



# ETHIOPIA TODAY

Newsletter of the Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in Canada

Vol. IV No.1 April 2017

## Parliamentary Secretary Visits Ethiopia



Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn held talks with a Canadian delegation led by Hon. Omar Alghabra, Parliamentary Secretary to Global Affairs of Canada on April 18/2017.

Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn has urged the Canadian delegation to strengthen engagements in trade and investment in Ethiopia, alongside other prioritized areas.

According to Canada's Ambassador to Ethiopia, Ambassador Philip Baker, who attended the discussion, Canada and Ethiopia have both expressed their desire to enhance their trade relation alongside strengthening the existing "broad and deep" relationship on development programs.

He noted that poverty reduction, women empowerment and the engagement of Ethiopian young people in their own businesses are areas of

achievement that Canada's development programs have been involved in.

Food security and agriculture are also among Canada's large engagements in Ethiopia, according to Baker.

"We have strong development programs but we really hope to grow our trade relationship between the two countries and the aviation sector", the ambassador stated.

The ambassador also expressed his hope that the two countries will collaborate in Ethiopia's mining sector, mainly to benefit the community.

Ethiopia is beneficiary of Canada's largest global development program that on average allocates over 100 million CAD annually.(ENA)

## Emir of Qatar's State Visit Provides Prospects for Deeper Cooperation



The Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in Ottawa is located at 1501 - 2 75 Slater Street, Ottawa, ON, Canada K1P 5H9. Tel: 613 565 6637 Fax: 613 565 9175

e-mail: [info@ethioembassyCanada.org](mailto:info@ethioembassyCanada.org), Website: [www.ethioembassyCanada.org](http://www.ethioembassyCanada.org)

The Emir of the State of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, on April 11/2017 paid a two-day state visit to Ethiopia giving full expression to the need for expansion of in-depth and practical cooperation between Qatar and Ethiopia. The two-day state visit (April 10-11) reviewed the status and growth of the bilateral relationship of the two countries, encompassing all fields of cooperation in light of the new impetus and potential for the promotion of an agenda of sustainable development and maintenance of regional peace and stability. Both sides also underlined the importance of maintaining the momentum of frequent high-level visits to expand Ethio-Qatar ties, grounded on mutual trust and joint development.

The Emir's bilateral talks with Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn and President Dr. Mulatu Teshome, and the roundtable talks with Ethiopian high-level officials, confirmed this. The Talks were held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere during which both sides reiterated their strong commitment to enhance ties of cooperation and friendship. They also attested the urgency of propelling Ethio-Qatari ties into a new phase of strengthened and practical investment cooperation. The mutual interest in deepened cooperation is based on the spirit of the long-standing historic friendship between the two countries, which have had diplomatic relations since 1995.

According to the joint communiqué issued at the end of the talks, Prime Minister Hailemariam and Sheikh Tamin bin Hamad Al-Thani reaffirmed their commitment to extend ties of cooperation to expand progress in the future in all areas, including enhancing international coordination and cooperation on issues of common concern. They agreed fighting terrorism was one of the challenges requiring Ethio-Qatar cooperation and collaboration at regional and global levels to

offset threats across the region. Cognizant of the threat posed to peace, stability and security in East and West Africa, the Middle East, the Gulf region and more widely, they also stressed the importance of coordinating efforts with the international community to fight terrorism. With regard to the political dialogue, both leaders agreed to strengthen joint high-level political consultations in addition to committing efforts to maintain peace and security in their respective regions and the world at large.

### **Ethiopia Stresses Need to Implement Recommendations on UN Peace Operations**

The UN Security Council has held a meeting on April 6/2017 to discuss the review of United Nations peacekeeping operations. The meeting was organized as part of the thematic discussions of the Council during this month's US presidency. A concept note circulated in advance underlined the important role that political foundations play in the success of peacekeeping missions. It encouraged Council members to review missions and identify areas where mandates no longer match political realities, and raised the question of whether it is advisable or possible to operate a mission without the strategic consent of the host government.

The Secretary-General spoke of the appalling cases of sexual exploitation and abuse that had tarnished the reputation of the United Nations, stressing the need to set out a new approach to tackling those issues and was determined to implement it. He said that strategy should consider the entire peace continuum, based on the principle that there was no "one-size-fits-all" peace operation. He emphasized the need to accord priority to the protection of civilians throughout a mission's existence, and said it was also important to end operations that had achieved their goals and to reform those that no longer met

the needs on the ground. The success of each mission hinged on an active political process, he said, and the Security Council had a vital role to play in securing the commitment of all stakeholders, particularly Governments.

Ethiopia's Permanent Representative, Ambassador Tekeda Alemu, stressing the need for frank discussions, recalled the essential guidance for the review on reforming UN Peacekeeping Operations two years earlier. This had been the need for peace operations to change and adapt themselves to 'new circumstances and to ensure their increased effectiveness and appropriate use in future.' HIPPO (High Level Independent Panel on Peace Operation) had made a range of important recommendations aimed at enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of peace operations, both at the strategic and operational levels.

Ambassador Tekeda pointed out the need to have a clear political strategy to effectively respond to the peace and security challenges of today. He emphasized the significance of investing in conflict prevention. It wasn't only a matter of being cost-effective; most importantly it had to do with saving lives: "the main *raison d'être* of this organization, saving succeeding generations from the scourge of war." Whenever these efforts fail, he advised, "We should be able to use the range of tools available in a pragmatic and flexible manner taking into account the realities on the ground."

Ambassador Tekeda concluded by notifying the Council of Ethiopia's readiness to organize a High Level Open Debate at the level of Heads of State and Government in September, during its Presidency of the Council. This would mark two years since the high-level review on peace operations and was an appropriate moment to facilitate serious discussion on following up the implementation of the HIPPO recommendations and chart the best way forward.

## The 6th Tana High-level Forum on Security in Africa



The 6th Tana High-level Forum on Security in Africa was held on April 22 and 23/2017 in Bahir Dar, the capital of the Amhara Regional State Government, under the theme: "Natural Resource Governance in Africa". Every year, it brings together African leaders and stakeholders to engage and explore African-led security solutions. It complements formal meetings of African heads of state and government by assembling them in an informal, collaborative environment. In the spirit of traditional gatherings taking place under 'the Baobab tree', it offers room and space for panel discussions, interaction with the floor and bilateral talks to share views and experiences in an open manner, on the basis that "frank, relevant and candid dialogue is fundamental to resolving conflict and transforming societies." The Forum, therefore, promotes African-led solutions by holding discussions on the strategic and pro-active management of African peace and security issues driven by the interest to contribute to stronger ownership of these issues.

Opening the forum, Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn underlined that as Africa was endowed with a wide range of natural resources and their management mattered, this theme, 'Natural Resource Governance in Africa' is particularly fitting. Natural resource management and

governance was important because mismanagement so easily resulted in conflict and contention. The Prime Minister stressed that the Tana Forum, as an interactive and open platform for debate and discussions involving a range of stakeholders, offered a real opportunity for African leaders and policy makers to discuss high-level continental issues. He emphasized the need for proper management and governance of natural resources, noting that there was a very direct relationship between governance of natural resources and sustainable economic development. He underscored the importance of fighting against rent-seeking behavior for protection and governance of sustainable natural resources.

Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni urged fellow African leaders to stop what he described as "ideological meandering". He said the biggest mistakes came from "policies manifested in terms of fragmented vision, fragmented policy, and fragmented development." These could not be a solution to Africa's problems. President Museveni said policy mistakes by both technocrats and

political leaders had led to various problems in Africa.

In concluding remarks on April 23/2017, Prime Minister Hailemariam described the Forum as a platform to articulate African common interests. Recollecting Ethiopia's long standing contribution to Pan Africanism and its ideals, he emphasized that the Tana High Level Forum was only one aspect of Ethiopia's commitment to African causes, to Pan Africanism and its ideals. Olusegun Obasanjo, Chairperson of the Tana Forum, appreciating the all round support Ethiopia had given to the Forum, underlined the importance of the way the Forum provided an informal setting allowing Africans from a wide variety of interests with the freedom to put forward African Solutions to African Problems particularly in the field of security. Because of its inclusivity, the platform helped to produce diverse opinions but to do away with the "we/they" dichotomy in policy making and implementation, he said, adding: "we have done well but not enough, we would do better".

# Business and Economy

## **Ethio-Japan Business Forum Opens up Prospects for a Network of Cooperation**

An Ethio-Japan Business Forum, held on April 26/2017 Tokyo, is opening up new prospects for a network of cooperative partnerships between the Ethiopian and Japanese business communities. It has also given fresh vitality to the existing time-honored and fine traditions of Ethiopian-Japanese friendship and relations. The Forum provided a space for both government officials and business people from both countries to hold a dialogue on possibilities and prospects. It allowed Ethiopia to demonstrate its strategic vision and focus on the

importance of manufacturing industry to bring about an economic structural change in the country through the development of industrial clusters and parks. The Forum, acknowledging the value of the KAIZEN network, which has been radiating out from Addis Ababa into other areas of Africa, also began to chart the way for both countries to embark on further joint technical cooperation, human resource development, technology transfer and capacity building in the development of the manufacturing sector.

The Forum, cognizant of Ethiopia's vision of development and Japan's capabilities and will to share expertise, underlined the need to enrich and

speed up the pace of bilateral economic relations. The issue of manufacturing industry was a constant theme cutting across all the discussions and deliberations at the forum. This reflected Ethiopia's urgent wish to tap Japanese expertise and experience in manufacturing. Indeed, the Joint Business Forum confirmed this and underlined the spirit of mutual commitment to consolidate the existing Ethio-Japanese Industrial Dialogue for the transformation of the industrial sector and encourage more Japanese foreign direct investment in the emerging manufacturing sector.

The Forum was organized by the Ethiopian Embassy in Japan, in collaboration with the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO). It offered a glimpse of the main reasons to invest in Ethiopia's emerging manufacturing industry. It also gave a bird's eye view of the country's investment and business opportunities as well as the current state of industrialization. It gave Japanese investors and businesses a general outline of the business support services provided in Ethiopia and the Ethiopia-Japan policy dialogue (phase three), as an intellectual and practical element of Ethio-Japan economic cooperation, put forward both the opportunities and challenges of doing business in Ethiopia. The Japan International Cooperation Agency's (JICA) activities in Ethiopia and an overview of the Ethiopian investment climate were also addressed during the Forum's discussions.

Industry Minister, Ahmed Abtew, also met with the Executive Vice-President of the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), Dr. Kasumi Hirano, on April 25/2017 in Tokyo. He briefed Dr. Hirano on the development of the industrial parks in various regions of the country, and also emphasized that light manufacturing was now being mainstreamed by the government as one of the leading export revenue-generating sectors. He recalled the decision taken to open the JETRO office in Ethiopia and underlined its future importance in expanding business networks. It had already begun to provide

enabling conditions for trade and investment relations between the two countries. The Minister, who noted the steady development of governmental diplomacy between Ethiopia and Japan, emphasized that Ethiopia was very ready to advance mutually beneficial cooperation. He called on Japanese businesses to join in Ethiopia's development of the infrastructure of the manufacturing industry. Their discussions also covered new developments taking place in Ethiopia, which Minister Ahmed said were laying the foundation for accelerated structural changes in the economy.

## **Tanzania Plans to Import 400MW Power from Ethiopia**



Tanzanian President John Magufuli announced plan to import 400 MW of electricity from Ethiopia to power its industrial drive, Reuters reported.

Magufuli said at a joint press conference with the visiting Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn on April 1st 2017 in Dar es Salaam that the power will be transmitted through a high voltage line linking the two nations via Kenya.

Tanzania faces chronic power shortages due to its reliance on hydro-power dams despite reserves of over 57 trillion cubic feet (tcf) of natural gas.

Referring to the discussions and agreement he had with Hailemarim, Magufuli said, "He [Hailemariam] has agreed to supply us with 400 megawatts, which could be increased later on."

Tanzania, where demand for power currently outpaces supply, aims to add about 2,000 MW in gas-fired generation by 2018.

The leaders have also witnessed the signing of agreements including cooperation on energy, tourism and agriculture.

(ENA)

## *Tourism and Culture*

### **“Much More than ‘Land of Origins’” Says WTO Secretary-General**



The fifty-ninth meeting of the UN World Tourism Commission for Africa and the High-level Meeting on Chinese Outbound Tourism to Africa were held in Addis Ababa on April 18-21/2017. Attending were 37 African Ministers of Tourism and high level delegations from World Tourism Commission member states, as well as representatives of the tourism and media industries and Dr. Taleb D. Rifai, Secretary General of the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). During their visit, conference delegates visited the city of Gondar in the Amhara Regional State, the capital of Ethiopia during the mid-17th to 19th centuries, the residence of the Emperor Fasilidas (1632-1659) and his successors. They visited the palaces and castles in Gondar, as well as Debre Berhan Selassie church with its notable 17th century paintings and planted trees as a demonstration of commitment to environmental protection and climate change resilience.

The palace complex in Gondar itself includes the Castles of the Emperors Fasilidas, Iyasu I and Dawit, the Library and Chancellery of Yohannis I, and the Banqueting Hall of Bakaffa as well as other buildings. Gondar is also home to famous monasteries and churches including Debre Berhane Selassie, the Bath of Fasilidas and other remains in the immediate area, among them the 18th century Palace of the Empress Mentuab and the church at Qusqam; and a little further away, the Castle of Guzara and the House of the Catholic Patriarch, dating to the early 17th century.

In a subsequent interview, Dr. Rifai, Secretary General of the UNWTO, said he was impressed by the enormous variety of tourist destinations that characterized Ethiopia, and particularly, the different styles of the castles he had seen in Gondar. Ethiopia, he said, with its various different tangible and intangible heritage sites and its historic and cultural tourist destinations, was much more than merely the “the land of origins”. He said in Gondar there were the same kinds of stone and building techniques, but “the styles are completely different. That is what really fascinates me.” Dr. Rifai said: “I know you can come up with the tag line ‘the land of origins’, but Ethiopia is by far more than this. It is a land that can accommodate its essence and souls that are beyond the world’s description.” He added: “The branding exercise has not yet been finished.”

Describing Ethiopia as not only the land of origin and diversity, but also a land of unity, where all aspects of life were unified under one umbrella, the Secretary-General said: “I think this visit completes my dictionary and my vocabulary on the cultural aspects of Ethiopia. The beauty of it is in the diversity within

a unity. There is a remarkable spirit that unifies the whole place.” It was his third visit to Ethiopia, and Dr. Rifai said he was impressed with the commitment and political will that the Government was devoting to the effect of ensuring proper utilization of the country’s tourism potential. He said, “The most important and impressive development I saw is the maturity of the political will and the belief in tourism today.” He noted that Ethiopia had invested largely in infrastructure development, and this, coupled with the thriving hotel service industry, had the potential to generate more than ten times the current tourist numbers.

At the same time, however, the UNWTO Secretary-General said there is still a real need for collaboration and enhanced synergy between the private sector and government to provide better growth for the tourist industry, and to further attract the world to the unique sites Ethiopia had to offer. He said he would like to see much more effort, resources and capacity dedicated to the areas of promotion and marketing strategies. He promised that UNWTO would help Ethiopia in further positioning itself on the international tourist stage.

Ethiopia has an amazing variety of rich cultural, historic, religious and natural attractions currently including nine of UNESCO tangible World Heritage sites. These are the obelisks at Axum in Tigray Regional State (1980), the Fasil Ghibi (Compound) in Gondar Zone of Amhara Regional State (1979), the Fortified historic city of Harar Jegol (2006), the Konso cultural landscape in the SNNP Regional State (2011), the Lower valley of the Awash (1980) and the Omo prehistoric sites (1980), the Rock Hewn Churches of Lalibela in Wello zone of Amhara Regional State (1978), the Semien Mountains National Park in Gondar Zone (1978) and the Tiya monuments in Oromia Regional State (1980).

There are also three items listed on UNESCO’s Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity list: The commemoration of the Finding of the True Cross (the Meskal festival), the Gada system, and Fiche Chamballa, the New Year of the Sidama people.

UNESCO only began to list intangible heritage in 2013, and there are a number of other festivals and celebrations around the country which are being considered as possible intangible heritage listing, among them the celebration of Ethiopian Timkat (Epiphany) and the traditional festival of Shadey/Ashenda, both of which have already been submitted to UNESCO. This has given major encouragement to consideration of other possible entries for the Cultural Heritage of Humanity list. Indeed, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism aims to get another dozen or so inscribed on the UNESCO list during the current GTP. Alongside the global recognition this will bring, the plan underlines the importance of ensuring saving and transferring the nation’s ancient values and heritages to future generations.

The importance of the tourist industry, and the need to optimize attractions of the country, has also been underlined by the creation of the Tourism Transformation Council, chaired by Prime Minister Hailemariam, and by the creation last year of the new logo – “Ethiopia: Land of Origins”, replacing the “Thirteen months of Sunshine”, used for many years. “Ethiopia: Land of Origins” recalls that the country is the ‘cradle of mankind’, the origin of coffee and source of the Blue Nile, as well as having an ancient civilization, and a rich and diverse history and culture.





### **From the Desk of Dr. Tedros**

First and foremost, I would like to thank my friends and colleagues for your unwavering support. I am honoured to be one of three candidates left in the election for Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO). I am pleased our campaign received 34 votes in the first round of voting, which means every country on WHO'S executive Board endorsed my candidacy. I am also grateful to have received the highest number of votes in the second round of the short listing. I know that transforming WHO requires effective engagement with Member States, So I am heartened by this strong display of support from each region. Countries must be at the table, as full and equal partners, to guide and make the decisions that will affect the health of their populations.

Over the next two months, I look forward to continuing our conversation about how to make a tangible, positive impact on the health and lives of people everywhere. I am confident that if we maximise inclusive partnerships and ensure collective priority setting, we will build a stronger WHO fit for the challenges of the 21st century.

On International Women's Day, I called for such needed global actions and investments to support countries' advancement of gender equality and the empowerment of girls and women. Despite all the progress we have made, millions of women and girls continue to face challenges ranging from access to education and employment opportunities, to early marriage and lack of access to reproductive health services. Investing in girls and women is the smartest thing we can do, and it will help us improve opportunities for all people. Leading to gender equality is among my five leadership priorities for WHO. All of this builds on the support from you.

These discussions and experiences have energised me and reaffirmed that we can and will build WHO into a more effective, transparent and accountable agency that is independent, science and innovation-based, results-focused and responsive. Please see my vision statement for more about my leadership priorities for WHO at [www.drtedros.com](http://www.drtedros.com).

With your stance, I am confident that we will be successful in the final election in May at World Health Assembly.

