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Scholars give insights on reinvigorating Addis' diplomatic status

BY TEWODROS KASSA

ADDIS ABABA- The expansion of digital investment and the entry of new techno companies enable to reinvigorating Addis Ababa's diplomatic status and preserving

Ethiopia's interests in the dynamic global order, a career diplomat said.

The diplomat Luelseged Tadesse made the above remark while presenting a research paper on the Ethiopian Press Agency's 14th edition of About Ethiopia panel discussion

and photo gallery yesterday.

In his paper titled Addis Ababa is the Epitome of Ethiopia, Luelseged noted that digital diplomacy has become the order of the day to keep Addis Ababa as Africa's diplomatic hub. Also, the

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Ex-diplomat mulls Ethiopia's active role in BRICS

BY EYUEL KIFLU

ADDIS ABABA -Ethiopia needs to adapt itself with the changing global system and be sure that it leaves no stone unturned to exploit every opportunity as a new BRICS'

See Ex-diplomat ... page 3

Diasporas offer capacity building training for middle-level leadership

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA - The Ethiopian Diaspora Service (EDS) in partnership with the U.S.-based N-BAC and Pearl Leadership Institutes hosted a capacity building conference that aims to fill the knowledge gap in mid-level leaders.

Speaking at the occasion yesterday, the EDS' Director General Mohammed Idirs (PhD) said the service has taken bold steps to encourage Diaspora Ethiopians to participate in the knowledge and technology transfer activities.

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DG Mohammed Idirs (PhD)

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HOME OF WINNERS 2023

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Exporters advocate new export strategy
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News

Ethiopia to own excellent continental training hub

• *Project expansion requires over 20 bln. Birr*

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

SULULTA- African Leadership Excellence Academy (AFLEX) stated that it is working to become training and diplomatic center in African and beyond.

In an exclusive interview with The Ethiopian Herald, AFLEX Deputy Chief Wondye Legesse (PhD) said that the Academy is progressing to improve its interior and exterior design to make the place a catchy one where innovative ideas are emerging and telling principles are originated.

Wondye, who is also an Operation Department Head said: "We have been taking a wide range of measures to wisely and economically make the center a pioneer in due course of building a pan African image and designating the nation as one of the institutions where knowledge and technologies are developed.

Mentioning the minimal intake capacity of the center covering 50 hectares of land, he stated that the Academy needs to receive extra investment in a bid to host over 4,500



local and African trainers at a time.

The extension of the project will be executed in three phases four months later in accordance with its priorities to be a real symbol of the national and continental cultures and values through translating a standardized master plan into concrete action.

"Therefore, the project will be undertaken in accordance with the capacity of the country as it is a huge investment demanding over 20 billion Birr," he remarked.

As to him, the academy has offered

leadership trainings, homegrown reforms and diplomatic events to 30 trainees drawn from Sudan, South Sudan and Uganda institutions so far. Besides, multifaceted experience sharing, knowledge transfer and exchange of views were entertained.

"As Addis Ababa is the capital of Africa, various diplomats in the continent, Pan-Africanism and African Day were also taken place," he added.

It is to be recalled that the academy has recently announced the winners of the master plan.

Ex-diplomat...

member, a former diplomat said.

An ex-diplomat Tiruneh Zena believed that Ethiopia is now part of the BRICS, a bloc that drives significant changes for the global south in which its vibrant movement reflects the progress made in the struggle for a reasonable and more just world.

In an exclusive interview with The Ethiopian Herald, the former diplomat suggested that the country needs to adapt itself with the ever changing global system that came up with the establishment of the BRICS bloc which aims to reconfigure the unfair global order and create opportunities for inclusive growth, he said.

He believes that the bloc holds the potential

to address development challenges faced by many countries including Ethiopia and other global south countries. The emerging power of BRICS serves as a wake-up call for Western countries and institutions, signaling a shift in power dynamics.

The initiation of BRICS may prompt reforms within international institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, reducing preconditions and interference in countries' internal affairs, Tiruneh said, adding that this benefits Ethiopia financially without compromising its sovereignty.

According to Tiruneh's insights, BRICS has shed light on its potential as a catalyst for

global change, with significant implications for Ethiopia and the wider global south.

He suggested that BRICS could lead to a more equitable representation of the global south, which has compare to UNSC and other blocs. He emphasized the importance of African countries reaching a consensus on effective representation before obtaining permanent seats in the United Nations Security Council and the G-20.

Amb. Tiruneh highlighted Ethiopia's membership in the BRICS bloc signifies the nation's strong diplomatic ties and the potential for maximizing benefits through collaboration with various countries and blocs.

Diasporas offer...

"Galvanizing the Diasporas' professional contribution to the homeland's development is among our primary mission and we have implemented different programs and partnered with relevant actors to knowledge and skill transfer in key sectors."

Besides, the EDS conducted various researches in collaboration with Hawassa, Jimma, Jigjiga, and Wollo Universities to enhance the role and contribution of Ethiopians in the Diaspora towards ensuring the country's prosperity. "Our involvement to encourage the Diaspora's active participation in investment, remittance, philanthropy and the likes will be consolidated," Mohammed emphasized.

N-BAC Founder Nejat Abdurahman on her part said that the conference aims to ensure efficient service delivery in public and private sectors by averting the knowledge and skilled gaps of the middle-level leadership. "We came from the U.S. to give training for Ethiopian middle-level leaders with a view to enhancing customer experience and easing the tedious bureaucracy."

She further stated that the training would play a significant role for Ethiopian Diaspora living in the U.S. to contribute share for their home country's progress. "In a bid to increase the participation of the Diaspora community in Ethiopia's overall

development, we will maintain training."

Approached by the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Urgent Corruption Prevention Leader CEO with Anti-Corruption Commission Gezahagne Gashaw noted that the training is useful to increase the decision-making capability of middle-level leaders in public and privately-owned organizations. "Such type of training allows you to better understand the art of leadership. We are working closely with the EDS to reduce the level of corruption in the country."

Some 120 participants from various public and private institutions have been taking part in the training, it was learned.

Ethiopia covers 17.59 mln hect in crop last FY

• *Horticulture sector sees auspicious performance*

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- About 17.59 million hectares of land was covered in the past fiscal year, the Ministry of Agriculture said, adding that farmers cultivated crops on 15.8 million hectare land while cluster farming was practiced in 50 percent of the plot.

In a press briefing he held here on Thursday, Agriculture State Minister Meles Mekonnen (PhD) stated that Ethiopia secured 154 million quintals of crops covering 4.47 million hectares land in irrigation in meher and belg seasons in the reported period.

Mentioning the Ministry's engagement to meet agriculture's strategic objectives, he said around 1.35 million hectare of land was covered in wheat irrigation in nine states. Though the plan was to collect 53 million quintal, around 47 million quintal was harvested.

Also, some 2.8 million hectares of land was covered in wheat irrigation in last year's meher season and 300,000 hectare was also covered in Bale area in belg season.

In meher season, a plan was set to cover 3.6 million of land in wheat crop however; 2.98 million hectare land is cultivated. While Oromia and Amhara states are said to be best performers in wheat irrigation, the ministry is offering capacity building programs, irrigation infrastructure and water pumps and other necessary inputs to the remaining states to enhance their performance.

Exceeding the plan of covering 2.48 million hectare land in wheat irrigation in belg season, close to 2.96 million hectare was covered by wheat, maize, barley and sorghum in Amhara, Oromia, Sidama and South West Ethiopia states.

Meles further noted that the ministry has been providing capacity building training to 65 professionals drawn from all states to familiarize them with geo-referenced development of wheat irrigation. "Despite immense potential, rice farming has been underrated in Ethiopia for a long time. In the reported period, around 990,000 hectares of land was covered by rice from the 1.13 million plan."

About 705,000 hectares of land was covered by soya bean from the plan of 900,000 hectare. Apart from satisfying the local demand, soya beans are vital to garner foreign exchange from the export market and it is also serving as an input for agro-processing industries.

Highlighting the performance of the horticulture sector, the state minister mentioned that prime attention has been given to exploit the economic potentials of fruits and vegetables. Avocado production is high in Amhara, Oromia, Sidama and South Ethiopia states, he said, adding that Amhara began exporting the commodity. Oromia is in the process of exporting avocado and 163 million avocado seedlings have been identified for the export market.

News

Exporters advocate new export strategy

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA- Ethiopia's new export strategy is vital to enhance the penetration of its commodities into the global market, exporters said; adding that it is a great step to address the sector's pressing challenges.

The Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration (MoTRI) tabled the draft export strategy, which said to serve the country till 2030, for exporters' feedback and discussion.

Khalifa Hussien, Director of a meat exporter firm Frigorifico Boran Foods PLC, stated the strategy is of great importance in helping the competitiveness of Ethiopia's exportable items in the international market. "The export industry needs strong commitment from the government and I think this strategy should come with an innovative framework to enhance the sector's performance."

Also, the strategy has many more new and important additions that could help the export sector to overcome the pressing challenges and to improve prospects, he added.

For Minilik Habtu, Managing Director of specialty coffee exporter company- Typica Coffee, investment should get prime attention by the draft strategy. "The income we are generating from the export should be supported by both investment and business diplomacy. Several countries without noticeable quality advancement from our products have got better markets due to meticulous promotion and branding activities. Hence, Ethiopia's diplomatic missions across the globe should make vigorous promotion of local products."

Edao Abdi, General Manager of Edao International Trading Company, also advised the government to give due attention to new commodities that would create additional market and forex earnings for the country. Export diversification is also a tool to supplement the revenue loss that could be incurred due to the underperformance of main exportable commodities.

By 2030, the annual income from export is projected to hit 28 billion USD, it was learned.

effective utilization of digital diplomacy is of great significance in promoting the country's positive image among global actors.

The expert further noted that the major diplomatic decisions that have been taken in the metropolis over the years make it to be perceived as a place for 'agreement.' "This 'Addis spirit' has been reflected in many regional and international deliberations held in the capital."

According to him, Ethiopia's long history, particularly its Victory of Adwa, able political leadership, public's hospitality, the famous airlines, among others, are factors for the creation of 'the Addis spirit.'

Addis Ababa Mayor Adanech Abiebie on her part said that efforts will also be intensified to sustain the diplomatic victory

Joining hands said crucial for making a difference

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA- providing the needy, mothers and children, with proper support would break the cycle of poverty, pave their future in the long run as joining hands would help make real difference, so stated a charity organization.

Approached by The Ethiopian Herald, Tora Charity Organization CEO and one of its founders, Rahel Mulugeta, said that they are providing 15 underprivileged children with proper care, education, and stable thereby helping them grow and learn, and helping 30 destitute mothers come out of street life and empower them with training skills as well as resources to improve life.

She said, "We are empowering destitute mothers through getting them trained with skillful vocational training workshops to develop tailoring, curving crafts, and

developing basic business management. Following the training, mothers can have opportunity for employment and income-generation capability then uplift themselves from the shackles of poverty."

"Tora is committed to foster positive change, reduce poverty, and nurture a brighter future for children, mothers who have faced various problems. We received destitute children from Ministry of Women and Social Affairs and provide them with support to make their life better and produce competent citizen," she said.

She underlined that Tora designs domestic solutions for domestic problems aiming at building self-esteem, self-confidence of mothers and helping them overcome their challenges through training empower them to start their own business.

She called on the government to provide



working premises for the organization so as to help children get proper shelter, playing and learning environment. She also urged volunteers or donors to contribute their time and provide emotional support for those children and mothers.

The organization, which was established by 13 persons in 2011 E.C, took place fundraising program on the theme "A fistful for a needy child" to launch 20 million breed bakery projects and food complex.

Office to finalize 4.6 bln Birr project soon

• *Completes 87% of construction*

BY TSEAGYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA – Addis Ababa Mega Projects Office announced that it has been working on finalizing a 4.6 billion Birr Adwa Museum construction in the next three months.

Addis Ababa Mega Projects Office Contract Administration Director Dawit Tibebe told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the construction of Adwa Museum Project, a 4.6 billion Birr project has reached 87% completion.

The project is one of the multipurpose mega projects that are being constructed in the metropolis and would be finalized in the coming three months. To finalize the project on schedule time, important inputs are put into place.

As to him, the museum contains a center that pays tribute and commemorates Adwa patriots, recreational centers, cafeteria, cinema houses and halls. It would have a



key contribution to preserving history.

Furthermore, it would have doors that symbolize heroes who join Adwa battlefield gathering from every corner of the country. The museum also symbolizes the heroic development activities of the current generations, he added.

Hence, it contains stairs that symbolize a long journey to from the start of the war to the victory of Adwa specifically Adwa

mountains would be painted on wall to familiarize the museum with battlefield.

The museum was built in a way that showed women's participation in the war. Administration Council hall, libraries and research offices are built in. Moreover, a bus terminal was also included in it to lessen transportation crowded around Piazza. As a result, it is aimed to reduce traffic jams, he noted.

Scholars give...

that the city achieved so far through adding new values.

Success is witnessed in the metropolis in building the economy through a concerted action of people from multi-religious and multi-ethnic backgrounds.

"The administration upholds partnership with residents to address the city's pressing challenges and to make it a right place to live."

"Addis Ababa is a melting pot of all Ethiopians and we want to exploit this potential to achieve development. The metropolis is home to all Ethiopians and fellow African brothers and sisters."

The administration is working together with private sectors, investors and the people at large to realize prosperity and help the capital to become the real

epitome of the country, Mayor Adanech emphasized.

For Addis Ababa University former President Professor Tassew Woldehanna, nurturing children is crucial to sustain the country in which Addis Ababa has important experience. "Nurturing the generation is vital to flicker hope about the sustainability of the country."

Addis is working on ensuring education through building school feeding centers which is exemplary to other cities in various states.

Moreover, Addis Ababa is home to three public universities and over 150 private colleges as well as private and public libraries including Abrehot which is the biggest one in East Africa, Tassew said. "The capital is not only a political city

but also an economic center in which its economy is growing 8.8 percent each year."

At the forum, Ashne Astin, a MP, presented a paper on the topic of Inclusive Democratic Political Situation in Ethiopian Government Building.

Ashine said: "We are talking about its mountains and trees. We need to change this idea. We should focus on the people who changed Ethiopia. Also, the generation should know the people who made the mountains and its historical rivers famous."

"When many people ask me about Gambella, they know about the Barrow River and its nature, not about the Anewak, Nuer and other peoples who live in the area," he emphasized.

Opinion

GERD talks: Balancing development, downstream concerns

BY HIZKEL HAILU

The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) has become a prominent topic of discussion and negotiation among Ethiopia, Sudan, and Egypt, capturing international attention. As Africa's largest hydroelectric power project, the GERD holds immense potential to deliver a wide range of benefits to Ethiopia, particularly in terms of increased power capacity. However, the tripartite negotiations surrounding the dam have also brought forth complex challenges and competing interests, as downstream countries express concerns about water security and environmental impacts.

According to Ethiopia's negotiating team leader Ambassador Sileshi Bekele, the tripartite negotiations on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) conducted this week in such a manner as to reach an agreement that does not limit Ethiopia's development rights, said.

Recalling that Egypt and Sudan even took the issue to the Security Council, the negotiating team leader told ENA that, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) did a good job in bringing the negotiations under the auspices of the African Union.

"After the agreement between Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, the negotiators have been instructed to reach an agreement within four months. After that instruction, we made preparations for about a month and we resumed from where the negotiation stopped."

According to Sileshi, 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.

Mentioning that, there were some negotiators who loudly advocated for a binding agreement, the team leader further explained that all the three countries have participated in this new first-round negotiation. From the perspective of the Ethiopian side, the team leader stressed that the negotiations are being conducted in a manner that respects the national interests and sovereign rights of the country.

On top of this, the ongoing dialogue seeks to strike a balance between Ethiopia's development aspirations and the needs of its neighboring nations, aiming to find a mutually beneficial agreement that addresses the interests of all parties involved. Specifically, the tripartite talks between Ethiopia, Egypt, and Sudan regarding Abbay Dam or the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) aim to find a mutually beneficial agreement that addresses the interests and concerns of all three countries.

The talks will provide an opportunity for

the countries to address their concerns regarding water security. Egypt and Sudan are downstream countries that heavily rely on the Nile River for water resources and agriculture. By negotiating and reaching agreements on the operation and filling of the GERD, the countries can work towards ensuring a stable and predictable flow of water downstream.

As to the writer's view, Abbay dam has also the potential to significantly increase Ethiopia's electricity generation capacity, which can lead to opportunities for energy cooperation among the countries. Through negotiations, the parties can explore mechanisms for power sharing, electricity trade, and regional energy integration. This can benefit Ethiopia by allowing it to export surplus electricity, while Egypt and Sudan can potentially access clean and affordable energy.

Furthermore, the talks will provide a platform for dialogue and cooperation, fostering regional stability and understanding. By engaging in negotiations and finding common ground, the countries can build trust, reduce tensions, and promote peaceful relations in the region. This can have broader positive implications for regional cooperation and development.

The GERD and the potential agreements resulting from the talks can contribute to the economic development of all three countries. Ethiopia can benefit from increased hydropower generation, which can drive industrial growth and attract investment. Egypt and Sudan can benefit from a more predictable water flow, supporting their agricultural sectors and ensuring food security.

Undeniably, Abbay dam and the potential agreements resulting from the talks have the potential to contribute to the economic development of all three countries involved. For Ethiopia; the GERD's primary purpose is to generate hydropower, and Ethiopia stands to benefit greatly from increased electricity generation. The reliable and substantial power supply from the dam can drive industrial growth and stimulate economic development.

This can attract both domestic and foreign investment, as industries gain access to affordable and abundant electricity, enabling them to expand their operations and create job opportunities. The enhanced power capacity can also support infrastructure development and improve the overall quality of life for Ethiopians.

Similarly, a predictable water flow resulting from agreements on the operation and filling of the GERD can also benefit Egypt's agricultural sector. As a downstream country heavily reliant on the Nile River for irrigation, Egypt's farmers depend on a consistent water supply to cultivate their crops. Through ensuring a more stable flow of water, Egypt can enhance agricultural

productivity, increase crop yields, and achieve greater food security. This, in turn, can bolster the country's economy by reducing reliance on food imports and supporting local agriculture.

Similar to Egypt, Sudan is a downstream country that relies on the Nile River for its agriculture. A more predictable water flow resulting from the GERD negotiations can support Sudan's agricultural sector, ensuring a steady supply of water for irrigation purposes. This can lead to increased agricultural productivity, improved crop yields, and enhanced food security for Sudan. A robust agricultural sector can contribute to economic growth, generate employment opportunities, and reduce poverty rates within the country.

Thus, the GERD's potential agreements can bring economic benefits to all three countries. Ethiopia can leverage increased hydropower generation for industrial growth and investment attraction. Egypt and Sudan can benefit from a more predictable water flow, supporting their agricultural sectors and ensuring food security. By optimizing the utilization of the Nile River's resources through mutual agreements, the countries can unlock economic potential and promote sustainable development in the region.

Apart from the aforementioned advantages, the negotiations provide an opportunity to address environmental concerns associated with the GERD. By discussing and implementing appropriate measures, the countries can work together to mitigate any potential negative environmental impacts and ensure sustainable management of the shared water resources.

Meanwhile, Ethiopia sees the GERD as a crucial project that offers several advantages, not only for Ethiopia but also for the region as a whole. The primary purpose of the GERD is to generate electricity through hydropower. Once completed, it is expected to have a total installed capacity of around 6,450 megawatts, making it the largest hydroelectric power plant in Africa. This would significantly boost Ethiopia's power generation capacity and help meet its growing energy demands, as well as provide opportunities for exporting electricity to neighboring countries.

By the same token, Ethiopia considers the GERD as a crucial infrastructure project that will contribute to its economic development. Access to affordable and reliable electricity is essential for various sectors, including industry, agriculture, and services. The increased power supply from the dam is expected to stimulate economic growth, create job opportunities, and improve living standards for Ethiopians.

The GERD would also provide Ethiopia with a substantial water storage capacity. This would enable better regulation of the flow of the Nile River, helping to manage floods and droughts more effectively. The

stored water can be utilized for irrigation, enhancing agricultural productivity and food security in Ethiopia.

Apart from this, Ethiopia aims to promote regional cooperation and integration through the GERD. The country believes that the dam's benefits can extend to neighboring countries, including Sudan and Egypt. By harnessing the hydropower potential of the Nile River, Ethiopia can contribute to the overall development of the region and foster closer ties among the riparian states. Compared to fuel-based power generation, hydropower from the GERD offers significant environmental advantages. It is a clean and renewable energy source that helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate climate change impacts. The dam's reservoir can also serve as a habitat for aquatic species and support biodiversity conservation efforts.

All in all, reaching an agreement on the tripartite talks regarding the GERD requires constructive engagement and willingness from all three countries involved. The countries should demonstrate a commitment to open and continuous dialogue. This involves maintaining a diplomatic and cooperative approach throughout the negotiation process. It is essential to create an environment where concerns and interests can be openly discussed, allowing for a better understanding of each other's perspectives.

Transparency is also crucial in building trust among the parties. Sharing relevant information, data, and studies related to the GERD's impact on water flow, downstream countries, and the environment can facilitate a more informed decision-making process. Transparent communication can help address misconceptions, clarify intentions, and foster a spirit of cooperation.

All parties must be willing to make compromises and show flexibility in their positions. A mutually beneficial agreement often requires finding middle ground and accommodating the interests and concerns of all parties involved. A willingness to explore alternative solutions and consider creative approaches can help overcome impasses and move towards a satisfactory outcome.

Understanding that engaging the public and stakeholders in the negotiation process can foster a sense of ownership and understanding, the participant parties should open their door for public awareness and engagement. Public awareness campaigns, consultations, and involvement of civil society organizations can help create a shared understanding of the benefits and challenges associated with the GERD and the importance of reaching an agreement.

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

Editorial

Apt measures to boom export volume

Export promotion is the foundation for growth and can be considered as a pillar for economic advancement. As learnt from Ethiopian Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration, a new strategic plan, which is projected to enhance Ethiopian products' acceptance in the export market, was recently tabled for discussion with the business community.

The volume of export trade has been growing though the progress is not as expected compared to the country's potential and its GDP growth. As export sector is still at an infant stage, the nation remains to trek a long journey along that line.

The draft strategy presented by the ministry aims at enhancing export volume and income as well as making it parallel with the GDP growth. It was also reported that during the 1970-80s, Ethiopia's GDP was about 30.5 billion USD and the figure reached 127 billion USD a year before. This simply shows the GDP is in sweeping growth, and the country needs to learn from countries like Vietnam that are generating their biggest income from export.

As abundance of quality agricultural as well as manufacturing products, mining and natural resources are still available for exporters in mass, continental and global markets need Ethiopia's products. To make all this further a success, the ministry can help the nation realize the advantages, avoid the drawbacks and take invaluable steps to boom export volume. That is why the ministry does usually have an in depth discussion with stakeholders with a view to having a look at nation's products or services and helps the firm draw-up an overall export strategy.

Strong growth in exports to overseas markets has given Ethiopia a good start toward reaching the target over performing the required economic growth. The economy of the country has shown a positive stride and exports to overseas market have shown progress, too. Hence, key measures like encouraging the use of new technologies and tools to empower the growth of trade, promoting the transformation of traditional sectors and enabling service providers to offer more professional services has to be well underscored.

Over the past few years, Ethiopia has set priorities with a view to ensuring the socio-economic stability, managing market-induced externalities such as systemic embracing of market forces. This spurs innovation and productively as market signals help refine state planning and provide performance measures to enhance economic efficiency.

The strategy would help Ethiopia come up with social and economic improvements, and the government needs to step up its efforts in implementing the aforesaid policies and measures and efforts must be made to ensure viable export market, improve the economic, lessen trading hurdles, and reduce the impact of market fluctuations via employing safe marketing channels.

It is also advisable to increase the export volumes of locally produced as well as environment-friendly goods and services.

It is also necessary to restrict the import of environment-sensitive commodities. As Ethiopia has entered a new stage of investing abroad and must learn from the proven experience of other countries, it will bring about change in terms of product export.

In sum, policy measures have to be well implemented across the nation thereby coming up with advanced economy and capacity to well penetrate emerging markets. To reach the goal of economic sustainability, Ethiopia needs to increase export value added by means of innovation, prolong the service value-added link of export products, enhance international competitiveness of service sectors and develop trade in service.

Opinion

Celebrating the New Year with new achievements

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

Ethiopia's foreign trade transactions are being challenges by contraband trade in various items including live animals, gold and other rare metals and minerals that are smuggled out of the country while sub-standard and fake commodities are flooding the local market. This needs to be curtailed over the New Year.

The nation will officially join BRICS in January and this would mean that there is already a lot to be done in luring FDI into the country, expansion of industrial and agro-industrial parks. The country needs to be up to international standards in all sectors of the economy by accelerating quality performance in the implementation of the National Ten Years Perspective Plan.

On the other hand, all Ethiopians hope that the country could have a more sustainable access to additional ports and efforts underway to rescuer

It is regrettable to still witness the negligible level of the contribution of the mining sector in the national economy. Despite the fact that the country is endowed with different kinds of resources in the sector, far less is being done to expand the exploitation of the vast mineral resources of the country and the people of Ethiopia expect to see major developments in improving the contribution of mining in helping to increase the GDP over the next year.

Tourism Ethiopia is still not developing in the desired level and with the development of new eco-tourism destinations. More needs to be done in modernizing tourist infrastructure facilities by inviting foreign investors and local entrepreneurs in the sector. More new strategies are to be designed to increase the duration and number of incoming tourists not only during the holidays but throughout the year.

Marked changes are also to be made in promoting quality education in the country right from primary up to higher levels of learning. Sweeping steps to be taken is stopping the proliferation of fake educational credentials needs to go hand in hand with school improvements programs and promotion of self-management and administration in public universities.

Crimes against minors, children and young women are growing by days. In some urban areas of the country including Addis Ababa, abducting children and asking for ransom is growing unabated. This needs to be stopped through meaningful cooperation between the public and the security and police forces.

Issue related to children and their mothers as well as young women must be streamlined in all program interventions both in the sector offices and CSO program interventions across the country. Practical steps must be taken in rehabilitating children and their mothers in IDP camps and those affected by the two years' war.

The national program on Digital Ethiopia

Ethiopia and her citizens need to be accorded with the necessary respect they deserve at all times. The author hopes that the New Year would be a year of respect, mutual understanding and love among the people of Ethiopia. All citizens need to work towards peace and reconciliation in the country

2025 needs be set in motion and cover all the sectors of the national economy with more focus on the service sector. Further modernization of services in all public offices must address the grievances that are constantly voiced by service seekers.

The government is engaged in vigorous diplomatic efforts to further promote Ethiopia's standing among the global community of nations. Efforts underway to safeguard the life of Ethiopians in foreign lands, particularly those working in Arab countries is one of the expectations that the people of Ethiopia wish to see accomplished in a more meaningful way. Foreign employment is encouraged as a means to reduce unemployment in the country but should be conducted in a manner that respects the human rights of citizens and in a fully legal way.

Those Ethiopians here and abroad who use social media outlets need to realize that no good thing can come out of war and in the coming New Year, they should advocate for peace in the country instead of talking about war news and conflicts that are of no value for these respected people. There is no gain in fanning animosity among the people of Ethiopia as they will never heed to any propaganda of ethnic hatred and balkanization of the country on ethnic lines.

Ethiopia and her citizens need to be accorded with the necessary respect they deserve at all times. The author hopes that the New Year would be a year of respect, mutual understanding and love among the people of Ethiopia. All citizens need to work towards peace and reconciliation in the country.

The contributor of this article wishes HAPPY NEW YEAR for all Ethiopians here and abroad.

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



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Department

email: etpresspromotion@gmail.com

Tel. 011-156-98-73/011-811-13-15

Telegram :- 0976084707 - press

Editor-in-Chief: Worku Belachew

email- workubelachew@press.et

Address- Nifas Silk Lafto Sub-city

Woreda - 05, House No----

Tel- +251 111 26 41 98

Managing Editor: Wakuman Kudama

Email: wakuma220@gmail.com

Deputy Editors-in-Chief:

Alem Hailu

Elizabeth Mengistu

Zekarias Woldemariam

Desta Geberehiwot

Daniel Beyene

Website: www.press.et

email: ethiopianherald@press.et

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The Ethiopian Herald

Business & Economy

Changing the rapid falls to lucrative energy

BY LAKACHEW ATINAFU

In recent years, Ethiopia has emerged as a powerhouse in the renewable energy sector, utilizing its abundant water resources to generate electricity and foster economic integration in the region. The Ethiopian government has placed great emphasis on the development of mega projects, particularly the construction of dams on tributary rivers characterized by rapid falls. These projects hold the potential to transform the country into a hub of renewable energy and promote economic growth.

Recognizing the importance of power as a fundamental requirement for both foreign and domestic investors, the Ethiopian government has capitalized on its streams and rivers to provide hydroelectric power to various industries operating within the country.

The Ethiopian Electric Power (EEP) has revealed a plan to earn over 73 million USD from electricity sales to foreign companies operating locally. Menelik Getahun, the Sales and Customer Management Manager at EEP, stated that agreements have been signed with nine foreign companies to supply electricity in USD, which is a significant achievement for the utility. This move not only addresses the needs of foreign companies but also streamlines the process for all parties involved.

Furthermore, concerted efforts are being made to increase the amount of electricity exported to neighboring countries, thereby enhancing foreign exchange earnings. To facilitate this, the construction of additional power transmission lines is crucial to ensure uninterrupted service and reduce costs. Power distribution centers are being established in border areas to minimize the expenses associated with exporting electricity to neighboring nations.

In the previous fiscal year, EEP generated over 102 million USD from electricity exports to Djibouti, Sudan, and Kenya. Djibouti remains the leading destination for Ethiopia's electricity exports, followed by Sudan and Kenya. This demonstrates the country's commitment to renewable energy and its potential as a major supplier in East Africa.

The Ethiopian government, in collaboration with the Kenya Power & Lighting Company Plc, has signed a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for the sale and purchase of 200 MW of energy in the first phase of power exports, with the expectation of increasing it to 400 MW in the future. The Kenya-Ethiopia Electricity Highway Project, also known as the Eastern Electricity Highway Project, involves the construction of a 1,068 km-long power transmission line from Ethiopia to Kenya. This project, which commenced in 2016, includes the installation of AC/DC converter stations at both ends and spans 437 km in Ethiopia and 631 km in Kenya. The transmission line passes through various regions in both countries, bringing reliable and affordable energy to millions of households, including those in rural areas.

The overall investment in the project amounts to \$1.26 billion, with financial



Some of the electric transmission lines

By capitalizing on its natural advantages, Ethiopia has harnessed the power of renewable energy to drive economic growth, improve access to electricity, and contribute to the sustainable development of the region

contributions from the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the French Development Agency, the Ethiopian government, and the Kenyan government. The successful completion of this project not only strengthens the bilateral relationship between Ethiopia and Kenya but also serves as an example of regional economic cooperation benefiting the entire continent. After a trial transmission of power in a few weeks, full-scale power exports are scheduled to commence in November 2022.

Ethiopia's transformation into a major player in the renewable energy sector has significant implications for the country and the region as a whole. The exploitation of its water resources for hydroelectric power generation has not only attracted foreign investment but also facilitated economic integration and cooperation among nations. By capitalizing on its natural advantages, Ethiopia has harnessed the power of renewable energy to drive economic growth, improve access to electricity, and contribute to the sustainable development of the region.

One of the promising resources that bind and cemented nations together is the desire to exploit renewable energy so that the country has scored remarkable result in utilizing its rich water resources for common good of the region. Situated in elevated geo-entity, Ethiopia is the upper course of streams and Trans Boundary River which intern makes the country the power house of renewable energy.

Having taken this fact in consideration the Ethiopian government has been given due emphasis for the development of mega projects building dams on tributary rivers on terrains of rapid and falls.

Such and such projects are believed to bring about economic integration in the region and bright hope to foster single economic society based on mutualism.

As power is one of the fundamental demand of foreign and domestic investors the Ethiopian government, taking advantage of streams and rivers continued to afford hydroelectric for the secondary economy that are operating in Ethiopia.

Documents unveiled that, Ethiopia is endowed with abundant renewable energy resources, which can meet the ambitions of nationwide electrification. However, in spite of all its available potentials the country energy sector is still in its infancy stage. The majority of Ethiopian population lives in the rural area without access to modern energy and relied solely on traditional biomass energy sources. Nowadays Ethiopia has one of the lowest electricity consumption per capita in Africa. Recognizing that energy access and security are a crucial factor to economic growth; Ethiopia needs to cope with key challenges related to energy security and diversification of energy supply. Scholars on the energy sector have been providing a comprehensive and extensive review of renewable energy potentials in Ethiopia. Further, current state of renewable energy resources is described and existing energy policies are articulated. Various policies, that could possibly promote energy technology use in a rural Ethiopia, are proposed.

In line with this most agree that the government relevant authorities are urged to back stretching projects and the researchers as well as the government officials to find the better renewable energy technology to meet rural community energy demand; by raising awareness of the country energy potentials and current state of renewable energy, along with proposing pragmatic recommendations, according to studies on the sector.

In conclusion, Ethiopia's focus on exploring and exploiting renewable energy, particularly hydroelectric power, has positioned the country as a key player in the sector. Through the development of mega projects, the government has attracted foreign companies, generated significant revenue from electricity exports, and promoted economic integration in the region. The successful completion of the Kenya-Ethiopia Electricity Highway Project further solidifies Ethiopia's position as a hub for renewable energy, benefiting both the country and its neighboring nations. With its commitment to sustainable development, Ethiopia continues to transform rapid falls into a lucrative source of energy.

In the Sphere of Diplomacy

Diplomatic engagement as a tool to reshape perceptions, promote positive international image

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

Ethiopia has always been a beacon of hope and inspiration for many. It has a rich cultural heritage and a fascinating history that has captured the attention of many people around the world. Despite its tumultuous past, Ethiopia has remained steadfast in its efforts to become a leading nation in the African continent and beyond. This has not gone unnoticed, and Ethiopia has become a center of diplomatic activity.

Ethiopia's unique cultural heritage, strategic location, and economic potential have made it an attractive destination and an important player in regional and international affairs. Its efforts to promote peace and development in Africa have earned it recognition and respect from the international community. As Ethiopia continues to grow and develop, it is sure to remain a center of attraction and diplomatic activity in the years to come.

By providing a roadmap for ongoing collaboration and negotiation, the agreement has helped to create a more stable political environment within Ethiopia. This newfound stability is likely to attract more foreign investment and support, which will be critical to Ethiopia's economic growth and development in the years ahead.

Ethiopia's reintegration into international diplomacy marks a turning point in the country's history, providing an opportunity for the country to engage with other nations on a more constructive and collaborative level. This reintegration opens up many avenues for Ethiopia to forge partnerships and collaborations with other nations across the globe, which will help to boost the country's development and growth prospects.

Through active participation in diplomatic activities, Ethiopia can contribute to discussions on various global issues and share its unique perspectives with other nations, helping to create a more diverse and inclusive global community. By engaging with other nations through diplomatic channels, Ethiopia can gain valuable insights and support for its own development endeavors, including projects aimed at addressing poverty, inequality, and social justice issues within its borders.

Ethiopia's reintegration into international diplomacy can also help the country to forge stronger ties with other nations across Africa, building a more united continent that can tackle common challenges and issues. As a key player on the African continent, Ethiopia can use its diplomatic connections and partnerships to prioritize issues of importance to the continent as a whole, such as regional security, economic growth, and health.

Ethiopia's renewed involvement in international diplomatic activities is expected to have a significant impact on



the country's economy and long-term prospects for growth and development. By engaging with the global community through diplomatic channels, Ethiopia can attract foreign investors, forge beneficial trade agreements, and access resources that will help to drive its progress and improve living standards for its citizens.

Ethiopia's return to the international diplomatic scene brings with it the opportunity to address pressing humanitarian challenges faced by the country, including issues related to displacement, conflict, and poverty. By engaging with other nations through diplomatic channels, Ethiopia can articulate the challenges faced by its people and seek assistance in providing aid and relief to affected regions. Additionally, diplomatic engagement can help Ethiopia to forge partnerships and collaborations that will contribute to long-term solutions, alleviating the suffering caused by ongoing conflict and instability.

Additionally, by engaging with other nations through diplomatic channels, Ethiopia can seek to address issues related to health, food security, and access to basic services, which continue to impact many of its citizens, particularly those living in rural areas. Collaboration on these issues can also contribute to the development of sustainable solutions that address the root causes of these challenges, such as improving agricultural practices and creating more inclusive economic policies.

Through strengthened partnerships and collaborations, Ethiopia can work towards a more prosperous and peaceful future, one in which all citizens have access to the resources and support they need to live healthy, productive lives.

Ethiopia's renewed involvement in the international diplomatic arena provides a unique opportunity to showcase the country's rich cultural heritage and promote mutual understanding among nations. Through active participation in forums, conferences, and summits, Ethiopia can share its diverse cultures and traditions with the global community, fostering a spirit of appreciation and respect for its unique identity.

In doing so, Ethiopia can also benefit from

exposure to other cultures and perspectives, expanding its own worldview and gaining new insights and understanding from its international partners. Strengthened cultural ties and exchanges can help to build trust and promote peaceful coexistence between Ethiopia and other nations, creating an environment that supports global harmony and cooperation.

Ethiopia's diplomatic efforts have included mediating conflicts, participating in peacekeeping missions, and promoting dialogue between nations to resolve disputes peacefully. By taking a proactive role in political diplomacy, Ethiopia has positioned itself as a respected voice in international decision-making processes.

Furthermore, Ethiopia has recognized the urgent need to address climate change and has actively participated in global climate forums. As a country highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, Ethiopia has championed sustainable development and environmental conservation as integral components of its diplomatic agenda.

Recognizing the importance of sustainable energy in combating climate change and achieving global development goals, Ethiopia has actively participated in energy forums and initiatives. The country's commitment to harnessing its vast renewable energy potential, primarily through hydropower and wind energy projects, has garnered international attention.

Ethiopia has been coming back to the fold of the international diplomatic activities after the Pretoria peace agreement signed between the Federal Government and TPLF, Political Science and International Relations Professor Brook Hailu said.

In an exclusive interview with ENA, the professor noted that the country's diplomatic and foreign policy efforts were negatively affected by the crisis in northern Ethiopia.

The issue had been discussed in the UN Security Council many times along the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, he recalled.

According to him, the country has once again come back to the fold of the

international diplomatic activities since the Pretoria agreement that was signed based on the principle of promoting peace, dialogue and targeted towards finding solution to the crisis.

The proofs of these are the meetings held between the US Administration and the leadership of Ethiopia; presidents and prime ministers of different countries.

Recently the new President of World Bank, Ajay Banga, was in Ethiopia where he was satisfied with efforts to bring about peace in the country and also improvement in the economic and social sectors, Professor Brook added.

Ethiopia has been playing active role not only in economic and political diplomacy, but also in the climate and energy forums of the world.

The analyst pointed out that the very fact that Ethiopia has given priority to bring about peace and harmony in the region is a positive step.

Ethiopia has contributed a lot in Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan; and in terms of contributions it is the third largest UN peacekeeping mission contributors in the world, behind Bangladesh, India Pakistan, he stated, adding that this is a good gesture and a good strategy as peace is the bottom line in any country.

"This policy should continue, playing a positive role to bring peace within the country like what was done in northern Ethiopia. The same logic should be replicated in the Horn of Africa, and also peace throughout the continent and peace in the world. I think it is a good strategy and tactic on the part of Ethiopia."

The professor further explained that Ethiopia has always been an attraction, even a center of diplomatic activity in the world as well as in the African continent.

By the number of diplomatic missions that operate in the capital, it is number three in the world and almost all countries have embassies here.

UN itself as well as its specialized agencies and international, inter-governmental organizations are here; and this indicates how Ethiopia is very important.

Law & Politics

Ethiopia's BRICS membership brings new opportunities for economic growth, cooperation

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

Ethiopia's entry into the BRICS economic bloc is a positive development for the country and marks a significant achievement that demonstrates its emergence as a regional power. Furthermore, it exemplifies the country's increasing diplomatic influence over the world. Ethiopia is now seen as a significant player on the global stage, opening up opportunities for greater economic prosperity and collaboration within the bloc.

The BRICS bloc is made up of the world's largest emerging economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. The inclusion of Ethiopia as member of this group demonstrates the country's potential for growth and development, as well as the recognition of its progress in recent years. This inclusion is likely to facilitate greater cooperation with Ethiopia's African neighbors and other developing economies worldwide.

In addition to the economic advantages, Ethiopia's inclusion in the BRICS bloc has significant political implications. The country's entry strengthens diplomatic ties with the other member states, giving it a voice on critical global issues, and helping to shape the future course of world affairs. The move also serves as an important signal to the rest of the African continent that Ethiopia is a leader in economic development and a reliable partner for cooperation.

As the largest economy, Ethiopia is increasingly becoming a regional hub for trade and investment, with the potential to drive growth and progress across the continent. Moreover, Ethiopia's inclusion in the BRICS bloc is likely to enhance its bargaining power in multilateral negotiations, such as trade agreements, climate change negotiations, and peacekeeping efforts, among others.

The other member countries have already made significant progress in these areas and can offer valuable insights to Ethiopia as it seeks to expand its economy and improve its citizens' standard of living. Overall, Ethiopia's entry into the BRICS bloc is a significant achievement that highlights the country's increasing global influence as a rising power. With this newfound position, Ethiopia can now look to further economic opportunities and cooperation, as well as becoming a more active participant in diplomatic negotiations, shaping global policy, and investment and trade.

Ethiopia's joining of the BRICS economic bloc is a historic moment that has helped put the country amongst other emerging global powers. Ethiopia is now part of a group of powerful nations that have exponentially grown their economies,



allowing it to benefit from the wealth of knowledge, experiences, and resources of the other member states.

With Ethiopia's strategic location in East Africa, the country can act as a gateway for BRICS countries to extend their economic reach into the continent, benefiting both sides. The African continent is seen as an area of great economic potential, and with Ethiopia joining the BRICS bloc, it reinforces the country's potential to boost the economic growth of the continent.

Ethiopia has already made great strides in its economic development, with significant investments in infrastructure, human capital development, and economic diversification. However, there are still massive opportunities that could be unlocked by leveraging the BRICS partnership. Ethiopia's entry into the BRICS group of nations will provide a platform for the country to learn from the other member states' policies, successes, and failures in economic development.

Ethiopia is seen as one of the fastest-growing economies in Africa, making it a prime destination for foreign investment. Investors within the BRICS bloc could bring significant financial resources and contribute to Ethiopia's economic growth and development. Furthermore, Ethiopia's inclusion in the BRICS bloc elevates it to a global standard, making it a viable investment destination, and providing investors with greater confidence that Ethiopia is a stable and prosperous country.

Through Ethiopia's membership in the BRICS economic bloc, there is an array of opportunities to leverage the partnership to develop and invest in other African countries, opening the possibility of endless economic opportunities that can create jobs and reduce poverty across the entire African continent.

Ethiopia's inclusion in BRICS also acknowledges the country's growing diplomatic influence. Through its active engagement in regional and global affairs, Ethiopia has built strong relationships with various countries, making significant contributions to peacekeeping efforts and regional stability. The recognition by BRICS provides a platform for Ethiopia to further strengthen its diplomatic ties and amplify its voice on important issues affecting the African continent and beyond.

Ethiopia's admission into the BRICS bloc signifies a shift in the global perception of the country. Its remarkable socio-economic progress and structural reforms have transformed Ethiopia into a beacon of hope and a model for development in Africa. In this context, the recognition by BRICS member countries elevates Ethiopia's international standing and encourages other nations to view the country as a partner in development and economic cooperation.

The implications of Ethiopia's admission into BRICS reach beyond just economic collaboration. There is a potential for cultural exchange, educational cooperation, and knowledge-sharing among member countries. With its rich history and diverse cultural heritage, Ethiopia can contribute significantly to the promotion of cross-cultural understanding and foster people-to-people connections within the BRICS framework.

Moreover, Ethiopia's involvement in BRICS could lead to new opportunities for capacity building and skill development. As a member of the group, Ethiopia will have access to expertise and resources from fellow member countries, enabling the acceleration of its human capital development efforts. This collaboration can contribute to the professional growth of Ethiopian citizens and facilitate the transfer of knowledge and best practices across various sectors.

The admission of Ethiopia into BRICS also brings attention to the potential for increased cooperation in areas such as infrastructure development and technology transfer. Ethiopia with its ambitious plans for industrialization and infrastructure expansion can benefit greatly from the experiences and expertise of BRICS nations in these fields. Collaboration with these countries can help accelerate Ethiopia's infrastructure projects, improve connectivity within the region, and foster technological advancements that drive economic growth.

Ethiopia's accession into the group illustrates the increasing diplomatic influence it holds on the global stage. This milestone signifies Ethiopia's growing importance and recognition as a key player in international affairs, positioning it to contribute significantly to regional and global decision-making processes.

Ethiopia's admission into this group serves as evidence of its diplomatic prowess and rising influence among nations.

The inclusion of Ethiopia into this group reflects its successful efforts in promoting regional integration and cooperation. With its active participation in regional organizations such as the African Union, Ethiopia has played a significant role in fostering unity and collaboration among African nations. This achievement has not only elevated Ethiopia's status within the continent but also garnered international recognition, leading to its accession into this esteemed group.

Ethiopia's admission into the BRICS economic bloc showcases its status as an emerging regional player with a growing diplomatic influence, a noted political scholar said.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Addis Ababa University Political Science and International Relations Prof. Yacob Arsano stated that, 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. On the other hand, 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.

"Also, BRICS member states convinced that their close partnership with Ethiopia would play a vital role to bring lasting peace and stability in the volatile Horn of Africa."

BRICS constitutes 40 % of the world population and many countries in the Global South are looking to join the bloc of emerging economies for fair share access to finance.

The academician further noted that, the bloc membership would help Ethiopia to register holistic growth based on mutual benefits and fairness as well as to have stable politics. "The membership is not meant to be out of the influence of Western powers for once and for all. It requires Ethiopia to follow a neutral stand and fair diplomatic principle with all countries."

Since strengthening the unity of Ethiopians plays a key role in increasing diplomatic acceptance in the international arena, addressing current internal problems should be a priority issue. BRICS members accepted Ethiopia's request by recognizing its capacity to solve and manage internal problems at large, Yacob emphasized.

In their 15th Summit in Johannesburg, BRICS leaders accepted Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates as new members effective from January 01, 2024.

Society



'Addis Ababa: The Epitome of Ethiopia'

BY ELIZABETH MENGISTU

The 14th edition of "About Ethiopia" panel discussion and photo exhibition, organized by the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) in collaboration with the Addis Ababa City Administration, were opened yesterday in the Ethiopian Science Museum and Meskel Square respectively.

The program that marked the conclusion of the first chapter of "About Ethiopia" panel and exhibition edition and the beginning of the 2nd phase was organized under the theme 'Addis Ababa: The Epitome of Ethiopia.'

In her opening speech, Addis Ababa Mayor Adanech Abiebie said that in the previous 13 editions of 'About Ethiopia' forums that the Ethiopian Press Agency carried out in 13 cities of 13 states across the country, the ideas raised in the forums were valuable and constructive. Effective dialogues carried out and promising feedback and suggestions that can be used as inputs for the National Dialogue Commission were obtained.

"The issue of Ethiopia is the concern of all Ethiopians; and these days more than ever before, talking, discussing, consulting and listening to one another is of critical importance. When we discuss and talk about our country, it allows us to know each other better. When we know each other well, we will create common understanding and build our country together which is a viable way to transcend our country, make it competitive and accelerate its prosperity," the Mayor underscored.

Addis Ababa is the city of all and; it is a common home for all nations, nationalities and peoples of Ethiopia. It is a land where all Ethiopians coexist respecting one another. With this in mind, and to ensure that Addis

Ababa is an epitome of Ethiopia, currently various works are being done in Addis Ababa to build national consensus. Owing to this, the forum that is carried out under the theme 'Addis Ababa: The Epitome of Ethiopia' makes the panel discussion timely and more important, she remarked.

According to her, when we discuss Ethiopia, we should understand as it is a concern of every Ethiopian. And the forum holds ideas that will be input for the national dialogue.

Stating the reason that the forum is being held in the capital Addis Ababa because it is a symbol of Africa, Mayor Adanech said that works are ongoing on issues that can bring a national consensus.

As the mayor indicated, Addis Ababa is working to modernize itself and to fit its symbolic representation of Ethiopia. Likewise, its residents are striving to rise together.

"We have achieved a number of victories that can change the lives of several citizens by working hard and coordinating wealth, knowledge and resources. This success is a feat that is shared not only by the present generation; but also the one to come."

To lift up the achievements, creating platforms where the generation can discuss, listen and reach consensus is important; and; Addis Ababa will support activities that are undertaken to promote ideas, dialogue and tolerance; and to facilitate that.

"At all the forums, any citizen can participate; anyone who has an idea can take part in 'About Ethiopia' forums and put forward suggestions that will be useful for us to fill the gaps and enhance our achievements."

On behalf of the City Administration, the Mayor extended her gratitude to the

Ethiopian Press Agency for initiating the program and organizing this forum, 'About Ethiopia'.

Similarly, she thanked media houses, states' and federal administrators at all level who contributed significantly for the success of the forums,

The forum titled 'About Ethiopia' will be a forum that Addis Ababa will be well portrayed and proved itself for being a version of Ethiopia. "Ethiopia transcends by winning," she concluded.

EPA's CEO Getnet Tadesse also reflected on the outcome of the past 13 editions. As he stated, during all the programs that were carried out in cities of 13 states, the cooperation and feedback the program received from the audiences were constructive.

Because the main target of all the programs were to further strengthen peoples' social values, reinforce unity, discuss matters of common interest, identify challenges, and find a common solution for common problems thereby achieving national integration, the responses of forums' participants as well as the local people who visited the photo exhibitions were fruitful.

The programs were much-admired by all officials, scholars and the public at large as timely and constructive, he added.

Finance State Minister Eyob Tekalegne (PhD) on his part said that, projects that are being carried out in Ethiopia aside from changing the image of the country; they are creating a new culture.

Presenting talking points at the forum, Eyob said that in Ethiopia, especially in the capital, quite a lot of impressive things have happened. Mainly, the success achieved following the homegrown economic reform

can be taken as a showcase in this regard.

In the capital Addis Ababa, it is possible to feed 600 thousand people on a daily basis, provide school materials for students, renovate houses of the elderly and vulnerable section of the society and execute various mega projects.

Mentioning that those projects are bridges that connect our past, present and tomorrow's history, Eyob said that since the projects cannot be built entirely by the government alone, Dine for Nation, Dine for Sheger and the like, mega projects have involved investors.

At the forum and photo exhibition, a number of photographs that have been taken by EPA's photojournalists at different times and different occasions and portraying the progress of the capital Addis Ababa were exhibited.

Short documentary films that show the transformation paths that the capital Addis Ababa has gone through programs held in 'About Ethiopia' editions presented.

What is more, the changes Addis Ababa has seen over the past few years, activities done to change the lives of its people, especially the achievements of the City Administration in its people-oriented projects, and other achievements have also parts of the exhibition.

At the consultative forum, states' administrators, Addis Ababa City Administration senior officials, Federal senior government officials, representatives of the business community, religious fathers, elders and invited guests took part.

The photo exhibition, which was opened at Meskel Square, remains open for residents of the city and the surrounding community until September 11, 2023, it was learnt.

International News

Kenya: African climate summit in Nairobi to showcase green power potential

BY STAFF REPORTER

Kenya hosts this week a flagship climate conference designed to showcase Africa as a potential powerhouse for green energy, in the first of a flurry of big meetings ahead of crunch UN talks.

With the world far adrift of its goal of slashing carbon emissions and communities battered by extreme weather events, the November climate summit in oil-rich United Arab Emirates will be dominated by clashing visions for energy.

Kenyan President William Ruto says he wants the first African Climate Summit, running in Nairobi from Monday to Wednesday, to help “deliver African solutions.”

The goal is to transform the continent into the source of the world’s revolution in green power -- but to achieve this, it needs an influx of funding and help for its debt burden.

Ruto and other African leaders have sought to show that “Africa is not a victim but a critical player in solving the world’s climate crisis,” said Mavis Owusu-Gyamfi of the African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET).

Africa, home to 1.2 billion people spread across 54 nations, is famously diverse, politically and economically.

Despite this, said Owusu-Gyamfi, its leaders have homed in on a set of climate priorities, from debt relief and low-carbon development to overhaul of the global financial architecture.

The hope is to generate momentum for a series of key international meetings leading up to COP28.

These include G20 negotiations in India, the UN General Assembly, and the World Bank and International Monetary Fund annual meeting in Marrakesh.

When Africa speaks “with one voice” on an issue, she said, it can be “impossible for the rest of the world to ignore.”

- Green power -

The Nairobi meeting is expected to draw a number of African heads of state, EU chief Ursula von der Leyen and UN head Antonio Guterres and other leaders.

A draft version of the final declaration seen by AFP puts the spotlight on Africa’s vast renewable energy potential, young workforce and natural assets.

Those include 40 percent of global reserves of cobalt, manganese, and platinum crucial for batteries and hydrogen fuel-cells.

Mohamed Adow, director of the think tank Power Shift Africa, said the conference was a chance to transform Africa into a place for making rather than extracting, and rise

above rivalries between China, the United States and Europe.

“Just like we were able to leapfrog the fixed telephone line, this continent -- if it unites and uses this pivotal moment that we’re now in -- we can effectively leapfrog dirty energy and become green leaders,” he told AFP.

The draft declaration includes a provisional commitment to triple renewable energy potential across the continent from 20 percent in 2019 to 60 percent in 2030.

Kenya has taken the lead, with a pledge for renewables to make up 100 percent of its electricity mix by 2030.

But there are daunting challenges for a continent that is among the hardest-hit by climate impacts and where hundreds of millions of people lack access to electricity.

Despite hosting 60 percent of the world’s best solar energy resources, Africa has roughly the same amount of installed capacity as Belgium, according to a commentary published last month by Ruto and the International Energy Agency chief Fatih Birol.

- ‘Perspective shift’ -

Charra Tesfaye Terfassa of the think tank E3G, welcomed the “perspective shift” on African development but said the continent’s lack of political clout and financial weakness should not be underplayed.

Reminders of Africa’s instability came this week, with a military takeover in Gabon that came little more than a month after a coup in Niger.

A clean energy transition across the world’s developing nations will be crucial in order to keep alive the Paris Agreement goal of capping global warming “well below” two degrees Celsius since pre-industrial times, and 1.5C if possible.

To make that happen, the IEA says investment will need to surge to \$2 trillion a year within a decade -- an eight-fold increase.

But currently only about three percent of energy investments worldwide are made in Africa.

Globally, wealthy nations have yet to meet their pledge to provide, by 2020, \$100 billion a year in climate finance to poorer nations, eroding trust that polluters will help vulnerable countries least responsible for warming to tackle the challenges of climate change.

Against this unpromising background, African countries are hamstrung by a mounting debt crisis.

According to the World Bank, of nine countries that in March were in debt distress, eight were in Africa.

Source: Africanews

Africa must harness green resources to boost energy security and sustainable development – Antonio Pedro

BY STAFF REPORTER

NAIROBI - Africa must swiftly harness its rich mineral and natural resources to drive a clean energy revolution and accelerate sustainable development amidst the current climate crisis, the Acting Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Antonio Pedro, has urged.

“Africa is a solutions powerhouse for saving the climate, Mr. Antonio Pedro, said at the opening of the 11th Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA) in Nairobi, Kenya, ahead of the inaugural Africa Climate Summit to take place from 4-6 September themed: Driving Green Growth & Climate Finance Solutions for Africa and the World.

Mr. Pedro pointed out that Africa has abundant renewable energy resources, including 40% of the world’s solar irradiation potential, making it a great location for advancing green hydrogen.

Already, multiple low-carbon hydrogen projects are in development in Egypt, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, and South Africa. Africa is also rich in cobalt, manganese, platinum, lithium, and copper – critical minerals for producing batteries and other green transition products.

The drive toward achieving net-zero emissions is expected to trigger a 40-fold increase in lithium demand and a 25-fold increase in cobalt demand. Furthermore, Africa is home to rich natural capital, such as the Congo Basin which contains some of the largest tropical rainforests in the world.

Mr. Pedro said that using nature-based sequestration alone, African countries could provide up to 30% of the world’s sequestration needs. A key challenge, however, was in “effectively and sustainably harnessing Africa’s abundant resources for the benefit of its people.”

“To mobilize the necessary funding, a paradigm shift is necessary,” said Mr. Pedro, emphasizing that Africa’s renewable and non-renewable resources were assets for mobilizing climate finance and investment.

“The ecological services provided by Africa to the world need to be monetised through carbon markets and other innovative instruments including debt-for-climate swaps,” he added.

Studies show that African countries could mobilize up to US\$82 billion annually by participating in well-functioning carbon markets. Besides, more income could be generated from value chains around non-renewable resources such as critical minerals crucial for battery production.

“Our renewable and non-renewable resources must be harnessed to secure the continent’s human, energy, food, mineral, environmental and climate security, meeting basic needs and fostering sustainable structural transformation,” Mr. Pedro urged.

For her part, Soipan Tuya, Kenya Minister of Environment and Forestry noted that Africa’s sustainable development hinged on the successful adaptation and mitigation of climate change impacts because the continent’s growth depends heavily on climate sensitive sectors and natural resources.

She stressed, in her opening remarks that Africa was capable of overcoming climate change challenges and turning them into development opportunities through innovation, clean technologies and a paradigm shift that unlocks Africa’s huge natural resource and human potential.

“Harnessing these rich enormous resources, however, requires mobilization of financial resources from both domestic and international sources to enable Africa tackle climate change and facilitate the option for clean and low carbon development pathways,” she said.

Africa is bearing the brunt of climate change more, despite contributing the least

to it. Increased droughts, intensive tropical cyclones, high temperatures and extensive floods have affected lives and livelihoods across Africa, limiting the continent’s ability to achieve sustainable development.

Huge financing gap

Estimates indicate that, by 2030, Africa could spend 5% of its annual GDP on climate crises based on a warming scenario of 2 degrees, with the Sahel region paying as much as 15%.

The African Group of Negotiators on Climate Change estimates that Africa will require between US\$65 and US\$86.5 billion annually for adaptation alone up to 2030. Currently, the continent receives a mere \$11.4 billion in adaptation financing per year.

Present at the opening were high-level representatives from key institutions including Josefa Correia Sacko, Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment (ARBE) at the African Union Commission; Anthony Nyong, Director for Climate Change and Green Growth at the African Development Bank; and Mwenda Mithika, Executive Director, Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) made remarks.

Commonwealth Secretary-General to intensify climate finance campaign at Africa Climate Summit

BY STAFF REPORTER

The Commonwealth Secretary-General, the Rt Hon Patricia Scotland KC, will seek to ramp up global support for greater climate finance commitments at the Africa Climate Summit, which takes place 4 to 6 September in Nairobi, Kenya.

The summit, held under the theme 'Driving Green Growth and Climate Finance Solutions for Africa and the World', is a critical juncture for the African continent to mobilise action in the lead-up to the UN Climate Change Conference COP28 in November.

Vulnerable countries and populations in Africa are particularly exposed to the impacts of climate change, such as unpredictable weather patterns and more extreme weather, which affects millions of lives, livelihoods and homes.

In Nairobi, the Secretary-General is scheduled to meet with various Heads of State from the region as well as world leaders, including the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, to advocate actions that will unlock billions in climate finance to support vulnerable nations, as well as improve access to those funds.

This includes delivering on the annual commitment of US\$100 billion in climate finance promised to developing nations



since 2009, and the operationalisation of an inclusive and fit-for-purpose Loss and Damage Fund, which was agreed last year at COP27 to help vulnerable countries cope with the devastating impacts of climate change.

The Secretary-General said: "I urge leaders, the international community, the private sector and civil society – together, we must all step up and drive this transformation. The means and the solutions to realise our ambitions under the Paris Agreement are already available to us – there is no excuse for a delay in action. Ignoring the consequences of inaction will hurt the most vulnerable the hardest, not to mention the generations that follow."

The Secretary-General leads a delegation of senior experts from the Commonwealth Secretariat, who will also be sharing key insights and best practices garnered from flagship programmes such as the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub (CCFAH), the Commonwealth Blue Charter, the Commonwealth Sustainable Energy Transition Agenda and the Commonwealth Living Lands Charter: A Call to Action on Living Lands (CALL), including their enhanced focus in supporting the Africa region.

On Tuesday 5th September, the Secretary-General will take part in a high-level panel alongside the President of Somalia, H.E. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, the President

of Mozambique H.E Filipe Jacinto Nyusi and the Vice President of Colombia H.E Francia Elena Marquez Mina focusing on unlocking the potential of a "regenerative blue economy" in Africa and globally.

During the mission, the Secretary-General will also hold a dialogue with environment and climate ministers from across the region, to discuss expectations and key concerns ahead of the UN Climate Change Conference COP28.

Discussions will feed into the first-ever Commonwealth Environment and Climate Ministers' Meeting, to take place in the margins of the United Nations General Assembly meetings in New York on 21 September.

Transforming waste...

primarily in the form of air pollution.

Air pollution resulting from industrial waste can occur through various mechanisms. Industrial smokestacks emitting gases and particles into the atmosphere contribute to the release of harmful pollutants. Additionally, uncontrolled industrial emissions may contain chemicals that react with sunlight and other compounds to form secondary pollutants like ground-level ozone, further exacerbating air pollution.

The release of industrial waste pollutants into the air significantly degrades its quality. Particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, and heavy metals are common pollutants produced by industrial waste. These pollutants can have detrimental effects on air quality at both local and global scales. Particulate matter, consisting of tiny airborne particles, can enter the respiratory system when inhaled, causing irritation and respiratory problems. Sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides contribute to the formation of acid rain, which not only harms ecosystems but also poses risks to human health. Volatile organic compounds released from industrial processes can react with other pollutants and sunlight to form ground-level ozone, a harmful air pollutant known to cause respiratory issues.

The release of industrial waste pollutants into the air can have severe consequences for human health. Prolonged exposure to air pollution resulting from industrial waste can lead to various respiratory conditions such as asthma, bronchitis, and emphysema. The inhalation of particulate matter and toxic gases can also cause lung cancer and cardiovascular problems. Children, the elderly, and individuals with pre-existing respiratory conditions are particularly

vulnerable to the harmful effects of industrial waste pollution. Moreover, long-term exposure to air pollution has been associated with adverse pregnancy outcomes and developmental issues in children.

Given the significant impact of industrial waste on air pollution and human health, it is crucial to prioritize its mitigation and prevention. Governments and industries should work hand in hand to establish and enforce strict regulations to control the release of harmful pollutants. Implementing advanced technologies and cleaner production methods can help minimize waste generation and improve treatment processes.

Furthermore, promoting recycling, encouraging the use of renewable energy sources, and investing in sustainable practices can aid in reducing the overall impact of industrial waste on the environment. Educating the public about the risks associated with air pollution and industrial waste can also raise awareness and encourage individual action.

The increasing generation of industrial waste poses a substantial threat to air quality and human health. The release of pollutants during industrial processes contributes significantly to air pollution, leading to adverse health effects such as respiratory problems, cardiovascular issues, and developmental complications. Effective waste management strategies, stringent regulations, and collective responsibility are essential to mitigate the impact of industrial waste on the environment and human well-being. By prioritizing sustainable practices and embracing cleaner technologies, we can reduce industrial waste's negative consequences and build a healthier future for ourselves and future generations.

To mitigate the negative economic impact of industrial waste, it is crucial for industries to adopt sustainable waste management practices, invest in cleaner technologies, and comply with legislation. Collaborative efforts between governments, industries, and communities are necessary to promote responsible waste disposal, pollution prevention, and continuous environmental improvement.

Exposure to pollutants and toxins may lead to various health issues, including respiratory problems, cancer, and other chronic diseases. The associated healthcare costs can burden both individuals and the economy at large.

Encouraging industries to adopt cleaner production techniques can help minimize the generation of waste at the source. Implementing efficient resource management practices and promoting recycling and reuse initiatives can significantly reduce industrial waste.

Governments should establish and enforce stringent regulations governing industrial waste management. Compliance should be ensured through regular inspections and penalties for non-compliance, incentivizing industries to prioritize proper waste management.

Encouraging sustainable alternatives, such as renewable energy sources and eco-friendly technologies, can help reduce waste generation and mitigate the environmental impact of industrial processes and raising awareness among the general public about the consequences of industrial waste is crucial. Education campaigns can help individuals make informed choices, promote responsible consumerism, and advocate for sustainable practices.

But if we use the industry waste properly we can gain an amazing profit. The impact of industrial waste on the economy can be paradoxically gainful.

On the other hand, managing industry waste can create economic opportunities. Companies specializing in waste management, recycling, and clean technologies can generate jobs and contribute to economic growth. Innovation in waste reduction and recycling practices can also lead to the development of new industries and markets, fostering a more sustainable and circular economy. Proper waste management practices, including recycling and waste reduction, can improve resource efficiency. By minimizing waste generation, businesses can lower their production costs and optimize resource utilization. This can result in increased profitability, competitiveness, and long-term sustainability.

Industry waste and its handling practices can significantly impact consumer perception and corporate image. Companies that prioritize sustainable waste management and actively reduce their environmental footprint often enjoy positive brand perception and enhanced customer loyalty. This can translate into increased sales and market share, further contributing to economic growth.

Industry waste has a substantial impact on the economy. While its negative consequences include environmental costs, public health concerns, and regulatory burdens, waste management can also generate economic opportunities, improve resource efficiency, and enhance corporate image. Encouraging sustainable waste management practices can help minimize negative impacts and promote a more resilient and prosperous economy.

Planet Earth

Transforming waste generation, disposal practices for better outcome

BY MAHLET GASHAW

Industrial wastes are generated from manufacturing, mining, agriculture, and other industrial processes. It encompasses various forms such as solid, liquid, and gaseous waste, all of which pose significant challenges to both the environment and human well-being.

The impact of industrial waste on the economy can be significant and multifaceted. Industrial waste refers to the byproducts, leftovers, or contaminants generated during the production and manufacturing processes of various industries. Industrial waste poses significant threats to the environment, public health, and ecosystems. It is imperative to address this issue proactively through a combination of waste reduction, stringent regulations, sustainable practices, and public awareness. By prioritizing responsible waste management and embracing sustainable alternatives, we can mitigate the detrimental effects of industrial waste and build a healthier, more sustainable future for both the environment and society.

Water Pollution: Many industries discharge untreated or poorly treated wastewater



into nearby water bodies, leading to water pollution. This contamination adversely affects aquatic ecosystems, diminishing biodiversity and disrupting the balance of fragile ecosystems. **Soil Degradation:** Improper disposal of industrial waste can contaminate soils, making them unfit for agriculture. Harmful chemicals and heavy metals leach into the soil, potentially impacting crop productivity and posing

health risks to humans and animals.

Air Pollution: Industrial waste often contains pollutants and harmful emissions, contributing to air pollution. Gaseous waste, like sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide, contributes to the formation of acid rain and respiratory issues in humans. **Occupational Hazards:** Improper management of industrial waste can expose

workers to toxic substances, leading to occupational hazards and long-term health problems. Lack of proper safety measures in waste management facilities can further exacerbate these risks.

Public Health Concerns: Industrial waste contaminants that seep into water supplies or the food chain can impact public health. Consumption of contaminated water or food can result in various diseases, including

cancer, neurological disorders, and hormonal imbalances.

Disproportionate Impact on Vulnerable Communities: The presence of industrial waste facilities tends to disproportionately affect marginalized communities, leading to environmental injustice. Socioeconomically disadvantaged communities often bear the brunt of the health and environmental consequences associated with industrial waste.

While all the forms of industrial waste have their own impacts on human life, the improper disposal and management of industrial waste has serious consequences,

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