

# Newsletter

Ethiopian Embassy in Brussels



9 January 2015  
Weekly Issue N° 18



Visitors at the Tourism Fair in Leuven, last Sunday

**Dear Reader,**

As each week, we are happy to provide you with fresh information and insights on Ethiopia, its achievements and the recent activities of the Embassy. This week, you can read an article on the political space in Ethiopia, as political parties are preparing for the elections next May. Then you will also find news on the economic and infrastructure development of the country. Finally, we would like to share a report and a few photographs on the tourism fair that took place last Sunday in Leuven, during which the Embassy promoted tourism in Ethiopia. If you would like to see more of the photographs taken during the event, please visit our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/EthiopiaEmbassyEU](http://www.facebook.com/EthiopiaEmbassyEU)

Sincerely,

**The Ethiopian Embassy in Brussels**

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## Political parties preparing for upcoming elections

Addis Ababa, 2 January 2015 (WIC) - Opposition political parties that are going to contest in the upcoming May elections said they are preparing to be strong competitor. Opposition parties that ENA has interviewed with said they have already started activities that will help them become strong contestants in the election. President of Ethiopian Federal Democratic Unity Forum (Medrek) Beyene Petros (Prof) told ENA that his party is being prepared to be strong contestant at the elections. The preparation of election manifesto and registration of candidates are among the preparation being carried out. President of the Ethiopian Democratic Party (EDP), Dr. Chala Kebede said apart from contesting in the elections, the party is working to make it peaceful and democratic. The Party, one of the signatories to the joint political parties' council, is striving to actively participate in the council, which he said helps to resolve disputes. The other Party, United Ethiopian Democratic Forces disclosed that it has already finalized registration of candidates. President of the Party, Guish Gebre-Silase said the party is going to contest in the nine states. "As the United Ethiopian Democratic Forces is a national party, we are willing and preparing to compete in the nine states. Although we have limited resources we are trying to assign candidates to all regions." He lauded

the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia for supporting parties regarding finance and provision of trainings on crisis management. The President urged the Board for the continuation of the support during the election process also, saying his party didn't encounter any challenge so far. President of the United Ethiopian Democratic Party, Admasu Hailu for his part said that his party is on the right track to compete in the elections. "We are in good shape to cast candidates in every part of the country," he said. According to him, the Board should work hard to widen the playing fields in order to make the election free and democratic.

Chairperson of the Board Merga Bekana (Prof.) asserted that the political space in Ethiopia has never been wider than now. "We in the Electoral Board say the political space is wide. When we say it is wide we mean that the service we are providing is satisfying. First we are providing training for the parties using the best people in the area. Second we have a close relation with the parties. We are solving challenges by consulting with regional administrations." According to Prof. Merga, the Board has been striving to make the 5th election more successful than the previous ones. (ENA)

## Ethiopia earns over \$1 billion from export sector

Addis Ababa, 5 January 2015 (WIC) - Ethiopia earned 1.16 billion US dollars in revenue from the export sector in the first five months of this Ethiopian fiscal year, according to the Ministry of Trade (MoT). Ministry Public Relations Head, Amakele Yimam, told WIC that the revenue was secured from the export of agricultural, manufacturing and mining products. The revenue earned during the reported period has shown a 10.67 per cent increase compared to the same period the previous year, he said, attributing the increase to a rise in the price of agricultural products at the global market. According to Amakele, the export of agricultural products generated over 861.8 million US dollars from the total revenue, showing a 20 % increase compared to the same period last fiscal year. Pulses and oilseeds have made

significant contribution for the raise in revenue, showing 31 and 23.62 per cent increase respectively compared to the same period the previous year, he said. Ethiopia envisaged earning 5 billion US dollars from export trade this budget year.

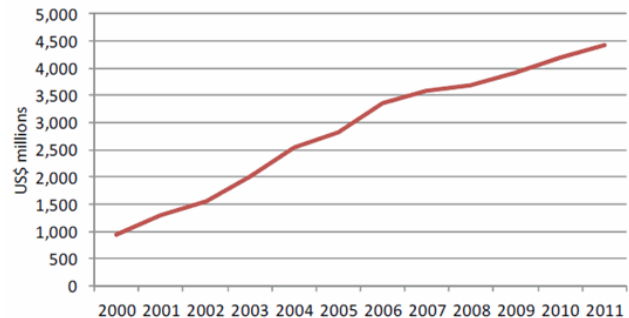


Glove factory in Ethiopia. Picture : CNN

## Investment Projects with 5.3 billion Birr Capital Go

Addis Ababa January 06/2015 Some 94 investment projects with a registered capital of 5.3 billion birr have become operational during the past five months, according to the Ethiopian Investment Commission (EIC). EIC Public Relations Director, Getahun Negash, told ENA that the projects have created over 3,000 permanent jobs. The projects engaged in manufacturing, service and agricultural sectors will create additional jobs on becoming fully operational, he added. In addition to those, 228 projects have received licenses during the same period, according to the director. The licensed projects had deposited the 200,000 USD minimum capital required before they were allowed to start to work, it was learned. The director also indicated that the Commission has been working together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other partner organizations to attract more

investment to the country. According to Getahun, the plan to issue 2,633 licenses during the first four years of the GTP period has been exceeded. The projects have created 61,000 permanent and temporary jobs in the stated period, he pointed out.



Foreign investment in Ethiopia. Source: UNCTAD

## Ethiopians continue to support the construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam

Addis Ababa, 5 January 2015 (WIC) - Ethiopians around the world are striving for the realization of the Grand Ethiopian dam being built along the Nile, Office of the Council responsible for resource mobilization said. The government through the national council established to mobilize resources in and out of the country has

construction of the dam since construction has begun years ago. According to Zadig Abreha, Deputy Director of the Office, those efforts has brought promising results and Ethiopian across the globe are continued to extend their support. Ethiopians in and out of the nation has extended over 6 billion Birr for the dam, of which 4.92



billion Birr or 82 percent gained in donation, while the balance is from bonds. Raising funds through mobile SMS is another means the Council is using to get more funds locally. The Council has received over 14 million SMS worth at 42 million Birr over the past three months, Zadig said. The Council expects 60 million Birr from the program lasting for six months. Ethiopian Diasporas are supporting the Dam through finance, said Teferi Melese Diaspora Research Information Director. The Diasporas

been striving to raise funds for the dam, which Ethiopia declared to build using its own sources. Resource mobilization has been undertaking parallel with the

have purchased bonds worth at over 565 million Birr; Ethiopians residing at Arab countries have the lion's share in terms of contribution. (ENA)

## Tourism fair in Leuven

On the first week of the new year (4 January 2015) the mission participated in collaboration with Ethiopian Airlines to a tourism fair organized by the tour operator HOBO Reizen in Leuven, with the objective of promoting Ethiopian tourism destinations. The fair was visited by over 300 potential tourists, who are planning to have holidays abroad. During the event, Hobo Reizen presented a well decorated Ethiopian stand and introduced its tour package with a 16 days stay in Ethiopia, covering almost all tourism attractions of the country. The visitors also enjoyed an Ethiopian traditional coffee ceremony, and were enchanted by the sweet aromatic incense before being served coffee. Similarly, information related to Ethiopian



goal is to promote tourism potential in Ethiopia and to support the tour operator in its promotion of Ethiopian tourism, particularly in the Flemish part of Belgium. Annually, HOB0 Reizen is organizing three visits in Ethiopia. The tour operator noted a growing demand for tours in Ethiopia.



tourism destinations was disseminated and most of the visitors expressed their interest of visiting Ethiopia. Some persons who already visited Ethiopia even related their amazing experience which is still vivid in their memory.

This trade fair is organized annually with the active support of our diplomatic mission. The



## Agenda

The Embassy will be participating to the Tourism Fair Luxembourg on 16-18 January  
More information: <http://eventegg.com/expo-vakanz/>

## ABOUT THE EMBASSY

**Working Hours:** 9:00 – 13:00 & 14:00 – 17:00

**Consular Service:** Monday – Friday 09:00 – 13:00

**Legalization and Power of Attorney:** Monday – Thursday 9:00 – 13:00

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