

Newsletter

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Terraced Mountains, Tigray Region, Northern Ethiopia © Alan Davey

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POLITICAL ISSUES

Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam and UN Deputy Secretary General held discussion

Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn held talks with Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Jan Eliasson in Johannesburg on 15 June 2015 at the margins of the 25th African Union Summit in South Africa. Among other topics, they discussed the third International Conference on Financing for Development to be held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2015, the South Sudanese peace process, and peace and stability in Somalia. At this occasion, the Ethiopian Prime Minister confirmed that his country

finalized preparation to successfully conduct the conference.

According to Ethiopia's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Tedros Adhanom, the talks between Hailemariam and Eliasson focused on making the conference a success. They also discussed on the continuation of Ethiopia's role in the efforts to bring lasting resolution to the crisis in South Sudan, and sustaining relative peace in Somalia.

Source: ena.gov.et

Prime Minister Hailemariam launches the IGAD-Plus mediation on South Sudan

The IGAD-Plus mediation on South Sudan was launched on 14 June 2015. Ethiopia's Prime Minister Hailemariam, Chairperson of the IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government, said IGAD firmly believed that IGAD-PLUS would enable IGAD to continue to provide leadership to the mediation process through the facilitation of the negotiations between the South Sudanese parties while the other members of IGAD-PLUS could provide unequivocal and solid support. He said IGAD had been quick to take the initiative to engage the parties to stop the conflict and begin negotiations to resolve the dispute. IGAD had the full and consistent support of the African Union and the international community. The Prime Minister said although the war continued the Mediation had achieved substantive progress in addressing some of the critical issues in the peace process. The major problems were now the structure of the executive and power sharing arrangements among the top leadership but a few other issues remained to be resolved. The Parties could sign a comprehensive agreement to bring sustainable peace and stability to South Sudan, he said.

Prime Minister Hailemariam noted the Peace and Security Council of the African Union had established the AU High-Level Ad-hoc Committee of Heads of State and Government from Algeria, Chad, Nigeria, Rwanda and South Africa, to strengthen Africa's support to IGAD and assist South Sudanese Parties and stakeholders to achieve durable peace. It was, he said, within this context, that the IGAD-PLUS framework had been developed. He said the core concept had been amended by the IGAD Council of Ministers and was now ready for distribution and implementation. The joint efforts of IGAD and partners allowed for enriched political, diplomatic and financial support and enhanced ownership of the final Agreements by the parties involved and their successful implementation. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement for Sudan, and the conclusion of the protracted peace process in Somalia were concrete examples of the success of such partnerships for peace, he said. The Chief Mediator, Ambassador Seyoum Mesfin briefed the meeting on what IGAD-PLUS meant, noting that the process remained an IGAD-led peace process,

providing an African solution to the crisis but with partners playing their own role to support the peace process. The IGAD meeting agreed that it was

important to approach the issue internationally and use every effort to achieve a breakthrough.

Source: MFA Ethiopia

ECONOMY

Authority collects ETB 116 billion revenue in the last eleven months

Ethiopian Customs and Revenue Authority (ECRA) says it has collected ETB 116 billion revenue in the last 11 months of this budget year 2014-2015. The authority collected ETB 116 billion from customs tariffs, revenue taxes and net profit of national lottery services in the last budget year of the GTP. Utilizing different modern technologies enables the Authority to collect taxes appropriately. The identifications of tax payers was also undertaken by using finger prints data from 2.5 million people across the country. The authority uses the SIGTAS software (Standard Integrated Government Tax Administration System) to carry out the taxing

system properly.

The Authority has been providing educations, trainings, panel discussions and home to home mentoring for the tax payers across the nation in order to create awareness on the rules and regulations of taxation.

Currently the annual tax revenue of the country covers 80 percent of the total spending of the nation, while the country aims to cover 100 percent of its spending with the total tax revenue in the GTP II period.

Source: Walta Information Center

Ethiopia emerges as Africa's most favorable investment spot

The recently concluded World Economic Forum (WEF) on Africa saw strong growth and investment winds gravitate towards Ethiopia, the famous political capital of Africa. Multiple media reports suggest that executives from General Electric, Dow Chemical, Standard Bank Group and MasterCard, who attended the event, singled out the East African nation as a market with strong growth potential.

In the last two years, Ethiopia has risen from the fourteenth place on the list of African foreign direct investment (FDI) recipients to the second place and the number of projects in the country have spiked

by 88 percent. This is a direct result of a flourishing economy and a well-funded government.

"It's got a government that is managing economic development in a very deliberate, cautious manner. It's the second-most populous country in Africa. It hasn't urbanized like other African countries, but it's going to. It's a very exciting place," remarked Ross McLean, Dow Chemical's sub-Saharan African President.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) says growth projections for Ethiopia are 8.6 percent for 2015 and 8.5 percent the following year, this correlates with historic growth of 10.3 percent in 2014.

Such impressive growth potential, in a world characterized by slowing growth, continues to attract significant foreign capital and businesses into the country. Recently, the Dangote Group, announced a \$500 million expansion of its cement plant in Ethiopia, an addition to the \$600 million already invested

“We will leave no stone unturned to make this country a suitable destination for foreign investment,” Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn

said at the opening of a production plant at Muger, about 80 kilometers (50 miles) west of Addis Ababa.

The emergence of Ethiopia comes with lots of lessons for Africa, all of which hover around the power of effective and purposeful leadership as well as the prudent management of resources. It also demonstrates that a country faced with socioeconomic hassles and infrastructure gaps can effect a turnaround by doing the right things.

Source: <http://ethio.be/1Gj6FqE>

National Poultry Training Centre launched at ETB 9.7 million

The National Poultry Training Centre, which will operate under the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR), was officially launched on 9 June 2015 in Bishoftu, Debre Zeit. Its establishment cost the Ethiopian Government ETB four million while equipment worth EUR 250,000 was contributed by the Dutch Government and Holland-Africa Poultry Partners (HAPP).

HAPP is a partnership of companies, NGOs and knowledge institutes from the Netherlands with an

interest in the international poultry market, although its website emphasises Ethiopia. The HAPP’s “know-how is now made available for Ethiopia”, it says. According to the website, its activity so far in Ethiopia includes “knowledge seminars about commercial and sustainable poultry farming, practical training sessions, the set up of a training and demonstration farm, incoming and outgoing trade missions and participation in Ethiopian poultry trade fairs.”

The launching ceremony was attended by Gebregziabher Gebreyohannes (PhD.), State



Opening of the National Poultry Training Centre. Picture © Netherlands-African Business Council

Minister for Livestock at the Ministry of Agriculture, Lidi Rimmelzwaal, Ambassador of the Netherlands, and Fantahun Mengistu (Phd), director of the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR).

The centre has 35 trainers, including some from the Netherlands, with the minimum requirement for trainers being a diploma in animal science. Courses extend from one to three months. Registration started the day before the launching, with 30 trainees coming forward on the first day. The plan is to train 16,000 people annually as well as to deliver 3.2 million chickens to small and medium poultry enterprises in five years' time, including egg layers and broilers.

Courses to be given at the Institute include Poultry Feeding and Feeds, Health Management, Hatchery Management and Poultry Equipment Management.

Various types of equipment from the Netherlands have been installed at the centre, which will be the demonstration farm for the HAPP. Housing and feeding equipment by Vencomatic Group & VDL Agrotech, solar energy equipment by Alius Energy, and hatchery equipment by PAS reform are included among them.

Information from HAPP indicated that after being

shipped from the Netherlands, the equipment arrived at the Port of Djibouti in December 2014 but it took until early February 2015 to be cleared, and it took several months for it to be delivered to the centre.

The equipment, which is semi-automated, will improve egg production from 310 eggs per chicken per year by manual methods to 355, explained Jan Kampschoer, project manager of De Heus Animal Nutrition, an animal feed producing company from the Netherlands.

Shortage of quality and affordable feed, vaccines, chicken inputs, breeds and training are behind the low productivity in the poultry sector, said Auke Boere, local representative of Netherlands-Africa Business Council, noting that the new training centre, if managed sustainably will improve productivity.

According to Gebregziabher, other constraints are low breeding species, endemic diseases and lack of skilled manpower.

Developing the sector could serve the growing demands of the population as the country progresses towards middle income status, he said.

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HEALTH

Ethiopia has successfully interrupted transmission of the Wild Polio Virus

The external assessment team that conducted the final Polio outbreak assessment in Ethiopia in June 2015 has confirmed that Ethiopia has successfully interrupted the transmission of the Wild Polio Virus outbreak nearly two years after the outbreak was confirmed in the Horn of Africa. The assessment team, composed of experts from the US Centers for Disease Control, Rotary International, USAID,

the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, CORE Group, UNICEF, WHO/HQ and WHO Horn of Africa Polio Coordination Office, has been evaluating the response undertaken since the start of the outbreak in all three affected countries – Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia. The assessment also confirmed whether the outbreak response met global standards and whether polio transmission had been interrupted. The last WPV case was reported from Kenya on 14

July 2013, from Ethiopia on 5 January 2014 and from Somalia 11 August 2014.

The final assessment in Ethiopia involved meetings with the Ministry of Health, ICC and selected partners and the team received updates from the Ministry and partners on key issues related to the response in Ethiopia including routine immunization progress, supplemental immunization activities, surveillance, laboratory support at EPHI, communication, coordination and funding aspects. The team presented their findings, conclusions and recommendations to the Ministry of Health on 12 June 2015, in the presence of the country representatives of WHO and UNICEF. They recognized the significant improvement in the quality of the response since the onset of the outbreak and appreciated the role

of the coordination mechanisms established for the outbreak response at national, regional and zonal levels. The assessment acknowledged the collective efforts of the Federal Ministry of health, the Somali Regional Health Bureau, Dollo Zone Administration, communities, partners and donors in the outbreak response. Dr. Kebede Worku, State Minister of Health, welcomed the assessment team's conclusions and recommendations and emphasized that the Ministry would continue to implement its Immunization Program. He said it would also follow the assessment team's recommendations on updating the outbreak preparedness and response plan and sustaining the coordination mechanisms for strengthening the surveillance system and routine immunization to increase population immunity.

Source: MFA Ethiopia

AGENDA & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ethiopian Diaspora Day / Oromia 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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ታላቅ የኢትዮጵያ የዲያስፖራ ቀን በአዲስ አበባ

ለመጀመሪያ ጊዜ የኢትዮጵያ የዲያስፖራ ቀን በዓል ኢ.ኤ.አ ከኮንት 12-16/2015 በአዲስ አበባ በደማቅ ስነ-ስርዓት ይከበራል። በበዓሉ ላይ ለመገኘት ፍላጎት ካልዎት ብራሰልስ በሚገኘው የኢትዮጵያ ኤምባሲ መመዝገብ ይቸላሉ። ለበዓሉ የኢትዮጵያ አየር

መንገድ 10% የአየር ቲኬት ቅናሽ የያዘረገ አድርጓል፡ ለመሆኑም በዕድሉ ተጠቅመው የዕረፍት ጊዜዎን በበዓሉ ላይ በመገኘት በሚወዷት ሀገርዎ ያሳልፉ።

ታላቅ የዳኖስፖራ ፌስቲቫል በኦሮሚያ

የኦሮሚያ ብሔራዊ ክልላዊ መንግስት ለክልሉ ተወላጆች በዓይነቱ ልዩ የሆነ የዳኖስፖራ ፌስቲቫል እ.ኤ.አ ከኮንት 3-10 ቀን 2015 በውቢቷ አዳማ ከሞቀ አቀባበል ጋር አዘጋጅቶ ይጠብቅታል። በክልሉ ቆይታዎ ነጻ መኝታና የትራንስፖርት አገልግሎት እንዲያገኙ እንዲሁም የክልሉን የልማት እንቅስቃሴ እንዲጎበኙ ይደረጋል።

የኢትዮጵያ አየር መንገድ ከክልሉ መንግስት ጋር በመተባበር በፌስቲቫሉ ለመሳተፍ እ.ኤ.አ ከጁን 3- ጁን 30/2015 ትኬቶችን ለሚገዙ እና ከጁላይ 29-ኮንት 3/2015 ለሚገዙ 40% የአየር ትኬት ቅናሽ አዘጋጅቷል። የሻንጣ መጠን በመንገደኛ 2PC/32ኪ.ግ. ነው።

በፌስቲቫሉ ላይ ለመገኘት ፍላጎት ካልዎት ብራሰልስ በሚገኘው የኢትዮጵያ ኤምባሲ በመመዘን ለኢትዮጵያ አየር መንገድ ከኤምባሲው የሚጻፈውን የትብብር በድብዳቤ መውሰድዎን አይዘንጉ። በዕድሉ ተጠቅመውም በፌስቲቫሉ ላይ በመሳተፍ የክልልዎን

የልማት እንቅስቃሴ ይመልከቱ። ለበለጠ መረጃ ብራሰልስ በሚገኘው የኢትዮጵያ ኤምባሲ የዳኖስፖራ ዘርፍ በግንባር በቅረብ ወይም በሚከተለው አጵራሻ በመገልገል መመዘን ይችላሉ።

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