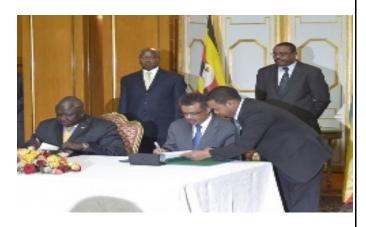


ETHIOPIA TODAY

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President Youweri Museveni of Uganda Visits Ethiopia, Signs Agreements



President Youweri Kaguta Museveni paid a three-day state visit to Ethiopia (December 27-29). Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, Foreign Minister, Dr. Tedros Adhanom and other senior officials greeted President Museveni when he arrived at Bole International Airport leading a delegation that included First Lady Janet Kataaha Museveni as well as Ministers and high-level government officials. The visit underlined the importance both countries attach to the need to make concerted efforts to advance the cause of regional peace and stability; to hasten regional

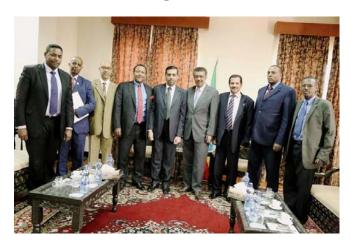
economic cooperation and integration through regional hydro power, rail, road and other infrastructure interconnections. The visit heralded new cooperation in the areas of transportation, energy, sister-city twinning and health. It also underlined the significance of placing Ethio-Ugandan ties at the center of regional, continental and international affairs for the realization of common development and win-win outcomes.

Following their discussions, President Museveni and Prime Minister Hailemariam witnessed the signing of four Memoranda of Understanding covering health, energy, transport and the establishment of sister-city cooperation. Alemayehu Tegenu, Ethiopia's Minister for Water, Irrigation and Energy and the Uganda State Minister for Energy, Simon D'Ujanga, signed an agreement aimed at deepening partnership for the increasing of regional and bilateral hydro power trade and the promotion of human resource development and exchange of information in the energy sector. Ethiopia's Foreign Minister Dr. Tedros Adhanom and Mr.

Okello Oryem, Uganda's State Minister of International Affairs, signed a cooperation agreement on health with the objective of promoting an exchange of expertise and cooperation in global fora as well as expanding areas of partnership in health. Ethiopia's Minister of Transport, Workneh Gebeyehu, and Uganda's State Minister for International Affairs, Mr. Okello Oryem, signed the cooperation agreement on transport in order to advance a mutually cooperative partnership on civil aviation and on the development of land transport infrastructure and land transport services and safety.

Ms. Jennifer Musisi, the Executive Director of the Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) and Diriba Kuma, Mayor of Addis Ababa City Administration, also signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the establishment of sister-city cooperation focusing on increasing exchanges of information and of people as well as other cooperation programs, laying foundations for the creation of positive interaction in historical, cultural and folk programs and in exhibitions and sports programs. The MoU also covered economic cooperation between business people and the respective chambers of commerce and industries of the two sister-cities.

Dr. Tedros Meets President of Annual Investment Meeting



Foreign Minister Dr. Tedros Adhanom met on December 24 with President Investment Meeting (AIM), Dawood Al Shezawi and United Arab Emirates (UAE) Ambassador to Ethiopia, Yousif Eisa Alsabri. Discussions covered issues related to the need for Ethiopia's and Africa's participation in the 5th edition of the AIM in Dubai, (UAE), which will be held from March 30 to April 01, 2015. Both sides also discussed on the AIM's plans to hold the 6th edition of the conference in Addis Ababa in 2016. During the talks, Dawood Al Shezawi extended an invitation to Dr. Tedros to attend the 5th edition of the AIM in Dubai, UAE next year, and conveyed greetings of the UAE's Minister of Economy, Sultan Saeed al-Mansouri, to Dr Tedros.

He also said that Ethiopia's participation at AIM would open up new prospects for the Government

and private sector to showcase investment opportunities, network and exchange experiences with international investors and business persons in the fields of innovation and technology transfer as well as attract FDI inflows. He also noted that AIM was intending to hold the 2016 edition of the AIM in Addis Ababa with a view to taking Afro-Arab cooperation to a new high.

Dr. Tedros on his part said AIM could be regarded as a golden opportunity to steer Ethio-UAE cooperation towards a new progress. He also said that Ethiopia and UAE were witnessing steady development in their bilateral relations, adding that the inauguration of an Ethiopian Embassy in UAE would further maintain the momentum of the continued growth of the bilateral ties. He also stressed the need for both countries to work together on innovation to embrace a better future.

News

Ethiopia, Others Meet MDG Targets on Hunger



Some 13 Countries, including Ethiopia, have now reached the Millennium Development Goal I (MDG-1) hunger target, according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) announcement on December 10,2014...

FAO said these 13 countries were recently awarded in recognition for their outstanding progress in fighting hunger, an achievement which includes reaching international targets ahead of the end-of-2015 deadline.

Ethiopia, Gambia, Brazil, Cameroon, Gabon, Iran, Kiribati, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, the Philippines and Uruguay are the latest in a growing list of countries to make great strides in combating undernourishment, the agency stated.

This includes the early achievement of the MDG-1 hunger target- to halve the proportion of hungry people by 2015 - or the more stringent 1996 World Food Summit (WFS) target of halving the absolute number of hungry people by 2015, it added.

During a ceremony at FAO headquarters, the Organization's director-general, José Graziano da Silva, awarded diplomas to government representatives of the 13 countries.

"Among those who received diplomas on behalf of their countries were The Gambia's vice president, Her Excellency Aja Dr Isatou NjieSaidy, Brazil's minister for Social Development and Fight Against Hunger, Tereza Campello, Cameroon's minister for Agriculture and Rural Development, Menye Essimi, Ethiopia's minister of Agriculture, Tefera Derbew, Gabon's minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Food Security, Luc Oyoubi and Mauritania's minister for Rural Development, Brahim Ould M'Bareck Ould Mohamed el Moctar.

"To date, 63 developing countries have reached the MDG target, and six more are on track to reach it by 2015. Of the 63 countries which have reached the MDG target, 25 have also achieved the more ambitious World Food Summit (WFS) target of halving the number of undernourished people by 2015," it stated. (WIC)

We Are Grateful for Ethiopia's Support," Residents of Baidoa Town



Residents of Baidoa town, Somalia, have expressed their deepest gratitude to Ethiopia for its support to bring peace and stability in their country.

"We are grateful for Ethiopia's help, which enabled us to breathe peace," the residents told WIC on 16 December 2014.

"It was impossible for Somalia to reach where it is now had it not been for the brotherly support of Ethiopia," Jemila Hassen, a resident of the town said.

"In fact Ethiopia is discharging its Pan-Africanism responsibility in general and to bring peace in the Horn of Africa region in particular. We sometimes wonder what the region would look like without Ethiopia's positive and determined efforts," she added."I was born and grew up in Baidoa town and knew what the Islamic Courts and later the Al-Shabaab were doing. I practically observed them mistreating and harshly punishing youngsters. Even they do not respect women, they were telling us to stay home and not to go to school," she said.

"But now, we are happy because they got eliminated from this area. Credit to the Ethiopian forces, we are exercising our rights. Every Somali feels peace and more secured," she added. "I have no words to explain my appreciation for the Ethiopian forces for their support," she concluded.

A Somali journalist who asked to remain anonymous also praised Ethiopia's contribution to enable Somalia to stand on its own as a country. "Ethiopian forces sacrificed a lot to make Somalia peaceful and to enable its people do business and move freely," he said.

"The Somali people are very proud of the disciplined and rule-guided Ethiopian forces, whose efforts are helping Somalia to strengthen its weak institutions," he said.

ERC Inks Contracts with Chinese Companies for AA-LRT Management



Ethiopian Railways Corporation (ERC) on December 2, 2014 concluded an agreement with

China Railways Group and Shengen Meter Group for the maintenance and management of Addis Ababa Light Rail Transit (AA-LRT).

The contract sets out three to five year period for the Chinese companies to maintain and manage the AA-LRT.ERC Board Chairperson and Adviser to the Prime Minister with the Rank of Minister Dr. Arkebe Equbay said at the signing ceremony that there is no local company with the desired know how and experience to shoulder the administration and maintenance of the rails.

He added the Chinese companies will conduct the testing of the tram and commence full operation.

Dr. Arkebe said the contract sets out a mechanism where technological transfer takes place and Ethiopian staff gain experience in the three to five year period.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of ERC Dr Getachew Betru (Eng) disclosed the 106 million US dollar deal will pave the way for international experience in managing trams to enter Ethiopia. (WIC)

Business and Economy

Italian Firm to Invest in Ethiopia's Textile

Calzedonia, Italian Garment Company is to invest in textile industry in Ethiopia. The nation's population size, huge potential resource, investment incentives, among others, attracted the company to engage in textile industry in the country. The Company expects to open its first Ethiopian branch in Mekelle town next year, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

In his meeting with the company delegates at the Ministry, the State Minister Dawano Kedir said that Ethiopia has ample investment opportunities and huge potential for textile industry and others.



Given the country's strategic location at the crossroads of three continents, the peaceful investment climate and incentives, among others, have attracted investors to come and take advantage of the business opportunities in Ethiopia, he added.

Dawano also invited the delegates to explore new avenues of engagement in the manufacturing sector, in agro-processing and tannery.

Briefing journalists on their discussion with the State Minister, Company President Sandro Veronesi said that this is his second visit to Ethiopia. Our meeting with the State Minister was fruitful as we have been able to identify the advantages and conditions prevailing in the country. We want to establish a factory for the production of the night wear capable of employing some two to three thousand people. But we are still assessing the appropriate location and suitable conditions for the establishment of

the factory. We are hopeful to start with the investment by next year. (WIC)

Ethiopian Airlines, Boeing and SAO Join for First 787 Dreamliner Humanitarian Flight



Boeing joined with Ethiopian Airlines and Seattle Anesthesia Outreach (SAO) to deliver approximately 20,000 pounds (9,000 kilograms) of medical supplies to Ethiopia's largest hospital.

The delivery was made to Black Lion Hospital using Ethiopian's third 787 Dreamliner, marking the first time a Dreamliner has been used as part of Boeing's Humanitarian Delivery Flight program. The airliner was delivered and flew away from Everett on 7 December 2014 and flew directly to Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa, where it landed after an approximately 15-hour non-stop flight.

The shipment includes several anesthesia machines to be used in the hospital's operating rooms, patient monitoring equipment, as well as intensive care beds and other surgical equipment. SAO has more than 20 physicians, nurses and technicians in Addis Ababa who will help set up the equipment and spend the several weeks teaching in the hospital.

The Boeing Humanitarian Delivery Flight program is a collaboration effort between Boeing,

airline customers and non-profit organizations to deliver humanitarian aid throughout the world to communities in need or crisis. The humanitarian items are loaded into the empty cargo space of new aircraft being delivered and transported to the customer's home destination.

Ethiopian Airlines is committed to support worthy social activities that are designed to help build sustainable livelihoods for individuals, the community and the society in general. In doing so it has left its mark on major social initiatives in Africa. (WIC)

Japanese Investors Working to Supply Products to European, US Markets (Dec 13/2014)

Japanese investors engaged in Ethiopia in the leather industry and exporting products to their country said they are working to enter into other markets.

Japanese investors whom ENA has interviewed said they aspired to enter into other countries' markets.

Hiroko Samejima, a Japanese investor told ENA that her company that exports leather products to the Japanese market is working to join European and Asian markets.



Her company has set targets to enter into the Italian. Korean and Chinese markets.

The Japanese investor who has started investment in Ethiopia four years ago, said she enjoys working in Ethiopia.

Youngil Song is another Japanese company owner operating in Ethiopia starting from this year and exporting leather products to his country.

He has also planned to expand his investment and export products to European and U.S markets utilizing the cheap labor and other opportunities that exist in Ethiopia.

According to Ethiopia's Foreign State Minister, Dewano Kedir, the government extends maximum support of investors who are desiring to invest in Ethiopia.

The economic cooperation between Ethiopia and Japan has been growing from time to time, he added, Ethiopia exports leather and leather products, and coffee to Japan.

Japanese Ambassador to Ethiopia, Kazihiro Suzuki expressed interest of many Japanese companies to invest and do business in Ethiopia. Acknowledging the overall development and change in Ethiopia, the Ambassador urged for strengthening promotional activities.

Tourism and Culture

UNWTO to Star Rate 400 Hotels in Ethiopia (29 December 2014)

Some three years ago, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MoCT) had an idea to set out a rating criteria to grade the hotel and accommodation industry in Ethiopia.

Over the years, the ministry was reported to be on the verge of implementing the ratings, but the criteria never saw the light of day due to stiff opposition from industry players.



It seems that this time around the Ministry of Culture and Tourism MoCT had the right idea when it gave the job to United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) to devise the controversial grading criteria under which close to 400 hotels in Ethiopia will be star rated.

According to the contract agreement that was signed between the UNWTO and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MoTC), the new star rating and hotel classification system will commence starting mid-January.

UNWTO is hired to do the consulting work in devising the grading criteria and rating the institutions, which is paid for by a financial support obtained from the World Bank.

Zhu Shanzong, executive director of UNWTO, and Jemal Kedir, director of the Ethiopian sustainable tourism development project, signed the contract, signaling a major change to come in the hospitality industry quite soon.

According to Amin Abdulkadir, Minister of MoCT, there are some 600 hotels in the hospitality industry in Ethiopia, which have the potential to be star rated. However, in the coming three years, about 400 hotels – out of which 200 in the capital city – are spotted to be involved in the grading and classification system.

The total cost of grading and classifying 400 hotels is estimated to be over half a million USD

or some 12 million birr, the minister said. (The Reporter) (WIC)

Authority Re-demarcates Parks



Boundaries of 7 national parks are re-demarcated to protect the wild animals and plants, the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority said.

The re-demarcation will help to provide legal protection to the parks. Apart from demarcating the boundaries, the national parks didn't have legal protection.

Illegal hunting, farming and residing within boundaries, and deforestation is endangering the wild life in the parks said Kumara Waqjira, Director of national parks and sanctuaries at the Authority.

Ending these challenges is the objective of the redemarcation and providing legal protection to the parks as approved by the Council of Ministers.

The Semien Mountains (world heritage), Kafta Shraro, Altash, Awash, Gambella and Balle parks as well as Sinkle wildlife sanctuary are among the demarcated parks. Four countries agree to support Ethiopia's green development