



Ethiopia Today

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

Vol.II No.7 October 2015

Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn Addresses the Third India-Africa Business Forum



Ethiopia's Prime Minister, Hailemariam Desalegn has addressed the Third India-Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi, India on October 29, 2015 which was attended by African Heads of States and the Prime Minister of India. Prime Minister Hailemariam said that the people of Africa and India have had all round relations for millennia and noted that they both have fought colonialism and apartheid which further strengthened their relationship. Africa and India, the Prime Minister said, were now working together, hand in hand, as

part of their joint struggle, fighting for causes including poverty eradication, sustainable development, counter-terrorism and the efforts to achieve a fairer and more just world.

Prime Minister Hailemariam said he believed the Third India-Africa Forum Summit would take the longstanding relationship to a higher level so that the people of Africa and India would benefit further and "take their rightful place in the affairs of the world."

Reminding participants 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, the Prime Minister said 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.

Dr. Tedros Opens Ethio-India Business Forum



On October 28, 2015, Foreign Minister Dr. Tedros opened the Ethio-India Business Forum at the sidelines of The Third India-Africa Forum Summit, during which he said Ethiopia and India enjoyed long-lasting relations, one that is historic. Despite such historic relationship, Dr. Tedros noted that the investment flow and trade volume between the two countries was not up to the level of the long history of friendship. He underlined that the two sides should regularly nurture the relationship to the benefit of the two nations. The Minister stressed that both Ethiopia and India have huge potentials for moving ahead with strong partnership. Expressing that Ethiopia has untapped resources, the Minister outlined the major factors that makes Ethiopia preferred destination for investment and business. These includes, Ethiopia’s fast economic growth, its B and a B+ credit rating, its massive engagement in the construction of industrial parks, the availability of enhanced market accesses to exports through such opportunities as AGOA and EBA and the Indian duty free tariff preferences. He also noted that the investment promotion and protection framework, the avoidance of double

taxation, the expansion of roads and railway network and the country’s lowest electricity price among others provides attractive environment for Indian and other foreign investors. Noting that Ethiopia is on the road to transformation, Dr. Tedros said, “Come and join Ethiopia’s march towards renaissance” while also adding “when you do, come for a long-term partnership.” Following Dr. Tedros’ address, Mr. Fitsum Arega, the Ethiopian Investment Commission Commissioner also explained at length on the investment opportunities, policies and incentives in Ethiopia. During the event Government to Business and Business to Business sessions were also held between members of the Ethiopian business community and their Indian counterparts. (Oct 29, 2015)

Addis Hosts World Energy Council Executive Assembly and World Energy Leaders’ Summit

The World Energy Council Executive Assembly and World Energy Leaders’ Summit took place in Addis Ababa from October 26 to October 30, 2015 with senior government officials from across Africa and the world and hundreds of energy company executives and energy sector pioneers. The Assembly’s governance meetings and the Executive Assembly plenary were held during the first two days and a Future Energy Leaders’ Summit took place on October 28. There was also an Energy Summit open to all delegates and at the same time a private World Energy Leaders’ Summit for CEOs held. The Executive Assembly included round table committee discussions and global and regional discussions. The aim is to bring national and sectoral developments of the energy sector into the framework of regional integrations and global experience sharing and partnerships. One session on October 27 praised countries that are pioneering the advance of the

energy sector in various areas and commended Ethiopia in Africa for its clean energy commitments and its energy infrastructure integration accomplishment. The session also discussed best experiences in renewable energy development including, solar, hydro, wind and low-carbon-economy development approaches. (Oct.27, 2015).

Embassy Attends TAAC Celebration

The Toronto Addis Ababa Academic Collaboration - TAAAC – celebrated its 12th anniversary and 50 years of diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and Canada by holding a Gala dinner on October 17, 2015. The event was attended by a 19-member academic delegation from Addis Ababa University headed by the AAU President Dr. Admasu Gebeyehu and the Vice Provost of Toronto University and deans of various departments.



In her address at the event, H.E Ambassador Birtukan Ayano, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to Canada, highlighted the overall longstanding Ethio-Canada relationship. H.E particularly mentioned that cooperation in the field of education had played an important role in the fifty years of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The Toronto Addis Ababa Academic Collaboration – TAAAC was established in 2008 as a unique, multidisciplinary educational initiative partnering University of Toronto (UofT) with Addis Ababa University (AAU) in Ethiopia. The goal is to build and strengthen capacity and sustainability for medical, engineering, social sciences and other academic and technology graduate training programs. The collaboration is focused on academic excellence between the two universities and their partner hospitals. TAAAC is a non-profit organization and is supported by the leadership of the participating faculties, departments, divisions and institutes. TAAAC has a well-defined organizational structure and a clear governance model.

Ethiopian Delegation Conducts “Study Tour”

A six-member Ethiopian delegation of senior professionals drawn from the Ministry of Urban Development, Housing and Construction (MUDHCo) and Ministry of Finance and Development (MOFED) paid a “study tour” visit to Canada from September 30 to October 10, 2015. The delegation headed by Mr. Wondimagenhu Girma, Head, Program Budget Preparation, Monitoring and Evaluation Department, MUDHCo, met and held discussions with Treasury Board Secretariat of Canada, Revenue Agency Canada, Public Works and

Government Services of Canada, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Ottawa City and Toronto City.



Such benchmarking and experience sharing visits are instrumental in complementing the ongoing development effort in Ethiopia.

UN Security Council Reaffirms Arms Embargo on Eritrea and Somalia

The United Nations Security Council meeting on October 23 extended the arms embargo on Somalia until 15 November 2016, and also reaffirmed the arms embargo on Eritrea. The Security Council adopted resolution 2244 (2015) by a vote of 14 in favor with one abstention and extended the mandate of the Somalia and Eritrea Monitoring Group until 15 December 2016. In the resolution, the Security Council underlined Somalia's sovereignty over its natural resources, and reiterated the vital importance of the Federal Government of Somalia putting in place a resource-sharing agreement to ensure that the national petroleum sector did not become a source of increased tension. The Council again condemned the ongoing export of charcoal from Somalia in violation of the total ban on charcoal exports. The Council also expressed serious concern about the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Somalia and condemned in

the strongest terms increased attacks against humanitarian actors. It also expressed concern about the continued reports of corruption, diversion of public resources and financial impropriety involving members of the Federal Administration and the Federal Parliament and said individuals engaged in acts that threatened Somalia's peace and reconciliation process might be listed for targeted sanctions. The Security Council, expressed concern on the Monitoring Group had been unable to visit Eritrea since 2011, and urged the Government of Eritrea to deepen cooperation with the Monitoring Group and allow regular visits. The Security Council also expressed concern the Monitoring Group reports of ongoing Eritrean support for certain regional armed groups, and called for further detailed reporting on this issue. It also demanded that Eritrea make available information pertaining to the Djiboutian combatants missing in action since the clashes of 2008 so that those concerned may ascertain the presence and conditions of the Djiboutian prisoners of war, and expressed the hope that the mediation efforts of the State of Qatar would help to resolve this issue as well as lead to the resolution of the border dispute between Djibouti and Eritrea. The Security Council underlined that "deepened cooperation will help the Security Council be better informed about Eritrea's compliance with the relevant Security Council resolution.

Ethiopia Re-Elected to the UNHRC

Election of members of the United Nations Human Rights Council took place at the General Assembly on October 28, 2015. Ethiopia was one of the candidates and is re-elected for membership of the Council with 186 Votes to serve for another three years.

Ethiopia's contribution to the promotion and protection of human rights particularly the rights of women, and promotion and protection of children from Early, Child and Forced Marriage is an example of its pledges and commitment to the tenets of UNHRC.

The Human Rights Council, based in Geneva, was set up by the Assembly in 2006. The 47member Council

is an inter-governmental body within the UN system responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe and for

addressing situations of human rights violations and making recommendations on them.

Business and Economy

Embassy Participates at Canadian Coffee and Tea Show in Vancouver

The Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to Canada participated on the Canadian Coffee and Tea Show which was held in Vancouver from October 4 to 5, 2015. Two Ethiopian coffee exporting companies; Testi Coffee Plc and Mormora demonstrated Ethiopian specialty coffee to many buyers and consumers who visited the event. BNT Industry and Coffee Trading plc have also attended the show. The colorful Ethiopian display was unique as it offered visitors the opportunity to participate in an authentic traditional coffee ceremony. Apart from the market opportunity, the Coffee and Tea Show created a chance to showcase Ethiopia's rich cultural assets.

The Coffee and Tea show was attended by more than 160 exhibitors and thousands of visitors. H.E Ambassador Birtukan Ayano, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the FDRE to Canada, and representatives of the coffee exporters briefed visitors about Ethiopian organic coffee and the potential of Ethiopian coffee exporters to supply to Canadian Importers.

Visitors at the Ethiopian stand were particularly interested to learn about Ethiopia's place in the world as the birth place of coffee and the fact that, apart from plantation cultivation, garden and forest coffee are still offered for export. This event created a chance to find a new coffee export destination in Canada.



Canada imports from Ethiopia mainly agri-food products (Coffee, oil seeds, spices, vegetables and Fresh Injera), leather and leather products, textile products and cut flowers. Canada allows quota and duty free access under the General System of Preferences (GSP) to Ethiopian products. There is also a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the two countries which allows Ethiopian exporters of textile and apparel goods tariff-free access to Canadian market.

“Driving Continued Growth”: the Economist Ethiopia Summit 2015

The Economist ‘Ethiopia Summit’ under the theme “Driving Continued Growth” took place in Addis Ababa, on Wednesday and Thursday (October 28-29), with the attendance of more than 300 participants including senior government officials, industry and business leaders, policy

makers and company executives. Discussion sessions covered ‘An overview of the Second Growth and Transformation Plan’; Ethiopia’s Economic Horizons-Future Prospects for growth’; ‘Investment opportunities in one of Africa’s Top Performing Economies’; ‘Financing Ethiopia’s Ambitious Plans’; ‘Regional Insights: Ethiopia and the Wider region – Growth Through Collaboration’; Back to the Basics – Doing Business in Ethiopia’; ‘The Prospects for oil and Gas in Ethiopia’ and ‘Energy: A realm of possibilities’; ‘The telecom Sector- Can you Play a Part’; ‘Innovation – Key to socio-economic development’ and ‘a Panel on ‘Building Ethiopia’s Agricultural roots.’

Opening the Summit, Xan Smiley, the Economist Magazine’s Editor at Large, delivered a message from the United Kingdom’s Prime Minister, David Cameron, to Prime Minister Hailemariam and participants, praising Ethiopia’s achievements in development and its efforts in pacifying and stabilizing the Horn of Africa Region. He said UK commended Ethiopia’s efforts in hosting refugees from Somalia, Eritrea and other regional countries, adding that he believed Ethiopia would be successful in curbing current challenges related to climate change or vulnerability to weather. He stressed that the UK government was a friend and close partner to Ethiopia. In a keynote address, Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn said the Summit was being held at a particularly appropriate time as Ethiopia had just successfully completed its First five year Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP1), and was launching the second Growth and Transformation Plan. The Prime Minister elaborated the key elements underlying Ethiopia’s development including the “the importance of the war on poverty; creation of a carbon-free economy within the next decade on the basis of producing sustainable power; the

development of a democratic developmental state and neighborhood policy of robust, sustained and proactive promotion of collective peace and security.” Dr. Arkebe Oqubay, Minister and Special Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, presented the achievements and challenges of the Growth and Transformation Plan I and outlined the main priorities of GTP II. He detailed Ethiopia’s development policies and the strategies of implementation, noting that although agriculture would stay a major driver of the economy, Ethiopia was fast shifting its focus to the manufacturing sector. Among the key strategies to make Ethiopia a manufacturing hub during the GTP II, he mentioned directing investment to manufacturing and value addition, establishing industrial parks, improving the quality of infrastructure and increasing skill training and the competitiveness.

Dr. Carlos Lopez, Executive Secretary of the UNECA made a closing keynote speech. Dr. Lopez noted that the economy was being liberalized and there was greater adherence to the rule of law. He underlined the dynamic trajectory for Africa in general and Ethiopia in particular, pointing out the continent, and Ethiopia were becoming a destination of choice for investment. Equally, he said, economic growth was not enough; Africa needed structural growth and constructive relations between governments and the private sector. It was important that the state provided ease of operations for the private sector. Dr. Lopez said the sort of industrialization that was developed was important. The state needed to provide leadership for the transformation and a strategy.

Fitch Ratings Gives Ethiopia a 'B' Rating Again

Fitch Ratings has repeated its assessment of Ethiopia's Long-term foreign and local currency Issuer Default Ratings (IDR) at 'B', and defined the outlook as 'stable'. The issue ratings on senior unsecured foreign currency bonds have also been affirmed at 'B'. The Country Ceiling and the Short-term foreign-currency IDR have been affirmed at 'B'.

ACAA to Set Up Headquarter in Ethiopia

The African Civil Aviation Association (ACAA) has selected Ethiopia as a host nation for its headquarters. The selection came during an African aviation meeting where representatives from African aviation academies shared experiences in the sector.

The Addis Ababa meeting saw the selection of Ethiopia as seat of ACAA which was based on its ample experience and commitment to advance the aviation industry.

Sadamba Tchagbele, President of the association said that the association has been looking for a country to host headquarters of the association. Tchagbele indicated that a deal has been reached with Ethiopia to establish the headquarters. They are also getting necessary support from the Ethiopian side to set up the facility.

According to Samuel Assefa, Director of the Ethiopian Aviation Academy, the establishments of ACAA headquarter in Ethiopia will help in promoting activities of the academy.

Samuel said Ethiopia's commitment and success in the aviation industry sector led to its selection.

He also said Ethiopia will continue its positive impact in the field and assist ACAA in its endeavors to strengthen the aviation industry in Africa

Being at the center of conference tourism, the academy will benefit a lot from conferences with related theme in the industry, Samuel added.

On the occasion, President of ACAA said the association is ready to contribute its share in creating quality aviation academies in Africa.

The forum organized by the European Aviation Safety Agency was aimed at promoting close engagement between African aviation academies.

More than 80 participants with the majority of them from Africa exchanged views on creating linkage with training institutions in the sector.

Since 2013, the association has been searching for a proper country in Africa to host its headquarters, the president said, adding only Ethiopia emerged as a country with big commitment to the field which led to its selection.

The two days aviation meeting looked into ways of improving and advancing Africa's aviation industry, the director said.

Participants also discussed on employing similar working systems in issuing competence certificates and others since the current system is inhibiting efforts to work together.

Presentations were also made on best experiences from aviation academies in Europe in which the European Aviation Safety Agency pledged

continued support for the African aviation industry.

Some participants expressed their views saying the forum pointed out alternatives to deal with fundamental challenges in the industry. (ENA)

Tourism and Culture

Ethiopia observes National Flag Day

The 8th National Flag Day was colorfully celebrated across the country on October 19, under the theme "Ethiopia: a nation striving to restore its renaissance and keep its flag flying even higher."

Diplomats and staff members of the Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to Canada have honoured the day by having a flag raising ceremony at the Embassy's residence.

The occasion was celebrated all over the country and included military and police parades, dramas, music and other artistic works aimed to showcase the values of the national flag, a tri-color of green, yellow and red with a blue star in the middle. Green symbolizes hope and the land and its fertility; yellow stands for peace and harmony; and red represents strength and the blood spilt in defense of Ethiopia; with the blue star representing peace, equality and unity in diversity of Ethiopia's various ethnic and religious groups.



Embassy Attends Tourism and Travel Show

The Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to Canada participated on the International Tourism and Travel Show held from October 23-25, 2015 in Montreal, Canada.

The two-day tourism show was attended by thousands of visitors and Canadian and International travel and tour operators. The Embassy, together with Ethiopian tour companies, Simba Tours, Monpays Tours and Horizon Ethiopia Tours and Travel showcased Ethiopia's rich tourist attractions to visitors and Canadian tour operators.