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Fossil

## CT-Scan to make breakthrough in studying Ethiopia's fossils

BY MESERET BEHAILU

**ADDIS ABABA** –The implementation of CT-Scan technology would fill the gap in fossil study and expedite research in the area apart from saving the hardly-gained foreign exchange, the National Museum of Ethiopia said.

Paleo- Anthropologist Berhane Assefaw (PhD) told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that CT- Scan (Computed Tomography) is crucial to studying the physical and internal

structures of humans' ancestors and other animals.

X-ray has been used for many years though it has not brought about the desired changes in the field especially at present. In the past several years, the fossils of a bone artifact were sent abroad for deep study and the situation was tiring, complicated, and expensive. In this regard, Ethiopia has invested over 6,000 USD for exporting a fossil aimed at studying by CT-Scan, the scholar elaborated.

CT scan is playing a significant role in saving time, energy, keeping fossil quality, and deterring fragmentation and it is cost-efficient and technologically-equipped approach. "Though many CT scan devices are operating in Ethiopia, the machine quality and skilled labor force in the sector is under question except Wudassie Diagnostic Center."

To address the problem, the National Museum of Ethiopia is working closely with the Japanese government to conduct joint research and

See CT- Scan ... Page 3

## Risk-based approach, capacity building set Ethiopia cyber resilient: INSA



BY BETELHEM BEDLU

**ADDIS ABABA**- Applying risk based approach and enhancing cyber security maturity would be instrumental to prevent possible cyber breaches that target Ethiopia's key institutions and infrastructures, the Information Network Security Administration (INSA) said.

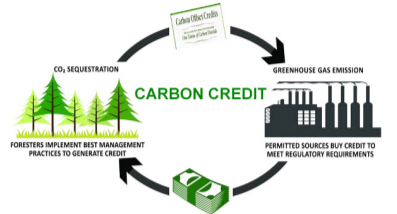
Speaking to *The Ethiopian Herald*, Cyber Audit and Evaluation Head at INSA Tilahun Ejigu said implementing risk based approach and building resilient cyber

security capacity would help Ethiopia to prevent potential cyber-attacks.

According to him, lack of finance, absence of adequate investment and IT infrastructure, low awareness of decision makers, lack of capacity and skills are among the major drawbacks in the country's cyber ecosystem. The in-alignment of cyber security policy with other policies also inhibited the sector's progress.

Globally, cyber-attacks have cost over 8 trillion USD in 2023 while it is estimated to become 10 trillion by 2025.

See Risk-based ... Page 3



## Ethiopia to earn 100 mln USD selling carbon credits

BY FIKADU BELAY

**ADDIS ABABA** - Ethiopia's utmost efforts to the development of the forestry industry is projected to yield approximately 100 million USD in revenue from carbon trade by 2030, Ethiopian Forest Development (EFD) disclosed.

EFD National Red Plus Program Coordinator Yitebtu Moges (PhD) told *The Ethiopian Herald* that Ethiopia is selling carbon credits to the World Bank having a plan to generate the one hundred million USD within seven years.

Over the past decade, the country

See Ethiopia ... Page 3

## Project working to equip youth in technology

• Unveils Solve IT 2023 winner

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

**ADDIS ABABA** – The Solve IT project said it has been working to build a technologically advanced society through modern innovative technologies for social development.

Yesterday, an award giving ceremony was held to winners of the final round of the Solve IT innovation competition, selected from among the boot camp participants. The winners received one million Birr.

Speaking at the occasion, iCog Anyone Can Code (iCog-ACC) CEO Betelhem Dessie said that since establishment, the project has been engaged in nurturing, energizing and encouraging youths and startups across Ethiopia.

See Project working... Page 3

# News

## Some 85 tourism companies exhibit Ethiopia's attraction sites

• *Ministry plans to galvanize diplomat's role in tourism promotion*

BY YESUF ENDRIS

**ADDIS ABABA-** The tourism exhibition opened in Addis Ababa Science Museum enables 85 exhibitors to promote Ethiopia's world-famous attraction sites, the Tourism Minister said, adding that more than 200,000 people are expected to visit the display.

In an exclusive interview with the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Tourism Minister Nassise Chali stated 85 companies in the tourism and hospitality sectors are taking part in the exhibition.

While tourism firms have been displaying the historical and natural attraction sites located across the country, technology companies are also involved in the exhibition and presenting their products. Thus, the exhibition is beyond destination promotion and provides the opportunity to encourage investors to be involved in the tourism and hospitality sectors.

The tourism sector has untapped potential for investments and the government is open for investment dialogues and to support



businesses, the Minister affirmed.

Tourism State Minister Sileshi Girma revealed the plan to stage Ambassadors' forum that aims to mobilize Ethiopian diplomats across the globe to be involved in tourism promotion and attract visitors to

come and see the country. The forum also intends to enhance the role of diplomacy in increasing tourist's inflow to Ethiopia.

Sileshi further mentioned the government's plan to employ local and international forums to promote the tourism industry.

## Experts accentuate stakeholders' coordination to ensure food safety

BY TEWODROS KASSA

**ADDIS ABABA-**The health and economic impacts of foodborne diseases in milk, dairy products, meat, and tomato in Ethiopia require coordinated efforts to address the problem and improve public health, experts said.

A research was conducted on foodborne diseases impact in Ethiopia and presented on a workshop here yesterday at the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) campus.

Researcher on Food Safety and Professor of Addis Ababa University Kebede Amenu told *The Ethiopian Herald* that foodborne diseases are estimated to cause a loss of 723 million USD annually which is close to 1 percent of the country's total GDP.

As to him, the public gave low attention for food safety and the habit of poor hygiene remains a challenge to ensure food safety in the country.

Following this, numerous citizens are exposed to unnecessary economic loss during illness, he said.

Increased efforts to reduce foodborne illness will improve public health and the economy of the country, he recommended.

"If it is not safe, it is not food. Ensuring food safety should be given an attention parallel with ensuring food security. Food safety is not an assignment left for some individuals or organizations, it is a shared responsibility of all," he said.

On his part, Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority Technical Advisor Wondafrash Abera said that the country has endorsed a food and nutrition policy, have national food and nutrition strategy, as well as laws and directives on food safety.

The Ethiopian Standards Agency is also doing its level best towards ensuring food safety through limiting the impact of processed and semi-processed food products, he added.

According to him, the Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Ministry of Industry (MI), Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration (MOTRI), among others are working closely to curb the impact of lack of food safety in the country.

Moreover, more attention should be given to ensuring food safety through excelling coordination and collaboration, strengthening food safety control system, improving public awareness, and creating food traceability system, he recommended.

Food Safety Researcher from USA Barbara Kowalczyk said that more than 420 deaths occurred annually in the world due to foodborne illness.

She has lost her son and founded a foundation to prevent deaths from lack of food safety.

She believes that foodborne diseases have profound impact on children, their family, their community and the entire society.

"We have been working hard for the past five years exploring on how to ensure food safety systems in Ethiopia. There is a willingness and readiness to strategizing food safety in Ethiopia which is a very promising move," she stressed.

## Bureau urges civil society organizations to support destitute

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

**ADDIS ABABA-** Addis Ababa City Administration Bureau of Women, Children and Social Affairs have urged civil society organizations to join hands with the Bureau in a bid to provide steady support to vulnerable communities.

Many civil society organizations had signed a memorandum of understanding to work with the bureau in supporting indigents, Bureau Head Weynshet Zerihun said.

"We are attempting to create common platforms to work cooperatively with civil society organizations to ensure the benefit of vulnerable people such as elders, children, and the disabled ones," she noted.

However, civil society organizations are not working as much as they are expected, the Head said, while calling for the organizations to play due role by serving people in need through various ways.

Weynshet's Bureau has held a forum in collaboration with Hope for Justice, to discuss with people who need special support including women, children, elders and people with disabilities.

She stated that the main purpose of the forum is to ensure the benefit of vulnerable citizens by discussing and working together with civil society organizations.

It is not possible to solve all the challenges only by the government efforts, she said,



adding "if we work hand in hand, it will create a great opportunity to achieve the goals of ensuring the benefit of vulnerable people, she stressed.

She also highlighted the crucial role of civil society organizations in supporting vulnerable citizens.

The government is working by budgeting the needed amount of money to support vulnerable people in urban areas who have suffered from financial, material and social problems, Weynshet said.

Similarly partners such as civil society organizations in the platforms that set by the government can play their roles by establishing permanent systems that can bring better results in a strategic situation, she expressed.

Therefore, she said, "we will have a strong

connection by bringing together the works that were done in a fragmented way. We will work together with them to provide access to users and solve their problems in sustainable way."

Hope for Justice Country Director Dereje Zeleke on his part said that the current situation needs the collaboration work of civil society organizations particularly to provide supports for people in need due to various reasons.

"Until now, we have reconnected over 10 thousand street children with their families. We provided social, psychological services that help them to live with their family peacefully," he said.

He also pledged the continued support of his agency to the needy to get better and quality services.

# News

## Huawei displays open schools for all projects

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

**ADDIS ABABA-** Huawei displayed technology-enabled “Open Schools for All Project” in cooperation with UNESCO in Cairo, Egypt.

At the UNESCO-Huawei International Forum Digital Platforms and Competencies for Teachers Egypt Ministry of Education launched the National Distance Learning Centre for the Continuous Professional Development of Educators.

In a press release sent to The Ethiopian Herald said that the center was developed as part of the UNESCO-Huawei Technology-enabled Open Schools for All (TeOSS) projects, which is running in Egypt, Ghana, and Ethiopia from 2020 to 2023.

Egyptian Education and Technical Education Minister Reda Hegazy (PhD) praised the accomplishments made by the open schools project in cooperation with the Professional Academy for Teachers and the UNESCO Office in Cairo.

TeOSS project implemented in partnership with the ministries of education in Egypt, Ethiopia, and Ghana the UNESCO-Huawei and it is piloting and testing digital education platforms in the three African nations.

In Egypt, for example, 300 teachers have received trained in digital skills through the project, and the new learning center will boost distance learning and digital literacy.

It is providing training in digital skills for teachers and students, developing policy

frameworks for digital education, and evaluating the project’s efficacy with a view to scaling out TeOSS to other nations in Africa and project is designed to blend online and offline learning to maximize education outcomes, and to ensure learning continuity in both normal and crisis conditions.

In his opening speech Sobhi Tawil, Director of the Future of Learning and Innovation Team at UNESCO praised the cooperation with the Ministry of Education in Egypt and its role in supporting future horizons.

He added open schools raise digital learning competencies since 2020, which has contributed to raising the quality of education, ensuring access and continuity of education in Egypt, Ethiopia and Ghana. Egypt was one of the first countries to implement the digital learning initiative, noting that the opening of the National Center for Distance Education in Egypt represents a big step in digital transformation.

Huawei’s involvement in the project falls under its long-term digital inclusion and sustainability initiative TECH for ALL and it is committed to developing tech-driven solutions that can help achieve UN Sustainable Development Goal to ensure inclusive, equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Joyce Liu, Director, TECH4ALL Digital Inclusion Program Office for Huawei urged all work together to build a more inclusive and sustainable digital world.

The forum was attended by government representatives from Egypt, Ethiopia, and Ghana, UNESCO, Huawei and international experts.



## Project working...

“So far, Solve IT has reached over 3,700 youth and helped them to explore experience, learn, and create meaningful findings for themselves and their community at large.”

According to Bethlehem, the Solve IT is a nationwide innovation competition targeting young innovators aged 18-28 with the aim of decentralizing technology. In addition, the project aims to build a tech-savvy community and promote the use of technology as a tool for social change and development.

Similarly, the Solve It provides support to tackle the entrepreneurial hindrances that startups have been encountering in their business ventures. It is decentralizing entrepreneurial opportunities with the support of business training, mentorship, seed funding, and investment networking among others.

Having addressed local community challenges with local innovative solutions through various entrepreneurial approaches as its main target, Solve IT has forged strong partnerships with the US embassy and Dashen bank. By doing this the project

has been able to reach various universities, colleges, and TVET students and graduates in six cities nationwide.

“These projects showcase the Solve IT innovation competition’s remarkable breadth encompassing transformative ideas in education, healthcare, agriculture and technology,” she remarked.

Mentioning the long time partnership with Solve IT projects, Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Ethiopia Stewart Davis indicated that the embassy has been providing facilities and other support for the success of the project. “We have also been offering pragmatic platforms such as funding, collaborating with experts and mobilizing resources to the project among others.”

The project would be significant to develop innovation activities and collaboration with various young people with their innovative ideas. This would be further strengthened and encourages young Ethiopians to take the opportunity to help them look forward, the officer emphasized.

## CT-Scan...

technology and experience transfer. The partnership is also aimed to fill skill gaps, and improve the service delivery in the area.

Berhane further stated that the introduction of the CT scan technology in the country has an important role for the strengthening of scientific experiments and increasing the number of researchers and developing new practices in the area.

Similarly, Wudassie Diagnostic Center’s Owner and Managing Director Dawit Hailu said that the center has been using its full capacity and assigning experts to conduct research on fossils by CT scan in the past several. This success is instrumental to attract foreign scholars in the area to conduct similar research in Ethiopia whilst it is an additional opportunity for the

country to expedite the field.

“The introduction of CT-Scan has manifold advantages such as patients could be treated locally and encourage novel researchers on fossils.”

Sharing the above, Senior Expert in the field, Antneh Abat said, “At the time of COVID-19 pandemic, moving fossils from one area to another was difficult and Ethiopia has been operating the CT-Scan following strong measures taken to facilitate the situation. This success helps to build Ethiopia’s positive image in fossil research.

However, more support is expected from the government to keep the country competitive at the international level in fossil research, the expert emphasized.

## Risk-based approach,...

According to INSA’s vulnerability assessment conducted on 123 private and public institutions last year, around 657 risk level gaps were identified. Of which, 187 high, 273 medium and 192 low risk levels system gaps were observed.

The Head mentioned that the assessment was done through institutions network infrastructure, mobile application, website and integration with different systems. The institutions have the limitations in cyber security job structure and tools and experts as well as cyber security documents (policy guideline).

With regard to cyber-attack attempts, alarming increases observed over the past eight years from 214 to 8845. The Pretoria Peace Agreement has played an immense role in reducing the figure to 6959 last Ethiopian fiscal year.

Similarly, around 2554 website attacks, 1295 malware/ malicious, 1493 distributed denial

of service attacks (DDOS), 603 scanning, 695 penetration attacks and 145 different cyber-attack attacks were made last year.

Mentioning malware, (DDoS), scanning or data gathering were amongst the major attempted attacks, he underlined that the attempts could cause the denial of service, stealing of data and information, ruining of business reputation and creating mistrust among the public and the government.

Financial institutions, media houses, key public infrastructures and public institutions, security institutions are amongst the major targets for cyberattack attempts. Nonetheless, Ethiopia’s capacity to respond to cyber-breaches is in good position following the activities carried out in equipping the sector with skilled labor and modern technology.

It was learned that Ethiopia has saved some 23.2 billion birr in preventing cyber-attack attempts during last budget year.

## Ethiopia to earn...

has generated 150 million USD in revenue through various activities, with support from the World Bank and Norway, he said.

This financial reward recognizes the significant efforts made by Ethiopia to protect and enhance its forest cover, which effectively reduces carbon emissions, he noted.

Yitebtu stated that carbon trading is a long-term endeavor influenced by market conditions and currently, the payment received is determined by the quantity and size of the forest, measured in tons of carbon content.

This not only ensures the preservation of ecosystems but also maintains climate balance, he added.

And he also mentioned the collaborative efforts with foreign assistance and the recent agreement with the World Bank, which will contribute 40 million euros for forest maintenance in the Oromia region.

He further noted that one million hectares of forest in the Southwest Ethiopia People’s Region are being conserved and managed, with assistance provided to the local

population.

This large-scale initiative aims to enhance income opportunities while prioritizing sustainable forest management practices, according to the coordinator.

He remarked on the significance of expanding the national-level Green Legacy Program adding that the government should allocate additional resources to support the sector considering the substantial economic potential it holds.

Ethiopia is commendable in the forestry industry not only for contributing to global climate goals but also for creating significant economic opportunities, he noted

By safeguarding its forests and efforts engaging in carbon trading, Yitebtu mentioned that the country has ability to dominate the market and generate billions of dollars annually from the carbon trading sector.

He suggested the establishment of a national carbon center, bringing together domestic and international experts, to help Ethiopia fulfill its commitment to reducing carbon emissions as outlined in the Paris Agreement.

# Opinion

## Ethio-China relations:

### The gradually heightened holistic partnership

BY GETACHEW MINAS

The Ethiopia-China relationships have become so important and so close over the past few decades. For Chinese government, Ethiopia is a country of about 120 million people, with huge natural resources. These resources have not been developed and used for economic progress of the country. In its eastern part, it has oil and gas reserves that have not yet been exploited.

However, this part of the country has been proliferated by the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF) that rendered it a danger zone. Nine Chinese workers from a petroleum exploration firm, were killed and seven others kidnapped by the front. The minerals of the region are largely unexploited if not unexplored.

Furthermore, Ethiopia is among the poorest of the least developed economies, ranked 175th out of 191 countries on the Human Development Index (HDI) 2021/22, with a per capita GNP of a mere 1,020 US dollars. Even a mild drought leads to famines mitigated only by weak response of the government. The effects of the economic crisis of the past two decades are still felt despite an impressive annual growth rate of Gross National Product (GNP).

Ethiopia is located at the center of the Horn of Africa, which is an area of extreme unrest, consisting of both failed and functioning states. For China, partnership with Ethiopia may serve its economic purposes of growth and development. Another reason is that Addis Ababa has become an important seat of the African Union (AU) and that of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

Other attraction of Ethiopia is its huge population, which is the second most populous country in the continent after Nigeria. Its population is projected to be 170 million by 2050. The country's role in the Horn as well as in the continent gives it prominence in the region. Also its strategic location in the region provides attraction for foreign investment. Moreover, its ownership of Lake Tana and the Abbay, the longest River in the world, endows it with huge potential for electric power generation, which is now being exported to neighboring countries. Thus, Ethiopia is in a position to be a partner in economic development with developed countries including China.

The size of Ethiopia's needs in terms of economic development is quite extensive. It requires economic cooperation and investment from development partners such as China. It is interested to actively engage with China in its economic development endeavor. China provided its loans for infrastructure projects and for other sectors in the country. All these economic relations nurture the partnership in development.

The history of diplomatic relations reveals that ambitious trade agreement was signed

between the two countries in the past. As this agreement was to be automatically renewed every three years, it led to the creation in 1998 of a Joint Economic Commission, which meets every other year. The agreement provides most favored nation status on Ethiopia. This covers the whole bilateral economic cooperation, including investment promotion through the formation of Sino-Ethiopian joint ventures. This covers private entities, maritime transport enterprises and exchanges of technical personnel. The Sino-Ethiopian ties have persisted and continue to strengthen with time.

During the first Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, Addis Ababa was chosen to host the second forum. Consequently, Ethiopia gained a privileged position, which the government used to promote a close diplomatic partnership with China. The two countries have signed supplementary agreements that contributed to stronger relationship. Thus, the Sino-Ethiopian relations genuinely entered a new period of close diplomatic, political, and economic partnership. This development has a direct link to the hardening and strengthening of political power in the country following previous elections.

In the past, the opposition parties have managed to have access to parliamentary seats. These elections have been tainted with numerous irregularities accompanied by violence and led to a rapid deterioration in relations between Ethiopia and its traditional donors, the US and EU. These donors began to attach conditions to their assistance, if not suspend it. The government had then adopted a clear policy of economic and social development which could be supported by friendly donors.

In the past two decades, Ethiopia and China have created a much closer strategic economic and political partnership. For the Ethiopian government, it is a close relationship that plays a major role in the country's development and poverty reduction programs and projects.

From Ethiopia's angle, China is more than a partner that could also share its economic experiences. It also extends its pertinent technical assistance as well as diplomatic support to Ethiopia. In this respect, the Ethiopian government has made many political gestures. It gave its support to China's anti-secession law regarding Taiwan, and as a member of the UN Human Rights Council, Ethiopia along with other African countries helped reverse all intensions to criticize the Chinese government. There have been frequent exchanges of visits by leaders to strengthen relations between the two countries and Africa. Consequently, China financed and built a new AU headquarters in Addis Ababa at the cost of \$200 million.

The top leaders of the two countries have

made exchanges of visits that included delegations of all kinds. These delegations included political, economic, cultural, medical, and military staff which highlights the diversity of cooperation. The key areas of cooperation have become well-organized. The Ethiopian government signed major framework agreement on financing with the China EXIM Bank, leading to a rapid rise in the number of Chinese investment projects.

The framework agreement requires all exports to China to be checked by the CBE, the largest state-owned financial institution in the country. Ethiopia intends to pay back Chinese loans through its export earnings. The bilateral dealings have also extended to political relations. They began in earnest during visits by officials of both countries. They grew further notably with the visits of Beijing by Ethiopian officials. These visits resulted in establishing special economic ties with Ethiopia with the opening of factories in Ethiopia.

Recently, Ethiopia has taken its relationship with China seriously, upgrading it to an all-weather strategic cooperation partnership during a visit by PM Abiy Ahmed (PhD) to China. This partnership, reserved for China's closest allies, reveals the commitment of the two countries to closer political and economic relationships. It indicates the commitment of Ethiopia to escalating its ties with China at a critical time. As pressure intensifies between China and Western powers over concerns such as Taiwan, Ethiopia confirmed its support for the "One China" policy. This act expresses a stronger strategic alliance. The strengthened alliance provides Ethiopia with further prospect through closer cooperation with China.

In a notable move, Ethiopia embarked on the next step of its alliance with China, after BRICS. The significant event occurred in Beijing on October 17, 2023, when China declared the improvement of its friendly relationship with Ethiopia in terms of an "All-Weather Strategic Partnership" which carries two important implications within China's foreign policy framework.

The all-weather strategic partnership reveals an astonishing bond that has no limits, free from any restraints or circumstances. This strengthened status awards Ethiopia with excess privileges, including a warm reception whenever Ethiopian officials travel to China, a very stable foundation of political trust, a strategic alliance based on shared national interests, and economic support from China.

It is observed that the government of China has strict requirements for creating an "all-weather" relationship with countries. There are a variety of grades with this relationship being a highly esteemed status. This relationship offers Ethiopia with opportunities for economic, military, security, and political cooperation with

China. It is revealed that only four countries currently hold the "all-weather" relationship with China, and Ethiopia is the only African country among them. This relationship bolsters social, institutional, economic and public relations between the two countries.

Several Chinese companies have signed memorandums of understanding (MoU) with the Ethiopian Investment Commission. These are primarily related to the pharmaceutical and agro-processing sectors in Ethiopia. These companies expressed their intent to invest in the mining sector in Ethiopia. During the state visit, Chinese and Ethiopian officials confirmed their commitment through the signing of MoUs and letters of intent. These agreements cover a wide range of benefits for Ethiopia, ranging from debt cancellations to strengthened geopolitical alliances.

During the visit to China, Ethiopian officials also had a meeting with the president of the New Development Bank established by BRICS. This discussion was a crucial one with a potential to access a much-needed financial support to Ethiopia. The PM of Ethiopia has expressed his willingness to coordinate Ethiopia's Ten-Year Development Plan with China's Belt and Road Initiative. The coordination reveals Ethiopia's active participation in the preparation of various projects, including the construction of industrial parks, special economic zones, railways, and others.

The Belt and Road Initiative, with its focus on the Horn of Africa, serves as an entrance to the continent, in harmony with Ethiopia's goals of development. BRICS countries have commendable expertise in agricultural surplus production and structural transformation of the manufacturing sector.

Ethiopia is bound to gain immensely from this alliance. While the economic front is expected to achieve growth and opportunities, observers think that the political front may experience more modest progress. However, the Ethiopian Government confirms its observance of the one-China principle, recognizing China as the only legitimate government representing the whole of the nation. It supports all efforts made by China to achieve national reunification.

The one-China principle grants China the authority to take necessary measures to maintain Taiwan as an integral part of its territory. Both sides reaffirm their strong support for the preservation of sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ethiopia and China.

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

# Editorial

## Ethiopia pursues peaceful approaches

Ethiopia is committed to working closely with its neighbors to ensure lasting peace and stability in the region and resolve problems through negotiation and in a peaceful manner, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) said recently. Indeed, the country has no any intention to achieve its interests by force and does not believe it is a feasible solution.

Speaking at the 116th Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) Day at the Meskel Square last Thursday, Premier Abiy stated that some interest groups have been engaged in distorting Ethiopia's call for discussion on some regional affairs as an attempt to invade its neighbors. "The Ethiopian government has no intention to invade or to execute its desire in force."

"I would like to announce to the people of Ethiopia and ENDF members that Ethiopia has no purpose to attain its own interest through military force and we are always committed to peaceful negotiation. The hundred plus years old history of the army has taught us that Ethiopia has always been defending itself, and the army never provokes others. It will never be provocative, too," he underlined.

True, anyone who is interested in Ethiopia's history can read not a record of invasion or provocation of other country nearer or farther. The country's entire history is full of defending invasion and countering invaders through great sacrifice of its beloved children and preserving its sovereignty, independence and honor. The current situation is not far away of this stance and will never be changed.

Ethiopia's primary interest that sustained for centuries is living in peace with all its neighboring countries, upholding mutual development and consolidated people to people relations. Its ample of natural resources; its high population in Africa next to Nigeria and its rapidly growing economy along with the potential to grow faster than ever will benefit not only Ethiopia, but also those who are ready to engage in friendship and cooperation.

Certainly, the country pursues a give and take approach and a win-win principle with any neighboring country. To make this clear, it is ready with open heart to give what it has and take what it doesn't have in a balanced way. This approach opens way for sharing the resources in the region and reaping the fruit together fairly.

As the fact that it has a lot of things to give, it also needs what it is lacking in the return. For instance, Ethiopia is endowed with water resources and can generate power more than it can consume and also huge institutions that are profitable like its Airlines. But it does not have direct sea access that is badly essential for its import and export trade. Thus, Ethiopia's quest for the access is more than clear that it is saying 'let's combine our resources and use for mutual benefit'.

Sadly, this genuine request of the country is wrongly perceived, misinterpreted and boldly uttered that as it is intending to achieve its interest with military force. That is why the premier stressed in his speech to the local people and the foreign world there is no such intention from the Ethiopian side. He stressed that Ethiopia surely pursues peaceful negotiation in order to achieve access to a port.

Though there are historical and natural reasons and current global issues along with international laws that it has the right to access to sea, it sticks on a peaceful, friendly and cooperative method to achieve its right. It is consistently saying let's talk about, negotiate and come to consensus on the matter, expecting positive response from the other sides.

The other parties, thus, have to consider the issues with openhearted feeling; examine the matter, calculate benefit and loss, then come to genuine conclusion for better benefit for all.

# Opinion

## Initiative on International Trade and Economic Cooperation Framework for Digital Economy and Green Development:

### A Pathway to More Fruitful Results for China-Ethiopia Win-Win Cooperation

BY YANG YIHANG (PhD)

From 15th to 21st October, 2023, H.E. Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed and First Lady Zinash Tayachew of Ethiopia attended the 3rd Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing, and paid an official visit to China, which has been a huge success. Dr. Abiy addressed on the High-Level Forum on Connectivity, and his inspiring speech shares the successful and vivid practice of the Belt and Road Initiative in Ethiopia.

During Dr. Abiy's visit, Ethiopia joins in the Initiative on International Trade and Economic Cooperation Framework for Digital Economy and Green Development, drafted by the Ministry of Commerce of China. As we can see, digitalization and green development have become new impetus for global economic growth. In recent years, international cooperation in the above areas at the global, regional and bilateral levels has made positive progress, but there are also challenges ahead. Therefore, we need a cooperation framework that focuses on practical cooperation, openness and inclusiveness.

China has always been an active participant in international cooperation for digital and green development. Chinese President Xi Jinping announced at the Opening Ceremony of the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation that China will expand market access for digital and other products, and deepen reform in areas including digital economy, and China will also promote green development by continuing to deepen cooperation in areas such as green infrastructure, green energy and green transportation. President Xi Jinping also stated at the Opening Ceremony of the Fourth China International Import Expo that China will deeply engage in international cooperation on green and low-carbon development and the digital economy. Therefore, to promote all parties to strengthen policy exchanges and coordination, jointly respond to the challenges of the digital divide and green barriers, better share the dividends of digital and green development, break through institutional and regional barriers, and to jointly seek the common ground for cooperation, China took the lead in drafting the Initiative, and invited interested countries, regions and international organizations to join. China highly welcomes Ethiopia to be part of the Initiative!

The Initiative has 4 major characteristics. The first is independence and voluntariness, emphasizing non-binding principle. The second is flexibility and pragmatism. Participants can carry out cooperation flexibly through independent, bilateral, multilateral and collective actions. The third is that the Initiative supports multiple-stakeholder engagement and encourages participants to mobilize resources via various channels for the implementation of the Initiative. The fourth is that the Initiative stays committed to openness and development by continuously updating the Initiative and expanding the partnership in light of the actual needs of participants.

The Initiative is inclusive and practical. It

has 4 parts of Digital Trade and Economic Cooperation, Green Development Cooperation, Capacity Building, and Implementation and Way Forward. In particular, there are 7 pillars charting the course and specific areas for cooperation. The 7 pillars are Create an Open and Safe Environment, Improve Trade Facilitation, Overcome the Digital Divide, Enhance Consumer Trust, Create a Good Policy Environment for Promoting Green Development, Strengthen Trade Cooperation to Promote Green and Sustainable Development, Encourage Green Technology and Service Exchange and Investment Cooperation. Currently, 35 countries have joined in the Initiative, and 3 international organizations have expressed support for the Initiative. China welcomes more interested countries, regions and international organizations to join in the Initiative, to jointly share opportunities for digital and green development.

The vitality of the Initiative lies in implementation. There will be specific implementation action plans and practical cooperation projects to deepen China-Ethiopia cooperation in the areas of digital and green development. Generally, there are 5 major measures for implementing the Initiative. The first is to use projects as a carrier to create pillars of cooperation. Ethiopia and China can mobilize resources and jointly improve development capabilities through specific cooperation projects, so that enterprises and people of both sides can benefit. The second is to build a cooperation network with local enterprises as nodes. Ethiopia and China can fully mobilize their localities, enterprises, and business associations, explore the establishment of cooperation networks, and give full play to their functions of trade and investment promotion, so as to achieve more practical results for the trade and investment cooperation between Ethiopia and China. The third is to use major exhibitions as a platform to promote exchanges. Ethiopia and China can make full use of our respective major exhibitions and other resources to create more opportunities for trade and investment cooperation between Ethiopian and Chinese enterprises. The fourth is to provide technical support together with international organizations. We can make use of the advantages of international organizations in analysis and research, policy recommendations, and convening stakeholders to provide "tailor-made" support for the implementation of the Initiative. The fifth is to build a long-term cooperation mechanism based on meetings at all levels, which are planned to be held. Participants will be invited to conduct policy exchanges, sort out cooperation needs, and jointly provide suggestions for future cooperation.

The future for China-Ethiopia cooperation in the digital and green areas is bright. The Chinese Embassy stands ready to work together with all parties in Ethiopia to implement the Initiative. Let's join hands to bring more fruitful cooperation results to Ethiopia!

*The author is Minister Counselor of the Chinese Embassy in Ethiopia*

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



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### Office of the CEO

Tel. 011-126-42-22  
Fax. 251-011-156-98-62  
email- epa@press.et

### Advertisement and Dist. 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  
Fb//Ethiopian Press Agency/  
The Ethiopian Herald

# Art & Culture

## Culture shock, modernity and artistic reflections

BY MULUGETA GUDETA

The term Culture Shock was coined by the world-renowned anthropologist Kalervo Oberg in the 1950s. According to this anthropologist, “culture shock is precipitated by the anxiety that results from all our familiar signs and symbols of social intercourse.” There is a notion that emerged around the time various cultures came into contact thanks to the development of modern travel, economic interconnections and the exchange of ideas and practices. In another instance, culture shock is expressed as, “the feeling of anxiety, loneliness, and confusion that people sometimes experience in another country.”

According to its definition, culture shock includes among other things, “the impacts of moving from a familiar culture to one that is unfamiliar. This impact includes the anxiety and feelings (such as surprise, disorientation uncertainty and confusion) felt when a person must adapt to a different and unknown cultural or social environment.” This process in turn entails, “getting used to a different language, a different climate, a different transport system, and different food customs.”

Examples or instances of culture shock are for instance when a man who spent much of his life in the rural areas moves to urban setting for the first time and feels the chock and anxiety of first time experience in a different social environment. Many works of arts in the 1960 and 1970s Ethiopia dealt with the culture shock people from the countryside experience as soon as they come to Addis Ababa and face a different world that was dubbed “modern” for urbanites but was shocking and confusing for the farmers newly introduced to urban life.

The plays and poems that were based on experiences of culture shock were inevitably funny although they could also have tragic manifestations, like someone from the far countryside coming to Addis and losing all concepts of place and time and are exposed to unpleasant experiences like being mugged or robbed by pickpockets. However most of the plays portrayed characters whose languages and manners are completely at odds with urban mannerisms that provoked laughter rather than pity in the audiences.

Culture shock is not only the outcome of the rural versus urban social cleavages but also something that challenged educated folks who travelled to Europe or America for one reason or another. The late Ethiopian poet and playwright Mengistu Lemma had a famous poem he penned when he travelled to the United States apparently on an educational scholarship and described his experiences in the form of a poetic diary that was extremely funny and caught the imagination of the Ethiopian public here at home for long decades as a masterpiece of poetic observation, wit and sarcasm.

The poem is entitled “Basha Asheber b’America” and can also be taken as a critic of Western life that was somehow absurd and violent as compared to the peaceful and predictable life in Ethiopia at that time. The poem can also be taken as a psychological portrayal of people in the two deeply different cultures and social settings. The meeting of two cultures, Ethiopian and American, produced feelings of anxiety and confusion in the poet who was inspired to jot down the verses that became very popular because they also reflected the emotions felt by anyone who set foot in America, or in any country for that matter, for the first time. We can also call such an experience as a kind of “clash of cultures” although no violence is involved.

In the 1960s and 1970s when educated Ethiopians were barely introduced to the same phenomenon of culture shock, the concept was not only new but also hard to understand until people found themselves in culture shock situations in their daily lives. Most Ethiopian students on educational scholarships in Europe or America shared the feelings although few wrote about them. By the way, culture shock is not only a one way experience of people who travel from a relatively underdeveloped to a developed world. Even people from the developed world can experience culture shock when they travel to Africa or Asia and find themselves in alien social environment. The difference is that they often manage to disguise their surprises with prejudices or their assumed cultural superiority.

There can be a third instance of culture shock when people travel from a remote and backward socio-cultural and economic environment within a country, to a more developed and different environment. This is generally what happens when Ethiopians living in remote rural areas come to Addis Ababa or any other modern city for the first time in their life. Everything they see and experience is shocking for them because it is radically different from the culture they grew in back home. And that is why adjustment to the new urban culture takes some time depending on the capacity for the newcomers to understand and act accordingly within the new realities.

This process of adaptation and acculturation is sometimes wrongly understood as embracing modernity by the rural folks who come to the urban areas. This is however misleading because modernity or ‘civilization’ is often regarded as consisting of modern buildings, luxury cars and fancy restaurants as well as asphalted roads and boulevards. Modernity in Ethiopia is a very controversial concept in need of clear definition or consensus. What modernization means to the educated elites may be different to the ordinary folks. So, there can be no binding consensus around its manifestations. For the wealth and the so-called educated elites modernity may mean



*In its modern manifestation, culture shock is often experienced by people who move from one culture to another in search of opportunities*

thinking and doing things or acting the way Europeans Americans and/or the Westerners in general are thinking and doing things in their daily lives.

The very notion of modernity was first introduced by the educated elites who spent time in the Western countries where they were introduced to modern or Western education and returned to their country with the passion to apply what they saw and experienced during the academic sojourns. However, the idea of making Ethiopia modern and putting her on a par with the civilized world, was first introduced by Emperor Haile Sellassie who is known in history as a ‘modernizing monarch’ although many people may not agree with this qualification.

The very inspiration to send young Ethiopian to the West for educational purposes emanated from the emperor’s eagerness to produce new and “modern” educated cadres for his administration who later proved no better than their fathers. Some critics even argue that by doing so, the emperor has undermined the chances for tradition-based modernity or doing things the Ethiopian way on the basis of the wisdom accumulated through the centuries.

By the way, most of poet and playwright Mengistu Lemma’s works deal with the “difficulties of reconciling Ethiopian traditional values and customs with modern Western ideas.” Other critics insist that the failure to reconcile the two has led to the myriad political and social problems the country is now dealing with. They insist that it may not be bad to borrow foreign ideas but it should not be done in a way that

undermines traditional values that could be used to serve as the bases for modernity. Even in situations where the encounter between tradition and modernity had some tragic consequences, Mengistu Lemma had a knack for turning tragic situations into comic ones or present complex ideas into simple forms to the benefit of the largely uneducated audiences of his time.

However, modernizing a medieval country along Western lines was not an idea unique to the Ethiopian monarch. Many countries were introduced to modernization in various ways and at various times and in accordance with specific historical circumstances of the times. What made Ethiopia’s modernization attempts particular or unique was that the process did not take into consideration the objective political, economic and social realities of the country.

Modernization largely failed to take root in Ethiopia simply because it ignored its past achievements and tried to impose foreign ideas and practices from above. Even the legal system, the constitutions or other aspects of modernization were done by copy pasting French, British or other Western experiences by ignoring the country’s long-established traditional institutions and ideas. Many researchers and writers in Ethiopia’s modernizing efforts attribute the failure to apply foreign ideas in a creative way by taking into consideration traditional values and practices.

What is puzzling even now after the old modernizing efforts have largely failed, is the fact that tens of thousands of Africans or Ethiopians are still dreaming of the material manifestations of western civilization and doing everything to live the American dream which is not their dream. In its modern manifestation, culture shock is often experienced by people who move from one culture to another in search of opportunities. The integration of these immigrants from a traditional to a modern culture is often accompanied with tragic events and in the worst case with mental traumas of anxiety and depression. This is a typical example of Africans who migrate to Middle Eastern or other countries in search of job opportunities but often find these cultures extremely unwelcoming and soon fall prey to episodes of anxiety and depression.

One important factor that has made culture shock less choking these days may be the fact of what we may call “cultural globalization” that creates an awareness of what life in rich countries looks like and this is in turn encouraging Africans to migrate and masses to escape poverty and willing fall prey to the allures of modern life. From whatever perspective you look at this phenomenon, you simply turn in circles producing and reproducing the same old patterns of culture shocks, illusions, disappointments and a return to square one. This has unfortunately become not only an African but also a global dilemma.

# Law & Politics

## Germany's exemplary engagement in Ethiopia's post war recovery efforts

BY EYUEL KIFLU

Ethiopia has been throwing its full weight into rehabilitating war-ravaged states following the signing of the Pretoria peace pact. It is to be recalled that the conflict in the northern part of the country has brought short and long-term ramifications. Besides its big toll on human lives and properties, the conflict, while displacing millions, has destroyed social services such as healthcare, education, and other facilities. As the country embarked on reeling from the daunting impacts of the war, the post-war recovery effort is demanding big sums of dollars and continued efforts from all partners.

The Ethiopian government and other partners have been closely working in order to restore normalcy and reconnect states to all basic services. But the road to full recovery remains bumpy. The challenges are too many that more attention and support are needed from the international community. To realize the permanent cessation of hostilities and to rehabilitate war-affected communities, coordinated work is a must not only from the signatories of the peace deal but all concerned bodies. Returning displaced communities to their previous livelihoods is a daunting task where every penny and little act of kindness is of great importance.

Also, the implementation of the much-needed peace deal requires sustained commitment and cooperation from all parties involved. It is a complex and long-term process that requires addressing not only the immediate humanitarian needs but also the underlying causes of the conflict and ensuring a durable and inclusive peace for the people of northern Ethiopia.

Ethiopia finds itself at a critical juncture, where it can choose to progress towards sustainable peace and development or face the possibility, albeit not certainty, of insecurity and crisis. For sustainable peace to take root, certain key elements need to be in place, including continued progress in implementing the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (COHA).

Since the sound of guns has been silenced, various countries have been expressing support with some contributing financial technical, and material assistance. Recently, Germany's government has pledged its support to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) for its work on post-war rehabilitation in Ethiopia's war-stricken places.

UNDP representative of Ethiopia Turhan Saleh emphasized the significance of assisting individuals in conflict-affected areas to benefit from the dividends of peace.

Turhan Saleh, during the ceremony, highlighted Germany's initial contribution



to the UNDP's peace support in the war-ravaged areas. He emphasized that Germany's support meant to help war-affected communities regain a sense of normalcy in their lives. The desire of individuals in regions like Afar, Amhara, and Tigray to return to normal life is evident. They yearn for a safe environment, functioning local governments, and essential services such as healthcare, education, water, and sanitation. Stabilization programs, such as the one under discussion, are vital to swiftly and comprehensively improve living conditions, and instill faith in peace agreements and regional and federal governments.

Turhan Saleh further stated that the ultimate objective of the assistance is to make peace irreversible in Ethiopia. UNDP is already engaged in various activities in Afar, Amhara, and Tigray, covering 13 Weredas and directly or indirectly backing 1.2 million people. Germany plans to double its support in 2024. This support from Germany is seen as a pivotal moment, demonstrating the country's understanding of the need to deliver a peace dividend to northern Ethiopia. Turhan in this regard expressed optimism that other countries would follow suit and help Ethiopia achieve the desired objectives of the peace accord.

Stephan Auer, Germany's Ambassador to Ethiopia, commended the transparent and genuine efforts being made to implement the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement. He acknowledged the achievements thus far made and expressed his country's support for Ethiopia's endeavor to bring this conflict to a close. Auer emphasized that dialogue and mutual trust are crucial

for overcoming division and conflict.

He stated that significant steps have already been taken in this regard, but further steps are indispensable. Germany stands ready to encourage and support Ethiopia and its people in their pursuit of national reconciliation, respect for human rights, peace, and accountability. A stable and prosperous Ethiopia is in everyone's best interest.

Germany recognizes Ethiopia as a key partner in Africa, and the longstanding and trustworthy relationship between the two countries has been reinforced by recent high-level visits. Germany's support, aligned with Ethiopia's Resilient Recovery and Reconstruction Framework, focuses on urgent actions over the next two years to stabilize conditions, restore a sense of normalcy, and deliver an initial peace dividend to populations affected by the conflict. The objective is to contribute to an irreversible peace process in northern part of Ethiopia. And, the Berlin remains committed to this partnership and stands in solidarity with the Ethiopian people, even in challenging times.

It is to be recalled that the Pretoria agreement is a significant milestone in the peace process in northern Ethiopia. Also, one of the primary objectives of the agreement is to create an enabling environment for the safe return of displaced individuals to their homes and the restoration of normalcy in conflict-affected areas. These need the restoration of essential services such as healthcare, education, water, and sanitation, as well as the revival of local economies and the creation of job opportunities.

Also, implementing the accord is a

complex and challenging task that requires the collaboration and coordination of various stakeholders, including the federal government, the interim government of Tigray, and the regional governments of Amhara and Afar. It involves addressing the immediate humanitarian needs of the affected population, providing assistance for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of infrastructure, and ensuring the protection of human rights and the rule of law.

International support, such as Germany's contribution mentioned earlier, plays a crucial role in facilitating the implementation process by providing financial assistance, technical expertise, and diplomatic support. Also, the readiness and the current ongoing work of the Ethiopian government and the regional government to implement the agreement are praiseworthy. Since the agreement was signed between the two parties, social services have been partly or fully restored and aid has been delivered in the war-ravaged areas. This demonstrates how the agreement can be a significant factor for the victims of the conflict. Also, the country's current diplomatic relations with different countries and organizations that suspended relations with Addis are back in place, and this is a solid indicator as to how the country finds itself in the path to peace after that devastating conflict. Also, now the agreement needs holistic cooperation.

Overall, the Pretoria Cessation of Hostilities Agreement represents a significant step towards ending the conflict in northern Ethiopia and establishing a foundation for sustainable peace and development. Its successful implementation is a complex and challenging task, but with continued commitment and support from all stakeholders, it offers hope for a brighter future for the people of Ethiopia.

# The community's strong attachment to nature has contributed to the preservation of natural resources

Selamawit Kassa

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

The world community has now identified investment as one of the key priorities for tourism's recovery and future growth and development. For this year's World Tourism Day, UNWTO highlights the need for more and better-targeted investment for people and the planet. Now is the time for new and innovative solutions, not just traditional investments that promote and underpin economic growth and productivity.

Investment plays an important role in the recovery of global tourism and needs to contribute more to its greener and more sustainable future. The sector is highly vulnerable to climate change and at the same time leads to significant emissions of greenhouse gases. Looking into the future, the need to reduce emissions provides a significant investment opportunity in green buildings for hotels, resorts and restaurants. In addition, tourism offers investment opportunities related to new solutions and technologies to decarbonize the sector and to ensure climate-resilient infrastructure through adaptation solutions. Tackling all these opportunities will help bridge the \$4 trillion annual investment gap for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the developing world.

To promote tourism, World Tourism Day has been marked throughout the world. Celebrating the day is helping to make a call to action to the international community, governments, multilateral financial institutions, development partners and private sector investors to unite around a new tourism investment strategy. Just before the call, the government of Ethiopia had identified and promoted various green development projects.

In the southwest Ethiopia region, for instance, the government has been conducting two big and significant projects to improve the livelihood of Ethiopians in general and the community in particular. One is the Koysha hydro power plant and the other is the Koysha tourist destination development project which is one segment of the Gebeta Lehager project.

In connection with World Tourism Day, the FDRE Government Communication Service, in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism, has conducted a media tour of the South West Region, which is blessed with tourism potential. Selamawit Kassa, State Minister of the Government Communications Service and a crew of journalists drawn from various media outlets visited the wonders of Chebera Churchura Park which is part and parcel of the Dine for Nation Project and the Koysha Hydroelectric Dam.

The Koysha hydropower project is a 2.16GW hydroelectric facility under construction on the Omo River. State-owned public utility enterprise Ethiopian Electric Power (EEP) has been developing the project since October 2016. The issues that were holding back the construction of the Koysha hydroelectric plant have been rectified and the construction is going well now.

It is learned that the construction of the project is being carried out by "We Build", formerly known as Salini. The manager of the project, when the construction of the Koysha hydropower dam is completed, it will have the capacity to generate 1800 megawatts of power with six power station turbines.

The other is, the Koysha tourist destination project is situated in the newly established southwest Ethiopia along with Gorgora and Wonchi located in Amhara and Oromia regional states, respectively. It is expected to catch the attention of more tourists across the world, as it is endowed with immense natural gifts. Koysha is also the biggest of all the three projects in terms of size, content and diversity which is full of attractions with rich natural, artificial and historical resources.

In connection with the visit, The Ethiopian Herald made a brief stay with State Minister Selamawit Kassa who spent a few days with the journalists and visited the aforementioned two projects that the government gave special attention to. During her stay with the Ethiopian Herald, Selamawit raised issues related to the progress of the projects and the due attention of the government just after the reform. Have a nice read!

**To what extent do you think the Koysha project intertwines with the tourism sector?**

This overall project is very intertwined with nature. As you can see the surrounding area is very green. Chebera Churchura National Park is part of the Koysha project which is being undertaken by the initiative of the Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed. It is one of the three tourism destination projects. It is one part of the Dine for Nation (Gebeta Lehager) projects.

The tourism destinations under development

in three regions of the country would have a big impact on enhancing the tourism capacity of the country. By and large, these projects will add another tourist attraction to the country's tourism sector. If you look at, the artificial lake that will be created by this dam, which covers probably 136 km from here, it will add another attraction site for this magnificent overview. This is also included in the national environment protection aspect of our country's tourism development activities.

**How do you evaluate the project**



**management demonstrated on this project?**

To give you a better background, as you know our mega projects were in big trouble before the reform that is undertaken by the current government. So the reform government has been undertaking a lot of reforms specifically in the economic aspect. One of the focuses is advancing the project management of this mega project. Here, we can mention the Abbay Dam and this one is included in that aspect.

So, the reform has focused on elevating the project management capabilities of this project. Now, within a few years, since the reform was launched, construction activity has been booming. We are planning to conclude the construction in a few years. The construction of the Koysha Hydroelectric Power Project is being expedited thanks to the special attention given by the government to mega projects in Ethiopia.

**How does this hydroelectric dam meet the need of citizens who could not get electric power?**

It will add 1800MW to the national grid that increases power distribution. This will also encourage the foreign direct investment aspect of the economy and the people who are living in the dark will get electric power.

**The Ethiopian government is now conducting a green revolution throughout the country. In this regard, what are the efforts to make the dam eco-friendly?**

As you know the government is highly

Continued to Page 9

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**The tourism destinations under development in three regions of the country would have a big impact on enhancing the tourism capacity of the country**





## The community's strong ...

Continued from Page 8



focused on promoting green legacy. Now, the country is advocating it among our neighbors, and internationally as well. The Koysha Hydroelectric Dam demonstrates that kind of harmony between project and nature. So, as I have mentioned before, the southwest Ethiopia region, especially Koysha is very gifted when it comes to natural scenery, it has a whole lot of wildlife. There is a huge concentration of elephants here. You can find lions and indigenous birds. So this project will add that natural preservation concept to the community.

The other aspect that should be mentioned here is, that society is highly included in the project as well and just by being employed in this project also getting benefit from the actual presence of this project. Due to this project, more than 50 km of road have been constructed just to connect the places that were separated just because of the project. By and large, the bridge was constructed because of this project. So, there is huge potential that the community can benefit even further.

The construction of roads that were undertaken by this project management is now enhancing the economic integration

between the woredas and the zones. The vegetables that are produced here for example mango, papaya and other agricultural products are now being sold to the major cities including Addis Ababa and also being exported out of the country. So, there is an economic benefit. Apart from getting environmental benefit of this project also it will increase the electricity production of our country.

**Apart from developing tourism destinations, what is the Ethiopian government doing to attract more local and foreign tourists?**

That is the main reason why this whole trip has been planned. The main thing you have to do is establish a tourist attraction site or build a tourism sector you have to promote it. You have to let people know what we are doing. That is why the government communication service has been participating in organizing this media trip to this side specifically because this area in general shows the high potential of our country when it comes to environmental protection and tourism attraction. So this can be connected by specifically being here and the media will play a great role in



*There are specific needs from the investor's side to come here and invest in this infrastructure. You can see the roads are built at this moment being facilitated. The other is providing power. The surrounding has a lot of dams that can provide sustainable power to the investors and those who want, can come and do business*

promoting our potential tourist attraction sites and what the government has been doing so far when it comes to building up the tourism sector in general.

**From your visit to the area, what do you think would be the most impressive thing that would captivate visitors?**

As you know Ethiopia has a lot of tourist attraction potentials. We have developed some of them. The government specifically Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) has initiated the *Gebeta Lehager* initiative and he has been focusing specifically on these areas that we have been touring for the past two weeks.

This area you can see here is a huge tourist attraction or destination. For example, the place where we are now at this moment- the Halala Keela resort which was initiated by the Prime Minister, considering the historical and natural attraction that this place has and also the Gilgel Gibe III dam which was built around this area has also added a new perspective to the place. So, using those kinds of potentials can create the amazing surroundings that we can see right now.

The other thing that this area specifically has is, the natural resources not just the wildlife. The wildlife is amazing because just simply mentioning numbers; close to 1000 African elephants are roaming around this forest which is called the other part of the Chebera Churchura National Park. You can also find the biggest five wild animals in this Park. So, the visitors can come and see how people are living in harmony with nature, and the surrounding people. The community has a strong attachment to nature and that has contributed to the preservation of natural resources here. That is another attraction.

When you see the whole resource here from

a business perspective, there are also mineral resources. You can find iron ore with a huge amount. You can also see a huge potential for coal mining. The coal is also another resource that can be easily developed. So not just tourism, there is ample potential here that can be tapped for the betterment of our country. Using this, the government has opened up the door for local and international investors to come and invest and create wealth in such a heavenly area or beautiful place.

**Concerning the facility for those who are interested in investing in Ethiopia, what do you say and recommend?**

There are specific needs from the investor's side to come here and invest in this infrastructure. You can see the roads are built at this moment being facilitated. The other is providing power. The surrounding has a lot of dams that can provide sustainable power to the investors and those who want, can come and do business. Another thing is the community; how welcoming it is. You can see the community and the people are welcoming and they are eager to come here and see their places and recognize the thousand years of history that have been preserved by the community.

Considering the huge potential in the area, the government communication service is trying to promote these untapped resources. The media houses here are also trying to show the beautiful scenery and reach the country we are. So I believe, we will make some changes in the future and that will be at least a wake-up call for the international community and for the local investors who are interested in coming here and doing business.

**Thank you very much**

**It is my pleasure**

# Society

## Investing in generation to a better future

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

In most cases, children are seen disproportionately affected by a number of social and economic adversities. However, countries to address the challenges craft programs and a range of approaches that lessen the burden of children.

According to documents, the School Feeding Program (SFP) is one of the mechanisms and the most widespread social safety nets program, benefiting 418 million children worldwide.

The program is widely regarded as a game-changing option for improving food availability and enhancing education outcomes, as well as a prominent and innovative vehicle for addressing multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) outcomes.

It also helps school-age children and adolescents develop physically, mentally, and emotionally, especially in low-and middle-income nations.

Years have already elapsed since Ethiopia has started implementing school feeding programs and providing meals for the most disadvantaged segment of the society, especially in the capital Addis Ababa.

In return, the country can record impressive success in terms of meeting the desired outcomes- lessening the burden of schoolchildren and their respective families, addressing health and nutrition challenges, decreasing school dropouts, helping schoolchildren to have balanced and healthy food, and improving academic performance.

In an exclusive interview with *The Ethiopian Herald* Addis Ababa City Administration Education Bureau Public Relations and Communication Directorate Director Abebe Chernet said that the SFP is an initiative aiming to provide nutritious meals to schoolchildren. The program is designed to improve the nutritional and health status of children, enhance educational outcomes by ensuring access to regular meals during the school days.

According to him, the Addis Ababa City Administration is investing hugely on SFP to reduce the burden of schoolchildren thereby ensuring quality education. He further noted that, though there are a number of priority areas to be addressed, the City Administration is committed to share and reduce the socioeconomic burden of the family.

“Unless we can build human capital that is capable of undoing the challenges of this nation with the right skills, knowledge, we could not realize the aspiration of prospering Ethiopia. With this in mind, the school feeding program is well underway. All primary schools benefited this program,” he said.

According to him, SFP is playing a vital role in addressing the nutritional needs of schoolchildren in the city and promoting their health as well as well-being, and supporting their educational journey.

Responding to the questions regarding the selection of the Addis Ababa City to share



its school meals program experience to other countries at the first-ever global summit of School Meals Coalition, which was held in Paris, France, the Director said that Addis Ababa deserves the acknowledgement because it is investing on the coming generation.

It is the most relevant program that is helping students who are the hope of this nation to grow and educate well. The program has also created job opportunities for sixteen thousands of women in the metropolitan area.

Understanding all its efforts in SFP, the first-ever global summit of the School Meals Coalition, which was held in Paris, France, has selected Addis Ababa City as a place where other countries can learn from.

In relation to the Addis Ababa City was being tabbed as a model to share its experience, Mayor Adanech Abiebie said that the City’s exemplary achievement in implementing the School Feeding Program has also received plaudits from the School Meals Coalition global summit as the place to learn best experiences from.

The Addis Ababa City Administration will continue to strengthen the implementation of the program as part of the next generation building program, she reaffirmed.

The program is being implemented in all elementary schools in Addis Ababa and created jobs for thousands of women.

In an exclusive interview with *The Ethiopian Herald* School Feeding Quality Control Officer at Kilinto Number one Primary

carefully planned to ensure a balanced, healthy diet that meets the nutritional needs of the children.

According to her, besides addressing the daily needs of students for food and malnutrition challenges, the program has several benefits. It helps to increase school enrollment and attendance rates, improve learning and health outcomes and increase the confidence of families to send their children to school.

Regular meals at school also help children concentrate better in their education, leading to improved academic performance. Furthermore, the program has a positive impact on the local economy by supporting local farmers and those individuals in charge of preparing food for students. Equally important, it also gives relief to schoolteachers as it alleviates the problem of hunger related problems at school.

Yabsira Sisay, 14 and eighth grader, is one of the students in Kilinto Number One Primary School. As she stated to *The Ethiopian Herald*, the school feeding program is benefiting students in various ways.

“I come to school without concern about carrying lunch boxes, because I am sure to have meals at the school. The school provides me food two times a day on school days. This builds my confidence and makes me happy. The same is true for other students too. Everyone is happy. I wish the program is also implemented in preparatory schools, because I am going to join preparatory classes next year,” he remarked.

It is to be recalled that Addis Ababa’s school feeding program won the 2022 Milano Pact Award at the 8th Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP) Summit held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, under the theme “Food to Feed the Climate Justice: urban food solutions for a fairer world”, for its student feeding program ranking top in the Sustainable Diet and Nutrition category beating 133 cities in the world.

The accolade Addis Ababa City received was the first ever award in Africa.

The Addis Ababa City Administration is also striving to make schools more conducive and create a more favorable environment for students aside from the teaching and learning processes.

In this regard, it is implementing primary medical services in most of the government schools in Addis Ababa in an organized manner.

As the Addis Ababa Education Bureau told ENA, schools in the capital apart from providing food, educational materials, uniforms and other support, they are also providing primary healthcare services to students.

According to Head of the Bureau’s Zelalem Mulatu (PhD) in this academic year, complete primary healthcare services are being implemented in most government schools. Mentioning that schools have established links with their nearby health institutions, he said that this enables students to have immediate treatment in case they face problems.

***The Addis Ababa City Administration is investing hugely on SFP to reduce the burden of schoolchildren thereby ensuring quality education***

School Etagegn Girma said that the program involves providing daily fresh meals for students in participating schools. These meals are usually prepared using locally sourced ingredients to support urban agriculture and the economy. The menu is

# Verbatim and Caption

## ENDF: Guardian of Ethiopia, Peace



*The Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) is the emblem of peace both at home and abroad. Safeguarding, restoring and maintaining peace remains the top priority for the Ethiopian Defense Forces. ENDF is the pride and protector of Ethiopia.*

*Thanks to the ENDF, history proves that Ethiopia has never been defeated by any external force.*

### ***Ethiopia never invade any country***

*Ethiopia is a peace loving country and has never invaded any country and it will never. Ethiopia's army is built to safeguard the sovereignty of Ethiopia and peace.*

*Following Ethiopia's need for dialogue on some issues, rumors of invasion threat is being heard. I can assure you that there will never be anything that Ethiopia wants to achieve its aspirations through force and invasion.*

*Ethiopia will pursue to ensure mutual benefits and prosperity through peaceful means. Ethiopia and ENDF stands for peace and we want to live in coexistence with our neighbors.*

**Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) said during the 116th National defense Day**



*ENDF has inviolable values and stances while performing across its tasks while protecting its people and its country. Standing for the people and its country before itself, complete personality, pure humanity and democratic thinking and Excellency in performing tasks are the firm values of ENDF.*

*Achieving the best performance in development, peace keeping and during battle field on the front line are the basic identities of Ethiopian soldiers. ENDF stands for professional discipline. Its victory is the outcome of its professional discipline.*

**Legesse Tulu, Minister, Government Communications Service**

*Ethiopia is a country with a long-lived army that has been protecting the country from enemies together with the people.*

*ENDF is a guardian of Ethiopia and it is impossible to provoke and harass our country. Commemorating the National Army Day aims to honor the heroes and to renew the commitment of ENDF to maintain peace and stability.*

**General Abebaw Tadesse, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army**



*The Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) is more capable and strong than ever to defend and safeguard the national sovereignty, unity and dignity of Ethiopia.*

*ENDF is well equipped army with latest weapons and always ready to safeguard the sovereignty of Ethiopia received from its heroic forefathers. Foreign elements have to refrain from attempts of destructive acts to destabilize Ethiopia by orchestrating internal conflicts.*

*Internal political actors should also have to act based on the constitution of the country. An attempt to take political power using force is absolutely intolerable.*

**Field Marshal Birhanu Jula, Chief of Staff of the Army said during the 116th commemoration of National Defense Day**