

Newsletter

Embassy of Ethiopia, Brussels



14 August 2015
Weekly Issue N°49



Gelada Baboons, Simien Mountains. Picture by Rod Waddington

Content

POLITICAL ISSUES	3
Foreign Minister Dr. Tedros opened Annual Conference of Ethiopian Ambassadors, Consuls General and Directors General.....	3
SOCIAL ISSUES.....	4
Oromo Diaspora vows to boost participation in Ethiopian renaissance	4
The 2015 Ethiopian Diaspora Festival opened on 12 August in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.....	5
REGIONAL ISSUES	6
Prime Minister Hailemariam and President Kenyatta met in Uganda over South-Sudan Crisis	6
INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMY	7
Ethiopia's Ambitious Goal To Go Green	7
Turbines at Gibe III to begin trail production of electric power.....	9
AGENDA.....	9
Energy talks to be held in Ethiopia in October	9

POLITICAL ISSUES

Foreign Minister Dr. Tedros opened Annual Conference of Ethiopian Ambassadors, Consuls General and Directors General

On 11 August 2015, Foreign Minister Dr. Tedros Adhanom opened the Annual Conference of Ambassadors, Consuls General and Directors General in Addis Ababa. The Foreign Minister briefed the participants on the performance of the Ministry over the previous year, ranging from the remarkable gains in the areas of peace and security to trade and investment. Dr. Tedros noted that the signing of a Declaration of Principles (DoP) between Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt was heraldic of a new era of cooperation over the use of the Nile waters, on the basis of win-win outcomes and mutual benefit. Dr. Tedros emphasized that the cooperative partnership between Ethiopia and Djibouti is on the rise and reaching a new height, adding that this momentum further increases the two countries' efforts to work in tandem for the realization of full-fledged economic integration.

The Foreign Minister added that the holding of the 53rd Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in Mogadishu this



year is indicative of a positively changing political and security situation in Somalia.

He also noted that the IGAD Ministerial meeting can be regarded as an achievement in as much as it testifies the fact that Somalia is open for business to the world. He said that the implementation of the Addis Ababa Agreement signed between the Jubaland administration and the Federal Government of Somalia is on the right track, paving the way for the creation of regional state formation, adding that the Agreement facilitated by Ethiopia is a noteworthy achievement, as it is bringing peace in the Jubaland administration. He also mentioned that public diplomacy team's visits to Egypt and Sudan conveyed the objective of building trust and fraternal ties as well as Ethiopia's desire for mutual growth and strong bond. He noted that President Obama's visit to

Ethiopia is a reflection of the consistent and principled engagement of the leadership of the two countries, underlining that this historic visit opens a new dawn for more progress in areas of common interest. Dr. Tedros indicated that Ethiopia's success in hosting of the Third Conference on Financing for Development has brought the country into the limelight and highlighted that the conference was an equally important platform to let the world know about the overall change taking place in Ethiopia and its future political and economic

trajectory. Finally, Dr. Tedros expressed his appreciation to diplomats for quickly catching up with new era diplomacy tools (such as social media), calling upon all diplomats and missions to adopt digital diplomacy to engage with overseas publics and communicate Ethiopia's vision to the outside world. Evaluations on the performance of Ethiopian missions overseas were made following the opening of the conference.

Source: MFA Ethiopia

SOCIAL ISSUES

Oromo Diaspora vows to boost participation in Ethiopian renaissance

During the first Oromo Diaspora Festival held in the Oromiya regional state from 3 to 10 August, Diaspora community of the region expressed their commitment to consolidate their contribution for the economic growth and development of the nation. A welcoming ceremony was held at the AU headquarters on 3 August. Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, speaking on the occasion, expressed his gratitude to the members of the Oromo Diaspora for their presence and their efforts to bring a holistic change in the development process of the country.

The Prime Minister said that an active engagement by the Diaspora would have an immense benefit for the renaissance of Ethiopia. He added that Ethiopia had

achieved the highest rates of growth for the last twelve years, and that this had been most effectively backed by the Diaspora contribution in terms of knowledge, skill and leadership.

Referring specifically to the Oromo Diaspora, he again stressed that the Diaspora could and should play a pivotal role in various investment sectors, for example floriculture, livestock and fishery sectors, taking into consideration the favorable conditions in the Oromia region for modern agriculture. The Prime Minister also noted that the booming manufacturing and construction sector provided excellent opportunities for investment. He called on the Diaspora to

take part in research and development efforts in the country's universities and to promote Oromo culture and history. Overall, he wanted to see the members of the Oromo Diaspora have strongly proactive participation in the development efforts of the country and contribute towards Ethiopia's measurable growth and achievements.

Following the ceremonies of the weekend, the members of the Oromo Diaspora began a series of visits to see the development currently underway in the Oromia region and elsewhere in the country. They started their visit at the historic and holy city of Harar, visiting

historic sites as well as infrastructure projects in the region. The President of Oromia Regional State, Muktar Kedir, said the Oromia Diaspora Festival, the first of its kind, had enabled the Diaspora to witness the development of the Oromiya regional state on the ground. The members of the Diaspora who welcomed the occasion of the Festival, in addition to participating in various visits, also took part in a panel discussion focusing of the issues of development and good governance.

Source: Walta Info, MFA Ethiopia

The 2015 Ethiopian Diaspora Festival opened on 12 August in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

The first Ethiopian National Diaspora Conference opened on 12 August in Addis Ababa. The five-day conference, which aims at establishing stronger ties between all Ethiopians and their country, included a variety of celebrations and a forum on the implementation of the first Growth and Transformations Plan (GTPI) and on the upcoming second Growth and Transformations Plan (GTPII). A series of discussions on the Ethiopian Diaspora and its engagement in national development were also organized. Taking into account the fact that the Diaspora should be part of the ongoing socio-economic and political transformations of the country, Ethiopia has been putting in place a series of multi-dimensional efforts to involve the

Diaspora residing across the world in the national development process for a number of years. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, together with other stakeholders and partners, has been engaging in activities to ensure greater Diaspora participation in development. A Diaspora that is properly engaged can be of immense benefit in numerous ways: building the image of the country, strengthening people-to-people relations, building stronger relations and encouraging cooperation between the home and host countries. Equally, the Diaspora can also provide benefits in various vital areas: capital inflow, technology, knowledge and skills transfer, business and trade facilitation, inflow of remittances and creation of job

opportunities. The Opening Ceremony on 12 August took place in Millennium Hall in Addis Ababa, attended by senior government leaders, invited guests and by more than 6000 participants from different parts of the world. In his keynote speech, President Dr. Mulatu Teshome noted that Diaspora participation was pivotal for the realization of the renaissance of the country. The President urged the Diaspora community to participate in all affairs of their country: including social and economic issues, technology transfer, image building and charity activities. In the past decade, the President said, the Diaspora community

has invested over US\$24.3 billion in 3116 investment projects, including buying 600 million worth of bonds for the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD). This is a concrete example of Diaspora participation, but there is still more to do to tap the tremendous potential of the Diaspora. On 13 August, members of the Diaspora and various government leaders discussed the implementation of the first Growth and Transformations Plan (GTP) and the prospects and projections for the upcoming second Growth and Transformations Plan.

Source: MFA Ethiopia

REGIONAL ISSUES

Prime Minister Hailemariam and President Kenyatta met in Uganda over South-Sudan Crisis

On 10 August, Ethiopia's Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn was in Uganda to attend the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) summit on South Sudan. The summit came one week before the 17 August deadline set by mediators for South Sudan warring factions to ink a final peace agreement. Peace talks between South Sudan government and the armed opposition faction aimed at ending its ongoing civil war resumed in Addis Ababa last week under the IGAD-Plus peace initiative.

The IGAD-Plus mediation involves the United Nations, African Union, the Troika



trio of the United States, the United Kingdom and Norway, the European Union (EU) and China as well as five African countries. The Ethiopian prime minister met the Ugandan, Sudanese and Kenyan heads of states to discuss

the current situation in South Sudan and developments on the ongoing peace negotiations. Regional leaders consulted on ways how to push the two warring factions reach a final peace agreement to arrest 20-months long running conflict and form a transitional government. The summit also discussed a range of regional issues including the political crisis in Burundi and the security situation in Somalia, particularly the fight against the Islamic terrorist group, Al Shabaab. Despite mounting regional and international pressures, the two South Sudanese rivals are yet to reach a comprehensive peace deal.

The conflict, which erupted on December 2013, has killed tens of thousands and

displaced over two million people in South Sudan. Meanwhile, the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) in Ethiopia said the number of South Sudanese refugees crossing borders is on the rise. The agency said fighting in South Sudan has continued to drive more refugees, mostly women and children, into neighbouring Ethiopia.

According to the UNHCR, on average, 211 South Sudanese stream across the border into Ethiopia daily. Nearly 285,000 South Sudanese have reportedly entered Ethiopia since conflict erupted in the South Sudanese capital, Juba, in 2013.

Source: Somali Agenda

INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMY

Ethiopia's Ambitious Goal To Go Green



In its quest to become a middle-income country by 2025, Ethiopia has set itself the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by designating a 10-year, \$70 billion plan to produce clean energy and

reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It's a huge ambition for the country of almost 100 million people, where the economy has been growing by 10% a year for more than a decade.

It's a goal that makes the country a model, six months ahead of December's United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris, which will aim to ratify a universal agreement to limit the rise in temperatures to 2°C.

On the Tigray region plateau, in northern Ethiopia, 70-meter-high masts — 84 of them — stand amid a landscape. The Ashegoda Wind Farm, built by the French companies Vergnet and Alstom, is a "clean" development in one of Africa's fastest-growing economies. All over, construction sites have emerged to build solutions without fossil fuels — that are for now expensively imported — and to provide a place for wind and solar energies, which are less vulnerable than hydroelectricity to repeated drought. The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, currently under construction on the Blue Nile River, promises to be one of Africa's most powerful hydroelectric monsters. Government officials contributed to its funding, which will be covered by national reserves.

The country is trying to create "a green economy that will hold up to the climate," which requires the involvement of every sector responsible or vulnerable to climate change. That means energy, of course, but also agriculture, transport, industry and construction. "Climate change is a strategic issue for Ethiopia," the preamble to this project statement says. "It can annihilate our development, exacerbate social tension, destabilize the

Horn of Africa by stirring up the competition for the access to water."

Foreign sponsors are getting in on the project too. "Ethiopia won't be able to do it alone," warns Sinkinesh Beyene, who leads the climate department of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Addis Ababa. "It needs money and foreign experts." The UN agency is one of the first to have embraced the late Zenawi's plans. Today, it manages a part of the international aid through a fund based in New York, trains officials for climate negotiations, and sends others to train in renewable energies in Kenya or in India. In December, during the World Climate Summit in Lima, the countries of France, Germany, Sweden and Denmark joined Norway and the United Kingdom in promising to become generous backers. "Our plan is to invest \$7.5 billion per year by 2025," says Ghirmawit Hailé, indicating a cabinet filled with projects awaiting funds. If Ethiopia's gamble pays off, the carbon footprint of its 100 million people will be the same as the Netherlands' today by 2030.

Source: World Crunch

Turbines at Gibe III to begin trial production of electric power

Turbines installed at Gibe III hydropower plant will begin receiving water starting from 11 August to begin trial production of electric power. Water, Irrigation and Energy Minister Alemayehu Tegenu said that the hydropower dam, which is in the verge of completion, stored water that enable it to commence trial production.

Installation of turbines for the 1,870-megawatt power plant is currently underway. The plant will have 10 turbines that generate 187-megawatt each. According to Alemayehu, three of the turbines are currently readied for power generation. The fourth turbine is also

nearing completion. If the trial is successful, the power plant will start generating 500-megawatt electricity this month, if not next September. Minister Alemayehu added that if sufficient water is available until the coming December, all turbines will begin power generation. Gibe III will be the largest of all the hydropower plants that went operational in the country so far. Launched five years ago at a cost of 1.8 billion US dollars, Gibe III hydropower dam is now more than 98 % complete.

Source: Fana Broadcasting Corporate (FBC)

AGENDA

Energy talks to be held in Ethiopia in October

A meeting on energy and power investment is set to be held in Addis Ababa from 26 to 29 October 2015, aiming at finding ways for increased energy investment in Africa and to unlock its energy potentials as well as to reviewing evolving climate policies and emerging resilience challenges. The World Energy Council Executive Assembly is organizing the meeting, which is expected to bring together

energy ministers and investor engaged in energy and power investment. The meeting will also deliberate on how to create key enabling conditions for both policy makers and investors to work in tandem in areas ranging from tackling hurdles in reversing investment inflow to Africa to developing its energy potential in hydropower, solar and natural gas. Christoph Frei, Secretary General of World Energy Council said, “With a

resilient energy infrastructure, cross border co-operation and investment, there are energy resources which could be exploited to the benefit of African prosperity.” Christoph Frei also went on to note that “there are enormous energy resources in sub-Saharan Africa, 30 percent of the world’s energy commodities can be found here,” stressing that “regional integration,

market creation and development of long value chains will be essential to maximize their potential for the region where regional co-operation is a key factor.” Christoph Frei, referring to World Energy Council Scenarios Report, further said that an estimated “investment of between USD 1.2 trillion and USD 1.4 trillion is needed to meet the energy demands of the region by 2050.”

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 www.ethiopianembassy.be