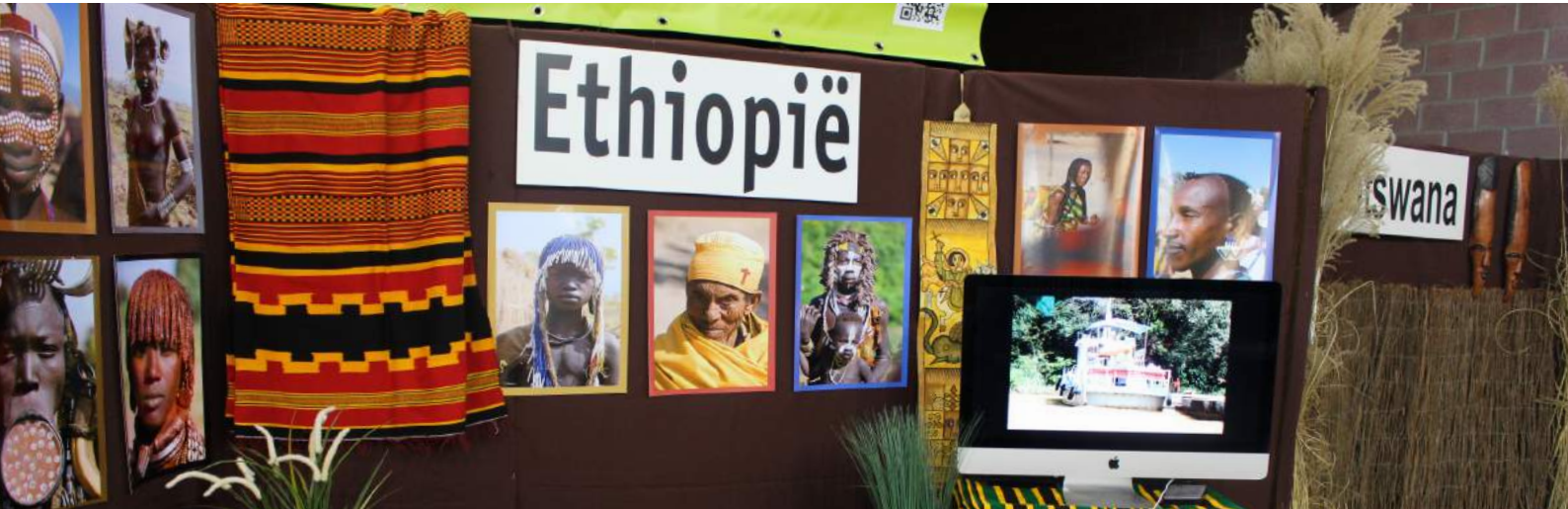


Newsletter



Ethiopian Embassy in Brussels

30 January 2015
Weekly Issue N° 21



Ethiopian stand at tourism fair in Leuven on 4 January 2015

Dear Reader,

This week, we send you articles about the African Union Summit, the recent development of the Ethio-Egyptian dialogue, as well as about several progresses made by Ethiopia towards an increased cooperative, sustainable and efficient development. We hope you will enjoy reading these articles.

Sincerely,

The Ethiopian Embassy in Brussels

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http://youtu.be/IgpZI_T0ARI

African Union Heads of state summit



UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and Prime Minister Hailemariam at the 24th Ordinary Session, on 30 January 2015

Addis Ababa, 28 January 2015. More than 40 African heads of state and government and hundreds of delegates from across the world converged on Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa to attend the 24th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of Africa on Friday, 30 January 2015. The African Union said the Summit aims at discussing the theme of the year and also at reviewing the 2014 reports of the African Union. This year's session will be held under the theme "Year of Women Empowerment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063". The Summit will consider the adoption of Agenda 2063, a fifty-year shared strategic framework for inclusive growth and sustainable development on the African continent, and also discuss the role of NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa's Development) in this Agenda.

During the Summit, the heads of state and governments will elect the new president of the African Union and review the AU Ebola response in Africa. The Summit is expected to inaugurate the Nelson Mandela plenary hall of the African Headquarters as bestowed to the late former President Nelson Mandela during the 22nd Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly held in Addis Ababa in January 2014.

Sources: ENA, CNBC Africa

Ethiopia is appreciative of EU support to Ethiopia



Nicholas Westcott and Dr Tedros on 29 January 2015

On 29 January 2015, Foreign Minister Dr. Tedros Adhanom held discussions with Dr. Nicholas Westcott, Managing Director of African Affairs of the European External Action Service, Alexander Rondos, Special Envoy of European Union to the Horn of Africa, and Ambassador Chantal Hebberecht, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Ethiopia. The focus was on the regional political and security situation and on ways to strengthen cooperation between Ethiopia and the European Union. Dr. Tedros emphasized that Ethiopia appreciated the EU's support to Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa, one of the most vulnerable regions in the continent. He underlined the need to sustain this support to keep up the momentum of positive change. In regard to Somalia, Dr Tedros noted the remarkable progress made in consolidating fragile security situation with the removal of Al-Shabaab from a number of key strategic towns. He pointed out that, despite some hiccups, the building institutions and formation of regional states has shown encouraging progress. The Jubaland process, he said, is serving as a successful model for the South West Administration with indications that Central Somalia will follow suit. At the same time he stressed that the leadership of the

Federal Government of Somalia needed to take practical steps to meet the goals of its Vision 2016.

Dr. Tedros underlined that Ethiopia would continue supporting Somalia on the basis of the needs and priorities set by the Federal Government to realize a stable, secure and vibrant Somalia. Speaking on Eritrea, Dr. Tedros noted that the regime in Asmara remained determined to continue its policy of destabilizing the region. There had been no change in its behavior. He said: "Hosting rebels from neighboring countries, Eritrea has chosen the path of destruction rather than cooperation and mutual development". He said it was imperative that the UN imposed sanctions to stop Asmara from disturbing the regional peace were fully implemented. Dr. Tedros also reiterated the urgent need to end the conflict in South Sudan and bring durable peace there. He said IGAD was continuing to work towards producing incremental

changes, building on the agreed points of forming a national unity government in a manner that can provide a real solution. Mr. Westcott, noting Ethiopia's important role in the regional peace and security efforts, also underlined the need for AMISOM to aggressively engage in removing the threat of Al-Shabaab altogether while accelerating the political process in Somalia. He said he shared the view that there was an urgent necessity to end the conflict in South Sudan he reaffirmed the European Union's support to the IGAD-led mediation process. The EU delegation and Dr. Tedros also exchanged views regarding Ethiopia's upcoming national election in May. Dr. Tedros explained that the pre-election process was on schedule and there had been impressive and substantial voter registration. He said the Government and the ruling party were taking all necessary measures to make sure that the election would be held in a manner that ensured widespread participation by the public and by all political parties.

Source: MFA

Dr Tedros meets his Egyptian counterpart

Addis Ababa, 28 January 2015 (WIC) -On the sidelines of the 26th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the African Union, Foreign Affairs Minister Dr. Tedros Adhanom held discussions with Foreign Minister of Egypt, Sameh Shoukri, yesterday on issues related to the achievements made so far in the Tripartite Dam Talks as well as the high level political discussions of the two countries. The two Ministers briefed journalists the areas dwelt during their bilateral discussions. Speaking to the media, Dr Tedros recalled that the two countries have had regular engagements at all levels as per the agreements made by the leaders of the two nations in Malabo last year to hold regular engagement at all levels.

He said today's bilateral discussions are part of the agreement made in Malabo. He also said that both countries are continuing dialogue at technical, Water and Foreign Ministers and at Heads of State meeting level. He went on to add that the leaders of the two countries have so far met twice and they will be meeting in Addis Ababa at the margins of the 24th AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government Summit. He said that this high level engagement will help drive the technical level forward.

Dr Tedros said that he had candid and productive discussions with his counterpart, Minister Sameh

Shoukri and added that the key point of the meeting was evaluating the progress made in the Tripartite Dam Talks and ways to help the technical level expedite the process of the two studies recommended by the International Panel of Experts. He also mentioned that the discussions also focused on evaluating the progress made so far at high level political discussions, assessing the weaknesses and devising mechanisms to improve the relations.

Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukri said in the last six months both countries have had "productive relationship", which paved the way to address issues of common interest in "a very candid and transparent manner. He said on all issues of common interest, he "tries to look it from Ethiopians' eyes and that I have every indication that Dr Tedros views the issues from the eyes of Egyptian Government and People." Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukri, who also noted that both countries have reinforced the achievements of the technical committee, emphasized that "We look forward that the political commitment on both sides will help in achieving greater progress."

Source: MFA

Dr Tedros meets Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister of Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg

Foreign Minister, Dr Tedros Adhanom met with Jean Asselborn, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister of Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg on the side lines of the 26th African Union Executive Council ordinary session on 27 January 2015 in Addis Ababa. Dr Tedros explained that Ethiopian government formulated right mix of policies, strategies and programs to bring sustainable socio-economic and political development and has been relentlessly working to achieve middle income status by 2025. The Minister noted that Ethiopia and Luxembourg could work more in the areas of trade, investment and social affairs to consolidate the existing bilateral cooperation. Dr Tedros also briefed Jean Asselborn on the current situation in south Sudan and Somalia. He said the situation in Somalia is going on right track since last two years in improving peace

and security, rebuilding institutions and formation of regional states. He underlined that ensuring lasting peace should be given due attention in Somalia because without peace attaining development is impossible. He also pointed out that the crisis in South Sudan has reached critical level requiring a concerted action by the international community to end the conflict and bring durable peace. He said Ethiopia has been striving to settle the crisis through peaceful mechanisms within the IGAD-led mediation process. Regarding the Nile issue, Dr. Tedros said Ethiopia believes in fair and equitable usage of the Nile waters with all riparian countries in line with acceptable norms of international water laws, principles and norms.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister of



Jean Asselborn and Dr Tedros in Addis Ababa on 27 January 2015

Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg said that tremendous socio-economic and political progresses have been witnessed in Ethiopia. He also appreciated Ethiopia's eminent role in realizing peace in the Horn of Africa. The minister noted that Ethiopia and Luxembourg should work more in the areas of aviation, trade and generally

in economic cooperation. He said that Nile is very crucial resource to the development of the basin countries and underlined the need to foster cooperation for the mutual benefit of the peoples of the Nile Basin countries.

Source: MFA

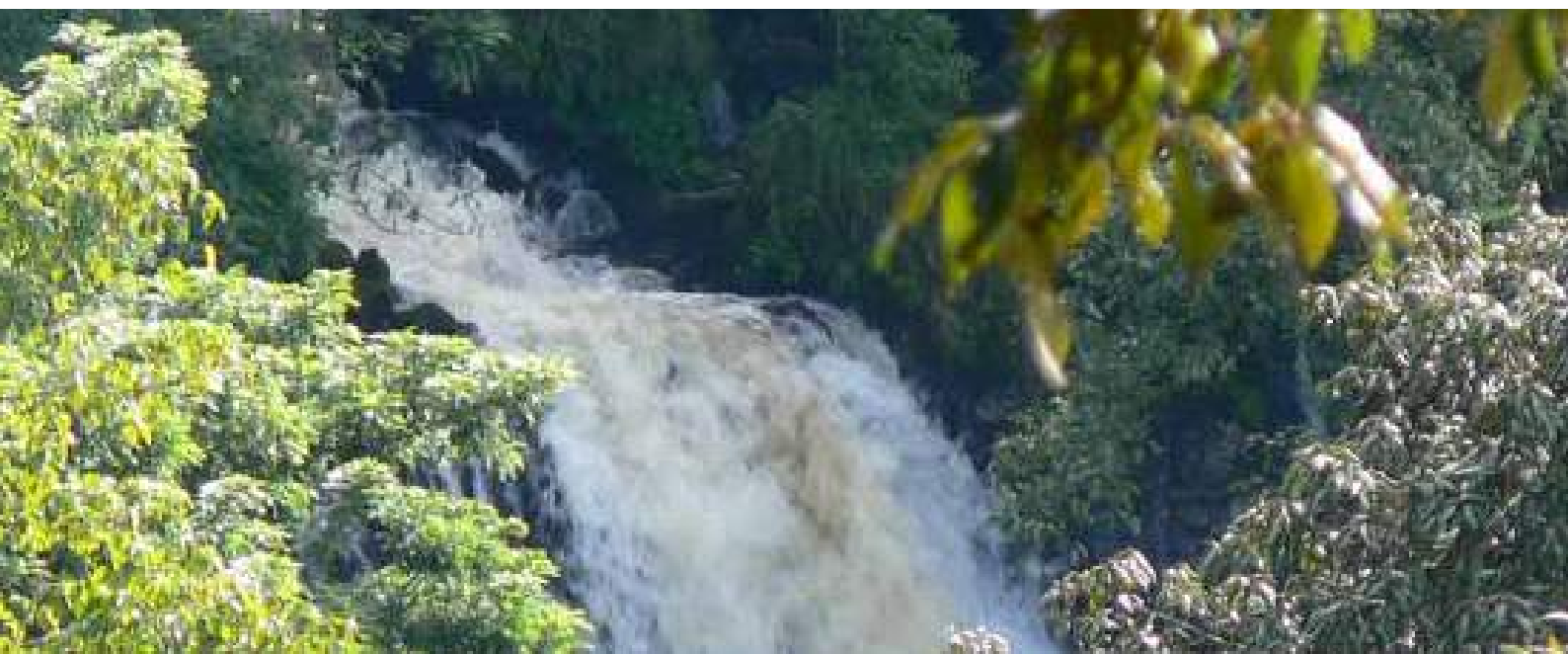
Norway to place Ethiopia among six focus countries for development cooperation

Addis Ababa, 26 January 2015 (WIC) – Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Tedros Adhanom received on Sunday (January 25) a Norwegian delegation led by Foreign Minister, Borge Brende. The bilateral discussions of the two Foreign Ministers dwelt on numerous issues of common interest. Both Ministers exchanged views on the promotion of Ethio-Norway partnership and expanding the depth, breadth and scale of the relations of the two friendly countries. Dr Tedros gave a briefing on Ethiopia's renaissance journey, the ongoing IGAD-led peace talks as well as IGAD's role in supporting the South Sudanese warring parties end conflict and advance the cause of peace and stability. Dr. Tedros noted that Ethiopia will remain committed to advancing peace and stability in the region and attaches special importance to dialogue to resolve disputes. He also recalled the successful conclusion of the 53rd Extraordinary Meeting of the IGAD Council of Ministers held in Mogadishu on January 10, adding that the very fact that meeting was held in Mogadishu tells a lot about the improving security situation in Somalia. Foreign Minister Borge

Brende on his part noted that his visit to Addis Ababa is a demonstration of Norway's commitment for the further strengthening of the bilateral ties with Ethiopia. He also underscored that Norway stood committed to step up its cooperation with Ethiopia. The Foreign Minister underlined the need for further consolidation of the bilateral partnership of the two countries. Borge Brende noted that Norway's Foreign Affairs Ministry is proposing placing Ethiopia among the six focus countries for development cooperation program. Dr Tedros expressed his gratitude to Norwegian Foreign Affairs Ministry's decision to make Ethiopia as one of the six priority countries in the country's development cooperation program. This, he said, would help Ethiopia's efforts to realize a carbon-free middle- income country status by 2025. Both sides reached a consensus in jointly pushing cooperation forward in many areas including climate change, education, private sector engagement, trade and investment.

Source: MFA

Ethiopia boosts forest bio-sphere reserves to fight climate change



The Sheka Reserve. Image: UNESCO

Addis Ababa, 23 January 2015 (WIC) – Melca Ethiopia, a local NGO with a vision to see bio-cultural diversity conserved for a healthy eco-system and sustainable life is helping Ethiopia boost forest bio-sphere reserves.

The organization which has been able to set aside 238,750 hectares of Sheka zone, as a forest bio-sphere, containing over 300 higher plants, 50 mammals, 200 birds and 200 amphibian species, out of which 55 plants and 10 birds are endemic is gearing up to help even more forest areas for the benefit of the local population. The reserve also has 38 big waterfalls, 13 caves, 38 mineral water and hot springs as well as two lakes and a number of sacred natural sites.

It plans in the next few months to have a similar bio-sphere reserve in the Majang zone to augment the nearby Sheka forest reserve. Dr. Million Belay, Director of Melca Ethiopia which together with local authorities has devised several other bio-spheres, stated at a ceremony on December 27, held in Tep town 609 kms SW of Addis Ababa celebrating the first Sheka and Majang Cultural bio-diversity day that protecting forests is more than meets the eye. "Bio-sphere reserves aren't only there to protect forests, but also has other aims such as keeping tradition, as was done with Yayu, Keffa, and Sheka which are UNESCO recognized bio-sphere reserve" stated Belay adding that another aim to conserve this forest is to preserve its indigenous knowledge of the forest and traditional diversity through the generations.

Melca states that out of the 238,750 ha of bio-sphere area, 55,255 is classified as a core zone devoted to long term protection of the natural forest, devoid of human interference except for bee keeping, medical plants collection and ritual ceremonies among a select few activities. While the buffer zone which covers 76,395 ha is devoted for both conservation and economic use functions except such as logging, intensive agriculture, investment and hunting are allowed.

The third zone dubbed transitional zone, covering 107,100 ha is a development zone where all activities for livelihood of the local community in a sustainable manner can be undertaken.

Belay while stating that bio-sphere reserves have direct benefits such as for lumber, food, yarn and health, they also have indirect benefits too. These include in keeping rivers running and clean, and keeping temperatures balanced which would without forest presence lead to soil erosion, polluting the river as well as causing erratic weather patterns.

"In the age of climate change, we need lots of flora and fauna species to combat its effect, which are persistent and unpredictable" stated Belay adding that his organization plans to hold the second cultural bio-diversity event in Majang Zone, which is slated to have the next UNESCO recognized bio-sphere with participants from other bio-spheres around Ethiopia to participate to learn and exchange knowledge.

Ascent Capital to invest in Ethiopian companies

Addis Ababa, 28 January 2015 (WIC) – A new private equity firm based in Mauritius, Ascent Capital, is looking forward to financing local businesses including start-ups in Ethiopia. The company on Friday officially opened its office in Addis Ababa in Abyssinia Mall near Bole Medhayaalem Church. Lucas Kranck, managing partner, told Reporters that Ascent Capital has raised USD 50 million to be invested in Uganda, Kenya and Ethiopia. Kranck, one of the founders of Ascent, said his company is committed to invest 20 million dollars in Ethiopia over the next three years. The amount could be raised ten times in three years time. The fund is based in Mauritius and has offices in Ethiopia, Uganda and Kenya. The fund will invest in mid-size companies with a minimum revenue of USD two million. “This could go as high as USD 10 million. We will have a ten-year lifetime to exist,” Kranck said. The fund’s life is ten years with a

possible extension of two. The company hopes to repay the money to its investors within ten years’ time and exit from business. “It is equity capital; it is not debt. We share the risk and the reward. We invest between USD 2-5 million per company. If everything goes well, which we hope it will, then we share the reward but if things do not go well we share the risk as well. And, of course, we target good dynamic Ethiopian entrepreneurs and there are many of them in this country,” Kranck said. Michael Mebaselassie, principal and country director of Ascent Capital, said that the fast economic growth, political stability and huge population make Ethiopia attractive for investment. “Ethiopia has been registering a dramatic economic growth in the past years and there are attractive and promising companies to work with,” Michael said. (Reporter)

Elsewhere on the web...

Experts Rank Ethiopia’s Coffee Among Best (Voice of America)

<http://www.voanews.com/content/how-experts-decide-ethiopia-has-best-coffee/2607523.html>

C’est fort, le café ! (Le Jeudi, French)

<http://www.jeudi.lu/une-affaire-de-femmes/>

Agenda

5-9 February 2015: Brussels Holiday Fair

<http://www.salondesvacances.eu/>

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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