

## **ETHIOPIA TODAY**

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

Vol. III No.5 August 2016

#### Canada Interested to Work in Energy, Mining Sectors in Ethiopia



Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Development in Canada, Honourable Ms. Katrina Gould, has expressed her country's desire to work hand-in-hand with Ethiopia in the spheres of energy, mining, and infrastructure development during her unit to Ethiopia from August 29 to Sept.2,2016.

After conferring with Foreign Minister Tedros Adhanom on ways of further deepening bilateral ties, Gould said Ethiopia and Canada are great partners in development and trade.

"We were very much working together to continue Ethiopia's development and work handin-hand to improve economic situation and to continue strengthening development relationship", she said.

The minster appreciated Ethiopia's efforts in stabilizing peace and security in Eastern African region and has expressed her government's commitment to continue its support to the country in its efforts to bring durable peace in the region.

She finally invited the government to participate in the Canada-African business forum to be held in Toronto on November 2016. "We hope this is going to be a strong delegation and there is significant interest of Canadian companies in particularly energy, mining, aerospace, and infrastructure sectors", the minster observed.

Foreign Minister Tedros said on his part that Ethiopia and Canada have various kinds of cooperation, including in capacity building.

The Government of Canada has been contributing a lot to support Ethiopia in its efforts to mitigate the recent drought, Tedros said, adding that each and every year Canada is the country that has been extending financial support for various development projects.

The minister further emphasized that the two sides should have to focus on expanding the existing cooperation to trade and investment. Tedros has called on the Government of Canada to encourage investors to do business in Ethiopia as there are industrial parks that can accommodate them. (ENA)

#### WHO Regional Committee for Africa Meets in Addis



President Mulatu Teshome has urged leaders to acknowledge the instrumental and intrinsic value of good health and give it the necessary attention.

In his opening speech to the 66th session of WHO Regional Committee for Africa in Addis Ababa, the president said good health is a driver for a nation's economic growth and development.

Thus we must focus on equity in the use of health services, he said, stressing further that "no one should be left behind."

"We have to take lessons from history, learn from our past experiences and be ready for the future", the president added.

According to him, the population of Africa is expected to almost double in size by 2050 from the current 1 billion plus to 2.7 billion, and the demographic shift will be bringing significant challenges to the development of the continent's health sector.

The continent will therefore be increasingly challenged by the triple burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases including injuries, Mulatu elaborated.

The countries should have to be vigilant and ready to address the impending threats through strengthening their health system and in collaboration in tackling these borderless threats, the president observed.

Director-General of WHO, Dr. Margaret Chan said on her part the social, economic and environmental determinants of health are so broad that progress in improving health is a reliable indicator of progress in implementing the overall agenda.

Africa needs to work hard to have healthy adolescents which are the drivers of the future prosperous continent, World Health Organization (WHO) said.

WHO Regional Director for Africa, Dr. Matshidiso Moeti said at the opening of the 66th session of WHO Regional Committee meeting "adolescents are our greatest opportunity to have a radical change in our region for a healthy sustainable future."

Adolescents need to be the focus of SDGs agenda and the continent has to make sure that improved health will lead Africa to achieve its grand goals, Moeti added.

The continent has to give priorities on impacts of adolescent health in the framework of strengthened health systems in order to have a vibrant and innovative younger generation, the director stressed.

The largest generation of youth in history will be born in Africa in the coming years, and this is another boost to economic boom.

According to the director, all sustainable development objectives need coordination, mobilization of financial resources and material resources.

Health Minister Dr. Keseteberhan Admassu said Africa has registered remarkable achievements in increasing life expectancy, reducing maternal and child mortality, decreasing the rate of infections, among others.

"What the stated achievements tell us is that if there is a will there is a way and collectivity is a key engine of achievements", the minister pointed out.

He said more challenges await us particularly as epidemic diseases in border areas and the quality of health services still remain poor. These needs cooperation of all stakeholders.

## **Ethiopia's New Model of Climate Diplomacy**

Ethiopia's climate diplomacy has gained further traction as the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) Executive Director, Erik Solheim, invited the country to expand its diplomatic efforts in climate change as a purveyor for global climate action. In bilateral talks with Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn, Mr. Solheim, pointing out that Ethiopia enjoyed an excellent relationship with the UNEP on global initiatives for climate change, said that the UNEP was keen to see Ethiopia leading efforts to expedite cooperation over respect of the interdependence of human and planetary wellbeing.

This invitation was hardly a surprise as Ethiopia has previously taken a leading role in various fora in the search for remedies for the cross-cutting risks and threats of climate change facing humanity. Indeed, Executive Director Solheim acknowledged that Ethiopia had been a major contributor and promoter of climate economy at all levels of engagement. The Executive Director also noted that Ethiopia's diplomatic efforts had

played a major role in leading the complex issues around climate change over the last two decades. He added that it could help make new headway in Africa and beyond and assist in producing fruitful results to ensure ecological stability.

As an entrepreneur of global policy and integrator of the global agenda in tackling the traditional and emerging security challenges and risks around climate change, Ethiopia has mainstreamed regional and global partnership for a low-carbon and green development business model. This has been a continuous and steady element, indeed an anchor, for its climate diplomacy. The heart of this initiative sets out the economic, ecological, social and political dimensions of development in a balanced equilibrium. It characterizes the thought and practice of Ethiopia's climate diplomacy as a positive force and propellant for the wellbeing of humanity and the planet.

Prime Minister Hailemariam, responding to the call of the UNEP Executive Director for Ethiopia to take an increased catalyzing role for more climate action, stressed that Ethiopia was eager to launch its climate diplomacy to champion this agenda. This would help nationally as well as the ongoing regional and global climate talks to uphold a climate-friendly trajectory. The Prime Minister underlined that Ethiopia was ready to continue its partnership with UNEP in building up the base for knowledge and expertise as well as keeping contact on policy dialogue, as well as for setting up local environment laboratories. Dr. Shiferaw Teklemariam, Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, who attended the talks, briefed journalists that the phrase "strong partnership" exemplified the relationship between Ethiopia and the UNEP.

The Minister went on to note that Ethiopia sought synergy between sustainable development and environmental stability, and underlined that Ethiopia's national and regional efforts and vision for the building of a climate resilient green economy, equally reflected the importance of subscribing to the measurement of development and nature. In other words, it offers the integration of climate change in all cross-sectoral and cross-cutting issues of national, regional and global security and prosperity, enabling nations to harness the benefits and reduce the risks in a forward-looking and comprehensive manner. In this context, the Minister said, Ethiopia has fully integrated the issue in its sustainable development policy, strategies and programs.

Ethiopia has just taken the task of chairing the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) in addition to other regional platforms to speak for the people who are most under the threat of global warming. Ethiopia's chairmanship of the CVF indicates the trust it has gained garnered from the CVF member states, which are those most susceptible to the risks of climate change. Ethiopia has long been a vigorous spokesperson for Africa, speaking strongly about the potential catastrophe of global warming, proposing inter alia a new pattern of international relations to be based on cooperation and coordination to tackle the challenges now facing Africa and the world. Using regional platforms, Ethiopia has demonstrated at various fora, notably at the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference in 2009, that Africa could be an equal partner in the effort to overcome the problems of global warming.

paradigm shift from traditional Ethiopia's development models to green development is a critical and timely choice for the 21st century, doing justice to the necessity to help provide for the sustainable development that alone can save the world from the danger of climate change. 'Green' development strategies promote 'green' jobs and clean energy services as well as regional integration, helping to provide for peace and stability. In the longer term, the 'green' development of Ethiopia will surely persuade others to copy the model and improve their environmental performance. It is equally certain that climate diplomacy, a weapon to win over hearts and minds, should produce the required changes for sustainability in international relations.

Ethiopia and US Enhance Multi-Sector Partnerships through University Linkage



A three-day workshop with the aim of promoting US-Ethiopia higher education linkages, with specific relevance to improving the agriculture sector and maximizing food security, took place at the Hilton Hotel, Addis Ababa, from August 15-17.2016. workshop brought together The representatives of eight US higher-learning institutions: Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, Texas State University, University of Missouri-St. Louis, Oklahoma State University, Texas Tech University, Pennsylvania State University, Mississippi State University and Baylor University; as well as seven Ethiopian Wollega universities: University, University, Debre Markos University, Hawassa University, Adama University, Addis Ababa Science and Technology University, and Ambo University.

The workshop was also attended by the State Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Ato Wondirad Mandefro and the State Minister of Education, Dr. Kaba Urgessa, the U.S Ambassador to Ethiopia, Patricia Haslach, the Honorary Consul General of Ethiopia in Texas, Gezahegn Kebede, and a former U.S Ambassador to Ethiopia, Ambassador Tibor Nagy, as well as high-level government officials, diplomats, representatives of a number of higher learning institutions from both countries and invited dignitaries.

In a key-note speech, State Minister Wondirad noted that Ethio-US cooperation was growing by the day, adding that the two countries were working hard to enhance their partnership in a range of sectors, particularly in education and agriculture, which, he said, was instrumental to boost their bilateral cooperation to new heights. He said that an intensive partnership in the agriculture sector was particularly needed and was very timely in the light of Ethiopia's determination to carry out an agricultural transformation and provide for full food security.

State Minister of Education, Dr. Kaba welcomed participants to the "third U.S-Ethiopian Universities linkage workshop" and considered university links and their role in fulfilling Ethiopia's Growth and Transformation Plan (GTPII). Listing the major pillars of the GTP II, he referred to the need to sustain faster and equitable economic growth; create favorable conditions for industry to play a key role in the economy; enhance expansion and keep up the quality of infrastructure development; build capacity and deepen good governance; as well as promote women and empower youth. He stressed that Ethiopia, as one of the fast growing economies in the world, was determined to become a middle-income economy by 2025.

This was ambitious but achievable, he said. Dr. Kaba emphasized that the government's fundamental principle was to get out of poverty through peace, democracy and development. The main tool for achieving this was human development, particularly education. Universities, he said, were committed to the national mission of

producing capable human resources for the economy without which the growth transformation of the nation was impossible. He underlined the importance of strengthening partnerships with international universities, like those in the US, in order to benefit in technology transfer and human development. He said 17 public universities had benefited from the seed money that has been granted since the start of the linkage conferences, and numerous MOUs between American and Ethiopian universities had been signed.

Ambassador Haslach also noted that Ethiopia and the US were forging a relationship of exemplary bilateral cooperation. She described the current initiative to enhance the partnership in higher education as proof of this. The Ambassador said growth and stability created a Ethiopia's conducive environment to scale up institutional Ethiopian and linkages among American universities and, through this, partnerships in areas of agriculture and food security could be further bolstered. Former U.S Ambassador to Ethiopia. Ambassador Nagy. shared perspective on Ethiopia's overall development, emphasizing the development of the education sector and the expansion of infrastructure in the country. He said Ethiopia had recorded notable achievements in the development educational infrastructure, the expansion of universities and a rise in the enrollment of women. He said the country's growth and the substantial young population was promising for potential partnerships in the education sector. He added that Ethiopia provided a welcoming environment for U.S. scholars, and this also offered the potential to increase multi-sector partnerships.

On the second day, the workshop held sessions providing for the universities to share new perspectives on initiating, supporting and sustaining linkages, on gender mainstreaming, and providing insights from both sides on ways of facilitating and maintaining transformational partnerships in strategic areas of mutual interests.

Overall, the sessions underlined the value of conferences and linkage workshops which could further advance partnership in the higher education sector and widen development cooperation especially on agriculture, technology

and human development as well as strengthen multi-sector ties between the two countries.

# Business and Economy

### **Ministry Reports Progress in Foreign Trade Exchanges**



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) has reported progresses achieved in enhancing the trade partnership between Ethiopia and other countries.

During the annual performance review session held the ministry disclosed that Ethiopia witnessed fruitful trade partnership with other countries.

Ethiopian Ambassadors and Consulates-generals accredited to various countries of the world attended the event on 4th of August 2016.

According to Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Dr. Tedros Adhanom who spoke during the event, fruitful diplomatic activities were carried out in attracting more Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to the country.

H.E.Dr. Tedros mentioned successful undertakings that heightened relations with Djibouti and Somalia in economic and political spheres.

The diplomatic efforts in the year put the country among the top investment attracting countries in the world, the minister remarked, adding Ethiopia's successful diplomatic activities which earned the country global acceptance.

He said 1,080 foreign companies made pre-investment survey which is beyond the set target. Some 372 of the investors received licenses.

However, according to the minister, more needs to be done in attracting further FDI, for which the diplomats and Ambassadors should continue playing their role.

The high profile visits by presidents of different countries were also mentioned among achievements in the fiscal year.

Ethiopian Ambassadors to China and South Korea also spoke on the occasion mentioning further opportunities to advance relations between Ethiopia and their countries of assignment.(ENA)

### **Horticulture Export Generates over 275mln USD**



Horticulture has generated 275.45 million USD in export revenue in the just ended fiscal year, according to the Ethiopian Horticulture Development Agency (EHDA).

The foreign currency secured from export of horticulture products has showed a 10.7 per cent increase as compared against the performance of last year.

Export of cut flowers amounted to the majority of the revenue, with the sector generating 225 million USD of the stated amount.

Export of fruits and vegetables as well as herbs generated 50 million USD.

Head of Public Relations Office with the Agency Mekonen Hailu said 49 thousand tons of roses and 714.5 million cut flowers were exported in the given period.

The volume of vegetables and fruits exported was 166 thousand tons, according to the head.

He attributed the increase in foreign currency earnings to consistent government support to the sector, attractive incentives and increase in export volume.

The country is becoming a preferred investment hub for horticulture export owing to conducive investment climate and government incentives, Mekonnen said.

The majority of the 130 companies investing in fields of horticulture in Ethiopia are owned by foreigners.

Europe is the key destination for Ethiopia's horticulture products, taking 80 per cent share of the export.

North America, Middle and Far East as well as some African and other countries also receive Ethiopian horticulture products.

## Tourism and Culture

#### **Ethiopia Eyes Chinese Investment in Tourism**

State Minister of Culture and Tourism Tadelech Dalecho said Ethiopia is desirous to see the leading involvement of Chinese investors in manufacturing sector replicated in tourism and hospitality.

The state minister made the remark at the China-Ethiopia Tourism Industry Cooperation Dialogue which took place on the 17th of August 2016.

She noted that Ethiopia prioritizes working in partnership with China to attract investments in the tourism sector and expressed the nation's desire for investors to engage in the construction of star- designated hotels, lodges and resorts across tourist attraction sites.

Ethiopia has abundant potential for commercial and conference tourism and provides various incentives including tax holidays, access to land at competitive lease price and custom free imports of capital goods for investors in the sector, Tadelech explained.

The state minister said the two countries have done more to widen their cultural cooperation and expressed her optimism that the dialogue could open door for Chinese investment in Ethiopia's tourism sector.

Chinese Ambassador to Ethiopia La Yifan said On the occasion that there is a growing desire among Chinese investors to take part in Ethiopia's tourism sector.

Ambassador Yifan stated that the success Ethiopia has registered in expanding its infrastructural complexes is the driving force to attract Chinese investors and reiterated the investors demand to work in the construction of hotels, lodges and resorts.

He said leaders of the two countries agreed to strengthen the cultural cooperation and stakeholder meetings are also underway to seek joint partnership in Ethiopia's tourism industry.

Yifan noted that Ethiopia's tourism sector has a capacity of generating equal amount of money with the current Ethio-China annual trade exchange and advised vigorous efforts to be exerted for the sector's development.

In 2015 Ethiopia obtained 4.3 billon USD from tourism and 918, 000 tourists from various countries visited the country.

The China-Ethiopia Tourism Industry Cooperation Dialogue was co-hosted by Minister of Culture and Tourism and China's Embassy to Ethiopia aimed to promote Ethiopia's tourism investment opportunities among Chinese investors.(ENA)

#### Ethiopia's Rio Team Arrives Back Home

An Ethiopia delegation who travelled to Brazil to participate at the Rio Olympics arrived back home on August 23rd,2016.

Senior government officials, including Redwan Hussein, Minister of Youth and Sports, received the delegation at Bole International Airport.

Ethiopia participated in cycling, swimming and athletics events at the 31st Rio Olympics.

With one gold, two silver and five bronze medals, it finished 44th in the medal table and 3rd from Africa.

Almaz Ayana set a new world record for the 10,000m women's race at the Rio Olympic.

Almaz run the 25 laps at 29:17:45 to win the gold medal, while Tirunesh Dibaba, former world champion finished third. Tirunesh ran a personal best of 29:42.56 for the bronze.

