



Ethiopian News

November 2016 Issue

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Ethiopia invites you to discover why it is the origin of so much...



MESSAGE FROM THE AMBASSADOR

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to visit Ethiopia, to see for yourself what the country has to offer – from the stunning natural scenery, history and ancient civilisation to the people and culture. Ethiopia is a country of diversity.

A federal democracy, Ethiopia has progressive social policies and a fast-growing economy which are both contributing to its emergence as a world class tourist destination.

Tourism is part and parcel of the growing Ethiopian economy and the Government is highly committed to transforming tourism into a major economic sector. It plans to triple the number of foreign visitors to more than 2.5 million by 2020 during the 2nd Growth and Transformation Plan (2015–2020). This would make Ethiopia one of the top five tourist destinations in Africa.

Ethiopian Airlines has been instrumental in tourism growth in Ethiopia. In its seven decades of operation, *Ethiopian* has become one of the continent's leading carriers, unrivalled in efficiency and operational success.

We all come from Ethiopia. Lucy, the first human being, lived in the North-Eastern part of Ethiopia. We are all descendants of Lucy, so come back to your home! Visit Ethiopia.



H.E. Dr Hailemichael Aberra Afework
Ethiopian Ambassador to the United Kingdom

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF TOURISM

Ethiopia is ready and open for tourism.

Many tourists come to Ethiopia for the historical and cultural destinations, but we want to diversify from this. I would like to encourage potential investors who have the knowledge in this industry to invest in the tourism sector. The government provides incentives for investors, so now is the time to tap into this market.

We recently launched Ethiopia's new tourism brand – **Ethiopia: Land of Origins**, with the aim of working in partnership with the private sector to "maximize the country's resources" and "make the nation one of the best tourist destinations in the world".

Land of Origins is a unique brand, however the real brand of Ethiopia is the hospitality of the people. Whenever I meet someone who has visited Ethiopia, they always talk about the hospitality of the people...that is the brand Ethiopia is promoting.

So come to Ethiopia and take the time to be enchanted by her extraordinary past and to share in the dynamic present.

Come and you will discover why Ethiopia is original in so many ways.



Mr Solomon Tadesse
CEO, Ethiopian Tourism Organisation

www.ethiopia.travel

- Travel Update -

For those who have booked a holiday in Ethiopia, or who are planning to visit, you may be aware that Ethiopia declared a six-month nationwide state of emergency in early October following the unrest that occurred in some areas.

The temporary state of emergency is to maintain sustainable peace and stability in the country and is a precautionary measure. Visitor safety and wellbeing is of paramount importance in Ethiopia.

Ethiopia is visited by over 750,000 people from all over the world every year, and was named as the **World's Best Tourism Destination 2015** by the European Council on Tourism and Trade and was the only African country to be featured in **Lonely Planet's Best in Travel** for the year 2017. Those travelling this season are assured of a trip as enjoyable as ever. It is as safe now for tourists and business visitors to travel in Ethiopia as it has been for the last twenty-two years since the new constitution was introduced.

Travellers to Ethiopia will find that all tourist areas of the country are safe. Caution when travelling at the borders is advised, as it is with travel to the extreme western and eastern regions of the country. This is the normal advice, and is due to the relative instability of portions of neighbouring countries.

Ethiopia's reputation for welcoming, traditional hospitality is as justly deserved as always. Communications are working, with good internet connectivity and flights from 95 international cities providing business as usual.

...Germany lifts travel warnings

The German Foreign Ministry on 16th November lifted its warning for Germans planning to visit the main tourist areas of Ethiopia. Travel on the main routes (Bahir Dar, Gondar, Lalibela, Dire Dawa, Arba Minch) is "currently possible without any problems", the website states.

Germany and some other countries had issued travel warnings for visitors and are now cancelling the warnings since peace has been restored and it's back to business as usual. The U.K. and the U.S. are expected to lift their travel warnings soon.

TRAVEL AND TOURISM

Ethiopia celebrated at World Travel Market



A 10-member delegation led by Mr Solomon Tadesse, CEO of the Ethiopian Tourism Organisation, took part in this year's World Travel Market (WTM) in London, showcasing Ethiopia's many tourist sites.



Staged annually, World Travel Market London - the leading global event for the travel industry - is a vibrant business-to-business event that provides a unique opportunity for the whole global travel trade to meet, network, negotiate and conduct business. More than 50,000 senior travel industry professionals, government ministers and international press, visit each year.

Proceedings kicked off on 7th November with the official opening of the Ethiopian stand by H.E. Ambassador Hailemichael Aberra Afework, Mr Solomon Tadesse and the UK Area Manager of Ethiopian Airlines, Mr Michael Yared.



Present on the occasion were Ethiopian Airlines and Embassy staff, tour operators and guests.

At a press conference on 8th November future plans for Ethiopia as a major African tourism destination were announced.



Ambassador Hailemichael speaking at the conference

Ambassador Hailemichael kicked off the press conference by encouraging participants to visit Ethiopia as it offers so much in terms of history, culture, ethnic diversity, wildlife, stunning varied landscapes and adventure.

The time is now right for tourism to take centre stage

Mr Tewolde GebreMariam emphasised that having invested over the last 25 years in strengthening Ethiopia's infrastructure, "the time is now right for tourism to take centre stage and showcase a magnificent nation with a reputation for outstanding natural hospitality to visitors from all over the world."



"Ethiopian Airlines, now the largest airline in Africa, flies to 95 destinations across 5 continents, giving tourists, investors and trading partners the opportunity to benefit from our routes and hospitality. We now offer 20 airports of global standard across Ethiopia servicing 25,000 hotel rooms a day and with flights from three US cities (Washington, Los Angeles, Newark), from Toronto, from 13 European points and from four Chinese cities into Addis, we are very much up and running and ready to offer a welcome to the world."

"With 20 airports, road networks, electrification of the whole country complete, and potable water now available throughout, Ethiopia is ready to see its tourism industry flourish."



"As our new branding highlights, Ethiopia is truly the **Land of Origins** in terms of history, culture and adventure, we are currently undertaking a 5-year strategy to develop and market the country with the aim of establishing Ethiopia among the top five tourist destinations in Africa by 2025. Together with Ethiopian Airlines, Africa's fastest growing

... the Origin of Coffee

Our Gift to the World

airline, we will work together to really put Ethiopia on the world tourism stage.”

...an Ethiopian Evening

A reception was held on 10th November to mark the end of World Travel Market week.

Ambassador Hailemichael welcomed guests and detailed the measures Ethiopia has taken to become one of the top travel destinations in Africa.



Mr Solomon Tadesse said tourism is now a priority for the government. Now that the infrastructure is in place, he encouraged guests to invest in adventure travel such as mountain biking holidays.



Mario Marsilla (L), Ethiopian Airlines and H.E. Prof Joyce Kikafunda (centre), Ugandan High Commissioner. Photo credit: UKENTV

Present were Ambassadors, diplomats, travel and tour operators, friends of Ethiopia and members of the media.

Full coverage of events held during WTM week can be found on our YouTube page at <https://goo.gl/KmnLbV>.

Ethiopia among Lonely Planet's Top 10 countries to visit in 2017

Ethiopia has made it into Lonely Planet's top 10 countries for travel in 2017.



The annual list highlights destinations that are set to take off in the travel industry. Ethiopia is the only African country in the top 10 list.



A priest on the precarious route up a mountain to one of Ethiopia's cave churches ©Philip Lee Harvey / Lonely Planet

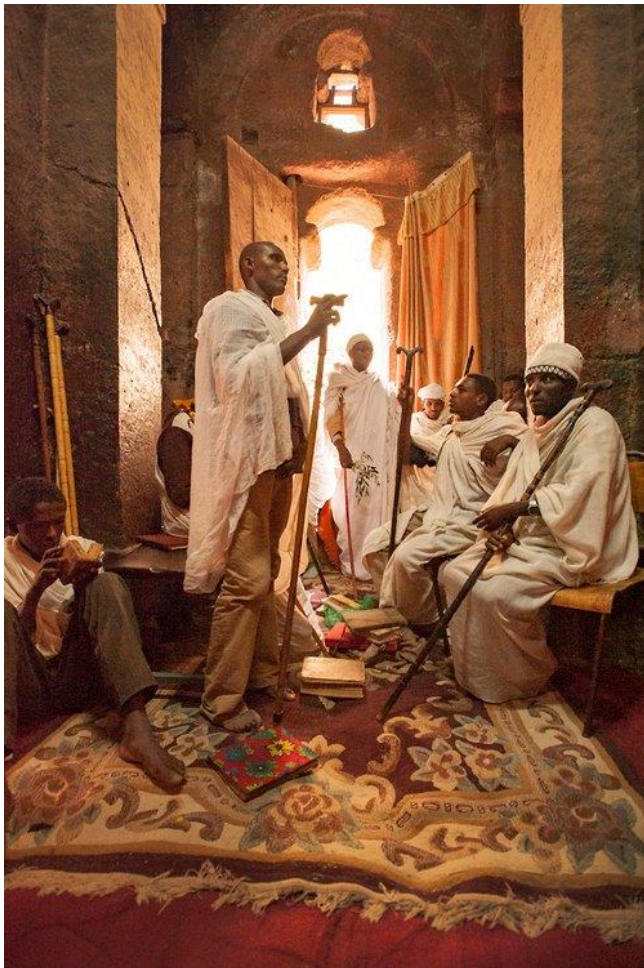
At number 10, Lonely Planet says, “With its own calendar (where else can you get 13 months of sunshine?), timekeeping, script, language, cuisine, church and coffee, Ethiopia is as exotic as countries come. And whether you're trekking through the Simien Mountains to witness wildlife that roams nowhere else on Earth, climbing to a church carved into a remote cliff face in Tigray or boating across the serene waters of Lake Tana to visit an age-old monastery, you'll be overwhelmed by the beauty of the landscape. In 2017 new airline links will make the country more accessible than ever, so be one of the first to hop on board.”



Lalibela photo wins Faith Through a Lens contest



The Gathering, Simon Hathaway's photo of men preparing for worship in Lalibela, Ethiopia, has won the 2016 Faith Through a Lens photography competition.



"Gathering for prayer, song and Bible study in a monolithic rock-hewn church at Lalibela, these men continue the tradition of worship which dates back in Ethiopia to the time of the Apostles."

Speaking exclusively to the Embassy, Simon said, "I found that Lalibela is a place of mystery and wonder where there was unending beauty at every turn. I hope that my image captured some of the history, atmosphere and spirit of the rock churches there."

NATIONAL NEWS

New Foreign Minister, Dr Workneh, arrives at Ministry



Newly appointed Foreign Minister, Dr Workneh Gebeyehu, took up his post at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 7th November.

Upon arrival, the Minister was warmly received by high-level Ministry officials, including the outgoing Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Tedros Adhanom, State Ministers and Director Generals.

Following a ministerial meeting with Dr Tedros, the new Minister then met the Ministry's Management Board members.

The State Ministers and Director Generals pledged to work with Foreign Minister Workneh with renewed commitment and responsibility and thanked the outgoing Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Tedros Adhanom, for his highly effective tenure in Ethiopia's diplomatic ventures.

PM Hailemariam briefs diplomats



On 17th November, Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn briefed diplomats on the current situation in Ethiopia particularly on the major achievements witnessed under the reforms being pursued by the government to fulfil the pledges it has made to the public and on the State of Emergency.

The PM stressed that, since the first day of the authorization of the State of Emergency (9th Oct), Ethiopia was able to restore law and order and is

now back to normalcy. He affirmed that regular business can be conducted as usual.

Regarding opening up the democratic space, the PM said the government thoroughly understood the importance of enhancing civic participation and strengthening democratic institutions. On reforming the electoral system, the Premier said, "We felt that the coming parliament should also accommodate those who are not represented."

Ethiopia currently uses the first-past-the-post voting system but will introduce an element of proportionality in future.



Diplomats attending the briefing

Ethiopia's Foreign Direct Investment climate is still one of the best on the continent and the government is working hard to ensure that this will continue, the Prime Minister said. He called on diplomats to encourage their nationals to continue investing in the country.

Twelve industrial parks, soon to be built across the country, will create job opportunities for more than 1.2 million people and there is no slowdown regarding ongoing mega projects such as these.

Canada's Foreign Minister visits Ethiopia

On 10th-11th November, Canada's Foreign Minister Stéphane Dion visited Addis Ababa as part of his seven-day Africa tour.

While in Ethiopia, Mr Dion met Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn, the new Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Workneh Gebeyehu and other senior officials. Canada is an important partner in the region and ways of enhancing bilateral cooperation between the two sisterly countries were discussed.

During his meeting with the PM, discussions covered the state of emergency and the critical importance of undertaking timely and meaningful reforms for the benefit of all Ethiopians - particularly its youth - in support of the country's growth and prosperity.

Mr Dion pledged to encourage and exert every possible effort to ensure the success of the Ethiopia-Canada Partnership. Regional peace and security issues were also discussed and Mr Dion commended Ethiopia's role in peace-keeping operations within the region, as well as across the continent.

Prime Minister Hailemariam assured the Canadian Foreign Minister of Ethiopia's full determination to fortify its partnership with Canada in the areas of peace, security, in the fight against terrorism as well as in trade, investment and other areas.

Later, at a press conference held at the embassy of Canada, Foreign Minister Dion said the Government of Canada is committed to further enhancing and strengthening cooperation in the areas of peace, stability, security and the rule of law. He said Ethiopia and Canada share common goals in promoting peace and security in East Africa and Canada significantly values Ethiopia's efforts in the maintenance of peace and security in Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan.



The Canadian FM also met with his Ethiopian counterpart, Dr Workneh Gebeyehu, to discuss a range of bilateral issues, notably democracy and the growing commercial relationship.

UN Climate Conference, Marrakech

This year's UN Climate Change Conference was held in Marrakech where the "**Africa Action Summit**" took place on the sidelines, attended by Heads of State and delegations from 50 African countries and representatives of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the USA, France, the African Union, the World Bank and the African Development Bank.



MARRAKECH COP22 | CMP12
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE 2016

Gebru Jembere, who represented Ethiopia at the Summit, said Ethiopia, current chair of the Climate Vulnerable Forum, was fulfilling its responsibility in echoing the voices of the Forum's member states. Ethiopia will create a carbon neutral economy and reduce emissions by 64% by 2030.

In his opening remarks King Mohammed VI of Morocco stressed the importance of African countries speaking with one voice, to demand climate justice and to mobilize the necessary resources and technology transfer. He said "Africa is paying a heavy price in the climate equation" and that the continent suffered "rising temperatures, shifting seasons and successive droughts [which] are depleting the biodiversity of our continent, destroying ecosystems and jeopardizing Africa's progress, security and stability."

The severe effects of the climate-driven El-Nino drought, the worst in fifty years in Ethiopia and other parts of the Horn of Africa, was one stark example, he said.

Former Deputy PM on UK Space visit

Ethiopia's former Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Tefera Waluwa, who is now Board Chairman of the **Ethiopian Observatory Research Centre (EORC)**, visited the U.K. in October to meet members of the Space community, including the Royal Astronomical Society (RAS) and the Open University.

Mr Waluwa presented the history of Space Science Technology development in Ethiopia, which began in earnest in 2003, evolving into the Ethiopian Observatory Research Centre in 2013. By March 2016 the EORC and a space programme, under the Ministry of Science and Technology, was included in Ethiopia's second Growth and Transformation Plan.

The universities of Addis Ababa, Jimma and Bahir Dah participated in the Space training programme.



Robert Massey, Deputy Executive Director RAS receives gift from the Ethiopian delegation

Ethiopia's first observatory was opened in Entoto, near Addis Ababa, in 2013 and a second observatory is under construction in Lalibella at 4,281 metres above sea level.



The observatory on the Entoto Mountains

During the visit, collaboration in the areas of exchange programmes, joint research and experience sharing was planned.

EORC is already working with NASA (USA), Russia, South Africa and China. A new plan will include the UK and India.

The Open University's Professor Nigel Mason, Chair of Europlanet, and his team agreed to collaborate. The EORC and the OU will be drawing up a joint action plan.



H.E. Tefera Waluwa with Ian Hargraves (second left) and Prof David Rees (far left) of the Mid-Kent Astronomical Society

The Ethiopian delegation also visited the Greenwich Observatory and Mid-Kent Astronomical Society. Ethiopia is keen to welcome retired professors in relevant fields to visit Ethiopia.

The observatory work will be invaluable in improving Ethiopia's monitoring of crops and a very powerful addition to its early warning system in cases of drought. It will also save valuable foreign exchange currently spent on hiring satellites.



Editorial

Many are those who know of Ethiopia as an ancient African country, one of the oldest states in the world, positioned on one of the world's greatest trade routes, with a recorded history, culture, and traditions dating back over 3,000 years. But few are those who are familiar with the salient features of Today's Ethiopia. A bird's eye view reveals the upward trajectory that Ethiopia has achieved over the past 25 years. Its clear vision of its destination and how to get there, coupled with a conducive environment to woo foreign direct investment, a fast-growing economy - 11% for the last decade - on the back of strong exports of coffee, livestock and cut flowers, a huge consumer market, untapped natural resources, a trainable low-cost labour force, and new road, rail and telecom connections to ease connectivity in trade and investment, have made Ethiopia a favourite investment destination.

Its vision of joining the league of middle income countries by 2025, has seen Ethiopia accelerating its shift from an agriculture-led economy into a fully-fledged economy. Two years into the 2nd Growth and Transformation Plan, Ethiopia has established four integrated agro-industrial parks and will construct 12 industrial parks. It is also encouraging domestic and foreign investors to build additional private or joint industrial parks. With 10 of Ethiopia's tourist destinations listed as UNESCO's World Heritage Sites, the Government has bolstered the tourism sector by establishing the Tourism Council - chaired by the Prime Minister - the Ethiopian Tourist Board and the Ethiopian Tourism Organisation.

Their ultimate goal is to woo domestic and foreign investors into the tourism sector and increase the inflow of tourists from all over the world.

Ethiopia is ready for business, and so far, the response has been encouraging. Investors from Turkey, China, India, the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, America and Africa are ensconced in Ethiopia and are confident of the prospect of continued growth of their investment.

This year, the country's enhanced economic status helped the Government to successfully counter the drought caused by a pronounced El-Nino. With political in some areas now abated, an open dialogue with the rightly aggrieved has addressed the main issue - lack of jobs - and there is a new determination to increase job opportunities for women and young people in particular. This task is now in the hands of a new cabinet.

Ethiopia is on track for around \$2 billion of FDI in 2016. The important task now is to win over investors to joining industrial parks. At present, foreign investors are still all ears, remaining very much open to the possibilities. Dozens of investors from various countries have accompanied their respective heads of state on official visits to Ethiopia, and we hope the coming year will translate into deeds their pledge to invest in Ethiopia.

TRADE AND INVESTMENT

Ambassador briefs Westminster Business Group



On 24th November, Ambassador Hailemichael and diplomats from the Trade and Investment team briefed guests at a Westminster Africa Business Group lunch at the House of Commons, on investment opportunities.

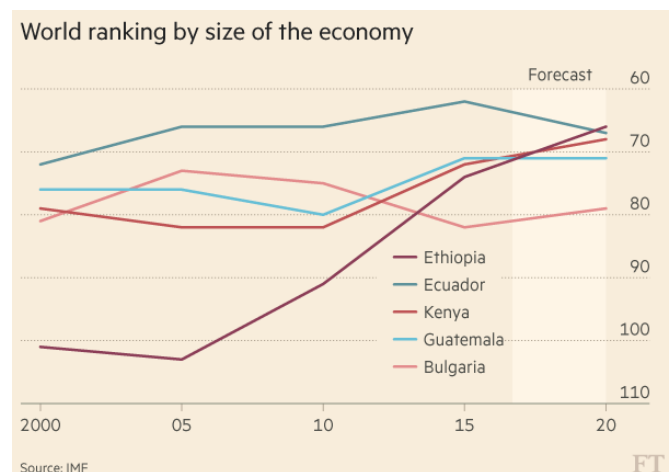


H.E. the Ambassador thanked all 40 companies for their presence and briefed them on Ethiopia's new

tourism brand **Land of Origins** and on Addis Ababa's strength as home to the AU and to the largest number of diplomatic missions in the world. Ethiopian Airlines connects Africa and runs domestic routes to the main tourism destinations.

Trade attaché Terefe Dida said manufacturing is making Ethiopia the textile hub of Africa and opportunities also exist in leather, agro-processing and the chemical and pharmaceutical industries. Ethiopia has a stable political and economic environment with low levels of crime and zero tolerance of corruption, along with strong market access and infrastructure, leadership commitment, and custom duties, income tax and remittance of capital arrangements.

Financial Times: Ethiopia sprints ahead from 103rd to 66th largest economy in the world



Financial Times' Datawatch said that in 2020, Ethiopia is set to be the 66th world's largest economy, up from 103rd in 2005, overtaking countries like Kenya, Guatemala, and Bulgaria.

"Ethiopia's economy expanded at an average annual rate of 10% in the 12 years to 2016 and growth is expected to remain strong in the years ahead, supported by higher agricultural production, and large public sector and foreign direct investments."

Ethiopia and Morocco partner up in a \$2.5 billion Fertiliser Plant

Ethiopia will partner up with Morocco's Office Cherifien des Phosphates (OCP), the world's leading producer of phosphate rock and phosphoric acid and one of the leading global fertiliser players, in a

joint \$2.5 billion venture to build a fertiliser plant in Dire Dawa, East Ethiopia.



The announcement was made as Morocco's King Mohammed VI was in Ethiopia on a visit aimed at strengthening economic and political ties.

OCP CEO, Mostafa Terrab said, "It is our biggest investment outside Morocco. Our aim is to reduce Ethiopia's dependence on fertiliser imports."

The factory will be built over 100 acres and is expected to produce 1.1 million tons of urea and 1.5 million tons of fertiliser. Construction will start next year and is expected to be completed by 2022.

OCP said Ethiopia will be able to produce 80% of its fertiliser needs through this complex by 2022 and be self-sufficient in fertiliser three years later.

Addis hosts international conference on pulses, oil seeds and spices

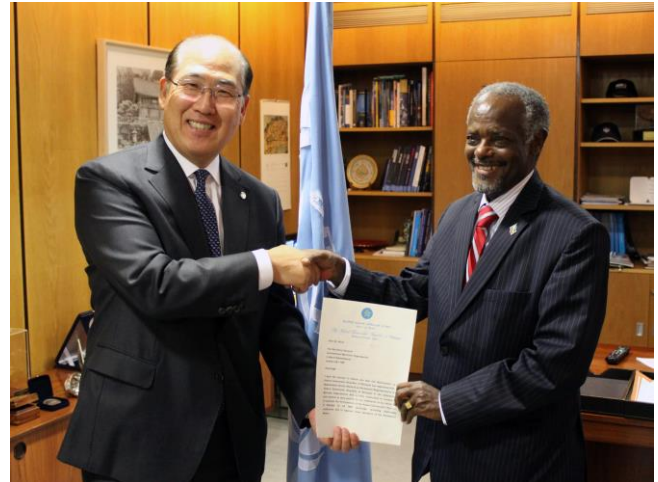
The 6th International Conference on Pulses, Oil Seeds and Spices was held in Addis Ababa from 16th-17th November.

In the run-up to the conference, the Ministry of Trade (MoT) disclosed that the conference will widen the opportunity to access foreign markets for export items.

Somalia, China, Netherlands, U.S.A., Germany and UK are among the top export destinations for pulses, oilseeds and spices produced in Ethiopia.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ambassador Hailemichael presents his credentials to the IMO



On 24th November, H.E. Ambassador Hailemichael Aberra Afework, who is also the Permanent Representative to the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) presented his credentials to Mr Kitack Lim, Secretary-General of IMO in London.

BBC to launch new language services



BBC World Service announced 11 new language services as part of its "biggest expansion since the 1940s". Ethiopian language programmes, expected in 2017, will be in *Amharic*, *Afaan Oromo* and *Tigrinya*. The plans also include the expansion of digital services to offer more mobile and video content and a greater social media presence.

Ethiopian coffee named world's best at first Ernesto Illy coffee awards

Ethiopian coffee has been named, once again, the best coffee in the world at the first-ever Ernesto Illy International Coffee Awards held in New York City on 1st November.

Coffee grown by Ahmed Legesse in the Sidamo region, narrowly edged to victory in a competition that was close - so close that it came down to the tie-breaker category of espresso aroma.



Andrea Illy, illycaffè's current CEO and chairman, explained that Ethiopian coffee contains a mysterious compound that is unique to the region and that science has not yet been able to replicate.

....dominates 2017 Good Food Awards



The finalists for the 2017 Good Food Awards were announced on 15th November.

This year, there are 25 finalists in the coffee section. Of those, 20 are representing Ethiopian coffee.

The Good Food Awards honour beer brewers, chocolatiers, coffee roasters and other American-based culinary craftspeople that take a holistic view toward the products they produce, creating not only exemplary flavours but doing so in ethical and environmentally friendly ways. The winners will be announced on January 20, 2017.

Sydney ferry named after Dr Catherine Hamlin

The people of Sydney voted in favour of naming the city's first new ferry after world-renowned Australian doctor, Catherine Hamlin.

Catherine, an obstetrician and gynaecologist, with her husband, Dr Reginald Hamlin, have dedicated their lives to the people of Ethiopia for decades. They co-founded the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital, the world's only medical centre dedicated to providing free obstetric fistula repair surgery to women suffering from childbirth injuries.

Hamlin has been recognised by the United Nations agency UNFPA as a pioneer in fistula surgery for her development of techniques and procedures for obstetric fistula treatment. The Hamlins, together with the hospital staff, have treated more than 45,000 women to date for obstetric fistula.



Catherine will be the first of six prominent Australians to lend their name to Sydney's new fleet. She thanked Sydneysiders for their votes and hoped the ferry's naming would draw greater attention to the work of the Addis Ababa Fistula hospital and the Hamlin College of Midwives.

More than 60,000 votes were cast by the public on the final list of ferry names. The Catherine Hamlin, along with another five new vessels, will be launched in Sydney Harbour in January.

Two new Cancer Treatment Centres to be built

The Ministry of Health said two cancer treatment centres will go operational in six months' time at the Black Lion Hospital and Haramaya University, at a cost of 120 million birr.

Cancer Prevention and Control Program Advisor at the Ministry, Dr Kunuz Abdela, said procurement of linear accelerators (LINAC), the devices most commonly used for external beam radiation treatments for patients with cancer, is underway at a cost of \$8 million.

The construction of similar treatment centres is also underway in Hawassa, Mekelle, Gondar and Jima.

Over 61,000 new cancer cases and over 44,000 cancer deaths occur in Ethiopia every year.

AFTER 70 YEARS, WE'RE CIRCLING
THE GLOBE MORE THAN EVER

Ethiopian  A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 



Ethiopian Airlines wins Airline of the Year Award for the 5th year in a row

Ethiopian Airlines, the fastest growing and the largest African airline, won **Airline of the Year Award** for the fifth year in a row, during the 48th Annual General Assembly of the African Airlines Association (AFRAA) on 21st November.

The AFRAA annual awards recognize excellence in service delivery, innovation and competitiveness in airlines, individuals and service providers in the African aviation industry.



Ethiopian was applauded for its outstanding financial performance, technological leadership and investment in modern fuel efficient fleet, exemplary cooperation with other African carriers, significantly expanding route network in Africa and beyond, growing cargo operations - with the largest cargo fleet on the continent - and huge investment in MRO [Maintenance and Repair Operations] and training facilities to support African Aviation.

Receiving the award, Ethiopian Airlines CEO, Mr Tewelde GebreMariam, said “We are highly honoured by this recognition from fellow sisterly airlines in Africa. The award underscores the continuous efforts and hard work of Ethiopian employees who are striving day and night to surpass customers’ expectations. Ethiopian is also grateful to its loyal customers for giving us the

opportunity to serve them, for travelling on Ethiopian in great numbers, for their continued feedback and support which, in turn, assisted us in enhancing the airline’s service excellence.”

...sweeps Africa Travel Awards at Akwaaba

Ethiopian took home four of the six Airline Awards on offer at the Prestigious Africa Travel Awards Dinner at Akwaaba African Travel Market held recently in Lagos, Nigeria.

www.aftqnews.com



Ethiopian Airlines won the **Best Airline in Africa, The Best Economy Class in Africa, Best Business Class in Africa and Best in-flight entertainment in Africa.**



The Awards were received by the Nigerian General Manager, Mr Solomon Begashaw, who led other Ethiopian Airline managers to receive the Awards.

In its seven decades of operation, Ethiopian has become one of the continent’s leading carriers, unrivalled in efficiency and operational success.

Ethiopian commands the lion’s share of the pan-African passenger and cargo network operating the youngest and most modern fleet to 95 international



destinations across five continents. The Ethiopian fleet includes ultra-modern and environmentally friendly aircraft such as the Airbus A350, Boeing 787, Boeing 777-300ER, Boeing 777-200LR, Boeing 777-200 Freighter and the Bombardier Q-400 double cabin with an average fleet age of five years. In fact, Ethiopian is the first airline in Africa to own and operate these aircraft.

Ethiopian is currently implementing a 15-year strategic plan called **Vision 2025** that will see it become the leading aviation group in Africa with seven business centres: Ethiopian Domestic and Regional Airline; Ethiopian International Passenger Airline; Ethiopian Cargo; Ethiopian MRO; Ethiopian Aviation Academy; Ethiopian In-flight Catering Services; and Ethiopian Ground Service. Ethiopian is a multi-award winning airline and has registered an average growth of 25% in the past seven years.

SPORTS

Record crowd at Great Ethiopian Run

Thousands of professional and amateur runners converged on the streets of Addis Ababa on 20th November for the Great Ethiopian Run (GER) – the largest road race in Africa.

Now in its 16th year, the annual race saw more than 40,000 runners take part, including 250 foreign nationals from over 20 countries, without incident.



Abe Gashahun and Foityen Tesfaye, relatively new and unknown young athletes, were the surprise winners. Gashahun won the men's race in one of the closest finishes in the race's history, beating Kenyan Jerome Lumbasi by one second in 28:53.



Winners with Haile Gebrselassie, founder of the run, and former British track and field athlete, Richard Nerurkar

Tesfaye made her GER debut, winning in 33:09 - one of the fastest performances in race history.

“The race was very interesting and challenging at the same time. This is my first time to take part in it. It was very fast and I was told my time is the fastest ever so I am happy,” Tesfaye said.

Race founder Haile Gebrselassie expressed his delight that the race had once again helped bring young talent to the larger domestic stage.

This year, the race incorporated a wave start to accommodate the growing number of participants. With this year's success, organisers are now confident that the number could grow towards 50,000 in the coming years.

Haile Gebrselassie is new Athletics Federation President

Ethiopian long distance legend Haile Gebrselassie was elected president of the Ethiopian Athletics Federation (EAF) on 5th November. He will run the Federation for a four-year term.



Announcing his delight on Twitter, Haile said “I feel so honoured to be elected president of the Ethiopian Athletics Federation! I’ll work on a great future for Ethiopian athletics.”

“I’m looking forward to using this experience and working together with all the people involved in EAF to bring Ethiopian athletics to a higher level”

Haile received nine of the 15 votes in a ballot of Ethiopia's regional athletics leaders. He beat two other candidates, with incumbent EAF president Alebachew Nigusse not standing for re-election.

...receives Lifetime Achievement Award



On 11th November, Haile was presented the **AIMS Lifetime Achievement Award** in recognition of his unparalleled career as one of the most decorated distance runners in history.

Haile’s incredible achievements during his career, include two Olympic gold medals (in the 10,000m) and many marathon wins around the world including four in a row at the Berlin Marathon.

He also has an impressive collection of gold medals from indoor and outdoor athletics World Championships. He set World Records in distances from the two miles to the marathon.

Haile said, “I’m very happy that AIMS has chosen to honour me in this way and to spend a wonderful night with my friends in the marathon community in the home of the Marathon, Athens, Greece.”

Haile said, “I’m very happy that AIMS has chosen to honour me in this way and to spend a wonderful night with my friends in the marathon community in the home of the Marathon, Athens, Greece.”

Almaz finalist at IAAF World Athlete of the Year

Ethiopian long-distance runner, Almaz Ayana is among the women finalists selected for the 2016 IAAF World Athlete of the Year awards.



24-year old Almaz smashed the 10,000m world record at the Rio Olympics, where she won in 29min 17.45sec, 14 seconds inside the record set in 1993 by China’s Wang Junxia and won Olympic bronze in the 5000m.



The World Athletes of the Year will be announced live on stage at the IAAF Athletics Awards 2016 in Monaco on Friday, 2 December.

Good luck Almaz!

Dagim Tekle becomes first male to receive the IOC Women and Sport World award

Dagim Zinabu Tekle, an Ethiopian sports journalist, was awarded the IOC Women and Sport World Trophy by the IOC President, Thomas Bach on 7th November. Dagim founded the Lisan Women’s Sport Radio Programme in 2011, which is dedicated to inspiring women and girls to be more active in sport and to pursue their goals and dreams.



Over five years, the radio programme has hosted 12,580 guests, including sports leaders, coaches, professionals and sportswomen engaged in local and international women’s sports activities, significantly raising their profile.



Dagim said “This trophy is not only for women. It is for both men and women who work towards gender equity. I feel blessed to receive this trophy today. It encourages me to dream bigger. I am thinking about creating the first ever Ethiopian Women Sport TV show, to raise awareness not only in my country, but also in the neighbouring countries.”

Ethiopia bids to host 2025 Africa Cup of Nations

The Ethiopian Football Federation (EFF) president, Junedin Basha, said that Ethiopia will bid to host the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations (Afcon).



Ethiopian football fans

“Yes it’s true we are ready to bid for Afcon 2025 as we have all it takes to host the biggest tournament as we have great sports infrastructure development across the country. Ethiopia were the hosts for the inaugural Afcon in 1962.

Addis Ababa to host FIFA Executive Football Summits

Addis Ababa has been selected as one of the venues for the FIFA Executive Football Summits to be held between November 2016 and March 2017.

Two summits will be held in Addis Ababa on 21st–23rd February, 2017. Football Federation president Junedin Basha said, “This confirms the confidence the world governing body has shown to Ethiopia.”

ETHIOPIA IN THE NEWS

Trekking Ethiopia's Simien Mountains



“Ethiopia is a land of legends and mystery – the Queen of Sheba and the Ark of the Covenant to name but two. The landscape is also mesmerising. In the far north are the Simien Mountains – a mystical world of primeval forests, misty peaks, bizarre plants and exotic creatures. Trekking these stunning highlands is like stepping into an otherworldly paradise,” writes Olivia Pozzan.



“Living in the highlands of Ethiopia is a rare and exotic cache of wildlife – the gelada (aka 'bleeding heart baboon'), the elusive Ethiopian wolf, the majestic Walia ibex and the giant Lammergeir (a bearded vulture with a 3m wingspan).”

“Ras Dashen, at 4543m, it is Ethiopia’s highest peak. Trekking to the summit is challenging but not technical...after six hours of continuous climbing, a short scramble up a rocky wall leads to the summit. The view is outstanding – a rich panorama of peaks and gullies, farmlands and forests. Standing on top of Ethiopia’s highest peak is...well, like standing on the roof of Africa.”

Read more at <https://goo.gl/iIRGW>

Walk with pilgrims to Lalibela, Ethiopia's New Jerusalem



CNN's Inside Africa featured the annual pilgrimage Ethiopian Orthodox Christians make to celebrate *Genna* – Ethiopian Christmas (7th January)

Thomas Page writes, from all corners of a nation they come, often walking for hundreds of miles barefoot. Their destination is Lalibela in the north of Ethiopia. What they're here for is to take a path from darkness into the light; through 800 years of history and enter a "New Jerusalem" - tangible, permanent and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. But most of all, they're here for God.

"I'm astonished that everybody doesn't know about this place"

The article features some amazing photos from photographer Tariq Zaidi, who followed the pilgrim route in and around Lalibela earlier this year.



Speaking of his experience, Tariq said, "That night was one of the most magical things I've ever seen in my life. I'm not a religious person at all... but I was moved to tears by watching these ceremonies...If you want to be moved by mankind, moved by religion, go [to Lalibela]. If you're not moved to tears by the devotion, spirituality and kindness of these people, nothing will move you. It truly is a remarkable experience."

Read more at <https://goo.gl/znlDsp>

When legendary photographer Steve McCurry was challenged to capture the 'spirit of travel' on film the results were incredible

MailOnline Award-winning photographer, Steve McCurry, captures Ethiopia's 'new Jerusalem' - Lalibela - beautifully in Vacheron Constantin's new 'Spirit of Travel' campaign, to mark the launch of a new timepiece collection, Overseas.



Steve McCurry said: "Lalibela has a great history, and it's a unique structure not unlike the pyramids or medieval cathedrals. Though built 700 years ago, this location continues to be a point of pilgrimage today."

Read more at <https://goo.gl/hqnaug>

Ancient Churches Carved into Ethiopia's Land



Shannon Lane gives us a look inside the traditional Ethiopian churches carved out of rocks in Tigray, with some exclusive pictures from Neil Thomas.

For centuries, the Western world has built their structures from the ground up, using man-made or imported materials.

However, unique churches deep in North East Ethiopia redefine traditional architecture and were carved from the roof down, directly into the rocks and caves of the dry terrain.



"For a moment, I felt I was in the middle ages"

"It feels like a place lost in time, and often when watching a festival or a mass, you feel like you are witnessing a scene from when Christ was alive," Neil said, adding that "It was an incredible experience, and a wonder to photograph."

See more pictures at <https://goo.gl/ORYoYY>

Ethiopia - A Mystic Land

THE HANS INDIA Dr M Anil Ramesh writes of his view of Ethiopia while he was a teacher in Bahir Dar University.



"How little we know about any place! Most of what we know is through popular press and our own stereotypes, prejudices and conjectures." Dr Ramesh writes.

A signboard greeted us "welcome to the fourth highest capital in the world". The ultra-modern airport was a revelation. Then another shock. Another signboard said "Ethiopia, the capital of

Africa". Yes the Pan African movement's roots lie in Addis Ababa.

Ethiopia continued to surprise us for the next four years. We were very glad to land in Ethiopia as it instantly made us seven years younger! (Ethiopia's calendar is seven years behind the English one).

Read more at <https://goo.gl/sDdhVz>

Here's why Ethiopia just shot to the top of our bucket list



Having been associated for many years with famine and hardship, Ethiopia is finally opening to tourism. With no less than nine UNESCO sites, welcoming inhabitants and spectacular landscapes, this East African nation is working its way onto the tourist map.



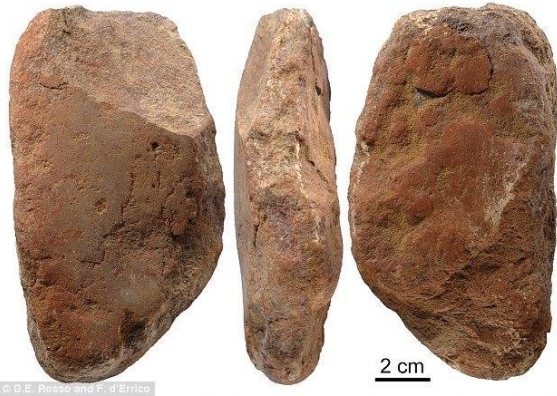
Photo: **Women in Harar** - With 80 different languages spoken across the country, it's no surprise that Ethiopia is a kaleidoscope of ethnicities and religions. The fortified city of Harar, a holy city for Muslims, is one of the best places to get a sense of the country's diversity, with 82 mosques and continuous colour in the streets.

View full gallery at <https://goo.gl/zhlR7W>

40,000-year-old Stone Age tools used to create body paint found in Ethiopian cave



Researchers from Bordeaux University found 21 stone tools, dating back 40,000 years, at an ancient cave site near the city of Dire Dawa in Ethiopia.



Red and yellow ochres ground into pigment were found in the cave which was perhaps a hunting post.

Read more at <https://goo.gl/SKDbY8>

Two brothers who taught themselves animation open Ethiopia's first animation studio

Ethiopia's first animation institute has opened in Addis Ababa, set up by brothers **Nestant** and **Philemon Mariam**, who taught themselves animation 10 years ago.

They started in cartoon production and took two years to produce a 90 minute cartoon film. They said they've learnt so much in the process that they can now produce a film in just two months. In 2005, they released their first animated film in Amharic. Called 'Washao' - which means 'The Cave'. It tells the story of Ethiopia's victory against the Italian invasion in 1896.

Watch video at <https://goo.gl/jqcVvT>

Ethiopia: World's fifth largest refugee hosting nation, home to nearly 750,000 displaced



Ludovica Iaccino writes that Ethiopia has been coping with a high influx of refugees from neighbouring countries. One of the fastest growing economies in the entire continent, [it] is currently hosting more than 740,000 refugees, the world's fifth largest refugee hosting country. Refugees in Ethiopia come mainly from South Sudan, Somalia and Eritrea.

To help the country cope with the high influx of refugees, the World Bank, the EU and Britain announced a £403m plan to create 100,000 jobs.

The plan - proposed by Ethiopia - included the construction of industrial parks. The European Investment Bank said it will loan Ethiopia \$200m to build parks that would employ 30,000 refugees.

The deal was announced during a UN summit on refugees in New York in September, when outgoing president Barack Obama praised Ethiopia for bearing "an enormous burden".

During the summit, Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn called on the international community to assist hundreds of thousands of people who flee persecution and extreme poverty. "Together, we must ensure that no refugee or migrant is left behind," Hailemariam said.

Read more at <https://goo.gl/FszLfQ>

Scaling Climate-Smart Agriculture in Ethiopia, from the Ground Up



World Bank online features the work of farmers using the Ethiopian Soil Information System (EthioSIS), a comprehensive catalogue of national soil data which provides farmers with localized, actionable data for making climate-smart farming decisions that boost productivity, improve resilience and leave a lower environmental footprint. This project's contribution will help Ethiopia achieve its goal of becoming a green economy by 2025.



EthioSIS uses satellite technology and extensive soil sampling to produce high resolution soil maps for each region. To date, approximately 63% of the country's agricultural woredas—have been mapped, including in the Amhara and Oromia regions.

Read more at <https://goo.gl/z98qtV>

Solar Lighting Up Ethiopia



Another World Bank feature - Instead of relying on kerosene and fossil fuel-based sources of power, millions of Ethiopians can now turn to off-grid solar to light up their homes, watch television and charge mobile phones, thanks to an initiative by the Ethiopian Government supported by the World Bank.



So far, 800,000 off-grid products have been imported and distributed by eight approved retailers, providing clean, safe lighting and modern energy services to more than three million Ethiopians.

Read more at <https://goo.gl/1UQIcJ>

EVENTS

Addis Ababa video festival in London

ADDISABABA



a migratory video festival from addis ababa to london

LONDON

This December, Ottica TV will host a migratory Video Festival. First presented on the streets of Addis Ababa in 2015 the project will be screened here in London for one night in December, under the theme 'New Home'.

Addis Ababa is currently in the midst of massive transformation. With over a quarter of its current residents relocating, old communities are disappearing and new ones forming.

Video shorts by 16 artists from Africa and Worldwide explore and interpret the complex idea of 'New Home' - a literally physical home, an internal psychological home or a cyber-home.

Tuesday, 13th December, Reception 5:30 pm for 6:30 pm start. A.P.T. Gallery. 6 Creekside, London. SE8 4SA, www.otticatv.co.uk/addis-london

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