



Ethiopian News

November 2010 Issue

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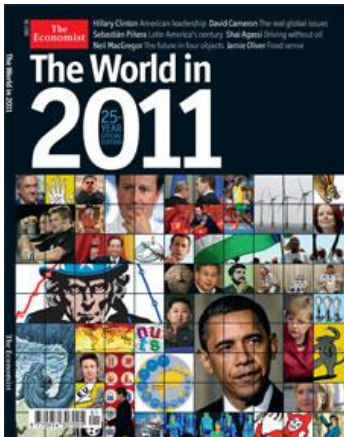
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Season's Greetings

From Everyone at the Ethiopian Embassy

The Economist - Ethiopia 3rd fastest growing economy in 2011



Ethiopia is predicted to be the third fastest growing economy in 2011, according to *The Economist's* "The World in 2011" Publication, which says Ethiopia is expected to grow by 10% in the coming year, ranking it third behind Qatar and Ghana.

The report said that the new five-year economic plan "will emphasize infrastructure development, industrialization, large-scale commercial farming, and small private enterprise. Donor support and worker remittances will help to keep the national

accounts in shape and the economy will grow by 10%".

"Strong agricultural economies" like Ethiopia will, it said, "benefit from rising demand". Ethiopia and other sub-Saharan countries will gain not just from their abundant commodities but from "the arrival of new sub-marine fibre-optic cables [which] will boost bandwidth, cut costs and stimulate businesses that rely on technology... With recovery in Western economies still looking fragile, there will be a growing appetite to invest in Africa", it concluded.

Ethiopia Travel Evening at the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)

On November 10th, the Ethiopian Embassy and the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG), jointly organised an event where presentations were given by veteran broadcaster Jonathan Dimpleby and renowned cultural historian Gus Casely-Hayford on

the BBC documentaries on Ethiopia that they produced this year.

On arrival, guests were greeted with a coffee ceremony and its wafts of incense and could wander around exhibitions.

Ambassador Berhanu Kebede opened the evening event to an audience of more than 650. In his speech, he praised Jonathan Dimbleby, “whose name has been associated with Ethiopia for more than a generation” and Gus Casely-Hayford, whose recent BBC programme played an important role in informing the British public of Ethiopia’s rich history and culture.

Celebrated travel writer Frances Linzee Gordon, who wrote the first two editions of the Lonely Planet’s travel guide to Ethiopia, chaired the evening.



(l-r) Jonathan Dimbleby, Frances Linzee Gordon and Gus Casely-Hayford

Gus kicked off the evening with an illustrated talk based on his hugely acclaimed *Lost Kingdoms of Africa* BBC TV series (BBC 4, repeated on BBC2) saying “If you are in any way interested in culture, history or living archaeology, you will find Ethiopia enormously satisfying.”

Jonathan said Ethiopia is changing and that it has a positive future. He appreciated the resilience, the “grit” of Ethiopians and showed footage from his highly successful BBC TV series *Jonathan Dimbleby: an African Journey*, depicting thriving markets and

the construction boom in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa. Though Ethiopia faces challenges that all African countries face, he recognised that Ethiopia had made huge progress especially in attaining “eight, nine even ten per cent growth rate”.

An exhibition and an illustrated talk were also held on the RGS premises in the afternoon, promoting the natural resources and wildlife in the Gambella Regional State.



On the day, guests had access to the RGS collection of historical maps and books from Ethiopia Collections and there were Ethiopian dancers and a photo exhibition. The evening debate was followed by a reception at the Embassy.

The Ethiopian Embassy would like to thank the event sponsors – the Christensen Fund, Ethiopian Airlines, Pittards Leather, South West Energy, Altan Gold, Journeys by Design and Flowerworld, who supplied the stunning exotic flower displays.

Congratulations to Tony and Eleanor Redshaw, who won a return flight ticket in the Ethiopian Airlines competition on the night.

The Ambassador’s speech and press release from the event are available on demand. Please send an email to info@ethioembassy.org.uk.

PM Meles attends G20 Summit in South Korea

Leaders of the world's major developed and developing countries, as well as institutions, wrapped up the 2-day G20 Seoul Summit on 12th November with a joint communiqué.

Attending the Seoul Summit were leaders from the G20 member countries, the European Union, the IMF, the World Bank, the UN, the World Trade Organisation, the OECD, the African Union, the ASEAN and the International Labour Organisation, as well as from five non-G20 countries - Ethiopia, Malawi, Singapore, Spain and Vietnam.

The G20 Summit deliberated extensively on the global economic crisis and climate change.

Prime Minister Meles Zenawi said that the understanding reached among G20 countries embraced the position of Africa. He said that even though Africa did not participate in the G20 Summit that was held in Washington DC, it presented its own alternatives in the London and Pittsburg Summits.

IGAD holds its 16th Extra-Ordinary Session

The 16th Extra-Ordinary Session of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) was concluded on the 23rd of November with a communiqué expressing the progress made in the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in the Sudan, as well as current political, security and humanitarian situations in Somalia.

The Summit was chaired by Prime Minister Meles, the current Chairperson of IGAD, and present were President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, President Omar El Bashir of the Sudan, President Ismael Omar Guelleh of Djibouti, and President Mwai Kibaki of Kenya, the Chairperson of the IGAD sub-committee on the Sudan, as well as Mr. Yusuf Hassan Ibrahim, representing the President of the Transitional

Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia and Engineer Mahboub Maalim, the Executive Secretary of IGAD.

The communiqué commended the efforts of the AU High Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) in facilitating the Parties' agreement on the implementation of outstanding issues in the CPA and Post-Referendum Arrangements.

The communiqué is available on request; please send an email to info@ethioembassy.org.uk

Ethiopia tops HDI improvement in Africa

Ethiopia has made remarkable progress in the non-income dimensions of human development, ranking as the 11th best performer in the world and 1st in Africa, according to the annual global Human Development Index (HDI) Report, which measures progress in health, education, income, gender equality and other areas.

Compiled by the UN Development Programme (UNDP), Ethiopia was singled out for the remarkable progress it made in health care and education. The report said that "primary school enrolment in Ethiopia rose from 33% in 1991 to 95% in 2007, astounding for a country with a per capita income of less than \$1,000. Since 1990, Ethiopia has the 14th highest rate of progress in improving health and education and the 11th fastest upward move overall." This came about from 1991 when the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front overthrew the Marxist government. "The new government focused on ethnic federalism and socioeconomic development to consolidate its base of support. Education became a national priority in an effort to boost enrolment," the report said.

This year's report, its 20th anniversary edition since its inception in 1990, introduced three new indices to measure countries' status of wellbeing. It covered data for 169 countries for which complete data is available for the past 40 years.

IMF: Ethiopia's macroeconomic outlook favourable in 2010-11

Ethiopia's macroeconomic outlook is "broadly favourable" for 2010-11, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has said.

The real GDP growth will continue to rise, reflecting an anticipated bumper harvest and on-going strong goods and services exports, particularly gold.

According to the IMF, Ethiopia has successfully implemented policies to reduce inflation and rebuild external reserves under the Exogenous Shocks Facility (ESF)-supported programme.

Based on a much stronger performance than anticipated in 2009/10, the medium term export outlook has been raised on higher gold and service exports.

Ethiopia is determined to focus on sustaining macroeconomic stability, enhancing domestic resource mobilisation, promoting broad-based and pro-poor growth, and increasing investment in infrastructure, primary sectors and core MDG clusters, the IMF noted.

The new 5-year **Growth and Transformation Plan** (GTP) includes ambitious real growth objectives of at least 11%, with an aim of placing Ethiopia in the ranks of middle-income countries by 2025. In line with the GTP objectives, Ethiopia is determined to ensure that the economy continues to sustain its growth trajectory and achieve the development goals, including poverty reduction and the MDGs.

The Executive Board of the IMF also approved, on 12th November, the second and final review of Ethiopia's economic performance under the 14-month arrangement under the high-access component of the ESF. The approval will enable Ethiopia to draw about \$62.67 million, bringing total disbursements to the total available under the arrangement to about \$240.24 million. It is to be recalled that the Executive Board approved a 14-

month arrangement under the high-access component of the ESF in August 2009, which was extended in October 2010 to allow for completion of this second and final review and allow for the final disbursement.

Ethiopia announces plans for wind energy

The Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation (EEPCo) signed agreements for the creation of two large wind farms that will significantly change Ethiopia's power generating capacity.

Ethiopia's first ever wind power plant is being built in Ashegoda, near Mekelle, the capital of Tigray. The first phase of the project, which is being overseen by France's Vergnet Groupe, is expected to be completed by June 2011 and will have a capacity of 30MW. When the plant is fully operational, in 2013, its total capacity will be 120MW.



On 17th November, EEPCo also announced that it has signed a memorandum of understanding with Terra Energy Developers for the engineering, procurement and construction of a 400MW wind park project in Debre Berhan, about 130km north of Addis Ababa.

Under the agreement, Terra Energy - based in Nevada in the US - will set up a wind turbine assembly plant in Ethiopia and arrange the required financing. It was also decided that Terra Energy, a joint venture between Princeton Energy Group, Global Enterprise Engineering Solutions and Pacific

Renewable Energy Consulting, will handle the technology transfer and manage the plant.

Debre Berhan Wind Park is one of the seven wind projects EEPCo plans to build in the next five years.

EEPCo estimates that close to 1,000MW of the 8,000MW planned power generating capacity increase over the next five years, will come from wind energy.

Explore Ethiopia: A Market on the Rise

A trade and investment promotion workshop jointly organized by the London Chamber of Commerce and the Ethiopian Embassy in the United Kingdom was held on 3rd November in London. The workshop was organized under the theme “Ethiopia: A Market on the rise.”

In his opening remarks, H.E. Ambassador Berhanu Kebede underlined the government’s keenness to promote trade and investment in Ethiopia, where there is an enabling environment for UK and other investors. The Ambassador noted that the government has put in place incentives and mechanisms to facilitate the engagement and operation of investors in all economic sectors including agriculture, the service industries and manufacturing.



(l-r) British Ambassador to Ethiopia, H.E. Norman Ling, UKTI’s Simon Brown and Ethiopian Ambassador to UK, H.E. Berhanu Kebede

British Ambassador to Ethiopia, H.E. Norman Ling, dispelled the mistaken image that people generally

have of Ethiopia, calling Ethiopia a Land of Opportunity. He said that “Ethiopia was booming” and outlined key sectors that were open to investors. He told participants that his Government is keen to support British investment in Ethiopia, which is instrumental in generating employment opportunity and promoting the transfer of technology. The Ambassador called on British investors to seek out opportunities in Ethiopia across a wide spectrum of sectors, including railways, education, construction, hydroelectric power, telecommunications, tourism, and pharmaceuticals.



The workshop drew more than 30 participants including UK based industries such as Nyota Minerals who have recently begun gold mining operations. Nyota’s executive chairperson praised Ethiopia for its investor-friendly attitude and the accessibility of key ministries. Leather company Pittards, which has been working with Ethiopia for more than 100 years, expressed its delight with their Ethiopian Tannery Co which they bought in 2008 and which was named World Tannery of the Year this year.

Case studies were presented by Demissie Asafa of Goh Capital Partners, by Daniel Gad of Omega Farms who has returned from the USA to farm in Ethiopia and by Orlando Ames-Lewis of UK Trade and Investment in East Africa. Daniel spoke of current trends and opportunities in agriculture and the agro-processing sector in Ethiopia. Orlando also spoke on developments in East Africa including



Ethiopia and on the benefits of joining the upcoming UKTI trade mission to the region.

Workshop chairman, Mr. Simon Brown from UKTI, in his closing remarks, urged participants to consider ample opportunities in Ethiopia, which has benefited from a decade of peace and relative prosperity, and which is making its major focus economic growth and development.

Ethiopia promotes mineral exploration

The Government of Ethiopia is aiming to license 50 mineral exploration projects every year and to more than double exports from the industry to over \$1 billion over the next five years.

Ethiopia, which has deposits of gold, silver, copper, platinum, potash and tantalum, exported \$281 million of gold in the fiscal year to July 7th.

Gebre Egziabher Mekonnen, Head of the Mineral Operations Department at the Ministry of Mines, said that the industry is totally open to foreign investors. Ethiopian-born Saudi billionaire Sheikh Al-Amoudi's Midroc Gold Mine and Australia-based Nyota Minerals Ltd. both plan large-scale operations in Ethiopia.

Currently, there are 80 international firms and Ethiopia earns about \$400 million annually from mining, making it the second-largest foreign exchange earner after agricultural produce.

Ethiopia's first quarter export income hikes 64%

Ethiopia's first quarter export earnings for the fiscal year 2010/2011 (8th July 2010–7th July 2011) increased by 64% compared to the previous year.

According to the Ministry of Trade, Ethiopia exported products worth \$563.4 million during the first three months (8th July–7th October 2010), as compared to \$342.7 million from the previous fiscal year.

Income from oil seed exports has grown by 274%, followed by 183% income growth from mineral exports, excluding gold and tantalum. The foreign currency earned in the past three months from gold exports has increased by 172%.

Bumper harvest removes millions from food aid

The number of Ethiopians requiring emergency food aid has fallen by almost 3 million, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MoARD) has confirmed. Its Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector (DRMFSS) announced that 2.3 million people are in need of emergency food assistance. The figure last year was 5.2 million.

At a joint press conference held on 23rd November the DRMFSS and the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) jointly announced the figure in the Humanitarian Requirement Document (HRD).

Of the 2.3 million people, 29.2%, 29%, and 29.3% live in the Somali, Tigray, and Oromia regional states, respectively.

The food security situation improved as a result of good rains between February and May and between June and September.

The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) has also announced that activities have been launched to irrigate and develop more than 1.3 million hectares of land, from which a bumper harvest of over 151 million quintals of agricultural output is expected. The produce will help stabilise the market and ensure household level food security. The Ministry also called on farmers, pastoralists and all pertinent bodies to contribute their share to ensure the success of the irrigation development plan.

Primary school enrolment rises in Somali state

Primary education enrolment in the Somali region of Ethiopia has increased to 73.5% from about 64% the previous year. The rise is a result of the campaign carried out by teachers, parents and the region's leadership to raise primary school enrolment.

At least 1,746 teachers have graduated from local teacher training colleges and have been deployed to various primary schools to alleviate teacher shortages. Another 1,000 are undergoing training, said Ibrahim Ali Musa, the Somali State Education Bureau head. They are aiming to reach 75% by the close of the academic year.

Ethiopian surveys find high densities of Prince Ruspoli's Turaco but highlight threats

Recent surveys of Prince Ruspoli's Turaco (*Tauraco ruspolii*) - endemic to southern Ethiopia - suggest that rates of habitat change have been very fast in the northern part of the species' range, where large areas have been converted to agriculture and plantations of exotic trees.

"The results of this survey will be of immediate use for conservation, as the Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society (EWNHS), prepares to develop a Conservation Action Plan for Prince Ruspoli's Turaco", said Mengistu Wondafrash, Executive Director of EWNHS.



The Species Action Plan work will be made possible through recently secured financial support from the 2010 British Birdwatching Fair.

The woodlands bordering Sede and Lela Lemu forests support high densities of the species and are a key site for the conservation of the species, as they host the most important surviving population. The forests themselves are

inhabited by a rich avifauna that also includes the White-cheeked Turaco (*Tauraco leucotis*).

Prince Ruspoli's Turaco, is a macaw-sized bird with scarlet and navy-blue wings, a long tail and a green-and-white head.

It was named after Prince Ruspoli who 'discovered' it 1893.

Gambella's Hidden Treasure

An exhibition and an illustrated talk were also held at the RGS on the afternoon of 10th November, promoting the natural resources and wildlife in the Gambella state. As Ambassador Berhanu said in his introduction, the afternoon event offered a comprehensive perspective on the tourism and investment potential of Gambella.



Renowned BBC film-maker John Purdie showed a film of the current state of affairs in national park development, tourism and agriculture. Gambella National Park shares the second largest migration with neighbouring Sudan; white eared kob (antelope) migrate in vast numbers between the two countries. The Government of Ethiopia, with its partners in the Horn of Africa Regional Environmental Centre (HOA-REC), are seeking to establish a blueprint for how to conserve the natural resources of the country and, at the same time, use these resources in the most efficient and effective manner to improve the livelihood of its citizens.



HOA-REC, together with international partners, is undertaking a survey and count of wildlife and the general natural habitat in the area. The Ambassador said "We hope the survey will enable the Government of Ethiopia to develop a sustainable strategy of natural conservation and environmental-friendly agriculture and tourism activities."

Additional guest speakers included Dr. Araya Asfaw and Sanne van Aarst of HOA-REC, Dr Elfinesh Haile from Ethiopia's Tourism Ministry and Dr Kifle Argaw Workagegnehu, Director General of the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority. Investors from the UK, Holland and the United States who are keen on environmental-friendly economic activities attended the event.

Events

Ethiopia to host African budgeting for children conference

Ethiopia will host the Fourth International Policy Conference on the African Child (IPC), from 7th – 8th December. It will examine successful budgeting for children in the context of both international experience and African realities.

The conference will focus on the central role effective budgeting has in the realisation of child rights in Africa.

The 2011 African Report on Child Well-being will also be launched during the conference. This report will look at the issues of investing in four key areas – health, early child development, education and social protection – as well as Africa's commitment to child rights.

14th and 15th Addis Trade for Development Fairs

The 14th and 15th editions of the Grand Trade Fair will take place from 23rd December 2010 to 6th January 2011, and from 9th to 23rd April 2011, in connection with Ethiopian Christmas (7th Jan) and

Easter festivals (22nd April) at the Addis Ababa Exhibition Centre.

The events promise 20,000 to 30,000 visitors a day and coincide with the highest inflow of tourists into the country.

Companies are invited to take this opportunity to promote their products and services in the growing Ethiopian market and explore new business and investment opportunities.

For further information, please contact our Trade and Investment Counsellor, Hirut Zemene on 020 838 3870 or log on to our website www.ethioembassy.org.uk.

Ethiopia to host next AU summit in January

The 16th Session of the Conference of the African Union Heads of State and Government will be held on 30th and 31st January 2011 in Addis Ababa.

The theme of the summit will be "*Africa's Shared Values: Implementation of a Pan-African Governance Architecture*".

The Summit will be preceded on 24th and 25th January by the 21st Ordinary Session of the Committee of the Permanent Representatives, gathering the ambassadors accredited to the AU headquarters, and by the 18th Session of the Executive Council, which will bring together AU Foreign Ministers from 27th to 29th January.

Africa Health Conference 2011

The IV Corporate Africa Business Coalition Partnerships for Prevention and Care Africa Health Conference will be held under the patronage of the Ethiopian Health Ministry, taking place at the Sheraton Hotel, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 7th - 9th February 2011.

The event is organized by the private sector to provide a platform where international investors can network and engage participants from the private and public sectors in Ethiopia and East Africa. Key sponsors include BD, Nova Nordisk,

Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and the Ethiopian Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria.

The theme of the conference is "Private Public Partnerships" partnerships that are led by businesses in collaboration with government, policy makers, international health agencies, the private sector, activists, and medics and patients' support groups, working towards the prevention and care of HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria.

There will be strong representation in attendance from the private sector in Africa, the Diplomatic Corp, NGOs, international health agencies, health professionals, national business coalitions against HIV/AIDS, foreign experts and international investors in health and Medicare. The highlights of the event will feature a Panel Discussion: National Business Coalitions and Agencies operating in Ethiopia and East Africa – working to improve efficiency through better exploitation of scarce resources in regard to HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria.

All persons and organizations desiring more information about participating should contact their local representatives or Miss Ketty Rofallet at ketty@corporate-africa.com or Berhane Abera in Ethiopia: +251-11 663-0598, Email: babera@ethioconference.com.

3rd Africa Water Week



The African Minister's Council on Water (AMCOW) held the 3rd African Water Week (AWW3) at the UN Conference Centre in Addis

Ababa, from 22nd to 26th November, in keeping with its decision to institutionalise the annual Africa Water Week.

With only five years away from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) target date of 2015, the 3rd Africa Water Week (AWW3) provided a unique occasion for taking stock of the challenges faced and progress made across the continent towards

achieving the goals and targets set on water and sanitation.

Building on the momentum from the last Africa Water Week, this year's occasion was also an opportunity to pinpoint and prioritise the areas where Africa needs to do more and better than before, in order to ensure that equitable access to water and sanitation makes a critical contribution in Africa's progress towards sustainable development.

The outcome of the meeting is expected to be endorsed by the African leaders during the forthcoming African Union Summit in January. Over 2,000 local and international participants took part in the week-long activities, which were celebrated across the continent.

African Water Week represents a political commitment at the highest level, where governments, regional institutions, international partners, the private sector, the scientific community, civil society and the world media, meet to discuss and collectively seek solutions to Africa's water and sanitation challenges. The event aims to focus attention on accelerating implementation of the actions envisaged in internationally and regionally agreed goals and targets in the areas of water and sanitation.

Sport

Great Ethiopian Run 2010

The 10th anniversary of Africa's biggest mass road race, the Great Ethiopian Run, was held in Addis Ababa on 21st November. A new addition to this year's event was a prize category for eight government organisations representing the eight Millennium Development Goals. This year's race message is "We Can end Poverty".

Over 35,000 runners including tourists, international athletes and diplomats took part in the race on a new course which included the Gotera

overpass and which has been designed to cater for larger numbers.



Sule Utura, the 2008 World Junior 5,000m champion, and Azmeraw Bekele, the national Cross Country champion, were the winners of this year's race.

The event was more of a domestic event when it first took place 10 years ago with 10,000 athletes taking part and no international athletes. But as the event's popularity and exposure grew, so did the number of international athletes competing. This year's high profile guests included Ireland's John Treacy, Netherland's triple World Half Marathon champion Lornah Kiplagat and Spain's 1997 and 1999 World Marathon Champion Abel Anton. More than 250 participants from abroad also took part in the race, many raising money for charity.

To expand the popularity of the event, a 30-minute documentary was produced and will be broadcast worldwide to promote sports tourism in Ethiopia.

New York Marathon 2010

The New York City Marathon was held on 7th November. The ING New York Marathon is one of the best in the world. The event attracts more than 100,000 registrants a year including many world-class professional athletes.



For the Men's Open Division, Gebre Gebremariam from Ethiopia was the winner. He finished first at 2:08:14 in his first ever marathon. The 2009 World Cross Country Champion triumphed after pulling away from Kenya's Emmanuel Mutai in the closing stages. For the Women's Open Division, Edna Kiplagat from Kenya won in 2:28:20.

Gebreselassie to race in Tokyo; puts 2012 Olympics back on schedule

Haile Gebreselassie, world record holder, revealed that he will compete in next year's Tokyo marathon on 27th February, reversing his decision to quit racing during the New York City Marathon at the beginning of November, when he had a knee injury.

Gebreselassie confirmed that he will continue to run until the 2012 London Olympics.

Gebreselassie is widely regarded as one of the greatest long distance runners ever. He has won two Olympic gold medals and four world titles for 10,000 metres. He set the marathon world record in Berlin two years ago.

Apart from his gold medals and records, Gebreselassie also owns his own running club, has established a school in Addis Ababa and employs more than 1,000 people in his home city, where he is known as "The Emperor".

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