



# The Ethiopian Herald

Vol. LXXIX No 306 2 September 2023 - Nehase 27, 2015

Saturday

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## Bloc avails potential to spur Ethiopia's tourism market

BYESSEYE MENGISTE

**ADDIS ABABA-** Ethiopia's admission to BRICS would galvanize efforts to put the country as Africa's preferred tourist destination and attract more visitors from the bloc member states, the Ministry of Tourism said.

Public Relations and Communication

Senior Expert at the Ministry of Tourism Tariku Negash told *The Ethiopia Herald* that the country's BRICS membership would create potential for Ethiopia's tourism market through joint campaigns and investment opportunities. "Comprising large populations and changing economies, the bloc could create great potential for Ethiopia's tourism market."

Moreover, BRICS members will cooperate in various development sectors and tourism is one of the partnership areas. This collaboration is expected to create a great opportunity to develop the tourism integration, to promote it, and share experiences, increase tourism income and knowledge transfer in the sector.

As tourism is among the engines of Ethiopia's

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**HOME OF WINNERS 2023**



## Ethio-Djibouti railway set to double cargo capacity

BY MESERET BEHAILU

**ADDIS ABABA –** Ethio-Djibouti Standard Gauge Railway Share Company (EDR) disclosed that it is intensifying efforts to increase cargo capacity from 15 % to 30% within five years.

EDR Chief Corporate Strategy Officer Aminu Juhar told The Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that company's trains have transported various cargos over the years and preliminary activities are already done to introduce new cargo service.

Accordingly, a pilot project has been undertaking through transporting cold chain products such as meat and fruits using the latest wagons. This showcased the

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## Ethiopia, UN in concert to full, immediate aid resumption

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## Ethiopian envoys receive awards for extraordinary services

BY STAFF REPORTER

**ADDIS ABABA-** Ethiopian Ambassador to South Korea Dessie Dalkie received "2023 Best Ambassador Award" from the Korea Consumer Global Council in recognition of his outstanding dedication and activities to bolster the two countries' bilateral relations.

Information obtained from Ethiopia's Embassy in Seoul indicated that the award, which was given by the Korea Consumer Global Council, recognizes Dessie's dedication to foster a comprehensive partnership between the two friendly nations.

Fostering trade and investment, expanding academic exchanges and setting up forums for investment and cultural exchange are said to be areas the Ambassador has made

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# News

## Ethiopia awards Budapest medalists, athletes

• *Nation to share endurance running success to Hungary*

BY YOHANES JEMANEH

The Ethiopian Athletics Federation awarded over 1.7 million Birr to athletes who made history amassing medals and waving the tricolor flag high in the skies of Hungary during the 19th World Athletics Championships.

Ethiopia has finished six in the tournament with a total of nine medals incorporating two gold, four silver and three bronze medals.

Accordingly, athletes who won gold, silver and bronze medals rewarded with 60,000, 40,000 and 30,000 Birr respectively. Athletes who represented the country in various races of the tournament also received a sum of 50,000 Birr reward.

Speaking on the occasion, athlete Gudaf Tsegay who won gold medal in women's 10,000m race, confessed that the competition and the weather was challenging "but we achieved victory with the help of God."

She also expressed her gratitude to the coaches who were concerned to the success "on behalf of the athletes."



Athlete Yalemzerf Yehualaw who finish fifth in the women's marathon struggling with pain, expressed that she could have withdrawn from the race if it was a private running.

"Our plan was to rank one to three. Thanks God, at least, we achieved both the gold and the silver medals. Whoever takes the gold, I am glad that it is my country that won," she said.

Coach Gemedo Dedefo appreciated athletes who "have tried their level best to bring home the medals." He also suggested that extra efforts are needed to achieve more medals in the future by correcting mistakes that have seen in some events.

On the other hand, Ethiopian Athletics Federation is working to improve the athletics sport through equipping the administration staff with knowledge and skill.

In its stay in Hungary, the Federation has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with The Hungarian University of Sports Science to join hands to the development of Ethiopian athletics, it was learnt.

Federation President Derartu Tulu expressed that the MoU helps Ethiopia to receive a short term trainings and scholarship opportunities in developing and managing of athletics sport.

Likewise, the agreement enables the university to draw lesson from Ethiopia's astonishing achievement in long-distance competitions, she stated.

Many of the medals won by Ethiopian athletes in the Budapest Championships were achieved in long distance races, it was learnt.

The government has organized various programs to welcome and appreciate Ethiopian athletes who won medals to their motherland competing in various races of the 19th World Athletics Championships that held in Budapest, Hungary between 19 and 27 August 2023.

## Nation receives adequate rainfall this crop season

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

**ADDIS ABABA** – Ethiopian Meteorology Institute announced that the country is receiving normal and above normal amount of rainwater that has a positive impact on water supply and agricultural productivity.

Institute General Director Fetene Teshome said that most parts of the country received normal and above normal rain during this Ethiopian rainy season (Kiremt) that enabled farmers to carry out their agricultural activities and improve the water supply of the watersheds.

By the same token, the northeastern and eastern parts of the country received below the normal volume of rainfall, he added.

According to Fetene, the southern and southeastern parts of the country will receive above the normal distribution of

rainfall in the upcoming dry season locally known as *Bega*.

"Western part of the nation will also get above normal rainfall as well as there will be unseasonal rain in the North, Central, East and North West areas of the country based on the current weather forecasts," he said.

The community should be aware of the weather forecast to save available rainwaters and carryout farming and other socio-economic activities in consultation with experts, he suggested.

He also emphasized that necessary precautions should be taken to alleviate the negative impacts of occasional heavy rain on the social and economic activities of flood-prone areas during the *Bega* season.

State Minister of Agriculture Melese Mekonnen recalled that the farmers were



able to cover about 15.8 million hectares of land with seeds working in accordance with the weather forecast given last *Kiremt* season.

Numerous activities have been done to ensure food security and food system in

Ethiopia and this enabled the agricultural sector to record an excellent result, he mentioned, adding that his ministry will focus on achieving agricultural productivity taking into account of this year's weather forecast.

## ECSOC backs Nat'l Dialogue process

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

**ADDIS ABABA**- Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations Council (ECSOC) is lending hands with the National Dialogue Commission for the success of the National Dialogue that the country applying as a remedy to deal with its enduring political-economic discords.

ECSOC Program and Development Director Hana Woldegebriel told *The Ethiopia Herald* that the council is working to realize the effectiveness of the national dialogue process through organizing various awareness raising programs.

"We have undertaken a series of awareness



raising activities about the national dialogue process and peace by participating government bodies, civil society, youth, women, IDPs, and people with disabilities,

private sectors, media and NGOs," she said.

The National Dialogue requires the participation of all actors which needs the application of a multi-stakeholder approach. "Therefore, we are working with the Ministry of Peace and Ethiopian Political Parties Joint Council on the implementation of the national dialogue process," the Director added.

She urged stakeholders to provide the necessary support to the Commission to achieve its tasks of undertaking a successful national dialogue that solve country's basic problems.

Hana added that the national dialogue is expected to go through processes that can

bring national consensus. She expressed her anticipation that the dialogue process helps to develop a culture of discussion to realize a lasting peace.

When the National Dialogue came into effect, the first thing it did was to identify the role of civil society Organizations. ECSOC has signed a collaborative framework agreement with the commission to use the available capacity in the civil society organizations, Hana noted.

The National Dialogue Commission had presented a framework that clears the role of civil societies in every phase of national dialogue from preparation to implementation stages.

# News

## Green Legacy initiative creates 700,000 jobs

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

**ADDIS ABABA** – Some 700,000 citizens benefited from job opportunities created in the past five years since the Green Legacy initiative came into effect, Ministry of Agriculture said.

Ministry Natural Resources Development and Protection Chief Executive Tefera Tadese said that 700,000 citizens have been benefited from the initiative that helped the nation to plant 30 billion trees over the last five years.

The citizens have been benefited while preparing saplings, digging holes, planting and nurturing among others, he elaborated.

The income of citizens engaged in selling of saplings and soil, and water conservation activities is also increasing each year, Tefera expressed.

“We have to create more jobs for many



citizens to address the high unemployment in the country during the lifespan of the Green Legacy initiative despite the fact that the already planted agroforests are yielding fruits to become additional income,” he said.

Apart from keeping the environment green,

these planted fruit trees would also save the lives of citizens who are suffering from malnourishment, he added.

The Green Legacy initiative is also enabling the nation to benefit from carbon trade in addition to possessing a protected and healthy environment, it was learnt

## Bloc avails...

economic growth, prime attention has been given to encourage potential stakeholders from the bloc to invest in the sector. Also, Ethiopia’s accession facilities conditions for BRICS member states to be involved in projects related to infrastructure development, hospitality, hotel and tourism, the expert elaborated.

Tariku further noted that the improvement of tourist attraction sites enables to create strong institutions and improve the competitiveness of Ethiopia’s tourism

sector. BRICS member countries are emerging economies and their tourism activities are in good shape thereby creating the opportunity to experience sharing not only for tourism but also education, training and other capacity building programs.

Also, becoming the BRICS family would enable Ethiopia to attain a strong response to its desire for investors’ engagement in the construction of star- designated hotels, lodges and resorts across tourist attraction

sites. “As the bloc consists of countries with a growing middle-income population, Ethiopia’s accession is also a good opportunity to attract potential visitors,” he remarked.

It is to be recalled that Ethiopia’s application to join the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) emerging markets group was approved at the bloc’s 15th Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa.

## Ethiopian envoys...

extraordinary activities.

In his congratulatory remark during the ceremony, Ambassador Dessie said that the award serves as an inspiration and motivates him to intensify his efforts in fulfilling his duties as a representative of Ethiopia and its people in South Korea.

He emphasized that receiving this award will make him more dedicated to further enhance the diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and South Korea, as well as to serve his Motherland and the interests of the Ethiopian people. “I am dedicated to give my utmost effort to pursue my mission and achieve new milestones and achievements that benefit both Ethiopia and South Korea, as well as their respective people.”

Ambassador Dessie also expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the Government and the people of Ethiopia for providing him this incredible opportunity to serve as his country’s representative in South Korea.

The winners of these prestigious awards are chosen by the Korea Consumer Brand Awards Committee, overseen by the Korea Consumer Global Council. The



Korea Consumer Evaluation Institute is responsible for the screening and evaluation process, while the IPAC Coordination and Arbitration Center and the Korea Lincoln Association collaborate to recognize the finest brand companies, products, and individuals, including Ambassadors who will shape the future of Korea and other countries,

it was learned.

The award giving ceremony was held at the Korea Press Club in Seoul.

In a similar development, Ethiopia’s Ambassador to Pakistan Jemal Beker was awarded the “National Peace Award” by the National Peace and Justice Council of Pakistan.

## Ethiopia,

## UN in concert to full, immediate aid resumption

BY STAFF REPORTER

**ADDIS ABABA-** The Ethiopian Government and the UN Country Team expressed conviction that the full and immediate resumption of food remains a priority for the most vulnerable groups across the country.

Foreign Affairs State Minister Ambassador Mesganu Arga held a productive discussion with the UN Country Team led by UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Ramiz Alakbarov yesterday.

In the discussion, the state minister briefed the UN representatives on steps taken by the Ethiopian Government and humanitarian partners to collectively reform the provision of aid delivery.

In a joint statement the parties issued after the deliberation that humanitarian assistance is a lifeline for the affected communities and they cannot afford to wait.

Humanitarian partners continue to provide other lifesaving activities including nutritional supplements, school feeding programs, water, and agricultural support services, the statement remarked.

Refugees and Returnees Services (RRS) Director General Teyiba Hassen was also in attendance of the meeting.

## Ethio-Djibouti...

potential company to increase the cargo capacity by two fold or plus to overcome country’s freight transport setbacks shortly, he said.

As to him, some 63 freight wagons crucial for carrying heavy vehicles and other machineries are introduced so far. The company is also import 110 wagons which have a capacity of carrying 70 metric tons each and used for easing petroleum transport in the years to come.

EDR is also striving to connect fuel depot lines stretched between Awash, Ethiopia and Horizon in Djibouti. Over the past years, petroleum has never been transported through trains since the line from Awash-Ethiopia and horizon in Djibouti was disconnected.

Aminu further stated that the company planned to import some 2.4 million tons of different cargos this Ethiopian fiscal year.

It is to be recalled that the company has transported 2.1 million tons of freights including edible oil, coffee, fertilizers, cereals and vehicles during the 2022/2023 Ethiopian fiscal year.

# Opinion

## Exploring new horizons: Ethiopia's bilateral relations with BRICS members

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

Undoubtedly, Ethiopia has strong bilateral relationship with countries in the world. The country has also maintained bilateral relations with each member of the BRICS group, consisting of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. These relationships span various sectors, including agriculture, infrastructure development, defense, trade, and education.

Over the years, Ethiopia has collaborated with these countries to foster economic growth, enhance technological capabilities, and strengthen diplomatic ties. With each BRICS member bringing unique opportunities and areas of expertise, Ethiopia has sought to leverage these partnerships for mutual benefit and sustainable development.

Ethiopia and China, for instance, have a strong and multifaceted bilateral relationship. China has become one of Ethiopia's largest trading partners and a major source of foreign direct investment. Chinese companies have been involved in various infrastructure projects in Ethiopia, including the construction of roads, railways, and industrial parks. Additionally, China has provided financial assistance and technical expertise in sectors such as telecommunications and energy.

Evidences show that both China and Ethiopia have ancient civilizations, and their historical relations can be traced back to ancient times. In the past, Ethiopia used to export spices and gums to China while importing utensils from China. However, formal diplomatic relations between the two countries began during the imperial era, specifically in 1970. In 1971, Emperor Haile Selassie I visited China, which further strengthened the bilateral ties. During this period, Ethiopia was recognized for its importation of various Chinese commodities, including shoes, textile products, and some electronic goods.

After the assumption of power by the Chinese Communist Party in 1949, the relations between China and Ethiopia were further strengthened. This bond was consolidated when the Derg took power in 1974, as both countries shared a common ideological vision. In the early 1990s, after the EPRDF regime came into power, the relationship between the two nations saw further progress strengthened in the areas of trade, technology, and finance. Notably, China's economy had transformed from agrarian to a manufacturing hub during this time.

Presently, China has emerged as one of the major importers of Ethiopia's agricultural products, including coffee, oil seeds, leather, and leather products, among others. In return, Ethiopia imports machinery, electronics, vehicles, and medical equipment from China. The trade relationship between the two countries has been steadily growing over time. China, through its state and private companies, has invested billions of USD in various sectors in Ethiopia, including manufacturing, agriculture, and real estate development.

Not only that, but China has also become

the primary loan provider to Ethiopia. It has been reported that after the acceptance of Ethiopia to join the BRICS group, China extended Ethiopia's grace period for debt payment by one year. Additionally, China has provided diplomatic support to Ethiopia in the UN General Assembly and Security Council, leveraging its diplomatic influence.

Ethiopia has also maintained a longstanding diplomatic relationship with Russia, dating back to the 19th century. In recent years, the two countries have further strengthened their ties, particularly in the areas of defense, energy, and education. Russia has been a significant supplier of military equipment and has provided training to Ethiopia's armed forces. Moreover, discussions have taken place regarding the expansion of cooperation in the energy sector, including potential collaboration in developing nuclear energy for peaceful purpose.

During the Battle of Adwa in 1896, the Russian Red Cross mission played a crucial role in providing medical support to the brave Ethiopian fighters in their successful defense against the Italian invaders. In the early 20th century, Russia was among the countries that opened an embassy in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa.

Regarding their social relationship, in 1947, Russia opened a hospital in the Ethiopian capital as a commemoration of the Adwa patriot, Dejazmach Balcha Safo. The hospital received support from Russia in the form of medical equipment, doctors, and medicines.

Since then, Emperor Haile Selassie established diplomatic relations with both Western countries and Russia. The emperor also visited Russia in late 1959. The relationship between the two countries further strengthened after the rise of the Derg regime, as they shared a common vision rooted in socialist ideology.

In 1977, a delegation from Ethiopia led by Lieutenant Colonel Mengistu Hailemariam visited Moscow. After the disintegration of the Soviet Union, Russia has provided diplomatic support to Ethiopia on various platforms within the United Nations. This support was particularly evident when Ethiopia faced pressure and potential economic sanctions from Western countries due to a conflict in the northern part of Ethiopia that occurred years ago.

Not only with the two countries, but also Ethiopia has strong bilateral relation with India. Ethiopia and India have enjoyed friendly relations and cooperation in various fields. India has been involved in projects related to infrastructure development, agriculture, and capacity building in Ethiopia. Trade between the two countries has been growing steadily, with India importing Ethiopian agricultural products and exporting pharmaceuticals and machinery to Ethiopia.

According to renowned historian Richard Pankhurst, Ethiopia and India had established trade relations even before the birth of Christ. In the late 19th century, Indian traders, locally known as Banyans, arrived and settled in Ethiopia engaged in export and import businesses. They

established their worshiping sites and even designated a place in Dire Dawa town for the cremation of their deceased, a site that still exists today.

During the imperial era, there were reciprocal visits between Ethiopia and India, with Emperor Haile Selassie visiting India and vice versa. At that time, the Indian economy was in a relatively low state, leading many Indians to come to Ethiopia and work as teachers, earning their salaries in Birr, the Ethiopian currency.

The relations between the two countries continued to strengthen in the following decades. Ethiopia exported spices to India; while in return, it mainly imported Indian products. Over time, the trade volume between the two nations has reached that worth billions of Dollars.

Ethiopia imports machinery, vehicles and electrical equipment, three wheel vehicles known as Bajaj and its spare parts from India and exports agricultural products. Indian companies also invested in various sectors among others in textile production, agriculture, construction and technological innovation.

India also provided 600 million Dollars in the form of loan with the lowest interest rate for the construction of Tendaho Sugar factory located in Afar region.

By the same token, Ethiopia and South Africa have also maintained relations since 1948. The two countries have collaborated in areas such as agriculture, education, and trade. South African companies have invested in Ethiopia, particularly in sectors such as telecommunications and manufacturing. Trade between the two countries has also been growing, with a focus on agricultural products, minerals, and manufactured goods.

The African National Congress, led by Nelson Mandela, waged a struggle against the apartheid system that granted dominant power to white settlers. Initially, the ANC engaged in peaceful resistance. However, as the regime resorted to harsh measures against ANC members, the struggle transformed into an armed one.

In 1958, after the imperial government issued an Ethiopian passport to Nelson Mandela, he arrived here and got military training in Kolfe rapid forces training camp. He was tutored by General Tadesse Birru. After accomplishing the trainings, he flew to Lussaka by the Ethiopian airline to join the ANC combatant forces in South Africa.

But right after his arrival he was arrested by the apartheid police and sentenced to life imprisonment. In the later years, after the establishment of the African Union through the office of anti-colonialism struggle, Ethiopia provided military, financial as well as diplomatic support to the ANC.

In 1964 when the late Yidnekachew Tesema assigned as the president of the Confederation of African Football Federation strongly opposed the membership of Apartheid South Africa in CAF and ultimately the country was expelled from the federation. Ethiopia condemned the military expedition of the

apartheid South Africa in the neighboring countries to hunt ANC forces several times in the 1970s and 80s on the OAU and the UN plat forms.

During the Derg era, Ethiopia continued its military as well as diplomatic support to ANC and provided training to the party's fighters here and sent to Zambia to join the armed struggle waged against the apartheid system in South Africa.

In the following years, the two sister countries opened their embassies in their respective countries. Currently, the two countries entertain good relationship in terms of trade, culture and science. The University of South Africa UNISA also opened its branch in Akaki kality Sub City, east of the capital.

These days, large numbers of the Ethiopian community members live in South Africa and still migrants destined to South Africa. The Ethiopian airline flies three days a week to that country.

Last but not least, Brazil is another member of BRICS that has a strong bilateral relationship with Ethiopia. The diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and Brazil have been in place since 1960. The two countries have cooperated in various areas, including agriculture, education, and trade.

Brazil has played a significant role in providing technical assistance to Ethiopia, particularly in the agricultural sector. This assistance has been focused on areas such as livestock and dairy production. Additionally, trade between Ethiopia and Brazil has been on the rise, with a particular emphasis on agricultural products.

Currently, the two sisterly countries have established a strong relationship and forged economic ties. Given that both countries are major coffee producers and exporters, Ethiopian private sector businessmen have undertaken tours to Brazil for experience sharing and working visits. This exchange provides an opportunity to tap into each other's rich natural resources and enhance bilateral trade.

In conclusion, Ethiopia has fostered strong bilateral relations with each member of the BRICS bloc. These relationships cover a wide range of sectors, from agriculture to defense, and have been instrumental in promoting economic growth, technological advancement, and diplomatic cooperation.

Overall, Ethiopia's bilateral relations with BRICS members have contributed to mutual growth and development, leveraging each country's strengths and resources for the benefit of both parties. These partnerships have opened doors for collaboration in various sectors and hold great potential for further enhancing economic ties and diplomatic cooperation in the future.

**Editor's Note: The views entertained in this article do not necessarily reflect the stance of The Ethiopian Herald**

# Editorial

## Fruits of effective diplomacy

The Government of Ethiopia has inked agreement of all sorts with various countries, international organizations and agencies across the world in view of promoting, among others, Ethiopia's economic, commercial and investment opportunities. Practically, Ethiopia is always committed to discharging its international commitment and is also a reliable friend to all that fine-tune their practices to win-win relations.

As a result of its pragmatic diplomatic approach and trajectory, it chooses playing fairly with every entity without exclusion but prioritizing its national interest. This has enabled it achieve myriads of successes via bilateral and multilateral relations.

The Council of Ministers, for instance, passed multiple decisions in its 24th regular session held on 31 August, 2023. The council discussed issues of three sets of bilateral loan agreements entered with the Government of Italy regarding development loan worth 56 million Euros in which 10 million euro will be allocated for a project which is meant to improve coffee value chain. Of the stated amount, 22 million Euros will be funneled to promote rural employment creation projects and augment agro-industrial development in rural areas of Ethiopia. The remainder, 24 million Euros, will be used to put in place sustainable water resource development and administration system along Awash and Wabe Shebelle Basin areas. The council passed it and referred it to the parliament for further scrutiny.

Besides, the council approved two draft agreements worth 250 million USD and 50 million USD, which have been entered with International Development Association. The loans are sought to improve rural electrification to low income communities and strengthen human resource service delivery in that order.

The Council of Ministers also endorsed agreements related to promoting foreign relations; to establish African Medicines Agency; employment agreement with the Government of Lebanon; bilateral agreements with the Republic of South Korea and India; commercial agreement with the Government of Pakistan and referred all to the House of Peoples Representatives for scrutiny and approval.

Recently, as a result of the discussion between Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (Ph.D) and Chinese President Xi Jinping ahead of the BRICS-Africa Outreach and BRICS Plus meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa, the latter indicated that "China will suspend payments on debt maturing in the period 2023/2024 as part of the common framework agreement," as reported by the Office of the Prime Minister.

All the agreements reached with the countries and international institutions from all corners of the world indicate that the Ethiopian government is pursuing non alienated approach embarked only on mutual benefit. It is a plus for Ethiopia to secure interest free long term credits as well.

The diplomatic activities are propping up the nation's practical step of realizing its development feats. The all-round pragmatic diplomatic activities have resulted in attracting reliable friends from both sides of the global hemisphere. According Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, these diplomatic successes are the extension of achievements registered in wheat production and green legacy as well. The efforts and outcomes are laudable and should continue with more vigor.



## The Ethiopian Herald

Established in 1943

Published daily except Mondays  
By The Ethiopian Press Agency

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The Ethiopian Herald

# Opinion

## India's moon landing is an inspiration for all

BY ROBERT SHETKINTONG

(Indian Ambassador to Ethiopia)

Recently, Prime Ministers of India and Ethiopia met on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in Johannesburg on 24 August 2023. The leaders agreed to deepen relations between our two friendly countries.

Ethiopian Prime Minister H.E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed felicitated Indian Prime Minister on the success of Chandrayaan mission, terming it as a moment of pride and inspiration for Ethiopia and the Global South.



In fact, when Chandrayaan-3 successfully touched down on the Moon's southern polar region on 23 August 2023, Indian became the only fourth country after US, Russia

and China to have successfully landed a rover on the Moon. Also, it was the closest landing yet of any space vehicle to the lunar south pole.

Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi dedicated the Chandrayaan-3 success as the success of entire humanity. He commended the Indian scientists for their hard work

and especially lauded the large number of women scientists' role in the lunar mission. This will motivate several aspiring women scientists in the years to come.



Prime Minister Modi with women scientists, who were part of the moon mission

Prime Minister Modi described the development not just as a victory for the national space agency but also as a bright symbol of India's progress and ascent on the global stage. Indian government noted that landing near the South Pole of the Moon, overcoming the arduous conditions, is a testament to the spirit of our scientists who since centuries have sought to push the boundaries of human knowledge. We should work to ensure that our innovations

have direct applications on the ground, enhancing our infrastructure, boosting our digital economy, and providing critical data to various sectors.

India's advancements in the space sector were more than just monumental scientific achievements and represent a vision of progress, self-reliance, and global leadership. This is also a symbol of the rising new India.

**Editor's Note: The views entertained in this article do not necessarily reflect the stance of The Ethiopian Herald**

# Art & Culture



## “Twilight life” in translation

BY BITANIYA TADELE

Profoundly, all phenomena embed their beauty when they are visible: Their grace, light and occurrence are noticed at their time of living. It is in their presence we get to see their beauty. Yet there are some peculiar “terms “in life that live when dying ,born when leaving ,seen when disappearing. There are things we appreciate them at the time of their last goodbyes. What’s better specimen is for this than sunset; Just as a sunset paints the sky with its final strokes before darkness descends, human life too possesses an enchanting allure in its twilight moments.

In our journey, we often overlook the beauty that lies within the ephemeral nature of existence. We tend to associate beauty with youth, vigor, and vitality, forgetting that even as life approaches its end, it can still radiate an unparalleled charm. Just like a sunset casts a mesmerizing glow across the horizon as it bids farewell to another day,

human life too can be at its most captivating during its final stages. As individuals age and approach the later stages of their lives, they accumulate wisdom and experiences that shape their perspectives. This accumulation brings forth a unique kind of beauty - one that is marked by depth and insight. The lines etched upon their faces tell stories of resilience, love, loss, and growth. Their eyes hold a profound understanding that only time can bestow.

In these twilight years, individuals often find solace in reflecting upon their lives - cherishing memories while contemplating their legacies. It is during this introspection that they discover newfound appreciation for life’s fleeting moments. They understand that just as a sunset’s brilliance lasts only for a short while before darkness takes over, so too does human existence possess an inherent temporality.

The realization that life is transient allows us to embrace every moment with heightened awareness and gratitude. In a

world that often glorifies youth and vitality, it is crucial to recognize and appreciate the beauty that emerges from life’s twilight moments. By embracing impermanence and acknowledging that even as things fade away, they can still possess immense allure, we can cultivate a deeper appreciation for every stage of existence. Just as a sunset’s vivid hues captivate our senses, human life’s final chapters can inspire awe and admiration.

Hence, Life is an intricate tapestry woven with threads of joy, sorrow, growth, and change. While most things are undeniably beautiful in their vibrant state of being alive, there exists an ethereal charm when life approaches its end. Just as a sunset paints the sky with its final strokes before darkness falls upon us, human life too possesses an enchanting allure during its twilight moments. By recognizing this inherent beauty in both youth and aging alike, we can truly embrace the magnificence of existence in all its forms.

## The ocean is proud

BY ALEM KIDANE

Shipwreck lost in the sea  
 With treasures and secrets  
 And old companions  
 What did you do  
 To make the ocean mad?  
 Shipwreck lost in the sea  
 Broken and scattered  
 And forgotten  
 What did you say to the ocean,  
 To anger it so?  
 O Ship of Life  
 Don’t you know the ocean has pride?  
 Did mother not tell you?  
 Why did the waves hate you  
 And shower you with floods of salt?  
 Shipwreck lost in the sea  
 How could you not have known  
 That the ocean is proud  
 How could she not tell you  
 That it hates mockery?

## How vulnerable is too vulnerable?

BY SENAIT G/HIWOT

There are times when vulnerability is good and other times when it stings. Sharing your emotions every time to everyone might be degrading. People don’t always know where you are coming from.

Sharing emotions can be a helpful tool but letting in people on your private life with your deepest feelings is not that much necessary. People may misinterpret it or even worse may use it against you.

I know a girl who uses to talk about her

boyfriend all the time to her friends and they finally confused her that he is a bad person and after she was separated with him, she realized that it was all her fault and guess what... her friends blamed her for it.

I think there is a distinction between vulnerability and oversharing... broadcasting all your feelings to people is a dumb move as you are the only one who knows what is best for you but being open in some way is good as it helps assert your feelings with others. Vulnerability works best with boundaries and over sharing could make you confused in life.



# Law & Politics

## A unified visa for regional cooperation, integration

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

A unified visa approach would promote investment and economic growth by facilitating capital flows within the IGAD region. Businesses looking to expand their operations across multiple member countries often face challenges related to visa requirements for their employees. A unified visa approach would simplify this process, allowing companies to more easily deploy their workforce across borders.

This increased mobility of human capital would foster collaboration, innovation, and economic integration, leading to sustainable development in the region.

Introducing a unified electronic visa system in IGAD member states would bring about better administrative efficiency by removing duplication of tasks; consequently leading to greater cost savings for the governments. The unified visa processing system would result in a more consistent, efficient and convenient visa application issuance process, inevitably enhancing trade, investment and tourism while improving member countries' standing in the global economy.

By the same token, implementing an electronic visa system would not only benefit the government entities' administrative processes but would generate better satisfaction levels of customers. The reduction of processing timelines would make a positive impact on the country's image and reputation. Furthermore, the cost-saving benefits of implementing a unified system would positively impact the citizens of member states.

A unified electronic visa system would create opportunities for increased collaboration and knowledge sharing among IGAD member states. Scholars, researchers, and professionals would find it easier to attend conferences, workshops, and educational programs hosted by different countries within the region. This cross-pollination of ideas and expertise would lead to innovation, academic progress, and ultimately contribute to the overall development of the IGAD region.

In addition to the practical benefits, a unified electronic visa system would promote cultural exchange and tourism within the IGAD region. With easier access to multiple countries, tourists would be more inclined to explore the diverse cultural heritage, natural landscapes, and historical sites offered by these nations. This would not only boost tourism revenues but also strengthen the bonds between the people of different IGAD member states.

Implementing a unified electronic visa system would undoubtedly bring about manifold benefits for tourists and individuals traveling to different IGAD countries. Instead of having to apply for numerous visas to cover their travel plan, individuals would only need to apply for a single electronic visa. This systematic process of visa-application would save time, energy, and money for both travelers and government agencies tasked with processing visa applications.

There is no gainsaying the fact that implementing a unified visa approach in the IGAD region would simplify and expedite



the process for skilled individuals to share their expertise across borders. Currently, individuals seeking to contribute their skills in multiple IGAD countries are often burdened with the task of obtaining separate visas for each destination.

By harmonizing visa policies, IGAD member countries can create a more investor-friendly environment, encouraging foreign direct investment and stimulating economic growth. The ease of movement facilitated by a unified visa approach would also allow investors to oversee and manage their projects more effectively and boosting investor confidence in the region.

In a similar vein, a unified visa approach would promote cultural exchange and people-to-people interactions within the IGAD region. By facilitating travel between member countries, individuals would have the opportunity to experience different cultures, traditions, and ways of life. This exposure would foster mutual understanding, tolerance, and appreciation among the people of IGAD member countries, ultimately promoting regional unity and cooperation.

With a unified visa approach, travelers would be able to visit various IGAD member countries using a single visa, making the region more appealing as a tourist destination. This would result in a boost to the tourism industry, creating employment opportunities and generating revenue for local businesses.

It is worth noting that with a unified electronic visa system in place, several bureaucratic hurdles that presently contribute to delays in visa processing time would be eliminated. Thus, business travelers and leisure tourists can enjoy a streamlined process, designed to enhance their travel experience. Because of this process, travelers would be put at ease knowing that they can plan their trips without the inconvenience of figuring out many different visa application processes for the multiple countries they wish to visit.

The smooth transaction and movement of people across national borders will undoubtedly reduce business and trade barriers, promoting a more integrated and cooperative regional economy. The adoption of an electronic visa system would give rise to the development of a standardized approach amongst IGAD member states for handling the inflow of travelers and tourists.

With the implementation of a unified electronic visa system, it would be easier to undertake regional harmonization, strengthen economic

ties, and promote cooperation and progress at the political level in the IGAD region. In the long term, these benefits will accrue not only to the IGAD region but also to Africa as a whole. The implementation of a unified electronic visa system is of great significance to the IGAD bloc, as it provides a framework for enhancing regional cooperation through the alignment of visa policies.

This coordinated approach to visa policymaking is a sure sign of the growing commitment of IGAD member states towards collective prosperity and growth. It will promote ease of flow and movement of people, goods and services across borders, and reduce the costs associated with formalities related to visa applications. The visa system is a step towards a more harmonized approach to strengthening regional cooperation in trade, investment, and other mutually beneficial economic spheres.

The introduction of a unified electronic visa system in the IGAD region marks an important milestone in the growth and maturity of the region's economies, as it further fosters progressive integration policies. This move

is aimed at improving trading partnerships and collaborations that will ultimately lead to economic development. Moreover, with synchronized visa policies in place, member states in the IGAD region can promote greater transparency in the visa application process, thus helping to circumvent resulting fraudulent activities and prevent money laundering through visa procurement systems.

By streamlining visa applications for different countries within the IGAD region, business people, traders, tourists and other stakeholders will find it easier to travel across country borders without facing the significant documentation bureaucracy and costs associated with visa application processes. The adoption of a unified electronic visa system in IGAD member states would be of paramount importance in establishing efficient and streamlined visa policies amongst member countries and implementing a clear environment where intra-regional trade, tourism, and investment can thrive.

With an electronic visa system in place, member countries would have access to robust technological capabilities to enable the monitoring of visa applications and tracking the movement of visitors across their borders.

Electronic visa systems can also help prevent stolen identity cases, including passports and visas, by providing a single platform where documents can be verified and authenticated, protecting applicants from identity theft. With this system in place, member states can enjoy improved immigration control and management, easing the process for their immigration authorities to handle and process visa applications.

A unified visa approach among member countries will foster skill transfers and capital flows, executive secretary of Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Workneh Gebeyehu (Ph.D.) said, according to information obtained from Ethiopian News Agency.

The executive secretary made the remark addressing the IGAD Committee of Ambassadors, officials from Ministries of Interior and Immigration at the IGAD Single Visa Consultative Meeting underway in Djibouti.

He said "By facilitating seamless travel, this initiative has the potential to catalyze transformative benefits across many and various dimensions." A unified visa approach will foster skill transfers and capital flows, he added.

Workneh stated that this unified electronic visa aligns seamlessly with IGAD's core principles, and it shall bring to life its policy instruments such as the IGAD Protocols of Free Movement and Transhumance.

"IGAD region, where entrepreneurs move effortlessly to seize opportunities, where researchers collaborate seamlessly on groundbreaking projects, where tourists freely visit all our diverse landscapes and attractions, and where students experience a borderless exchange of knowledge."

This is the vision that the unified electronic visa propels us toward an interconnected and prosperous IGAD, he added.

### a unified electronic visa system would promote cultural exchange and tourism within the IGAD region

# Japan supports

## Africa's common position in many ways

HORIUCHI Toshihiko

BY ZEKARIAS WOLDEMARIAM

*Ambassador Horiuchi Toshihiko has been serving as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the African Union for three years. Now that he is concluding his tenure, The Ethiopian Herald has held a brief interview with him recently. He has raised the progress Africa and Japan have made in their ties through TICAD, and how the two sides are working together in global affairs of mutual interest. The following is an excerpt from his conversation:*

**Could you tell us about your observation about the implementation of TICAD over the years?**

There are many differences and improvements made. For instance, in the political field, there has been an effort to fight unconstitutional change of government and the implementation of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). Though there are still conflicts in the continent, the AU is making efforts under the umbrella of silencing the gun.

In the field of economy, we can see the AfCFTA and some social aspects of the collective actions taken by the AU. The damage caused by COVID-19 is a lot. Thanks to the collective actions taken by AU, Africa CDC, and partners to prevent infectious disease, the harm was not as huge as expected. In general, the AU has made so much progress.

**How do you think could Japan and Africa collaborate in making Africa's voice heard?**

Africa has already many good things. There are so many indigenous and local things. But that might not be enough. Of course, Africa can bring in from the outside what it doesn't have originally and compliment with what it has. Yet, it is important to have the best mix. This is also a challenge in Japanese modern history. It is how we can achieve the best. The other point I should emphasize is that we have not heard enough the African voices. Based on this Japan is supporting the participation of the African Union in the G20 so that African voices could be heard and reflected more.

**Japan and Africa are now seeking permanent seats at the UN Security Council. How do you think the two sides revamp their collaboration?**

Japan and Africa share many things in common. First, Japan's conviction is the same as Africa's, The UN Security Council should be reformed so that the Council can reflect the reality of the international society and the UN can perform its missions with confidence.

The second thing is that Japan supports the African common position. This position of Japan is openly established and available in published formats and public domains. Japan believes that this is very important to deal with historical injustices.

We support the idea of AU's common position, having two permanent seats with full-fledged rights as permanent members including the right to veto. At the TICAD8

Summit in Tunis, we declared this Japanese support for the African common position on the UNSC reform.

The G4, composed of Japan, Germany, India and Brazil, are supporting Africa's quest for the permanent seats. Concrete actions are necessary, and that is why Japan wants to work closely with Africa.

**What are the outcomes of building the human resources of Africa?**

Japan has almost no natural resources, but its human resources. Based on this determination, Japan has been cooperating with Africa, especially in the field of human resource development. Japan has been focusing on young people especially those who want to have skills related trainings and vocational education. Many young people have no access to vocational training in Africa. Once they have the opportunity to have vocational training, the whole continent will be on track to the shortest path towards achieving prosperity.

At the same time, Japan is expecting a lot from Africa's developing population, especially the youth. So it is true that Japan has been cooperating with Africa. Now Japan has to introduce African energies and African vibrant activities. These activities should be bilateral.

**What was the outcome of the cooperation in food security and fighting climate change ?**

So far, we have been saying made in Japan. Now it will be changed to "Made with Japan". There are so many things that Japan can share with the idea of made with Japan. It will be a co-creation through made with Japan. For example, one of the challenges in Africa is the energy transition. Japan has passed through a time of energy outlays. Now there is energy efficiency. By now Japan is one of the top of the world. In this regard, Japan can do a lot of work in energy transition with Africa.

The other thing Japanese people have in common with Africa is their view of nature. We Japanese people do not have a binary view of humans and nature. We see them as one. Coexistence with nature. African people also have the same view of nature and humans.

In a multilateral way, Japan has been working actively through the Conference of Parties (COP). In bilateral platforms, Japan has also been doing a lot of work in preventing climate change. This includes mitigation and adaptation at a multi-bilateral cooperation.



***Japan and Africa share many things in common. First, Japan's conviction is the same as Africa's, The UN Security Council should be reformed so that the Council can reflect the reality of the international society and the UN can perform its missions with confidence.***

I will insist on the best mix with what Africa already has. . We have to follow an approach in which we gather the best practices in Japan and advise other friendly countries to try them based on their own choice. Before introducing something from outside, it is important to try local and indigenous knowledges.

Having said that, there are some things that Japan can do to work together with Africa with the idea of "made with Japan". For example, there is a cooperative system in the agricultural sector in Japan through which Japan makes value-added food processing such as industrialization and commercialization instead of just producing . We engage in mechanization with the use of drones and automated tractors for cultivation. We can share our such practices with African countries.

**Japanese Kaizen philosophy has been introduced to Ethiopia long ago. How is it being practiced in Africa now?**

Kaizen means continuous improvement. I would like readers to know that Ethiopia is a champion of kaizen. It is one of the first countries to know the method of kaizen.

*Continued to Page 9*



Continued from Page 8

Ethiopia is a centre of excellence for kaizen. That is the reason why we will have a Kaizen excellence centre in Addis Ababa.

It is also one of the fruits of Ethio-Japan cooperation. Addis Ababa is the capital of Africa with an accumulation of diplomatic missions or institutions working with Africa for Africa. I hope that Kaizen will be further expanded from Addis Ababa to Africa. Kaizen was born in Japan and grew up in Ethiopia. Hopefully, it will be extended to Africa and beyond. I once visited Horizon Addis Tire Factory. It has been introducing Kaizen for a long time. I was impressed by their implementation of the Kaizen.

**How do you think the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) will benefit the progress of African and Japanese ties?**

Japanese private sector's expectation is very high. AfCFTA would enable a Japanese company that makes direct investments in any one country, to reach out to all countries in the continent. At the same time, infrastructure is also another challenge. There are things that Japan can do together with Africa. Africa needs standardization of its customs, needs to work more on infrastructure and industrialization.

In this regard, Japan is working on the implementation of pan African project called Program for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA). Japan appreciates AfCFTA. Unfortunately, in the world, there is a tendency for protectionism. However, AfCFTA demonstrates Africa's aspiration towards free trade. Japan is also at the forefront of free trade and works together to combat protectionism.

Africa's borders were drawn during the 19th and early 20th century by colonialists. These borders are not the intentions of African forefathers. The children and grandchildren of these founding fathers are now struggling to abolish these artificial and imposed borders. I admire this vision and reform in Africa.

**How are Japan and Africa cooperating in the development of ICT?**

Japan is very keen on infrastructure. That is why it is working through the framework of the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA)'s blueprint PIDA. There can be constructive and complimentary in



the partnership between Japan and Africa. Japan has static ICT technology that it can share with the world. That is why Japan is allowing scholarships for African students through the African Business Education (ABE) Initiative. We are inviting many African students and entrepreneurs to study and have internships in Japanese companies.

Through this, both Japan and Africa can get and share a lot of things from each other. So far Japan is famous for high-quality products through Made in Japan. African countries can benefit from these high-quality products.

During the 60th Anniversary celebration of the OAU now the AU here, PM Abiy Ahmed (PhD) said "About one-fourth of the world population will be represented by African population. And to talk to the people of Africa will be to talk to the people of the world." So, extending such infrastructure will be a challenge not only to Africa but also to the entire world.

**Ensuring good governance plays a vital role in economic and social development. How are Japan and Africa collaborating in governance matters?**

Japan had a very difficult experience to attain the level it has reached now. It is not easy. We had a very long and difficult experience. From this experience, we can say that only inclusive governance can make people happy. To get here there are different paths to follow. So, each person, country and society can decide which way to take but arrive at the same destination.

**TICAD has been underway for almost three decades now. What do you think will be the future mode of collaboration between Africa and Japan?**

TICAD is an inclusive platform for a free market for all. As a free market, everybody can exchange ideas, initiatives etc. This is a multilateral open and inclusive platform. Secondly, next year we will have the TICAD ministerial meeting in Tokyo, Japan. TICAD

*Africa's borders were drawn during the 19th and early 20th century by colonialists. These borders are not the intentions of African forefathers. The children and grandchildren of these founding fathers are now struggling to abolish these artificial and imposed borders. I admire this vision and reform in Africa.*

9 will be in Japan (Yokohama).

TICAD is also evolving. We are having a third generation. In 1993 when Japan launched TICAD, the main agenda of TICAD was development and conflict. The second generation of TICAD had the agenda beyond development and incorporated investment, trade and business as expressed by Africa. And now, TICAD will be transforming into its third generation. In addition to conflict, development and business, it will include how to work with Africa. It will deal with the better world order, and how to ensure better global governance.

**Is there any message you would like to send to our readers on this occasion?**

There is a famous saying "Once you taste the Nile waters, you will definitely come again to drink it." From this proverb, I developed my version, "Once you eat Injera, you will come again to Ethiopia to enjoy it." I would like to say Happy New Year to all Ethiopians celebrating the 2016 New Year and Happy Meskel, too!

**Thank you and we wish you all the best in your future career!**

Thank you

## Quick facts about Africa – Japan Cooperation through the Tokyo International Conference on Africa's Development (TICAD)

TICAD is a summit-level international conference on Africa's development initiated by Japan in 1993.

Japan has led this forum, with its history of over a quarter-century, to promote African development while respecting Africa's ownership.

TICAD is co-organized by the Government of Japan, UN, UNDP, World Bank, and AUC.

- TICAD 1993 Tokyo: Provided an

opportunity to bring back global attention to Africa in Post-Cold War era.

- TICADII 1998 Tokyo: Clearly articulated priority policies and actions. Highlighted the importance of ownership and partnership.

- TICADIII 2003 Tokyo: Agreed on expanding partnership to include Asian countries. Focused on the concept of human security.

- TICADIV(2008) Yokohama: Established the follow-up mechanism.

- TICADV 2013 Yokohama: Advocated for the Quality Growth and promotion of trade and investment through public-private partnerships.

- TICADVI 2016 Nairobi, Kenya: First TICAD Summit Meeting held in Africa. Announced investment for

Africa's future through quality infrastructure investment, human resource development, etc.

- TICAD7 (2019) Yokohama: Mainly focused on African business. Debated based on 3 Pillars; Economy, Society and Peace and Stability.

- TICAD8 was held on August 27 and 28, 2022 in Tunis

- TICAD9 will be held in 2024 in Yokohama, Japan

# Society

## Alliance to address health challenges

BY TEWODROS KASSA

Health data in Ethiopia indicated that malaria and other Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) caused severe health impacts among the society in the past few years. Lack of access to health services, poor health infrastructure, and lower health professionals countrywide have exacerbated the problem. Mainly, the rural part of the country was highly exposed to malaria and other diseases which resulted in deaths for many people.

Following this, the government and other private actors have also been working strenuously in the health sector to improve the services thereby saving the lives of many people.

The Health Development and Anti Malaria Association (HDAMA) is one among the other private health associations that has done commendable activities in the health sector by closely working with the Ministry of Health.

Recently, the Association marked its silver jubilee with the presences of its members, volunteers, and media professionals.

On the occasion, HDAMA Executive Director Abebe Mihrete (PhD) said that in the past 25 years, the Association saved hundreds of thousands lives, conducted enormous disease prevention activities, and helped to improve societal life through its health development projects.

“The Association’s effective health services gained recognition among the society, government, local and international donor partners. Implementing strong tobacco control in Ethiopia is among the fruits of Association’s effective public mobilization efforts and policy advocacy works,” he said.

Currently, the Association is striving to bring about tangible progress in the health sector through controlling HIV and AIDS, preventing Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), improving maternal and children health and introducing best environmental protection mechanisms.

Accordingly, the Association works closely with pertinent stakeholders; including the government, vulnerable society, and the underserved communities among others to address the health sector challenges and provide successive healthcare services.

Conflicts outbreak here and there, climate change and the like are predicted to exacerbate the outbreak of malaria epidemic in various parts of the country, he noted.

The Executive Director calls upon concerned bodies and the media to fulfill its social responsibilities through disseminating early precautions and



raising the awareness of the public.

Deputy Executive Director of HDAMA Aklilu Getnent said that the Association has been fulfilling its responsibilities of cultivating a healthy society throughout its journey of 25 years.

Prevention of malaria, HIV and AIDS, Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), tobacco control, among others are among the core activities of the Association, he seconded Abebe’s view.

As to him, creating successive awareness on the impacts of NCDs, unhealthy diet, malaria, HIV and AIDS, among others should be the priority of the government and other stakeholders to cultivate a productive and healthy society. The number of people dying from NCDs is increasing alarmingly in Ethiopia.

Lack of a healthy diet, improper consumption of factory-processed foods, physical inactivity, and poor economic performance has led to the spread of NCDs. The Association will continue working together with the media institutions towards promoting a healthy society free of NCDs, he noted.

“NCDs are the leading cause of mortality worldwide and a serious public health threat to developing countries like Ethiopia. Lack of response to NCDs, detection, screening, and treatment the health facilities are not capable of conducting palliative care to the prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases. Due to these limitations, it is observed that many people are affected by these diseases and die,” he stated.

The major aggravating factor is the frequent consumption of an unhealthy diet; the harmful use of alcohol; tobacco use and lack of physical activities. The recently observed use of industrially

processed foods and fast foods in big towns is another risk factor for Non-Communicable Diseases. The chemicals added to these foods and drinks for preservation and to bring flavor or tone, as well as a large amount of sugar, salt, and saturated fat content, can cause NCDs such as cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, diabetes, and cancer.

Ministry of Health NCD Team Leader Mussie Gebremichael (MD) said that NCDs are diseases that are not directly transmissible from person to person, often chronic conditions, require long term follow up, and most can be controlled but often are not curable.

Regarding the burden of dietary risk factors in Ethiopia, the health expert underscored that dietary behavior contributes significantly to the NCD burden in the country. Unhealthy diet, a key NCDs risk factor, has increased by 17.9 percent between 2009 and 2019. It is currently one of the most leading risk factors for NCDs in Ethiopia causing about 32,362 deaths annually. NCDs caused 271 290 deaths in 2019 and CVDs accounted for 98,378 deaths (36 percent of all NCD deaths) in 2019.

In total, dietary risk factors were responsible for about 6 percent of deaths and 2 percent of Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs). Excess diets high in sodium were responsible for 1.43 percent of deaths in Ethiopia.

Moreover, NCDs investment case report estimated that tackling NCDs comprehensively in Ethiopia would prevent almost 1.5 million premature deaths over 15 years. In addition, these interventions prevent disabilities such as those caused by strokes.

Accordingly, the indirect economic losses due to NCDs were modeled from increased absenteeism, reduced capacity at work and losses from premature death and calculated by human capital method. The total costs of premature death were estimated to be 10.8 billion Birr. The indirect economic losses are much higher than the direct losses. Estimated Government expenditure on the four main NCDs is already 4.4 billion Birr and additional losses to the economy from absenteeism, reduced capacity at work and premature death amount to 26.9 billion Birr due to the four main types of NCDs, namely cardiovascular diseases (such as heart attacks and stroke), cancers, chronic respiratory diseases (including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and asthma) and diabetes.

Health, Development and Anti-Malaria Association (HDAMA) is a Civil Society Organization which was first established on August 23, 1998, by 18 Volunteers who were deeply concerned about the increasing problem of malaria and its high morbidity and mortality in Ethiopia.

**the Association is striving to bring about tangible progress in the health sector through controlling HIV and AIDS,**

# Verbatim and Caption



The tripartite negotiation on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) is being conducted carefully. Ethiopia is working to reach an agreement that does not limit Ethiopia's development rights. Based on the agreement of the two countries' leaders, the negotiators are instructed to reach an agreement within four months. After that instruction, the talk resumed from where the negotiation stopped. The negotiation started in good spirits. And during the negotiations, 16 Articles were presented and nine of them have already been edited to include the ideas of all the three countries. All the three countries have participated in this new first-round negotiation.

**Ambassador Engineer Sileshi Bekele (PhD), Ethiopia's negotiating team leader on GERD tripartite talks**



of Cessation of Hostilities Agreement and BRICS membership. During the year, a lot of historical and unforgettable events have been recoded. Some of the events reversed the challenge that was posed on Ethiopia's unity. For instance, the Pretoria Peace Agreement resolved the two-year-long war and thwarted enemy quarters' attempts to dismantle the country. The government sets a plan of action for the next year to tackle the pressing-challenges including the soaring increase in the cost of living and sporadic unrests."

**Kebede Desissa, State Minister, Government Communication Service**

The outgoing Ethiopian year, 2015 E.C., is historical for Ethiopia as it showcased major successes in different arenas including wheat export, signing



Ethiopia's admission into the BRICS economic bloc showcases its status as an emerging regional player with a growing diplomatic influence. Ethiopia's accession into the group is a manifestation of its growing diplomatic influence. Cognizant of the fact that many countries with large GDP are knocking the doors of the BRICS for long, Ethiopia's entry is a great political and diplomatic achievement. Ethiopia's noble place in Africa's history, its large and young population and immense natural resources have put it in a better position to join the group.

**Professor Yacob Arsano, Addis Ababa University Political Science and International Relations Instructor**

Amhara state administration will make determined efforts to reverse the security challenge that is posed on the public and normalizing the situation. The Ethiopian National Defense Force deserves praise for its contribution and struggle to the country, especially to the people of Amhara. I call the public to uphold collaborations with the government in safeguarding peace and security.



**Arega Kebede, Newly-elected Amhara State Chief**



## Ethiopia's

membership to BRICS will potentially boost investment from member states and can help in accelerating the overall economic growth.

BRICS is a conglomeration of countries with the fast growing economies; represent more than 40 percent of the world population and 30 percent of the global GDP, with geographical strategic position, and technological advancement. Ethiopia's membership to BRICS would boost FDI and accelerate economic development.

**Costantino Berhetesfa, Senior Economist**