

Newsletter

Ethiopian Embassy in Brussels



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Ethiopia has a very rich fauna and flora. The Ethiopian Wolf (above) can be observed in the Ethiopian highlands

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Please note: due to public holidays in Belgium and Ethiopia, the Embassy will be closed on Monday the 6th of April and Friday the 10th of April

POLITICAL AFFAIRS

EU to increase assistance to Ethiopia

European Union has decided to increase its assistance to Ethiopia considering the proper utilization of funds, the EU Delegation to Ethiopia said.



In an exclusive interview with ENA, Head of the Delegation Ambassador Chantal Hebberecht said the country has been spending the finance secured from the EU for the intended purposes. She said the EU has been monitoring the utilization of funds by Ethiopia and proved that the funds have been spent for the intended purposes.

EU has been supporting projects in natural conservation, agriculture, education and health has been spent properly. In addition to the proper utilization of funds, the nation's effort to alleviate poverty is another reason for EU to increase its support.

The EU and the 20 member states present in Addis Ababa are one of the biggest donors in this country, she said. "The total of the financial allocation to support the development of this country is more or less one billion dollars per year", and represents 40 percent of the public development aid in Ethiopia. "We have ongoing projects for a total of 400 million Euros and we are preparing a new financial allocation

of 800 million Euros for the next five years, because we are starting a new cycle cooperation with this country under the 11th EDF" she added.

She noted that Ethiopia has been undertaking successful activities regarding poverty alleviation, reducing child and maternal deaths; realize universal access to primary education, and control malaria, HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. Allocating 70 percent of its budget to education, infrastructure, health institutions and poverty alleviation projects, helped Ethiopia achieve the MDGs, she added.

Germany, France, UK and Italy are among the leading countries in extending development assistance to Ethiopia.

Background of EU-Ethiopia relations

The EU-Ethiopia development partnership formally started when Ethiopia signed the Lomé Convention in 1975, and the European Commission opened its

Delegation's office in Addis Ababa the same year. Since then, the Commission has played a significant role in supporting Ethiopia's economic development both financially and technically. According to H. E. Teshome Toga, Ethiopian Ambassador to the EU, Benelux and Baltic states, the Ethio-EU relationship is based on mutual benefits and on strategic principles. Besides its aid, the EU is also the destination for 30 percent of Ethiopia's coffee,

leather, horticultural and floricultural exports, while more than 300 European investors are doing business in Ethiopia, totaling more than 60 billion of dollars of foreign investments. Moreover, the European Investment Bank also offers significant lines of credit to Ethiopia for telecommunications, aviation and energy projects. Among this, the Gilgel Gibe III dam is notable (1,870MW capacity), and is scheduled to begin generating power this year.

COMESA Summit: "Inclusive and Sustainable Industrialization"

On 30-31 March 2015, the 18th COMESA Heads of State and Government Summit took place in Addis Ababa on the theme "Inclusive and Sustainable Industrialization".



Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn was elected as new Chairperson of the organization. Speaking at the opening of the Summit, the Ethiopian Prime Minister said that inclusive and sustainable industrialization is a pillar to sustained economic growth, food security and poverty eradication in Africa. He added that inclusivity prioritizes shared prosperity, increased employment opportunities, particularly in the industrial and agro-industrial sectors, and social cohesion. He also emphasized the need for COMESA to promote the use of clean technologies in industrial production as well as greater resource and energy efficiency. In this regard, Hailemariam said Ethiopia had aggressively embarked on the path of a climate resilient economy without increasing net greenhouse emission. The newly elected Chairperson also reiterated the need for the speedy implementation of COMESA's regional integration programs, particularly the

establishment of a Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa.

During the Summit, Prime Minister Hailemariam further said that Ethiopia will continue championing the regional integration of COMESA. He urged member countries to pursue the path leading to regional integration with commitment. "I believe that we have achieved collective understanding about how to enhance value addition and diversification through strategies and instruments for integrating our economies in increasing our access to the global value changes" he stressed.

United Nations Economy Commission for Africa (UNECA) Executive Secretary Dr. Carlos Lopes on his part said industrialization is central to facilitate, modernize and transform the African economy. Industrialization must create decent jobs for citizens and improve living standard, particularly the one of women and youth. A win-win situation should also be created between governments, private sector and citizens, he added. African Union Chairperson Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma said industrialization is a necessity for Africa's transformation.

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) was formed in December 1994 "as an organization of free independent sovereign states which have agreed to co-operate in developing their natural and human resources for the good of all their people". COMESA's aims to economic prosperity through regional integration. With its 19 member states and population of about

400 million, COMESA forms a major market place for both internal and external trading. It cooperates with various organizations, among others with the European Union which will provide a support of

EUR 170 million by the end of 2017. Madagascar will host the COMESA Heads of State and Government Summit next year.

TPLF 40th anniversary colorfully celebrated in the Netherlands

On 28 March 2015, more than 200 Ethiopians and people of Ethiopian origin have colorfully celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Tigray

People's Liberation Front (TPLF) in the city of Rotterdam.



liberation of the country from the communist Derg, the TPLF/EPDRF, in collaboration with other democratic forces, played a decisive role for the development of policies and strategies guiding the country on the right socio-economic and political track. Today our country Ethiopia is achieving a successful economic development confirmed by international partners, and it strives to become a middle-income economy by 2025. Ambassador

The ceremony was organized by the Tigray Development Association based in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. During the celebration, traditional food was served to the participants and traditional music was played by a band coming from Ethiopia.

Addressing the participants, H.E. Ambassador Teshome Toga said that the struggle was initially started by a small number of TPLF fighters. The secret behind the success of the TPLF/EPDRF struggle against the oppressive military regime of the Derg was that it provided a direct answer to the striving of the people for freedom and equality. He also underlined the immense sacrifice paid by the TPLF and the peoples of Tigray for the realization of equality between Nations, Nationalities and Peoples of Ethiopia and for the democratization process and development of the country. After

Teshome Toga called upon the participants to continue their efforts for the Renaissance of the country in all aspects.

H.E. Ambassador Teshome Toga also expressed the commitment of the Government to make the fifth national and regional elections fair, free and democratic. Furthermore, he called the Ethiopians and Ethiopian origins living in the Netherlands to increase their participation through investment and promotion of the good image of the country abroad.

During the celebration, diaspora members living in the Netherlands reaffirmed their commitment to continue their efforts for the realization of the economic development of the country.

ECONOMY

Ethiopian Airlines is bringing Africa together and to the world

The ongoing expansion activities of Ethiopian Airlines have the potential to make a significant impact on intra-African trade and in deepening the region's integration into the global economy.

At between 10% and 12%, intra-African trade lags far behind that of other regions. A key reason for this trade deficit is the dearth of transportation options within the continent. Africa's airline carriers are working steadily to remove this roadblock. Ethiopian Airlines is in discussions to assist in setting up national airlines in Nigeria, Uganda, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda. Establishing a flag-carrier for Nigeria is particularly critical in light of the country's status as the largest economy and population on the continent. As a stakeholder in Malawian Airlines and ASKY Airlines of Togo, Ethiopian Airlines already has experience in providing technical assistance to, and investing in, other airlines. In fact, last year even one of Ethiopian Airlines' biggest competitors, South African Airways, was considering reaching out to the airline for assistance on establishing a hub in Ghana.

The airline also is making considerable strides forward in increasing air connectivity between Africa and the rest of the world, particularly the continent's most strategic trading partners. Earlier this month, Ethiopian Airlines announced that it would be doubling daily operations from Mumbai,

adding a second flight from New Delhi, and increasing its code-share agreement with Air India from five to seven countries in Africa. By expanding its route offerings between India and Africa, Ethiopian Airlines will be well-positioned to benefit considerably should India realize its potential to quadruple its Africa-based revenue to \$160 billion in the next decade. In addition, Ethiopian Airlines plans to begin flights to Los Angeles and Tokyo in the next

few months. With Japan continuing to deepen its engagement on the continent, introducing flights to Japan is another example of strategic positioning by Ethiopian Airlines.

More broadly, the airline aspires to increase the number of its international destinations from 84 to 120 over the next decade.

Improving regional integration and the region's connectivity to the global community are key trade and investment priorities for Africa and Ethiopian Airlines is poised to be one of the leading stakeholders in these efforts.

Source : National Law Review



Ethiopia joins sustainable cotton initiative

Following successful verification in accordance with the Cotton made in Africa (CmiA) sustainability standard, the Aid by Trade Foundation (AbTF) will now be involved in sustainable cotton farming in North-Western Ethiopia, supporting over 9,000 smallholder farmers. The Foundation cooperates locally with the Ethiopian Cotton Producers, Exporters and Ginners Association (ECPGEA). As a result, the initiative now reaches over 5 million people in Africa.

“With the addition of Ethiopia, there are now round about 650,000 smallholder farmers growing cotton according to the CmiA sustainability standards. With their family members included, this totals over 5.5 million people in 10 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. Our standard is specifically aimed at smallholder farmers in our project countries who only have a small plot of land and who are most in need of support. In order to protect the environment and vital resources, the exploitation of primary forests is forbidden, as is encroachment into established protected areas, the use of genetically modified seeds, and artificial irrigation,” said Christoph Kaut, Managing Director of the Foundation. Last year, over 150,000 tons of cotton were produced in accordance with the CmiA standard. As a result of the latest successful verifications in Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania and Cameroon, the quantity of CmiA-verified cotton produced will rise again significantly in 2015. With the CmiA standard, the Foundation is campaigning for social justice for cotton farmers and workers in the ginning factories, healthy living conditions, and the protection of the environment.

As well as benefitting from agricultural and business training, the CmiA partnership also means that smallholder farmers can rely on fair contracts with the cotton companies and reliable payment for their crops.

Cotton Made in Africa

Cotton made in Africa (CmiA) is an initiative of the Aid by Trade Foundation (AbTF), which promotes aid by trade in order to improve the living conditions of cotton farmers and their families in Sub-Saharan Africa. To date, smallholder farmers from Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Malawi, Ghana, Cameroon, Ivory Coast and Ethiopia are partnering with CmiA. The initiative offers cotton farmers training in modern, efficient and environmentally-friendly cultivation methods which allow them to improve the quality of their cotton, increase their crop yield and thereby generate better income.

Source: Textile World

Gilgel Gibe III to start power generation soon



Gilgel Gibe III Hydro-power Project is expected to start generating electricity during the Ethiopian rainy season (July-August) and be fully operational within three years.

According to the Project Coordinator, the dam will store three billion cubic meters of water in the rainy season, and the first two units will start generating power successively. The functioning of the

remaining eight units will depend on the amount of water to be stored in the dam.

The dam has the capacity to hold 15 billion cubic meters of water, of which about 80 million cubic meters has already been collected since January 2015. The artificial lake dam that will be created will not displace even a single person, the coordinator said, adding that it will instead help to prevent the frequent occurrence of floods. Projects that benefit the localities around the natural lake through tourism and fishery will be built simultaneously.

A UNESCO team will travel next week to the locality

to assess the impact the dam may have on Lake Turkana.

Ethiopia has a hydropower potential of 45,000 MW, which remains largely untapped until today. The country however has already planned and achieved the construction of several other hydropower facilities. Plants constructed in the last ten years include Tekeze (300 MW, completed in 2009), Gilgel Gibe II (420 MW, completed in 2010) and Tana Belese (460 MW). The construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, which will generate 4,000 MW upon completion in 2017, has started in 2011.

Public Investment - the Path to the New Normal

The world is facing the prospect of an extended period of weak economic growth. But risk is not fate; the best way to avoid such an outcome is to figure out how to channel large pools of savings into productivity-enhancing public-sector investment.

Productivity gains are vital to long-term growth, because they typically translate into higher incomes, in turn boosting demand. That process takes time, of course - especially if, say, the initial recipients of increased income already have a high savings rate. But, with ample investment in the right areas, productivity growth can be sustained.

The danger lies in debt-fueled investment that shifts future demand to the present, without stimulating productivity growth. This approach inevitably leads to a growth slowdown, possibly even triggering a financial crisis like the one that recently shook the United States and Europe.

Such crises cause major negative demand shocks, as excess debt and falling asset prices damage balance sheets, which then require increased savings to heal - a combination that is lethal to growth. If the crisis occurs in a systemically important economy, such as the United States or Europe (emerging economies' two largest external markets), the result is a global shortage of aggregate demand.

And, indeed, severe demand constraints are a key feature of today's global economic environment. Though the US is finally emerging from an extended period in which potential output exceeded demand, high unemployment continues to suppress demand in Europe. One of the main casualties is the tradable

sector in China, where domestic demand remains inadequate to cover the shortfall and prevent a slowdown in gross domestic product (GDP) growth.

Another notable trend is that individual economies are recovering from the recent demand shocks at varying rates, with the more flexible and dynamic economies of the US and China performing better than their counterparts in the advanced and emerging worlds. Excessive regulation of Japan's non-tradable sector has constrained GDP growth for years, while structural rigidities in Europe's economies impede adaptation to technological advances and global market forces.

Reforms aimed at increasing an economy's flexibility are always hard - and even more so at a time of weak growth - because they require eliminating protections for vested interests in the short term for the sake of greater long-term prosperity. Given this, finding ways to boost demand is key to facilitating structural reform in the relevant economies.

That brings us to the third factor behind the global economy's anaemic performance: underinvestment, particularly by the public sector. In the US, infrastructure investment remains suboptimal, and investment in the economy's knowledge and technology base is declining partly because the pressure to remain ahead in these areas has waned since the Cold War ended. Europe, for its part, is

constrained by excessive public debt and weak fiscal positions.

In the emerging world, India and Brazil are just two examples of economies where inadequate investment has kept growth below potential (though that may be changing in India). The notable exception is China, which has maintained high (and occasionally perhaps excessive) levels of public investment throughout the post-crisis period.

Properly targeted public investment can do much to boost economic performance, generating aggregate demand quickly, fueling productivity growth by improving human capital, encouraging technological innovation, and spurring private-sector investment by increasing returns. Though public investment cannot fix a large demand shortfall overnight, it can accelerate the recovery and establish more sustainable growth patterns.

The problem is that unconventional monetary policies in some major economies have created a low-yield environment, leaving investors somewhat desperate for high-yield options. Many pension funds are underwater, because the returns required to meet their longer-term liabilities seem unattainable. Meanwhile, capital is accumulating on high-net-worth balance sheets and in sovereign-wealth funds.

Though monetary stimulus is important to facilitate deleveraging, prevent financial-system dysfunction, and bolster investor confidence, it cannot place an economy on a sustainable growth path alone - a point that central bankers themselves have repeatedly emphasized. Structural reforms, together

with increased investment, are also needed.

Given the extent to which insufficient demand is constraining growth, investment should come first. Faced with tight fiscal (and political) constraints, policymakers should abandon the flawed notion that investments with broad - and, to some extent, non-appropriable - public benefits must be financed entirely with public funds. Instead, they should establish intermediation channels for long-term financing.

At the same time, this approach means that policymakers must find ways to ensure that public investments provide returns for private investors. Fortunately, there are existing models, such as those applied to ports, roads, and rail systems, as well as the royalties system for intellectual property.

Such efforts should not be constrained by national borders. Given that roughly one-third of output in advanced economies is tradable - a share that will only increase, as technological advances enable more services to be traded - the benefits of a program to channel savings into public investment would spill over to other economies.

That is why the G-20 should work to encourage public investment within member countries, while international financial institutions, development banks, and national governments should seek to channel private capital toward public investment, with appropriate returns. With such an approach, the global economy's "new normal" could shift from its current mediocre trajectory to one of strong and sustainable growth.

Source : Addis Fortune

Ethiopian investors looking for international partners

Ethiopian businessmen who have invested in different areas are looking for international partners to expand their business activities. Areas of investment and contact details are available for free on the website of the Ethiopian Investment Commission:

<http://www.investethiopia.gov.et/information-center/business-to-business>

CULTURE

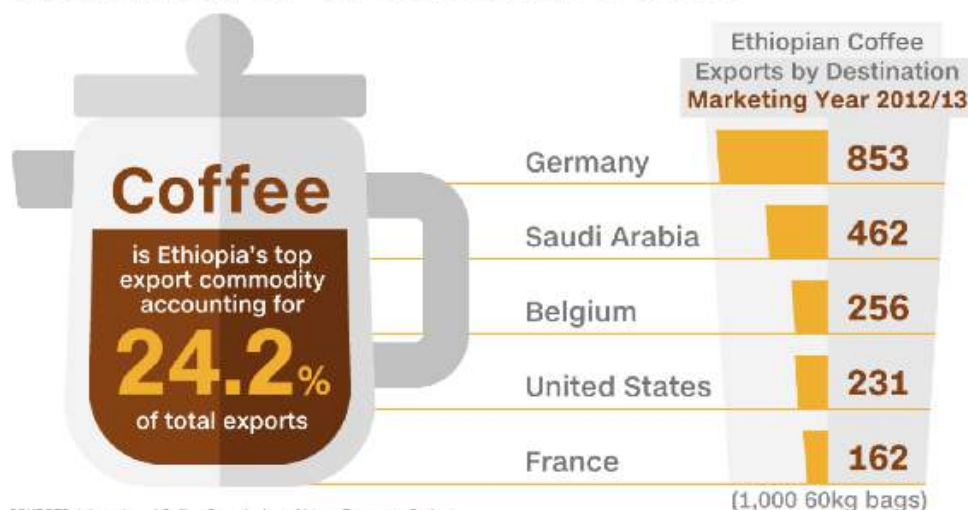
Ethiopia: the origin of coffee and the land where coffee meets tradition

Ethiopia is widely regarded as the birthplace of coffee, and the beverage is extremely popular in the country, writes CNN

As he tended to his goats one afternoon in the

and ranks fifth globally. Last year it exported 190,000 tonnes of coffee beans, earning around \$700 million, and in 2016 Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa will host the 4th World Coffee Conference, a high-level gathering of global experts.

BREWING UP A GLOBAL STORM



SOURCES: International Coffee Organization, African Economic Outlook
Benan Barwick/CNN

Coffee connoisseurs

Far from being just coffee exporters, Ethiopians are also major coffee lovers. Cafes densely line the streets of the capital Addis Ababa, and in 2013/14 3.6 million bags were consumed in the country, representing 71.6% of the total domestic consumption of Africa and 8% of all

Ethiopian highlands some 12 centuries ago, a herder named Kaldi noticed that his bleating charges seemed energized after chewing mysterious red berries. Intrigued by the strange reaction, Kaldi took the berries to a local monastery, where the monks promptly threw them in the fire disapproving of their apparently magical attributes. As the berries were roasted by the heat, a heavenly aroma spread, and they were used to make the first coffee.

Or so the legend of coffee goes. What is more certain is that Ethiopia, widely regarded as the cradle of coffee, is a nation devoted to the stimulating beverage. The country is Africa's biggest producer

exporting countries.

TO.MO.CA, with six branches in Ethiopia's capital, is one of the most recognizable cafe brands. It has been owned by three generations of the same family for over 60 years, and now the company is opening its first international outpost in Tokyo, Japan, this May.

Traditional coffee ceremony is very sacred to the Ethiopian culture. It's not just about the drinking of coffee but it's a spiritual ceremony.

"Ethiopians are coffee drinkers with a history of drinking and enjoying coffee for over 1,000 years,"

says Wondwossen Meshesha, the 28-year-old grandson of TO.MO.CA's founder and the company's current chief operations officer.

"Here, it's not just about getting a coffee on your way to work," he continues. "Ethiopians socialize and meet their business partners in coffee shops."

Meshesha says that only 20% of the coffee in the country is commercially farmed, with the rest coming from small holder farmers, who harvest coffee mainly in forest. "The specialty of Ethiopian coffee comes from the emphasis of consistency in production of quality coffee rather than volume of coffee production," the young businessman adds.

More than caffeine

In Ethiopia, consuming coffee has traditionally been a ceremonial affair with a deep, spiritual meaning, conducted at home. The beans are roasted in an open pan so that their rich aroma draws family, neighbors and other guests to gather.

After they are ground with a mortar and pestle, the coffee is brewed in a jug and poured into small cups from a height, with an up-and-down motion. Cups are filled to the brim, representing a wish for "fullness of life" for the guest, and there are three servings,

the last of which is called baraka, or blessing.

"[The] traditional coffee ceremony is very sacred to the Ethiopian culture. It's not just about the drinking of coffee but it's a spiritual ceremony. Both Christians and Muslim practice it, and its purpose is spirituality, and family and social gathering," says Meshesha.

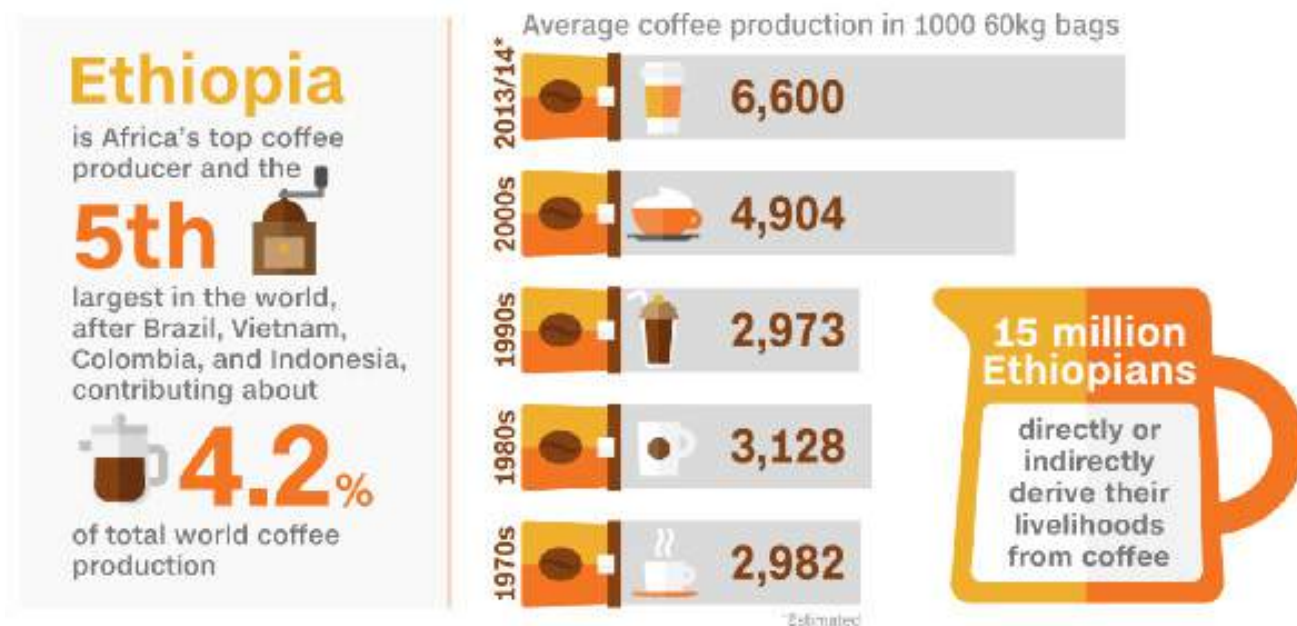
He feels certain that, in spite of the increasingly fast pace of life, the coffee ceremony won't die out because of the special status it enjoys in Ethiopian culture. However Meshesha adds that his company, and other coffee shops which have sprouted across Ethiopia's cities in recent years, try to present traditional coffee drinking in a modern way.

Away from abundant local consumption, the government is trying to promote Ethiopian coffee as a premium product abroad, and increase exports from 190,837 metric tonnes in 2013/14, to 200,000 which would generate \$1 billion in revenue.

"We have 5,000 varieties of coffee in Ethiopia," says Meshesha. "It has huge potential."

Read on CNN: <http://edition.cnn.com/2015/04/01/africa/ethiopia-coffee-industry/index.html>

FULL OF BEANS THANKS TO COFFEE SALES



SOURCES: International Coffee Organization, USDA Foreign Agricultural Service
Benan Barwick/CNN



Cultural diversity in Ethiopia

Throughout its old-aged history, Ethiopia has accumulated rich and diverse cultural heritages, which are particularly well preserved. In fact, Ethiopia is the only African country which was not colonized by European colonial forces. The history of Ethiopia, known to many as Abyssinia, is rich, ancient, diverse and still in part not well-known. Since the first recorded account of the region dating back to almost 5,000 years, the country's history is woven with legends of King Solomon and Queen of Sheba; the Ark of the Covenant that is said to rest in Axum; the great Axumite kingdom and the birth of Christianity; the rise of Islam; and the story of King Lalibela, who is believed to have had constructed eleven rock-hewn churches, still standing today and considered the eighth wonder of the world. The cultural diversity of the Ethiopian peoples, languages, music, religions and cuisine are some aspects of these millenary traditions.



Rock-hewn churches of Lalibela

Peoples

Ethiopia is a rich cultural mosaic. More than 80 nations and nationalities and peoples are living together in the country, the second most populous

in Africa. The Oromos, the largest ethnic group, are a pastoral and agricultural people who live mainly in central and south-western Ethiopia. The Amharas are the second largest people, and are located in

the central highland plateau of Ethiopia. Peoples belonging to Nilo-Saharan ethnic group can be found the Western part of the country, stretching from the borders with Eritrea to Lake Turkana. In the Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's Region, about 56 ethnic groups are living together. They have their own distinct geographical location, language, cultures, and social identities.

Elsewhere around the country there are a number

Ethiopia's Semitic languages are today spoken mainly in the North and Centre of the country. The most important of them in the North is Tigrinya, which is used throughout Tigray. The principal Semitic language of the north-western and centre of the country is Amharic, which is widely spoken all over the country and also the official working language and the language of much modern Ethiopian literature.



People in traditional dresses celebration the Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Day

of smaller communities whose cultures, languages and traditions are related to different facers of Ethiopia's long history and, as with all the peoples of the country, to its religions, be they Orthodox Christians, Muslims or members of other faiths.

Folk culture is also an important element of today's Ethiopia. Artists and craftsmen make their own contributions to the country's cultural and social development. Almost every town has its own cultural troupe made up of singers and dancers, poets and writers, and its own cultural hall in which the troupe re-creates the song and dance of its particular area from a bygone age.

Languages

Rich ethnic diversity may also be observed from the great variety of languages spoken in the country, of which there are an astonishing 83, with 200 dialects. These can be categorized in four main language families: Semitic, Cushitic, Omotic, and Nilo-Saharan.

The Semitic languages of Ethiopia are related to both Hebrew and Arabic. The Ethiopian languages of this family are derived from Ge'ez, the language of the ancient Axumite kingdom, which was also the language of the country's literature prior to the mid-nineteenth century, as well as parts of most present-day Orthodox Church services.

Two other Semitic languages are spoken to the south and east of Addis Ababa: Guraginya, used by the Gurage in a cluster of areas to the south of the capital, and Adarinya, a tongue current only within the old walled city of Harar and used by the Harrari people.

The Cushitic languages, which are less closely related than the Semitic, are found mainly in the south of the country. The most important tongue in this group is Afan Oromo. It is used in a wide stretch of country, including Welega and parts of Ilubabor in the west, Wollo in the north, Shewa and Arsi in the centre, Bale and Sidamo in the south, and Harerge in the east.

Other Cushitic language in the area comprise Somalinya, which is spoken by the Somali in the Ogaden to the east, as well as in the neighboring Somali Republic and part of Djibouti, and the Sidaminya language, used in part of the Sidama region. Cushitic languages, however, are also used in the north of the country, namely Afarinya, spoken by the Afar of eastern Wollo and the northern half of the Djibouti Republic; Saho, in parts of Tigray; and Agawinya, in small pockets in different parts of western Ethiopia.

The Omotic group of languages, which comprise considerably fewer speakers than either the Semitic or the Cushitic, are spoken the south-west of the



Church of Ura Kidane Mihret, Lake Tana

country, mainly in Gamo Gofa. They have been given the name in recent years because they are spoken in the general area of the Omo River.

The Nilo-Saharan languages, largely peripheral to Ethiopian civilization, are spoken in a wide arc of the country towards the Sudan frontier. They include, from north to south, Gumuz in Gondar and Gojjam, Berta in Welega, and Anuak in Ilubabor.

Religions

Ethiopian culture and tradition have been much influenced by both Christian and Muslim religions. The Amharas and Tigreans are predominantly Christian and adhere to the Orthodox church. The Oromos are more mixed, with Christian and Muslim communities, as well as communities who adhere to local traditions.

The Ethiopia Orthodox Church is the largest religious group, followed by Sunni Muslims, the Protestants and those with traditional beliefs. Catholicism and Ethiopian evangelism (Mekane Yesus) are

also present in Ethiopia.

Ethiopian Cuisine

The national dish for most Ethiopians is injera, a flat, sour dough pancake made from teff, which is served with either meat or vegetable sauces. Ethiopians eat these injera by tearing off a bit of injera and use it to pick up pieces of meat or mop up the sauce. Berbere, the blend of spices which gives Ethiopian food its characteristic taste can be hot for the uninitiated, although vindaloo or hot curry fans will not have any problem. When eating national food, Ethiopians eat together, off one large circular plate.

Ethiopia produces its own wines - Dukam and Goudar are two good, dry reds. Crystal is a dry white wine and Axumite is a sweet red - and spirits, like gin, ouzo and brandy. There are also traditional alcoholic beverages such as tela (a local beer made from grain), tej (honey wine or mead) and kati kala (distilled liquor).

Ethiopia is the home of coffee. A traditional coffee ceremony is performed in many households. The



Traditional injera served with prepared meat, vegetables and sauce

time devoted to the ceremony indicates how important the drink is to Ethiopians. At the start of the ceremony, a table is scattered with freshly-cut grass to give the fresh and fragrant scent of outdoors. A female attendant or the lady of the household sits on a low stool beside a charcoal brazier. She first lights a stick of incense to provide the right atmosphere. Guests are given a snack such as roasted barley and popcorn whilst the ceremony is proceeding. The green coffee beans are

roasted in a pan and then ground with a pestle and mortar. Once boiled, the coffee is poured into small, traditional cups and sugar is added. It is served in three rounds. The first is called “abol” (meaning “first” in Amharic), the second “tona” (second) and the third, “baraka” (blessing).

Watch the Nations, nationalities and peoples’ song by clicking here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5nnKy6atEUU>

Please note: due to public holidays in Belgium, the Embassy will be closed on Monday the 6th of April and Friday the 10th of April

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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