



# *Ethiopian News*

July 2012 Issue

## **\*\*\*OLYMPICS SPECIAL ISSUE\*\*\***

Ethiopian Embassy's cultural Olympics.....	page 6
Ethiopia Day at Africa Village.....	page 7
London Summit on Family Planning.....	page 9
The Global Humanitarian Report praises Ethiopia's PSNP.....	page 11
World's first SolarKiosk opens in Ethiopia.....	page 12
Another award for Ethiopian Airlines.....	page 15

# **Support Team Ethiopia at London 2012**



Image: Some of the athletes during training. Team Ethiopia will be represented at the Olympic and Paralympics Games by 39 athletes with a wide range of runners, including new intakes. And for the first time, Ethiopia will be represented in swimming.

**The Embassy of Ethiopia in London wishes TEAM ETHIOPIA the best of luck in the upcoming games**



# TEAM ETHIOPIA

## Swimming 50m Freestyle

**Men: Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> August**  
Mulalem Girma

**Women: Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> August**  
Yanet Seyoum

### 400m

**Men: 4<sup>th</sup> August**  
Bereket Desta

### 800m

**Women: 8<sup>th</sup> August**  
Fantu Magiso

**Men: 6<sup>th</sup> August**  
Mohammed Aman

### 1,500m

**Women: 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> August**  
Abeba Aregawi, Genzebe  
Dibaba and Meskerem  
Assefa

**Men: 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> August**  
Mekonnen Gebre-Medhin,  
Dawit Wolde, Teshome  
Dirirsa and Aman Wete  
(reserve)

### 3,000m Steeplechase

**Women: 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> August**  
Sofia Assefa, Hiwot Ayalew,  
Etenesh Diro and Zemzem  
Ahmed (reserve)

**Men: 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> August**  
Roba Gari, Berhanu Getahun  
and Nahom Mesfin

### 5,000m

**Women: 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> August**  
Meseret Defar, Gelete Burka,  
Genet Yalew and Tirunesh  
Dibaba (reserve)

**Men: 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> August**  
Dejen Gebremeskel, Hagos  
Gebrehiwot and Yenew  
Alamerew.

### 10,000m

**Women: Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> August**  
Tirunesh Dibaba, Belaynesh  
Oljira, Worknesh Kidane and  
Aberu Kebede (reserve)

**Men: Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> August**  
Kenenisa Bekele, Tariku  
Bekele, Gebre-Egziabher  
Gebremariam and Lelisa  
Desisa (reserve)

### Marathon

**Women: Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> August**  
Tiki Gelana, Aselefech  
Mergia, Mare Dibaba and  
Bezunesh Bekele (reserve)

**Men: Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> August**  
Ayele Abshero, Dino Sefer,  
Getu Feleke and Tadele Tola  
(reserve)

## Team Ethiopia readies itself for London 2012

Famous for its world-class, long-distance athletes, Ethiopia expects to shine at the London 2012 Olympics with a line up of 35 athletes, selected on the basis of their seasonal 2012 best times.

Ethiopia expects to increase its medal haul by at least 20% this time round, compared to the Beijing Olympics where Ethiopia won 7 medals, 4 gold, 1 silver and 2 bronze.



The Games officially kicked-off on 27<sup>th</sup> July with a captivating opening ceremony dubbed *"The Isles of Wonder"*, directed by Oscar-winning director Danny Boyle. Yalem Seyoum, the first Ethiopian female Olympic swimmer was the flag bearer at the ceremony. She was accompanied by fellow swimmer Mulalem Girma, as well as their coaches and officials from the Ethiopian Olympic Committee.

The Olympics opening ceremony also saw legendary Ethiopian distance runner Haile Gebrselassie as an Olympic flag bearer.



Haile was joined by other icons, including boxing legend Muhammad Ali, Daniel Barenboim, Sally Becker, Shami Chakrabati CBE, Leymah Gbowee, Doreen Lawrence OBE, Ban Ki-moon and Marina Silva.



The majority of Ethiopia's athletic stars arrived in London on 30<sup>th</sup> July led by 2008 double Olympic champions Kenenisa Bekele and Tirunesh Dibaba.



The delegation was warmly met by an Ethiopian dance troupe, Ethiopian Embassy staff and a

large number of members of the Ethiopian diaspora, including representatives of the Ethiopian National Consensus Forum, a range of Ethiopian development associations and other diaspora members. The men's marathon runners will arrive a few days prior to their race, which will be held on the last day of the Olympics (12<sup>th</sup> August).

At London 2012 Ethiopia will compete for 800m titles for both men and women for the first time, signalling a move toward middle-distance running among the country's athletes. The games will also be the first time that Ethiopia will compete in the 50m freestyle swimming for both men and women. The two swimmers joined the Olympic team through the universal access window.



New entrants include 20-year old Fantu Magiso in the women's 800m and 18-year old Mohammed Aman. Mohammed, a much-anticipated Olympic favourite, set the 800m men's record for Ethiopia last year when he came in first place at the Riety IAAF World Challenge, Italy with a time of 1:43.

18-year old Yanet Seyoum, who will compete in the women's 50m freestyle, is an engineering student and has already won 40 gold, five silver and two bronze medals while competing in domestic events in a range of distances. She has also taken part in two World Championships, a World Youth Olympics and an All-African Games event in the last three years. Yanet's finest hour came at the world short course championships in Dubai, clocking a personal best of 32.87 seconds, something she will be aiming to better in the London pool.

Ethiopia is a country of successive generations of long distance runners who date back to the 1960s, although it first took part in the Olympics in the 1956 games in Melbourne.



The legendary Abebe Bikila was the first black African athlete to win an Olympic gold medal in his marathon victory at the 1960 Olympic Games in Rome. Derartu Tulu at 20, was the first black African woman to win a gold medal in the 10,000m at the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games. Derartu joins Abebe Bikila, Mamo Wolde, Miruts Yifter, Haile Gebrselassie and Fatuma Roba as the most revered of Ethiopian athletes.



Some of the new Olympic hopefuls in training

This year's Olympic team is filled with youngsters who will debut at London 2012, as running veterans - including legend Haile Gebrselassie - pass the baton to Ethiopia's next generation of young, promising stars. The fleet of young athletes at London 2012 have great promise, not only because they train hard but

because they have the support of strong coaches.

Other notable Olympic champions like Tirunesh Dibaba, Kenenisa Bekele, Meseret Defar and Ibrahim Jeilan will also be taking part.

The Government of Ethiopia and the public have shown great support for Team Ethiopia. The public sponsored the team by raising 46 million Birr. With this huge support from home, Ethiopian Athletes are expected, yet again, to make the country and its people proud at the Olympics.

**An Ethiopian Film Initiative's 15-minute film on three of the new athletes, including swimmer Yanet Seyoum Gebremedhin - Hopes of Ethiopia - is available on DVD for broadcast. Please contact the Embassy press office for further details on [info@ethioembassy.org.uk](mailto:info@ethioembassy.org.uk)**

### Ethiopian legends showcased

In the run-up to the Olympics, famous Ethiopian athletes have been showcased by world media.

The BBC named legendary Ethiopian athletes Abebe Bikila, Derartu Tulu and Haile Gebrselassie among the 10 most significant Olympic gold medal winners from Africa.

**Abebe Bikila** was the first black African to win Olympic gold at the Rome 1960 Olympics; **Derartu Tulu** became the first black African woman to win Olympic gold in the 10,000 metres in Barcelona 1992; and **Haile Gebrselassie** went to the Sydney Olympics as the defending champion in the 10,000 metres in a battle with Kenya's Paul Tergat. Gebrselassie's thrilling win in Sydney remains one of the finest moments in Olympic history.

Other notables include Kip Keino of Kenya and the 1996 Nigerian Olympic Soccer team in Atlanta. Full list can be found on the following



Derartu Tulu (left) and Haile Gebrselassie

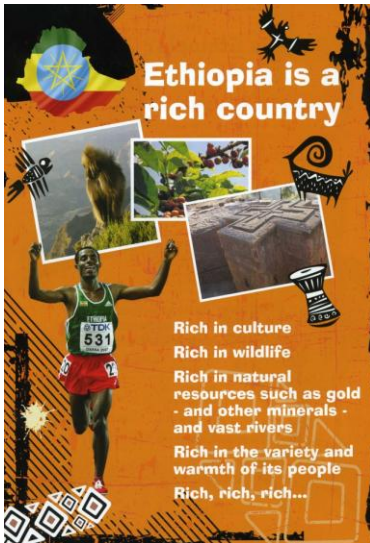
link: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-18862683>

Huffington Post news, in their online piece *Olympic Underdogs: 5 Athletes From History Who Have Overcome The Odds*, Abebe Bikila was named top athlete by journalist Hunter Stuart, for his win at the Rome Olympics, breaking the world record, barefoot!



**Abebe Bikila: Unknown Ethiopian Runner Wins Marathon Barefoot (Rome, 1960)** can be found on the following link: <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/07/25/olympic-underdogs-5-athle n 1703352.html>.

## Ethiopian Embassy's cultural Olympics



On 5<sup>th</sup> July the Ethiopian Embassy in London launched a six-week promotion of Ethiopian culture for the London Olympic Games, with various events including an Ethiopia Day, an Ethiopian cuisine competition and a Gala Dinner, in honour of Ethiopian Olympic heroes.

For **Ethiopia Day**, held on 9<sup>th</sup> July, the Ethiopian Embassy in London hosted almost a hundred UK primary school children from schools which chose to support Team Ethiopia at London 2012.

From the 39 schools which expressed their support for Team Ethiopia, St. Barnabas & St Philips and St. Peter's Primary School from London and Woodcote Primary School, Oxfordshire and Warrender School in Ruslip were treated to a quiz with prizes, and a film on Ethiopia's renowned athletes.



Green, yellow and red T-shirts emblazoned with the Ethiopian alphabet and Ethiopian flags were distributed to the school children so they can

use them in support of Team Ethiopia. School packs were dispatched to the other schools.

To promote professional Ethiopian chefs and amateur cooks alike, and to offer them a platform to display the wide variety of exquisite dishes that Ethiopia has to offer, the Embassy will host the first ever **Grand Ethiopian Traditional Cooking Contest** on 3<sup>rd</sup> August, where competitors will be encouraged to impress a panel of culinary experts, including a celebrity chef. Prizes of £1,500, £1,000 and £500 will be awarded.

And to finish things off, on 13<sup>th</sup> August, on the morrow of the formal closing of the London Olympic Games, the Embassy will honour Team Ethiopia with a spectacular Gala Dinner for over 450 invited guests from among the Ethiopian community, the UK government and parliament, artists, writers, media representatives and a wide range of friends of Ethiopia. On the night, there will be a Cultural Show with award-winning Ethiopian dance troupe Dankira, live music, a fashion show and raffle prizes.

## British Embassy in Addis honours Ethiopian Olympic Athletes

The British Embassy in Ethiopia organised a range of events to promote the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games that highlight the strong relationship between Ethiopia and the UK. On 16<sup>th</sup> July, the Embassy, in partnership with the East Africa Bottling Company, hosted a reception to bid farewell to Ethiopian athletes who will participate in the Games.

Young athletes and officials from the Ethiopian Olympic and Paralympic Committee, the Athletics Federation, Sport Commission, Ethiopian Swimming Federation attended the reception.

The UK Minister for Africa, Henry Bellingham said, "Ethiopian athletes have a hard-earned reputation as some of the best in the world.

Millions of spectators will be watching you with great enthusiasm. It is a wonderful chance to showcase the great things Ethiopia and Ethiopians can achieve”.

Sports Commissioner H.E. Abdissa Yadeta said Ethiopian athletes have been training hard and are ready for the London Olympics.

Ambassador Greg Dorey said, “We are particularly proud of the Olympic-themed documentary '**Hopes of Ethiopia**' that the Embassy commissioned – being shown on ETV and in schools throughout the country. The film focuses on the activities and aspirations of three Ethiopian athletes as they prepare for London 2012. The main objective of this short documentary is to celebrate the hope, talent and confidence of Ethiopia’s athletes and to showcase them as role models for the next generation.”

### **Ethiopians carry the Olympic Torch**

Two young Ethiopians carried the Olympic Torch when the torch relay arrived in London.

On 21<sup>st</sup> June, Mohammed Kellow and Samuel Berhanu, carried the torch through the Royal Borough of Greenwich and the London Borough of Newham, respectively.

21-year old Mohammed is a student at Goldsmith University. He was nominated to carry the Olympic Torch after being elected to be a student ambassador. On the same day he carried the Olympic Torch, he also organised a fundraiser for the spiritual Muslim-Sufi group: The School of Sufi Teaching London.

19-year old Samuel, Student Union President at Newham Sixth Form College, was nominated by his college where he played a key role in promoting the Olympic and Paralympic Games and their values. He took a lead role in organising '*Get Active and Arty Week*' which was a week-long event inspired by London 2012 and was awarded an Inspire Mark for this project.

## **Events during the Olympics**

### **Ethiopia Day at Africa Village**

Africa Village will showcase Africa in **Kensington Gardens, opposite the Royal Albert Hall**, during the 2012 Olympic Games in London.



The Village will be made up of two areas with complementary objectives:

AFRICA CLUB is the official, private reception area for ANOCA and African NOCs (National Olympic Committees) to welcome African sports leaders, the athletes, and their sponsors. It will include a TV and radio studio.

AFRICA LAND offers a village of stands presenting the cultural and artistic diversity of the African continent through an exhibition area and restaurant.



The Embassy of Ethiopia in London will showcase Ethiopia’s rich and diverse culture and history on **Ethiopia Day** on **11<sup>th</sup> August from 2pm til 6pm**, as part of its six-week program to promote Ethiopian culture during the Olympics. The Embassy invites you to join in celebrating this day with renowned Ethiopian athletes and a display of dance, music and film, and a coffee ceremony.

The **Ethiopia Stand** at the Village was officially opened on 28<sup>th</sup> July by H.E. Abdissa Yadeta, Commissioner for Sport, H.E. Ambassador Berhanu Kebede and Ethiopian NOC Chairman Berhane Kidanemariam, in the presence of members of the Ethiopian community and fellow Africans.



It was also visited by H.E. Henry Bellingham MP, Minister for Africa, and the President of Ivory Coast. Mr Bellingham was briefed about Ethiopian culture and tourist attractions and chatted with the Sports Commissioner, H.E. Abdissa Yadeta.



An exhibition of 50 photos of legendary African sportspeople from previous Olympic Games will line the site, inviting people to take a journey and discover the cultural, artistic and sporting riches of Africa. These two spaces will be open throughout the 2012 Olympic Games and access

is free of charge for visitors from 9am to 10 pm until 13<sup>th</sup> August.

Every day, African medallists of the day and podium stars will come to Africa Village to celebrate their victories and meet their fans from around the world. For the very first time in history, African athletes will benefit from a single, dedicated site to fully celebrate the Olympic spirit and share their love of sport with the thousands of expected visitors.

Africa Village was initiated by the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA) and in particular by its President, General Palenfo.

### **When Stephen met Haile**

Film and theatre director Stephen Daldry will interview Haile Gebrselassie, the two time 10,000 metre gold medallist, on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> August at the Criterion Theatre.

TICKETS - £10-20 (premium £35)  
Booking - Call 0844 847 1778 or book online at [www.criterion-theatre.co.uk](http://www.criterion-theatre.co.uk)



From 26<sup>th</sup> July to 12<sup>th</sup> August, the Criterion Theatre celebrates sporting and cultural talent with *Playing The Games* from the emerging to the world-famous. Part

of the London 2012 Festival.



## In Other News...

### Ambassador at the Global Energy Security Conference

A conference “Global Energy Security – the Way Forward” was held on 23rd and 24th July in London launched the “energy security for the most vulnerable” programme which will improve energy access in areas with a limited energy supply. Governments, diplomats, international organisations and non-governmental organisations attended. The keynote speaker was Dr Christoph Frei, Secretary General of the World Energy Council. Other speakers included UK MPs, the UN, World Bank, the EU Commission, the U.S. Department of Energy, International Energy Agency, and World Energy Agency.



In his speech, H.E. Ambassador Berhanu Kebede, Ambassador of Ethiopia to the U.K., said participants should focus on how to achieve implementable global team work, which would help ensure energy security at national, regional and global level. Ethiopia has developed a National Energy Strategy and is also actively participating in regional and national efforts to ensure sustainable and environmentally friendly energy sources for all. Economic growth requires boosting agricultural productivity, strengthening the industrial base and fostering export growth and can be sustained only within the framework of a climate-resilient green strategy.

The Ambassador highlighted Ethiopia’s huge hydroelectric power potential, Ethiopia’s five year energy sector goals emphasising the

transformation of the traditional usage pattern into a modern and efficient one particularly providing improved access to rural villages all over the country. He also described the various programmes in electricity generation, electricity transmission, electricity distribution network expansion, universal electricity access, biofuel development, alternative energy development and other initiatives.

Ethiopia launched its Climate-Resilient Green Economy Strategy (CRGE) in November 2011. It is aimed at bringing about long-term sustainable economic development as well as improving the living conditions of the population by attaining middle-income country status by 2025, founded on carbon-neutral growth.

### First female AU Commission Chairperson elected

The African Presidents and government representatives exchanged views on the development agenda of the continent within the framework of the 19<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the AU Summit held on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> July at the new AU Conference Centre in Addis Ababa, under the theme “*Boosting Intra-African Trade*”.

South Africa's Home Affairs Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma was elected the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on 15<sup>th</sup> July, after four rounds of voting.

She beat incumbent Jean Ping of Gabon, who held the position since 2008, becoming the first woman to hold the post. Mr. Erastus Mwencha remains Deputy Chairperson of the Commission.

The Heads of State and Government of the AU concluded two days of intense deliberations on the future of the Union and its achievements over the last six months.

Further information can be found on the AU website.

## London Summit on Family Planning



London Summit on  
**FAMILY PLANNING**



The London Summit on Family Planning, co-hosted by the UK Government's Department for International Development (DFID) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, was held on 11<sup>th</sup> July, where a historic global breakthrough giving access to family planning for 120 million women was delivered in partnership with UNFPA, national governments, donors, civil society and faith-based organisations, the private sector and the research community.

The milestone will help stop 200,000 women and girls from dying in pregnancy and save the lives of 3 million babies in the world's poorest countries.

In addition, country governments, supported by the global community, will commit to sustaining coverage for the estimated 260 million women in these countries who are currently using modern contraceptives, so that by 2020, a total of 380 million women and girls in the world's poorest countries will have voluntary access to modern methods of contraception.

More than 20 developing countries made bold commitments to address the policy, financing and delivery barriers to women accessing contraceptive information, services and supplies.

Ethiopia's Health Minister, Dr Tewodros Adhanom, spoke at the Summit and outlined Ethiopia's health strategy and ambitious health programme which is much admired by the international community.



Ethiopia's success in family planning is a result of the government's strong commitment to increasing access to modern contraception. The government aims to have 66% of the reproductive age group using modern contraceptives by 2015 and Ethiopia has already achieved significant success towards this goal. According to the 2011 Demographic Health Survey, between 2005 and 2011 there was a doubling of the contraceptive prevalence rate from about 15% to 29% resulting in a lowering of the total fertility rate from 5.4 to 4.8 children.

Prime Minister David Cameron announced that British aid will save the life of a woman or girl in the developing world every two hours for the next eight years. The support, which comes from the existing aid budget, will provide an additional 24 million girls and women in the world's poorest countries with family planning services between now and 2020. This will prevent the deaths of 42,000 girls and women for whom an unintended pregnancy carries the risk of fatal consequences.



Young people working with Restless Development, Save the Children, IPPF and other international organisations also attended the London Summit.

Two delegates from Ethiopia's Young Women Christian Association (YWCA) attended the event. Aselefe Belete, the co-captain of the YWCA Ethiopia female football team and Bethel Tesfaye, the programme's project officer participated at the Summit.

Bethel explained that the YWCA is a worldwide movement inspired by Christian principles. However, it provides its services to all members of society regardless of gender, ethnic origin, religious affiliation and nationality. It strives to create socio-economic empowerment of women and girls in order to attain a better life, peace, justice, freedom and dignity of all people. The YWCA seeks to improve the status of women and girls by running economic empowerment programmes, working on reproductive health issues including HIV/AIDS, and youth leadership development endeavours promoting discussion on social issues.



Aselefe Belete (center) together with young people from Restless Development, Save the Children and IPPF.

The group of young people met Prime Minister David Cameron, and in his speech to the Summit, Mr. Cameron reflected on his encounter with Aselefe: *“Just before I came onto this stage today I met Aselefe. Aselefe is an inspiring young woman from Ethiopia. She told me she is the captain of her village football team. She uses*

*football matches to distribute materials, contraceptives and HIV prevention methods. She wants every woman and girl to have access to family planning and wants improved health systems in Ethiopia so girls her age no longer have to suffer. She has hope in her eyes. She has ambition in her voice. She gives you that sense that she believes things really can change. Today we are investing in that hope for Aselefe and for girls like her all over the world. Their future will determine our future. And we will help them fight for it. Today and every day until that battle is won.”*

Aselefe Belete told the newsletter she was inspired by the meeting and promised to be even more engaged in the reproductive health schemes which the Ethiopian health ministry is implementing nationwide.

Secretary of State for International Development, Andrew Mitchell, urged partners attending the London Summit to follow Britain's lead in doubling efforts to reach the goal of providing an additional 120 million girls and women in the poorest countries with the ability to plan their families. He said, *“This is a breakthrough for the world's poorest girls and women which will transform lives, now and for generations to come. The commitments made at the Summit today will support the rights of women to determine freely, and for themselves, whether, when and how many children they have.”*

On a recent visit to Tigray State in Ethiopia, International Development Minister, Stephen O'Brien, said assistance will help support the realisation of health-related Millennium Development Goals in Ethiopia, adding that the support will also ensure delivery of 300,000 babies by skilled health workers.

*“Ethiopia has made huge progress in healthcare and 240 fewer children die each day than was the case five years ago.”*

For further information please contact the press office on 0207 838 3880/3 or email [info@ethioembassy.org.uk](mailto:info@ethioembassy.org.uk)

## **The Global Humanitarian Report praises Ethiopia's PSNP**

The latest Global Humanitarian Assistance report released on 19<sup>th</sup> July says that Ethiopia has demonstrated an effective long-term process of dealing with food insecurity, which will ultimately relieve the need for emergency humanitarian food assistance.

The report states that "In Ethiopia, the government has played a pivotal role in the targeting, management and implementation of the Productive Safety-Net Programme (PSNP) which proved to be the most timely and efficient response in the region during the 2011 Horn of Africa food security crisis."

The largest social safety-net programme in Africa (outside of South Africa), Ethiopia's PSNP, demonstrated a variety of comparative advantages over traditional humanitarian responses to food insecurity.

Implemented in 2005 by the Ethiopian government and financed by the Donor Coordinating Group, the PSNP aims to end dependency on emergency food relief and stimulate sustainable livelihoods. Although predominantly a development programme, the PSNP has recently improved its capacity through the introduction of a risk financing mechanism to help address humanitarian emergencies. This is made up of an early warning system, contingency finance, contingency planning, with capacity development components.

For six months of the year, the programme mobilises labour for public works activities - building infrastructure such as roads, soil and water conservation, and irrigation systems, in order to promote agricultural productivity and access to markets. Payment for this public work comes in the form of either cash or food. Thus, rather than simply addressing the symptoms of food insecurity, the PSNP aims to help people 'graduate' out of chronic food insecurity.

According to the report, the PSNP was also considerably more cost effective than the UN and NGO-managed responses to the crisis, spending an estimated \$53 rather than their \$169 per person. Where the PSNP Risk Financing Mechanism has been implemented, the Report also notes it reduced reaction time between identifying the crisis and responding, from a typical 8 months by traditional humanitarian actors to 2 months.

The full report can be found on the Global Humanitarian Assistance website.

## **Ethiopia receives green economy development assistance**

Ethiopia has become the first African country to receive international technical assistance - from the United Kingdom - for its on-going efforts to build a green economy.

Exceptional activities being undertaken by Ethiopia include the introduction of a Climate-Resilient Green Economy strategy and the role of Prime Minister Meles Zenawi in the international arena.

British experts will evaluate the impact of the country's plan on building railway infrastructure during the 5-year GTP period, with respect to green development.

Chatham House energy, environment and development senior researcher, Rob Bailey, said Ethiopia is registering speedy growth and building a green economy and its low carbon gas emission helped Ethiopia to receive technical assistance from UK.

## **World's first SolarKiosk opens in Ethiopia**

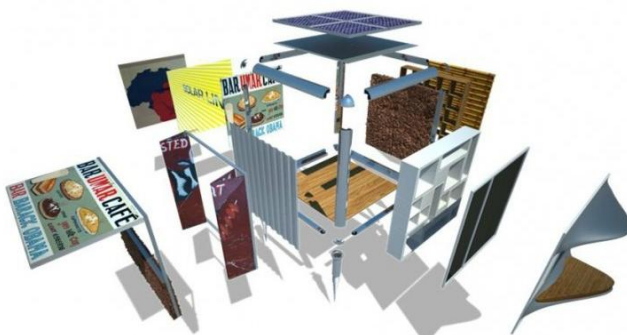
German engineering firm, Grafts Architects, have designed an "autonomous business unit" that sells energy, products, tools and services to "off-the-grid" areas without access to a stable source of electricity and lighting.

On 15<sup>th</sup> July, the world's first SolarKiosk officially went live near Lake Langano.

Each SolarKiosk ships equipped with a roof-mounted array of photovoltaic panels, and acts as a sort-of “energy hub” for the locals. Each energy hub, in turn, will generate enough power for night-long lighting, “jumping” car batteries, and refrigeration — which, otherwise, would be almost totally unavailable to many Ethiopians.



The creators designed the SolarKiosk as a light-weight structure that can be “flat-packed” as a kit of parts, which would then be assembled on-site using local materials and workers.



With approximately 1.5 billion people around the globe who remain without access to a stable source of light, the SolarKiosk is intended to provide a safe and affordable solution for people in off-the-grid areas.

### **Ethiopia embraces geothermal power**

The Ethiopian Geological Survey will increase the country's geothermal power by generating 450 megawatts of electricity from geothermal

power in Abaya, Alto, Fentale, Kerbito, Tendaho and Tulu Moye by 2019.

Ethiopia has considerable geothermal resources that are yet to be exploited.

In early May Ethiopia received a \$50 million grant from the Climate Investment Fund after Ethiopia's investment plan, submitted to the CIF's Scaling Up Renewable Energy Programme for Low Income Countries, was approved by CIF committee members.

### **World Bank approves new power transmission line to boost electricity and economic growth**

On 12<sup>th</sup> July, the World Bank's Board of Executive Directors approved the Eastern Electricity Highway Project, which will connect Ethiopia's electrical grid with Kenya's, creating power-sharing between the two countries.

The initiative will reduce energy costs, promote sustainable and renewable power generation, better protect the region's environment, and pave the way for more dynamic regional cooperation between the countries of East Africa. The new project marks the first phase of a regional East Africa power integration programme which is likely to cost \$1.3 billion at completion, eventually benefiting 212 million people living in five countries with a combined GDP of \$107 billion.

Together with the Governments of Ethiopia and Kenya, the African Development Bank (AfDB), and the French Agence Française de Développement (AFD), the project will finance a cross-border power line, to be built according to strong social and environmental safeguards, that will allow Ethiopia to sell its surplus power to Kenya and reduce the need for polluting thermal power in Kenya. The exported electricity will originate from the large number of existing and future power plants in Ethiopia. When required, the flow of electricity can be reversed and Kenya could use the same

interconnection facilities to sell electricity to Ethiopia.

World Bank financing to both governments – \$243 million for Ethiopia and \$441 million to Kenya – will come from the International Development Association, the Bank’s fund for the world’s poorest countries.



“This landmark transformational project will change the fundamentals of the power sector in East Africa. It will expand access and lower the cost of electricity supply to homes and businesses across Kenya and help to reduce thermal power emissions in Kenya, a clear benefit to the region’s environment,” said Makhtar Diop, World Bank Vice President for the Africa Region. “Currently, only one in three Africans has access to electricity in their communities so boosting power sharing between countries is an essential step toward addressing Africa’s needs.”

Ethiopia will benefit through the sale of energy to Kenya, which faces severe power shortages, and is among the five African countries considered likely to achieve middle-income status in the next decade provided it can grow at six percent annually, significantly expand its electricity supply and improve its transport links. Both countries will benefit from additional jobs created by construction and installation activities.

“The Eastern Electricity Highway Project will make a significant contribution to help meet the development needs of the people of Ethiopia,

Kenya and the sub-region” said Jamal Saghir, World Bank Director for Sustainable Development, Africa Region. “Once built, this power line will be a symbol of Africa’s determination to solve its energy crisis through cooperation in energy trade. It will be a landmark in achieving more growth and less poverty in the region.”

With the continent now among the world’s fastest growing developing regions, Africa is becoming a new pole of growth in the world economy.

The approval of the East Africa electricity highway project is anchored in a World Bank regional strategy for Africa which promotes greater investment in the continent’s lack of key infrastructure, which is essential to creating significant economic growth, lowering the cost of supply to create jobs and stimulate the investment capacity of the private sector.

“The Eastern Electricity Highway Project is a unique opportunity to unlock East Africa’s vast energy potential, including hydropower, while safeguarding the environment,” said Paivi Koljonen, a Lead Energy Specialist in the Bank’s Africa Region, and Team Leader for the new power sharing project.

### **Ethiopia signs contracts for solar projects**

The Ethiopian Ministry of Water and Energy has signed agreements with British and Chinese companies for the implementation of a solar energy project. The contract with Chinese Poly technologies is worth 208 million birr while the contract signed with Yoseph and Elizabeth International Trading plc is worth 10 million birr.

The agreement was signed by Alemayehu Tegenu, State Minister for Water and Energy, Xie Xiaoyan, Chinese Ambassador to Ethiopia, Cheng Zerong, Vice President of Poly Technologies and Yoseph Getachew, Managing Director of YEIT plc.

The contract allows for 25,000 solar home systems, ranging from 8 to 130 watts, to facilitate rural electrification to power domestic appliances.

The solar energy project will be implemented in the Amhara, Benshangul-Gumuz, Oromia, Tigray, Harari and Somali states as well as in Dire Dawa City administration.

The long sunny seasons in Ethiopia offer a significant potential to expand solar technologies. More than 900 institutional systems will be installed in rural health centres and primary schools in addition to the 1,132 home systems being installed in rural households.

### Another award for Ethiopian Airlines



Ethiopian Airlines, the fastest growing airline in Africa, was recognised by Planet Africa Network with the Transformation Award 2012 at a

ceremony held in Toronto on 17<sup>th</sup> July, in the presence of H.E. Mr. Bal Gosal, Minister of State for Sports of Canada, Mr. Howard Eng, CEO of the Greater Toronto Area Airport, Mr. Tewolde Gebremariam, CEO of Ethiopian, and other invited guests.

The award was given to Ethiopian for transforming lives in the African Diaspora by providing efficient aviation services.

Planet Africa Network was established to reflect the best of people of African heritage in the whole world and links the Diaspora to the continent where they live.

Tewolde Gebremariam said on the occasion "Ethiopian is, first and foremost, a customer-focused and market-driven airline. In the context of a hyper competitive global airline industry, the only way for Ethiopian to sustain its success is through its service delivery and we

are, therefore, honoured to receive this award and will not relent in our continuous efforts to offer our customers the best possible travel experience."

Ethiopian has invested heavily in enhancing the skills of its human resources, in modernizing its fleet and in upgrading its facilities, all with a view to improving its customer service. The multiple recognition of the airline is the outcome of this continuous effort, as reflected in its customer satisfaction rating exceeding 85% and above industry average flight punctuality.



In 2012-13, the airline will be introducing 14 additional brand new modern aircrafts for the comfort of its passengers, including 5 B787-800 Dreamliners, 3 B737-800 with Sky Interior and 5 Q-400 aircraft with a new configuration of fully-fledged business class cabin and increased baggage space. Today the airline operates the youngest fleet in Africa.

In 2012, Ethiopian also received Gold for its customer service from the African Aviation News Portal for having collected the highest number of votes, ahead of other airlines, in a survey involving 20,000 travellers.

This huge vote of confidence is an encouragement for Ethiopian to continue on its current trajectory as a customer focused airline that serves the travelling needs to and from Africa, contributing to its development.

### African Investment Forum to take place in Ethiopia

A major African Investment Forum is to take place in Ethiopia in October, where leading international investment firms will take part in the conference.

The three-day 'Africa Sustainable Investment and Development Summit' will be held at the Hilton Hotel from the 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> October.

International investment bankers, venture capital investors, pension fund managers, including representatives of Barclays Wealth and Credit Swiss, are all expected to participate in the conference to meet with African companies and entrepreneurs.

The event will include a range of panel discussions and pre-arranged personal meetings, all aimed at giving African companies an opportunity to present business plans by investors to secure funds.

Amongst other business people, Sir Bob Geldof will address the summit under the theme of 'Africa Open for Investment'.

The summit will generate business and create new partnerships between foreign investors, fund managers and African companies.

### **Ambassador hosts renowned surgeons**

On 20<sup>th</sup> July, H.E. Ambassador Berhanu Kebede hosted a dinner for a group of surgeons, led by Dr. David Hunter.



The purpose of the event was to introduce the group to Ethiopia as they will be visiting the country for the first time this November.

The Surgical 60 Club was started in 1960 by a group of surgeons who met each year,

alternately at one of their hospitals and at hospitals abroad. The purpose was to learn from their visit and bring back new ideas to their practice or hospital.



A member of the group told editors of this newsletter that the original members went on to become Presidents of the Royal College of Surgeons, and that they currently have two former presidents and even a health minister as members.

The group has travelled widely but in Africa, so far, has only been to South Africa and Ghana.

The idea for Ethiopia came after a young surgeon who worked for Dr. Hunter told him of the time she worked in Gondar. It sounded very interesting to him so he suggested that the group make the visit.

While in Ethiopia, the group hopes to visit the Hamlin Fistula Hospital and the Gondar Medical School.

There are thirty active members and nearly half are going to Ethiopia.

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