

Newsletter

Embassy of Ethiopia, Brussels



21 August 2015
Weekly Issue N°50



Lake Chamo by the city of Arba Minch in Ethiopia. © PicturesFromWords

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POLITICAL ISSUES

Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn addresses the closing ceremony of the Ethiopian National Diaspora Day

From 12 to 16 August 2015, the first Ethiopian National Diaspora Day Celebration took place in Addis Ababa under the theme, “Together for Renaissance!”. The closing ceremony of the celebration included a keynote addressed by Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

On that occasion, Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn said the change and development of Ethiopia is mainly the result of its People’s strong spirit in the fighting against poverty. The Premier underlined Ethiopia is going through a renaissance and nothing is more satisfying than being part of this achievement. “Our greatest enemy is poverty,” he said. The government is committed to provide the necessary support for the participation of the Diaspora community in our relentless fighting against poverty, PM Hailemariam noted.

In connection with the diaspora investment, the Premier said “the development that Ethiopia is registering can be witnessed by the interest you have shown to return to your homeland.”



Prime Minister Hailemariam reiterated his belief that there is no better honor than working for and developing one’s country of origin. Furthermore, he stressed everyone should struggle towards development and fight for this cause like a patriot. The Prime minister also indicated the Diaspora is advised to get engaged in productive priority sectors. He also guaranteed the Diaspora that the government and the people of Ethiopia will be supporting them in every possible manner. Accepting the invitation by the government, the diaspora communities vowed to actively engage in the

development activities of their country in the future.

The Premier finally called upon the diaspora community to stand firm for the benefit and development of the country. PM Hailemariam Desalegn also responded to various questions raised by the participants and handed over awards and recognition for members of the diaspora community who made great contributions to their home country.

Ethiopians living abroad are estimated to be up to 2.5 million, of whom more than 70 per cent are living in the United States, Canada and other Western countries. From 1994-2013, Ethiopian diasporas living abroad have invested 1 billion US dollars in their home country.

Source: MFA Ethiopia, Fana Broadcasting Corporate (FBC), Walta Info

Renaissance Dam tripartite meetings resumed in Ethiopia



On 20 and 21 August 2015, the tripartite committee of Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan met in Addis Ababa. The committee discussed the latest developments regarding the undelivered foreign consultancy firms' report on the dam.

The tripartite committee, which includes representatives and experts from the three countries, met in order to set a new deadline for the French BRL group and Dutch Deltares consultancy firm to complete their report, following their failure to meet their previous deadline on

the impact assessment of the dam. In March 2015, Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt signed a declaration of principles on the dam, agreeing to safeguard the interests of all three countries. Recently, Ethiopia and Egypt have been witnessing an improvement in relations. A high-level Ethiopian delegation led by Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn attended the Suez Canal inauguration in August.

Egypt's President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi, who hailed the declaration as a "positive step", visited Ethiopia in March and addressed the country's parliament, calling for a new era of cooperation.

The project is over 41% complete and expected to be finished by 2017. The dam will be the largest hydroelectric power plant in Africa: 1,800 m long, 170 m high and with a storage capacity of 74 billion cubic meters of water.

Source: Al-Ahram

ECONOMY

Ethiopia: FDI Flow Surpasses Target

According to the Ethiopia Investment Commission, Ethiopia has attracted 3,522 foreign direct investment projects with a combined capital of 370 billion Birr (about 16 billion Euro) over the last five years. This performance exceeds the initial target by 184 projects.

The majority of the projects (around 1,614 or 45.8 %) are concentrated in the capital Addis Ababa, while 906 and 162 projects are located in Oromia and Amhara regional states respectively, Commission Public Relations Officer Getahun Negash said.

Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples and Tigray States received 98 and 56 projects respectively, and the remaining projects are situated in other regional states of the country. Out of the total number of projects, 1,079 projects

implemented in the agriculture, industry and services sectors are already operational while the remaining projects are currently under construction. So far, more than 80,000 new jobs have been created for Ethiopian citizens.

Over the past years, the Commission has been implementing a single window service for investors in order to enable them to complete the whole investment process in one place. The Department for Immigration and Nationality Affairs and the Ethiopian Customs, and Revenues Authority have desks in the Commission's compound to provide residence permits, visa renewal and tax identification number (TIN) services to investors.

Source: The Ethiopian Herald

TOURISM

Researcher's Study unveiled Ethiopia's Great Eco-tourism Potential



On 14 August 2015, a study disclosed by researcher Mihret Ewnetu revealed that Ethiopia has the potential to earn more than 20 billion Birr (1 billion USD) annually from eco-tourism sector. Eco-tourism is an approach to tourism that emphasizes environmental and cultural preservation. It highlights opportunities for tourists and other visitors to experience aspects of the country's ecology and natural endowments as well as unique features of its archaeology, history and culture.

Tourism is an important sector of Ethiopia's economy, accounting for over 5.5% of its GDP. Tourism has also been recognized as part of Ethiopia's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper as a strategy for fighting against poverty and encouraging economic development. While tourism started to recover in 1990

after a decline in the 1970s and 1980s, a lack of infrastructure and limited funds still challenge the industry. However, an increase in tourism sales has been attributed to ecotourism activities such as trekking and safaris, showing large potential for ecotourism sector in Ethiopia.

Ethiopia boasts a wonderful landscape and rich biodiversity and over 16 endemic bird species. Yet, the country's tourism earnings suffers from lack of promotion. Mihret Ewnetu found that in other African countries such as Morocco and South Africa, which experience very large revenues from tourism, 10% of their revenue comes from ecotourism. The neighboring countries of Kenya and Uganda also secure up to one billion US dollars annually from eco-tourism, he added. The Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority specified the same day that Ethiopia "with diverse tourist attractions earns only 60 million Birr (USD 3 million) annually from eco-tourism but with better services, that can be boosted to up to one billion dollars annually." Source: Walta Information Center, Dr. Paul B. Henze

Commemorating PM Meles' Extraordinary Legacy



The late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, who transformed Ethiopia, has been widely praised both in life and in death. Ethiopians are at the final stages to commemorate the third year of the death of the strong and dedicated PM Meles Zenawi.

In addition, many countries of the world had paid tribute to the late Ethiopia's PM. President Barack Obama said PM Meles deserves recognition for his lifelong contribution to Ethiopia's development, particularly his unyielding commitment to Ethiopia's poor and pro-poor policies. He said I had met with Prime Minister Meles at the G-8 Summit and recalls my personal admiration for his desire to lift millions of Ethiopians out of abject poverty, through his drive for food security.

President Obama added that he was also grateful for the late PM's dedication to

peace and security in Africa, his contributions to the African Union, and his voice for Africa on the world stage. Going forward, we encourage the Government of Ethiopia to enhance its support for development, democracy, regional stability and security, human rights, and prosperity for its people.

David Cameron, British PM on his part said that Prime Minister Meles was an inspirational spokesman and ardent advocate of Africa on global issues and manifested amazing leadership and vision on Somalia and Sudan. His personal contribution to Ethiopia's development, in particular by lifting millions of Ethiopians out of poverty, has set extra-ordinary example for the region. Mr. Cameron said his thoughts went out with his family and with the nation of Ethiopia, he will be greatly missed.

It is three year since the death of Meles Zenawi, one of the world's and Africa's most remarkable leader. He was also an outstanding figure for Africa as a whole. He led the African Union on many issues and his analytical force, wisdom and intelligence were greatly valued in the councils of the world, at the UN, G20, G7/8 and elsewhere.

On climate and environment and their relationship with development, he was visionary, determined and practical. It was Meles who, in the run up to the Copenhagen UNFCCC conference of December 2009, insisted on and obtained the promise of \$100 billion per annum from developed to developing countries. He saw the deep inequities in the facts that the rich countries had become rich on high-carbon growth and the poor countries were hit earliest and hardest on climate change.

It was Meles who argued for Africa “Carbon Credit”. He saw, as with so many other things, that Africa and the developing countries should take their future development, and their environment, in their own hands. It was Meles who proposed Ethiopia's Climate-Resilient Green Economic Strategy (CRGE): he had a vision of Ethiopia being both a middle-income

country and carbon-neutral by the second half of the next decade, and had concrete plans for getting there. He saw how to contain Ethiopia's double-digit growth rate and de-carbonize at the same time. He saw how degraded land could be restored to great productivity and how forests could be preserved and enhanced by the work of, and in the interests of, local communities. His ideas on environment and development are still embedded in Ethiopia's plans for the future.

Meles's commitment lifted millions of Ethiopians out of abject poverty and devoted himself to finding workable development policies. Today, Ethiopian people are still very grateful to late Prime Minister Meles and they will never forget his legacy.

Source: Aigaforum

REGIONAL ISSUES

South Sudan President demands more time, as Machar and Amum signed final peace agreement

On 17 August 2015, South Sudanese rebel leader, Riek Machar has signed the long-awaited final peace agreement to end the 20-month long civil war in the youngest world's nation. However, President Salva Kiir declined to sign the deal, by requesting additional time to

consult with his political and military officials in the capital, Juba.

At the same event, the recently reinstated secretary-general of the ruling Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement (SPLM), Pagan Amum, signed the peace

agreement on behalf of the former detainees. Machar and Amum have signed the peace deal, the South Sudanese President witnessed the signing ceremony and put his signature on the agreement as a witness.

The president, however, asked the IGAD-Plus mediation to allow him to make further consultations with his officials for 15 days. It is not yet clear whether President Kiir's request was accepted by the mediation team and when he will come back to sign the long-awaited peace agreement.

Machar's spokesperson, James Gatdet Dak, who confirmed the signing of the agreement by the armed opposition leader said "Our chairman and commander-in-chief, Cde Dr. Riek Machar has shown his commitment to peace by signing the peace agreement to end the suffering of the people of South Sudan. Dak told after the signing ceremony witnessed by regional leaders and representatives of the international community.

The agreement signed on 17 August 2015, saw some changes to the initial agreement in the course of negotiations in Addis Ababa between the two rival leaders, President Kiir and opposition leader Machar.

Among the negotiated issues were the power sharing deal, in which President Kiir's government will no longer control 100% of seven out of the ten states. The armed opposition faction of the Sudan

Peoples' Liberation Movement (SPLM-IO) led by Machar will now get 15% of seats in each of the seven regional states (Warrap, Lakes, Western Bahr el Ghazal, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Central, Western and Eastern Equatoria states).



Likewise, Machar's faction will no longer control 53% of the governments of the three regional states (Jonglei, Upper Nile and Unity states). In these three states, government will get 46%, SPLM-IO 40% and former detainees and political parties, 7%. While SPLM-IO will nominate governors for the two oil-rich states (Unity and Upper Nile). And the government will nominate governorship position for Jonglei state.

At the national level, the power sharing ratio remained as the original proposal of 53% for government, 33% for SPLM-IO and 14% split equally between former detainees and political parties.

The current 325 seats of the national parliament in Juba will be maintained with rebelled members reinstated to their previous parliamentary seats before the beginning of the conflict. SPLM-IO will appoint 50 additional members to the national parliament while the former

detainees will appoint one additional member and political parties will appoint 17 additional parliamentarians.

On security arrangements, the partially signed peace deal will declare the national capital, Juba, a demilitarized zone, with a radius of 25kms. Foreign troops, particularly from the IGAD countries and the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) will take charge of the capital for 30 months of the period of the transition until new elections will be conducted.

The two rival armies will also maintain separate commands for a period of transition with president Kiir being the commander-in-chief of the South Sudan army (SPLA) and rebel leader Machar also as the commander-in-chief of his forces until unification process will be completed as per the agreement.

IGAD-Plus officials said the peace deal signed by the two leaders is final and cannot be modified by President Kiir. The regional and international leaders have warned to take tough measures against any warring party that will refuse to sign the peace agreement. It remains unclear how the situation will play out between Juba and the international community in ending the war.

Tens of thousands have been killed, millions more displaced internally and to the neighboring countries of Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda. IGAD-Plus, which includes five African countries, troika nations (US, UK and Norway), European Union, China and the United Nations, had said 17 August was the deadline on which the parties had to sign a peace deal and end the deadly violence.

Source: Sudan Tribune

AGENDA

Addis to host Africa-Japan Business and Investment Forum in September

The Africa-Japan Business Investment Forum, which has been developed to strengthen business ties between Japanese and African business leaders, is scheduled to be held on 2 September 2015 in Addis Ababa. The Forum will be opened by HE Hailemariam Desalegn,



AFRICA JAPAN
BUSINESS INVESTMENT FORUM

Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

The organizers said this summit recognizes the strategic importance Japan places on Africa. Japan is now the most active Asian project financier in Africa, seeing an increase of 576% over the last 5 years. The event is timely and relevant as during last year's State visit to Ethiopia, Cote d'Ivoire and Mozambique, Prime Minister Abe reiterated that Japanese cooperation with Africa was one of equals and that Japanese aid was designed to create jobs and transfer technologies.

The forum is aiming at improving the ties of the two business networks and is expected to help business persons to share best practices and opportunities and to bring together some key actors in the Japanese and African business

circles as well as select ministerial interventions. The focus of discussion will be on key sectors including finance, agri-business, manufacturing, energy and technology.

Over 350 guests are expected to attend the Africa-Japan Business Investment Forum, including Heads of State, government officials, business leaders, funding agencies and potential investors. Africa's private sector will be represented at a CEO or senior C-suite level from the following industries: financial services; manufacturing; agribusiness; construction; energy; technology; fast moving consumer goods; and investment promotion.

Source: Walta Info

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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