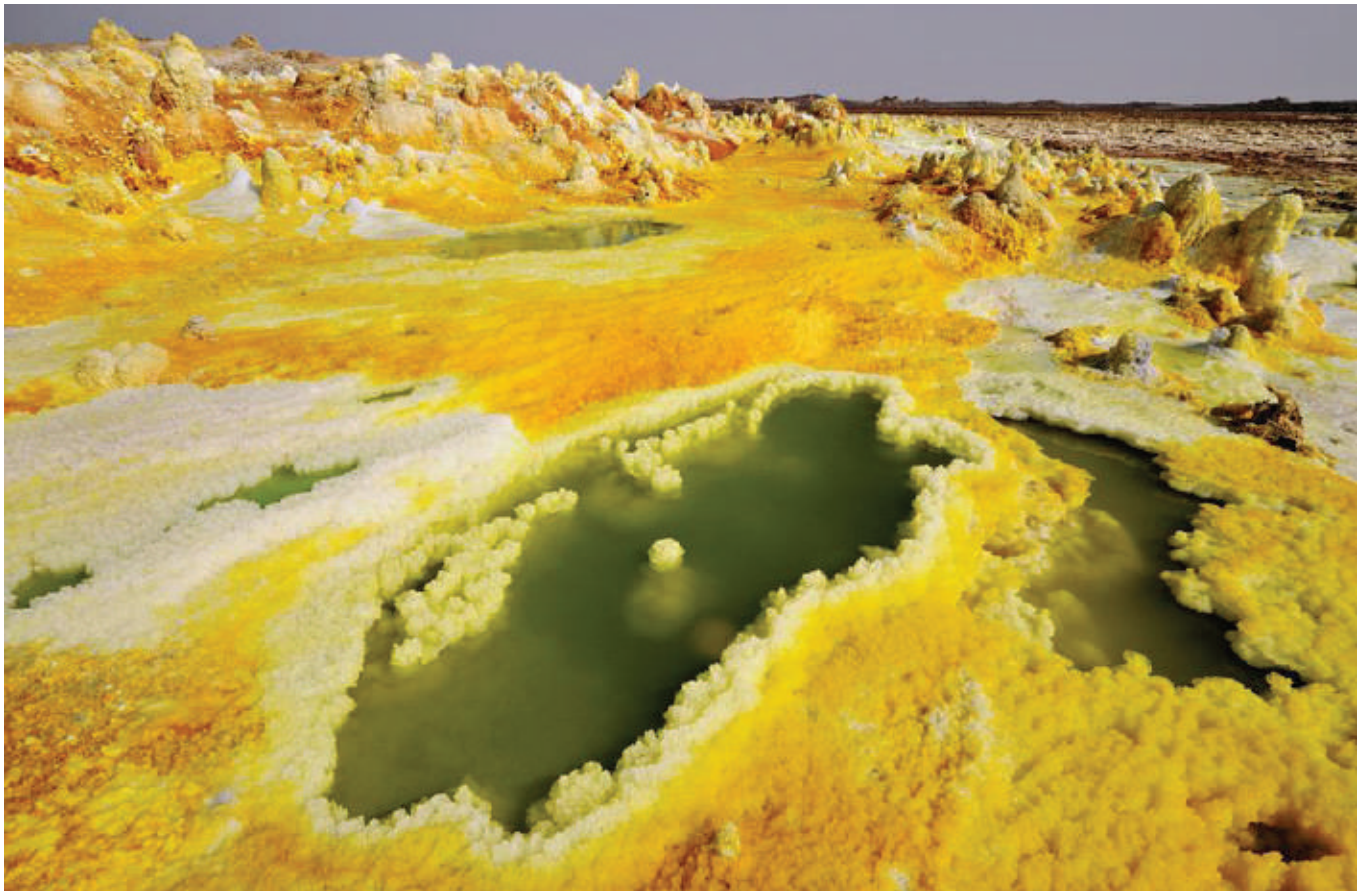


# Newsletter

Embassy of Ethiopia, Brussels



18 September 2015  
Weekly Issue N° 54



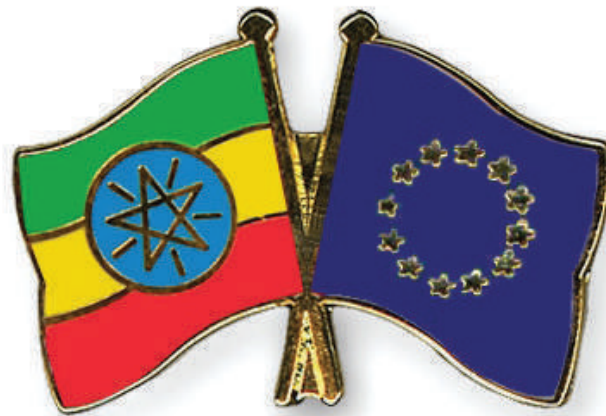
Danakil Depression, Afar Desert, Ethiopia. Picture by Pascal Boegli

## Content

<b><i>POLITICAL ISSUES</i></b>	<b>3</b>
European Union granted ETB 1.5 billion to Ethiopia’s Green Development Strategy	3
Rejoinder to IPS News’ article about Omo Valley resettlement programs	4
Defected TPDM soldiers enter Ethiopia	6
<b><i>ECONOMY</i></b>	<b>6</b>
CNBC Africa: Ethiopia set to be the fastest growing country in the world	7
Rising from the ashes: 10 astonishing facts on Ethiopia’s turnaround, how it did it, and the unseen forces driving growth	7
Ethiopia likely to return to the international capital market	8
Top 10 reasons to invest in Ethiopia	8
<b><i>REGIONAL ISSUES</i></b>	<b>9</b>
President Museveni meets President al-Bashir in Khartoum	9
<b><i>AGENDA &amp; ANNOUNCEMENTS</i></b>	<b>10</b>
Invitation for Bid From Development Bank of Ethiopia	10
Ethio-Netherlands Business Event	10
Announcement for Ethiopian ID cards	11
Invitation: Exposition photo et projection vidéo à Liège (Belgique)	12
The Rift Valley Wine now in the Benelux!	

# POLITICAL ISSUES

## European Union granted ETB 1.5 billion to Ethiopia's Green Development Strategy



On 5 September 2015, EU Ambassador to Ethiopia Chantal Hebberecht has disclosed that the European Union has granted ETB 1.5 billion (EUR 63,4 million) for Ethiopia's Green Development Strategy. Ambassador Hebberecht said, the grant will be implemented in the upcoming five years, during the second Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP II). During the signing ceremony, Mr Belete Tefere, Minister for Forest and Environment of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia indicated Ethiopia previously inked agreements with Great Britain and Norway to avert climate change problems. Furthermore, he disclosed Ethiopia has also signed agreements with Denmark, France and Germany that helps

the country to find financial assistance for the implementation of the Green Development Strategy.

During the discussion with the European Union Ambassadors about environmental protection and forest development activities in Ethiopia, the Minister said the European Union has previously granted ETB 500 million for the country's Green Development Strategy and affirmed Ethiopia will actively participate and share its experience in green economy at the upcoming Paris Climate Summit.

Source: Fanabc

## Rejoinder to IPS News' article about Omo Valley resettlement programs



**Gilgel Gibe III dam. Picture © <http://www.pietrangeli.com>**

On 4 September 2015, the Belgian version of IPS News published an article<sup>1</sup> criticizing the resettlement policy of the Government of Ethiopia in the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region (Omo valley area) and the Gilgel Gibe III hydropower dam project. This article was republished on the same day by the Belgian news website Mondiaal Nieuws<sup>2</sup> and several other Belgian websites.

The Gilgel Gibe hydropower project and 1 Rapport legt mensenrechtenschendingen in Ethiopië bloot, IPS News, 4 September 2015  
<http://ethio.be/1FRQgdM>

2 Rapport legt mensenrechtenschendingen in Ethiopië bloot, Mondiaal Nieuws, 4 September 2015  
<http://ethio.be/1NI3ceo>

the Omo valley sugarcane development are among the mega projects of the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) of the government, aiming to get rid of poverty throughout the country. The article of IPS News is opposing this development policy of the country. To argue against it, the article quotes reports by international partners of Ethiopia (including the US, UK and EU) that were recently published by the NGO Survival International<sup>3</sup>. It is our duty to show that this article is distorting the

3 Exposed: Forced evictions in Ethiopia – what the UK government tried to cover up, Survival International, 3 September 2015,  
<http://ethio.be/1MvwGf7>

conclusions of the reports. As a matter of fact, any vigilant reader of the reports will necessarily come to the conclusion that IPS News' article is not giving a full overview of the reports' balanced conclusions.

First of all, the article says the reports reveal a "devastating" impact of the dam project, regardless the fact that the reports are balanced and at some point even positive about the resettlement and social development policies of the government: "Our interviews revealed that access to water, health and veterinary services was generally welcomed, though not at any price, by the local communities" (p. 3, DAG Informal field visit report). The 2014 DAG resettlement assessment mission to SNNPR is even more positive about the program: "The mission received positive feedback from the local population in terms of improved access to education, road and health services in the last years. Sedentarization also seemed to have some positive impacts on women's livelihoods in particular" (p.1).

Moreover, the article fails to say that the diplomats came to the conclusion that the resettlement program benefits the local population: "Efforts [by the Government of Ethiopia] appear to have been made to improve the standard of living in resettlement villages. In two of the three resettlement villages there was a broad consensus that living standards were similar to, and perhaps moderately better than, life before moving, despite complaints about water pumps, health clinics, and sanitation." (2014 DAG Informal field visit report, p.3)

The diplomats also recognize that the

Government of Ethiopia is well-intentioned: "The Government's motivations for pursuing resettlement would seem to include (i) obtaining land for the plantation and the economic development that it is believed this will bring to the valley; (ii) to make it easier to provide basic services (schools, health posts, clean water); and (iii) to 'modernize' these tribes and ensure their integration with the Ethiopian state and society." (2014 DAG Informal field visit report, p.2) Furthermore, the report itself acknowledges that some positive effects of the resettlement could be measured only afterwards ("The prospect of access to schooling generated mixed reactions: communities without schools were quite negative about education, while those which now have a school were positive." p. 3, DAG Informal field visit report)

In conclusion, we can say that the article by IPS news is misleading because it suggests that the reports are blaming the development policies of the country. In reality, the reports are balanced and merely give suggestions to improve the program, like providing "communities with a fuller picture of plans for the development of the valley" (p. 3, DAG Informal field visit report). These two reports, like previous ones issued by Ethiopia's international partners, provide no support for the claim of IPS news that the resettlement program and the hydropower project has "devastating" consequences on the local population. For sure, the reports underline a number of aspects to improve, including continued and enhanced discussion and communication prior and after the resettlement. It is a fact that any existing

ambitious program to modernize a region can always be improved, and authorities in Ethiopia are working on that.

The prime objectives of the aforementioned projects are to enhance the living standards of the people in the country and to bring economic and social development to the local Omo valley tribes. Ethiopia has abundant energy resources which are crucial for the economic development of the country. Among the objectives of the energy policy of the government are ensuring reliable supply of green energy with affordable price, streamline the development projects and utilization of energy resources, give priority for development of indigenous energy resources and ensure the development and utilization of green energy in the framework of the grand green economy strategy to achieve a carbon-free economy by

2025. The Gilgel Gibe III dam is one of the major projects to attain these objectives. Besides, the resettlement programs give a tremendous opportunity for the local people in terms of education, health, telecom, access to transport and other social benefits to enjoy a modern way of life. The Government is implementing these projects in consultation with the local communities at several levels, with the approval and participation of the people. This strategy is a part of the government's policy for the country to achieve the middle-income status by 2025.

\*\*\*

Press contact:

info@ethiopianembassy.be

+32 2 771 32 94

## Defected TPDM soldiers enter Ethiopia

The defected soldiers of the Tigray People's Democratic Movement (TPDM), led by their commander Molla Asgedom, have entered Ethiopia from Sudan, where they went from Eritrea,

More than 700 well armed soldiers of the movement have successfully entered from Sudan led by commander of the movement that was established by Eritrea to create instability and havoc in Ethiopia.

The recent phenomenon, is another proof that Eritrea, the champion of two UNSC sanctions (2009 and 2011) and contrary to the international community's plea is still working

to destabilize the region.

The soldiers have capably defended themselves from the Eritrean soldiers who tried to stop them from their way to Sudan and then to Ethiopia.

Backed by the Eritrean government and Ginbot 7, the movement has been trying destabilize some areas of the country.

Source: FBC

# ECONOMY

## CNBC Africa: Ethiopia set to be the fastest growing country in the world

According to CNBC Africa, a report released by Gates Foundation the Ethiopian agricultural sector has cut poverty by seven percent between 2005 and 2011. This result could be achieved by “maintaining teams of agronomists across vast rural areas to boost productivity by

implemented by the Government of Ethiopia was also mentioned as a key driver of poverty: “The PSNP mobilises 10 per cent of the population (1.5 million households) to stabilise food supply cutting poverty nationally by 7 per cent since 2005.”

BILL & MELINDA  
GATES *foundation*

recommending best agricultural practices and scientific innovation.” Furthermore “a doubling of Ethiopia’s road network in two decades... has allowed more farmers to bring their produce to market,” according to the report. The Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP)

Significantly, key findings of the report predict Ethiopia to be the fastest-growing country in the world over the next three years, while maintaining its low level of inequality.

Read the full article on CNBC <http://ethio.be/1NFNsZi>

## Rising from the ashes: 10 astonishing facts on Ethiopia’s turnaround, how it did it, and the unseen forces driving growth

The newspaper Mail & Guardian Africa published an insightful article about 10

astonishing facts on Ethiopia’s fast economic growth and social development in past two decades. A report from the UK think-tank

Overseas Development Institute highlights Ethiopia's truly astonishing progress in improving material well-being with some hard

and surprising numbers. To read the results of this report, click here:

<http://ethio.be/1in7xWJ>

## Ethiopia likely to return to the international capital market

Ethiopia raised USD 1 billion with a debut Eurobond in December 2014. On 14 September 2015, a Spokesperson for the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development said it was very likely Ethiopia would return to the international capital market to help fund infrastructural projects. This could happen next month after the new Parliament, elected at the national democratic elections in May 2014 holds its first sitting and a new government is announced.

The Spokesperson underlined that a final decision had yet to be made. However, the financial advisory firm Lazard has been appointed to arrange a series of fixed-income

investor meetings for "non-deal road show" in the United Kingdom and the United States later in September. Non-deal meetings offer nothing for sale but lay out details of the prospects. Ethiopia's delegation for the meetings will be led by the Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Sufian Ahmed, and the Director of the Ministry's International Financial Institution's Cooperation Directorate, Fisseha Aberra.

According to the World Bank, Ethiopia's economy is expected to expand by more than 10% this fiscal year. Ethiopia is rated B1 by Moody's and B by Standard and Poor, and by Fitch.

Source: MFA Ethiopia

## Top 10 reasons to invest in Ethiopia

...according to Zemedeneh Negatu

1. **Economy** → 4th largest in Sub-Saharan Africa
2. **Demographics** → young + fast-growing life expectancy
3. **Urbanization** → Addis = "The Construction Capital of Africa"
4. **Manufacturing** → infrastructure + cheap electricity & labour costs
5. **Ethiopian Airlines** → most successful airline in Sub-Saharan Africa
6. **Natural resources** → immense and largely untapped
7. **Agriculture** → Entire value-chain available + large live-stock sector
8. **Tourism** → Huge potential + best world tourism destination 2015
9. **Business environment** → Friendlier than 82% Sub-Saharan Africa
10. **Location** → 3.5 billion people living within 8 hours of Ethiopia

Watch the video here: <youtu.be/AeeLA8y2EGI>



# REGIONAL ISSUES

## President Museveni meets President al-Bashir in Khartoum



On 15 September 2015, President Yoweri Museveni flew to Khartoum for a visit to Sudan, and met with President Omer al-Bashir. President Museveni was welcomed at Khartoum Airport by President al-Bashir, members of the government and foreign diplomats. In addition to his talks with President

al-Bashir on bilateral relations and the issue of South Sudan, President Museveni visited Sudan's Military College and the International University of Africa which includes a faculty of Islamic studies where African students are trained. A meeting of the Joint Sudan-Uganda Security Committee was held during the visit.

The last meeting was held in Kampala six months ago. An assistant to president al-Bashir said that the visit is expected to create a breakthrough in bilateral relations and that an agreement for improved relations would be signed. Sudanese Foreign Minister Ibrahim Ghandour told reporters that Sudan and Ugandan were jointly working to bring stability in South Sudan; and Sudan provided a presidential plane to bring the leader of

the SPLM-in-Opposition, Riek Machar, and a delegation to Khartoum on Tuesday evening to join the talks. Foreign Minister Ghandour expressed his hope that President Museveni's visit would be successful and said he expected it to achieve positive results, improving bilateral cooperation on issues of common interest.

Source: MFA Ethiopia

## AGENDA & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Invitation for Bid From Development Bank of Ethiopia

Four invitations for bid (Amharic and English) from the Development Bank of Ethiopia have been published on the website of the Ethiopian Investment Commission. The bids concern the

sectors of tannery, food, agro-processing and cotton farm.

Link to the invitations: <http://ethio.be/1Kl1FHi>

### Ethio-Netherlands Business Event

#### “A Growing Investment Opportunity”

Together with the Ethiopian Embassy in Brussels and the Netherlands Embassy in Addis Ababa, NABC will be organizing the first Ethio-Netherlands business event in the Netherlands on 5 and 6 November 2015. Are you interested in investing in Ethiopia and looking for the right information and people to discuss the opportunities? This is the right place to get informed on investing in Ethiopia.

Ethiopia, as a country with a population

of approximately 95 million, double-digit growth, availability of land and an attractive and diverse climate, has become a main destination for investments. The Dutch private sector is already involved extensively in Ethiopia (via horticulture, agriculture). Despite the increasing number of investments by Dutch companies, opportunities available in Ethiopia are not fully optimized. In view of this, both countries have agreed to stimulate the Dutch private sector investment in Ethiopia and trade opportunities between Ethiopia and

the Netherlands.

During the Ethio-Netherlands business event, officials from Ethiopia and experts from the field will advise on the business opportunities and steps to take when investing. Specific focus

private sector in Ethiopia;

B) Seven separate workshops on the specific sectors based on the business opportunities reports and business cases;

C) Matchmaking session between Dutch



will be on the investment potential in seven sectors, following from the Dutch development cooperation program and being in line with Ethiopian priorities: seeds (tomatoes, potatoes), oilseeds, poultry, dairy, spices, textiles and logistics/construction. Based on business opportunity reports and business cases for each sector, we will provide you with the right know-how and the introduction to a network to get started.

The event consists of two days, of which the first day will compose of the following elements:

Day 1:

A) General plenary session on investing in Ethiopia with testimonies from the Dutch

companies and Ethiopian and Dutch authorities (B2G); between Ethiopian and Dutch potential business partners (B2B) and between Dutch companies to establish cooperation (B2B).

D) A working dinner.

Day 2

The second day will consist of company visits by separate groups within the seven sectors. Another registration page will be opened to register for the company visits.

More information:

Email [info@ethiopianembassy.be](mailto:info@ethiopianembassy.be)

Registration and information: [http://ethio.be/NL\\_Ethio\\_Business](http://ethio.be/NL_Ethio_Business)

## Announcement for Ethiopian ID cards

Click here to read the announcement (Amharic):

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

### 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

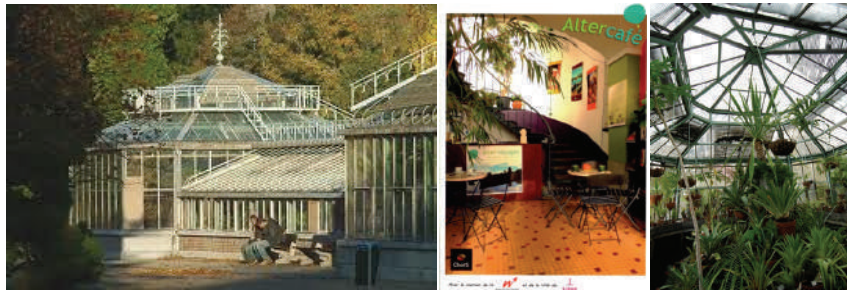
Ethiopian Embassy, Avenue de Tervuren, 62, 1040 Etterbeek, Belgium  
+32 2 771 32 94 [info@ethiopianembassy.be](mailto:info@ethiopianembassy.be) [www.ethiopianembassy.be](http://www.ethiopianembassy.be)

## Invitation: Exposition photo et projection vidéo à Liège (Belgique)



**HEBER SOLIDARITE ETHIOPIE** ASBL

*Vous invite, dans un cadre enchanteur .....*



*C'est l'Éthiopie qui vous tendra les bras, à deux pas de chez vous, dans le cadre magnifique des Serres du Jardin Botanique de Liège 3, rue Fusch, le vendredi 2 Octobre 2015 : exposition de photos dans les serres, première projection du nouveau montage photos-musique sur l'Éthiopie, possibilité de prendre un verre dans les locaux de l'Altercafé, petit marché artisanal équitable .... Une occasion peu banale, à ne pas rater !!*

- Vernissage de l'expo dès 16 heures
- Projection du montage - attention, **il faut réserver**, il n'y a que 80 places par séance : à 17 heures ou à 20 heures.

*Venez découvrir ou revoir ce fabuleux pays, visiter les serres, nous rencontrer, nous et nos amis, parler de nos projets ou voyages ....*

**PAF : 8 euros pour l'expo et la projection. Réservation svp** L'expo restera visible dans les serres jusqu'au 18/10, entrée expo : 2,50 euros.



*En partenariat avec « Altervoyages ASBL », plate-forme de tourisme solidaire  
Invités d'honneur : l'Ambassade d'Éthiopie et l'association Belgo-Éthiopienne.*

Rue de la Brassine, 4920 Aywaille. Tél : 0032491252980 – 0032494171877 Web : [heberasbl.wikeo.net](http://heberasbl.wikeo.net)  
E-Mail : [Heberasbl@yahoo.com](mailto:Heberasbl@yahoo.com), Banque : 068-8975267-78. IBAN : BE69 0688 9752 6778



## A wine that makes you feel as warm-hearted as the people of Ethiopia themselves!

**On the occasion of the Ethiopian New Year, we offer you a special discount on our Rift Valley Wine selection from the Castel Winery in Ziway, valid until the end of September.**

Discount applicable on the following wine varieties:

Merlot

Syrah

Cabernet Sauvignon

**Price will be 6.50 Euro per bottle instead of 8.50 Euro**

*Price valid only upon the purchase of one case of 6 bottles.*



Ter gelegenheid van het Ethiopische Nieuwjaar, bieden wij u een speciale korting op de Rift Valley Wine selectie, afkomstig uit de Castel Winery in Ziway. Deze aanbieding is geldig tot eind september.

De korting geldt voor de volgende druivenrassen:

Merlot

Syrah

Cabernet Sauvignon

**De prijs is tijdelijk 6,50 Euro per fles in plaats van 8,50 euro.**

*Prijs geldig alleen bij aankoop van een doos (6 flessen).*



**A l'occasion du Nouvel An Ethiopien, nous vous proposons jusqu'à la fin du mois de septembre notre vin Rift Valley de Castel Winery Zeway à :**

6,50 euros la bouteille au lieu de 8,50 euros valable sur les 3 produits

Merlot

Syrah

Cabernet Sauvignon

*Valable par caisse de 6 bouteilles minimum.*

**Melkam Addis amet!  
Le tenachen !**

For The Netherlands : Mrs Debitu-Lusteau - +31 (0)653 376381 - [debitu.m.l@gmail.com](mailto:debitu.m.l@gmail.com)

For Belgium and Luxemburg : Mr. Jean Paul Blavier - +32 (0)471 5925467 - [jpblavier@gmail.com](mailto:jpblavier@gmail.com)