



Ethiopian News

September 2013 Issue

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Ethiopia: Partnering Economy with Ecology

Ethiopia's new president



A joint session of the Houses of Peoples Representatives and of the Federation, elected Dr. Mulatu Teshome as President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

Dr. Mulatu, who was serving as Ethiopia's Ambassador to Turkey, was sworn in as the new president for the next six years, on 7th October.

Former President Girma Woldegiorgis, in a farewell address, noted that during his two terms in office, Ethiopia had made great strides in nation-building,

ensuring equitable development and demonstrating an exceptional fast growing economy and great strides in democracy. He said a nation had been built in which religious and ethnic diversity now flourished in a democratic way.

After taking the oath of office, President Mulatu pledged to fulfil all the responsibilities bestowed on him by the choice of the two Houses of Parliament.

Dr. Mulatu, 57, also served as Ethiopia's ambassador to China and to Japan and was Ethiopia's Minister of Agriculture.

PM Hailemariam addresses the UN Assembly

More than 130 world leaders gathered at the United Nations Headquarters in New York for the General Assembly's annual General Debate, from 23rd September, under the theme, *'The Post-2015 Development Agenda: Setting the Stage'*.

In his address to the assembly, Ethiopia's Prime Minister, Hailemariam Desalegn, condemned the recent terrorist attack in Nairobi and conveyed his condolences to the



victim's families. He emphasized the need for more efforts to fight terrorism.

Speaking on behalf of the African Union (AU), he said the



Union's 50th anniversary was a chance to reflect on its relationship with the United Nations. The PM appreciated the UN's contribution to the AU's efforts to address the continent's multifaceted challenges and said cooperation could still be enhanced. He affirmed the AU's commitment to the formulation of a sequel to the Millennium Development Goals.

He encouraged the formation of a High-Level Committee of leaders "to develop a common position and galvanize international support to ensure that the successes thus far achieved in the implementation of the MDGs are sustained and its development priorities beyond 2015 are fully taken on board". He also stressed Africa's desire to achieve a green revolution and its conviction to industrialise to accelerate Africa's economic growth.

"With its enhanced peace and stability, rapid economic growth, natural resource endowment and a growing middle class, Africa is certainly on the rise and is attracting a lot of attention from the rest of the world". The PM stressed the need for the structural transformation of Africa to capitalize on the changing fortunes of the continent. An African renaissance is possible with the launch of the 50-year transformation agenda and adoption of the AU Commission's Strategic Plan for 2014-2017 to contribute to realizing that vision, he said.

The "stereotypical narrative" of Africa as "a continent afflicted by poverty, diseases and conflicts" had begun to change, he said, and while difficulties remained, Africa had turned a corner in reducing conflict, boosting democracy and fighting poverty.

On the issues of peace and security, the PM underlined the AU's commitment to addressing conflicts on the continent, and its determination to assist politically unstable countries. To that effect, he noted it was continuing to provide support to Egypt, Tunisia, Mali and Central Africa as well as Somalia.

The Premier said that to ensure food security in Africa, he hoped for a "green revolution" and that next year's AU theme will be "Agriculture and Food Security and promotion of Comprehensive African Development

Programme", which will allow Africa to reinforce its commitment to transforming the agricultural sector through industrialisation "in order to accelerate economic growth and generate employment, increase income and diversify exports."

The Prime Minister's full speech is available on request from the Press Office. More coverage also in A Week in the Horn (27th September).

On the sidelines of the UN Assembly, PM Hailemariam also co-chaired a high-level lunch meeting on Sustainable Energy with Jens Stoltenberg, Prime Minister of Norway.

The PM urged developing countries to use sustainable power to overcome their social and economic problems and spoke of Ethiopia's efforts to generate power through renewable energy.

Underlining the benefits of renewable energy, he said Ethiopia had put in place policies and strategies for its use undertaking activities aimed at building a carbon-free resilient economy as part of its efforts to reach middle income status by 2025. He detailed Ethiopia's efforts to meet the growing demand for power as the economy expanded, noting that the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam will have a major impact in meeting the increasing demand.

The PM said developed countries should provide technological and financial support for developing clean alternative sources of renewable energy and for its distribution in developing countries.

The United Nations endorsed 2012 as a year of a sustainable power development framework for all. The framework reinforces the Istanbul Action Plan, endorsed two years ago, which aims to help half of 48 developing countries reach middle income status by 2020. As the lack of sustainable power is one of the major hindrances in achieving the goals of the Istanbul Action Plan, the meeting endorsed the proposal to put sustainable power development forward as one of the elements of post-2015 development goals.

Ethiopia reduces under-five mortality

Ethiopia has achieved one of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of reducing child mortality by more than two-thirds, between 1990 and 2012 - ahead of the 2015 deadline.

The **2013 Progress Report on Committing to Child Survival: A Promise Renewed**, compiled by UNICEF, the World Health Organisation (WHO), and the World Bank Group, shows that in 1990, the under-5 mortality rate in

Ethiopia was one of the highest in the world at 204/1,000 live births; by 2012, this rate had been slashed to 68/1,000 live births.

Over the past 22 years, the world saved around ninety million children's lives. Ethiopia has made a significant contribution to this success - each year around 235,000 more children survive to their fifth birthday than was the case 20 years ago.

"This achievement was driven by political commitment, advances in science and technology, and improvements in health, nutrition and family planning services, particularly in the rural areas. Ethiopia has, in many ways, been at the forefront when it comes to ensuring basic services for women and children. In particular, by bringing basic health services to the doorstep of the rural population, the Health Extension Programme has made a significant contribution. Since 2003, more than 38,000 Government salaried Health Extension Workers, the majority of them young women, have been deployed to over 15,000 health posts right across the country," UNICEF said in a statement.

"Achieving ambitious targets in the social sectors has been a central pillar of the Government's Growth and Transformation Plan," said Dr Kesetebirhan Admasu, the Minister of Health. "It is now clear that the key policy choices that we made in the health sector were the right ones."

The announcement also carries broader significance since Ethiopia is the second most populous country in Africa and plays a critical leadership role on the continent through its current chairmanship of the African Union and its role in many other regional political and development fora. It also comes at a time when UNICEF and other development partners around the world are focused on accelerating progress in the final 1,000 days until the MDG deadline.

"In many ways the progress made in the health sector in Ethiopia has become a powerful global symbol of what can be achieved in resource-constrained environments, and has given many international partners renewed faith in the enterprise of development," said Dr Peter Salama, UNICEF Representative in Ethiopia. "Ethiopia has become the child survival benchmark for other countries, implicitly challenging them to do more for their own children."

...aims to replicate health success on education

In a bid to achieve the MDG target of universal primary education, the Ministry of Education has launched a

massive nationwide awareness campaign to send millions of children back to school.

The two-year campaign will target 3 million children between ages 9 and 15 who, according to a study, remain out of school.

Following the success in child mortality, the Ministry, in collaboration with UNICEF and UNESCO, want to replicate the same success in education. MDG target 2 says a country shall ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling.

"Over the last two decades Ethiopia's Gross Enrolment Rate has soared, the government has allocated a huge budget and admirable results have been achieved," Shiferaw Shigute, Minister of Education, said in a press statement.

The number of children in school has been steadily increasing over the last two decades from two million in the 1990's to over 22 million in 2012, trebling its Gross Enrolment Rates from 32% in 1990's to 95% in 2012.

"The government has allocated 25.7% of GDP for education," said Faud Ibrahim, State Minister of Education. "This is a testimony of our commitment to education".

With a current Net Enrolment Rate of 86%, Ethiopia is on track to meet the MDG. Enrolment rates reveal marked regional disparities with pastoral regions recording very low enrolment rates. However, out of the three million out of school children, half are found in the Oromia region.

"We are building schools in every *kebele* and we have also identified region-specific barriers and bottlenecks impeding children's enrolment and we are working to address them," said Faud.

Peter Salama, UNICEF Representative to Ethiopia, believes the country is on the precepts of replicating what it has achieved in the health sector.

"It is a huge investment [on education] from the government" he said. "Education remains the engine to drive Ethiopia's long-term economic development prospects and it is clear that against all odds parents across this vast nation know this and are committed to bringing their children to school."

The media campaign seeks to mobilize communities, national leaders and international development partners to bring and keep Ethiopia's children in school.

Ethiopia, Iceland in 1,000MW geothermal deal

The government of Ethiopia and Reykjavik Geothermal (RG), a US-Icelandic development company, will build and generate up to 1,000 MW of geothermal power in two 500 MW phases.

The first 500MW plant will be built inside the Corbetti Caldera, which is considered one of the top geothermal resources in the world by the team of Icelandic and Ethiopian geoscientists that have studied the area. The first 10 MW of power will be online in 2015, with an additional 100 MW in 2016 and the full 500 MW to be operational by 2018.

“We are very pleased to announce this historic agreement with Reykjavik Geothermal. This will be a significant step for EEPCO in realizing our strategic vision of being the regional leader for power generation and export in East Africa,” said Deputy Prime Minister and EEPCO Chairman, H.E. Dr. Michael Debretsion. “We believe Ethiopia has over 10,000 MW of geothermal potential which provides base load power and is a perfect complement to our over 50,000 MW of hydropower potential.”

“Our agreement with EEPCO and the Government of Ethiopia is a ground-breaking achievement. Reykjavik Geothermal will be the **first Independent Power Producer (IPP)** in Ethiopia and the Corbetti Project will be the largest single geothermal power plant ever built in Africa,” said RG Chairman, Michael Philipp. “The agreement for 1,000 MW of geothermal power, an investment of \$4 billion over an 8-10 year period, confirms the confidence of international investors in the growth and stability of the Ethiopian Economy. The project is led by US private investors and has generated significant interest from the development agencies involved with the Power Africa initiative announced by President Obama.”

“The Corbetti Project is a new model for developing large-scale power projects in Africa,” said EEPCO CEO, Miheret Debebe. “It combines Ethiopia’s considerable expertise for electrical power generation, with the geothermal technical knowledge of Iceland and the financial and structuring expertise of the United States. This project will set a new benchmark for large-scale projects financed by the private sector and will help Ethiopia unleash its full energy potential.”

“The Corbetti Geothermal Project will establish Ethiopia as a leader in the global geothermal industry,” said Gudmundur Thoroddsson, CEO of Reykjavik Geothermal. “Ethiopia has some of the best high temperature geothermal resources anywhere, and the Corbetti Project will be one of the lowest cost and most technologically advanced geothermal facilities in the world. Our goal is to

transfer geothermal knowledge and expertise from Iceland to build a long-term geothermal industry in Ethiopia.”

“This historic agreement for Ethiopia is a fitting tribute on the first anniversary of the passing of the visionary leader, H.E. Meles Zenawi,” said Nejb Abba Biya, Chairman of Rift Valley Geothermal, the Ethiopian partner of Reykjavik Geothermal. “The late Prime Minister was Africa’s spokesman at Global Climate Change conferences and an unflinching advocate for clean and renewable energy.”

Prime Minister H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn was also in attendance at the announcement.

Iceland to help develop geothermal in Ethiopia

The Icelandic International Development Agency (ICEIDA) also signed a Partnership Agreement with the government of Ethiopia for geothermal surface exploration and capacity building in geothermal energy in Ethiopia.

The cooperation with Ethiopia is initiated under the Iceland-World Bank compact on geothermal energy. The project is the second project to be initiated under the ICEIDA/NDF Geothermal Exploration Project, with the first one already under way in Rwanda.

The Ethiopian government is implementing a strategy to develop its renewable energy resources including geothermal side by side with hydro, in order to strengthen energy security in the country and ensure sustainable supply. Geothermal development has been limited till now, but the Ethiopian government has prioritized geothermal development as a key area.

An increased access to renewable energy through low-emission, geothermal energy development will bring social and economic benefits. Potential sites are being identified for exploration drilling in the target area. The project will help address the needs for Geological Survey of Ethiopia (GSE) and EEPCo to build geothermal capacity and assist with finalizing geothermal surface explorations and associated geophysical and geochemical studies, to identify locations for drilling of exploration and production wells in target sites.

Exploration activities will focus on Tendaho Alalobeda and Aluto Langano, both considered to have great potential for energy production. A capacity building project for geothermal exploration will also be initiated in the area of Gedemsa. The capacity building components will further focus on geothermal drilling as well as operations and maintenance of geothermal power plants.

Ashegoda wind farm to commence generating

Ashegoda Wind Farm, built in the Tigray Region, is set to commence operation with 99% of construction complete said EEPCo.



Ethiopia's second wind farm, with a generation capacity of 120 MW, will cost up to €210m, financed by French financial institutions.

Ethiopia inaugurated its first wind power project, Adama I, which generates 51MW, in 2012.

The government aims to generate 10,000 MW by the end of its Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) in 2015. Ethiopia's estimated power generation potential is between 45,000MW and 50,000MW from hydro sources, 1.3 million MW from wind power, and more than 5,000MW from its Geothermal Project.

So far, Ethiopia's power generation capacity has reached 2,178MW, of which 98% is from hydro sources, while 81MW is from wind power projects and 7MW from geothermal projects.

The 6,000MW Grand Renaissance Dam being built on the Blue Nile is 25% complete, while the Gibe III hydro project, being built on the Omo River in southern Ethiopia, is 76% completed.

Powering Africa meeting in Ethiopia

The second Powering Africa meeting will be held in Addis from 18th to 19th November.

The meeting is for senior-level executives in the energy sector, and will focus on constructive discussions to drive investment in Ethiopia's energy sector.

Public and private sector energy officials will be briefed on the environment for investment and opportunities for projects that will help achieve sustainable growth and development. Participants will also meet with East Africa's key stakeholders and power consultants to discover how to get Ethiopia onto companies' investment horizon.



**POWERING
AFRICA:
ETHIOPIA**

The meeting, to be held under Chatham House rules, will include confidential discussions on the challenges and opportunities faced regarding entering the Ethiopian power market.

Endorsed for the second year running by the Ministry of Water and Energy, the Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation and the Ethiopian Electricity Agency, the 'Powering Africa: Ethiopia' programme will focus on policies and regulatory frameworks for developing a private power market, regional interconnections and accelerating renewable energy development with a focus on hydropower, wind, solar and biofuels.

Ethiopian Airlines wins African Business of the Year Award

Ethiopian Airlines, the fastest growing Airline in Africa, won the African Business of the Year Award on 20th September at a ceremony which took place in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly Meeting.



Ethiopian was recognized for its exemplary role as an African business model that is effectively harnessing opportunities and making profits while, at the same time, registering fast growth, despite the tough economic times for the global aviation industry.

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Ethiopian CEO, Tewolde Gebremariam, said, “As a truly Pan-African business organization, we are honoured to receive this award, which recognizes our contribution to the economic development and GDP growth of our great continent. Africa is on the rise and we are growing together with the continent. With our extensive and fast expanding passenger and cargo network, which now covers five continents, and our multiple hub strategy in Africa, which is creating multiple gateways to the continent, we are serving as a vehicle for the flow of tourism and foreign direct investment into the continent.”

The African Business Awards is a platform which celebrates excellence in African business by recognizing individuals and companies that are driving Africa’s rapidly transforming economy, and creating new economic opportunities for citizens and communities all over the continent.

Ethiopian Airlines Chief Financial Officer, Kassim Geresu, has been appointed to lead Malawian Airlines, the newly reorganized airline of Malawi, in which Ethiopian Airlines has a 49% stake. This is in line with the management agreement between Ethiopian and Malawian Airlines.

Ethiopian Airlines also announced the start of Hajj transport services for the 8,000 Ethiopian Hajj pilgrims, who will travel to the Muslim holy land of Mecca, Saudi Arabia, to fulfil their religious duty, starting from 18th September.



“We are happy to offer this special chartered service to our fellow Ethiopian/African Muslim community...As a truly indigenous Pan-African airline, we are also

providing reliable Hajj charter services for many other African countries. This year alone we have signed agreements with various African governments to transport 21,000 pilgrims”, said CEO Tewolde Gebremariam.

TRADE AND INVESTMENT

BE highlights investment opportunities

British Expertise held a roundtable discussion and pre-mission briefing for 15 UK companies, in the presence of H.E. Berhanu Kebede, Ambassador of Ethiopia, which looked at opportunities for UK companies in the social and physical infrastructure sectors in Ethiopia.

Delegates heard the views of regional specialists and panellists from the Business Diplomacy Division of the Embassy of Ethiopia, UK Trade and Investment (UKTI), the Eastern African Association and Mott MacDonald.

Embassy trade counsellor, Ms. Hirut Zemene, said foreign investment is encouraged in the infrastructure sector, and outlined progress made in the railway, energy and road sectors in the past 3 years of the Growth and Transformation Plan period, as well as opportunities in the health sector.

UKTI’s Simon Brown noted business practises in Ethiopia and tips for investors engaging in the country. EAA’s John Small compared Ethiopia’s current economic development to other countries in the East Africa region. Mott Macdonald’s Nigel Omaston outlined his 4-decade experience.

A Q & A then followed with Ambassador Berhanu Kebede, Gordon Wetherall (former UK Ambassador to Ethiopia) and panellists.

British Expertise is a UK private sector organisation which introduces members to key British and international contacts; identifying potential partners and clients, and offering market intelligence and training. The company is to send a trade mission to Ethiopia in November.

Ethiopia sees first metal export

The Metal Industry Development Institute, Ethiopia has announced the first foreign currency earned from the export of metal products – more than 6m Birr from 25 tonnes of metal exported by Ethiopian Steel Profiling and Building Plc.

The Institute said the initiative is in line with the Growth and Transformation Plan's target of expanding production capacity in the manufacturing sector. Over 50 companies are participating and the Institute supports such initiatives and called on others to follow suit.

TOURISM

Over \$633 million generated from Tourism

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism says more than \$633.7m was obtained in the past year from over 629,000 visitors to Ethiopia.

Tourist and income earned figures increased by 8% and 37% compared to the previous year. The increase in performance is attributed to promotions and participation at 11 international trade exhibitions.

Tourist Ministry's International Relations Director, Aweke Tenaw, said to improve service at tourist sites, 3,866km of roads had been renovated in the last year and about 65 tourist camps had been built in the past two years.

IGAD launches Sustainable Tourism Plan

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) has launched a Sustainable Tourism Master Plan (STMP) to enhance regional integration in Eastern Africa and improve regional destination competitiveness.

Supported by the Economic Commission for Africa, the Plan evolved from a consultative process involving interviews with key tourism stake-holders drawn from IGAD-member states and a team of tourism experts.

Government officials, tourism ministers, academia, bilateral and multilateral agencies, civil society and private sector players from seven IGAD member states - Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Kenya - attended the launch.

Ethiopia celebrates Meskel; efforts underway to give celebrations World Heritage status

On 27th September, Ethiopia celebrated Meskel, an annual religious holiday which commemorates the finding of the True Cross by Queen Helena (Saint Helena) in the fourth century.

The main part of the Ethiopian Orthodox celebration includes the burning of a massive bonfire (Demera), on the eve of Meskel. Tradition says that Queen Eleni was told in a dream, that she should make a bonfire and that

the smoke would show her where the true cross was buried. So she ordered the people of Jerusalem to bring wood and make a huge pile. After adding frankincense to it the bonfire was lit and the smoke rose high up to the sky and returned to the ground, on the exact spot where the Cross had been buried.

The bonfire is topped by a cross on which Meskel Daisies are laid. The Patriarch of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church then orchestrates the lighting ceremony, which is followed by singing and dancing from followers in the presence of deacons and priests in full ceremonial gear. Ash from the bonfire is used the following day to mark followers' foreheads with the shape of a cross.

The Patriarch of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahido Church, Abune Mathias, said Meskel should be given World Heritage status, as it is unique to Ethiopia, where it has been celebrated for over 1,600 years. Ethiopia is petitioning UNESCO to register the annual celebrations in Meskel Square, Addis Ababa, as a cultural heritage experience.

The Abune called on stakeholders to support the efforts. He said every Ethiopian has a responsibility to uphold the long-standing respect and tolerance among religions in the country which "has been exemplary to the whole world".

The day was celebrated in the presence of tens of thousands of residents of Addis Ababa, diplomats, foreign tourists and senior government officials.

Read Jacey Fortin's take on Ethiopia's unique religious celebration, *Ethiopia Celebrates Meskel, A Christian Holiday All Its Own, With Yellow Flowers And Blazing Bonfires*, from the International Business Times website: <http://www.ibtimes.com/ethiopia-celebrates-meskel-christian-holiday-all-its-own-yellow-flowers-blazing-bonfires-photos>

Ethiopian guide wins bronze at the Wanderlust World Guide Awards



On 8th October, *Wanderlust Magazine* held their annual World Guide Awards at the Royal Geographical Society in London in the presence of over 200 guests, including tour operators, guides and journalists.

Launched in 2005 in memory of Wanderlust's co-founder, Paul Morrison, who was passionate about the importance of good guides, the Wanderlust World Guide Awards is the only global award for tour leaders and guides.

This year Ethiopia was represented by tour guide, Dario Ghirlanda, who works for UK-based adventure tour operator, Wild Frontiers. He leads trips throughout Ethiopia - from the cultural sites of Lalibela and Axum to the more off-the-beaten track areas such as the Danakil and the Omo Valley.

Dario came third out of over 1,000 guides from all over the world, who were nominated by the public.



(l-r) Dario receiving his award from Lyn Hughes, Co-Founder & Editor-In-Chief of Wanderlust, and a representative from Swarovski optic who were one of the main sponsors.

H.E. Ambassador Berhanu Kebede and representatives from the Embassy's Tourism Department, joined Ethiopian Airlines and Wild Frontiers staff to show their support for Dario. Ethiopian Airlines sponsored Dario's trip to the UK.



(l-r) H.E. Ambassador Berhanu Kebede with Dario and Marc Leaderman from Wild Frontiers

On receiving his award, Dario thanked all his supporters and said, "This is a real honour and I'm delighted that this will help raise the profile of Ethiopia as a tourist destination."

Along with the award, Dario also received a bursary which he will invest in women's education in Ethiopia and empowering women through helping them earn a living

from traditional Ethiopian handicrafts such as weaving and pottery.

A Taste of Ethiopia



On 19th October, the Embassy and Kibrari Tours, Bishangari Lodge and Bale Mountains Lodge, hosted "A Taste of Ethiopia" evening, with an audience of more than 30 tour operators, travel journalists and invited guests.



Opening the evening, the Ambassador outlined opportunities for tourism and urged new tour operators to venture into Ethiopia as it has so much to offer in terms of the diversity in its people, culture and activities for travellers. He also urged guests to visit the Ethiopia stand at the upcoming World Travel Market, at London's Excel from 4th to 7th November.

Janet Shankland of Kibrari Tours, Pierre Martinez of Bishangari and Guy Levene of Bale Mountains Lodge, gave presentations on their respective services.

Guests were treated to Ethiopian cuisine, beer and coffee, as well as a performance from award-winning dance troupe, Dankira.

At the end of the evening, one lucky winner, Lauren Lees, a travel consultant at Abercrombie & Kent, won a place on a FAM trip to Ethiopia, with compliments of Ethiopian Airlines, Kibrari Tours and Bale Mountain Lodge.



Dubbed ‘the Ethiopian White Stripes’ for their gritty minimal sound and “one of the most rousing, reliable new African bands of the year” (*The Guardian*), Krar Collective were picked out as “one of the grooviest and most hypnotic bands at Damon Albarn’s recent Africa Express bonanza” (Time Out).

Akalé Wubé is a Parisian band devoted to the Golden Age grooves of 60s and 70s Ethiopian music. Since their beginnings in 2009, Akalé Wubé has explored the musical goldmine of Swingin’ Addis, which they discovered through the legendary Ethiopiques series.

Tickets start from £15 and can be purchased online via Rich Mix.

Mulatu Astatke wows London once again



(l-r) Janet Shankland (Onegreenstone/Kibran Tours), Lauren Lees (FAM trip winner, A&K), Anita Powell (Small World Marketing/Bale Mountains Lodge) and Michael Yohannes (Ethiopian Airlines)



Mulatu Astatke on stage with Malian singer Fatoumata Diawara. Photo: Ross Brewer for Village Underground

The eight-night FAM trip will take place in March 2014 visiting Addis Ababa, Lalibela, Gondar, Axum and the Bale Mountains National Park.

World-renowned Ethiopian jazz legend, Mulatu Astatke, was in London enthraling audiences at two packed-out shows at Village Underground on 8th and 9th October. The bulk of the shows were taken up with tracks from his new album *Sketches of Ethiopia* which is highly influenced by the wide variety of musical traditions in Ethiopia. The Guardian music critic describes the album as “classy.. with the talents of trumpeter Byron Wallen and reedsman James Arben alongside Astatke’s ethereal vibraphone. Almost everything has a funk undertow, especially centrepiece Assosa Derache, but there are quieter moments, such as Motherland Abay, plus fiery vocals from Tesfaye and a guest spot from Mali’s Fatoumata Diawara.”

EVENTS

Krar Collective to play at London Jazz Festival

Ethio-roots band, Krar Collective, will play at London’s **Rich Mix** on 15th November as part of this year’s London Jazz Festival. The group will play alongside Akalé Wubé, who will be making their UK début.



SPORTS

Kenenisa Bekele beats Mo Farah in Great North Run clash; Defara, Meseret 2nd and 3rd

This year’s Great North Run saw Ethiopia’s greatest long distance runners battle it out over the 13.1 mile distance, with the main attraction being the clash between long-distance legend, Haile Gebrselassie and Kenenisa Bekele, with Britain’s Mo Farah.

Kenenisa, in his debut at the 13.1 mile distance, beat double World and Olympic champion, Mo Farah, to win the Great North Run in a thrilling sprint finish of 1:00:09.



“As an athlete you are always going to be disappointed at losing and you don’t want to lose a race but to lose against Kenenisa – he’s a great athlete,” said Farah after finishing in 1:00:10, becoming Great Britain’s fastest ever half marathon runner.

Kenenisa said, “...before the World Championships I was concentrating and training hard and I felt confident. My injury was getting better and better. Really I wasn’t tired.”

Gebrselassie, the greatest distance runner of all-time, who won the race in 2010, came in third place, clocking a new World Veteran’s record of 1:00:41.

“These two gentlemen did a good job. I broke another Masters record so at least I’m going home with something,” said Gebrselassie.

In the women’s race, Meseret Defar and Tirunesh Dibaba went head-to-head but Kenya’s Priscah Jeptoo won the race coming close to breaking the course record as she ran the third-fastest time in women’s half-marathon history.



Defar came in second place with a time of 1:06:09, becoming Ethiopia’s fastest ever performer in that distance while Dibaba, who debuted the distance last year, took the bronze with 1:06:56.

The Bupa Great North Run, the world’s biggest half marathon, saw over 56,000 participants take part this year.

Gebrselassie breaks Scottish run record

On 6th October, Ethiopia’s long distance legend, Haile Gebrselassie, won the Great Scottish Run in a record-breaking time of 1:01:09, smashing the five-year record by Kenya’s Emmanuel Mutai by a second.

This was the 40-year old’s first appearance in Glasgow, where he beat Kenya’s Emmanuel Bett, who clocked the fastest 10,000m time in the world last year.



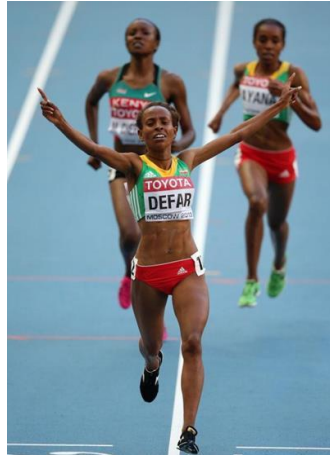
“For me winning against the best in the world and not just setting age group records is much more important,” the ‘Emperor’ said. “When I saw the time at 15km I knew we were heading for a fast time.”

Aman, Dibaba and Defar among candidates for the 2013 World Athlete of the Year Award

The IAAF announced names of the 10 men and 10 women shortlisted for the 2013 World Athlete of the Year Award, among them are Ethiopia’s Mohammed Aman, Meseret Defar and Tirunesh Dibaba.

The three are fresh from wins at the 14th IAAF World Championships in Moscow, where Tirunesh won her fifth IAAF World Championship gold medal in the 10,000m, Meseret Defar regained the women’s 5,000m title and Mohammed Aman brought home Ethiopia’s first World Championship gold medal in the 800m.

Finishing the race in 1:43.31, Aman clocked the third-fastest time in World Championship history and is also the youngest man ever to win this event at a World Championship.



The candidates were selected by an IAAF panel of athletics experts, with representatives from all six continental areas. An email poll involving the World Athletics Family has already begun and will close on Sunday 27th October. At the conclusion of the voting process, three male and three female finalists will be selected and announced by the IAAF. The Council of the International Athletics Foundation will then select the male and female winners, with the announcement taking place live on stage during the 2013 World Athletics Gala on Saturday 16th November 2013.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Addis health coverage hits 86%

The Addis Ababa Administration Health Bureau said city health coverage reached 86% last Ethiopian budget year, with the construction of 61 health centres in the past four years.

Head of Health Bureau Fantu Tsegaye, said that expansion projects are also underway in Minilik and Yekatit Hospitals, with two buildings accommodating 350 beds currently under construction at a cost of 400 million Birr.

Recalling the setting of national parameters for measuring quality health service, Fantu said that

tremendous efforts are exerted to meet public satisfaction in health service delivery.

City health extension projects are also undertaking door to door visits, in schools and Youth Centres, Fantu said. Around 215,340 model households are already receiving the service and training is being given to 31,421 youngsters, women, teachers and students.

Addis to construct 130,000 houses in 2 years

The Addis Ababa City Administration said it has revised and updated its housing development plan to build 130,000 houses in the coming two years, up from 70,000 as envisioned in the GTP.

City Mayor, Driba Kuma, said the Administration will give precedence to job creation, housing development, manufacturing, execution capacity building and good governance activities, among others, over the stated period.

The Mayor said the Administration is doing its utmost to accomplish the revised plan, thereby better addressing city dwellers' housing needs.

Over 2 million jobs created in 2005 E.C.

The Minister of Urban Development and Construction, Mekuria Haile, said job opportunities for 2.2 million citizens had been created in the just ended budget year, surpassing the 1.7 million envisioned.

The jobs were in manufacturing, urban agriculture, the trade and service sectors and 798,000 jobs were created in mega projects underway across the nation, including sugar and road construction.

Alternative plans are being designed and implemented to address housing problems.

10m more people obtain safe water services

The Ministry of Water and Energy said that, in the last year, more than 10m people accessed safe water services following the construction, expansion and renovation of over 25,000 water facilities at a cost of over 4.8bn Birr – a 68% increase - the rise was 58% in the previous year.

Activities carried out in collaboration with development partners, NGOs and the public registered encouraging results and more activities are underway to increase the service to 98% by the end of the Growth and Transformation Plan period.

Civil works of Addis Ababa light rail to be completed this year

Completion of civil works for the first light rail system in Ethiopia is expected this year, said the Chinese Railway Engineering Corporation, the contractor for the project.



Construction of the transit system, which will cover a total of 34 kilometres, with two major lines, began in January 2012 and 43% of the overall project has now been completed.

The Ethiopian Railway Corporation hopes to begin the electro-mechanical element of the project this year once the civil engineering work is finished.

Djibouti begins \$600m rail link to Ethiopia, South Sudan

The Djibouti Government has announced that its newly established \$600m rail project, which will link the country to Ethiopia and South Sudan, is now under construction.

The line will facilitate business activities and improve revenue for countries in East Africa and is expected to be completed within two years.

EU grants €50m additional aid to Ethiopia

The European Union granted additional aid of €50 million to Ethiopia to improve its food security and bolster the populations hit by drought in the south and the east of the country, said a statement from the European Commission.

The money will be used to produce vegetables, help in the production of milk and fodder, finance the vaccination campaign for cattle and improve the management of natural resources such as water and pasture.

Starbucks showcases Ethiopian coffee



Starbucks Coffee Company in September introduced a new single-origin coffee in honour of the birthplace of coffee, Ethiopia.

Coffee lovers can choose the classic Espresso Roast or try their new limited edition Origin Espresso. This single origin coffee from Ethiopia is “soft and velvety with notes of dark chocolate, and added complexity through spice and citrus notes”.

This is part of a year-long campaign to showcase Origin Espresso choices from around the world.

The birthplace of coffee, the **Kaffa** Region in Ethiopia – which gave its name to coffee - grows only *arabica* beans. Coffee remains central to Ethiopian culture and heritage and is shared with family and friends through coffee ceremonies.



Ethiopian Coffee Ceremony: Green coffee beans are pan-roasted, ground in a pestle and mortar, and coffee made in a spherical-shaped pot called a *jebena*. The coffee is then served in traditional tasting cups.

ETHIOPIA IN THE NEWS

Health heroes: Women taking the lead in health in Ethiopia



28-year-old Workalem Haile, a female health extension worker, visits a rural community in Bolosso Sore district, Ethiopia. Picture: Global Fund

The Department for International Development (DFID), which leads the UK's work to end extreme poverty all over the world, issued a case study on Ethiopia's 38,000 Health Extension Workers (HEWs), who offer healthcare across the country.

The study highlights the UK's support to the Global Fund, which is helping to bring healthcare to the doorstep of rural Ethiopians through the training and deployment of health extension workers.

The full study is available online on <https://www.gov.uk/government/case-studies/health-heroes-women-taking-the-lead-in-health-in-ethiopia>

Blinding trachoma: why success depends on risk taking

theguardian Paul Emerson, director of the Carter Center's Trachoma Control Programme, reports on the blinding disease, trachoma, and controlling its spread and credits the Ethiopian government for its primary health care through health extension workers.

Other governments can learn from Ethiopia's emphasis on being flexible in primary care to provide care for what's needed at the grassroots and developing a human resource plan that includes integrated eye care workers, he says.

The full article can be found on the following link: <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2013/sep/16/blinding-trachoma-ethiopia-programme>

Exclusive interview with Philip Briggs – Bradt Guide Author

Rainbow Tours' Senior Travel Specialist, Derek Schuurman, interviews Philip Briggs for an exclusive on his "colourful career, with emphasis on his favourite country, Ethiopia, for which Philip's 'Ethiopia: The Bradt Guide' is widely regarded as the 'bible' for travellers planning on visiting this iconoclastic destination."



On Ethiopia and its people, Philip says everything about Ethiopia is quirky. It has a very different history to neighbouring countries, and most aspects of the culture – the food, the music, the dancing, the script, the languages – are more-or-less unique. That aspect of the country has perhaps become a bit diluted in recent years but when I first visited in the mid-1990s, it felt a bit like beaming down into some alternative quasi-medieval universe – or, as Dervla Murphy once put it, 'travelling in Ethiopia gives one the Orlando-like illusion of living through different centuries'.

Read the full interview on:

<http://www.rainbowtours.co.uk/blog/rainbow-tours-interview-with-philip-briggs/#sthash.Yo1gVAXP.dpuf>

The Lava Lakes of Erta Ale, Ethiopia's "Smoking Mountain"

A new travel blog, *Atlas Obscura* on Slate, showcases Ethiopia's "smoking mountain" and "the gateway to hell".

Erta Ale, a 2,011-foot-high volcano, is one of only a handful of continuously active volcanos in the world, and a member of an even more exclusive group: volcanos with lava lakes, says the blog. While there are only five known volcanos with lava lakes globally, Erta Ale often has two active lava lakes, making it a unique site.



Despite the harsh conditions, danger of volcanic eruption, and extreme heat, Erta Ale has become something of a tourist destination recently. Whereas in 2002 the area was accessible only by helicopter, today adventure tourism groups take trips to the volcano lakes and it is now possible to drive within 4.3 miles of the volcano.

Read more on:

http://www.slate.com/blogs/atlas_obscura/2013/09/10/erta_ale_ethiopia_s_smoking_mountain_is_home_to_two_lava_lakes.html

Hyenas in Ethiopia will eat out of your mouth



Mark Hay, writing for *the vice*, tells of the Ethiopian ritual of feeding Hyenas in Harar.

Harar's relationship with its hyenas began almost five centuries ago, just as it was developing the walls that gave the city its current shape, he says.



"The feedings are a heartening sign that, commodified or not, the unique culture of Harar has weathered conquest,

marginalization, and crushing poverty to make it into the modern day, still eager to french a hyena."

Read his full article on: <http://www.vice.com/read/i-let-a-hyena-eat-from-my-mouth-in-ethiopia>

Chairs, slippers and contemporary Ethiopia: the work of Ephrem Solomon

Guardian Africa network



Karen Obling for Addis Rumble, part of the Guardian Africa Network, explores Ephrem Solomon's work which "reflects on the way modern and traditional lifestyles both clash and combine in the present."



Exist Yellow Chair, 2013. Image: Ephrem Solomon

She says Ephrem's work "differs from the prevailing artistic style in Ethiopia in many ways. Although his art is also two-dimensional and on canvas, a strong graphic emphasis makes it stand out from the ever-dominant paintings, be they figurative or abstract."

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/sep/18/ethiopia-art-ephrem-solomon>



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