



Ethiopian News

May 2016 Issue

Dr. Tedros Adhanom

*The Director-General that
the World Health
Organization needs.*



Dr Tedros officially launches WHO bid

Tuesday 24th May saw Ethiopia's Foreign Minister Dr Tedros Adhanom launch his official campaign to be the new Chief of the World Health Organisation starting in May 2017.

In just seven years as Ethiopian Health Minister, Dr Tedros revolutionised the health system by investing in critical infrastructure, building the health force and initiating financial mechanisms. As a result of work he led, Ethiopia now stands as an inspirational story to other developing countries seeking to improve their health systems, as well as a model for them to replicate.

During his time as Health Minister maternal mortality rates dropped by a staggering 69%, infant mortality was reduced by two thirds and there were huge reductions in the prevalence rates of HIV, malaria and tuberculosis. Health centres in Ethiopia

numbered a mere 600 for 76 million people when Dr Tedros took office. Under his tutelage, 3,500 health centres and 16,000 health posts were constructed, vastly improving access and availability of healthcare across the country.

Through improving health infrastructure, the number of doctors being trained rose from 120 doctors annually (as recently as 2005), to 33 schools training 3,000 a year today!



Dr Tedros has also earned impressive international credentials, chairing the Global Fund between 2009 and 2011, and the Rollback Malaria Campaign between 2007 and 2009.

He has said that, if elected, the core of his mandate will centre around ensuring basic healthcare for everyone, strengthening emergency preparedness and response capabilities, and enhancing policies focusing on improving the lives and health of women and girls.

His campaign includes a website which can be found at www.drtedros.com which provides a wealth of information on himself and Ethiopian healthcare.

In related news, in recent weeks Dr Tedros won the Women Deliver Award for Perseverance on behalf of the 39,000 Women Health Extension Workers in Ethiopia.

He collected the award during the **Fourth Women Deliver International Conference** held in Copenhagen from 16th to 19th May. During his speech he took the opportunity to promote equal development between men and women, not only because it is a matter of basic rights but because it will exponentially develop society.

Rwanda hosts World Economic Forum on Africa

An Ethiopian delegation headed by Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn attended the 26th World Economic Forum on Africa, which was hosted, for the first time, by Rwanda from 11th to 13th May.

The Forum is "committed to improving the state of the world by engaging business, political, academic and other society leaders to shape global, regional and industry agendas".

Current low global prices for major commodities have raised fears of debt sustainability and possible geo-security threats that could impede growth. African countries should therefore look at the possibilities offered by digital transformation.

Rapid technological changes have the potential to create new industries and reduce inequality, so **Connecting Africa's Resources through Digital Transformation** was chosen as the theme for this year's Forum.



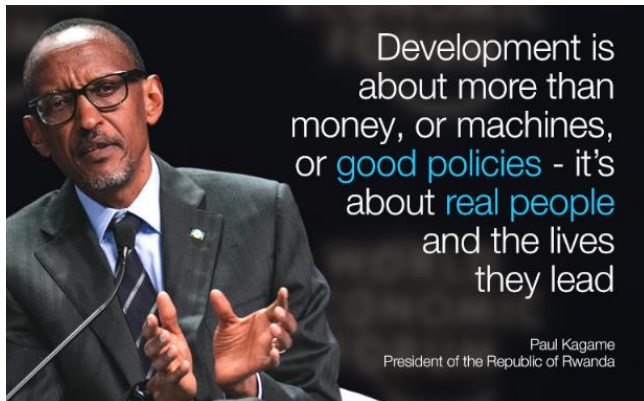
Rwanda's Minister of Finance and Economic Planning said, "The World Economic Forum on Africa allows us to... identify opportunities for public-private partnership that will generate more jobs and higher living standards in Africa as a whole."

Sessions on "How can Africa rethink education and foster the next generation of industry and society leaders?", and "How can business support efforts to build political and societal resilience to conflict and violence?" were followed by a conversation on "Partnership in Africa".



Africa will host a major element of the world's workforce by 2030, so education should translate

into a demographic dividend, feeding the continent's growth, though without certain investments in policy and education, this will remain elusive. It was in this light that the **African Leadership University**, and experts from the private sector and academia, shared their insights on pioneering education for Africa's future leaders.



Inclusive growth was a hot topic at meetings, with Oxfam's Winnie Byanyima criticising rich Africans who keep their wealth offshore, depriving the continent of \$14 billion in lost tax revenues. "African leaders have to wake up and tax those who have the money," she said.

Forum sessions, co-chaired by the former President of the African Development Bank Donald Kaberuka and other luminaries, discussed **Africa's Fourth Industrial Revolution**. Issues raised included "How can we foster digital literacy as a basic skill for African youth" and "What if all education was digital?" Fostering transparency and accountability, and promoting civic participation and rights, were pinpointed as major factors.

GROWAFRICA Prime Minister Hailemariam was one of the panellists at the **Grow Africa** panel, attended by 200 leaders from business, government, civil society, international organisations and farmer associations. The PM said the Ethiopian government fully understands the need to modernize the agriculture sector, as the country's economy depended upon it. The government has been supporting small-scale

farmers by supplying modern technology and select seeds for decades, and would continue to do so. Deployment of agricultural extension workers, who assist and advise the farmers, was among the initiatives taken by the government to increase productivity. In addition to supporting small-scale farmers, the PM stressed, the government was encouraging private companies to engage in the sector.

On the closing day of the Forum, a **new energy future** looked at ways for Africa to leapfrog to smart energy systems with renewable, digital and energy-efficient technologies and at greater investment in large power infrastructure. **Managing migration** and **Africa's pathways to transformation** were also debated.

Foreign Minister Dr Tedros: "[Conflict] Prevention is not only better than cure but it is also cost-effective"



On Wednesday 11th May, Dr Tedros Adhanom attended a high profile panel discussion on conflict prevention at the International Peace Institute in New York.

The panel was also attended by other foreign ministers, peace experts and think tank representatives. The aim of the meeting was to bring conflict prevention back onto the UN's agenda. While, technically, it has been there for

decades, it has been under-prioritised despite the fact that allowing conflicts to reach crisis point create death, destruction and the displacement of people. Conflict prevention is cost-effective and minimises the chances of these horrors.

It is hoped that with the election of a new UN Secretary-General later this year, the time will be ripe for reframing UN thinking. Dr Tedros echoed a statement made by Ban Ki-Moon recently: “We cannot address today’s challenges with yesterday’s mind-set”, and noted that countries today must be flexible and adaptable in order to cope with the constantly changing threats faced. While external geopolitical factors must be considered as they can lead to proxy wars, Dr Tedros also stressed the importance of focusing on international vulnerabilities.

“We have no shortage of ideas. We need to walk the talk.”, he said.

Sudanese delegation spends week in Ethiopia

On 8th May a Sudanese delegation began a week-long visit to Ethiopia, attending the Ethio-Sudanese business forum, aimed at bolstering economic ties between the two countries.



The delegation met with a variety of different Ethiopian officials, including Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn, President Mulatu Teshome, the Speaker of the Peoples House of Representatives and the Mayor of Addis Ababa. They also greeted Abune Mathias, Patriarch of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church while visiting sites of

historical and cultural significance in Mekele in the north of the country. During the visit, the delegation saw the Addis-Adama expressway, housing projects, the Addis light railway project and much more.

Prime Minister Hailemariam noted that the relations between Ethiopia and Sudan have always been based around people, while Dr Omar Suleiman announced that the GERD was not just a dam but also a symbol of the renaissance of Sudan and the region as much as of Ethiopia.



During the visit, the business forum took place, attended by the delegation, Ethiopian government officials and many members of the business community. The Deputy Commissioner of the Ethiopian Investment Commission noted that Ethiopia’s political stability, economic growth, investment incentives and industrial parks were attracting investors, and Sudanese investors could ensure mutual benefit from this by engaging in the manufacturing, construction, mining, tourism, energy and service sectors in Ethiopia. Currently there are over 700 Sudanese businesses requesting licences to invest in Ethiopia, 200 of which are at the implementation phase. Conversely, Sudan is showing progress in raw cotton, vegetables, fruit and metal production, so Ethiopian companies can look to invest here. Port Sudan, said the Team Leader of the Sudanese Chamber of Commerce Wagdi Magur, could serve as a catalyst for facilitating trade between the two countries.

EDITORIAL

Ethiopia's journey after 25 Years with the EPRDF at the Helm

The triumphant entry of EPRDF forces into Addis Ababa 25 years ago was not just a successful culmination of an arduous struggle against a brutal military dictatorship. It not only marked the conclusive defeat of Africa's largest standing army at the hands of a much smaller but highly motivated guerrilla force. It was more than that, because it marked the closing of a turbulent chapter of Ethiopia's history and the opening of a new one. It was a dawn of new hope promising fundamental changes aimed at halting Ethiopia's sharp socio-economic decline and improving the livelihood of the people comprehensively.

25 years and a lot of hard work later, we find Ethiopia in the exclusive category of the 10 countries with the highest rates of economic growth in the world. The country is changing beyond recognition as a result of the strides it has been making, especially in the past 13 years. The achievements made in building social and physical infrastructure such as schools, universities, hospitals, roads, railway lines, electric power stations and telecommunications is, quite simply, amazing.

Whereas the number of students in the country's two universities amounted to a few thousand in 1991, there are now 400,000 students in 33 universities. Currently, 27 million students, that is, a quarter of the total population, are attending primary and secondary education. Thanks to an innovative approach to health sector challenges, malaria, HIV/Aids and other diseases are no longer at epidemic proportions. Ethiopia's road network has increased by leaps and bounds. A new railway line linking Addis Ababa and Djibouti will be inaugurated soon. The construction of other railway projects, connecting the main towns of Ethiopia with Addis Ababa, is underway, while the light rail system - the only one in Sub-Saharan Africa - has already begun operating in Addis Ababa. The country, which only managed to generate less than 400 MW of electricity 25 years ago is well on its way to producing 10,000 MW of clean and green electricity by 2020. Its telecommunication infrastructure, which is currently serving 45 million mobile subscribers, is racing to increase its customer base to 80 million. The list of Ethiopia's socio-economic achievements goes on and on.

Equally important has been the building of a democratic system. In western countries, the building of democratic societies has been a long-term project that took centuries. Therefore, it is not surprising to see that Ethiopia has a long way to go in this regard. However, there is a strong commitment on the part of the ruling party to strengthening democracy and good governance, because both of them are indispensable for Ethiopia's continued successful march towards prosperity. The availability of democratic institutions and capacity building in the institutions of governance will be crucial elements of the task ahead.

The world is taking notice. Ethiopia is not a country of doom and gloom any more. It is a country of hope and promise, moving forward with optimism and vigour to shape a new destiny for present and future generations.



Korean President Park makes historic visit to Ethiopia

President Park Geun-hye of South Korea visited Ethiopia between 25th and 28th May as part of a 12-day, 4-nation tour which also included Uganda, Kenya and France. The President had never visited Ethiopia before and took the opportunity to announce both bilateral and multilateral policy towards Ethiopia and the African Union.



During her trip she met President Mulatu Teshome, Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn, and Dr Dlamini Zuma (Chairperson of the African Union). Together with Ethiopian government officials 24 memorandums of understanding were signed on topics including air services, transport, defence, climate change, forestry, agriculture, rural development, health care and medical sciences. South Korea also announced a \$500 million loan framework agreement for the years 2016-2018 and a \$127 million loan agreement for the Gore-Tepi road construction.

While speaking at the AU, the first South Korean President to do so, the President reiterated her country's sustainable support and commitment to assisting and working with Africa as well as a desire to work towards Agenda 2063. She stated that South Korea would also be training 10,000 youths from across Africa in ICT in order to help build a larger skilled workforce.

Both leaders celebrated the relationship between Ethiopia and South Korea and stated that there was even more potential for the future. President Park Geun-hye noted that Ethiopia was the only African country to send troops to the Korean War. Prime Minister Hailemariam, for his part, stated that South Korea was one of the leading countries with a developmental state model and was therefore a strong role model for Ethiopia.

The Ethio-Korean Business Forum also took place during the visit with a view to bolstering economic ties between the two countries. The Forum has come at a time where Korean companies are opening up to Africa, and Ethiopia in particular. Last year exports from South Korea to Africa were a tiny 1.4% proportion of overall Korean exports, but it is hoped this trip will see an improvement in ties across many sectors. Shints, a Korean textile company, is already active at Bole Lemi industrial park, and textile and footwear producer Youngone has expressed its desire to operate in Ethiopia.

The Ambassador of South Korea to Ethiopia (Kim Moon-Hwan) also noted just prior to the trip that, as the second most populous country in Africa and a leader in the region, Ethiopia offers a strong partner for South Korea; this competitive labour in Ethiopia marries very well with the technology and capital available in South Korea.



President Geun-hye meets President Mulatu Teshome

Former Justice Minister Appointed Attorney General

Getachew Ambaye, until recently Minister of Justice, was appointed as the first Attorney General in the newly established Federal Attorney's Office on 17th May. Parliament approved the draft bill establishing the Office in early April apparently "after a heated debate and ample back and forth." The new Office, and the appointment of Getachew, will eventually replace the Ministry of Justice and the special prosecutors of the Ethiopia Revenues & Customs Authority, the Federal Ethics & Anti-corruption Commission and the Trade Practice & Customer Protection Authority.



The UK in Ethiopia

UK High-Level Trade & Investment Mission visits Ethiopia

A UK Trade and Investment Mission visited Ethiopia from 10th to 12th May, led by Richard Benyon MP, Prime Minister David Cameron's newly appointed Trade Envoy to Ethiopia.

The Mission met officials from the Prime Minister's cabinet and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, of Finance and of Water, Irrigation & Electricity, and business leaders. The visit was a follow-up to the highly successful UK-Ethiopia Trade and

Investment Forum organised in London last October which attracted over 400 potential investors.

Mr Benyon said he was "excited to be here and see first-hand the opportunities Ethiopia offers for UK businesses. I look forward to building a lasting trade relationship with Ethiopia that brings benefits to both our countries." He said the aim of the Mission was to boost trade relations and provide opportunities for UK businesses to strengthen their knowledge of the growing commercial possibilities in Ethiopia. The focus was on infrastructure, extractives and manufacturing.



UK delegation at HMA's delegation in Addis. Photo credit: @jamiebrunsdon

Mission members met State Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Taye Atske-Selassie who briefed them on why Ethiopia was one of the fastest-growing economies in Africa. He stressed the key participation of the private sector and the importance of foreign investment, saying there are opportunities available which would be an asset for a productive partnership with Ethiopia.

Motumua Mikassa from the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Electricity, briefed the Mission on the ongoing Government efforts to catalyse sustainable

energy growth and investment opportunities in clean energy technology, power generation and irrigation.

The Minister of Mines, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Tolosa Shagi, shared key opportunities for investment in mining and infrastructure with representatives from UKTI, KEFI Minerals and Circum Minerals. Mineral extraction licensing was also discussed.

In bilateral meetings and business-to-business discussions the Mission investigated the ease of doing business in Ethiopia and looked at building foundations for future commercial activities. UK businesses are investing in a range of sectors in Ethiopia, including education, leather, mining, oil and gas, food processing, the transfer of knowledge, management skills and in creating local employment, all of which contribute to building the economy. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, United Kingdom Trade and Investment and the Government of Ethiopia facilitated the visit.

Tony Blair visits Ethiopia

In early May, Tony Blair visited Ethiopia and was impressed by the progress the country had made in such a short space of time. On 9th May he visited Bole Lemi Industrial Park and noted how Ethiopia's ongoing efforts to attract globally competitive companies to its industrial parks is enabling the country to develop.



While infrastructure around the hubs still needs to be improved, the industrial parks will create thousands of jobs. Hawassa Industrial Park,

expected to go online this summer, is likely to create as many as 16,000 jobs and Bole Lemi, Ethiopia's first industrial park, opened in 2014, generated 8,000 jobs.

The CEO of Industrial Parks Development Corporation, Sisay Gemechu, said during Mr Blair's visit that industrial parks play a key role in integrating the agricultural sector with industry; in promoting technological transfer; and in promoting partnerships with foreign investors.

Former Arsenal defender visits Ethiopia with Dashed Breweries

On 11th and 12th May, former centre-back defender on "The Invincibles" Arsenal team Martin Keown visited Ethiopia as part of a partnership between the British football club and Ethiopian Dashed Breweries.

On the first day, Keown was in Gondar where he gave 600,000 birr of Dashed support to the town Mayor to aid with the construction of a low-cost housing project to add to the other low-cost housing previously funded by Dashed in the area. On the occasion, the Deputy CEO of Dashed Breweries stated that the company had already spent more than 300 million birr on societal development projects since its establishment 16 years ago.



In Gondar, Keown interacted with children from two grassroots football projects donating both bibs and balls to the organisations. He also laid the cornerstone for the renovation of a football field in

the town to upgrade the previously dusty pitch to a semi-standard pitch which will be covered in grass, fenced, and have its own gardener to maintain the area.



Keown finished the first day with a trip to the Simien Mountains to watch the sun set, describing the whole experience as “stunning”. On his second day, he visited the Dashen Brewery Gondar Plant, before flying to Addis to meet with children from other grassroots organisations. He demonstrated training and skills to the children at the Ethiopian Sports Academy Gym and donated bibs and balls to 11 different grassroots football projects in the capital.

In terms of the quality of football he saw, Keown said: “Looking at the youngsters today, there is definitely the quality there. It’s just giving them the platform to do well. It’s about working with the coaches to give them clear messages to pass on to the young players... As soon as we started working with them you could see they were improving very quickly, they are very athletic, have good touch on the ball; so it’s about creating the opportunities for them. They are exactly the same as the other African players we all know; they are very good and physically strong.”

Martin is the second Arsenal player to visit Ethiopia after Ray Parlour visited in late 2015. The visits are part of a partnership between the club and Dashen Brewery which has also seen Arsenal Soccer School coaches give two training sessions to Ethiopian coaches in November 2015 and February 2016.



Ethiopia in the UK

Amhara event held at Embassy

On Saturday 7th May, the Embassy hosted a hugely successful event with the Amhara community in London, which was attended by over 165 people.

The Deputy President of the Amhara Region, Mr Alemnew Mekonnen, and the State Minister of Transport, Mr Desalegn Ambaw, both attended and gave presentations and took part in questions and answer sessions, which were well received by the audience.

The participants of the diaspora community expressed satisfaction with the event and committed to cooperating with the region's leadership in promoting developmental matters in the spirit of mutual understanding and respect.



The Amhara delegation with Ato Fekadu

Hawassa Industrial Parks taking off

In an edition of the newsletter last year, it was reported that PVH Corporation, owner of both the

Tommy Hilfiger and Calvin Klein brands, would be setting up manufacturing on an industrial park in Hawassa. *Just Style* has recently reported that this production will begin this coming July or August.



According to Fassile Tadesse, President of the Ethiopian Textile and Garment Manufacturers Association, PVH “also have a plan to begin sourcing garments from well-established suppliers in Ethiopia.”

Two domestic companies are said to have bid for leases on the industrial park in Hawassa, just south of the capital, Addis Ababa. The government will be offering incentives to other domestic companies in order to attract interest in the Park. The administration hopes to generate \$1 billion and 60,000 jobs from the parks and will therefore be offering packages including tax waivers for companies fully exporting products, money towards the payment of training staff overseas, and loans for up to 75% of the investment cost.

Clothing firms, including H&M, Tesco, George at Asda, Calzedonia and Primark, are all already sourcing from Ethiopia. Ralph Lauren and VF corporation are in talks with the Ethiopian government regarding lease of space at the Park.

Addis Ababa - Djibouti railway to operate in September

During an evaluation of the third quarter performance of the Ethiopian Railways Corporation, officials announced that the construction of the Addis - Meiso part of the line was 98.1% complete and the Meiso - Dewele section was 98.8% complete. This means the entire length of the line from Addis to Djibouti should become operational as early as September of this year. The House of Representatives praised the corporation for its performance and its efforts in

knowledge transfer and human resources development.



Africa Information Super Highway agreed between China and Ethiopia

More co-operation between Ethiopia and China looks to be on the cards as a Memorandum of Understanding regarding a project dubbed “Africa Information Super Highway” is signed by Dr Debretsion Gebremichael, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, and Liu Lihua, Chinese Vice-Minister of industry and Information Technology.

The project will see the two countries cooperate more on communication and information technology issues, something seen as a weakness in Ethiopia’s current race to development. Liu noted at the signing ceremony that he thought the agreement was “beneficial for improving the quality of life of Ethiopian people as well as promoting the socio-economic growth in this country.” Dr Debretsion also echoed this sentiment while highlighting that it will benefit the whole of the East African region.

China-Africa cooperation on ICT is one of ten major areas outlined by the Chinese President at the forum on China-Africa Cooperation in December of last year.

ICAO certifies Ethiopian Aviation Academy as training centre

Ethiopia’s Aviation Academy was recognised as the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) **Regional Training Center of Excellence** at the

ICAO's Global Aviation Training and TRAINAIR PLUS symposium held in Seoul, Korea in May.

The ICAO said "The Academy attained the recognition following a rigorous assessment of the training organisation, training and procedures manuals, facilities, training processes, qualification of staff and quality systems."

Group Chief Executive Officer, Tewelde Gebre Mariam said "Education remains the greatest equaliser in the 21st century and the aviation academy had strategically positioned itself to train the African youth in the latest aviation technology and latest aviation skills to own, manage and operate their own indigenous home grown African airlines to lead a safe, economical and reliable aviation industry with global standards."



GebreMariam added that the recognition was the result of their continuous heavy investment in human resource development, "a critical pillar of our Vision 2025 strategy. We have invested more than US\$100 million to expand both the scope of the training and the in-take capacity of the academy", he added.

Scandinavian ambassadors to Ethiopia praise commitment to Climate Resilient Growth Economy

Ambassadors from Norway and Sweden accredited to Ethiopia have reiterated that Ethiopia's green

development model should be followed by other African nations.

"When it comes to Ethiopian ambitions and the effect on Africa, I believe that Ethiopia could be seen as a role model for the rest of the continent," remarked Swedish Ambassador to Ethiopia, Jan Sadek. He also went on to say that Ethiopia's strategy made it a champion for developing countries, and he lauded the support Ethiopia extends the African Union in attempting to find a common African standpoint on climate change.

The Norwegian Ambassador to Ethiopia echoed Ambassador Sadek's sentiment, saying that Ethiopia's commitment to a climate resilient green economy was "quite remarkable". Climate engagement has been a major part of Norway's involvement with Ethiopia since the Durban Declaration in 2011.

Satellites used to locate water during El Nino

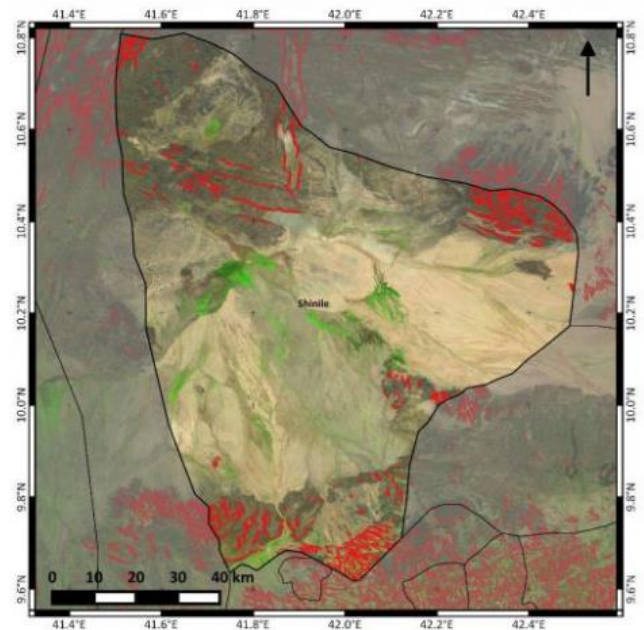
In response to the El Nino induced drought affecting Ethiopians, UNICEF and the European Union have been working together to use new and innovative ways to detect groundwater for large-scale multiple-village water systems.



Groundwater already supplies 80% of Ethiopia's drinking water needs, but limited rains have affected groundwater aquifers supporting the emergency water supply, the urban water supply and livestock watering. Sustainable groundwater is found as far as 300m+ underground, which is why satellite technology is needed to detect it.

The EU Joint Research Centre is providing its expertise for "no cost" satellite images measuring the topographical and physical characteristics of 11

of the worst affected districts from satellites hundreds of kilometres away. The results are already encouraging and the UNICEF Executive Director has said that the scheme is extremely cost-effective, with one permanent well costing the equivalent of just three truck deliveries of water.



Lineaments (in red) are a key input in the preparation of field work in groundwater exploration. Example of Shinile woreda, Afar region, Ethiopia

© EU, 2016

Currently Ethiopia is working on its own space programme which will open up opportunities like this for the government. Satellite technology would also improve telephone signal and communication issues, resulting in better prices for farmers' crops and help in medical emergencies.

Ethiopian scientist wins Norman Borlaug soil award

Congratulations to Professor Tekalign Mamo who has won the 2016 International Fertiliser Industry Association Norman Borlaug Award for his outstanding contribution to soil health and natural resource bases in Ethiopia in the past three years. His work has benefited over 11 million smallholder farmers, has reduced the country's land degradation, soil acidity and nutrient deficiencies, and has ultimately furthered Ethiopia's agricultural renaissance.

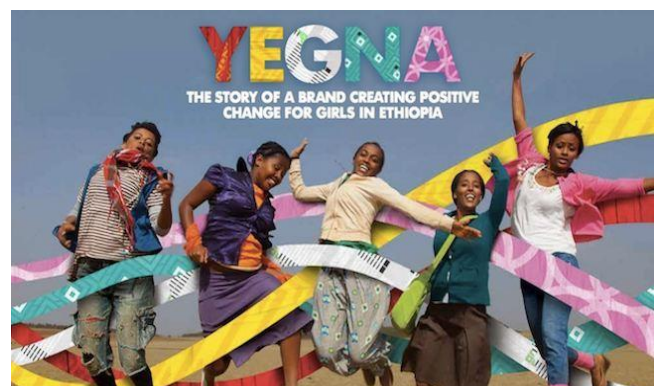
In the past he has also won the 2014 African Green Revolution Yara Award and was a UN FAO Special Global Ambassador for the 2015 Year of Soils.

The Spice Girls of Ethiopia

Yegna is a girl band in Ethiopia working towards equality between the sexes and the empowerment of girls and women. Dubbed the 'Spice Girls of Ethiopia', the girls don't just sing but also have a talk show and radio programme which reaches 7 million listeners.

Each member of the band plays a specific character in the show: the ambitious one, the maternal one, the city girl, the music lover and the homeless girl; and they all have real-life problems to deal with such as domestic violence, poverty and child marriage. In order to make these adaptations as realistic as possible, the group undertakes field research to tell the true story with the aim of resonating with many girls and women across the country.

The show approaches these problems from different perspectives, offering alternative solutions, hope and the knowledge that if a listener is suffering from these issues, they are not alone. The group strongly believes that equality is for all and must therefore include men in order to change their perspectives on women. In this way the show also has a male character who works with them on women's rights.





Father of Ethiopian athletics passes away

The world of athletics is in mourning for Dr Woldemeskel Kostre, the former head coach of the Ethiopian national athletics team, who died on 15th May.

Dr Woldemeskel was deemed strict, but was the most successful Ethiopian long-distance head coach ever over his 25-year tenure. He took the top athletics spot after completing athletics training and graduating with a doctoral degree in Budapest, Hungary in the mid-60s.

Ethiopia had previously shone at athletics, first with the performance of the legendary Abebe Bikila at the Rome Olympics in 1960. Mamo Wolde and Miruts Yifter triumphed with successive Olympic victories, but the 1980s saw Ethiopia falter.



Woldemeskel Kostre, with his 2006 IAAF Coaches' Award

Woldemeskel played a major part in restoring Ethiopia's athletics status, training stars like Haile Gebrselassie and Kenenisa Bekele and, during the Barcelona Olympics in 1992 Deratu Tulu emerged as the first Ethiopian female athlete to gain victory under his guidance, followed by Tirunesh Dibaba.

These successes engendered a resurgence in Ethiopian athletics and a record four gold medals in Sydney in 2000.

The IAAF paid tribute to Woldemeskel as did distance legend Haile Gebrselassie who commented "Dr Kostre was a very strict man but he showed me how to behave. He gave discipline a top priority. It is very sad he has now left us."

The Ethiopian Herald wrote, "Woldemeskel won Ethiopia's respect with his greatness, and won its love with his goodness. He had the confidence that comes with conviction, the strength that comes with character and the determination to keep success a tradition. Achieving so much against so many odds in the world of athletics made Woldemeskel a truly great Ethiopian hero."

It is for this reason that there will always be a special place for him in Ethiopian hearts.

Former Ethiopian forward named new national coach

Gebremedhin Haile, a previous Walia forward and manager of the Ethiopian Premier League side Defence Forces, has been named as the new coach for the national football team. He led the Walias to their first victory in the CECAFA Cup of East and Central African nations in 1987.



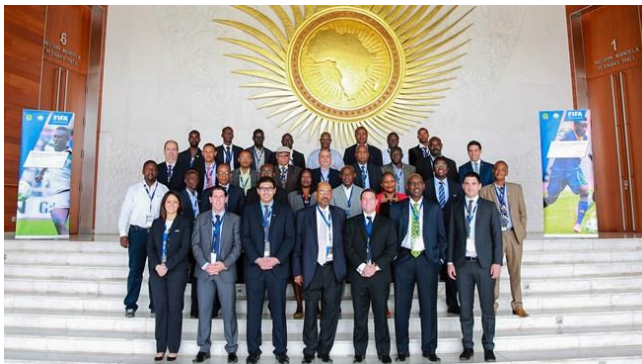
The previous coach, Yohannes Sahile, was dismissed after the team conceded 10 goals in 2 consecutive qualifiers against Algeria. Now the side

must ensure wins against Lesotho and Seychelles in June and September if they hope to qualify for the finals for the African Cup of Nations in 2017.

In 2013 the team earned a spot in the Nations Cup and were a mere two games shy of appearing in the World Cup in Brazil. Since then, however, their performance has dropped.

FIFA take club licensing seminar to Ethiopia

On 19th and 20th May, representatives of football clubs and associations from across East, West and North Africa met in Addis Ababa at the AU headquarters for a club licensing seminar which was organised by FIFA in conjunction with the Confederation of African Football (CAF).



The meeting was the latest in a series of seminars lead by FIFA in an attempt to implement a global licensing system with confederations worldwide, in order to professionalise clubs in areas such as technology, commerce and governance.

In Africa, the Nigerian Professional Football League has been one of the first countries in CAF to implement the licensing system and has seen an improvement both on and off the field as a result.

“The club licensing system has already been adopted by CAF, with 61 African clubs from 26 member associations currently licensed in Africa,” said James Johnson, Head of the Professional Football Department at FIFA.

He went on: “Through these seminars, we are seeking to extend our club licensing initiatives by sharing best practices with the goal of improving the standards of professional football and developing the game on the African continent. These efforts are at the heart of FIFA’s mission.”

Ethiopia in the News

MailOnline In early May, the Mail Online published a piece on tourism in Ethiopia. The journalist, Clare Mann, spent 17 days on a tour run by Ethiopian Quadrants visiting World Heritage sites and described Ethiopia as having “many layers, a spectacular landscape, a rich culture and archaeological sites.” She visited monasteries and remote churches carved into rock requiring perilous journeys featuring “exquisite frescoes painted turquoise, ochre and burnt sienna”.



Not only was Mann impressed by the sites, but she also had this to say about the hospitality: “No

wonder 20,000 Britons visited Ethiopia last year. In this astonishingly beautiful country, we are welcomed everywhere.”

Find the article here: <http://goo.gl/Ibl0bL>

Ethiopian farmers made a desert bloom again



Nathanael Johnson, on the *Grist* website on 11th May wrote: “Ethiopia is in the middle of the worst drought in 50 years. It’s the sort of shock to

the system we are likely to see more of with climate change. But Ethiopia is also home to a successful experiment to make the land more resilient to drought. If we are going to adapt to our changing world, it’s experiments like these that will show us the way.

In the steep fields of Ethiopia’s highlands, when rain falls on the parched, overworked land it runs downhill, carrying soil with it. Farmers commonly lose 130 tons of soil per hectare a year, comparable to the worst erosion documented on U.S. farms in recent history. Then, because the water has all rushed downhill, instead of seeping underground, wells go dry. Without water, crops wither, and that exposes bare soil to further erosion.



Photo credit: Georgina Smith/CIAT

This cycle turned a watershed in Tigray, Ethiopia, into a near desert, prompting the government to consider moving the farmers. Instead, they decided to try to rescue the land. And they succeeded. Instead of leaving their homes, the farmers are

staying put. As one local official put it, what was once a desert is now a forest.

Inspired by this success, farmers are trying the same thing in Adisghe County, Ethiopia. With the help of an international project called Africa Research in Sustainable Intensification for the Next Generation (Africa RISING) and the Ethiopian Bureau of Agriculture, they began building dams, terraces, and recharge ponds. They planted trees on hilltops and planted cover crops on degraded areas, to slow down the water.



Photo credit: Georgina Smith/CIAT

The results were astounding.... farmers have doubled their production since the project started.”

To read more click here <http://goo.gl/XwG3DO>

Ethiopia, Where the Paris Climate Agreement Gets Real

EcoWatch® Peyton Fleming of Ceres, posting on the Ecowatch website in April, wrote about the new solar kiosk that is transforming the lives of Ethiopians near Lake Langano.

“The same day global leaders were gathering at the United Nations in New York to sign an historic climate agreement, my family and I stood in front of a tiny SolarKiosk trailer on the side of a dusty, dirt-packed road in southern Ethiopia [which] sells different-sized solar lanterns, as well as power for

mobile phones and bottles of Fanta... The kiosk was the first in what is now more than 150 solar stands SolarKiosk is operating across Africa.”

“The people we met here were not thinking about global climate deals brokered in Paris... Midhasso Hordofa, a subsistence farmer, has been using a small lamp for the past two years and the biggest benefit he mentions is charging his mobile phone. Alima Badhsoo, whose husband runs the kiosk, has two lamps and she cites wide-ranging perks, including night-time light so her oldest son can study and being able to ‘chase away hyenas’ when they get too close.”



The Omorate SolarKiosk operator, Masresha (right), with his mother (left). He has worked as a local guide and speaks five languages. Photo credit: © Georg Schaumberger / SolarKiosk

“But countries, such as Ethiopia, are surely in the minds of government leaders assembling at the UN to ink a 32-page document that is our last great hope for curbing global carbon pollution at the levels needed to avoid dangerous climate change. The Paris agreement is undoubtedly big on ambition; more than 170 countries signed the accord last week [22nd April] and most, including Ethiopia, have also committed to their own carbon pollution reduction plans. While Ethiopia’s current carbon footprint is tiny compared to developed countries, what happens down the road, as its economy grows, is a big question.”

Fleming mentions the 6,000mw Grand Renaissance Dam currently under construction and continues:

“During the time of our visit, an Icelandic company announced an MOU with the Ethiopian government to generate 1,000 megawatts from geothermal reserves near the southern Ethiopian town of Shashemene. The developer, Reykjavic Geothermal, plans to invest \$4 billion in the project and signed the first power purchasing agreement in Ethiopia’s history. The agreement was made possible by a new - and hugely important - national law allowing private developers to generate and sell power to Ethiopian electric utilities. We can only hope to see progress on more of these projects the next time we visit Ethiopia.”



The SolarKiosk provides the rare source of light once the dusk starts setting in. This Solarkiosk is in Turmi, Gamo Gofa, Ethiopia. Photo credit: © Georg Schaumberger / SolarKiosk

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