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Prime Minister Hailemariam's Official Visit to the State of Israel



Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn made a four-day official visit to Israel from June 5-8/2017 at the invitation of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The Prime Minister was accompanied by First lady Roman Tesfaye and a delegation which included Foreign Minister, Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu; Defense Minister, Siraj Fegesa; and the Ministers of Livestock and Fisheries, Agriculture and Natural Resources, Water and Energy Minister, Culture and Tourism, and Trade and Investment Minister, and other senior officials.

On the first day, the Prime Minister held talks with President Reuven Rivlin, President of the

State of Israel. Their discussions covered the increasing bilateral relations between the two nations and peoples as well as international issues of interest to both states. President Rivlin expressed his desire to bolster further the deep historical relations between the two countries. He assured Prime Minister Hailemariam that Israel would cooperate with Ethiopia in the exchange of knowledge and technology in the agricultural sector, and it would also encourage Israeli companies to invest in Ethiopia. Prime Minister Hailemariam thanked the President for the warm welcome given to his delegation and expressed his readiness to facilitate Israeli government and private sector participation in Ethiopia. He also emphasized the strong link Ethiopia has with Israel and the long-standing relationship dating back to the time of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba. He also underlined the role played by the more than 140, 000 Ethiopian Jews in building a strong bridge between the two peoples.

On June 6/2017, Prime Minister Hailemariam met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem. Prime Minister Netanyahu said Ethiopia and Israel had increased their economic cooperation following his visit to Ethiopia last year, adding that Israel was keen to deepen its cooperation with Ethiopia, particularly in water, agriculture, in health and security. He said: "Israel is a world leader in these fields and we hope that by working together we can solve some pressing problems, and provide a

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better future for both our peoples. We intend to cooperate today in areas of irrigation, local development, fishing, milk, cattle.” Prime Minister Netanyahu, who commended Ethiopia’s unwavering commitment in the fight against terrorism, underlined the need for joint efforts to defeat this global threat. He said: “Ethiopia takes a strong stand in the fight against terrorism, particularly against Al-Shabaab. We must continue to work together to defeat this scourge, across the world, in Africa, in Europe, just recently in London, in America, in Asia. We have to fight together against these forces of barbarism because we must seize the future, we must advance modernity.”

Prime Minister Hailemariam agreed on the need to join hands to successfully fight terrorism and underlined the importance of strengthening cooperation in this regard. He also appreciated Israel’s focus on Africa saying it is both useful and constructive to promote mutual beneficiary relations with African countries. Ethiopia, he said, would keep up its expectations. The Israeli Prime Minister, who offered his congratulations on the election of Dr. Tedros Adhanom as Director General of the World Health Organization, noted that Israel had fully supported his election. He said he hoped Ethiopia would, in return, support Israel’s return to the African Union as an observer state, adding, “I think and I believe that this is not only in our interest but it is in the interest of Africa.” Prime Minister Netanyahu who had just returned from attending an ECOWAS conference in Liberia on June 4/2017, stressed: “Israel is returning to Africa, and Africa is returning to Israel. But it was made possible by your friendship and your leadership, along with several of your colleagues and I deeply appreciate that. We view Africa as a continent on the rise.

We understand that there are challenges – we have them too. But we sense that there is an opportunity to seize the future. Since my visit to Ethiopia, we’ve increased our economic cooperation, and I look forward to deepening that

today”. During the bilateral meeting, discussions covered agriculture, defense and public security as well as other issues. At the end of talks, Ethiopia’s Agriculture and Natural Resources Minister, and Israel’s Agriculture Minister, signed agreements to cooperate in the agricultural sector; and signed a Memorandum of Understanding.

On June 6/2017, Prime Minister Netanyahu and his wife Sara hosted dinner for Prime Minister Hailemariam and his wife Roman. At the dinner, Ester Rada sang the Amharic song “Nanu Ney,” as well as Ehud Manor’s “I Have No Other Country,” which was set to music by Korin Elal. Prime Minister Hailemariam wrote in the guest book that it was a privilege to have such a reception. He said: “I am committed to deepen our people-to-people friendship and government to government relations and above all my personal friendship with Prime Minister Netanyahu... [The] Ethiopia Israel relationship is very historic. Long live our relations and fraternal life. God bless Israel, God bless Ethiopia.”

Foreign Minister Dr. Workneh Paid an Official Visit to Russia



Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu paid a working visit to Moscow at the invitation of Sergey Lavrov, the Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation from June 22 to 27/2017.

The bilateral meeting was conducted in the usual atmosphere of warm friendship and partnership which is defined by centuries old history of engagement. The two ministers have reviewed the state of bilateral relations and expressed their satisfaction on the general direction of these relations. They have particularly focused on the implementation status of the decisions taken by the 6th Inter- Governmental commission (IGC) which took place in March of this year. It should be noted that the IGC discussions covered a wide range of cooperation proposals and draft agreements including in the fields education, science and technology, nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, industry, tourism and culture, agriculture, customs trade and investment as well as mineral resources.

The two ministers also exchanged views on how to further enhance people- to people and business ties through aviation links, scholarship and robust private sector involvement. Underlining that the business links between the two countries are not commensurate with the deep and historic ties existing between them, the ministers have agreed to take more initiatives that would enhance the trade and investment partnership between the two countries. During the talks, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Workneh expressed that Russia and Ethiopia have enjoyed historic and friendly relations, and Russia has been an all-weather friend of Ethiopia in good as well as bad times.

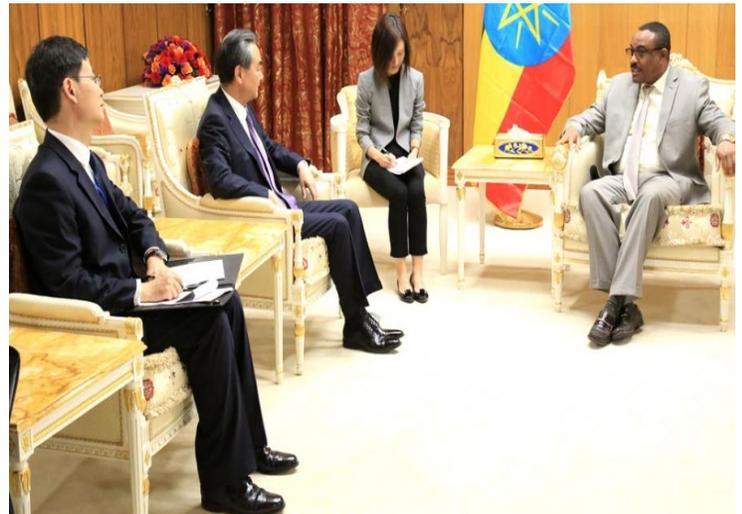
Sergey Lavrov on his part described Ethiopia as one of the leading African partners of Russia and expressed that Ethiopia enjoys high prestige on the global arena, which is evidenced by its election as a non- permanent member of the UN Security Council for 2017- 2018, as well as the election of Dr Tedros Adhanom, as Director-General of the World Health organization. He characterized Ethiopia's policy on global affairs as balanced and responsible.

The two ministers have exchanged views on various issues of peace and security in the Horn of

Africa region in particular and Africa in general. As members of the UNSC, both countries have agreed to work together towards enhancing peace and security through peaceful resolution of conflicts as provided for in the UN Charter. They have also reiterated their commitment to continue to work together with international community in the fight against terrorism, drug trafficking piracy and other modern threats and challenges on the basis of international law.

The two sides have agreed to celebrate the 120 years of Russian- Ethiopian diplomatic relations next year, which would be marked on a grand scale. It should be recalled that Ethiopia and Russia have established formal diplomatic relations in 1898.

Ethiopia and China Keen to Strengthen Bilateral and Multilateral Cooperation



China's Foreign Minister, Wang Yi, arrived for official visit to Ethiopia on June 21/2017 at the invitation of Foreign Minister Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu. During his two-day visit, he met with Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn for discussions covering a wide range of bilateral, regional and international issues of common interests; and at the invitation of the Chairperson of the AU Commission, Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, he also attended the opening ceremony

of a China-Africa high-level dialogue on poverty reduction and development as well as a think tank forum.

During his meeting with Prime Minister Hailemariam, Mr. Yi noted that relations had been consolidated following the recent exchange of high official-level visits. The understanding reached by the leadership of the two countries to upgrade their relationship to a comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership level, the fact that Ethiopia has been recognized as a pilot country for production capacity building and Ethiopia's active participation in the Belt and Road Initiative Forum and its implementation are some of the elements demonstrating the depth of their bilateral partnership. The Minister expressed his government's strong desire to work and share its experiences with the government of Ethiopia on governance, peace and security, industrialization, human resources development, aviation and tourism as well as cooperation in international fora.

While underlining his profound satisfaction with current state of the relationship between the two countries, Prime Minister Hailemariam expressed his government's strong aspiration to further strengthen links on the issues and ideas mentioned by the Chinese Foreign Minister. He noted Ethiopia would like to share in China's wealth of experience in the area of governance, as both countries had traversed a similar path of development. The Prime Minister, noting Ethiopia's role in playing a stabilizing role in maintaining sustainable peace and security, underlined that peace and security was a key area in which both countries could work in close consultation with special reference to the Horn of Africa. The Prime Minister also identified issues of industrialization, human resource development, aviation and tourism as areas where both countries could maximize cooperation.

In the discussions with Dr. Workneh, covering bilateral and multi-lateral issues, The Chinese

Foreign Minister noted the outcome of the one Belt-one Road Forum Initiative was particularly valuable in terms of strengthening China's relations with Africa in general and with Ethiopia in particular. He underlined the importance of the strategic partnership agreed between Ethiopia and China to scale up their bilateral ties to a high-level relationship. Mr. Yi said this was the time to put the comprehensive strategic partnership agreement between the two countries into practice. He stressed the objective of his visit was to discuss mutual benefits and to build mutual trust in order to realize the comprehensive strategic partnership agreement and further strengthen their relationship.

He noted that the statistics shows that trade and investment relations between China and Ethiopia had now reached over US10 billion dollars. To move forward, he said, the two countries should follow and fully implement the agreements they had signed. In this respect, Mr. Wang Yi said there were six important areas of cooperation that the two countries should consider: sharing experiences in areas of governance; cooperation on security and stability issues; support for accelerating industrialization and independent development; further expansion of infrastructure and assuring compatibility of industrialization with growing infrastructure; expanding human resource development and capacity building projects; exploring new areas of cooperation in the aviation sector and cooperation; and developing mutual support in international matters including climate change, UN reform and other multi-lateral issues .

Dr. Workneh assured Minister Yi of Ethiopia's support and cooperation in the areas of multilateral cooperation, UN Security Council reform and in thematic areas such as climate change. With reference to the aviation sector, Dr. Workneh said Ethiopia is willing to combine its managerial experience with Chinese aviation technology and attain its full potential in Africa and become one of the best in this sector.

The Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Wang Yi, underlined China's continuing support for Ethiopia to continue and sustain its development goals. He also assured Foreign Minister Dr. Workneh that the Chinese

government would continue to support Ethiopia and the sub-regional organization, IGAD, on issues of security and the humanitarian crises in the region.

Business and Economy

The Second Ethio-Canada Trade and Investment Forum Held in Toronto



The Second Ethio-Canada 2017 Trade & Investment Forum which takes place in Toronto from June 27 to 28/2017 is concluded successfully. The forum was organized in partnership with the Embassy of Ethiopia in Ottawa and Wafa Marketing and Promotion Plc. In this forum, 30 leading Ethiopian companies and senior government officials as well as 50 Canadian companies have attended.

During the forum, a presentation regarding available investment and business opportunities in Ethiopia has been presented to the participants by senior government officials. In addition to this, business to business and government meetings were held side by side. The interest of Canadian companies to do business in Ethiopia is increasing from time to time.

Ethiopia is ranked by the World Bank as the fastest growing economy in the world and by the International Monetary Fund among the five fastest growing economies in the world.

A Japanese Business Delegation Visits Ethiopia

Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn welcomed the Japanese business delegation led by Dr. Katusuhiko Hirano, Executive Vice-President of the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), which is visiting Ethiopia on June 15/2017. The ex-Senior Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs and current President of Association of African Economy and Development (AFRECO), Mr. Tetsuro Yano has also attended the meeting, the Prime Minister noted the long-standing relations between the two countries. He also said Ethiopia was seeking to attract Japanese investors, something he and Japanese Prime Minister Abe had discussed recently at the G7 Meeting in Taormina Italy.

The Prime Minister noted the tremendous contribution of Japanese organizations, like the *Japan International Cooperation Agency* and the *National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies*, to the implementation of technical cooperation and contributions through the Growth and Transformation Plan structural transformation process. He also thanked JETRO for opening an office which would help Ethiopia's economic progress to learn from Japan's development

progress, and move in the right direction to achieve the middle income status.

JETRO Executive Vice-President, Dr. Hirano, said JETRO was trying to fill the gap caused by delays in Japanese companies' participation in investment in Ethiopia. He said that the delegation had visited the Mojo Dry port and the Ethiopian Airlines Cargo Facility. He was impressed by these facilities, noting that Ethiopia was an ideal place to attract Japanese investment. He said he would make further efforts to fulfill the promise of the Chairman and CEO of JETRO, Mr. Ishige, assuring Japanese companies of the value of doing business in Ethiopia. AFRECO President, Tetsuro Yano, who met the Prime Minister at the TICAD V Summit in Yokohama, appreciated the Prime Minister's role in the realization of the TICAD process. He also underlined the investment opportunities in Ethiopia and said he wanted to play a role in the country's mission to become a middle income country.

The delegation also met with President Dr. Mulatu Teshome on June 14/2017 to discuss on political and economic issues. President Mulatu thanked JETRO and AFRECO for their prominent role in organizing the business mission and encouraged the delegation to invest in the broad economic sectors of the country, especially in manufacturing, agro-processing and other priority investment sectors.

The delegation included 32 business representatives and officials from 21 Japanese companies, JETRO, and AFRECO. The visit followed the Ethio-Japan Business Forum, held on April 25 in Tokyo. Its visit aimed to further strengthen economic relations between the two countries through enhancing the engagement of Japanese companies in Foreign Direct Investment, especially in industrial park construction. The industrial parks will create a more conducive environment for Japanese companies and encourage export trade ties with particular emphasis on flower and coffee exports to Japan.

The total trade volume between Japan and Ethiopia in 2016 was about US\$731 million.

The delegation visited the Hawassa Specialized Industrial Park and met with Dr. Arkebe Oqubay, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister. Members of the delegation also met with the Minister of Transport and the State Minister of Construction. Members of the delegation met with representatives of Ethiopian companies from different sectors in a business-to-business session to discuss future joint ventures and export market links with selected Japanese companies, among them four flower producers, three flexible packaging producers, six companies from the metal and construction sector, and two logistics' companies. A number of other Japanese companies have also been showing interest in Ethiopia's booming economy. Isuzu is on the verge of opening a branch office in Addis for automotive production in collaboration with METEC; last year Japan Tobacco International purchased 40% of the shares of Ethiopian Tobacco Corporation; several top Fortune 500 companies from Japan including JFE Engineering Corporation, Toshiba and Suzuki Motor Corporation, have visited Ethiopia this fiscal year for pre- investment studies.

During the visit a Memorandum of Understanding is signed between the Ethiopian Investment Commission and Tomonius Corporation of Japan. This is for the construction of an Industrial Park Zone for Japanese companies within the Bole Lemmi 2 Industrial Park. It will be built on 31.2 hectares within the 186 hectare park, and is expected to start service within a year. Tomonius has wide experience in industrial park construction in South East Asia.

Tourism and Culture

Ethiopia's Tourism Sector is Attracting More Investment



The second annual Meetings, Incentives, Travel, Conference/Congress and Exhibition/Events (MICE) East Africa Forum and Expo and 5th Hotel Show Africa Hospitality Investment Trade-show is held at the Millennium Hall in Addis Ababa June 8-10/2017. The MICE East Africa Forum and Expo is an international standard MICE Business event held this year in the fast transforming city of Addis Ababa, the seat of the continent's African Union (AU) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), more than 100 Diplomatic Missions, as well as international businesses and NGOs. It aimed to urge the Ethiopian tourism industry stakeholders of Meetings, Incentives Travel, Conference/Congress and Exhibitions/Events (MICE) to exert further efforts to expand their activities and to encourage their initiative.

Ozzie Hospitality and Business Group Managing Director, Kumneger Teketel, noted the importance of the fair was mainly to create a platform to play a significant role in creating mutual cooperation and interaction among tourism sector actors as well as

across other sectors. He said previous events had provided opportunities for the display of regional meetings, industry products and service suppliers, allowing them to forge international business networks which in turn had led to the attraction of global market attention.

Ambassador Mohammed Dirir, Special Advisor to the Foreign Affairs Minister and a former Minister of Culture and Tourism, opened the 2nd annual Meetings, Incentives, Travel, Conference/Congress and Exhibition/Events (MICE) East Africa Forum and Expo and 5th Hotel Show Africa Hospitality Investment Trade-show. Ambassador Mohammed said Ethiopia's tourism policy and the diverse tourist attractions, together with the country's capacity of hosting international conferences, has contributed to the economic development of the country and helped to attract anchor investors from across the globe. He also emphasized that the peaceful co-existence of different religions and peoples and the relative peace and stability made the country a favorable destination for MICE sector. Equally, he added, the country still had much to learn from its peers regarding the development of the sector.

The most recent World Bank report showed Ethiopia registered an annual 11.2% economic growth over the last 15 years. The Ethiopian Tourism Organization's CEO, Yohannes Tilahun, noted that in the last fiscal year, the contribution of the tourism sector to GDP stood at 4.1 %. It was responsible for 3.6% of employment in the country and there has been over 900,000 tourists in Ethiopia that year, of whom half a million were business travelers.

A new national tourism brand is officially launched this year, offering a distilled narrative and story of Ethiopia, "Ethiopia: Land of Origins", to capture the

attention of the international audience on the world stage. The launch of this new brand came at the 3rd General Assembly of the Ethiopian Tourism Transformation Council. The Ethiopian Tourism Organization developed the new brand after conducting extensive research in consultation with Ethiopian stakeholders, tour operators and potential tourists around the world. ETO expressed its confidence that the new brand would position Ethiopia effectively, differentiating it positively from competitors in a way that resonated with stakeholders. The Government is determined to boost its tourism revenue. Ethiopia is moving steadily towards implementing a green economy. It is a leading country in Africa with 9 tangible UNESCO World Heritage sites and 3 on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage events. It is also, of course, known world-wide for the hospitality of its peoples.

The Rough Guides Travel Guidebook and Reference, one of the leading travel publishers known for its “tell it like it is” reviews, providing up-to-date travelers’ content and authoritative contemporary comment, voted “Ethiopia: land of origin” as the World’s Most Welcoming Country. This is on the basis of the experiences of the global followers of the Rough Guides. Digital followers of Rough Guides were asked to share their experiences of the most hospitable places around the world through social media. They voted Ethiopia top, drawing attention to the country’s unique features, describing it as a profoundly beautiful East African country with a history that stretched back many thousands of years, never colonized and with the tribal customs and hospitable traditions largely maintained intact. It is a witness to just how much Ethiopia has demonstrated the credibility of the hospitable nature of its people with the international community. It also underlined just how much Ethiopians do prioritize the comfort of guests and the depth of the long-standing culture of respecting guests and visitors to be found all across the country.

Ethiopian Model of Successful Government-owned Airline: CEO Claims



Ethiopian Airlines is an example of a successful government-owned airline at the international level, CEO of the airline said.

Addressing the Second International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) meeting on air cargo development in Africa that takes place on June 27/2017, he said the largest airline in Africa has been successful in serving the continent and the world.

According to Tewolde, government ownership by its own is not a problem as long as ownership and management are effective in the sector. That is why we are successful at Ethiopian Airlines, he added.

Despite the dominant opinion in the industry that government ownership is not successful, the airline has won “African Airline of the Year” Award for 2017 for the second year in a row, the CEO elaborated.

He, however, noted that other than the success story of Ethiopian Airlines, the “air transport industry in Africa is dying. (Therefore) all of us have to join hands to save the industry from its natural death.”

Tewolde urged all stakeholders to join hands and find solutions together.

Some 80 percent of the air traffic within the continent and the world are carried by non-African airlines, it is learned.

The Second ICAO meeting underway under the theme “Action for the Sustainable Development of Air Cargo in Africa” is being attended by policymakers, air transport regulators, and representatives from the aviation industry.