

Newsletter

Embassy of Ethiopia, Brussels



25 September 2015
Weekly Issue N° 55



Mountain Ras Dashen, Simien Mountains, Ethiopia. Picture by Mariusz Kluzniak

Content

<i>POLITICAL ISSUES</i>	3
State Minister Ambassador Berhane and EU delegation discuss migration and refugee crisis	3
State Minister Ambassador Berhane receives newly appointed Belgian and Spanish Ambassadors	4
<i>ECONOMY</i>	6
Addis Ababa light railway starts service	6
<i>CULTURE & TOURISM</i>	8
Ministry plans to earn USD 3.2 billion from tourism	8
Growing Ethiopian cinema	10
<i>AGENDA & ANNOUNCEMENTS</i>	11
Invitation for Bid From Development Bank of Ethiopia	11
Ethio-Netherlands Business Event	11
Announcement for Ethiopian ID cards	12
Invitation: Exposition photo et projection vidéo à Liège (Belgique)	13
The Rift Valley Wine now in the Benelux!	15

POLITICAL ISSUES

State Minister Ambassador Berhane and EU delegation discuss migration and refugee crisis



State Minister Ambassador Berhane and EU delegation. Picture © MFA Ethiopia

On 22 September 2015, State Minister of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Berhane met a visiting delegation from the EU, led by the Deputy Head of Delegation, Mrs. Terhi Lehtinen, and Ambassador of Netherlands Lidi Rimmelzwaal, Permanent Representative to the AU.

The discussion covered the need for a comprehensive response by the European countries to the current problems of migration and refugees, and the importance of enhancing cooperation with Ethiopia, the Horn of Africa countries and with the African continent as a whole. State Minister Ambassador Berhane emphasized that Migration and mobility of

people would continue due to the effects of globalization; and addressing the issue was an opportunity as well as a challenge for strengthening bilateral ties with EU countries. He underlined possible joint solutions within the framework of globalization shared Ethiopia's interest in the problem as the largest host of refugees in Africa. Ambassador Berhane pointed out that Ethiopia has not changed its policies as a result of the current refugee crises. Its existing open-door policy remained the same and it welcomed and could handle refugees from many countries. The number is now approaching a million and some problems are emerging, including devastation of forests and green fields and in areas where the refugees settled. He said Ethiopia shared the concerns of the EU in concrete terms. Indeed, if it had not been able to manage the issue properly, it might have been more affected than the EU countries, since the region remained unstable.

Mrs. Lehtinen on her part has noted that the migration or mobility issue is the priority area of discussion for the EU with its partners. She said partnerships are needed with African countries to help minimize the challenges comprehensively. The delegation itemized some of the specific projects the EU is implementing to provide support for African

states to address mobility and migration and asked for further suggestions on cooperation.

Ambassador Berhane underscored the two main areas of crisis that resulted in peoples' migration are the Horn of Africa and the instability in the Sahel region. He stressed the difference between economic migrants and refugees. At one level, Europe should consider mobilizing and expanding investment in emerging Africa, to enable Africans to live in Africa. With regard to refugees, Ambassador Berhane said the refugees from different countries should be treated with reference to the reality of the situation in their country. Some, for example, were driven to migrate because of war and conflict, others left because of the lack of good governance. More generally, the State Minister listed a number of priority areas for cooperation and partnership between EU and Ethiopia which could include training, education and capacity building as well as public service and awareness creation in rural areas to help deal with illegal human trafficking.

The two sides agreed to discuss these partnership options further and continue similar discussions in other meetings including the EU-Ethiopia Article 8 consultations.

Source: MFA Ethiopia

State Minister Ambassador Berhane receives newly appointed Belgian and Spanish Ambassadors

On 23 September 2015, the State Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Berhane Gebre-Christos received letter of credentials of the newly assigned Belgian Ambassador to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the African Union, Didier Nagant De Deuxchaisnes. Upon welcoming the guest, Ambassador

Berhane said that Ethiopia, in her position in the region, will support the activities of the Belgian mission and wished Ambassador Deuxchaisnes's a success. He added that the relation of the two countries will be lifted to a higher level in his tenure.

Ambassador Deuxchaisnes on his behalf



Ambassador Berhane welcoming Belgian Ambassador to Ethiopia Didier Nagant De Deuxchaines. Picture: MFA Ethiopia

announced that he will start his job with two important events in Ethiopia: a visit by Belgian Queen Mathilde on a UNICEF mission to Harar, Diredawa and Jigjiga and a trade mission to Ethiopia for the first time in the history of the countries' relations. The trade mission will include business people from different sectors who planned to conduct important B2B contact with their Ethiopian counterparts. Ambassador Berhane also said that the ministry will extend support so that both events

remain productive. The two countries, in addition, agreed to support each other on respective regional organs and in the multilateral fora.

On 22 September, the newly appointed Ambassador of Spain to Ethiopia, Ambassador Montesino Martwez del Cerro presented copies of his Letters of Credence to State Minister Ambassador Berhane Gebre-Christos. Ambassador

del Cerro, who conveyed warm greetings and good wishes to Ambassador Berhane, emphasized the good political relations between Ethiopia and Spain but stressed



Ambassador Berhane welcoming Spanish Ambassador to Ethiopia Montesino Martwez del Cerro. Picture: MFA Ethiopia

that economic relation between the two countries needed to be improved. Ambassador del Cerro said that Spain would be hosting a trade mission from Ethiopia later in the year and requested the facilitation of business visas. He also proposed a bilateral agreement to allow spouses of diplomatic staff to work. Ambassador Berhane noted the excellent bilateral relations between Ethiopian and Spain and mentioned the successful political consultation in July this year. He agreed on

the need to improve the economic relations and underlined the opportunities available for Spanish enterprises to engage in Ethiopia. Ambassador Berhane said the Ministry would consider the proposed bilateral agreement for work permits for diplomatic staff spouses. He assured Ambassador del Cerro of his commitment to work together to strengthen the bilateral ties and cooperation between Ethiopia and Spain.

Source: MFA Ethiopia

ECONOMY

Addis Ababa light railway starts service

On 20 September 2015, Sub-Saharan's first ever Light Railway began operations in Addis Ababa. The Addis Ababa Rail Transit Project covers a total length of 34.25 kilometers, running east-west and north-south across the city. While the north-south section opened on Sunday, the east-west line will start next month.

The development of the two lines has been one of the major projects of the first Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP I). Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, Workneh Gebeyehu, Minister of Transport, hailed the project as a historic achievement for the

modernization of Addis Ababa city and a vital element in addressing the city's transport problems. The railway is not for commercial purposes; it is solely for public transport.



Addis Ababa tramway. Picture: © Turtlewong

Thanks to subsidies from the Government, the tickets are very cheap and will allow everybody to use the innovative tramway. The trains will have the capacity to carry 80,000 passengers across the capital of the continent's second most populous nation. It is said to be a major step to deal with Addis Ababa's traffic jams and will provide an indirect boost to an already booming economic development.

Eighty-five percent of the USD 475 million cost of the Addis Ababa Rail Transit project, which began construction in December 2011, is covered by the Chinese Exim Bank. Construction of the line in the capital city ended in January and the project project has been in testing since.

The green trams will from October operate on the city's East-West route, while those colored blue are now shuttling between north and south, daily from 6 am to 10 pm. The tickets are also color-coded, depending on the distance

to be travelled, and the price.


The rail tramcars rely on power supplied mainly from overhead wires, with its own dedicated grid, including four substations to supply 160 MW of power.

Each of the 39 stations across the service have their own names, while a network of alleyways—including 12 escalators and 22 elevators, will direct commuters to the various railcars.


At the beginning of the 19th century about 40 networks were in planning in Africa, but with the exception of Egypt, all were abandoned to make way for cars. There are currently about 13 light rail networks in Africa, with two now in construction. South Africa operates the higher capacity 80-km mass rapid Gautrain which was completed in June 2012.

Sources: MFA Ethiopia, Mail & Guardian Africa


Facts and numbers about Addis Ababa Light Railway




1 First light railway in Sub-Saharan Africa (apart from South Africa)




2 Two Lines: Green (North-South) Blue (East-West) running over 34 km




3 The railway was constructed in just three years with a budget of USD 475 million



0.50 The State-subsidized tickets will cost a maximum of USD 0.50.



70 The trains will reach 70 km/h at top speed



60,000 The two lines will carry up to 60,000 passengers per hour

www.ethiopianembassy.be

CULTURE & TOURISM

Ministry plans to earn USD 3.2 billion from tourism

The Ministry of culture and tourism says it has planned to earn USD 3.2 billion from the tourism sector this fiscal year. Public and International Relations Director of the Ministry, Gezahegn Abate, said the ministry has planned to receive one million foreign visitors during the last budget year. More than 774,000 tourists have visited various destinations of the country and the Ministry has managed to

collect USD 2.9 billion from this activity.

According to Gezahegn, the ministry exerting efforts to use potential tourist destinations in collaboration with different stakeholders to increase income generated from the sector. He added that the sector is expected to create more than 900,000 jobs this year. Advertisements of historical, natural and religious tourist destinations of the country



Church of Lalibela © Wojtek Ogródowczyk



Stele, Aksum © herr_hartmann



Medieval City of Gondar © ctsnow



Fasil Ghebbi Palace in Gondar © Bernard Gagnon

via International media is also included in the Ministry’s schedule for this year.

Ethiopia is a growing tourist destination and is receiving increasing worldwide attention

a major tourist destination, through “the excellent preservation of humanity landmarks”, such as the ruins of the city of Aksum, Fasil Ghebbi, Harar Jugol, Lalibela, Konso Cultural Landscape, the Lower Valley of the Awash, the



in this regard. On 25 June 2015, the European Council for Tourism and Trade (ECTT) based in Romania, had unanimously selected Ethiopia as the World Best Tourist Destination for 2015 and favorite cultural destination for 2015. Among several countries, Ethiopia has obtained the award in recognition for its tourism potential, acumen reform of tourism industry and indelible cultural and historical patrimony. The report of the ECTT described the successful efforts of Ethiopia in becoming

Lower Valley of the Omo, registered as UNESCO World heritage monuments. It has also been indicated that sites such as the Sheik Hussein religious, cultural and historical site, Melka Kunture Paleolithic site, Gedeo Cultural and Natural Landscape, Bale Mountains National Park and the Sof Omar Cave are prominent tourism landmarks of Ethiopia.

Growing Ethiopian cinema

On 30 September 2015, the first Ethiopian film selected for the Cannes Film Festival, *Lamb*, will be released in France. The film is based on a story of a young boy called Ephraim who is sent by his Father to live with his extended family far from his home. The climax of the film comes over Chuni, the name of Ephraim's Lamb and his only friend, due to be slaughtered for a forthcoming religious festival.

African movie writers and critics have seen this as a very different film to what has been described as a worrying trend of films that

have been proliferating in Ethiopia and Africa, as it offers what critics have called a genuine portrait of the panorama of African life and landscape. Although, Ethiopia has a substantial indigenous film industry, "*Lamb*" is a multinational effort, made with assistance from the French film industry. As its success at Cannes underlines, it is a film worthy of international attention.

Source: MFA



Scene from the film "*Lamb*".

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 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 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 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

Registration and information: 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 www.ethiopianembassy.be



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
E-Mail : 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 October.

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 oktober.

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 d'octobre 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

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