

Newsletter

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An Ethiopian wolf in the Simien Mountains, Ethiopia © Harri J

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POLITICAL ISSUES

Ethiopia's successful fight against Hunger recognized by FAO

FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva recognized Ethiopia's achievements in the fight against hunger at a ceremony held on 9 June 2015 in Rome during the 39th session of FAO conference. One of the Millennium Development Goals is the halting of extreme poverty and hunger, and Ethiopia has made impressive steps in this direction. According to the World Bank, "poverty in Ethiopia fell from 44 percent in 2000 to 30 percent in 2011, that is a 33 percent reduction in the share of people living in poverty". The figure fell to 25 percent in 2013. Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn who attended the ceremony in Rome said Ethiopia had come a long way from being the poster child of hunger and food insecurity, to become one of the few countries in the world to have turned the corner in the fight against hunger and extreme poverty. He said "we have now created a situation where our peoples' resilience in the face of the vagaries of climate change-induced drought simply means there is hardly any danger

that even a single individual will die of starvation." The Prime Minister said Ethiopia was now in a new historic chapter in which smallholder family farmers were no longer obsessed with survival but with ways to move out of the status quo and "embrace the world of wealth". Certainly, the Prime Minister said, there were still millions struggling to make ends meet but the specter of famine has been essentially relegated to the dust bin of history. As 2011 demonstrated, even the worst drought in sixty years did not result in famine even in the previously famine prone areas of the country. The reasons, said the Prime Minister, were very clear: "We have managed through the hard work and dedication of our people and unwavering leadership to create communities that are resilient to shocks such as drought", and build up robust communities in the face of natural calamities.

Source: MFA Ethiopia

South Sudan consultation talks begin in Addis Ababa

Delegations from the Government of South Sudan, the SPLM-in-Opposition and the SPLM (former detainees) arrived in Addis Ababa for negotiations on Monday 8 June 2015. The talks amounted to consultations on an agenda for further talks among the principals, possible ways forward and the new negotiating mechanism, "IGAD Plus" which will include the IGAD mediation together with the African Union, European Union, the Troika of Britain, the United States, and Norway and China as additional mediators. According to the AU timetable, South Sudan is expected to form a

Transitional Government of National Unity by 9 July 2015, so the warring factions have only one month left to form an internationally-mandated power-sharing government. With only a month to go, there is concern that the deadline will not be met. The last round of talks ended in early March without any kind of agreement and IGAD's Chief Mediator, Ambassador Seyoum emphasized then that the warring parties must not fail to find a lasting peaceful solution. He said the whole world was watching the conflict in South Sudan and he called on IGAD, the AU and the United Nations and all international partners "to join us in calling for an

end to this conflict now.”

The warring parties have signed and broken several ceasefire agreements since January 2014 and fighting has been continuing in recent weeks in Unity State and elsewhere. The lead negotiator for the South Sudan Government, Nhial Deng Nhial, expressed his commitment to bring peace to the country and urged opposition leadership and the other stakeholders invited by IGAD to the consultation to realize that it was time for people to unite instead of pulling down the country for “self-

serving purposes.” He said the President had given him the go-ahead to engage the SPLM-IO and the other stakeholders in frank and honest consultations so that “we can set the agenda of negotiations”. A spokesperson for the for Riek Machar said the SPLM-in-Opposition remained committed to the peace process but hoped the Government would, this time, accept that a military solution was “too unrealistic” to be achieved and it would therefore participate in serious and frank negotiations on critical issues.

Source: MFA Ethiopia

ACP - EU Council of Ministers discuss sustainable development and human trafficking

In their annual meeting on 28-29 May 2015, EU and ACP Ministers focused their discussions on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, in particular financing for development and climate change. They undertook to work together towards the preparation of the global discussions on these issues in Addis Ababa, New York and Paris later this year.

H.E. Ambassador Teshome Toga who lead the Ethiopian delegation in the council meeting briefed the participant about the successfully held 5th General Election and also about the preparation Ethiopia is undertaking to host the third UN Conference on Financing For Development and urged the council meeting participants to send the highest level of their government representative for a successful outcome.

Following the recent tragic events in the Mediterranean, the Ministers also exchanged views on the issue of migration and development. They condemned the networks which organise human trafficking with complete disregard for human lives and called for urgent action to combat such networks. They also endorsed recommendations on trafficking and smuggling of migrants.

The Council had an exchange of views on the future of private sector development in ACP countries.

Ministers also discussed several trade-related issues, in particular the state-of-play of the Economic Partnership Agreements, the impact of TTIP on ACP countries, as well as specific commodities issues of particular relevance to ACP countries. They had an exchange of views on the European Year for Development and on Climate Change in view of the Conference to be held in Paris later this year.

The ACP Council of Ministers is the Group’s main decision-making body. It is the supreme body responsible for implementing the guidelines laid down by the ACP Summit. Ministerial sectoral meetings are held regularly, namely, Meeting of Trade Ministers, Meeting of Ministers of Culture.

Sources: European Council and ACP

ECONOMY

African Leaders sign Tripartite Free Trade Area agreement

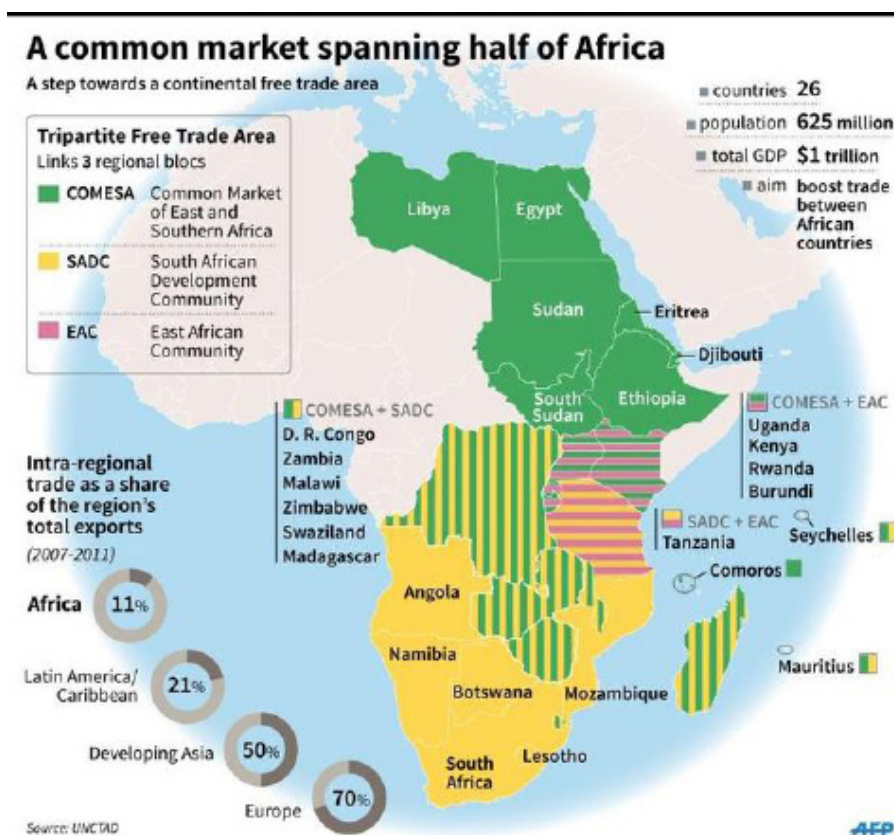
Leaders from 26 African countries signed a Tripartite Free Trade Area Agreement on 10 June 2015 to create a common market covering half the continent. The agreement was reached among Southern African Development Community (SADC), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and East African Community (EAC) in Egypt.

The deal integrates three existing trade blocs whose countries have a combined Gross Domestic Product of more than one trillion USD and eases the movement of goods in an area home to 625 million people. The Tripartite Free Trade Area countries comprise of 58 percent of the continent's total GDP.

Chairman of COMESA, Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn stated on the occasion that the agreement would enable Africa to create a continental economic integration and to build its capacity in various sectors. He further indicated that the agreement will contribute to the continent's peace and stability, ICT, infrastructure, and to attract foreign direct investment, among others.

In order to materialize the agreement, signatory countries must ratify it in two years' time by their respective national parliaments.

Source: ENA



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Country's first modern real estate to be built with 4 billion Birr

The first modern real estate comprising scores of buildings will be built in Addis Ababa with four billion birr. The construction of the real estate to be carried out by a joint partnership of the Chinese private real estate company, Sino Mark, and Saba Engineering Company will have swimming pools, sport centers, trade area, children's playground and green area.

The real estate to be built on 60 square meters around Gotera will have 21 buildings with a height of each over 20 floors. Laying down the foundation, President Mulatu Teshome said the construction sector has been contributing 10 percent to domestic growth of countries. Real Estate and similar projects have been contributing 12.5 percent for the domestic growth of Ethiopia in the past 10 years, he noted. According to him, the sector has been

creating job opportunities to thousands, and this real estate would create 500 jobs.

Director-General of Sino Mark, Yan Sin Li said on his part his company will construct high quality modern real estate based on French design. It would take three years to complete the construction of the real estate, Li said, adding that his company will however complete it within two years and a half. The real estate will change the face of Addis Ababa, he added.

Source: ENA



中国地产-皇家御苑 鸟瞰图二

Sinomark Royal Garden Aerial view 2

The last track for the new Djibouti to Addis Ababa railway to be laid this week

President Ismail Omar Guelleh and Prime Minister Hailemariam attended the ceremonial laying down of the last track for the new 752 km railway between Djibouti and Addis Ababa on 11 June 2015. The first scheduled train is expected to use the line in October. The new railway will reduce the transport time between the two capitals to less than 10 hours and take up much of the road traffic. Currently some 1,500 trucks use the road every day between Djibouti and Ethiopia. Without the relief offered by the railway this would rise to 8,000, what would not

be technically possible. The new electrified line will have a capacity of 3,500 tonnes, seven times more than the old line, completed in 1917, used to have. Djibouti's Transport Minister Ahmed Moussa Hassan says Ethiopia is the main customer for Djibouti's logistics facilities and that this new railway line will strengthen trade. The line has largely financed and built by China. The new line is also considered to be a step towards a trans-continental line reaching all the way to West Africa.

Source: MFA Ethiopia

Extra energy production for the Growth and Transformation Plan 2

Ethiopia plans to launch additional hydropower dams and other renewable energy projects over the next five years that will add an additional 12,000 megawatts of electricity upon completion. During the Growth and Transformation Plan I (GTP I), which ends this year, work started on the USD 4.1 billion Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, and the USD 1.8 billion Gilgel Gibe 3 which will start to generate power in July 2015. Together when complete the dams will boost generating capacity from the current 2,400 MW to more than 10,000 MW. Under the Growth and Transformation Plan II, due to be endorsed by Parliament in October 2015, another 12,000 MW will be added to the country's power output. Ms. Azeb Asnake, Chief Executive of Ethiopian Electric Power, said that the plan called for the additional projects to be financed at least 50 percent from internal sources and the rest from grants, soft loans and commercial loans from foreign banks or similar sources. Dams on several of the tributaries of the Omo and the Nile are part of the plan but solar,

wind and geothermal projects are also planned. The Government said four years ago that it planned to launch projects to raise generating capacity to 20,000 megawatts by 2020. The completion of GTP I and GTP II will allow for slightly more than that once the projects are completed. The priority is to satisfy domestic needs but this amount of power will also allow for exports. Small amounts are already being sold to Sudan, Kenya and Djibouti and Memoranda of Understanding have also been signed with South Sudan, Tanzania and Rwanda. There is also the possibility of an underwater power link with Yemen which is under discussion. In the longer term, export of power will be offered to countries in northern and southern Africa. Ms. Azeb said Ethiopia had the resources to power a very large part of Africa.

Source: MFA Ethiopia

ENVIRONMENT

Oxfam reacts positively to Ethiopia's climate strategy

In response to today's submission of Ethiopia's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Tim Gore, Oxfam's international climate adviser, made the following statement:

"Oxfam welcomes the ambitious INDC from Ethiopia, as it sets far-reaching short-term and long-term goals on adaptation and reducing emissions. The emission reduction target of at least 64% by 2030 underpins the country's strategy, which counts on the active participation of all citizens in achieving the planned goals, in particular farmers and pastoralists. Ethiopia's INDC also aims to integrate actions that improve the status of women

and the welfare of children.

"Ethiopia's strategy to build a climate resilient green economy is showing the way to rich countries - from Australia to Japan - who have yet to announce their final countries commitments ahead of the critical climate summit in Paris in December.

"To deliver this plan, international climate finance will be essential. This shows why it is imperative that rich countries deliver on their existing commitments on climate finance, including to the Green Climate Fund, and prepare to make new ones in Paris for the post-2020 period."

Source: <http://oxf.am/ZAae>

AGENDA & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ethiopian Diaspora Day / Oromo Diaspora Festival

The Ethiopian Diaspora day will be celebrated in Addis Ababa from 12 to 16 August 2015 as well as the Oromia Diaspora Festival from 3 to 10 August 2015. The diaspora members who are interested to attend should register at the Ethiopian Embassy (contacts below). Participants of the Oromia Diaspora Festival who purchase their tickets between 3 and 30 June 2015 and are travelling between 29 June 2015 and 3 August 2015 will secure a 40 percent discount on their flights with Ethiopian Airlines. Luggage: 2PCs per person (32 kg). This discount will be secured

via supporting letter from the Ethiopian Embassy (Brussels) to Ethiopian Airlines ticket offices.

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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