

# Newsletter

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Sunrise on Lake Tana, Ethiopia. Picture Mariusz Kluzniak

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# POLITICAL ISSUES

## President Obama’s visit to Ethiopia

Between July 26 to 28/2015, the first sitting President of the United States of America, Barack Obama, made a three-days visit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. During his stay, the American President held talks on bilateral and regional issues with the Prime Minister of the Federal



**President Barack Obama arriving at the Bole International Airport on 26 July 2015**

Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. He also met with the President Dr. Mulatu Teshome. He made a historic speech at the African Union on a range of issues that includes human rights, good governance, democratization, etc. During his bilateral consultation with Ethiopian officials, both sides have agreed on several issues, including geothermal power generation, cooperation in the field of intelligence, fight against terrorism, on trade and investment, institutional capacity building and human rights.

After the bilateral discussions on 27 July 2015 the Ethiopian Prime Minister and the American President gave a press conference. President

Barack Obama said, he was proud to be the first sitting US President visiting Ethiopia. “My visit reflects the importance the United States places on our relationship with Ethiopia and all the nations and peoples of Africa”. Ethiopia and the United States of America share a longstanding friendship for more than 100 years, and connections between the peoples of the two countries are deep, he said.

The American President pointed out that Ethiopia is one of the fastest-growing economies in the world and one of the biggest economies in Africa. In the past 15 years, Ethiopia has lifted millions of people out of

poverty. This economic performance forced the US to shift its strategy from just providing aid to strengthening economic cooperation. With the recent renewal of African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), the American economy is further opening its markets to Ethiopia.

The visiting President furthermore underlined Ethiopia is a key partner of the United States in the fight against terrorism and to built lasting peace in the Horn of Africa region. “Ethiopia’s contribution to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) has reduced areas under



**President Barack Obama and Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn during the press conference in Addis Ababa on 27 July 2015**

The US President and the Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia frankly discussed on how to further promote good governance, protect human rights and strengthen democracy in Ethiopia. According to President Obama, people’s inclusion in the political process accelerates economic development. Ethiopia is a strong partner of the US and should continue to foster its democracy, he also said.

Al-Shabaab control. This past week, Ethiopian troops have helped to retake two major Al-Shabab strongholds, we have now to keep the pressure on”. President Obama said Ethiopia has the opportunity to extend its leadership in a way it benefits its people and it sets a “positive example” in the region. Ethiopia is also a key-partner to resolve the crisis in South Sudan, the President said.

On his part, the Prime Minister of the Federal

Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Hailemariam Desalegn said that US investors will now be encouraged to come to Ethiopia in large numbers. At bilateral levels, the talks contributed to enrich understanding to fight climate change and work for the success of the COP21 conference in Paris in December 2015. The Ethiopian government has furthermore clearly expressed its commitment to deepen

the need to strengthen institutions and build capacities, the Premier said a strong support is expected from the United States. Cooperation with the US is also vital for security and peace building in countries like Somalia and South Sudan. The two partners said they are ready to intensify the campaign against terrorism in the region.

On 28 July 2015, Barack Obama made a historic



**President Barack Obama during his speech at the African Union headquarters on 28 July 2015**

the democratization process in the country, and work to increase the respect of human rights and to improve good governance. “Our commitment to democracy is real, not skin deep”, the Prime Minister said. Underlining

speech at the African Union headquarters, both “as a proud American” and “as the son of an African”. He emphasized that the dignity of every person is the only foundation of a modern society, in Africa and elsewhere in

the world. Africa has achieved “extraordinary progress” among others in economy, education and health, and stereotypes about the continent are changing. The world must recognize this: “Africa is on the move, a new Africa is emerging”. The President said that during his trip to Africa, he encountered young people having a real eagerness and optimism to achieve more prosperity on the continent. But along these progresses, good governance needs to be fostered, he reminded. The US are ready to be the “best friend” of Africa to work on the issue of governance. One of the most fundamental principles, he stressed, is that nobody can stand above the law. US President Barack Obama further said that women empowerment will play crucial role for Africa’s growth and prosperity, and that real development could only be achieved if women are playing an active role in the society. Good governance and accommodation of diversities are also the best weapons against terrorism and instability. Africa’s progress will depend upon the respect of human rights of all people.

A festive reception was organized at the National Palace of Ethiopia in the presence of

the President, the Prime Minister, the deputy Prime Minister, other Ministers, high officials, opposition political parties, ambassadors and representatives of civil society organizations and religious leaders. The President tasted the Ethiopian organic coffee and attended an Ethiopian cultural dance show staged in his honor. During his visit in Addis Ababa, he was introduced to the remains of Lucy, “the ancestor of humanity”, 3.2 million years old. At the state dinner, President Obama told the guests Lucy is a reminder that the world’s people are part of the same human family.

This visit of the American President to Ethiopia shows the existing strategic partnership between the two countries and the strong people-to-people relation. It has to be analyzed as the continuation of a strong collaboration, which had already been confirmed in New York in September 2014, when Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn met the President and discussed a range of issues of cooperation at bilateral and multilateral fronts, that includes economic development, good governance, regional stability and the fight against terrorism.

## Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan agreed to consider French and Dutch consultancy firms for study

On 25 July 2015, Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan have agreed with the presentation made by the French Consultancy firm BRL Engineers that was selected to conduct studies on the socio-economic and environmental impact of the Great Ethiopian Renaissance Dam on the downstream countries, the Ethiopian Ministry



**Tweet by the Ethiopian Minister of Water, Irrigation and Energy Alemayehu Tegenu about the successful Tripartite National Committee meeting on 25 July 2015.**

of Water, Irrigation and Energy Alemayehu Tegenu said.

This agreement between the three nations was reached during the 7th Technical National Committee (TNC) tripartite ministerial discussions held in Khartoum from 22 to 24 July 2015. Alemayehu Tegenu, the Ethiopian Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy reminded that the three countries selected the French firm BRL Engineers as the main consultant during the last meeting in Addis Ababa and the Netherlands delta raise as sub consultant.

According to Alemayehu, this tripartite agreement at ministerial level was needed

to commence the activities of the main consultancy firm. The 8th tripartite technical committee meeting will be held on 26 August 2015 in Addis Ababa.

The GERD hydropower project is at the center of Ethiopia's development strategy and will play a pivotal role to achieve the status of middle income country by 2025. The construction of this flagship project started in 2011, and is expected to be completed by 2017. Its total cost is estimated at USD 4.7 billion, and it is entirely funded by the Ethiopian Government and the Ethiopian population. In March 2015, Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia signed a declaration of principles on the dam.

## ECONOMY

### Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation and Corbetti Geothermal Company sign power purchase agreement

On 27 July 2015, the Governemnt of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia signed an agreement to buy electricity from a geothermal power plant being developed by the Corbetti Geothermal Power project. The project involves several companies and is supported by the US program "Power Africa". Ethiopia agreed to purchase power at USD 0.0753 per KW/H in an accord signed during President Barack Obama's visit to Ethiopia. Companies participating in the project include Reykjavik Geothermal Ltd



(Iceland) and Berkeley Energy (Kenya).

Developing the first 20 megawatts of power output at Corbetti will cost USD 100 million, all of which will come from Reykjavik, Icelandic Drilling Co. and the African Renewable Energy Fund managed by Berkeley Energy. A total of USD 2 billion is required for generation of the full 500 MW, which is expected to be completed by about 2023.

Ethiopia is expanding its electricity production to supply power to its growing economy that

expanded at a faster pace than any other African country over the past fifteen years. Ethiopia's 25-year energy strategy is to invest USD 100 billion, according to the Foreign Ministry. Ethiopia's current power production stands at around 2,300 MW and exports 60 MW of electricity to neighboring Djibouti and around 100mw to Sudan, providing a considerable boost to the country's income.

Read the full article on Bloomberg:

<http://ethio.be/1H6lOM3>

## DIASPORA

### Diaspora Day to enhance contribution to GERD project

From 12 to 16 August 2015, the Ethiopian Diaspora Day will be celebrated in Ethiopia. It will help to enhance Diaspora participation in the construction of the Grand Dam being built over the Nile, the National Council for the Coordination of Public Participation of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) said.

Media and Communication Head of the Council, Fekadu Ketema said that the celebration is aimed to strengthen diaspora participation in the development endeavors of the country. Contribution of the Diaspora for the GERD is "good but not satisfactory" compared to the number of Ethiopians living abroad, he said. The celebration will provide opportunity for the Diaspora to visit the project being

underway in Benishangul regional state, and assess business and investment opportunities in the country, he added. The celebrations will be carried out in Addis Ababa, and Benishangul regional state, where the dam is being built. Visit to major investment projects is also included in the program.

Over USD 30 million has been collected from Ethiopian Diaspora through bond sale since the launch of the construction of the dam. Preparations are being finalized to sale bonds to the Diaspora during the celebration which is expected to attract 5000 to 10,000 diaspora members from all over the world.

Source: ENA



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ታላቅ የዳያስፖራ ፌስቲቫል በኦሮሚያ

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

በፌስቲቫሉ ላይ ለመገኘት ፍላጎት ካልዎት ብራሰልስ በሚገኘው የኢትዮጵያ ኤምባሲ በመመዘገብ ለኢትዮጵያ አደር መንገድ ከኤምባሲው የሚጻፈውን የትብብር በድብዳቤ

መውሰድዎን አይዘንጉ። በዕድሉ ተጠቅመውም በፌስቲቫሉ ላይ በመሳተፍ የክልልዎን የልማት እንቅስቃሴ ይመልከቱ።

ለበለጠ መረጃ ብራሰልስ በሚገኘው የኢትዮጵያ ኤምባሲ የዳያስፖራ ዘርፍ በግንባር በቅረብ ወይም በሚከተለው አድራሻ በመገልገል መመዘገብ ይቻላል።

ስልክ:- 003227713294

ኢሜል:- info@ethiopianembassy.be

ድረ-ገጽ www.ethiopianembassy.be

## ታላቅ የኢትዮጵያ ዳያስፖራ ቀን በአዲስ አበባ

ለመጀመሪያ ጊዜ የኢትዮጵያ የዳያስፖራ ቀን በዓል እ.ኤ.አ ከኦገስት 12-16/2015 በአዲስ አበባ በደማቅ ስነ-ስርዓት ይከበራል። በበዓሉ ላይ ለመገኘት ፍላጎት ካልዎት ብራሰልስ በሚገኘው

የኢትዮጵያ ኤምባሲ መመዘገብ ይቻላል። ለበዓሉ የኢትዮጵያ አደር መንገድ 10% የአደር ቲኬት ቅናሽ የያደረገ አድርጓል። በመሆኑም በዕድሉ ተጠቅመው የዕረፍት ጊዜዎን በበዓሉ ላይ በመገኘት በሚወዷት ሀገርዎ ያሳልፉ።

## 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 in Brussels (contacts below). Participants of the Addis Ababa Diaspora

Festival can secure a 10 percent discount via a support letter from the Embassy.

Phone - 003227713294

Mail - info@ethiopianembassy.be

Website - www.ethiopianembassy.be

## 8th Ethio-Chamber International Trade Fair

The Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Associations (ECCSA) is organizing the 8th Ethio-Chamber International Trade Fair from 5 to 9 November 2015 at the Addis Ababa Exhibition Center & Market Development Enterprise. The overall objective is to contribute to the development of competitive industry and business sector mainly through the promotion of products and services.

The Trade Fair is expected to bring together large number of manufacturers, importers, exporters, local and foreign companies supplying raw materials and technological inputs to local manufacturers, service giving enterprises and prospective buyers to one spot. It is a good opportunity to create new business linkage and strengthen existing partnership. Furthermore, investment opportunities of the country will be introduced to stakeholders and prospective investors, therefore, it avails a chance to introduce your products and services, and promote your business in a country that has a population of more than 90 million.

What makes the 8th Ethio-Chamber International Trade Fair so unique is that it promotes the use of appropriate technology and provides an opportunity for exchange

of knowledge and experience. Latest technologies in various sectors of development will be staged in a separate setup. Moreover, to strengthen partnership between the academia/researchers/innovators and the industry/business sector, selected innovative ideas and products that are recognized by the Ministry of Science and Technology will be introduced.

You are cordially invited to participate in this Grand International Trade Fair. You can download a booklet (<http://ethio.be/1HPzK42>) containing relevant information as well as registration and sponsorship forms. We would appreciate it very much if you could kindly confirm your participation as soon as possible. To confirm your participation, please complete, sign and seal the registration form and forward it preferably through e-mail or fax if not by hand delivery or mail to the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Associations address indicated in the booklet. If you have any enquiry, please do not hesitate to contact us by clicking here: [http://ethio-tradefair.ethiopianchamber.com/?page\\_id=87](http://ethio-tradefair.ethiopianchamber.com/?page_id=87)

Download the booklet:

<http://ethio.be/1HPzK42>

### 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

Ethiopian Embassy, Avenue de Tervuren, 62, 1040 Etterbeek, Belgium  
+32 2 771 32 94 [info@ethiopianembassy.be](mailto:info@ethiopianembassy.be) [www.ethiopianembassy.be](http://www.ethiopianembassy.be)