



The Ethiopian Herald

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Vol. LXXX No 065 25 November 2023 - Hidar15, 2016 **Saturday** Price Birr 10.00



Nation in good shape to startup powerhouse

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- Ethiopia's startup community, with its dynamic nature and potential, can soon make the country a continental and global startup powerhouse, the Innovation and Technology Minister (MinT) said.

The GIZ's Private Sector Development in Ethiopia (PSD-E) project and EU co-funded BIC Ethiopia co-organized the Ethiopian Startup Ecosystem Festival at Legetafo town of the Oromia State yesterday.

Addressing the festival, MinT State Minister Bayissa Bedade(PhD) said

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Ethiopia invites businesses to mining sector

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA- Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) has advised both local and foreign businesspersons to have a meaningful participation in the mining sector, affirmed his government's holistic

support in their endeavors.

In his opening remark at the International Mining and Technology Expo yesterday, Premier Abiy said Ethiopia has a huge abundance of precious minerals that could greatly benefit investors with little effort.

The government has been conducting assessment research on the country's mining sector potential for the past few years.

He further noted that the Ethiopian government is studying alternate economic sources and making

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Prof. Mesfin Araya

Nat'l Dialogue opportunity to change course of history: Chief Commissioner

BY MENGESHA AMARE

ADDIS ABABA - The National Dialogue would be a cardinal boulevard for Ethiopia to trek on for rebuilding its history, so stated

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Amb. ITO Takako

Japanese Ambassador 'confident' Ethiopia to ensure peace, prosperity

BY ZEKARIAS WOLDEMARIAM

ADDIS ABABA - Applying the resilience that has been showed against various adversities, Ethiopians are well capable of creating durable peace and prosperity in their country, said the outgoing Japanese Ambassador to Ethiopia.

Amb. Ito Takako has expressed her best wishes and urged the Ethiopian people to

get united for peace and prosperity.

She told *The Ethiopian Herald* that Ethiopians should strive to realize peace and prosperity through applying the resilience they have shown while encountering many challenges including the conflicts, flood, droughts, inflation, and desert locusts, among others.

"But Ethiopian people are so resilient. And I think this could be utilized even more for creating the

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News



University says academic freedom crucial to quality education

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA- Academic freedom in the higher learning institutions is essential to ensure quality education across the nation, so stated Addis Ababa University.

Speaking at the conference organized yesterday to discuss academic freedom of higher education institutions in the context of Addis Ababa University (AAU) Interim President, Samuel Kifle (PhD), said that academic freedom is critical to provide learners with quality education in the higher education. AAU is committed to ensuring academic freedom by being self-sufficient, independent and free from political interference.

Academic freedom will create a platform for academicians and intellectuals to engage in a discourse so as to prove them to be conscious of the society. Autonomy as perceived and designed in the proclamation has more freedom in terms of financial, administrative, institutional freedom just to support academic freedom, he said.

He said, "Academic freedom will help Universities to choose academic programs based on the demand of the economy and choice of their students. They could have an opportunity to design programs and Curricula thereby equipping graduates to be competent for the World of the 21st century. The government of Ethiopia has reformed the Education and Training Sector via proclamation for the establishment and reestablishment of Autonomous Universities."

He further underlined that autonomy for academic freedom helps the University Community enjoy quality. Academic freedom will bring a special privilege to the Universities to attract Talent, by freely choosing their students, faculty and researchers.

AAU Chancellor and Education Minister Prof. Birhanu Nega said that academic freedom without institutional freedom could hardly be fruitful.

He further elucidated that ensuring academic freedom in Ethiopia will continue to all higher education institutions in the country as other universities will be made autonomous soon. The commitment of the government to do so is quite high. Addis Ababa University was once known as a place devoid of academic freedom, peculiarly in 1977.

Ethiopia's FTZ creates knowledge, job opportunities to students

BY MISGANAW ASANKE

ADDIS ABABA –Ethiopia's special economic zone, the Dire Dawa Free Trade Zone (FTZ) has created knowledge and job opportunities to university students.

Approached by *The Ethiopian Herald*, Dire Dawa University student Naol Wolteji said that students are getting firsthand information, knowledge and employment opportunities as they are linked to the free trade zone through internship programs.

He stressed that the special economic zone would serve as a research center for further study thereby enabling students and scholars to conduct detailed studies about the whole operation of the free trade zone.

"Focusing on free trade helps get foreign currency, generate income, and hire many people in diversified schemes. It also helps the nation develop economy, substitute importation thereby being the best model from other nations," he said.

Betelhem Dawit, a fourth year manufacturing student believed that the opening of the free trade zone would help students to contribute to their country's development by grasping knowledge and experience.

She expressed that the FTZ especially helps manufacturing students to get more



experience, skills participating through internship programs.

She said, "Here, we need to see different social, economic and political dimensions to facilitate international and national interactions with outside world and be competitive in trade and broader regional integration framework."

The students also underlined that the opening of the free trade zone has provided them with immense employment opportunities.

Inaugurated in August 2022, the Dire

Dawa Free Trade Zone has been walled in duty-free areas that provide warehousing, storage, and distribution facilities for trade, transshipment, and re-export activities. It accommodates 316 residential homes for expats, 15 sheds, four hectares of open storage yard, 48 hectares of serviced land with full infrastructure, 1500 square meters of land for financial institutions, insurance companies, and other auxiliary service providers, shopping centers, showrooms, an exhibition hall, a waste treatment plant, and a one-stop service in the free trade zone.



State constructing museum to preserve heritages

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA - Amhara State Culture and Tourism Bureau has called on citizens preserve heritages at hand until they entered their permanent place at the Amhara People's Museum which is being constructed at a cost of 1.186 billion Birr.

Bureau Heritage Renovate and Conservation Director, Gashayeneh Alef told *The Ethiopian Press Agency* (EPA) that the Amhara People's Museum, which is under construction since November 2022, is intended to protect heritages from damages and help conserve them well across the state.

"The museum comprises a four-storey

building lies on 15,600 square km around the area called Abbay Mado, Bahir Dar City, and the contract was concluded with Amhara Building Works Construction Company; it will complete the work in four years," he noted.

He further stated that since heritage is a manifestation of the history, culture and tradition of the country and its society, it should be well preserved and passed on to the next generation.

"Therefore, people should protect, develop and take care of heritage from human-made and natural disasters. In this regard, the state has more than 138,000 registered heritage sites and it is important to preserve this wealth and make it accessible to all public.

That is why the state attaches due emphasis to constructing of the museum," he said.

The museum will play a deceive role in collecting heritages and registering them, utilizing them for research and investigation, storing heritages with proper manner thereby transcend them to the generation to come. Besides, it helps create conducive environment for tourists and increase tourist inflow, in turn, Gashayeneh stated.

He called up on the societies who are living in and around the heritage sites and stakeholders to play their part in preserving heritages so as to help the nation in general and the state in particular garner the benefit it deserves out of the sector.

News



Nation in good...

the platform on startups is particularly meaningful for the ongoing economic development of Ethiopia and the East African region.

Emphasizing the difficult environment that entrepreneurs, innovators and startups are operating in, Bayissa affirmed the government's commitment to build an entrepreneurial government and also launched NEST (Next Ethiopian Startups-NEST). "If Ethiopia is to truly reap the benefits of the demographic dividends from their sizable young population, it is extremely necessary to support startups driven business creation with a sense of urgency and purpose."

The government will continue collaborating with all relevant stakeholders across different sectors to implement the newly launched national startup initiative NEST and other programs to tackle barriers for young innovative entrepreneurs, he added.

For Ministry of Labor and Skills (MoLS) State Minister Nigussu Tilahun, the journey of progress is exemplified by the collective efforts of organizations, incubators, accelerators, investors, and beneficiaries who have passionately engaged with projects like PSD-E and BIC Ethiopia.

Nigussu also said the festival stands as a testament to the power of partnership and collective action where the partner's commitment to nurturing talent, providing guidance, and investing in the vision of young entrepreneurs has laid the foundation for Ethiopia's burgeoning startup landscape.

Young entrepreneurs' involvement is pivotal in shaping the future trajectory of

Ethiopian startups, ensuring that they have the necessary resources, mentorship, and financial backing to innovate and succeed.

Private Sector Development in Ethiopia Program (PSD -E) GIZ Head Aregash Asfaw for her part said PSD-E has been designing and implementing innovative interventions over the past two years that focuses on enhancing the capacities of selected incubators to benefit their end users-startups to tackle challenges in innovation ecosystem.

Among the capacity development interventions, setting up new demand-oriented services and improving the business models of selected incubators leading towards self-reliance, she added.

The head pointed out that the project aims to enhance the capacities of the innovation ecosystem players, mainly incubators and help them to provide quality demand-driven services to startups and improve their business models.

BIC Ethiopia, which is one of the co-organizer of the festival, capacitates business incubators in supporting agri-tech and agri-business startups and MSMEs to improve market access, generate income and create jobs.

The festival brought together much learning which will serve as important input for future efforts of the key actors toward building a robust ecosystem that will enable startups to thrive, she remarked.

The event was ornamented in an exhibition and fashion show, putting a spotlight on startups from across the country as they displayed their work.

Ethiopia invites...

the mining sector one of the pillars of the national economy. "The country has not been extracted yet. We were trying to know the potential of the mining sector and found surprising amounts and kinds of precious minerals."

The assessment researches that were conducted in different parts of Ethiopia help to identify the country's immense mineral potential. "In Ethiopia from the extreme north to the extreme south, from the east to the west; all regions have a great amount of gold, iron, natural gas, coal, potash and precious stones. The global market has a huge demand for such minerals."

PM Abiy said; however, more research should be conducted to uncover the whole potential. "All the regions of Ethiopia are endowed with a colossal amount of minerals

that could make great profits beyond self-benefiting. It has been confirmed that Ethiopia's mining potential could greatly support all industries. If we sufficiently extract our minerals, we could sufficiently supply the global market beyond satisfying the local demand."

Mining Minister Habtamu Tegegn (Eng.) also stated that the performance of the mining sector needs to be upgraded. The performance and the potential of Ethiopia's mining sector are unmatched due to some challenges and the government will extend strong support to different actors in the area.

Local and foreign companies are displaying their products at the International Mining and Technology Expo- MINTEX that will be held till 28 November.

Nat'l Dialogue ...

National Dialogue Chief Commissioner.

Briefing the media, the National Dialogue Chief Commissioner, Prof. Mesfin Araya stated that the National dialogue would be a golden opportunity for Ethiopia to build its history though it is time consuming and a recurrent process.

As to him, citizens of the country have to make close talks and national consultation about a range of general issues thereby laying the foundation for peaceful resolving of disagreements among the generations to come.

For him, conflict might be resolved through a mechanism devoid of peaceful approach, and this would drop black spot on the history of the generation since there are winners and losers.

"What we have had for the last 50 years is a clear manifestation and ample example for this. However, when conflict is resolved using wholeheartedly framed dialogues and close talks, both parties can be winners so long as they are working for the same cause—making Ethiopia great," he said.

According to Prof. Mesfin, all Ethiopians have to now well capitalize on nonviolent sweats for the fruition of the National Dialogue.

He further elucidated that consultation is of a decisive step to sustain the nation as there are invaluable elements, among others, respect, listening to one another, spirit of complying with the governing ideas.

He said, in due course of conducting dialogue, ideas are generated, flowing from mind to mind, pounded and verified to come up with a well-defined and lasting scheme for peace.

This move would in turn create trust, veneration, as well as spirit of cooperation among citizens thereby boosting their bond, connection and fraternity, he believed.

As to Prof. Mesfin, the National Dialogue helps the country as well to have citizen's eager to device possible solutions to the problems entertaining ideas reconcile them so that it makes all winners.

He stated that the commission is working on creating national consensus via organizing discussion forums and consulting myriads of segments of the society, politicians, opinion leaders about fundamental national issues centering differences and disputable concerns, if any.

Citing that planning to conduct National Dialogue by itself is a promising step, he has urged all Ethiopians not to miss this golden opportunity

Japanese Ambassador...

peace and prosperity in this country," she expressed.

According to ITO under the framework of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) a human resource training center has been completed in Addis Ababa which is going to be the headquarter of a Kai Zen movement that provides the venue, not only for Ethiopians, but for the people from Africa to learn about the Kai Zen philosophy.

ITO mentioned that her Embassy works to helping vulnerable people especially refugees and local unemployed people.

The Ambassador said the refugees and unemployed Ethiopians were able to make money per the number of sand bags they produced which will help build a pond to harvest rain water.

The first female diplomat to be Japanese Ambassador to Ethiopia, ITO indicated that this was one of the best development works carried out in the country as part of the two countries cooperation.

"When the pond was completed, I went to see them, and they were so happy. I was invited to those dancing circle of a Somali women. So happy. They said, "Thank you Japan!" don't forget us, and also make more ponds until that time. I was so moved, that they are so happy with the cooperation we provided," she said.

She stated that Japan has been sending experts to Ethiopian government through the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

She noted that the experts have been working with various ministries and their contribution will further continue. "We think, together, act together, and create new policies together. And that would also continue."

Ito further reiterated that Japan and Ethiopia has a long history, and are both very unique countries in the respective region. Therefore, she noted that people must unite and concentrate their energy on peace and prosperity.

Opinion

Ethio-German historical relations keep up eyeing shared benefits

BY GETACHEW MINAS

There are numerous records related to the historic Ethiopia-German relations. Most of them have already been narrated in several books, numerous documents and publications. Still parts of the historic relations have remained unpublished.

It seems to be an infinite and countless subjects to deal with. Whatever the subject matter or which part of modern history it may be, scholars are bound to identify connections between Germany and Ethiopia in the past centuries. They can detect deep-rooted relationships between these countries.

However, it is difficult to find simple answers for the reasons that led to close relations between them. In general, one may refer to cultural and religious reasons for their closer ties. Religion seems to play a great role in tightening Ethiopia-German contacts. This is especially true to the Christian highlands that always reflected some similarities to that of Germany.

Historians reflect that several similar traditions, ideas, and beliefs in Europe could be observed in the Christian parts of Ethiopia. However, the country was remote enough that it seemed to comprise a fundamentally different and opposite entity. It was, therefore, fascinatingly striking. Christianity was linked to Ethiopia in some cultures and traditions. Ethiopian kings were believed to represent the religions within their kingdoms. Furthermore, in spite of the long distance across the Red Sea or the Nile route, Ethiopia was one of the few non-European countries which had been regularly sending envoys to Europe during the Middle-Ages. The aim of sending emissaries was the creation of associations between the Christian kings, and the conscription of European craftsmen to Ethiopia.

In the beginning, these contacts had been accepted mainly by southern European kingdoms. As a result of such contact, it had been possible to depict the tradition of the Three Holy Kings as a black African that had been associated with Ethiopia. There were also traditional Ethiopian scholars who lectured in Amharic at Berlin University and in Spain, Portugal, and some Italian domains.

However, there were also direct links with Germans as early as the sixteenth century as scholars of the Reformation began to take an interest in Ethiopia. It was known that an old Semitic language was being spoken in Ethiopia and that it was part of the oldest Christian areas of the world. Germany had an Ethiopian Ge'ez manuscript printed in the same century and scholars were engaged with Ge'ez alongside Hebrew and Arabic.

The map of Ethiopia and its neighbors

with an Ethiopian inscription had been published in Germany during the seventeenth century. The Reformation movement, which was mainly directed against the supremacy of the pope and the ignorance of both priesthood and the people, also took interest in Ethiopia. In the same century, the German engagement with Ethiopia turned scientific. Ethiopian scholars had been invited to work together with the German scholars. This resulted in comprehensive works on the language and the history of the region. These had been marked by an exemplar precision, and founded Ethiopian Studies as a scientific field. To be referred to be especially Ludolf's *Historia Aethiopia* of 1681 and his pioneering works on Amharic and Ge'ez. Ludolf was also an influential teacher.

A German scientific expedition had been successful in collecting Ethiopian manuscripts in Egypt, which are today kept in Italy and Paris. An attempt had also been made to organize an alliance of Christian kingdoms, including Ethiopia, against the Turks. At the time Turkey was a superpower that had invaded the neighboring Austrian Empire. But the idea of such a political coalition came too early. All attempts of creating a direct contact through the help of a third party remained ineffective and unsuccessful. However, Christian Ethiopia had begun to attract the interests of the Germans. In line with a new philosophical discourse led by the Immanuel Kant, the earlier works of Ludolf were crucial for creating a positive image of Ethiopia in Germany.

In the latter centuries, Ethiopians visited Germany repeatedly, as missionaries, travelers, workers, and as university lecturers, diplomats, emigrants, and merchants. It is also of great interest to learn about the early German research expeditions, which reached Ethiopia in the early nineteenth century. The first expedition consisted of prominent natural scientists in the coastal region of the Red Sea. Scientific expeditions carried out meteorological, zoological and ethnographical studies in 1830-1834. The most impressive history of that time was certainly the one of the German group that arrived at around the same time. The scientific group identified numerous endemic plants for the first time and wrote useful reports on Ethiopia, which have given insights into the culture and the political situation.

The German scholars, writers, ethnographers, painters and others have shown scientific and professional interest in Ethiopia in the past century. They had served the kings of the country in their profession. They had, for example, built palaces and churches mainly in the northern parts of the country. They had also conducted expeditions into the different

Ethiopia is given priority among countries targeted by development activities of the German government

parts of the country. This was followed by publications of detailed ethnographic and cartographic research materials. These findings further led to expeditions in different localities and borderlands of Ethiopia. Consequently, Ethiopia has provoked the interests of diverse groups within the German-speaking area. Linguists and cultural scientists, missionaries, craftsmen, and emigrants had developed interest on Ethiopia. Today, Ethiopia is given priority among countries targeted by development activities of the German government.

In recent years, one achievement was the creation of the five volumes of *Encyclopedia Ethiopia* at Hamburg University which was published in 2003–2014. Over 400 scholars have participated contributing over 4000 articles on biographies of historical personalities. They also wrote on languages, regions and ancient and modern settlements, ethnic groups and clans, religious traditions and cultural phenomena. They included historical events, Ethiopian manuscripts, ancient inscriptions, churches, mosques and other religious centers, etc.

Currently, a new chapter has just been opened, the outcome of which is not yet known. Studies are increasingly undertaken by local researchers that may give new perspectives. Currently, German–Ethiopian relations are more multi-faceted than they used to be.

Researchers have identified that there is a larger migration taking place in both directions. Moreover, there are numerous individual and official relations between various agencies and the two governments. Economically speaking, the German enterprises have been engaged in a number of activities that generated output and employment for Ethiopia.

Germany helped in setting the Medical College in Gonder and during the great famine of the 1980s, the *Menschen für Menschen* organization gained special recognition for its assistance and its founder Karlheinz Böhm became an honorary citizen of the country. The GTZ has recently been successful in construction of cobbled streets, which are very useful and popular among Ethiopians.

The Ethiopian emigrants in Germany have registered remarkable achievements in various fields. In recent years, many Ethiopian universities have been assisted by Germany to develop and link them with the international academic world.

Recently, the leaders of numerous African countries arrived in Berlin to discuss closer economic cooperation with Europe. The “Compact with Africa” (CwA) conference focused on increasing private-sector investment in the African continent. It also focused on cooperation on sustainable energy supply. The conference was initiated by Germany during its G20 presidency in 2017. The aim of the conference was to enhance the economic framework conditions in the CwA countries with the objective of making them more attractive to private investors from abroad. Currently, thirteen African countries belong to this group and these are in alphabetical: Egypt, Ethiopia, Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Morocco, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo and Tunisia.

Other countries are also interested in joining the group. Thus, representatives from Angola, Kenya and Zambia are supposed to join the meeting in Berlin. The summit in Berlin is attended by the EU Commission, EU Council, France, and Netherlands. The host, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, has met with several bilateral and individual leaders. Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier has invited the participants to lunch at Bellevue Palace.

Ethiopian PM has used the opportunity to have access to EU support for economic development of his country. Ethiopia has been able to win the confidence and support of bilateral and multilateral institutions. These institutions are in a position to support Ethiopia provided that it meets their normal conditions of development assistance. This will definitely enhance the flow of assistance to Ethiopia from the EU countries, especially from Germany. The historic and positive Ethiopia-Germany economic and social relations will continue for the benefit of all.

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

Editorial

Exploring potentials to boost wheat production, productivity

Years have passed since Ethiopia began exerting maximum effort on wheat development with the initiation of its Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (Ph.D). As a result of attention paid to the initiation, currently it could cultivate wheat not only in the main rainy season (June to August) but also in the summer season through irrigation.

Indeed, it is essential to focus on this crop as it is the input for various food items including bread, cakes, cookies, pasta, macaroni, porridge and others which are easy and quick to prepare. It is the main dish for all families not only in Ethiopia but also elsewhere across the globe.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, one million hectares of land have been covered with seeds for summer irrigated wheat cultivation this fiscal year. State Minister of Agriculture Meles Mekonen (Ph.D) disclosed that as Ethiopia is very suitable for wheat production, it is working to make it effective by carrying out wheat cultivation in three rounds a year. So far, more than one million hectares of land has been covered with seeds through summer irrigation wheat cultivation.

He explained that more efforts are being made to increase wheat production and productivity this year. It is planned to harvest 147 million quintals by covering three million hectares of land with wheat crops this year through irrigation alone.

Earlier, since there was a huge gap between wheat production and supply due to the increasing demand associated with the surge in urban population, wheat importation was mandatory to fill the gap. The State Minister said that the country used to spend no less than one billion US dollars annually to import wheat. Recently however, it was possible to avoid this cost due to the focus on wheat cultivation in the last four years.

True, it does not suit Ethiopia to be called a country that is supported by wheat while it has the potential to develop. This wheat development has enabled it to meet its domestic consumption by itself and also supply it to the foreign market. This success should be taken as a part of the revolution against poverty. It is not achieved as easily as we talk. Rather, it required the government to go a long distance in research, demonstration and awareness creation among farmers in different parts of the country.

The challenge was convincing the farmers to bring their farmlands to a cluster scheme instead of struggling on small plots of land with insufficient outcome. Besides, the government has gone further to introduce wheat to new areas that had not been familiar with its cultivation like in Afar region in the Awash Valley. Through time, other regions also gained lessons and began to engage in wheat cultivation either for the first time or intensifying the existing experience and upgrading their performance.

Moreover, it is necessary to think that there will be many more challenges in the effort to increase the production and productivity of wheat as the State Minister pointed out that damage caused by pests and diseases is a big challenge since using modern methods. To prevent the diseases, the work of training and coordinating field deployment of experts is being done.

As of the State Minister, in the last four years, extensive work has been done to cultivate wheat. He said that it has been possible to achieve more than the plan every year due to being able to work with focus and coordination from top to bottom.

The effort exerted in the scheme testifies that the government is committed to intensify the wheat revolution as a part of securing food self-sufficiency. Not only that, it can be taken as a benchmark to replicate the experience gained in wheat to other crops and thereby assuring food security.



The Ethiopian Herald

Established in 1943

Published daily except Mondays
By The Ethiopian Press Agency

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The Ethiopian Herald

Opinion

Infrastructure awaiting pharmaceutical industries

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

Pharmaceuticals have been used to treat illnesses for thousands of years. The early days of medication included plants and herbal remedies to treat a variety of diseases and traumas.

Today, the long and complex journey to demonstrate the safety and efficacy of a compound and bring it from the laboratory into the hands of patients in need is a multi-billion-dollar global industry. Pharmaceutical companies continually strive for innovative new treatments that help people live longer and healthier lives. These therapies are developed, manufactured, marketed, and distributed around the world by pharmaceutical companies every day.

In Ethiopia, the first manufacturing plant, the Ethiopian Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Share Company, was established in 1964 and was the only operator for decades. In the 1990s, a few more firms established manufacturing operations, but at less than half of their installed capacity. These companies together could meet only 15–20% of the national demand for essential medicines.

Compelling public health interests and the growing healthcare demand are driving Ethiopia to identify pharmaceutical manufacturing as a priority area, as reflected in the development of a national strategy and plan of action for local pharmaceutical production. Dedicated pharmaceutical industry parks have been established, and attractive incentive schemes for local manufacturers have been formulated. If the relatively modest available resources are to be directed appropriately, it is important to have a clear description of the sector's landscape and a proper understanding of its essential features.

Government support is important in the short to medium term to encourage growing pharmaceutical industries in developing countries to become competitive and to channel their growth in accordance with the objectives of health policy.

The Ethiopian government provided various kinds of support to the local pharmaceutical industry to promote import substitution, export growth, transfer of technology, job creation, and increase the production of essential medicines to improve access. The Ethiopian Government believes its support and encouragement to produce value-added products for the export market will increase foreign exchange and lay the basis for more rapid industrial development.

Ethiopian government procurement systems give preference to local pharmaceutical companies and offer advanced payment of up to 30% of the value of orders. In some cases, technical assistance and consulting support are also given to help companies comply with international drug manufacturing standards. Indirect governmental support includes strengthening FMHACA, establishing the Food, Beverage, and Pharmaceuticals Industry Development Institute (FBPIDI), and laying the groundwork for policies and

incentives designed to encourage investment in and development of the sector.

In order to satisfy public demand and export pharmaceutical products, attracting international companies is decisive. The primary inquiry of the local and international inventors is getting an area of land so as to construct a manufacturing plant. When you are interested in investing in Ethiopia, this is not a matter that makes you bother.

The government of Ethiopia, especially the Industrial Parks Development Corporation (IPDC), has created a conducive working environment for investors in the pharmaceutical sector. As a result, the investment opportunity in the pharmaceutical manufacturing sector in Ethiopia is lucrative.

The pharmaceutical sector in Ethiopia is heavily import-dependent, with few domestic producers supplying less than 10 percent of the half-billion-dollar market. They are also producing limited therapeutic drugs, medical supplies and instruments, medical apparatus, and veterinary medicines.

The government of Ethiopia prioritized the development of the pharmaceutical sector by tailoring the environment to enhance domestic manufacturing and establishing dedicated public organs for effective policy implementation.

The country's strong economic growth, improvements in the delivery of health care services, the introduction of social health insurance coverage across the country, and increasing public health awareness and disposable income, diagnosis, and treatment are indicators of a surge in pharmaceutical product consumption in Ethiopia.

IPDC has invited investors, both domestic and foreign, to invest in Kilinto Industry Park, which is located in Addis Ababa, close to Bole International Airport.

Several foreign investors engaged in the pharmaceutical manufacturing sector have been expressing interest in investing in Kilinto Industrial Park. Kilinto Industrial Park is one of the 13 parks developed by the government of Ethiopia that specialize in the manufacturing of pharmaceuticals. The Park is currently hosting various international and local investors and companies in the pharmaceutical sector.

Ethiopia offers an exciting investment and export opportunity for foreign pharmaceutical companies. The production of quality and competitive pharmaceutical products for export and the domestic market is one of the key manufacturing focus areas of the government's new 10-year perspective development plan for 2021–2030.

Now that the majority of African countries have ratified the Continental Africa Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), Ethiopia has the potential to serve as an export hub for the >20 billion pharmaceutical market in Africa.

Taking the aforementioned investment opportunities into account, Ethiopia opens its doors and facilitates conditions for local and international investors to do business in Ethiopia.

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

Art & Culture

Happiness

BY SENAIT G/HIWOT

According to the podcast of Oprah Winfrey and Arthur Brooks (social scientist) on YouTube ...

People are less happy nowadays and social media plays a role in this because it is a means to compare themselves to one another. Social media makes people lonely because it is the junk food of social life. You'll binge and get lonelier.

Happiness is not a destination it is a direction.

There is no such thing as complete happiness. If you are completely happy you will be dead in a week, you need negative emotions to keep you alive and safe.

The 4 pillars that you think you need are Money, power, pleasure, fame... Mother Nature makes us think that we want these things to survive and she keeps us running. On the contrary if we get these things we will be happy. Faith, family, friends and work are the ones that serve. Sharing makes

people happy.

1. Enjoyment

It is the source of pleasure you can get from people that you love, memories...

Addiction is a love to something that gets instant pleasure that doesn't last ... it is unhealthy. Usually we get addicted to things as a compensation for our negative feelings. Negative feelings are normal and should be treated as such... not as something to be cured from.

2. Satisfaction

We are made to make progress and satisfaction keeps as trying. It's a moment of joy which doesn't last. If you don't struggle there is no satisfaction.

3. Purpose

It is the essence of your life. It answers the question why are you alive and for what are you willing to die today.



The power of metacognition

You are not your emotions, metacognition is thinking about thinking. It is putting a distance between your feelings and your reaction on purpose... it will make life different. Once you know this skill, you will know that emotions are just information and observe as if it is happening to somebody else. You can change your feelings by the

way you respond to it. For example if a depressed person jokes and lightens the mood once in a while he will feel better. Our brain is adopted to magnify the negative experiences in life... we just should know how to respond to it.

Gratitude is the key to happiness. Being conscious of what you have is crucial... For a happier life you can write down things you are grateful for.

A bereaved-turned lover

BY ALEM HAILU G/KRISTOS

In my favorite
Big and busy café
Attired in full black
A new cashier girl
When it comes
To beauty
And elegance
Infinitesimal piece
That doesn't lack
Smote by grief
Stuck out from
The waitresses' pack.
Overwhelmed by
A strangely
Overriding attraction
I started from afar
To express to her
A covert affection
Soon to develop
Romantic tension.
Sensing my crush on her
Slowly began she
To reciprocate
Expectant of a request
For a date.
Trying to fan
Love's ember
I acquired her
Phone number
"I share your grief
I wish to do anything
That could lend you
A relief!"
"My sorrow is deep
I never forget
My deceased husband
Whenever I sit
Also nightlong
I weep."
"If you are
In a position

About the cause
Of death
To speak
Why
The angel of death
Opted quick
Him to pick?"
"It was a tragic accident
Eager, while crossing
The road
Seeing me from afar
He was hit
And knocked down
By a reckless car.
By the tragic event
Not only was I
Striped off
My love star
On par a polestar
I also suffered
Mental trauma
My life that could mar.
Shunned by
His parents
A bad luck
Subject to a financial lack
On my poor parents
I have to fall back."
"Is that why
You started this job
In black robe?"
"Besides working as
A bee juggling
Two jobs
I have to cover up
College
Distance education fee
While discussing we two
Further education status
He talked me into."
"I must admit



With love
You have
Swept me
Off my feet
To turn your life sweet
Offer opportunities
To me a bit"
"From my first marriage
I came out
Without a child
How do you react
To a similar situation
If me you find?"
"For that reason
Our affection
We can't abort
To adoption
We can resort.
As an aside
How come you decide
The problem
Was on your side?"
"Yes after medical exam
On adoption
We can decide."

Predators are predatory

(Short Story)

BY DESALEGN DAGNEW

Everything seems a ruinous outburst. It is just like an outburst emanating from a deep silence. The mother ape and its baby were strolling in the shade of a tree in the heart of a jungle, only the winds whistle around their ears was audible.

They both were oblivious of the cautions they must carefully abide by to survive, for in that vicinity death stalks feeble preys. Hence death by itself could be unplanned and untimely. Life in the jungle obligates conscious movement. Always one has to be on the toes. One needs to be conscious each time. He has to run away from predators.

The little ape was in a deep sleep clinging on her mom's bosom. Wherever they are, mothers are the best protectors of their babies, the best mentors to know and the best feeders for hungry babies. When such delicate creatures rest in the shade of a tree, predators scoop down on them to end their lives. The little ape was trying to run God knows where unconsciously. But her mother was under the grip of the big beast's teeth. She was dangling from there.

The little ape tried to run as far as her leg could carry her, but where? Willy-nilly she returned back to her mother, the predator beast continued strolling with an air of a victor gripping the mother ape by its neck. The little ape clung to her mother's belly in panic. Six months old, death was not registered in the dictionary of her life. Hopping, Jumping from one branch to another along with her mother was daily routines for the little apes.

Every creature comes to this world free. But in the process they experience hunger, then fear and finally death.

"Where are we going mama?" the little ape uttered to get answer, but her mom was not responding. But there was some movement. So she felt a sense of relief.

The tiger thought of disciplining the little ape murmuring in a disturbing manner.



Preys are created to fill predator's belly in the universe of jungles, this rule has been there for a million years.

"We are created to eat bananas but the tigers, lions, hyenas what have you are created to devour us, nature is not fair for apes," this message of the mother ape didn't sink well in the daughter ape's mind a month ago.

"Mom... Where are we going?" The little ape continued murmuring. Only the tiger's footfall was audible. A pinching by way of a warning could not separate the baby ape from her mother. So the petty ape was going unto death hand to hand with her mom.

The little ape became brief like her mom. The times they lived, the resources they tapped and the stories they created remain not chronicled unlike humans. From start to finish the jungle was the backdrop of their lives.

Haunted by predators the poor creatures have no inkling of their fate. They just eat, rest and run, and enjoy the moment. These are all they knew. Some incidents are merciless in the animal's world. The predators are predatory, and their world is their stomachs. They never build villas, nor do they deposit money. The cheetah, the hyena, the lion are on rampages simply to fill their bellies.

Before her death the poor little ape was breathing heavily not knowing how long the tragic episode lasts.

Law & Politics

A united front against terrorism

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

Terrorism poses a grave threat to global security and stability. Its impact reverberates far beyond individual nations affecting regional and international peace. It is for this reason that many argue fighting terrorism necessitates a united front and collective response.

International cooperation is essential in preventing the spread of radical ideologies and dismantling terrorist networks. By sharing intelligence, resources, and expertise, nations can enhance their capabilities to detect and disrupt terrorist plots. Besides, by strengthening border control measures and information sharing mechanisms, countries can impede the movement of terrorists across national boundaries, thereby minimizing their ability to carry out attacks.

The fight against terrorism requires sustained commitment and unwavering determination. It is an ongoing battle that demands long-term cooperation and collaboration among countries, international organizations. The IGAD region is no different. It is crucial for every country in the IGAD region to acknowledge that this issue extends beyond their own borders as terrorism can have widespread consequences.

To combat the global problem, international organizations such as the United Nations, Interpol, and regional bodies like the African Union and the European Union have a vital role to play in coordinating and supporting collective counterterrorism efforts. These organizations can facilitate dialogue, provide technical assistance and mobilize resources to strengthen the capacity of countries in their fight against terrorism.

By pooling their collective strengths, countries can enhance their capabilities in identifying and disrupting potential terrorist threats. Through collaborative efforts, nations can create a united front against terrorism minimizing its impact and preventing its spread across borders.

It is vital to foster international partnerships that promote information sharing and joint coordination in the fight against terrorism. The exchange of intelligence and best practices allows countries to learn from one another's experiences and successes further strengthening their collective efforts. Furthermore, establishing regional alliances and mechanisms can facilitate collaboration on a broader scale enabling countries to respond effectively to the ever-evolving nature of terrorism.

While countries may face direct consequences, the repercussions of terrorism extend far beyond their borders impacting neighboring nations and the international community as a whole. Recognizing this interconnectedness is paramount in developing a united and comprehensive response strategy. By integrating regional efforts, countries can collectively address the consequences of terrorism and forge a path towards lasting peace and security.



Providing accessible and quality education to all individuals, especially the youth can nurture critical thinking and help mitigate the conditions that contribute to the radicalization process. Collaborative educational initiatives among countries can foster a greater understanding of cultural diversity, promoting empathy and respect among different communities.

Nations must work together to strengthen legal frameworks and improve cross-border cooperation in investigations, prosecutions, and extraditions. Cooperation among nations can facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experiences in implementing effective poverty alleviation programs empowering individuals and communities economically and providing alternative pathways for social and economic development.

By harmonizing laws and procedures and sharing intelligence on terrorist activities, nations can enhance their collective ability to bring terrorists to justice and disrupt their networks effectively. Through collaboration with international entities, nations can benefit from shared expertise, knowledge, and technical assistance, thus enhancing their effectiveness in combating terrorism. Sharing timely and accurate information is crucial in preventing terrorist activities from taking place.

Security agencies and political organizations also play a vital role in combating terrorism. They can facilitate dialogue and cooperation at the policy level coordinating efforts to address the root causes of terrorism and develop comprehensive strategies and initiatives. Through political collaboration, governments can promote legislation that supports counter-terrorism efforts while upholding fundamental human rights principles.

Once a credible threat is identified, it is important to respond promptly and effectively. This requires well-coordinated efforts among security agencies, political organizations, and the legal system ensuring that appropriate actions are taken to mitigate risks while respecting the rights of individuals involved.

The consequences of terrorism can be felt globally, as it poses a threat to international security and stability. Thus, it is important for all countries to understand that

combating terrorism is not only in their own interest, but also in the interest of the entire international community.

Throughout the entire process of counterterrorism, it is vital to uphold and protect human rights. This includes ensuring that individuals suspected of involvement in terrorism are treated fairly and in accordance with the law. By adhering to legal and ethical standards, counterterrorism efforts can maintain legitimacy and gain the support of the public contributing to its overall success.

Governments must provide regular updates and reports on their counterterrorism activities and outcomes to ensure transparency and build public trust. Furthermore, mechanisms should be in place to hold accountable those who abuse their powers or violate human rights during counterterrorism operations.

Continuous training and capacity-building initiatives are necessary for all actors involved in counterterrorism efforts. Providing relevant education and skill development programs can empower security agencies, political organizations, and the public to better understand and respond to the ever-changing nature of terrorism.

It is also important to acknowledge the importance of international assistance and support in countering terrorism in the Horn of Africa. Developed countries, multilateral organizations, and regional partners can provide technical expertise, financial resources, and capacity-building initiatives to strengthen the capabilities of affected nations. This collaboration can facilitate the transfer of knowledge, resources, and training necessary for effective counterterrorism efforts.

By promoting understanding, tolerance, and peaceful coexistence, governments can bridge societal divides and promote unity, dismantling the extremist narrative and reducing the appeal of terrorist groups. Combating terrorism in the Horn of Africa requires concerted effort and collaboration among nations and societies worldwide.

The problem of terrorism requires a united and cooperative approach that involves the collaboration of multiple stakeholders. By working together, countries can effectively combat terrorism and foster a more secure and peaceful world for

all. A united approach can also address the root causes and underlying factors that contribute to the rise of terrorism. This includes addressing issues such as poverty, inequality, political grievances, and extremist ideologies.

By addressing these root causes collectively, countries can work towards creating a more stable and inclusive society that is less susceptible to the ideologies propagated by terrorist groups.

The Executive Secretary of Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) called on member states and the international community to scale up their support to fight against terrorism in the Horn of Africa, according to information obtained from Ethiopian News Agency.

It is recalled that addressing the 3rd State of the IGAD Region Session, Workneh Gebeyehu, Executive Secretary said that 2023 is a critical year for the fight against terrorism in Somalia.

The executive secretary underlined the threat of terrorism, though unsuccessful, seeks to weaken the unity of the east African region.

As a result of the threat that has remained in the region, Workneh called on the IGAD member states and the international community to reinforce support in fighting against terrorism particularly, in neutralize Al-Shabab in Somalia.

“2023 is therefore a critical year for the fight against terrorism in Somalia. We call upon IGAD Member States and the international community at large to scale-up support to President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud and the Somali National Security Forces to finally neutralize the group.”

Specifically, IGAD appeals for increased regional, continental and international support for the African Union (AU) Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) which is working together with the Somalia Security Forces, the executive secretary noted.

According to him, this support from partners would have a more lasting and effective remedy to the problem of terrorism in Somalia, with a strong emphasis on the protection of civilians.

IGAD commends the government, security forces and people of Somalia for the recent gains and sustained efforts to counter the influence of the Al-Shabab terrorist group, Workneh added.

Speaking on the political and diplomatic level, Workneh said IGAD shall continue to work with its partners within the quartet framework that convenes IGAD, the AU, the European Union and the United Nations to coordinate joint efforts towards ensuring peace, security and development of member states.

IGAD also takes note of the recent tensions in Laascaanood, Somaliland at the end of 2022 which became a matter of concern considering the significant number of civilian deaths and casualties, he pointed out.

People must unite and concentrate their energy on peace and prosperity,

ITO Takako

BY ZEKARIAS WOLDEMARIAM

After serving as Japanese Ambassador to Ethiopia for the last three years, Ito Takako has wound up her assignment here and is ready to leave Ethiopia and resume her career in Chile. For many Ethiopians, Ito has been one of the most notable Ambassadors of countries based here in Addis Ababa.

Since her arrival three years ago, Ambassador ITO has actively engaged in a series of meetings with Ethiopian government officials and diplomatic missions, as well as making a lot of work trips across Ethiopia, and has made significant achievements in promoting diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and Japan. In particular, during former Japanese Foreign Minister Hayashi's visit to Ethiopia this summer, Amb ITO arranged official talks with Prime Minister Abiy (Ph.D) and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Demeke, which provided an opportunity for high-level face-to-face dialogue on supporting Ethiopia's rehabilitation and strengthening bilateral economic ties.

Ambassador ITO has given many interviews on a number of occasions, including during ceremonies and cultural events in different places across Ethiopia, many Ethiopian people know her through her many appearances on TV and media. She is now well-known with many Ethiopian people owing to her deep understanding of this country, as well as her cheerful, beloved personality.

The Ambassador's arrival in Ethiopia came at a time when Ethiopia was facing a number of hardships, including the situation in Tigray. During this challenging period, Ambassador ITO used the wide networks that she had built up to provide accurate information and analysis of the situation to our Headquarters more than anyone else, and proactively offered her opinion on the correct response by the Japanese Government.

Ambassador ITO has deepened exchanges not only with female ministers of the Ethiopian Government, but also with businesswomen and female athletes in the private sector. And she has been going the extra mile to support Ethiopian women in hardship through Japan's ODA projects. For instance, recently Ambassador ITO visited and witnessed safe houses for GBV victims run by local NGOs in Addis Ababa and Mekelle, and managed to support the construction of a dormitory building for survivors of GBV. She took third place among female Ambassadors in the Great Ethiopian Run last Sunday.

Born on August 30, 1961 ITO Graduated from Sophia University, Faculty of Law on March 1985. She joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on April 1985. She has served the Ministry on different capacities including the Deputy Director of Asia-Europe Cooperation Division, Economic Affairs Bureau, Senior Deputy Director of Economic Partnership Division, Economic Affairs Bureau, Principle Deputy Director of Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs Division Foreign Policy Bureau, August 2009 Director, Development Assistance Policy Planning Division with International Cooperation Bureau, Counsellor at Embassy of Japan in Indonesia, Counsellor at Mission of Japan to the Association of Southeast Asia Nations, Assistant Press Secretary / Director at International Press Division, Principle Deputy Chief of Protocol, Consulate-General of Japan in Toronto.

On December 22, 2020, Japanese Ambassador ITO Takako presented her Letter of Credentials to Sahle-Work Zewde, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. Ambassador ITO was committed to carrying out her duties as Ambassador of Japan to Ethiopia in order to further promote bilateral relations between the two countries. While she was assigned as an ambassador to Ethiopia, the two nations were celebrating the 90th anniversary of the establishment of their diplomatic relations.

Indeed, ITO will be missed by the people of Ethiopia to whom she was very close at a time of adversity. On the occasion of her farewell The Ethiopian Herald has interviewed Ito about her three years of career in Ethiopia. Enjoy reading!



“

Japan and Ethiopia has a long, long history, and we are both very unique countries in the respective region. And we should be able to achieve something new. And people must unite and concentrate their energy on peace and prosperity

Continued to Page 9

Herald Guest

Continued from Page 8



Could you tell me your impression about Ethiopia during the last three years of tenure as Ambassador of Japan to Ethiopia?

My impression of the last three years is that there are so many challenges in this country, including the conflicts, flood, droughts, inflation, and desert locusts. But Ethiopian people are so resilient. I think it is the strength of people and this could be utilized even more for creating the peace and prosperity in this country.

Out of all the jobs, as an Ambassador of Japan to Ethiopia, which ones would you like to mention as your best performances during the last three years?

We have completed this TICAD, Tokyo International conference on African Development, human resource training center in Addis Ababa. This is going to be the headquarter of a Kai Zen movement and provides the venue, not only for Ethiopians, but for the people from Africa to learn about the Kai Zen philosophy. And that would definitely increase the efficiency of profitability of the business. And that would help the people. And that's the way we invest in people.

And about the overall cooperation between Japan and Ethiopia what would you like to mention, especially in capacity building, and other kinds of corporations?

There are many things that we've been doing. Kai Zen institute is definitely one. And I think that would be going under this training center. So I will leave it to them, but for the people to people helping the people in a very vulnerable situation. That is something that we try to do. We made a few huge ponds together with ILO, so those refugees and the local people who did not have job. They made some sandbags and also spend some hours to make the fund

based on the number of the sand bags they made were based on the hours they worked, we paid to them. Eventually, there's a huge pond where the rain water can stay. When it was completed, I went to see them, and they were so happy. And then, especially when I'm a female ambassador, I was invited to those dancing circle of a Somali woman. So happy. They said, "Thank you Japan!" don't forget us, and also make more ponds until that time. I was so moved, that they are so happy with the cooperation we provided.

Your embassy has been participating in various developing activities including supporting the government and people of Ethiopia in the past three years. How do you see their impact and the contribution?

Through JICA, Japan has been sending experts to Ethiopian government with many ministries. So they are working together with Ethiopian people who are in the middle of the reform policy decision making that would certainly help. And this is the way of a corporation that Japan provides. We think, together, act together, and create new policies together. And that would also continue.

Thank you for allowing me your precious time for the interview. If you want to leave a message for the people and government of Ethiopia, please take the chance!

Japan and Ethiopia has a long, long history, and we are both very unique countries in the respective region. And we should be able to achieve something new. And people must unite and concentrate their energy on peace and prosperity. I wish all the best for the Ethiopian people, and I urge them to unite for peace and prosperity.

Thank you very much. We also wish you all the best in future career.

Thank you.

International

Climate change: US and China take 'small but important steps'

The US and China have agreed on measures to tackle climate change but stopped short of committing to end fossil fuels, a joint statement said.

The world's biggest carbon emitters will step up co-operation on methane and support global efforts to triple renewable energy by 2030.

But the document is silent on the use of coal, and the future of fossil energy.

Observers said it was a positive sign ahead of a UN climate summit.

The joint statement comes as the presidents of both countries prepare to meet in California, with climate change representing one of the few areas of potential progress.

For over a year US diplomats have been trying to find a way forward with China after Beijing suspended climate talks after the visit of US Speaker Nancy Pelosi to Taiwan.

Last week those efforts saw US climate envoy John Kerry meet with his Chinese counterpart, Xie Zhenhua, for three days

of negotiations that have led to this agreed position.

Both countries reaffirmed their commitment to a global tripling of renewable energy this decade, as previously agreed at this year's G20 meeting in India.

Both also stated that there would be "meaningful absolute power sector emission reductions" by 2030.

However, a reduction in the use of coal isn't mentioned in the document and there's no discussion of the ending of fossil fuels, something that the president of the UN climate conference, known as COP28, has said is a key focus for the meeting.

"It's small but important steps on climate change," said Bernice Lee, a distinguished Fellow at Chatham House and an expert on China.

"But progress on fossil fuels wasn't what I expected to see, as they both have constraints," she told BBC News.

"My suspicion is that it has proven to be too difficult to find the form of language

that works for both. But nonetheless, I think it's good that they have a statement that's focused on the things they agree on, which is, obviously, the renewables and methane."

That focus on methane is seen as important for the world as the gas is an extremely potent warming chemical in the short term.

When countries agreed the Global Methane Pledge at COP26 in Glasgow, and aimed to reduce emissions of methane by 30% by 2030, China wasn't among the signatories.

The world's second largest economy doesn't currently count methane as a warming gas in its submissions to the UN.

But according to the statement, the two countries will now include all greenhouse gases including methane in their next round of national climate plans.

"This announcement is a major step because China is the world's largest methane emitter and serious actions to curb this gas is essential for slowing global warming in the near-term," said David Waskow from the World Resources Institute.

The two countries have also said they will jointly host a methane and non-CO2 gas summit at COP28.

The statement will certainly boost the mood of delegates preparing to attend COP28 in Dubai from 30 November.

Amid warnings from scientists that 2023 will be the warmest year on record and with political divisions over Gaza, Ukraine and many other issues, hopes for significant progress at the gathering have been muted.

The fact that even the big divisions between China and the US can be overcome for the sake of the planet is bound to have an impact on others.

"While the two of them can't deliver everything, the US and China coming together to find a way to try and co-operate makes it harder for other countries to hide behind superpower rivalries," said Bernice Lee.

"It certainly sets a better atmosphere for COP28 than there was before."

(Source: BBC)

Society

The power of proper children books to nurture ethical citizen

BY LEULSEGED WORKU

As a society rooted in traditional cultures and value systems, Ethiopians have various methods of passing on knowledge and wisdom to the younger generation. One powerful medium for conveying cultural heritage and values is through children's books.

Children's books that feature diverse characters and cultures play a crucial role in representation. When children encounter characters who resemble them or share their cultural backgrounds, they feel acknowledged and appreciated. This representation helps foster a positive sense of identity and self-worth among children.

Experts agree that children's books serve as windows into different cultures, traditions, and ways of life. They introduce children to diverse customs, languages, and perspectives, promoting cultural awareness and understanding. Through stories, children can explore the richness and diversity of the world, while developing respect for different cultures.

In recent times, a consultation forum was organized in Adama town to discuss the role of children's books in nurturing moral values and preserving cultural identity. The event focused on the growth and challenges of children's books in Ethiopia.

During the forum, Nefisa Almahad, the State Minister of Culture and Sport, Arts and Creative Development Sector, emphasized the importance of expanding and developing children's books. She underscored their significance in educating future generations with proper ethical values and moral systems.

Nefisa stressed the need for collaborative efforts in the development of children's literature, enabling children to have a deep understanding of their culture, history, and identity from an early age. She emphasized the importance of giving attention to the preparation and accessibility of children's books, as this is crucial in ensuring that the future generation is well-informed about their identity and their country. She highlighted that investing in children's books is an investment in the future of the nation.

Furthermore, Nefisa addressed the issue of parents exerting pressure on their children to prioritize foreign languages, particularly English, over local languages. She also noted a trend where parents encourage their children to consume Western movies instead of nurturing them with local cultural values. She emphasized the benefits of preserving and promoting local cultural values for the well-being of children, families, and the entire nation.

During the forum, scholars shed light on



Nurturing ethical citizen via proper children books



Parents have responsibilities in selecting the right book for their children

the challenges facing Ethiopian children's books. They highlighted several gaps that still exist in the realm of children's literature, including issues related to quality, production, content, knowledge, cultural relevance, and more. These challenges require careful consideration and attention.

They also emphasized the importance of diverse content and formats to make children's books accessible and engaging. The government and stakeholders were encouraged to address these issues in order to enhance the development of children's literature in Ethiopia.

One of the presenters at the forum, Yetagezu Atnafu, conducted a study on children's books and emphasized the lack of proper research and understanding in key areas such as content, preparation, language proficiency, cultural relevance, and the developmental needs of children.

According to Yetagezu, it is crucial

for authors in the field to possess the necessary knowledge and skills to create high-quality children's books. In order to achieve this, he suggested that universities and training centers play a significant role in developing the expertise, skills, and capacity required for preparing children's books.

He further stressed the importance of publishing children's books in diverse content and formats to ensure accessibility for children. This involves considering different themes, genres, and styles that cater to children's reading practice and entertainment. He called upon the government and stakeholders in the sector to prioritize this aspect of children's book development.

Indeed, as it is attested by experts, children's books offer a window into different cultures, traditions, and lifestyles. They introduce children to diverse customs, languages, and perspectives, fostering

cultural awareness and understanding. Through stories, children can learn about the richness and diversity of the world and develop respect for different cultures. Promoting empathy and inclusion is one aspect of children books. It is well understood that children's books that depict characters from various cultures and backgrounds help children develop empathy and understanding for others. They learn to appreciate differences, embrace diversity, and cultivate inclusive attitudes. By reading stories that showcase different experiences, children can develop a sense of belonging and learn to celebrate diversity rather than fear it.

What is more, children's books can help them to explore and understand their own cultural identity. Ethiopia-as a land of different Nation, Nationalities and peoples- has a lot to provide to children. Stories that reflect the various cultural heritage, traditions, and values of Ethiopian peoples can provide them a platform for self-reflection and connection to their roots. It allows children to ask questions, explore their identity, and develop a sense of pride in their cultural background. This is one way of identity exploration. All cultural values and systems are not always constructive and helpful to children. There are several cultural practices and stereotypes that block the minds of children from seeing beyond the horizon. In this regard, children books have a key role to help them to see things from different perspectives.

Children's books have the power to challenge stereotypes and break down cultural barriers. By portraying diverse characters in non-stereotypical ways, books can challenge preconceived notions and promote a more accurate understanding of different cultures. This helps children develop a more nuanced and inclusive worldview.

Building bridges and fostering dialogue is the other advantage of children's book. Whenever little children build a culture of dialogue and asking questions they will be able to develop a new experience of addressing questions, share experiences, explore new culture and identities, and expand their mind horizon. In other word, children's books that explore culture and identity can spark meaningful conversations and discussions among children, parents, and educators. Through these conversations and exploration children will develop a sense of fostering mutual respect and understanding. In this regard, it is the responsibility of all stakeholders to take all necessary measure so as to create responsible citizens who are aware of their cultural identity, history, the world around them and ethical generation.

Verbatim and Caption

Fostering democratic values in Africa



Unconstitutional power shifts and illegal migration remain serious problems of Africa. Peaceful transition of power through democratic elections would help to control the major challenges in the continent. Africa needs nurturing the culture of democracy to achieve sustainable peace and development. Fostering democratic values would help achieving lasting peace and prosperity across the continent.

To tackle the main obstacles in the continent, solid collaboration is needed among the Pan African Parliament member countries. Ethiopia is committed to continue its efforts to foster sustainable peace and development in Africa.

Tagesse Chafu, Ethiopia HPR Speaker at the Pan African Parliament Standing committees meeting

Peace talk fails because of Shene: Government

The second round of talks with a militant group Shene, which has been held in Dare Salam Tanzania, has ended without results. The government of Ethiopia compromised a lot and has traveled more than half way to resolve the issue due to its eagerness to restore peace in the country. The Ethiopian Government desire to end the conflict, but Shene chose war. The terrorist group chose to trade in the blood and torture of civilians. Due to this reason, the discussion was dispersed without result. The government will continue to strengthen its mission of enforcing the law and keeping the constitutional order whilst retaining its commitment for peace.

FDRE Government Communication Service (GCS)



Over 800,000 hectare covered with summer wheat

Ethiopia is working to harvest 117 million quintals of wheat from summer wheat development initiative of this year.

So far, some 800,000 hectares of farmland has been covered with wheat seeds as part of the current Ethiopian fiscal year summer irrigation development activities. This is part of the three million hectares target to cultivate during this year's summer wheat cultivation.

Preparations for the coming Meher farming season are also underway. The purchase of more than 19 million quintals of fertilizer has been underway out of the 23 million quintals required for the upcoming farming season. 13 million quintals has already been purchased and over 730,000 quintals have arrived home.



Girma Amente (PhD), Minister of Agriculture



Humanitarian aid to 7.3 million people

The government of Ethiopia has distributed humanitarian assistance to 7.3 million people over the past three months. Close to eight billion Birr worth of humanitarian assistance reached for the needy.

The humanitarian supplies were delivered to people in drought-affected areas as well as to more than half a million people who have been affected by the unprecedented floods in seven regions of the country.

What it means is that the government is always there to attend and, at the same time, to address the challenges of its citizens in whatever conditions and circumstances may arise.

Shiferaw Telekemariam, National Disaster Risk Management Commissioner



Opening Tigray tourism destinations for tourists

The tourism destinations in Tigray state, which stopped functioning as a result of security problem for the past few years, are going to start operating and being open to tourists as of next week.

The tourist destinations in Tigray state were not open to visitors due to security concerns and hotels and service rendering institutions were at stake. But the destinations will go operational as of next week.

Since a range of remarkable activities have been carried out for the last six months, tourist can visit the state. Hotels as well as service providing institutors are getting ready. The security of Tigray is now safe and secure.

Sileshi Girma, Tourism State minister