



# Ethiopia Today

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## President Obama pledges another “century of friendship” with Ethiopia...



President Barack Hussein Obama, on the first-ever visit by a US President to Ethiopia, looked back to the century-old diplomatic ties between the two countries and charted the way forward to restructure an already existing and close cooperative partnership into a meaningful approach to deal with the challenges of the fight against poverty, food insecurity, and other emerging threats in the future. The President’s two- day visit from July26-28 exploring the surest ways to sustainable peace, development and democratization in the region, put the long-standing ties between the US and Ethiopia on a concrete foundation to ensure progress in areas ranging from combating climate change, to fighting insecurity, conflicts and terrorism and provide for opportunities to take lessons from the US’s development path in science, technology and education. President Obama’s visit, according to

Prime Minister Hailemariam, “represents a new height in our bilateral relations” allowing for both sides to trade more, encourage the flourishing of people-to-people ties, and work together on capacity building for greater progress.

Prime Minister Hailemariam and President Barack Obama, heading their respective delegations, held bilateral discussions on various issues of common interest at the National Palace. The talks covered ways on how to deepen the quality and comprehensive nature of cooperation in trade and investment; to take advantage of President Obama’s signature Power Africa initiative; to expedite the strategic partnership in security and peace-building as well as fighting terrorism in the region; and step up cooperation to make President Obama’s Flagship Alliance for Food Security program a complete success. The talks allowed the two leaders to exchange views on how the US can champion the Addis Ababa Action Agenda at the upcoming negotiations at the Sustainable Development Goals Summit in New York in September. They also dwelt on how best to coordinate efforts to combat climate change; work together on global health epidemics; and cooperate closely to make the COP21 negotiations a success. In addition, these bilateral talks offered an opportunity to discuss how the US might extend support in Ethiopia’s democratization process; enhance efforts to strengthen its institutions and build capacity in various areas; as well as strengthen intelligence cooperation bilaterally and regionally.

President Obama, indicating that his visit was a reflection of the cardinal importance the USA attaches to its relationship with Ethiopia and to Africa, noted that Ethiopia and the USA share a longstanding friendship. The President said the connection of the two peoples was “deep and enduring”. President Obama, noted that Ethiopia was one of the fastest growing economies in the world and had changed its image from that of a drought-stricken and impoverished state into a leading country battling poverty and lifting many out of poverty. The US, he said, was keen to sustain that momentum, step up cooperation to eradicate extreme poverty and work in concert to combat food insecurity. The President underlined this point when on the final day of his visit he toured the Faffa Food Factory in Addis Ababa and discussed his Feed the Future initiative aimed to increase the productivity of small farms throughout Africa. (Excerpts from A Week in the Horn).

### **Third International Conference on Financing for Development Concludes**

The Third International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD3) held in Addis Ababa from July 13-16, concluded with the endorsement of the outcome document, the draft Addis Ababa Action Agenda that will guide international efforts on sustainable development for the next decade and a half. The Agenda endorses the effort to end poverty and hunger and achieve sustainable development through the framework of promoting inclusive economic growth, protecting the environment and promoting social inclusion. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda also provides a foundation for implementing the global sustainable development agenda leaders are expected to adopt in September when the United

Nations will host a summit to adopt the transformative post-2015 development agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which are replacing the Millennium Development Goals. The world will pledge to promote an equitable global economic system under which no country or person is left behind. In this context, the Financing for Development outcome document recognizes the importance of domestic resource mobilization and makes concrete steps towards scaling it up, including the Addis Tax Initiative.

Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, President of the Conference, closing the Conference on called the occasion “historic” as world leaders agreed to work for the betterment of humanity and showed their determination to ensure no one was left behind in achieving the goals of Sustainable Development. The Prime Minister said the commitment to a global social compact, with all enjoying access to health, education, social protection, and other basic rights, marked a crucial step forward. However, he pointed out, there was much more to be done to resource this commitment and make it a reality around the world. Equally it was necessary to be equally resolute with respect to ensuring effective implementation and take action to follow things up.

The Prime Minister said the outcome document produced by the 5,000 participants who included Heads of States and Financial and Foreign Ministers, from more than 190 countries, was significant in its overarching message that everyone has something essential to contribute. He underlined the importance of domestic resource mobilization, and emphasized the necessary concrete steps including the Addis Tax

Initiative to scale this up. He said “We have recognized that official development assistance and other forms of international public finance remain essential as does the 0.7% target, and the need for least developed countries to receive a larger share of aid flows.” Referring to the role of the private sector, the Prime Minister noted that this had a vital role in providing the drivers for development. The conference as well as the other side forums had provided a platform for catalyzing many valuable conversations to that end. He also reflected on the importance of other forms of financing, ranging from South-South cooperation to innovative flows, and from climate finance to philanthropy. (Excerpts from A Week in the Horn).

## **50 Years of Ethio-Canadian Friendship celebrated at the African Union**

The Embassy of Canada hosted a reception to celebrate Canada Day and the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and Canada at the AU Commission Hall in Addis Ababa on July 1. This was the 148th anniversary of Canada Day and AU Commissioners, Ambassadors, Canadians, representatives of Canadian companies in Ethiopia, and invited guests were present. Dr. Tedros Adhanom, Foreign Minister of Ethiopia represented the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. The occasion also marked the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Canada and Ethiopia. Ambassador David Usher, Canada’s Ambassador to Ethiopia, the Republic of Djibouti and the African Union, guests to the celebration of Canada Day in Ethiopia, also emphasized that this reception was one of the events to celebrate the 50 years of friendship that were being celebrated throughout the year.



Dr. Tedros extended his warmest congratulations to the People and Government of Canada on their National Day and on this auspicious 50th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and Canada. He pledged that Ethiopia was determined to make every effort to ensure the success of the Ethiopia - Canada Strategic Partnership, and stressed that the special friendship and cooperation that has existed between Ethiopia and Canada for over half a century was based on a firm foundation of mutual assistance and genuine respect. Ethiopia, he said, was and remained deeply grateful for Canada’s support over so many years: in setting up the College of Addis Ababa, later Addis Ababa University, in founding Ethiopia’s public school system, in rebuilding the Ethiopian Air Force and in providing the leadership for the genesis of banking services in Ethiopia.

Dr. Tedros noted the re-opening of the Ethiopian Embassy in Ottawa as a visible sign of Ethiopia’s engagement with Canada. He said Government of Ethiopia was determined to further strengthen and

broaden bilateral relations for the benefit of the two countries and peoples. He stressed that the number of exchanges of official visits and the signing of bilateral agreements, covering different areas, had provided opportunities to nurture friendly relations and explore different ways to encourage bilateral cooperation. Dr. Tedros also mentioned that Ethiopia has successfully completed the first Growth and Transformation Plan. It was now beginning to implement the second Growth and Transformation Plan, looking forward to the success of the vision of transforming Ethiopia into a carbon-free green economy and a middle level income country by 2025 with real enthusiasm. With this as the roadmap, he invited Canadian investors and Canada's business communities to participate; to come to Ethiopia, invest and take advantage of the huge potential and the opportunities that Ethiopia could offer. This, he said, would help transform Ethiopia and Canada's relations into a more substantive and significant partnership.

Ambassador Usher mentioned that Canada's development assistance program in Ethiopia began in 1967 and still continued. Ethiopia, he said, remained a priority country for Canadian development assistance. In 2013, Canadian development aid to Ethiopia totaled over CDN\$130 million. Ethiopia was the single largest recipient country of Canadian development assistance. Canada was also, Ambassador Usher added, the only bilateral donor country participating in Ethiopian food security and agricultural growth flagship programs. These included the Productive Safety Net Program, the Agricultural Growth Program, the Sustainable Land Management Program, and the Women's Economic Development and Entrepreneurship Development programs.

On the political side, Ambassador Usher pointed to Canada and Ethiopia's regular high level consultations and senior officials meetings, most recently at the G-7 meeting last month. He said as Canada was home to many cultures and religions, following a federal and democratic path to development, Ethiopia and Canada had much in common, adding that the two countries also had a common interest and commitment to deal with the increasing global challenges of terrorism and refugees.

Ambassador Usher also noted that it was in the interest of both countries to further strengthen their commercial relationship and improve trade and investment. He took the opportunity to thank those Canadian companies which were active in Ethiopia. They include Africa Oil Corp, East Africa Metals Inc, LEA Group, Grant Inc, Swisspharme Inc and Sellet Hulling PLC – some of the leaders of a growing trade and investment relationship. The Ambassador also mentioned the Q400 aircraft manufactured by Bombardier of Canada which is used by Ethiopian Airlines.

Ambassador Usher also drew attention to Canada's work with Africa and the African Union and underlined the country's long history of investing in Africa's development. He noted that 41% of Canadian development assistance went to programs in Africa in 2013. He underlined Canada's continued efforts to improve the health of mothers, newborns and children in developing countries, he pledged an additional CND\$3.5 billion over five years to help strengthen health care systems for women and children. He also promised increased support for efforts to end child, early and forced marriages. Canada, together with Zambia, co-led the first substantive resolution on this issue, unanimously adopted by

the United Nations General Assembly.(A Week in the Horn)

## **The Addis Ababa Action Agenda - path to a Prosperous and Sustainable Future**

Following the negotiations under the leadership of the Ethiopian Foreign Minister, H.E. Dr. Tedros Adhanom, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, an Outcome Document of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, was adopted by the 193 UN Member States at the conclusion of the Summit on the Financing for the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals in Addis Ababa, on July 16.

Building on the outcomes of the previous conferences: the 2002 Monterrey Consensus and the 2008 Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda addressed all possible sources of finance, and covered cooperation on a range of issues including technology, science, innovation, trade and capacity building. After formulating a series of practical measures that could sustain the redirection of international financing towards supporting global sustainable development for the next fifteen years, the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda comes ahead of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit in New York in September. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda, defined as a Landmark Agreement, in terms of providing a foundation for implementing the global sustainable development agenda has presented an ambitious financing framework that

has recognized the need for public and private resource mobilization to meet the challenge of sustainable financing.

## **News**

### **Prime Minister Invited to Attend India-Africa Summit**

Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn is invited to attend the 3rd India Africa Summit to be held in October 2015.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Special Envoy Santosh Kumar handed in the letter of invitation to Prime Minister Hailemariam.

During the occasion, the premier said the longstanding people-to-people relation of the two countries has been transformed to investment, trade and government-to-government relation.

Hailemariam commended the growing engagement of Indian investors in Ethiopia, though some are lagging behind.

The PM further called on Indian investors to engage in light manufacturing, textile and leather, and leather products.

Special Envoy Santosh Kumar said Indian investment cooperation will boost the inclusive relation of the two countries. (ENA

# Business and Economy

## Bosch Eyes Ethiopian Market

Bosch, a German based multinational engineering and Electronics Company is eyeing the Ethiopian market, an official said.

A delegation led by Bosch General Manager for North Africa Jean-Marc Affuret is in Addis Ababa to conduct assessment about the business and investment opportunities. Bosch, the largest supplier of automotive components, has a plan to produce the components, households and power tools and hydraulic products in Ethiopia, according to the General Manager. Based in Germany, Bosch is the largest supplier of automotive components, industrial products, and building products.

Mr. Affuret discussed on July 21/2015 with Ethiopian Foreign Minister Tedros Adhanom over the company's interest to engage here and the existing opportunities.



Bosch is attracted to Ethiopia because of the rapid progress the economy witnessed over the past decade.

Registering a double digit economic growth for

the past decade, Ethiopia, is catching eyes of huge multinational companies. The General Manager told reporters that Ethiopia's rapid economic growth catches the attention of his company.

"Ethiopia has experienced a very good development in the last five to ten years; you have a big young population; you have high GDP growth of double digit every year; you have improved infrastructure; electricity's availability has improved substantially. We believe Ethiopia is in a very good way for foreign investors."

Foreign Minister Dr. Tedros Adhanom on his part said Ethiopia's consecutive double digit economic growth enables it to lure big companies including the Bosch.

The Minister said the visit by Bosch delegation enables the company to know the wide investment opportunities and enabling environment in Ethiopia.

The delegation has also been briefed about incentives the government of Ethiopia offers to investors. (ENA).

## Electric Power, Corbetti Geothermal Company Sign Power Purchase Agreement Featured

Ethiopian Electric Power and the Corbetti Geothermal Company have signed a Power Purchase Agreement for the first 500 megawatts.

The four billion USD investment that generates 1,000 MW by Corbetti geothermal plant will be built in two stages within 8 to 10 years. Upon

completion, it will be Africa's largest geothermal facility, it was learned.

During the signing ceremony on July 27, Chief Executive Officer of Ethiopian Electric Power, Azeb Asnake said Ethiopia is willing and desires to interconnect each power system and share the electric power by creating market.

To satisfy the energy demand of the country, Ethiopian Electric Power has designed and embarked on generating renewable energy in line with its 25-year power sector master plan, the CEO added.

The geothermal energy generation that would be carried out by Corbetti Geothermal Company designed as African Initiative power is meant to meet this, according to Azeb.

Non-Executive Investment Committee Member-AREF of Berkley Energy, Edward Njoroge said on his part Ethiopia is taking major steps in exploiting its natural resources.

“Renewable energy is clean and we are really very happy to be part of that and to make sure that Ethiopia becomes at the forefront of the renaissance that we are having in Africa of new renewable energy” he pointed out.(ENA Addis Ababa July 27/2015)

## **EIB to Open Office in Ethiopia**

The European Investment Bank (EIB), the European Union's nonprofit lending institution, is to open office in Ethiopia.



EIB Vice President, Pim Van Ballekom, said the opening of the office would help the bank improve its development cooperation with Africa.

Ballekom also said EIB will support Ethiopia's agriculture sector, which is the foundation of the country's economic growth.

Finance and Economic Development State Minister, Ahmed Shide, on his part said EU's decision to strengthen relations with Ethiopia and AU at the eve of the second Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) is a historical incident.

The EU has been supporting Ethiopia's energy, potable water as well as small and micro enterprises (SMEs) sectors, he said, adding that its decision to open an office here shows its determination to scale up the support it has been providing to the country.

African Union Commission Deputy Chairperson, Erastus Mwencha said EIB's move to open office in Addis Ababa and Africa proves its confidence in Ethiopia's economy and hope on Africa.

Established 50 years ago, the European Investment Bank has provided 4 billion euros support to Africa's energy sector during the past five years, it was learnt. (ENA)

# Tourism and Culture

## PM Hailemariam Receives ECTT Award



Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn has received an Award as a World Leader of Tourism and a member of European Tourism Academy for his recognition of the role and significance of tourism on world stage.

The Premier received the Award from the European Council on Tourism and Trade (ECTT) at a ceremony held at the National Palace on July 10, 2015.

ECTT has also recognized Ethiopia as the number one World Best Tourist Destination and Favorite Cultural Destination Distinction for 2015.

“This award further inspires Ethiopia to offer more impressive cultural and tourist attractions and services to tourists across the world,” PM Hailemariam said after receiving the award.

The government of Ethiopia is committed to protect and preserve historical and cultural legacies and “we believe it is in this recognition of this unique arrangement among other things that

ECTT decided to extend to Ethiopia the world best tourist destination award.”

The flow of tourists to Ethiopia has grown significantly during the last decade as the country was able to provide better services that encouraged tourists to spend longer time and explore Ethiopia’s remarkable and beautiful attractions, he said.

Ethiopia will continue to develop the tourism sector and use it as a means for diplomatic cooperation with other countries, he said.

ECTT President Professor Dr. Anton Caragea on his part said Ethiopia has rich cultural, historical and natural attraction sites that attract various tourists from various parts of the country. (ENA).

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