



# ETHIOPIA TODAY

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## President Kovind of India's State Visit to Ethiopia



On his first overseas trip, India's President Ram Nath Kovind made a three-day state visit to Ethiopia starting from October 4-6/2017. President Kovind, who arrived in Addis Ababa on October 4/2017 from Djibouti, was received at the airport by President Dr. Mulatu Teshome. President Kovind's visit is the first by an Indian President to Ethiopia since President VV Giri came in 1972.

The two Presidents held bilateral talks on October 5th 2017. President Mulatu Teshome noted that President Ram Nath Kovind's visit to Ethiopia was a testimony to the historical and longstanding relations between the two countries. President Mulatu emphasized Ethiopia always highly valued its relations with India, particularly in the areas of investment and trade as well as development assistance in the form of soft loans and technical cooperation. He noted that India is one of the

country's largest sources of Foreign Direct Investment. India is among the top three foreign investors in Ethiopia with an approved investment of US\$4 billion, and to date there have been a total of 435 Indian projects in Ethiopia, in operation and implementation stage. Those projects have already created more than 50,000 employment opportunities for Ethiopian citizens. Last year, India's bilateral trade with Ethiopia worth nearly US\$1 billion.

President Ram Nath Kovind said he is very pleased that his first overseas visit was to Africa, with which "India shares remarkable common histories and aspirations." Commending the transparency, incentives and encouragement of the Government of Ethiopia to Indian investors, President Kovind stressed the need to explore possibilities and diversify into more areas of cooperation to further bolster ties. According to the World Economic Forum, Ethiopia has been a leader in economic growth in East Africa and is projected to become the fastest growing economy in the world in 2017 recording a growth of 8.3 %. During the talks President Kovind disclosed that India had pledged to provide US\$195 million for the expansion of electric power transmission lines and another US\$2 million for medicines through an extended line of credit facility.

Following the bilateral talks, the two countries signed major cooperation agreements in the areas of bilateral trade, Information, communication

*The Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in Ottawa is located at  
1501 - 2 75 Slater Street, Ottawa, ON, Canada K1P 5H9. Tel: 613 565 6637 Fax: 613 565 9175*

*e-mail: [info@ethioembassyCanada.org](mailto:info@ethioembassyCanada.org), Website: [www.ethioembassyCanada.org](http://www.ethioembassyCanada.org)*

and the media as well as a Memorandum of Understanding to set up a Joint Working Group on Combating International Terrorism and International Crime. These cooperation agreements are expected to provide the two countries with an important framework to further reinforce the strategic partnership and raise it to a new level.

President Kovind also met with members of the Indian community and he told them that their work as teachers and educators, as entrepreneurs and as tech-professionals and workers had been at the centre of India-Ethiopia relations. He also noted both India and Ethiopia had large young populations and emphasized that the youth are the future, and it is from them that new ideas would come. He advised the Indian community to make special efforts to connect with Ethiopia's youth. During his visit, President Kovind inaugurated the Indian Technology and Innovation Exposition which takes place from October 5-7/2017; and also visited the National Museum, where he saw the three million year-old remains of Lucy (Dinknesh). He noted that Ethiopia and India shared immense commonalities as cradles of civilization and the origin of human beings and humanity.

## US Ambassador to the United Nations, Ambassador Haley, Visits Ethiopia



Ambassador Haley arrived in Addis Ababa on the 23rd of October 2017 at the start of a three-nation

tour, taking her to South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Her visit followed US President Donald Trump's expressions of deep concern over the ongoing violence in South Sudan and in the DRC and his plans to engage more effectively with Africa. Before her visit to Africa, she indicated that US interests in Africa and the region were certainly humanitarian, but they are also economic and strategic. Ambassador Haley held meetings with Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn and AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Minata Samate Cessouma. She told reporters after her meetings that she hoped this was the beginning of "a stronger relationship with the AU and our African partners."

Ambassador Haley's meeting with Prime Minister Hailemariam covered a number of issues, including further strengthening the bilateral cooperation between the US and Ethiopia and expanding economic cooperation between the two countries. Ambassador Haley underlined the importance of further improving operational issues to create a more conducive environment for economic cooperation. The Prime Minister mentioned a number of things that were underway to improve Ethiopia's economic efforts and attract more FDI. Ambassador Haley commended the growth and development of Ethiopia. Their discussion also covered human rights and the importance of Ethiopian youth being involved in the ongoing economic developments.

The main focus of their talks, however, was regional peace and security and particularly developments in South Sudan, as well as the Democratic Republic of the Congo where they agreed on the importance of holding elections as well as the need to address the root causes of conflict. On South Sudan, Ambassador Haley and Prime Minister Hailemariam exchanged ideas on how to find a lasting solution to the conflict there. The Prime Minister gave the Ambassador a detailed account of what IGAD has been doing in the past month to revitalize the peace process, and

made it clear he appreciated US support for the Revitalization Forum. They agreed the importance of moving South Sudan's peace process forward with High-Level Revitalization Forum to revive the 2015 South Sudan Peace Agreement as soon as possible. They also underlined that solving the situation in South Sudan required sustained engagement and attention from the African Union and others in the region. Ambassador Haley thanked the Prime Minister for Ethiopia's leadership in continuing to receive refugees fleeing conflict in the region.

Following her meeting with Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn, Ambassador Haley met with AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Minata Samate Cessouma, at African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa. They discussed a range of topics of mutual concern on the continent, about peace and security in Africa, including the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), and the situations in South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Mali, and the need to increase the role of women in peacekeeping operations. Ambassador Haley expressed the United States' appreciation for the African Union's partnership in UN peacekeeping operations, and reaffirmed the indispensable partnership between the AU and both the United States and the United Nations.

At a joint press conference, Ambassador Haley said: "The U.S. very much sees Africa as the important part of the world. We see great opportunities in Africa. We see challenges in Africa. We want to support and help in those situations. But most importantly we want to see how we can partner together, whether that is through economic development, whether it is through strategic practices, whether it is through political solutions." She said she hoped "that this is the beginning of what is going to be a stronger relationship with the AU and our African partners."

Before travelling on to Juba, Ambassador Haley visited South Sudanese refugees in Gambella, on October 24/2017 together with the US Ambassador to Ethiopia, Mike Raynor. Ambassador Haley praised Ethiopia's role in hosting one of the largest refugee populations in Africa and reiterated U.S. commitment to support those efforts. She also stressed the need to seek peaceful resolutions to conflicts in the region.

### Foreign Minister, Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu, Makes a Working Visit to Rwanda



Ethiopia's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu, arrived in Kigali, Rwanda on the 21st of October 2017 for a working visit, to discuss issues of mutual interest and emerging global dynamics to further bolster the relationship of the two countries to a higher level.

Dr. Workneh met for talks with Rwanda's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Ms. Louise Mushikiwabo on October 22nd 2017, in what were described later as productive discussions. Dr. Workneh noted that apart from the cultural and historical ties that link Ethiopia and Rwanda, their relationship has progressed steadily on all fronts over the last two decades. The two Governments have frequently shared best experiences, above and beyond consulting and coordinating their respective positions on matters of regional and international importance. In

addition, both countries have been working closely together in assisting and promoting the cause of African unity. Dr. Workneh also underlined that mutual interest and respect were the basis for Ethiopia's engagement in foreign relations. Ethiopia's successful relations with all its neighbours and near neighbours over the last two decades are a testament to the seriousness with which the country had adhered to those principles, he said.

Foreign Minister Ms. Mushikiwabo also noted that the relationship between the two countries should continue to be a source of cooperation and mutual benefit. Commending previous achievements reached between the two countries, she stressed the need for continued consultation and coordination on matters of regional and international importance. Another major area she underlined as appropriate for further work is Ethiopia-Rwanda trade and investment co-operation.

Ethiopia's relationship with Rwanda is one of the bilateral relationships that the Government has been working to expand in order to meet their mutual concerns. The two countries have a long relationship with Rwanda opening its first embassy in Ethiopia in 1978, though Ethiopia carried out its diplomatic relations with Rwanda through its embassy in Kampala until it opened an embassy in Kigali in April of this year. The two countries have signed some eight agreements and seven Memoranda of Understandings on different issues of increasing bilateral relations, including trade and aviation services.

## **Ethiopia Hosts Global Green Growth Week Conference**

The Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) held its "Global Green Growth Week 2017: Unlocking Africa's Green Growth Potential" (GGGWeek2017) from October 17-20/2017, at

the United Nations Conference Centre, in Addis Ababa.

With Ethiopia co-hosting with the Global Green Growth Institute, GGG Week 2017 brought together GGGI members, stakeholders from the public and private sectors, international organizations, and civil society, aiming to strengthen and catalyse green growth in Africa and globally, in order to achieve Nationally Determined Contributions to the Paris Agreement and make progress on the U.N Sustainable Development Goals. The conference addressed a number of key topics, including: mobilizing green climate finance to bankable projects in developing countries; sustainably managing resources to address water and food security challenges; and developing and adopting policies that drive environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive economic growth.

In his welcoming speech at the opening ceremony Dr. Gemedo Dalle, Ethiopia's Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, said Ethiopia, like other countries affected by the changing climate, needed to forge coalitions with different players to build resilience towards a sustainable growth. "Involving the private sector plays a very important role if we are to meet the national and international long-term targets", the Minister said. He added: "I believe private public partnerships will be critical in meeting the sustainable development goals and my country remains committed to encouraging and also closely working with the private sector." Dr. Gemedo also highlighted Ethiopia's significant efforts towards meeting the Sustainable Development Goals, noting that Ethiopia is implementing its Climate Resilient Green Economy Strategy, and joining the Partnering for Green Growth and the Global Goals 2030 (P4G), launched last month, will be part of the efforts to achieving its green economy national agenda.

Dr. Gemedo Dalle emphasized that Ethiopia has also taken practical actions with regard to



implementing its Climate-Resilient Green Economy through policy formulations, institutional strengthening and program development and delivery. The strategy is a central element in the country's five-year Growth and Transformation Plan and will contribute largely to Ethiopia's goal of reaching middle income status by 2025. It would do this while also reducing emissions by 64% by 2025 compared to 2010 levels. The strategy recognizes that achieving growth through conventional development paths would result in dramatically increased carbon emissions and unsustainable use of natural resources. Dr. Gemedo Dalle reiterated that Ethiopia had put in place a monitoring and evaluation framework, an institutional coordination mechanism, and an inter-ministerial committee to coordinate the various implementation activities of sector ministries to achieve the CRGE strategy. The agricultural sector is an example, he said, focusing on rehabilitating degraded land to increase sustainable production and productivity. Dr. Gemedo said: "The focus of green growth strategies is to ensure that natural resources can deliver their full economic potential in a

sustainable manner." He explained that Ethiopia had succeeded in absorbing 5.5 million tons of carbon dioxide by developing its forestry, and noted implementation of policies and strategies related to green economy had helped Ethiopia to host the Global Green Growth Week 2017 Conference.

A joint statement by Dr. Gemedo Dalle and by the Global Green Growth Institute's Director-General, Dr. Frank Rijsberman, underlined the progress made by Ethiopia and its leading role in establishing a green economy is part of the criteria for choosing Ethiopia as this year's co-host. Dr. Frank Rijsberman appreciated Ethiopia's efforts to expand its hydro-electric power production as a means of energy source which contributes less carbon emission to the environment. The Director-General stated his organization was working to bring green finance to Ethiopia. Dr. Rijsberman explained that Ethiopia would receive US\$45 million from the Global Climate Fund to enhance irrigation as well as contribute another US\$5 million. He said this is a project which is "set to benefit 330,000 people directly and nearly 1 million people indirectly."

# Business and Economy

## The Third Ethiopia-Morocco Business Forum Held in Addis Ababa



The third Ethiopia-Morocco Business Forum takes place on October 26/2017 at the Sheraton Hotel in Addis Ababa with representatives from over a hundred companies engaged in various sectors from both countries participating. The aim of the forum is to encourage the trade, investment and bilateral relations between the two countries.

In his opening remarks, Ethiopia's Minister of Trade, Dr. Bekele Bulado, noted the historical ties between the two brotherly nations, and stressed the mobilization of community business would

strengthen the cooperation and collaboration between the two countries. He underlined that the government wanted to raise and build confidence in the private sector to encourage the business sector and increase the number of international investors. He called on Moroccan investors to take advantage of Ethiopia's favourable investment climate and policy and noted their investments would be profitable if they invest in Ethiopia, a country endowed with abundant natural resource and labour forces as well as stable economy.

Dr. Bekele underlined that Ethiopia has a joint development strategy and regional energy efficiency initiatives and industrial parks to encourage the development and export of garment, textile, and other industrial areas. He also noted the opportunity offered by Ethiopia's political stability, minimal capital investment requirements, its relatively cheap energy, the advantage offered by access to COMESA and its proximity to other global markets and its decade-long double-digit growth. This had created an environment much suited to profitable investment opportunities in mining, agro-processing, energy and other sectors.

Mr. Solomon Aferwork, the president of the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectorial Associations (ECCSA) referred to the Memorandum of Understanding that was signed by Ethiopia and Morocco last year promoting the role of the business communities of the two countries. He noted that Ethiopia had an extensive program focusing on the development of small scale, medium enterprises as well as large scale businesses. Cooperation between Ethiopia and Morocco, he underlined, should be based experience sharing and transfer of knowledge. Mr. Daniel Gad, a private sector consultant, also shared his experience of doing business in Ethiopia and listed the existing opportunities for investment. He noted Addis Ababa has become an important destination for different diplomatic missions, adding that the government's willingness to promote the private sector, bringing

in know-how technology and making use of other opportunities including tax advantages, financial and other benefits has created a conducive environment for investment.

Mrs. Rakiya, State Secretary of the Moroccan Ministry of Trade, Industry, Investment and Digital Economy (EDERHEM), thanked the Ethiopian government for supporting Morocco's return to the African Union. She said Ethiopia was a strategic partner for Morocco and the main gateway for Morocco's efforts to penetrate into the Eastern Africa region. The creation of a favourable environment for business between the two countries would further consolidate relations between the two brotherly countries, she said. Citing the fertilizer plant being built in Ethiopia with 2.5 billion US dollars as an example, she noted that the two countries needed to strengthen their trade and investment relations in the future. Mrs. Rakiya said Morocco is willing to build economic relations with Ethiopia in the areas of electrical energy, water and sanitation, and ICT. Overall, she underlined that Morocco is working with the motto "Africa's natural resource for Africa's growth and prosperity."



# Tourism and Culture

## Bishoftu Eyes Crater Lakes to Attract Tourists



The town of Bishoftu, a resort town known for its crater lakes, aspires to become a tourist destination. The abundant trees in the town and the green vegetation around the lakes make Bishoftu an ideal resort for a trip.

The town located some 42kms to the south-east of Addis Ababa; the capital of Ethiopia, is working to utilize this potential to increase local and foreign tourist flow and stay.

Bishoftu is home for five crater lakes including Hora Horsedi, Bishoftu, Babogaya, Kuriftu and seasonal Lake Cheleklaka. These lakes offer breathtaking beaches and green vegetation.

On October 30/2017, Deputy Town Mayor, Alemu Gonfa told ENA that the town administration is working to develop these lakes, surrounded by unique beauty and breathtaking scenery, so as to make them more accessible to visitors.

Lake Hora is reputed for water sports and scenic beauty, bird species inhabiting the area including cormorants, hammer crops, ducks, geese kingfisher, paradise flycatcher, herons, shrikes and sun-birds.

It is also known to be the place where the annual thanksgiving festival of the Oromo people takes place. Currently, Babogaya is the most accessible lake to visitors with its wide lake side area, which is busy on weekends by visitors. There are hotels serving on the lake side with a magnificent view of the lake.

Development of infrastructure around the lakes and hotels on lake side are among the activities undertaken to make the town a tourist resort.

“Construction of various infrastructural facilities are being carried out in the town; huge road construction that connects to the main road are underway and more hotels are under construction”, he said.

The Irrecha Festival of the Oromo people is the other unique feature of Bishoftu, as it is celebrated at one of its lakes, Horsadi.

The thanksgiving festival marked at the end of every September or beginning of October, attracts millions of members the Oromo people and large number of tourists to the area.

“Irrecha festival which is linked with the Geda system which is celebrated in Bishoftu town at a country level, in which local and foreign tourists are expected to come in large number. In this regard, activities are underway as this will speed up the town’s tourist flow”.

By making its lakes more accessible to visitors and developing more hotels and other infrastructure facilities, the town administration aspires to increase number of visitors.

According to Alemu the number of local and foreign visitors to the town has dramatically increased over the past five years.

Over 275,000 and 64,000 local and foreign tourists visited the town in the concluded 2016/17 Ethiopian fiscal year up from 230,000 and 4,000, five years ago.

The revenue collected from the tourists has also jumped to 214 million Birr from only 14 million Birr. Head of Oromia Culture and Tourism Bureau, Lomi Badho told ENA that Bishoftu is not the only place with potential tourist hotspots, she also noted that the existence of many natural and man-made tourist hotspots, including the Dire Sheik Husein and Sof-Umer natural caves as well as the Melka Kunture and Bachilt Archaeological Site, inscribed at UNESCO's tentative list.

According to Lomi, a total of 200 caves are found in various areas of Oromia especially in Hararghe, Jimma and Illu Ababor which will need to be further promoted.

The regional government has been carrying out various activities including the preparation of a master plan and development of infrastructure facilities, to develop and promote these and other tourist sites.

“Experts at various levels in the region have prepared tourism master plan to further promote tourist destination and more than 95 percent of it is almost now completed”, she said.

## Ethiopian Crowned as Rising Star Carrier of the Year



Ethiopian Airlines crowned as the Rising Star Carrier of the Year both in industry and customer choice award on Payload Asia Awards 2017, a testament to its status in the industry.

Payload Asia Awards, a respected voice of the air cargo industry, honors excellence in air cargo

industry with more than 90 nominations competing for 20 award categories on October 14/2017.

The approach features, two parallel sets of awards for each category-the Customer Choice Awards and the Industry Choice Awards-highlighting two equally important but slightly different views of excellence, one based on popular votes and the other on a detailed assessment by senior industry executives.

Ethiopian has won Rising Star Carrier of the Year in industry award last year, while won both the industry and customer choice awards in 2015.

Group CEO Ethiopian Airlines, Tewolde GebreMariam, remarked: “We are glad that Ethiopian Cargo & Logistics Services is recognized as The Rising Star Carrier of the Year for the third year in a row”.

As one of the strategic business units under Ethiopian Airlines Group, “the Ethiopian Cargo & Logistics Services has been one of the success stories in the effective implementation of our ambitious plan set in our long-term strategic road map, Vision 2025”, he said.

Currently, the Ethiopian Cargo & Logistics Services operating in a state of the art cargo terminal, capable of accommodating one million tons per annum, flying to 44 global freighter destinations.

“Supporting export of perishables and import of high value goods of the booming Ethiopian Economy and the entire African continent, Ethiopian Cargo and Logistics Services is playing a vital role in the growth of trade, investment and economic integration”, he stated.

Under its strategic road map, Vision 2025, Ethiopian has embarked on building the second phase of Cargo Terminal III, which will add 600,000 tones to its annual capacity.

The cargo terminal will also position Ethiopian Cargo and Logistics Services among the world's largest cargo terminals including cargo terminals in Amsterdam Schiphol, Singapore Changi, or Hong Kong.