

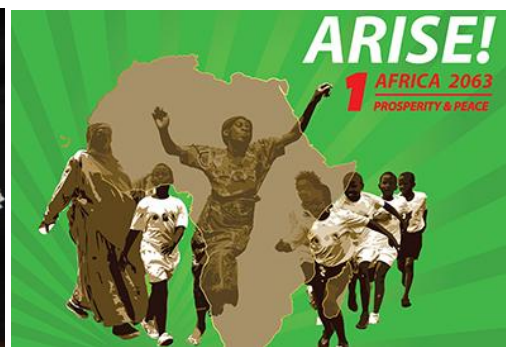


Ethiopian News

May 2013 Issue

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African Union turns 50

Africa has struck gold this year with the 50th anniversary of the birth of the Organization of African Unity/AU being observed across the continent and beyond under the theme *“The Year of Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance.”*

On 25th May, celebrations kicked off in Ethiopia’s capital, Addis Ababa, as Heads of State and Government, high level delegations, invited guests and personalities convened at the AU headquarters to commemorate the special anniversary summit.

African leaders were joined by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, French President Francois Hollande, US Secretary of State John Kerry, Chinese Vice Premier Wang Yang and Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff.

Festivities began with a debate at the AU headquarters which allowed a candid exchange of views on Africa’s past, present and future, the aim of defining Africa’s continental agenda for the next

fifty years. The debate also further enriched the draft Declaration which was finally adopted and signed during the 21st Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly of the Heads of State and Government.



Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, Chairperson of the African Union, in opening remarks said the Declaration sent out a far-reaching message on Africa’s aspirations for the future as encapsulated in Vision 2063, elaborated by the AU Commission and other relevant

stakeholders. The Special Summit and the 50th anniversary of OAU/AU, he said, had codified a great leap forward in the Pan-Africanist quest for freedom, independence and unity.

The Prime Minister said Africa should use this historic occasion to pay special tribute to the generations of Pan-Africanists who articulated the ideals of Pan-Africanism based on the conviction that Africans on the continent and those of African descent in the Diaspora shared a common history and a common destiny. The occasion, he said, should also be used “as an opportunity to honour the Founders of our continental organization who came together under one roof in May 1963, with a resolve to pursue the quest for African Unity in earnest and decided to establish the Organization of African Unity inspired by the ideals of Pan-Africanism.”



While noting the enormous sacrifices previous generations had paid to liberate the African continent from all forms of subjugation and restore the freedom and dignity of the African people, Prime Minister Hailemariam stressed that the major responsibility of current and future generations of Africans should be the creation of a continent free from poverty and conflict and an Africa whose citizens should enjoy middle-income status.

PM Hailemariam recommended five important measures that Africa should take in future years:-

- investment in the agricultural sector, to transform economies and get rid of hunger;
- build up human and technological capability, to accelerate growth and development in an era of globalization;

- build up infrastructure and broaden national and regional networks of roads, railway, telecommunication, electricity and other links to accelerate shared growth and to unleash Africa's economic potential and expedite regional integration.
- the proactive role of the state should not stifle the private sector which should be dynamic and free of rent seeking.
- nurture democratic governance and popular participation to create favorable conditions for the realization of Africa's shared vision: neither peace nor development can occur in the absence of democracy, popular participation and inclusive growth.

Overall, the Special Summit discussed four major themes: how best to use the continent's economic opportunities, the development of the right strategies, addressing the challenges of governance, and the need to change the African discourse on inclusive growth issues. It agreed on the need to listen to the voice of women and youth so they become part of decision-making processes.

Later that day, guests gathered at the Millennium Hall in Addis Ababa for the celebrations.

Drummers, dancers and musicians performed to a packed crowd, telling the history of Africa through song and dance. The festivities showcased African cultural diversity, with poems and dance portraying the journey from the gloomy days of slavery, colonialism, conflict situations around the continent until the awakening of Africa today and future prospects.

One of the founders of the OAU, the former President of Zambia, Kenneth Kaunda, shared his views and experience on the creation of the OAU. The President of Uganda, Mr Yoweri Museveni highlighted the need for political unity as a key factor for African integration. Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the pillars of regional integration, were also in the spotlight. Their messages were conveyed through Presidents including President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya, President Idriss Deby of Chad, President Alassane Ouattara of Cote d'Ivoire, respectively for the IGAD, CEN-SAD and ECCAS. The presentation of the Pan-African declaration states that commemorative

activities will be organised throughout the year until May 25, 2014.

During the 21st AU Summit on 27th May, African leaders adopted and committed themselves to implementation of **‘The Proclamation on the 50th Anniversary of the OAU/AU’**, which spells out the continent’s development path for the next 50 years.

“The proclamation is forward looking and will be supplemented by the activities we undertake throughout this year. At the next summit we will present a framework of ideas collected from all sections of populations on where, as Africans, we should be by 2063 and how we get there,” said PM Hailemariam Dessalegn.

For detailed coverage of the AU Golden Jubilee Celebrations, as well as coverage from the 21st African Union Summit, please visit our website for the online edition of A Week in the Horn. Or send an email to info@ethioembassy.org.uk.

PM Hailemariam foresees bright future for Africa as Africans celebrate AU Golden Jubilee in London

In London, the 50th anniversary of the AU and **Africa Day** were celebrated on the 17th May at the Langham Hotel.



Ethiopia’s PM, H.E. Hailemariam Dessalegn, who is Chairperson of the African Union, in a message sent on the occasion and read out by H.E. Berhanu Kebede, Ethiopian Ambassador to the UK, said Africa Day this year is special as it marks a significant milestone in the history of our continental organization.

The OAU played an invaluable role in the liberation of our continent and, for this, we have to pay

tribute to successive generations of African leaders. Nevertheless, he said, “we all recognize that Africa’s aspirations for lasting peace and prosperity still remain to be realized and the vision of our Founding Fathers is yet to be fulfilled”.

Africa, as it moves forward, needs to rededicate its efforts to ensuring lasting peace and stability, to accelerating economic growth and to deepening governance reforms, with a view to laying a solid foundation for Africa’s socio-economic transformation.



He concluded “It is my earnest hope that by 2063, we will have a continent free from the scourge of conflicts and abject poverty, where many African countries will have achieved upper middle income status and the standard of living of large populations of the African people will have been significantly improved.”

The Dean of African Ambassadors, H.E. Roy Warren Blackbeard, Botswana’s High Commissioner for the UK, congratulated Africans all over the world on the OAU/AU achievements over the past fifty years, which saw the liberation of African states from the yoke of colonialism and economic progress which is now gaining momentum on the emerging continent. He called for increased investment and dynamism in relations between the UK and Africa.

Lord Boateng urged Africans to rededicate themselves to the ideals of the Founding fathers of PanAfricanism and their values and visions. He said Africa should be the main author and the actor of its destiny and “only the best is good enough for Africa.”

Representing the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Additional Director for Africa and UK Special Representative for Sudan and South Sudan, Mr Robin Gwynn, underlined the importance of the growing relations between the UK and Africa which, he said, is a land of emerging economies.



The 50th anniversary celebrations in London included an exhibition and delicious African cuisine including Ethiopia's trademark *Doro Wat* (spicy chicken stew).

The award winning Ethiopian music troupe, Dankira, gave a thrilling performance alongside Rwandese, Kenyan and Egyptian musicians that projected Africa's rich colours and exciting dance.

The Prime Minister's full message can be accessed through our website or on demand through info@ethioembassy.org.uk. The full press release from Africa Day celebrations is also on our website.

Ethiopia celebrates 22nd anniversary of Ginbot-20 in London; support for the renaissance dam

On 28th May Ethiopia celebrated the 22nd anniversary of Ginbot-20 Victory, the day when they defeated the dictatorial Derg regime.

The day also signifies the coming to power of a new democratic Government with a federal structure and a new Constitution with provisions on human and democratic rights including equality of nations and nationalities based on understanding and shared respect.

President Girma Woldegiorgis conveyed a congratulatory message to the peoples of Ethiopia saying the day held a major position in the history of the nation as it brought equality, freedom, peace, development and democracy.

He added that the public should commit itself to realising the vision of the late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, who throughout his life worked for peace and equality for the people of Ethiopia.

The President urged the public to sustain the achievements gained so far in accomplishing the Growth and Transformation Plan.

In a statement, the office of the EPRDF congratulated the people of Ethiopia on the celebration of the Victory and expressed gratitude to those who sacrificed themselves for the current better Ethiopia. Their sacrifices have resulted in the making of policies and strategies that continue to lift the country and its people out of poverty.

U.S. President Barack Obama, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, President of Ireland, H.E. Michael D. Higgins, Mexican President, Enrique Peña Nieto, President of Portugal, Professor Anibal António Cavaco Silva, among others, sent messages of congratulations.

The leaders expressed the wish of their respective governments to further strengthen existing relations with the Ethiopian government.

In London on 1st June, Ethiopians rededicated themselves to supporting the construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) at the commemoration of the 22nd anniversary of the downfall of the Derg regime.



Members of the Diaspora pledged more rigorous support of the national economic transformation that is transforming living conditions through the implementation of pro-poor economic policies and strategies.

H.E. Berhanu Kebede, Ethiopian Ambassador to the UK, addressing the gathering organized by the Tigray Development Association (TDA), said we will rededicate efforts supporting Ethiopia's

Renaissance, rolling out good practice and success stories in all fields of endeavour.



“We will remain fully engaged in development, peace and democracy building, in line with the teachings of our great leader, Prime Minister Meles Zenawi. Focus will be on empowering the people, on fighting poverty, realising mega projects

including the construction of the GERD, road and infrastructure development and the provision of social facilities in the areas of education and health,” he said.

Ambassador Berhanu appreciated the fervour and commitment displayed by those buying GERD Bonds in the UK, where a total of over £574,000 worth have been bought, and urged all Ethiopians to join hands in raising funds and facilitating the construction of the dam.

Representing the Ethiopian community, Chairman of the Ethiopian Somali Diaspora Umbrella Organization, Mr Nuur Hussein, said May 28 liberated nations and nationalities from the shackles of oppression of the Derg regime.

Invited vocalists, including the award-winning Dankira dance troupe, entertained the audience through the night with traditional Ethiopian songs and dances.

A minute of silence was observed to remind those present of the heroic acts of the fighters, and a candle was lit to mark the anniversary.

Please visit our website for the full press release.

Blue Nile diverted for Dam construction

On 28th May, the course of the Blue Nile River was successfully diverted to facilitate the construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD).

Speaking at a ceremony in Guba, the site of the dam in Benishangul Gumuz State, the president of the GERD Construction Public Co-ordination Council and Deputy PM Demeke Mekonnen, said the dam would benefit not only Ethiopia but also neighbouring countries.

Water and Energy Minister Alemayehu Tegenu said the construction of the dam was being carried out in such a way as to enhance co-operation and economic integration and would not do any damage to the lower riparian countries.

CEO of the Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation, Mihret Debebe, said energy projects such as the GERD were essential in developing countries like Ethiopia to satisfy growing energy demand.

He said Ethiopia would generate up to 8,000MW of electricity by the end of the Growth and Transformation Plan period in 2015.

So far, 21% of the dam has been constructed and once completed it will have an installed generating capacity of 6,000MW and storage capacity of 74 billion cubic metres of water.

Ethiopian Airlines celebrates 40 years of London-Ethiopia flights

On 28th May, Ethiopian Airlines celebrated 40 years of uninterrupted services to London Heathrow and the launch of the Boeing 787 Dreamliner, with invited guests from the diplomatic corps, tour operators and guests at Kensington Roof Gardens.

Rahel Assefa, the Airline’s UK Regional Manager, said “The UK has always been a strategically important market for us and we are very excited to announce the launch of our Boeing-787 Dreamliner on the Heathrow route. As a result of this increase in airlift, we will now be in a position to offer the UK market around 20% more capacity, with our six flights a week from London Heathrow to 43 destinations in Africa via our hub Addis Ababa.”

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Berhanu Kebede commended the progress Ethiopian Airlines has registered in past years in terms of destinations and quality of service. He said Ethiopian is an airline that is truly serving Africa

by becoming an airline that connects the continent with the rest of the world.



H.E. Ambassador Berhanu Kebede with Ms Rahel Assefa

The aircraft offers passengers the ultimate on-board comfort with high ceiling, wider leg space, reduced engine noise, higher humidity levels, and most importantly, warm Ethiopian hospitality.



Guests were treated to a drinks reception, barbecue buffet and Ethiopian traditional music and performances by dance troupe Dankira.



Ethiopia on track to meet MDGs

According to a report released by ONE, an NGO that fights poverty in Africa, Ethiopia is among countries that are on track to halve extreme poverty by 2015.

The report, *'Financing the Fight for Africa's Transformation'*, shows that top performing countries include Ethiopia. The "MDG Progress Index" measures how sub-Saharan African governments are faring against their own spending commitments in three poverty-busting sectors: health, agriculture and education. It offers ideas on how the global community can intensify its efforts in a sprint to the MDG finish line.

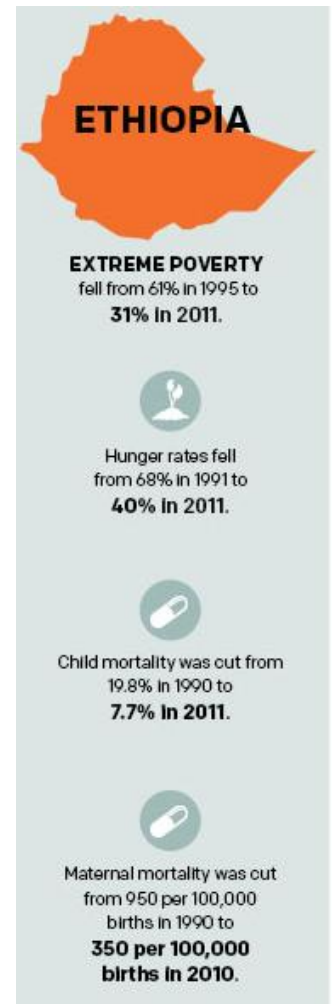
Ethiopia is cited as an MDG *'trailblazer'*. Its MDG-related expenditure share has averaged 44% and it's on track to achieve the poverty, hunger, child mortality and maternal mortality MDGs.

Download the full report on ONE's website: http://one.org.s3.amazonaws.com/pdfs/data_report_2013_en.pdf

DuPont launches collaborative initiatives

DuPont launched collaborative initiatives in Ethiopia that will boost maize productivity among smallholder farmers and help increase food production. The investment will total more than \$4 million over the next three years.

DuPont is collaborating with the government of Ethiopia and USAID to advance the agricultural development and food security goals set by the



government of Ethiopia. The **Advanced Maize Seed Adoption Program (AMSAP)**, will provide sample seed to demonstration plots and field training sessions and build a network of farmer dealers and the current cooperatives to advance the utilization of high-quality inputs and production techniques.

AMSAP's goal is to help enhance incomes for 35,000 smallholder maize farmers in 16 *woredas* (districts) in three regions.

New seed and grain warehouses will be built at local level where farmers can store seed and grain to wait for improved market prices. The improved storage will help to reduce losses by as much as 20 percent. These transformations will improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers, helping to transition their farms from subsistence to self-sustaining operations.

DuPont has opened a state-of-the-art seed processing plant and storage warehouse at Menagasha, near Addis Ababa to ensure that DuPont Pioneer provides farmers with the highest quality seed and include: automated seed cleaning, treating and packaging as well as gravity sorting and grading – the first plant of its kind in Ethiopia. Operating at full capacity, the plant will provide much-needed employment to permanent skilled workers as well as seasonal labourers.

“A primary objective of this Agriculture Growth program is increasing production and productivity, access to market and empowerment of women and youth. This DuPont-USAID partnership enhances the ability of smallholders to increase production and improve their livelihoods in a way that will contribute to accomplishment of the goals of set forth in the Growth and Transformation Plan,” said H.E. Wondirad Mandefro, State Minister of Agriculture, while opening the Menagasha plant.

Bogaletch honoured for FGM eradication

Ethiopian activist Bogaletch Gebre was awarded the King Baudouin African Development Prize for her campaign to eradicate Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

Bogaletch won the prize for her for her “inspirational leadership and her determination to

build on a remarkable personal journey to empower the women of Ethiopia and establish a true community-based movement for social change.”

She has helped reduce cases of FGM from 100% of newborn girls to less than 3% in parts of Ethiopia through her NGO Kembati Mentii Gezzimma (KMG) inspired by the realization that people cannot “be developed” but can only develop themselves. Its pioneering “Community Conversations” provide just that - they enable communities to discuss issues openly, first in gender- and age-specific groups and then across all groups in order to reach a consensus about what needs to be changed.



The King Baudouin African Development Prize spotlights innovative initiatives which improve quality-of-life and empower local communities to take development into their own hands.

The full story can be found at: http://www.kbprize.org/uploadedFiles/KBPrize/04Winners/All_winners/KBPrize%20presentatie%20Gebre%20ENG.pdf. See KMG's work on <http://www.kmg-ethiopia.org>

TRADE AND INVESTMENT

\$2.2 billion earned from exports

Close to \$2.2 billion has been secured from export during the last nine months of the current fiscal year, with coffee still remaining Ethiopia's main export generating \$513.8 million, followed by gold (\$432.1 million) and oilseeds (\$314.5 million). The country has projected export earnings of \$4.5 million for the current fiscal year.

Over \$229m earned from manufacturing

The Ministry of Industry announced that Ethiopia earned \$229.4m from the export of manufacturing goods in the last ten months, which included textiles and clothes, leather and leather products, agro-processing, pharmaceuticals and chemicals.

The figure exceeds that of the same period last year. Most of the revenue was earned from the export of leather and leather products, which raked in \$98.492m. Textiles and clothes earned \$83.421m, \$41.1m from agro-processing and \$6.401m from pharmaceuticals and chemicals.

Africa's first coffee quality control lab opens

On 17th May, METAD/Kabu Coffee Control Laboratory became the first privately owned African laboratory certified by the Speciality Coffee Association of America (SCAA), the world's largest coffee trade association.

Based in the Gerji area of Addis Ababa, the lab will help improve the quality and increase the value of Ethiopian coffee in the global market. It is owned by its sister companies, METAD Agricultural Development Plc and Kabu Coffee Plc (owned by the legendary singer Aster Aweke).

Certified quality coffee achieves higher prices for farmers, higher foreign currency for the country and increases the number of coffee quality professionals in Ethiopia.

The lab will be used to train farmers from around the country to improve the quality of the coffees they produce; and it will also assist international buyers, roasters and importers with gaining access to consistent quality coffees.

TOURISM

EWCA prepares legal framework for sanctuaries

The Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA) has prepared a legal framework for seven protected sanctuaries for the Council of Ministers.

The framework was prepared for Gambella, Bale Mountains, Kafta-Shiraro, Sinkle, Babile Elephants and Senkele Swayne's Hartebeest.

These sanctuaries were protected last fiscal year and preparations are also underway to protect Abiata-Shala National Park.

The rehabilitation of a 684-km road is underway in Gerayle, Alatish, Abiata and Omo wildlife sanctuaries. The construction of a 35-km new road is also underway in Yangudirasa wildlife sanctuary.

New luxury lodge due to open in Ethiopia

Bale Mountain Lodge, a 15-bedroom eco-safari lodge in the Bale Mountains National Park (BMNP) in southern Ethiopia, will open in October 2013.



BALE MOUNTAIN LODGE

Guests will experience pristine wilderness with the largest tract of Afro-alpine moorland remaining on the continent, mostly over 3,800m above sea level, staying in a stunning cloud forest which offers access to the rift valley.



This amazing mix of habitats supports rare species, many endemic to Ethiopia and some found only within the park including Ethiopian Wolves, the endemic Mountain Nyala, Menelik's Bushbuck,

lions, rare Giant Forest Hogs and large numbers of endemic or rare bird species.

All lodge rooms have a wood burning stoves and furniture locally made from sustainable wood and furnishings.

The Bale Mountain National Park is a protected area of approximately 2,200 km² and is located around 400 km southeast of Addis Ababa. Conservation International has designated the Park a 'Biodiversity Hotspot'.

Prices start at \$220 pppn and UK tour operator Red Savannah can make arrangements. www.redsavannah.com

Ethiopian consulate in Finland coffee festival

The Honorary Consulate of Ethiopia in Finland on 7th May organised a one-day conference, to promote the **Grand Ethiopian Coffee Festival**, to be held in December 2013, and to strengthen the existing tourist flow to Ethiopia.



Hosted by the Honorary Consul, Mr Elias Sabure, 60 plus participants from the business and travel sectors, coffee roasters and the media, attended.

The festival tour program was launched in Helsinki a year ago, to maximise tourist flow to Ethiopia. The consulate launched the demonstration in Finland and in neighbouring countries and hopes to attract more than 100 coffee lovers.

SPORTS

Youth sports academy inaugurated

On 28th May, Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn inaugurated the Ethiopian Youths Sports Academy, which will enable sportspersons to be supported by scientific and professional training. The construction of the Academy, on 24 hectares of land at a cost of 290m birr in Gerji area of Addis Ababa, began in 2007 under the initiative of the late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi.

Sports Commissioner Abdissa Yadeta said the Academy, the first of its kind in Ethiopia, would contribute immensely to the growth of sports.

The Academy will admit 320 sportspersons and train them in nine kinds of sport in the next two months, raising the level of talent amongst Ethiopian athletes.

Dibaba sets course record with Manchester win

Triple Olympic Champion, Tirunesh Dibaba, on 26th May won the Bupa Great Manchester Run, setting a new course record of 30 minutes 49 seconds, a personal best, beating fellow Ethiopian Berhane Adere's 31mins 07secs set seven years ago.



The Olympic champion who missed her London Marathon debut in April due to injury said "I am happy with my time today since I am training for the track season now."

In the men's race, long-distance legend Haile Gebrselassie came third, with Double Commonwealth champion Moses Kipsiro of

Uganda in first place and Kenya's Wilson Kipsang in second place.

Gebreelassie joked, "Fortunately at least I can go back home with something...Today was very tough," he added "This young guy [Kipsiro] did a very good job on us."

Lelisa honours Boston Marathon bomb victims

Lelisa Desisa, who won the men's race at the 2013 Boston Marathon, returned his medal to the city of Boston to honour the victims of the April bombing.



Desisa met with US Secretary of State, John Kerry, on 26th May at the U.S. Embassy in Addis Ababa. Kerry was in Addis for the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the African Union.

"Sport should never be used as a battleground," Desisa said, adding that he will return to run in the marathon next year "to show the world that our commitment to sport, our commitment to our freedom, is stronger than any act of violence."

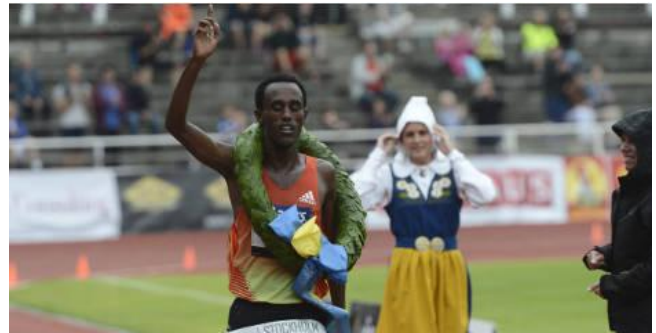
Kerry was moved by Desisa's gesture and his fellow Ethiopian marathoners - woman's runner-up and the men's third place finisher - who visited the embassy. "The gesture that Lelisa's making today is absolutely extraordinary," Kerry said.

"In a gesture of solidarity, these runners have come here today to pay their respects to Boston, to the injured, to the marathon itself. And I'm so honoured that Lelisa has decided that he is going to give his winner's medal to the city of Boston to honour all those who were injured and killed, and most of all, who are getting better."

The bomb blasts near the Boston Marathon finish line 15th April killed three people and wounded more than 260.

Gerbaba wins Stockholm Marathon

Ethiopia's Shumi Gerbaba Eticha won the men's 35th Stockholm Marathon on 1st June with a time of 2:16:13, his second victory since 2011.



Displeased with his performance, Gerbaba told reporters he hopes to come back and do better.

A record number of runners completed the Stockholm Marathon this year. 94% percent of the 16,744 registered participants crossed the finishing line at the capital's 1912 Olympic Stadium.

ETHIOPIA IN THE NEWS

George Alagiah on Ethiopia



During the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the African Union, the BBC's George Alagiah reports from Ethiopia.

"Once known for its famines and dependency on foreign aid, Ethiopia now has one of the world's fastest growth rates."

George's report features two stories, one on Bethlehem Tilahun's Sole Rebels, "**Turning car tyres into shoes at Ethiopian factory**" (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-22592748>) and another on "**How British aid is**

helping Ethiopia's economy grow"
(<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-22596218>)

AFP's Jenny Vaughan also reports on Bethlehem Tilahun's Sole Rebels venture - highlighting how burgeoning enterprises can transform economies across Africa. "By shifting away from a reliance on exporting raw materials to the production of premium products such as shoes, Africa can ease its dependency on aid and slowly move toward industrialised growth."

"Boosting Ethiopia's economy, one shoe at a time":

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hi9MmQmtraCir0xl23Uo6Tv0ewcQ?docId=CNG.2cbf3ba71b77e8c1fc611e4bae9f7aa7.241>

China plans multimillion Ethiopia investment



William Wallis reports that Huajian, one of the largest shoe exporters in China, is planning a multimillion-dollar factory expansion in Ethiopia.

The company, which makes shoes for western brands like Tommy Hilfiger, Guess, Naturalizer and Clarkes will add several hundred more workers to the 1,750 Huajian already employs in Ethiopia, where the economy is among the fastest growing on the continent.

The company has an agreement with China Development Bank's private equity fund, China Africa Development Fund, to co-develop US\$2bn in shoe factories in the country within 10 years, to create 100,000 jobs, the company's CEO told Financial Times.

Full story on the FT website:
<http://www.chinaeconomicreview.com/chinese-shoemaker-plans-massive-ethiopia-expansion>

Also read Elissa Jobson's take on Huajian's expansion via the Africa Report's website, *"Chinese investment creates a new global hub in Ethiopia"*: <http://www.theafricareport.com/East-Horn-Africa/chinese-investment-creates-a-new-global-hub-in-ethiopia.html>

Ethiopian exchange boosts production/exports

Jenny Vaughan reports on Ethiopia's Commodity Exchange (ECX), which was established in 2008 under the leadership of Eleni Gebre-Medhin. The groundbreaking exchange has boosted exports, improved conditions for producers and is inspiring other countries in resource-rich Africa to set up their own exchanges to ensure they are the main beneficiaries of exports.

Access the story via the Business Day Live website:
<http://www.bdlive.co.za/africa/africanbusiness/2013/06/04/ethiopian-exchange-boosts-production-and-exports>



Also read Jaco Maritz article on Gebre-Medhin's plan to build commodity exchanges across Africa and other frontier markets. Eleni stepped down from her position at the ECX to form Eleni LLC, which aims to build vibrant exchanges in fresh and exciting ways, tailored to their context, with a holistic ecosystem approach. The company has already attracted investment from the likes of Morgan Stanley and activist Bob Geldof's 8 Miles private equity fund.

Eleni Gabre-Madhin's next big idea:
<http://www.howwemadeitinafrica.com/eleni-gabre-madhins-next-big-idea-to-build-commodity-exchanges-across-africa/26772/>

ECX's success story is also mentioned in Roger Thurow's Huffington Post Blog, *Lesson From A Famine: Markets Matter*. He outlines partnerships by the World Food Program (WFP) and cooperatives in its Purchase for Progress (P4P) program, which uses the WFP's purchasing power to create markets for smallholder farmers:
<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/roger-thurow/lesson-from-a-famine-mark b 3268914.html>

ECX's latest admirer is U.S. Secretary of State, John Kerry, who, during his recent visit to Addis Ababa, congratulated the Commodity Exchange for its achievements.

Ethiopia's journey from poverty to prosperity



Haddis Tadesse's guest blog on the World Economic Forum website says, "the progress the country is making is evident. The number of children dying in Ethiopia has been reduced by over 60% between the time I left the country and today, with the situation continuing to improve... Using the MDGs as a measure, Ethiopia will meet most of them by 2015. The country's economic growth has also been impressive."

Full blog on the WEF website: <http://forumblog.org/2013/05/ethiopias-journey-from-poverty-to-prosperity/>

How Ethiopian scientist unearthed 'world's oldest child'




CNN's *African Voices*, a weekly show that highlights Africa's most engaging personalities, featured Ethiopian Zeray Alemseged's discovery of the fossil known as "the world's oldest child", named Selam. The skeletal remains which belonged to a three-year-old girl who died 3.3 million years ago, were discovered in 2000 in the rocky hills of the Dikika region.



Skeletal remains of Selam

The full story can be found on CNN's website: <http://edition.cnn.com/2013/05/31/world/africa/zeray-alemseged-selam-ethiopia/>

Ethiopia's ancient salt trade in pictures

Freelance photographer Siegfried Modola  documents Ethiopia's ancient salt trail, in one of the world's hottest and most inhospitable environments – The Danakil Depression in Eastern Ethiopia.



©REUTERS/Siegfried – The Danakil Depression



For centuries Ethiopians have been making the long trek to the Danakil Depression to collect salt from the sun-blasted earth before transporting the slabs back by camel. The tradition dates back hundreds of years and is set to change with the construction of a paved road linking the city of Mekelle with the village of Dallol. <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2326079/Danakil-Depression-Incredible-pictures-vast-desert-basin-heart-Ethiopias-ancient-salt-trade.html>



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