



# Ethiopian News

May 2012 Issue

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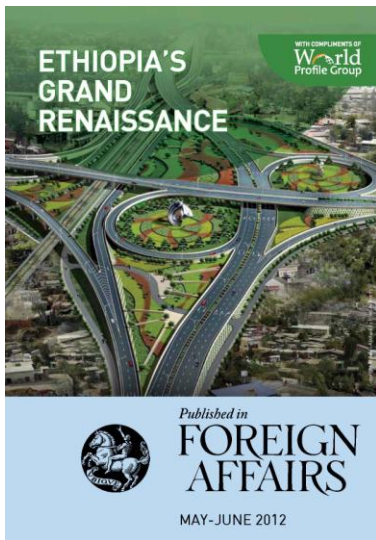
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### Ethiopia's Grand Renaissance



*“Good news from the Horn of Africa is a rare commodity. In recent years, however, Ethiopia seems to be harvesting a healthy crop. In 2007, Africa’s oldest independent nation had the fastest-growing, non-oil driven economy among African countries, and its GDP growth has averaged around 10 percent since then. Ethiopia’s five-year Growth and*

*Transformation Plan (GTP) is nevertheless addressing macroeconomic challenges, with intentions to double agricultural production, further develop the industry and manufacturing sector, and diversify its export basket. New infrastructure projects are under way to bring Millennium Development Goals (MDG) within reach, reduce foreign donor aid, and ameliorate the investment climate. Ethiopia knows its strengths lie in a marathon, not a sprint, and the government’s long-term development policies reflect this. Does this progress signal the beginning of Ethiopia’s revival?”*

The report was in the **May/June 2012 Issue of Foreign Affairs Magazine** and can be accessed online at: [www.foreignaffairs.com/ethiopia-sponsored-section](http://www.foreignaffairs.com/ethiopia-sponsored-section).

### New budget (2012/2013) passed

The Council of Ministers on 6<sup>th</sup> June approved the Federal Government budget for the 2012-2013 fiscal year that exceeds \$7 billion - the highest ever.

At 137.8 billion birr the budget is 20 billion birr more than last year’s and covers the capital and recurrent expenditure of the Federal Government and also provides the subsidies for the Regional States according to the formula put in place by the House of Federation.

26.8 billion Birr is set aside for the recurrent budget and 54.5 billion Birr for capital expenditure. The subsidy for the Regional States amounts to 36.6 billion Birr and a further 20 billion Birr is earmarked for activities in support of the Millennium Development Goals.

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development said about 95% percent of the budget is allocated for economic and social development, focusing on schemes aimed at combating poverty. The draft budget will now be referred to the House of People’s Representatives for endorsement.

### PM Meles attends G8 meeting



From 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> May, the leaders of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, and the EU joined President Obama at Camp David for the annual G8 Summit.



The leaders met to address major global economic, political, and security challenges, including energy and climate change and food security and nutrition.

President Barack Obama also invited Prime Minister Meles Zenawi together with Benin’s President Yayi Boni, Ghana’s President John Mills and Tanzania’s President Jakaya Kikwete to join the G8 leaders for a meeting on food security and nutrition. In connection with food security, the meeting also reviewed implementation of previous G-8 Summit directions in connection with increasing agricultural productivity and developing food security.

Speaking about food security efforts in Ethiopia and Kenya and the humanitarian crisis in Somalia Obama said *"Because of smart investments in nutrition and agriculture and safety nets, millions of people in Kenya and Ethiopia did not need emergency aid in the recent drought. But when tens of thousands of children die from the agony of starvation, as in Somalia, sends us a message that we have still got a lot of work to do. It is unacceptable. It is an outrage. It is an affront to who we are."*

Prime Minister Meles underlined the importance of government contributions to ensure food security in Africa. *"The role of the private sector can only be to supplement the small-scale farmers. There is the issue of rural roads, water supply systems, irrigation infrastructure - all of these require public investment."*

President of Ghana, John Mills, emphasized that food security is tied to all aspects of security in society: *"When you talk about food security, nutritional security, you are at the same time talking about health security, economic stability, and political stability. And without these elements you will struggle with democracy."*

President Obama and G8 leaders announced a new alliance on food security with African leaders and the private sector as part of an effort to lift 50 million people out of poverty over the next decade.

President Obama said, *"Today, I can announce a new global effort, a 'New Alliance' for Food Security and Nutrition. And, to get the job done, we are bringing*

*together all the key players around a shared commitment."*

This "New Alliance" aims to align the commitments of Africa’s leaders to produce and implement policies for food security, the commitments of private sector partners to increase investments and the commitments of the G8 to expand the potential for rapid and sustainable agricultural growth. The G8 agree to promptly fulfil outstanding pledges and maintain strong support to address current and future food security challenges, ensure assistance is aligned behind country plans and strengthen G8 coordination. The New Alliance is rooted in partnership, and will mobilize private capital, determine targets, reduce and manage risks, improve nutrition and ensure accountability. Leading international companies are expected to invest 4 billion dollars in developing African agriculture and sign up to a new code of responsible investment."

### **World Economic Forum: Highlights**

More than 700 participants from over 70 countries attended the 22<sup>nd</sup> World Economic Forum (WEF) on Africa from 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> May in Addis Ababa to address the continent's transformation and seek solutions to challenges, with Africa being praised for the economic strides it had made in the past decade.

The Forum held panel discussions on different themes throughout the two days. The theme selected for the Forum was **"Shaping Africa's Transformation"**, for consideration under three main pillars - "Strengthening Africa’s Leadership", "Accelerating Investment in Frontier Markets", and "Scaling Innovation for Shared Opportunities."

Other panels dealt with the themes of "Advancing Africa’s trade", "African Agriculture", "African Leadership", "Accelerating Infrastructure Investments" and "Rethinking South-South Relations" where the discussion primarily centred on ways to improve south-south relations with the question as to the effect this relationship may have on Africa and the growing southern economies of India, China and Brazil.

Prime Minister Meles and President Jakaya Kikwete of Tanzania together with Fahad Bin Abdulrahman Bin Sulaiman Balghunaim, Saudi Arabia’s Minister of

Agriculture, participated in the panel on “African Agriculture”. Prime Minister Meles participated in the panel on “Africa’s leadership” together with President Ali Bongo Ondimba of Gabon; President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan of Nigeria; and Prime Minister Nahas Gideon Angula of Namibia.



Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, captured during the Grow Africa: Transforming African Agriculture Session

They spoke on the challenges of leadership as Africa prepared to move forward to meet the complex issues of today and tomorrow.

All agreed that Africa’s leadership needed honesty, vision, clear priorities, responsibility, accountability and perseverance. These were necessary to lead Africa’s transformation from growth into shared opportunities for sustainable development and progress over the next 20 years.

Prime Minister Meles underlined the importance of decision-making leadership qualities, and said “Africa needs leadership with clear plans and priorities to overcome structural problems focusing exclusively on [inclusive] economic growth. We need leadership with perseverance to continue on the chosen path when the going gets rough. And if there is going to be transformation, the going will get rough.”

Ethiopia was selected as host nation at the 21<sup>st</sup> forum held in Cape Town last year. Apart from the fact that Ethiopia is becoming a major conference centre for global and continental organizations, the choice was also determined by Ethiopia’s fast growing economy, which according to an IMF study, was first among the continent’s non-oil economies. The meeting comes at a time when Africa is on the brink of a real transformation as the home of seven of the world’s ten fastest growing economies. It compares

favourably with the relative problems of the rest of the global economy, and one of the main focuses of the forum is on the key issues that can further encourage Africa’s growth and unleash its potential.

### Bethlehem Tilahun honoured at WEF

Prior to the official opening of the World Economic Forum (WEF), an award ceremony for “Social entrepreneurs of the year 2012” was given to five African social entrepreneurs for their innovative solutions to social and environmental problems with financially sustainable models.

The awards were presented to **Bethlehem Tilahun, co-founder and manager of SoleRebels, Ethiopia**; Sameer Hajee, Chief Executive Officer, Nuru Energy Group, Rwanda; Paul Scott Matthew, Director Africa, North Star Alliance, South Africa; Andrew Muir, Executive Director, Wilderness Foundation, South Africa; and Seri Youlou and Thomas Granier, co-Founders, Association la Voute Nubienne, Burkina Faso.

The awards were presented by Klaus Schwab, the Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum. Schwab and his wife, Hilde founded the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship. Since its inception in 2000, the foundation has been identifying the world’s leading social entrepreneurs in over 40 countries around the globe.

“I am truly honoured that the Schwab Foundation Board has chosen to recognize me in this manner,” Bethlehem Tilahun Alemu said. “I proudly share this recognition with every single one of the talented, industrious, committed and cultured people who everyday work alongside me to make soleRebels what it is – the coolest artisan driven footwear company on the planet.”





The event was followed by a panel discussion under the theme “Africa’s innovators”, where those given awards took part in a discussion moderated by Olanrewaju Akinola, Editor of *This is Africa* of the UK’s Financial Times. The discussion focused on how to encourage entrepreneurs in Africa, the problems hindering innovation and possible solutions. The group shared their experiences and discussed the role of innovation in transforming Africa’s economy.

**CDC in first Ethiopia-focused fund**

On 9<sup>th</sup> May, CDC, the UK’s development finance institution, announced a new \$15 million investment in Ethiopia, reinforcing CDC’s commitment to making pioneering investments in new markets.



**Tackling Poverty by Investing in Business**

Schulze Global Ethiopia Growth and Transformation Fund I is the first ever international private equity fund, with a target size of \$100 million, *focused exclusively on Ethiopia*. The fund will make equity investments and will deliver not only capital, but also operational and managerial support to promising businesses and will make equity investments in promising businesses in a range of sectors including agro-processing, industry and manufacturing.

The fund’s main aims are:

- to achieve commercial risk-adjusted returns for investors;
- to create non-financial returns for all stakeholders by driving improvements to social, environmental and governance standards; and
- to make a contribution to the long-term sustainable economic development that creates jobs and opportunities for people in Ethiopia.

UK Secretary of State for International Development Andrew Mitchell commented, "This announcement marks a watershed in the kind of investments CDC can make and shows that the management are fully embracing the new strategy. I am delighted that,

following the [UK] Government's overhaul of CDC Britain will be able to unlock the potential of hundreds of businesses in a country where investment and growth will ultimately be the route out of poverty."

The private sector in Ethiopia is young, and entrepreneurs and enterprises are in dire need of growth capital. By investing in the fund, CDC will be among the first foreign investors not only to provide growing private sector businesses with access to much needed capital, but also to highlight Ethiopia as an investment destination.

CDC is the UK's own bilateral development finance institution (DFI) and is owned by DFID. CDC's mission is to encourage growth in sustainable businesses, helping raise living standards in developing countries.

For further information please see [www.cdcgroup.com](http://www.cdcgroup.com)

**Diageo furthers commitment to sustainable agriculture in Africa**

Diageo, the world's leading premium drinks company has announced that it has signed letters of intent to foster partnerships and projects that will aid in the agricultural development of Ethiopia and Tanzania.

Diageo will work to develop and implement a scalable barley farming project in Sebeta in Ethiopia, representing an overall investment of \$1.5 million when fully realised, initiating this year.

The projects build on Diageo's commitment to support the development of agricultural economies in Africa, a business imperative in line with the Company's growth ambitions across the continent.

This new investment was announced at the Symposium on Global Agriculture and Food Security hosted by The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, in collaboration with the World Economic Forum. On the eve of the G8 Summit, this high-level symposium brought together President Barack Obama, with G8 and African leaders, businesses, international organizations and civil society to discuss new activities to advance global agricultural development, and food and nutrition security in Africa.



Paul Walsh, CEO of Diageo and signatory of a pledge in support of the G8's food security agenda commented, "The complex global challenges we face – from climate change to resource scarcity – will require even greater cooperation and collaboration of the public sector, private sector and civil society. At Diageo we know that to achieve our business aims we have to engage our stakeholders across the whole value chain to create strong socio-economic development programmes. It is my firm belief that the most genuinely strategic and forward looking businesses treat sustainability as a core component of business delivery."

Diageo is committed to local, sustainable sourcing of agricultural raw materials. In Africa, Diageo currently sources about 50% of its raw materials locally, and aims to increase the sourcing of local raw materials to 70%, an increase of more than 30% from a 2007 baseline. The new projects in Ethiopia and Tanzania will provide Diageo with a long-term, secure and sustainable source of raw materials, which reduces exposure to increasingly unpredictable changes in availability of material, and potentially volatile global commodity markets.

In Ethiopia, Diageo will build a public-private partnership through which the company will work with the Ethiopian **Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA)** to design and implement a barley contract farming project strategy. In support of the G8 Member's pledge and in line with Diageo's own commitment to development in Africa over the next 12 months, Diageo will design and test a pilot barley contract farming project with the aim of sourcing 1,000 metric tons barley from a substantial number of local smallholders in the first year. In the years that follow, the project could increase in scale, extending its work with both local smallholders and larger farmers, with a potential to source up to 20,000 MT of barley within Ethiopia for local use and/or export.

Nick Blazquez, President, Diageo Africa, commented: "Diageo is proud to take part in this leadership initiative between African governments, the private sector and development organizations to accelerate the growth of agriculture in Africa. As a business that has operated across the continent for many decades, we see first-hand the importance of this agenda to local economic growth and the social empowerment

of farming communities, and are fully committed to **Grow Africa** and supportive of the **New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition**. In the spirit of partnership, we are excited to work closely with the Governments of Ethiopia and Tanzania to create innovative solutions that are commercially and environmentally sustainable, scalable and socially inclusive."

These new initiatives build on Diageo's current projects that assist African communities. These include supporting local enterprise development, investing in and stimulating a competitive beverage industry, building local skills and capabilities, and researching options to increase inter-regional trade and product exports. As part of its commitment to the UN Millennium Development Goals, Diageo launched the Water of Life programme in 2000 with the aim of providing access to clean drinking water and sanitation to a million people every year. To date, Diageo has funded over 170 different water and sanitation projects, impacting nearly 5 million people in 16 different countries across the continent.

Blazquez continued: "As our largest emerging market region, Diageo has invested over \$1.5 billion in capex and acquisitions in Africa over the last 5 years. Supporting local agricultural development is not only a good thing for local economies, but is a crucial component of Diageo's growth strategy in Africa. We look forward to growing our relationships to make a bigger contribution in the future."

Diageo recently won the '**Good Corporate Governance**' award at the 2012 African Business Awards. The event which was organised by Africa Business magazine and the Commonwealth Business Council (CBC), was held in London on 7<sup>th</sup> June and attended by more than 300 leaders from government, business and the diplomatic community.

The Good Corporate Governance award recognises responsible business ethics and practices, transparency and an active policy to tackle corruption.

#### **AfDB - Ethiopia one of top growth performers**

The African Economic Outlook (AEO) ranks Ethiopia among the top ten growth performers last year, along with Rwanda, Ghana, Nigeria, Mozambique,



Liberia, Zambia, Equatorial Guinea, Zimbabwe and Botswana. The 2012 AEO report launch and press briefing took place at the AfDB's annual meeting in Arusha, Tanzania in May.

**Deputy Prime Minister meets UK delegation**

A British delegation, led jointly by Henry Bellingham MP, Minister for Africa, and Mr Oliver Robbins, Deputy National Security Advisor of the British Prime Minister with other high ranking FCO and Downing Street officials, met and held talks with the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Hailemariam Desalegn on 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

Discussions focused on the current situation in Somalia and the relationship between Sudan and South Sudan, with the two sides looking at recent developments in these countries.

On Somalia, the discussion focused on the talks among Somali elders and the meeting of Somali signatories to the Roadmap that was held in Addis Ababa as well as on the post-August transition scenario in Somalia and other related issues, including what might be expected from the Somali conference in Istanbul.

On Sudan, concerns were expressed on the need to get the two sides to resolve their differences based on what has been achieved thus far by the efforts of the international community. They also discussed the promotion of trade and investment and ways to increase the volume of trade between Ethiopia and the UK. At the moment, the balance is strongly in favour of the UK. Facilitating the flow of investment from the UK to Ethiopia was also discussed.

Ethiopia is among the UK's major development partners and they also cooperate in the security sector, particularly in the fight against terrorism.

**Ethiopia's electricity coverage reaches nearly 50%;  
75% access to electricity by 2015**

Miheret Debebe, CEO of the Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation (EEPCo) has announced that electric power coverage in Ethiopia now reaches 47% of the country - this compares to a mere 8% in 1991. The number of towns and rural villages with a power supply rose from 320 to over 6,000. Current power

generation is now 2,140 MW, up from 370MW in 1991.

In order to meet growing power demands, a number of projects are currently under construction in various parts of the country. These include the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam on the River Abbay (the Blue Nile), which will have an installed capacity of 6,000 MW and the Gibe III on the Omo River which will produce 1,870 MW. These projects, along with the wind farms in Ashegoda and Adama in Tigray and Oromia states, respectively, will enable the country to meet local demand and raise electric coverage to 75% by 2015.



The Grand Renaissance Dam

Ethiopia is focusing on developing the country's hydroelectric potential to both meet domestic demand and increase exports of electricity and make the sector a major foreign currency earner for the country.

**EEPCo to launch intra-regional electric highway;  
revises 25-year master plan**

The Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation (EEPCo) is embarking on an ambitious project that aims to connect Eastern and Southern African countries via electric power transmission lines.

Ethiopia will be at the centre of an electric highway, selling hydroelectric power to countries in the region. The project will be the largest electric line transmission installation project on the continent.

Ethiopia has the capacity to generate over 60,000MWs from hydroelectric, wind and geothermal energy sources.

It has already begun to export power to Djibouti (35-40 MWs) and is preparing to export to Sudan in the near future. Kenya and South Sudan have also signed deals to obtain electricity from Ethiopia and preparations are being finalised to start the Ethiopia-Kenya connection.



So far, only the border city of Moyale has been connected to the Ethiopian grid system. With the approval of a \$1.3 billion loan by the World Bank and the African Development Bank, Ethiopia will be able to sell more electricity to other Kenyan towns.

Further exports are planned to a total of seven countries including Egypt.

The Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation (EPCo), is also said to be revising its power sector master plan for the next 25 years, incorporating its aim to generate 37,000MW of electricity. The plan will be unveiled in the first half of the next financial year and will generate 37,000 MW by the end of the period.

### **Ethiopia receives \$50 million for Renewable Energy Programme**

Ethiopia received \$50 million from the **Climate Investment Fund (CIF)** after the country's investment plan under the **Scaling Up Renewable Energy Programme (SREP)** for Low Income Countries was approved by the CIF committee members.

The plan presented by Ethiopia calls for the African Development Bank to offer investment and technical support to execute Phase II of the Aluto Langanjo Geo-thermal Project and the Assela Wind Farm Project. The AfDB is expected to inject \$23m of the total SREP financing to the Ethiopian projects.

The plan will help utilise the potential for renewable energy in Ethiopia. The funds will help expedite

technology transfer and to lower the cost of wind energy as on top of initiating geo-thermal drilling and exploration activities.

### **Ethiopia-Norway working closely in green growth**

The Norwegian Agency for Development Co-operation has expressed its readiness to continue its support of Ethiopia's environment-friendly energy sources and agriculture development.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hailemariam Dessalegn, held talks on 9<sup>th</sup> May with a delegation led by the Minister of the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, Heikki Holmås. The two sides signed a Memorandum of Understanding designed to facilitate easier dialogue and increase cooperation on a number of issues.

The Deputy Prime Minister said Norway's decision to double its support to Ethiopia further strengthens relations between the two countries. He added that Norway has a significant contribution to make to working for sustainable stability in the Horn of Africa.

Heikki Holmås on his part said, "Ethiopia has chosen a path of green development that is lifting people out of poverty. Given that it is one of the world's poorest countries, its plans are impressive."

### **Eleni Gabre-Madhin receives African Banker Icon Award 2012; ECX model for other countries**



*Eleni Gabremadhin receives award from Omar Ben Yedder of African Banker*

On 30<sup>th</sup> May, the Chief Executive Officer of the Ethiopia Commodity Exchange, Dr Eleni Z. Gabremadhin was named **African Banker Icon 2012**. The award is one of the 20 categories bestowed on



African personalities and professionals who have contributed to the advancement of the banking industry in Africa.

“We’ve honoured individuals who are prepared to take the bull by the horns, to carry out well thought out visions and who have raised the bar, in some cases taking difficult decisions to deliver on their agenda,” said Omar Ben Yedder, publisher of *African Banker*, organizer of the award and publisher of the continent’s premier magazine on African banks.

Held as a side event to the annual meetings of the African Development Bank Group (AfDB), the sixth edition of the award recognised Eleni’s contributions to establishing the Ethiopian Commodities Exchange (ECX), a work that earned her international recognition as a “mother of commodity markets.”

Dr Eleni Z. Gabremadhin recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan to set up a commodity exchange in Nigeria modelled on the ECX.

The MoU, signed at the ECX office, states that the Exchange will provide the assistance and the model for the Nigerian Commodity Exchange which is to be operational in one year.

Nigeria already has commodity and stock exchange markets in place, though the commodity exchange is not as modern as the ECX. The Nigerian President is seeking to replace the Abuja Securities and Commodity Exchange plc with an Exchange that is driven by technology.

The new exchange system is expected to launch operations in a month, allowing it a chance to seek funding according to sources.

Similarly, Rwanda is in the process of setting up its own commodity exchange to be known as the Rwanda Commodity Exchange (RCX) as the country seeks to reduce the number intermediaries between farmers and buyers to ensure better prices for farmers. Once established, the Rwanda Commodity Exchange will begin by trading agricultural commodities such as cereals, grains, coffee and tea with plans to expand to metals, minerals and energy resources.

Jakaya Kikwete, President of Tanzania, recently visited the daily activities of the ECX and conducted discussions with the CEO in regards to its functions and management. Tanzania hopes to replicate the successes of the ECX.

The ECX has so far signed MoUs with the governments of Mozambique, Rwanda, Nigeria, and – in draft – Ghana, to collaborate as they set up exchanges.



Buyers and sellers on the trade floor at ECX

"It is my dream that the lessons learnt in Ethiopia can be used in the whole continent to develop vibrant economies and I firmly believe that it's time to use our own solutions to serve our societies the best way we can," Eleni said.

The ECX was also visited by other participants at the World Economic Forum who were appreciative of the workings of the Exchange which allows farmers to earn appropriate prices for their products, enhances the integrity of the market and ensures efficiency.

### **Ethiopia receives 2012 Resolve Award for health**

The Global Leaders Council for Reproductive Health has presented the 2012 Resolve Award for service delivery to Ethiopia and Rwanda.

Ethiopia was selected for expanding service through its **35,000 health extension workers** and the use of long-acting contraceptive methods.

Ethiopia’s Health Extension Plan, as part of the twenty-year Health Sector Development Programme, is one of many examples of cross-sectoral policies that the government of Ethiopia has implemented,



improving access to reproductive health. Ethiopia has also taken steps to improve contraceptive availability including partnering with Pledge Guarantee for Health.

Studies indicate that the country has been able to double the number of women benefiting from family planning services in the stated period. It has also doubled its use of contraceptives from 15% to 29% and cut average desired family size from 6-7 to 3-4.

Handing over the Award to employees and officials of the Ministry of Health, the State Minister, Dr Kebede Worku said activities being undertaken by the Ministry are bearing fruit. Dr Kebede noted that the Award will encourage staff to uphold best practice and tackle challenges in the health sector.

Malawi, Nepal, Rwanda and Yemen also received the 2012 Resolve Award.

In related news, US Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, speaking at a World Health Initiative Seminar held in Oslo, praised Ethiopia's health sector development strategy suggesting that Ethiopia's approach could be taken as a model by other countries in Africa.

Mrs Clinton said Ethiopia had developed its health sector by mobilising local resources, and creating a conducive atmosphere in which non-governmental organizations could partake fully in development. Dr Eric Gossby, United States Global AIDS Coordinator, underlined the importance of the government's health policy, which gives priority to providing medical equipment and enrolling qualified medical doctors and personnel in public health institutions across Ethiopia. He promised that the US would continue its support of this strategic approach.

### **Ethiopian Airlines wins Bombardier's "Airline Reliability Performance" Award 2011**

Ethiopian Airlines has, for the second time in a row, won **"The Annual Airline Reliability Performance Award"** from Bombardier Aerospace, awarded at the annual Airline Reliability Performance Awards Gala Dinner held in Orlando, Florida, USA on 30<sup>th</sup> April.

Ethiopian achieved the highest overall dispatch reliability and was placed first overall in the Q-400

product category for the Middle East and Africa region.

With the introduction of the Q-400 aircraft, Ethiopian has not only enhanced the comfort and safety of its customers but has effectively addressed the need for additional capacity, spurred by the country's double digit economic growth. Enhancing further its domestic and regional services, Ethiopian Airlines also connects regional states with neighbouring countries.

Ethiopian Airlines owns eight Bombardier Q-400s which provide services on its domestic and regional routes. The airline recently ordered five more Q-400s, upgraded with seven business class seats, bigger baggage compartments and two lavatories.

Bombardier's Airline Reliability Performance Awards are presented each year to operators of CRJ services and Q-400 series aircraft in recognition of outstanding dispatch reliability. Each winner must succeed in delivering an average dispatch reliability rate of 99% or better on revenue passenger flights in 2011 and the highest dispatch reliability performance in their respective product class and region.

Ethiopian Airlines, one of the largest and fastest growing airlines in Africa, made its maiden international flight to Cairo in 1946. With the latest addition of new services to Seychelles, Ethiopian provides dependable services to 65 international destinations spanning four continents.



THE NEW SPIRIT OF AFRICA

Ethiopian is proud to be a Star Alliance Member. The Star Alliance network is the leading global airline network offering customers convenient worldwide reach and a smoother travel experience. The Star Alliance network offers more than 20,500 daily flights to 1,293 airports in 190 countries.

Ethiopian is a multi-award winner for its commitment and contribution to the development and growth of



the African aviation industry and in recognition of its distinguished long-haul operations enhanced by the introduction of new routes and products. Recently, Ethiopian won Gold in the African Airline of the Year 2011/2012 Awards, organized by the African Aviation News Portal. Ethiopian also received the 2011 AFRAA award for being consistently profitable over the years and has won the "AFRICAN CARGO AIRLINE OF THE YEAR 2011 Award" for its excellence in air cargo. Ethiopian also won the NEPAD Transport Infrastructure Excellence Awards 2009 and "the Airline of the Year 2009 Award" from the African Airlines Association (AFRAA).

With its acquisition of and firm orders for several new modern fleets, the airline is well positioned to pursue aggressively the implementation of its 2025 strategic plan to become the leading aviation group in Africa.

**Micro and Small Enterprises earn \$15 million**

Micro and small enterprises have earned more than \$15 million on the international market in the last nine months, according to the Federal Micro and Small Enterprise Development Agency.

More than 394,579 people have launched their own businesses through the one-stop service centres, while large government projects such as rural road projects, sugar factories, universities, construction and provision of water supplies have opened employment opportunities for 148,058 people.

The agency has offered a range of training to 126,632 operators to fill gaps in technical skill areas and 713,846 people have been trained in business management. The agency also gave motivational plasma based tutorials.

A range of exports produced by small enterprises including textiles and handicrafts have met international standards set by foreign markets.

Regional bodies are working together to identify and register enterprises that have the capacity to export to foreign markets while the agency is working towards creating networks with various embassies to promote their products in foreign markets.

**UN Peacekeepers Day Honours Eight Ethiopians**

The International Day of United Nations (UN) Peacekeepers was observed on 29<sup>th</sup> May honouring 112 peacekeepers, among which were eight Ethiopians.

This marks the fourth year in a row that the United Nations will honour more than 100 Blue Helmets who lost their lives the previous year while serving the cause of peace, according to the statement from the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU). This sombre milestone is a stark reminder of the risks incurred by individuals who put their lives on the line when they deploy to UN missions around the world.

The 112 peacekeepers – military, police and civilian -- who lost their lives in 2011 as a result of hostile acts, accidents and disease, while serving with the United Nations will posthumously receive the Dag Hammarskjöld Medal at a ceremony at the UN Headquarters on 29<sup>th</sup> May.

Among the fallen peacekeepers honoured are eight from Ethiopia: Lance Corporal Abreham Bushira ASELE, Private Lechisa Bedada DESALASA, Sergeant Biniam Haile KASSA, Private Abebe Wendmu KEBENA, Corporal Tesfaye Belata NEGASA, who lost their lives while serving with the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei; and Lieutenant Gabremeskel Asmelash BRHANA, Captain Hagos Misgina GEBRAY, and Corporal Gedi Abdu MEHAMED, who lost their lives while serving with the United Nations - African Union Mission in Darfur.

The International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers was established by the General Assembly in 2002 to pay tribute to all men and women serving in United Nations peacekeeping operations for their high level of professionalism, dedication and courage, and to honour the memory of those who have lost their lives in the cause of peace. The General Assembly designated 29<sup>th</sup> May as the Day, as it was the date in 1948 when the first United Nations peacekeeping mission, the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), began operations in Palestine.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in a message for the Day that "Currently, 116 Member States contribute military and police personnel to our

operations. This impressive number reflects growing global confidence in the value of United Nations peacekeeping as a tool for collective security.”

“I am deeply grateful for every contribution of troops and police, as well as for the financial and material resources that make peacekeeping possible,” UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in a message marking the Day.

"UN Peacekeeping has evolved significantly beyond its traditional role of monitoring ceasefires. Today, we protect civilians, promote human rights, help countries build institutions; protect the rule of law and more. In these efforts, our partners are essential." said the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hervé Ladsous.

This year’s commemorative ceremonies come at a time when the services of United Nations peacekeepers continue to be in great demand. There are more than 84,000 military personnel, 14,000 police officers, 5,400 international civilian and 12,200 national staff serving in 16 peacekeeping operations on four continents.



Ethiopia is currently the 4<sup>th</sup> largest contributor of military and police personnel to United Nations peace operations. There are now more than 6,300 Ethiopian uniformed personnel serving in five peacekeeping missions.

### **Gebrselassie wins Manchester Run**

Ethiopian running legend, Haile Gebrselassie won the Bupa Great Manchester Run on 20<sup>th</sup> May for the 5<sup>th</sup> time, achieving a 2012 World leading time of 27 minutes 39 seconds.

Gebrselassie has been unbeaten in Manchester at the IAAF Gold Label and the biggest 10km event in the United Kingdom.



Fellow compatriots, Tsegay Kebede and Ayele Abshero took second and third places with times of 27:56 and 27:56.

### **Ethiopia announces London 2012 Marathon squad**

Dubai Marathon champion and world leader Ayele Abshero and recent national women’s record holder Tiki Gelana will lead Ethiopia’s strong Marathon squad for the London 2012 Olympic Games after the selection was made based on their finishing times in 2012.

21-year old Abshero, who is a former World junior Cross Country champion surprised many by winning the 2012 Standard Chartered Dubai Marathon in 2:04.23 in January on his Marathon debut.



Ayele Abshero wins Dubai Marathon 2012

On hearing the news, he said, "I am very keen to represent my country in the Olympic Games...If I do my training well and stay healthy, I am sure I can win something for my country in London."

Abshero will be joined in the men’s squad by Getu Feleke, second place finisher in the Rotterdam Marathon and Dino Sefer, third in Dubai. Markos Genetti, winner of the Los Angeles Marathon in 2011 and third in Dubai, and Tadesse Tola have been named as reserves.

The women’s team will be led by Asselefech Mergia who also won the Dubai Marathon and was a bronze medallist in the 2009 World Championships in Berlin,





Germany and a silver medallist in the 2009 World Half Marathon Championships in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



Aselefech Mergia wins Dubai Marathon 2012

Mergia will be joined in the women’s team by Tiki Gelana, the second fastest marathon runner in the world this year behind Kenya’s Mary Keitany. Mare Dibaba, third in the Dubai Marathon this year and the national Half Marathon record holder, completes a strong line up. Veteran Bizunesh Bekele and youngster Tirfi Tsegaye have been named as reserves.

**Ethiopian marathon team for London 2012**



**MEN:**

- **Ayele Abshero (2:04.23)**
- **Dino Sefer (2:04.50)**
- **Getu Feleke (2:04.50)**
- **RESERVES: Markos Geneti (2:04.54), Tadesse Tola (2:05.10)**

**WOMEN:**

- **Tiki Gelana (2:18.58)**
- **Asselefech Mergia (2:19.31)**
- **Mare Dibaba (2:19.52)**
- **RESERVES: Bezunesh Bekele (2:20.30), Tirfi Tsegaye (2:21.40)**

**GRAND RENAISSANCE DAM**

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



***Experts meet on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam***

*The first meeting of the Panel of International Experts for the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam was held in Addis Ababa on 15<sup>th</sup> May.*

*The session was attended by Alemayehu Tegenu, Ethiopia’s Minister of Water and Mines; Mohammed Edris, the Ambassador of Egypt to Ethiopia; and Abdelrehman Sirelkhatim, Ambassador of Sudan to Ethiopia as well as other senior government officials.*

*The panel is part of the team of experts which will be studying the impact of the construction of the dam and whether there will be any negative impact on downstream countries.*

*The decision to establish a technical committee followed the request of an Egyptian public diplomacy team that visited Ethiopia last year. The selection of the international experts was made according to criteria agreed by Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan at an earlier meeting.*

*Construction of the dam began last year and Minister Alemayehu Tegenu said the establishment of the Panel of Experts was indicative of the commitment of Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan to developing the river for the common benefit of their peoples. Cooperation over the Nile is seen as a milestone in managing the river to enable the riparian countries to meet their growing energy demands.*