be available throughout the whole country.

 <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-25336447>


Made in Ethiopia: Fashion retailer H&M looks to sub-Saharan Africa for suppliers

HOW WE MADE IT IN AFRICA Insight into business in Africa Jaco Maritz reports on Sub-Saharan Africa's potential to become a global low-end manufacturing destination, especially with rising cost pressures in traditional markets such as China. H&M is one of the latest global companies to experiment with sourcing its products from sub-Saharan African countries and has placed test orders for garments from Ethiopian and Kenyan suppliers. Tesco and Walmart reportedly already source some products from Ethiopia.

 "...We see great potential in Ethiopia, it is a country with huge development and growth and we see that we can contribute to jobs and reduce unemployment in the country," Elin Hallerby, a spokesperson for H&M said.

 <http://www.howwemadeitinafrica.com/made-in-ethiopia-fashion-retailer-hm-looks-to-sub-saharan-africa-for-suppliers/34310/>


The Local SWEDEN'S NEWS IN ENGLISH Also read **H&M shifts focus to African middle class**, where CEO Karl-Johan Persson says "I think there is huge potential in Africa south of the Sahara when it comes to production...We started production on a small scale in Ethiopia and we'll see how it goes. It feels very interesting."

 <http://www.thelocal.se/20140115/hm-shifts-target-to-african-middle-class>

Ethiopian garment industry thrives

Andrew Potter reports on Ethiopia's growing garment manufacturing sector, which has industry players calling the country the Bangladesh of Africa.

"It wasn't so long ago Ethiopia's economy was in a terrible state with the country's population ravaged by famine. But its economic resurgence has been strong, as factories like Almeda Textiles in Adwa show. Here they make garments which are going around the globe."

 <http://uk.reuters.com/video/2014/01/06/ethiopian-garment-industry-thrives?videoId=276321264>

In related developments, President Teshome laid the foundation stone of a Turkish textile compound worth \$175 million – the largest in Ethiopia, which will feature four factories. This initiative will boost the government's industrialization drive, said the President.

According to the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce, Turkish investments in Ethiopia hit \$1.8 billion by the end of February 2013. In recent years, many Turkish companies have set their sights on Ethiopia for untapped investment opportunities, taking the volume of trade exchange from only \$30 million in 2006 to \$400 million in 2013, registering a 1,200 percent increase in seven years.

If the shoe fits then wear it

This *China Daily* article says that Ethiopia is trying to become the centre for manufacturing in Africa on the back of Chinese investment.

"Modern and brightly lit...it could be a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Shenzhen or Guangzhou. The Huajian shoemaking factory is not in China, however, but about 30 kilometers from the center of Addis Ababa."



The Huajian shoe factory employs 3,000 local workers in Ethiopia.

Huajian "could ultimately be the start of a chain of investments that revolutionizes the economy of Africa's most significant economy in the Horn of Africa.... The company makes shoes for leading brands such as Coach, Clarks and Guess."

 <http://www.ecns.cn/business/2014/01-27/98838.shtml>

In the company of Ethiopian wolves




Mike Carter reports on his recent trip to explore Ethiopia's luxury travel industry in the south at the Bishangari Lodge in Ethiopia's Oromiya region and Bale Mountains Lodge, courtesy of *Journeys by Design*, a UK tour operator based in Brighton.



On Bishangari, he says that its remoteness frees “you from any guilty sense that you should be doing anything other than immersing yourself in its tranquillity.”

While at Bale Mountains Mike says, “Walking towards us, russet in the monochrome, was an endemic Ethiopian wolf. With only 450 surviving, 250 of them in the Bale Mountains National Park, it is one of the rarest mammals on the planet...My heart stopped. It was one of the most stunning animals I had ever seen.”

 <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/2/118aa67e-7f6c-11e3-b6a7-00144feabdc0.html#axzz2rb3AkMaO>

Destination on the Verge: Ethiopia Now

The time to visit is *now*. Before it costs what it’s worth. And that’s a lot.



View from the trail to Abuna Yemata Guh, Gheralta, Tigray Region.
Source: Allyn Gaestel

Allyn Gaestel urges readers to visit Ethiopia now and offers some tips for getting in and around while the getting’s still cheap. “Ethiopia is wonderful, wondrous and cheap — but the cheap part won’t last forever...We recommend making it a road trip, following a route that can span weeks or months. Meals can cost a few dollars and cheap hotel rooms just a few more, and while its sights

and landmarks have endured for centuries, the affordability will not.”


 <http://www.ozy.com/good-sht/ethiopia-now/4656.article>

Festival of Timkat in Ethiopia - in pictures

AFP photographer Carl de Souza travels to Gondar to document Timket (Epiphany).




Pilgrims pray by candlelight during a ceremony at the Fasilides baths. Photograph: Carl de Souza/AFP/Getty Images

 <http://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/gallery/2014/jan/20/photography-ethiopia-timkat-festival-in-pictures>

AFP’s Jenny Vaughan in, *Ethiopia’s Timkat draws crowds to ancient royal bath*, says “The sun has not yet come up, but hundreds of people - cloaked in white shrouds and chanting biblical hymns - are already gathered at the holy baths in northern Ethiopia to celebrate Timkat... It is a heritage that has survived Ethiopia’s rapid growth and development.”

Olivier Michel who travelled from France to see the event says, “Everybody really commits to this tradition and to this religion, it seems to be really popular and not something from history, it is vivid.” A local man says “Tourists are coming here and they take in the ancient history of the country and of Gondar, they observe this, and they take it to their country, so it’s very important.”


 <http://za.news.yahoo.com/ethiopia-39-timkat-draws-crowds-ancient-royal-baths-065500118.html>

Harar: Ethiopia's Coffee Capital



MEN'S JOURNAL


Mark Hay highlights the city of Harar. "Hidden far from the tourist and pilgrim paths that wind through Ethiopia, Harar is a densely packed holy city that has retained its character and unbridled passion for all things coffee despite centuries of struggle and conquest.

 <http://www.mensjournal.com/travel/cities/ethiopias-coffee-capital-20140128>

Ethiopia's 'Festival of a Thousand Stars' Celebrates Diversity In The Cradle Of Humanity [PHOTOS]


Jacey Fortin reports for *IB Times* from Arba Minch on the three-day festival of music and culture, the Festival of a Thousand Stars, which celebrates the ethnic groups from southern Ethiopia.



 <http://www.ibtimes.com/ethiopias-festival-thousand-stars-celebrates-diversity-cradle-humanity-photos-1515634>

Ethiopia, the land of Sheba

Linus Wamanya, for Uganda's *New Vision*, writes, "Ethiopia never ceases to amaze and enchant guests. While there I was enmeshed in its wealth of history. I was never braced for the contrasts and surprises in the remote and wild places. These sandy brown hosts are such a friendly people who are descendants from some of the world's oldest civilizations."

 <http://www.newvision.co.ug/news/650767-ethiopia-the-land-of-sheba.html>

11 of The Most Eye-Catching Architectural Wonders of Africa

Bete Giyorgis in Lalibela and Aksum's Giant Stelae made it into *Atlanta Black Star's* list of eleven of the most eye-catching architectural wonders of Africa.



"Lalibela...is famous around the world for its monolithic churches carved from the living rock, which play an important part in the history of rock-cut architecture....The Bete Giyorgis, or Church of St. George, one of eleven monolithic churches in

the city, is the best known and last built of the eleven churches in the Lalibela area, and has been referred to as "the eighth wonder of the world."



"The ruins of the ancient city of Aksum...mark the location of the heart of ancient Ethiopia, when the Kingdom of Aksum was the most powerful state between the Eastern Roman Empire and Persia...Massive obelisks are known to be the tallest single pieces of stone ever


quarried and erected in the ancient world. Their age and use is a complete mystery to archaeologists and historians.”

 <http://atlantablackstar.com/2014/01/02/11-of-the-most-eye-catching-architectural-wonders-of-africa/>

Research uncovers lost African school of painting



Martin Bailey reports that new research suggests that illuminations in two Ethiopian gospels dating back 1,500 years were painted in the ancient kingdom of Aksum, and not in the Middle East, as previously believed. Scored lines behind the pink background were used to arrange the layout and text.

 <http://www.theartnewspaper.com/articles/Research-uncovers-lost-African-school-of-painting/31139>

NEWS IN BRIEF

Addis Light Rail Project 50% complete

The \$475m Addis Ababa Light Rail Project is 50% complete says the Ethiopian Railway Corporation.



The construction of bridges, laying of grades and sideways has taken place in all four directions of the city with over 6km of grades laid so far.

Telephone and electric lines and water pipelines are being laid at the same time.

As part of its Growth and Transformation Plan, Ethiopia will construct 2,400km of national electric railway and 34km of light rail in Addis - similar to London’s Docklands Light Railway.

Efforts underway to expand postal service

The Ethiopian Postal Service Enterprise announced its efforts to expand the postal service to all *Woredas* in the country by the end of the Growth and Transformation Plan (2015). The service currently reaches 700 *woredas*, with plans to increase its reach to 800 *woredas*.



First commercial food laboratory to start up

The first commercial food laboratory, which will be ISO 17025 certified, is being built in Legetafo, 20km outside Addis Ababa.

Owned by a joint venture between an Ethiopian and a French investor, the laboratory will provide services to the growing Ethiopian export market which focuses on agricultural and food products.

It will also test and certify food, water and medicines destined for the Ethiopian market. \$4 million has been spent so far on the construction of the laboratory’s six storey building.

Up to 4 million jobs created in GTP period

Close to 4 million jobs have been created across the country during the first three years of the 5-year Growth and Transformation Plan, exceeding the target set by over a million. The Minister of Urban Development and Construction, Mekuria Haile, attributed the success to the expansion of small and micro enterprises and ongoing projects.

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