

Newsletter

Embassy of Ethiopia, Brussels



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8th National Flag Day and Diaspora Festival celebration on 24 October 2015 in Brussels, attended by more than 300 members of the Ethiopian diaspora in the Benelux.

Content

<i>POLITICAL ISSUES</i>	3
Prime Minister Hailemariam on drought mitigation and assistance	3
Prime Minister Hailemariam commends India’s support to Ethiopia’s effort at regional integration	5
8th National Flag Day & Diaspora Festival celebrated in Brussels	7
<i>ECONOMY</i>	10
President Dr. Mulatu Teshome called for development of Africa’s energy potential	10
The Economist’s summit in Ethiopia	11
Netherlands-African Business Council on investment opportunities in Ethiopia	11
Areas of investment eligible for exemption of income tax	12
<i>REGIONAL AFFAIRS</i>	13
UN: Very significant number of Eritreans flee the country	13
<i>AGENDA & ANNOUNCEMENTS</i>	14
Courses of Amharic start in Leuven	14
Ethio-Netherlands Business Event	15

POLITICAL ISSUES

Prime Minister Hailemariam on drought mitigation and assistance



H.E. Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn

On 16 October 2015, the Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation and Zami FM interviewed Prime Minister Hailemariam on the effect of the drought in various parts of the country and the government's responses. The Prime Minister explained the causes of the drought had nothing to do with government or the actions of people. It was not man-made. It was the result of global climatic change and in particular the result of the El Niño. The Prime Minister noted that the world was facing extensive effects from climatic change, which had, directly or indirectly, placed a great burden on many Sub-Saharan African countries, one of which was Ethiopia.

Ethiopia's persistent double-digit economic growth over the last couple of decades has helped to change the previous image of Ethiopia significantly. International financial

institutions have predicted that Ethiopia could become the third largest economy on the continent in three or four years' time. Ethiopia has certainly reached a stage of development in which it can comfortably manage to launch multiple mega projects, such as the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, the Bole International Airport expansion, building an oil pipeline to Djibouti and the planned construction of over five thousand kilometers of railway line. This hasn't, of course, meant that that it can avoid the impact of climate change or other natural phenomena. As national and international news media and aid organizations have recently underlined, the Horn of Africa in general, and Ethiopia in particular, are threatened by a serious drought caused by the El Niño phenomenon.

The Prime Minister noted that the Government had begun to make efforts to mitigate the effect of the El Niño phenomenon as soon as the alarm had been sounded by its early warning systems some months ago. It had also been working intensively over a number of years on forecasting and early warning systems designed to help mitigate the most serious effects of drought or other climatic effects. This was, he emphasized, part of its efforts to protect people from the effects of environment-related insecurity and now from the impact of the El Niño effect. It would continue to do everything possible. The

Government has been working to provide health provision, food and other necessary help for those in need of assistance. The Prime Minister confirmed the Government would continue importing wheat and purchasing maize from various farmers to avoid inflation. He also affirmed that a request for assistance and support from various countries and donors would be made.

The Prime Minister also emphasized that the Government would not be relying on external financial assistance. It was already utilizing its own available resources and calling on its own reserves. It had, he said, already spent two billion birr in providing assistance to those affected. It would continue to exert every necessary effort to safeguard all those affected by any environment-related insecurity. Indeed, The Prime Minister noted that as the drought appeared likely to persist for several more months, the Government was committed to making every effort to mitigate its effects for as long as necessary.

The Prime Minister reiterated the Government's determination and concern when he visited some of the drought affected regions in the Somali and Afar Regional States at the weekend. Meeting members of different communities, delegates of religious institutions, women and youth groups and others, in Shinile in Somali Regional State, he said funds were being allocated to help people withstand the effects of the drought. He heard from residents of the Siti Zone about the severity of the drought and the fact that livestock deaths were already occurring in some parts of the region. They emphasized that further support from the Government was a critical necessity. They also said particular attention needed to be paid to assisting breastfeeding mothers, pregnant women and children. The Prime Minister said

the Federal Government, in collaboration with the Government of the Somali Regional State, was already extending support to those affected. It would continue to do everything possible to ensure adequate funds and that support reached those people in need.

Earlier last week, the Secretary of Ethiopia's National Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Committee, Mitiku Kassa, told a meeting of UN agencies, NGOs, and Donor representatives on Monday (October 12), that due to the El Niño phenomenon, the number of people in need of relief assistance had now increased to 8.2 million. A Government led inter-agency assessment last month identified an additional 3.6 million people in need of food assistance as well as 300,000 children in need of specialized nutritious food. He said the Government had already committed US\$192 million to addressing emergency food and non-food needs following the failed spring belg and poor summer kremt rains. More would be needed. Affected areas include southern Tigray, eastern Amhara, Afar, and parts of the Somali region, the eastern SNNP, East and West Hararge, and the Arsi and West Arsi, and lower Bale zones of Oromia Regional State. The number of woredas which have been prioritized for nutrition intervention had doubled from 97 in July to 142 in September.

The head of UN OCHA said "Donors have been generous, but if we are to meet the significant needs before us today, and more in the months ahead, we need far more support." The Mid-Year Review of Ethiopia's Humanitarian Requirements Document, in August, listed US\$432 million in funding requirements of which contributions had reached US\$258 million, but the adjusted requirements for 2015 amount to US\$596.4 million. The indications are that the on-going effects of El Niño may further affect weather patterns in the next few

months. The National Meteorological Agency is predicting strong rains along the Omo, Shabelle and Awash Rivers which may have a

further impact on harvests in some areas and cause flooding in Somalia.

Source: MFA Ethiopia

Prime Minister Hailemariam commends India's support to Ethiopia's effort at regional integration

On 29 October 2015, Ethiopia's Prime Minister, Hailemariam Desalegn has addressed the gathering of African and Indian Heads of state at the Third India-Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi, India. Prime Minister Hailemariam noted that the people of Africa and India have had

Africa and India, Prime Minister Hailemariam said have also worked hand in hand to achieve sustainable development given that they are now fighting for causes that have taken longer such as poverty eradication, sustainable development, terrorism and achieving a more



H.E. Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn meeting his Indian counterpart H.E. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sideline of the India-Africa Forum Summit. Picture © Ministry of External Affairs India

all round relations for millennia as in recent decades they have fought colonialism and apartheid which further strengthened their relationship.

fair and just world.

Prime Minister Hailemariam believed the Third India-Africa Forum Summit shall take the longstanding relationship to a higher level so



H.E. Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn meeting his Indian counterpart H.E. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sideline of the India-Africa Forum Summit. Picture © Ministry of External Affairs India

that the people of Africa and India benefit and “take their rightful place in the affairs of the world.”

Reminding his listeners that his country Ethiopia did host the Second India-Africa Forum Summit, back in May 2011, in Addis Ababa, the Prime Minister noted that the Summit was successful for the parties managed to adopt the Addis Ababa Declaration and the Africa-India Framework for Enhanced Cooperation.

Reflecting on the Ethio-India partnership, the

Prime Minister said, “I would like to note with satisfaction that Ethiopia was selected to host the India-Africa Integrated Textiles Cluster whose implementation is underway.

He added that India’s support to Ethiopia’s effort at regional integration through the Ethio-Djibouti railway construction is in the tendering process.

Ethiopia has registered a double digit annual economic growth over the last twelve years “thanks to the clear and participatory development policies and strategies we have followed.” “In order to sustain this high growth rate we have just launched our Second Five Year Growth and Transformation Plan,” he added.

On the sidelines of the meeting, Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi pledged to step up their relations. The two leaders exchanged views on ways of bolstering the longstanding diplomatic relations. The talks also included increased trade and investment exchanges, technology transfer as well as expanding railway infrastructures in Ethiopia. The Indian side showed interest to import oil seeds from Ethiopia and engage in edible oil production.

The Indian Prime Minister confirmed that Ethiopia will be among the beneficiaries of the 10 billion dollars credit extended to African nations over the next five years.

Prime Minister Modi also praised the fast economic growth in Ethiopia which serves as example to other nations.

The India–Africa Forum Summit is the platform for the African-Indian relations. It is held every three years since 2008. In 2011, the India-Africa Forum Summit was hosted by Ethiopia.

Source: Ethiopian News Agency

8th National Flag Day & Diaspora Festival celebrated in Brussels



On 24 October 2015, the Ethiopian Embassy in Brussels hosted an event to celebrate the 8th National Flag Day and Diaspora festival with more than 300 Ethiopians and people from Ethiopian origin living in the Benelux countries. Celebrated every year in October, the National Flag Day is an occasion to strengthen the national cohesion and to galvanize public participation in the effort to attain further growth and ensure Ethiopia's renaissance.

In his statement, H.E. Ambassador Teshome Toga, Ambassador of Ethiopia to the European Union institutions, Baltic and Benelux States underlined that the national development of Ethiopia can only take place with a broad people-based participation, including the

involvement of diaspora members living abroad. Furthermore, he stressed the need to accomplish this development in the respect of human rights and according to good governance principles.

Several members of the diaspora stated their commitment to participate in Ethiopia's development, and also thanked the government for achievements such as the recently inaugurated light railway in Addis Ababa.

Throughout the event, diaspora members were updated about the latest developments in the economical, social and cultural developments of the country. An auction was held for the benefit of the construction of the Grand

Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, a hydropower mega-project set to be finalized in 2017 that will transform Ethiopia into a regional power exporter. After the celebration, traditional Ethiopian food was served to the participants.

For more than a decade, Ethiopia has been one of the fastest-growing country in Africa. This exceptional economic development is set to continue during the next years, and the World Bank forecasts Ethiopia will be the fastest-growing country in the world in 2016. Several sectors like agro-processing and manufacturing have been gaining a considerable importance in the country's economy, while several flagship projects like the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, road construction and railway projects in the capital and throughout the country



have attracted worldwide attention. Ethiopia is also identified as one of the major investment destinations in Sub-Saharan Africa due to high growth potential of business, cheap and trainable labor, cheap electricity, incentives provided to investors and a stable political and institutional framework. Furthermore, the country is visited by more and more tourists due to its unique geographical, historical and cultural heritage. The UNESCO has recognized 9 of those heritage, more than any other country in Sub-Saharan Africa. In 2015 it was awarded the World Best Tourist Destination by the European Council on Tourism and Trade. As a stable country in a troubled region, Ethiopia has also been recognized as a solid international partner, and is generously contributing to several international peace-keeping force missions.





Highlights from the colorful celebration on 24 October 2015 in Brussels. Pictures Embassy of Ethiopia in Brussels

ECONOMY

President Dr. Mulatu Teshome called for development of Africa’s energy potential



Ethiopia’s President Dr Mulatu Teshome

Africa needs to urgently address gaps in the energy sector to improve the lives of its citizens, Ethiopia’s President Dr Mulatu Teshome said while addressing the closing session of the 2015 World Energy Council Executive Assembly and Energy Leaders Summit on 29 October 2015.

“It is my belief that this gathering helps us commit to implement proper policy measures and institutional and regulatory frameworks” the President stated. Indicating the huge energy resource potential in Africa, the president said the continent’s energy sector is undeveloped.

He hinted that Africa should take responsibility in bridging the gaps including by establishing appropriate institutional and regulatory

frameworks and implementing adequate energy policies. Referring best practices, developing modern and efficient energy technologies, building local capacity and the necessary finance are also among the points suggested by the president to make proper use of Africa’s energy sector. He said the World Energy Council Executive Assembly and Energy Leaders Summit held in Ethiopia provided decision makers and other stakeholders with a new momentum to define and recalibrate countries’ policies and priorities.

The President also spoke of Ethiopia’s Climate Resilient Green Economy Strategy which is aimed at protecting the country from the adverse effects of climate change. “The Climate Resilient Green Economy Strategy is major Ethiopia’s concern to build a green and sustainable and achieving zero net carbon emission by 2025. It is thus part of the country’s vision to develop its renewable energy resources in a responsible manner”. The government has attached due emphasis towards its green energy base in its series of Growth and Transformation Plans, the President further remarked.

“We have been mobilizing and committing significantly our resources to the realization of these strategic goals. Concerning the energy sector our first strategic pillar is to generate all of our electricity from clear and renewable

resources centered on hydropower but also including other renewable energy resources like wind, geothermal, solar and biomass”, he said.

President Mulatu also appreciated the World Energy Council Executive for taking the decision to hold the council’s 2015 World Energy Council Executive Assembly and Energy Leaders’ Summit in Addis Ababa.

The Economist’s summit in Ethiopia

The Economist has organized the first summit for economists, policy makers and academia in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The two days forum provided a platform for dialogue

and networking for improving large or small businesses. Watch the report by CCTV’s :

https://youtu.be/VEKL_xH2xNo

Netherlands-African Business Council on investment opportunities in Ethiopia

The Netherlands-African Business Council (NABC) published a video highlighting the business opportunities in Ethiopia. In the video, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Ethiopia explains how the Embassy and the NABC are supporting

investors to start and grow their business in Ethiopia. Investors and Ethiopian officials also give insightful information about current sectors for investment. Watch the video here:

<https://youtu.be/hANbRGZL3H0>

Areas of investment eligible for exemption of income tax

<i>Areas of Investment</i>	<i>Addis Ababa and Special Zone of Oromia Surrounding Addis Ababa</i>	<i>Other Areas</i>
1. Manufacturing		
i. Food industry	1 up to 5 years	2 up to 6 years
ii. Beverage industry	1 up to 3 years	2 up to 4 years
iii. Textiles and textiles products industry	2 up to 5 years	3 up to 6 years
iv. Leather and leather products industry (Except tanning of hides and skins below finished level)	2 up to 5 years	3 upto 6 years
v. Wood products industry	2 years	3 years
vi. Paper and paper products industry	1 up to 5 years	2 up to 6 years
vii. Chemical and chemical products industry	2 up to 5 years	3 up to 6 years
viii. Basic pharmaceutical products and pharmaceutical preparations industry	4 and 5 years	5 and 6 years
ix. Rubber and plastics products industry	1 and 4 years	2 and 5 years
x. Other non-metallic mineral products industry)	1 and 4 years	2 up to 5 years
xi. Basic metal industry (excluding mining of minerals)	3 up to 5 years	4 up to 6 years
xii. Fabricated metal products industry (excluding machinery and equipment)	1 and 3 years	2 and 4 years
xiii. Computer, electronic and optical products industry	2 up to 4 years	3 up to 5 years
xiv. Electrical products industry	2 and 4 years	4 and 5 years
xv. Machinery and equipment industry	5 years	6 years
xvi. Vehicles, trailers, and semi trailer industry	2 up to 5 years	3 up to 6 years
xvii. Manufacturing of office and household furniture (excluding those made of ceramic)	1 and 4 years	2 and 5 years
xviii. Manufacturing of other equipment (jewelers and related articles, musical instruments, sports equipment, games and toys and similar products)	1 year	2 years
xix. Integrated manufacturing with agriculture	4 years	5 years
2. Agriculture		
i. Crop production (Except growing of fiber crops, medium-term spices, aromatic or medicinal crops, perennial fruits, beverage crops and other perennial crops in Addis Ababa and its surroundings)	2 and 3 years	3 up to 6 years
ii. Animal production (Except farming of wild animals and production of milk, eggs and similar products in Addis Ababa and its surroundings)	2 and 3 years	3 and 4 years
iii. Mixed (crop and animal) farming	3 years	4 years
iv. Forestry	8 years	9 years
3. ICT	4 years	5 years
4. Generation, transmission and supply of electrical energy	4 years	5 years
5. Industry Zone Development	10 years	15 years

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

UN: Very significant number of Eritreans flee the country



The Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in Eritrea. Picture United Nations

On 29 October 2015, Mike Smith, Chair of the UN-appointed Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in Eritrea said the Eritreans are fleeing their country to seek a life free from fear. He told the Third Committee of the General Assembly that "...so many people feel the need

to flee their birth place in order to live a decent life free from fear is an extraordinary indictment of the government that has controlled Eritrea since independence more than 20 years ago." According to the UN News Center, Mr. Smith listed factors forcing the "alarming exodus."

“No elections since 1993. No independent press since 2001. Ongoing restrictions of all freedoms: movement, expression, religion, association. Arbitrary arrests with no fair trials or no trials at all. Forced labor; torture,” he indicated. Smith also noted that the report of his Inquiry, presented to the UN Human Rights Council in June of this year, “goes a long way to explaining why the number of Eritreans fleeing the country towards Europe has grown steadily since 2001 and has accelerated with a growth of more than 150 per cent between 2013 and 2014.”

“The international community, in the form of the Human Rights Council, has responded to the dramatic nature of these findings by reiterating its deep concern at the ongoing

reports of grave violations of human rights,” Mr. Smith stated. He went on to say that the Council, “in an unprecedented move” for a country not at war has decided to extend the mandate of the commission for another year.

This, he said, will help investigate “systematic, widespread and gross violations of human rights in Eritrea with a view to ensuring full accountability including where these violations may amount to crimes against humanity.”

According to the UNHCR, some 5,000 Eritreans flee each month to neighboring countries to escape political repression including indefinite national conscription. Ethiopia currently hosts some 136,000 Eritrean refugees.

Source: Ethiopian News Agency, UNHCR

AGENDA & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Courses of Amharic start in Leuven

This academic year 2015-2016, GROUP T – International Engineering Academy – University of Leuven (GROUP T – Academy) launches a new International Language & Culture Programme focussing among others on Amharic.

GROUP T - International Engineering Academy – KU Leuven (Group T-Academy) connects university partners of different continents and with different cultures to foster cross-fertilization and enhance each other’s development.

Learning a language is more than just communicating. It is above all getting acquainted with a new culture. It is exploring new traditions and habits, conducts and attitudes, and developing your cultural insights and understandings. In addition, learning a new language broadens your mentality and sharpens your skills to be more successful in the development of your international undertakings whether these comprise entrepreneurship ambitions, outbound study mobility or professional trips.

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AT KU Leuven Campus Group T, Faculty of Engineering Technology with its approximately 300 international students you will for sure get a chance to practice this new language and discover and fully taste these new cultures.

The courses run at Campus GROUP T on

Thursday evenings from 18:30 until 21:00. The course program holds 3 modules of which each module comprises 25 course hours spread over 10 evenings. Each course lasts 2,5hours.

Are you interested in doing business in Ethiopia and want to develop your entrepreneurial skills on the ground?

Enjoy and experience a new culture and its language.

For questions and registration, please

send an email to mimi.deprez@group-t.academy or call +32472 32 42 52.

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.

Contact

Email info@ethiopianembassy.be

Registration and practical information:

http://ethio.be/NL_Ethio_Business

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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