



The Ethiopian Herald

Vol. LXXX 066 26 November 2023 - Hidar 16, 2016

SUNDAY EDITION

Price Birr 10.00

AGI CONSTRUCTING THE FUTURE AFRICA
Abyssinia Group of Industries

Manufacturer of Rebars, Angles, Channels, Flat Bars & Round Bars. Introducing cut & bend service for rebars.

Contact & Address
Tel: +251 116 63 97 55/ 251 116 63 51 22/25
Mob.: +251 962 009 072/ +251 949 440 868
+251 911 45 9790
E-mail: sales@agiethiopia.com
4th Floor, Dabi Building, Boles road Addis Ababa Ethiopia

Medhin Decor

የተንጣላ ደንቅ የሰርግ አዳራሽ ከጎ ሙሉ የውበት ስራ የተሟላ የምግብ ዝግጅት ከሙሉ ሙከራ ጋር

Medhin Decor ለሙሉ ለልዩ ለንግድ ለልዩ ለይ ዝግጅት

አድራሻ 1ኛ ቦሌ ጌቱ ኮሚርሻል ጀርባ 2ኛ ከቃሊቲ ማሰልጠኛ አለፍ ብሎ ቆርኪና ጣሰ ፋብሪካ ገቢ ብሎ

Contact Us 0911222993/ 0911208918



Photo: Eyob Teferi

Regional cooperation pivotal to combat mineral smuggling: AMGC

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA- consolidating regional cooperation required from Ethiopia and its neighboring countries to combat illicit

mineral trafficking across conflict-affected areas in the region, African Minerals and Geosciences Center (AMGC) said.

In exclusive interview with *The Ethiopian Herald*, AMGC General Director, Ibrahim Ahaddad said that ensuring regional

integration is indispensable to combat illicit trafficking of minerals across borderlines and conflict-affected areas of eastern Africa.

As a member of the AMGC, Ethiopia needs

See Regional cooperation ... page 4

AASTU unveils two slum upgrading projects in metropolis

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA - The Addis Ababa Science and Technology University (AASTU) Research and Consultation Team said it has submitted two development projects dubbed 'Gojjam Berenda Corridor' and 'Kera-Bulgaria Corridor' to Addis Ababa City Plan and Development Commission.

Project Lead Coordinator Mesfin Alemu told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that AASTU has been conducting a four-month-long research-based project that is aimed at improving slums and squatter settlements in the two areas.

The coordinator further stated that the five-year projects would play a paramount role in changing the livelihoods of communities in the two areas and improve their socioeconomic aspects. The projects are also helpful to create a healthy and inclusive environment and build the image of the metropolis.

"The university is taking the deplorable living standard in the two areas as the main factor to pick them to study," he noted,

See AASTU unveils ... page 4

Some 120,000 Ethiopians secure overseas job

• Job creation shows 30% growth

BY MENGESHA AMARE

ADDIS ABABA - Ministry of Labor and Skills (MoLS) stated that the national job creation efforts are paying off as some 120,000 citizens have been employed abroad within the quarter year.

Speaking to FBC, MoLS Minister Muferiat Kamil stated that Ethiopia has sent some 120,000 citizens to foreign countries for employment.

The citizens have been sent after all the requirements are analyzed to know the whereabouts, why, how and in what circumstance they are going to work, she said.

As to the Minister, such steps can help get citizens' rights respected and their

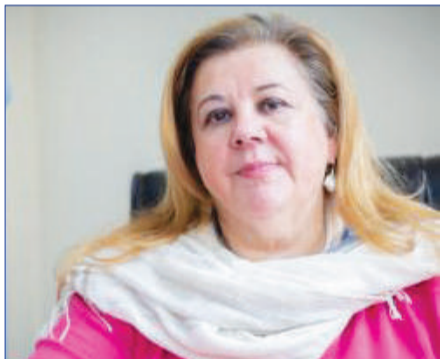


Muferiat Kamil

comprehensive wellbeing secured following the employer-employee relations.

She noted that the government has been working on human resource development so as to upgrade competence and candidacy of citizens in the job

See Some 120,000 Ethiopians ... page 4



Aurelia Calabro

UNIDO backs Ethiopia's 10-Year Dev't Plan

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA - The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) said it has been partnering with the Ethiopian government and other relevant stakeholders to the implementation of the country's 10-Year Development Plan.

See UNIDO backs ... page 4

Roadmap to increase agricultural production, productivity of Gambella region

Page 6

Preservation, utilization of traditional medicines necessitate stakeholders' collaboration

Page 7



Ensuring access to safe water

Page 9

News

Institute toiling to make Ethiopia top-notch culinary destination

BY EYUEL KIFLU

ADDIS ABABA - The Tourism Training Institute (TTI) said it has carried out consolidated activities that would put Ethiopia as a top-notch destination for culinary tourism and promote its rich culinary traditions for global visitors.

The above was disclosed at a consultative meeting the institute held with its stakeholders recently.

Habtam Kibret, the Director General of the Training Department at TTI, stated that the meeting highlighted five areas namely Sidama, Gamo, Harar, Gambela and Afar where diverse culinary traditions and beverages were meticulously studied and documented. The meeting also aims to capitalize on the organic nature of these cultural foods, which may possess medicinal properties.

Habtam further noted that the research team is currently finalizing the inclusion of nutritional content in their findings that would help to ensure accuracy and foster collaboration with industry professionals. "The richness of cultural food and beverages found in different parts of Ethiopia is really amazing."

"Yet these local treasures had not been adequately researched, presented, or marketed," he noted, adding that



preserving these culinary traditions for future generations, free from adulteration or improper preparation processes needs due attention. "Moreover, commercializing these unique offerings would not only attract culinary tourists but also bolster the income of local residents."

The research process involved the expertise of field specialists and renowned local chefs from each respective area. Every aspect of these five areas of food and beverage production, including ingredients, preparation methods, and nutritional content, was meticulously documented in the previous Ethiopian fiscal year.

According to him, the institution aims to expand its research efforts and explore additional areas from the current five. Adding to that, in commemoration of the World Tourism Day in last September, the Silt'e cultural foods were presented to stakeholders and the document was subsequently handed to the zone's administration.

The director general is optimistic for the new culinary menu, which not only provides an array of options to hotels but also entices culinary enthusiasts from around the world. "By showcasing Ethiopia's diverse dishes from various regions, the menu contributes to the country's appeal as a top-notch tourist destination."



Abdi Zenebe (PhD)

EDR suppresses plan for first quarter

• *Grosses over 998 mln Birr*

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA- The Ethio-Djibouti Railway Share Company (EDR) said it has obtained 998.13 million Birr in the first quarter of the current Ethiopian fiscal year exceeding the plan set to the reported period.

EDR CEO Abdi Zenebe (PhD) told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the stated sum was secured by handling 63,081 passengers and transporting 587,000 tons of inbound and outbound cargo. Plan set to attain 875 million Birr in the reported period and the performance surpassed the plan by over 123 million Birr.

The plan also set to transport 670,000 tons of incoming and outgoing cargo in the first quarter and 587,000 tons were transported. Out of the plan to transport 37,500 passengers to different destinations, the company managed to transport 63,081 and achieve 168 percent of the plan.

The EDR has made preparations to expand the current 20 service stations and open new ones. The company is providing cargo and passenger train services in Dire Dawa, Mojo, Adama, Lebu, Endode, Dike and Miyeso as well as Dewele railway stations.

The CEO further highlighted that the company has been hugely transporting students' textbooks and soil fertilizer thereby supplementing the progress of the country. Also, various kinds of vehicles, fruits and vegetables as well as other agricultural and industrial commodities are being transported by the EDR.

"We have the plan to transport cement and sand by train and preparations are being made. We have also been to increase our total cargo transportation capacity from 1.3 million tons to two million tons."

Noting the company's effective services to various institutions and reducing cargo costs, Abdi indicated it has collected over 3.5 billion Birr in six months from February 2023. "Until the first week of January 2023, it was planned to collect over four billion Birr."

The component connects Ethiopia and Djibouti by transporting various materials from the port to the hinterland and contributing a large share to the growth of the transport sector, he remarked.

France provides Ethiopia with Counter-Drone technology

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA—French Republic Government handed over Counter-Drone technology to Ethiopia yesterday aiming at enhancing the aviation industry.

Up on the handover ceremony, Ethiopian Civil Aviation Authority Deputy Director General Mengestu Negusie said that Ethiopia and France have a long standing diplomatic and economic relation.

As to him, France has been helping Ethiopia in realizing the ambition of exploiting modern technology in different fields. The handing over of the counter drone will help Ethiopia succeed in the area.

He further stated that drone flight is increasing from time to time because it has playing a significant role in fostering health, agriculture and related sectors. However, it needs proper implementation to reduce risks in due course of using drones. It is also significant to ensure safety in air transport.

France Ambassador to Ethiopia, Remi Marechaux on his part said that France delivered the first counter-drone technology to Ethiopia in the African continent. "It is a real pleasure for me to see one of the most strategic infrastructures in Ethiopia that the



France government delivered the counter-drone technology here," the ambassador noted.

He added that France and Ethiopia enjoy very long outstanding relation while the delivering of counter drone is another millstone of the two countries. France has been putting its industry excellence to work on the benefit of the sector in Ethiopia.

Ethiopian Airlines Group Chief Executive Officer Mesfin Tasew said that: "In the civil aviation operation, safety has to come to the

frontier in the air transport all the time. Civil aircraft and drone technology is growing across the world at present and used for sport, entertainment, and advertising, which is depending on the purpose.

"The group is also striving to protect the Bole airport from drone hazard. Especially we are endeavoring to minimize the risk in related with birds in that regard," he added.

It is to be recalled that Ethiopia and France have more than 125 diplomatic, economic, and historical relationships.

Editorial

Exploring potential to catapult to prosperity

Chalking out a development roadmap that could allow Ethiopia to soar up to the pinnacle of prosperity is a timely step. Being endowed with marvelous natural resources, the country is striving to materialize its envisioned objective that entails five pillars of economic take off.

This nation on the path of home-grown economic reform is determined to explore all available resources and to put them to efficient use as part of its bid to kiss goodbye to underdevelopment and ring in a new lease of life that augurs well even to those beyond its perimeter.

The mining sector that is not yet utilized to the required level and that has undergone a thorough study recently is one of the pillars on which the country pinned its hope on for the much-looked-forward turnaround.

Precious stones like opal, emerald, aquamarine and sapphire are among those found shortlisted in the set of Ethiopian precious stones.

Gypsum, limestone, gravel stone, clay, sand and quartz, basalt, granite and marble are but to mention some of the resources in the construction sector.

Petroleum, natural gas and coal as well as geothermal energy are also among the minerals the country is blessed with for fuel, energy and agriculture.

Happily, as studies indicate the aforementioned minerals have bedecked almost all corners of the country.

Although local investors are involved in the push to put the resources to efficient use, single alone, the country could not tap these resources. As such, foreign investors sniffing for lucrative ventures could benefit from coming to Ethiopia and help harness the resources specially the precious ones in an almost effortless way. Towards this end, conducting advertising work to sell the aforementioned potential is a must do.

Cognizant of the necessity of such task, Expos are being conducted that also help to amplify the government's pledge of holistic support to investors' endeavors. To bring the country's mineral potential to the attention of investors worldwide, the Expos are believed to be highly instrumental.

Researches, aiming at alternative economic sources, have indicated the bounty, plenty and variety of precious minerals. That is what PM Abiy Ahmed (PhD) threw light on at the Second Annual International Mining and Technology Expo held this week in Addis. He reiterated the fact that the mining sector is one pillar the government leans on for sought-for national economic prosperity. Luckily, the global market has a high demand for the resources. He indicated the need to delve into the sector to come up with additional research outcomes.

Such expos could also serve venues for cross-fertilizing views, deeply understanding the sector and spurring its translation into action so as the country benefits a lot down the road.

Aside from feeding mushrooming local industries, bolstering import substitution, the minerals could be exported to garner badly-needed hard currency, he noted.

Scaling up the performance of the sector addressing its short comings is called for. In a show of conviction, the government has enunciated its commitment to tap actors in the sector on the back.

As the government's thrust to ensure an affluent Ethiopia needs all possible support, Ethiopian investors and investor of Ethiopian origin are expected to come aboard with added zeal. The Ethiopian diaspora is also expected to buttress the country's push to advertise its potential in the mining sector.

Endowed with a great potential unable to develop is a great crime. Hence, we Ethiopians must rally behind the task of harnessing all of our resources effectively for a common good as we showcased our capability to the same effect bringing into birth the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) seen a fate changer in its surroundings too.

The bottom line is we must develop the habit of challenging our limits knowing full well our potentials.



The Ethiopian Herald

Established in 1943

Published daily except Mondays
By The Ethiopian Press Agency

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

Opinion

The need for customized and inclusive strategy for stock exchanges in Ethiopia

BY AMSALU BEDEMO BEYENE (PHD)

In the early phases of stock market development, inviting companies to be listed on the exchange market poses a notable challenge. This challenge is particularly pronounced in developing countries, such as Ethiopia, where the economic landscape is predominantly composed of small and medium-sized enterprises. To address this challenge, aligning the establishment of a stock market with the current context of the country's economic structure is essential.

The Ethiopian economic structure necessitates a tailored approach to company listing that aligns with market structures and embraces inclusivity. In simpler terms, stock market development in Ethiopia should be responsive to the country's economic needs and be in harmony with the current market sophistication. A gradual introduction of more complex capital market instruments and products should consider the capacity of market participants to understand and manage associated risks effectively. Therefore, considering the current context of company structures in Ethiopia, the establishment of a stock exchange market in the country requires a customized and inclusive strategy. In this context, Ethiopia can draw valuable lessons from Kenya's innovative approach to stock market segmentation, particularly in accommodating different types of companies in its security exchange market.

The Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE), founded in 1954, is one of the oldest capital markets in Africa and has become a key player in the East African region. The NSE's innovative approach, the Growth Enterprise Market Segment (GEMS), facilitates the listing of smaller and growing companies, providing a platform for SMEs to access capital markets for fundraising and expansion. Ethiopia can consider implementing a similar segmentation strategy to encourage the growth of its SME sector and promote inclusivity. The approach has significant benefits for the development of the capital market in Ethiopia. First, segmenting markets allows for tailored listing requirements, ensuring they are realistic and achievable for companies of varying sizes and stages of development. Ethiopia can learn from Kenya's experience in establishing specific criteria for SMEs, startups, and larger corporations.

Second, segmenting markets provides investors with options aligned with their risk appetite and investment preferences. Ethiopia can create diverse investment opportunities by establishing different segments catering to various industries, sizes, and risk profiles. This approach attracts a broader investor base, encourages inclusivity, and enhances

Stock market development in Ethiopia should be responsive to the country's economic needs and be in harmony with the current market sophistication

market liquidity. Third, segmentation allows for specialized focus on specific sectors or industries, attracting targeted investments and providing a platform for visibility. In the Ethiopian context, the Capital Market Authority can strategically promote industries crucial for economic development.

Fourth, different market segments can adapt to the unique dynamics of various companies, aligning with the distinct characteristics of local industries. This ensures that listing requirements, regulations, and investor expectations align with the specific needs of companies operating in the Ethiopian market. Finally, by creating segments catering to different types of companies, Ethiopia can promote inclusivity in its stock market. This ensures a diverse range of businesses, including those in emerging sectors and small-scale firms, have access to the benefits of being listed on the stock exchange.

In conclusion, Ethiopia can significantly benefit from the experiences of Kenya and other established developing capital markets by adopting a segmented and tailored approach to its stock exchange market, catering to the varied needs of companies. It is imperative for the Ethiopian government to proactively design inclusive strategies and customize the listing process for such companies. This approach will stimulate the participation and growth of SMEs, promote innovation and startups in specific sectors of the economy, diversify investment opportunities, and adapt to the distinctive dynamics of its evolving economic landscape. Embracing this strategic approach contributes to the development of a more dynamic and inclusive stock market ecosystem in Ethiopia.

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

News

Awash keeps leading status in private banks

•Amasses 9.8 bln Birr profit last FY

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA- Awash Bank announced that it was able to make a profit of 9.8 billion Birr in the last Ethiopian fiscal year, which is said to be the highest in the history of private banks.

The bank announced this at its 28th Shareholders' General Assembly yesterday.

Awash is modernizing the banking industry with new technologies, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the bank, Gure Kumsa, said, adding that these knowledge-based activities keeps Ethiopia's largest private bank in its status.

In the 2015 Ethiopian fiscal year, the bank grossed a profit of 9.8 billion Birr, and compared to the previous year, it showed an increment of 2.3 billion or 31%, the chairman added.

In terms of loans, Awash disbursed 40.9 billion Birr to various sectors of the economy in the previous fiscal year, and the total amount of Birr given in the form of loans to the economy has reached 224 billion.

Gure, who said Awash has given cash prizes to winners of a competition in the newly launched project, indicated that the bank has given five million birr loans to entrepreneurs without collateral.

"Currently, the bank's paid-up capital has increased from 10.2 billion Birr in 2014 to 14 billion Birr in 2015 Ethiopian FY, and the bank's total assets have reached 224 billion Birr"

The bank has achieved excellent results under the leadership of its ten-year roadmap, despite the international and domestic conflicts, the chairman remarked.

CEO of the Bank, Tsehay Shiferaw for his part said that at the end of the 2022/23 financial year, Awash recorded a 23% increase in deposits compared to 2021/22, or an increase of 35.4 billion Birr. The bank's total deposit account reached 187.4 billion Birr, which is the highest in the history of private banks.

In the reported period, the bank secured over 1.49 billion USD in foreign currency which showed an increase of 250 million USD compared to the previous year.

The CEO further noted that, as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives, the Bank in partnership with different government agencies provided financial support to various noble causes.

Commenced operation some 29 years ago, Awash is a pioneer private bank in Ethiopia and started its service with five branches and 137 employees. Currently the bank has 875 branches spread across the country and employed over 20,000 citizens.

AASTU unveils two...

adding that over one-third (32.7%) of the residents are living below the poverty line and most of them are unemployed. The research recommended two ways for project implementation such as public-private partnership and land joint venture schemes that would help accelerate the construction process.

Although the community has a strong desire for development their limited capacity and insufficient land utilization mechanisms have hindered their ambition to lead a better life. Upon completion, the project would increase the number of dwellers from the current 4, 521 to 27,000.

As part of the resettlement project, the design for road, sewerage, electricity and other facilities and infrastructure is also included. "As a magnificent market center and place where multifaceted engagements are taking place, these areas have not long been developed accordingly," Mesfin emphasized.

The Kera-Bulgaria Tele corridor



Mesfin Alemu

covers 79 hectares of land whereas Gojjam Berenda-Autobus Tera takes about 33.9 hectares of land.

The communities and various professional architects, urban planners, designers and other experts have been participating in the research process thereby becoming part of the solution, it was stated.

UNIDO backs...

Speaking to *The Ethiopian Herald*, UNIDO Representative and Director of Regional Hub in Ethiopia, Aurelia Calabro stated that the organization is working closely with the government to bring about inclusive and sustainable industrial development. "Propelling Ethiopia's 10-Year Development Plan, the UNIDO is closely working with various sectors to ensure Ethiopia's industrialization and agricultural transformation."

Mentioning the diverse aspects of industrialization, the representative indicated the organization's close

partnership with various sectors, including an industrialization roadmap that has a link with agricultural transformation. Such transformation would greatly contribute to the nation's agro-economic development.

"Along with various partners, we have also been facilitating the production of value added leather and leather products as well as cotton and textile that would satisfy the local demand and enhance Ethiopia's import substitution capabilities."

As Ethiopia is a diplomatic capital of Africa, fostering close partnership with regional countries and the private sectors

is critical to ensure mutual benefit and holistic development. UNIDO is also supporting efforts to produce quality agro-industrial products that would be an engine to the industrialization of the country.

Currently, UNIDO is executing flagship agro-industrial park programs in Amhara, Oromia and Sidama states. Besides, the organization is undertaking cross-cutting activities that shore up small and medium enterprises and the incubation hubs are also offering capacity building training and other activities, she elaborated.

Calabro reaffirmed her organization's commitment to support and work together with the Ethiopian government with a view of translating the 10-Year Development Plan into reality.

It is to be recalled that the UNIDO recently delivered slaughtering tools and machines to various beneficiaries.

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is the specialized agency of the United Nations that promotes industrial development for poverty reduction, inclusive globalization and environmental sustainability.

Regional cooperation...

to strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation to bolster the fight against mineral smuggling while upgrading its production capacity, he noted.

For him, unilateral efforts do not bear the intended outcome unless Ethiopia and its neighboring countries prepare common platforms to safeguard the borderlines and free the region from smugglers, he suggested.

"The AMGC is also providing mining expertise services to its member states' public and private organizations. We are providing training, consultancy, and some other technical supports. The Center also appreciates Ethiopia's effort in mining development within the AMGC region," he said.

The mining infrastructure needs more

development works that's why the AMGC is promoting regional cooperation to facilitate infrastructural development and to bring all major stakeholders onboard, according to Ibrahim.

Geologists, environmental activists, educational institutions should create platforms that could help all regional countries to maximize the benefit from the mining sector. The legal framework which governed the mining sector also require reforms with regard to attracting investment, he indicated.

He also appreciated Ethiopia for its financial contribution to the AMGC.

Ethiopia, Angola, Comoros, Kenya, Mozambique, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda are member states of the AMGC which based in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Some 120,000 Ethiopians...

market.

A number of activities have been undertaken keeping comparative environmental advantage by engaging some 86 polytechnic colleges into new reform trajectory, Muferiat stated.

As to her, the activities that have been carried out during the quarter also include framing new curriculum on skills development, creating job opportunities, reviewing employer employ relations and fostering institutional building.

She said: "We are working hard to make technical and vocational colleges independent enough so as to help them cover their expenses themselves within three and five year as per their status and

performance. Besides, it is planned to make them technology transfer hubs. It is promising indeed!"

Muferiat further stated that a remarkable system to create job opportunities at home or abroad is developed and well run, of the 22 systems, some 14 are completed and go operational, whereas some 11 have already started functioning, and 3 are added to make the functioning ones 14. Such a remarkable move has helped us connect job seekers and the job itself.

As to her, so far over 411,000 citizens have been registered. The quarter a year performance shows that 30% growth concerning job creation in four months.

Opinion

China's Green Development: Lessons for Ethiopia

BY BALEW DEMISSIE (PhD)

I was recently in China for two weeks and saw several cities, including Beijing and Guangzhou that show green development in all aspects of city life. In this piece, I try to explain the concept of green and sustainable development in China and its implications for sustainable development in Ethiopia.

Green economy is an innovative approach to achieve sustainable development by addressing energy consumption, pollution and emissions. It was introduced in 1989 by economist David Pearce in his book "Blueprint of a Green Economy" and has gained prominence over the years. The concept promotes economic growth while ensuring environmental sustainability. The issue of environmentally sustainable development was first highlighted in the World Environmental Development Agency's publication "Our Common Future" in 1987.

Recently, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed visited China for the 3rd Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, where he discussed economic cooperation and signed 14 agreements with China. On the sidelines of the forum, the Prime Minister visited Beijing, Chengdu Green City and Yangshan Port, the Shanghai Stock Exchange and the Huawei Center in Shanghai, where he saw China's green economy. Chinese President Xi Jinping also praised Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative and Prime Minister Abiy emphasized the importance of Chinese investment in Ethiopia's economy.

Similarly, a high-level delegation led by Prosperity Party Vice President Adem Farah and regional state presidents of Oromia, Amhara, Somali, Afar and Sidama visited the Dujiangyan irrigation system in Chengdu city and Shanghai just this week to learn from Chinese Modernization and China's achievements in engineering and economic development. These visits served to deepen cooperation and gather knowledge for Ethiopia's own development efforts.

Ethiopia, a country highly vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters, has implemented various policies and initiatives to address development challenges. The Green Legacy Initiative, which was launched in 2019, aims to plant 20 billion seedlings within four years. Ethiopia has already surpassed this target and planted 25 billion seedlings. This initiative contributes to food security, sustainable agriculture, climate adaptation and forest conservation.

It is also in line with Ethiopia's international commitments, such as the Paris Climate Agreement, the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want. Furthermore, Ethiopia has Vision 2030 to be an African beacon of prosperity. The country's national ten-year plan has six strategic pillars: ensuring quality growth, improving productivity and competitiveness,

institutional transformation, ensuring private sector leadership in the economy, ensuring equitable participation of women and children, and building a climate-resilient green economy. Ethiopia can therefore learn a lot from China on green development.

China has been actively promoting the development of a green, circular and low-carbon economy to tackle environmental challenges. Chinese modernization is committed to sustainable development and to the principles of prioritizing resource conservation and environmental protection and letting Nature restore itself. The country has recognized problems such as pollution, water quality, dust storms, deforestation and plastic waste. The focus on a green economy is driven by concerns about energy consumption, energy supply and global climate change. In 2014, China faced significant environmental issues related to water, air and soil quality and was concerned about poor water stretches, urban air pollution and land degradation.

China has prioritized green development and environmental protection, which is reflected in the white papers "China's Green Development in the New Era" and "Energy in China's New Era". These papers emphasize the integration of green principles into various sectors, energy-saving measures, technological innovation and the promotion of renewable energy. The country has significantly increased its renewable energy production capacity and investment, accounting for a considerable share of global renewable energy production and investment during the reporting period.

As a leading developing country, China is committed to promoting a global community with a shared future and has published a white paper on the nexus between a global community with a shared future and green development. The country is focusing on improving the quality of life and creating a pleasant environment by investing in parks, green spaces and tree planting. The country is also taking significant steps to reduce carbon emissions and achieve carbon neutrality through policies. China has also published various climate and environmental policy documents for COP26, emphasizing goals such as increasing energy consumption from non-fossil fuels and reducing coal consumption. However, more immediate action may be needed to achieve the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement. These include ending emissions and coal consumption as soon as possible and setting absolute CO2 emissions targets.

The country has established a new system of protected areas (PAs), including national parks, nature reserves and nature parks, which cover more than 17% of its land area and protect 90% of its natural terrestrial ecosystems and 74% of key animal species. China has integrated the principles of green development into urban and rural development, resulting in more green spaces in urban areas and a larger per capita park area. The country has prioritized the

construction of green and low-carbon buildings and promoted the improvement of energy efficiency of existing buildings, which has led to positive results.

In terms of patents, China's energy conservation and environmental protection industry and new energy industry have seen a significant increase in valid invention patents. China is actively applying for invention patents in the field of environmental technology and is regarded as the most active country in the field of environmental technology innovation. The country has significantly increased its investment in scientific and technological innovation. Gross domestic expenditure on research and development (R&D) has increased from 2012 to 2021. The country has adapted its industrial structure and increased the intensity of R&D spending in relation to GDP. Chinese companies have also played an important role in R&D investment.

The share of clean energy in total energy consumption has risen from 14.5% in 2012 to 25.5% in 2021. At the same time, the share of coal has fallen from 68.5% to 56%. Renewable energy capacity has also grown significantly and has exceeded the one billion kilowatt mark, accounting for 44.8% of total installed capacity.

China is actively promoting the green transformation of traditional industries to create a green, circular and low-carbon production system. Digital transformation, green factories and supply chain management are prioritized, while inspections ensure compliance with environmental regulations. These efforts illustrate China's commitment to sustainability and environmentally conscious practices to achieve a greener future. China has made great strides in transitioning to clean energy sources.

The country leads the world in installed capacity for hydropower, wind power and photovoltaic cells. China is also leading the way in the introduction of new energy vehicles. By the end of 2021, 7.84 million vehicles were registered, half of the global total. The country is focusing on green development in the transport sector, improving energy efficiency, optimizing consumption patterns and building a sustainable and low-carbon transport network. These efforts underscore China's commitment to clean energy and environmentally friendly transportation.

The country is focusing on comprehensive and efficient resource utilization, including improving waste collection networks and recycling renewable resources. The country has made remarkable progress in establishing state-owned green mines and promoting environmentally friendly mining practices. China has also significantly reduced water and energy consumption per unit of GDP and improved resource efficiency in construction projects. These efforts reflect China's commitment to sustainable resource management, the development of a circular economy and a contribution to global resource and

environmental sustainability.

While renewable energy has become more cost-effective, further measures are needed for efficient decarbonization and reliable power supply. China is actively investing in the decarbonization of its energy supply, driving global investment in electricity. The country is expected to play a significant role in the global expansion of renewable energy, driven by improved integration, lower curtailment rates and the competitiveness of solar PV and onshore wind power.

The country is on track to overtake the EU in installed PV capacity and lead global biofuel production. Despite the progress, there are still challenges. The high demands for coal and production capacities are hampering efforts to reduce emissions. The government intends to switch to gas in industry and households, but faces obstacles due to the dominance and efficiency of coal. Ensuring sufficient investment in electricity grids and various generation technologies is crucial to meet the evolving demand for electricity and improve the security of electricity and gas.

The China Clean Development Mechanism Fund (CCDMF) is a national climate fund that promotes low-carbon growth and climate resilience in China. It receives funding from levies on projects under the Clean Development Mechanism. The CCDMF has provided grants totaling USD 81 million to support over 200 projects, resulting in a direct reduction of over seven million tons of CO2 equivalent. It has played an important role in financing companies, mobilizing market capital and achieving tangible emission reductions. The fund's success has attracted international attention and representatives from various countries have visited to learn from its climate finance model. The CCDMF is an important supporter of climate protection and a role model for others.

In general, Ethiopia can not only benefit from China's great green contribution to all mankind, but also learn from China's experience with green development by emphasizing long-term planning, establishing a sound policy framework, investing in renewable energy, promoting technological innovation, international cooperation, and fostering public awareness and participation. These experiences can help Ethiopia achieve sustainable and environmentally conscious growth. By adopting these strategies and adapting them to its unique circumstances, Ethiopia can work towards a greener and more prosperous future. Implementing these lessons will contribute to the sustainable development of the country and the well-being of its people.

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

Business & Economy

Roadmap to increase agricultural production, productivity of Gambella region

BY BACHA ZEWDIE

Gambella region has fertile soil, sufficient rainfall, underground and surface water resources that can be used for agricultural development. It is believed that effective work can be done by expanding agriculture by using the potential natural resources of the region. It is known that the Olwero Dam was built to carry out extensive irrigation development, although it was not used as intended. Currently, the State government is working to make more use of the potential resources that can be used for agriculture. A road map study of agricultural transformation to increase its production and productivity thereby ensuring benefit of the society was announced recently.

The Agricultural Transformation Roadmap Study has started its action plan; it will be implemented from the scheduled 2023/24 fiscal year. Ujulu Lual, head of the regional agriculture and natural resources office, announced that according to the road map, attention will be given to increasing production and productivity in the region, ensuring food security, changing the lives of farmers and pastoralists and producing export products.

As he said, the roadmap was started at the presence of relevant federal and zonal leaders, investors and non-governmental organizations. Many results are expected from this agricultural transformation roadmap, which is designed to benefit the farmers and semi-pastoralists by modernizing the agricultural work.

Ujulu pointed out that in the roadmap, they will focus on the types of products that can increase the country's economy in the next five years. The work that starts with selected types of products requires a lot of cooperation to hit the expected results. It is possible to gradually move to other products, increase production and productivity, ensure food security and increase the country's economy by focusing on exports and bringing in foreign currency.

As the region is suitable for agriculture, the roadmap will focus on ten products. Maize, rice, soybeans, and summer irrigation wheat, are among the crops grown in the roadmap. Among fruits: mangoes and bananas, and from animal products: milk production, cattle, fish, goat, chicken and bee breeding are given attention.

He stated that in the past, in a general study on the use of natural resources in Gambella region, small and large farm areas that are suitable for agricultural investment have been identified. He added that parks for tourism have also been identified.

He mentioned that there are four large rivers in the region that are used for irrigation, and forest products for industry are widely available. The region has potential of mineral resources as well, especially gold is widely available in the area.

"The agricultural transformation roadmap that will be implemented for the next five years will be based on these potential resources in the region," Ujulu said. The agricultural



transformation roadmap work goes alongside the regular agricultural work in the region.

According to the roadmap, Ujulu mentioned that it has a great role in changing the lives of the farmers by avoiding the harmful traditional attitudes in the region. It is common in the region to produce a small amount of crops and lead a hand-to-mouth life. The roadmap will eliminate this habit and create a strong work culture and saving habit. In this way, it will be possible for the farmers to produce on a large scale and earn income by selling the product beyond food consumption.

Ujulu further stated that by practicing the unusual work and saving culture, especially the competition on the selected ten types of products can bring the farmers to become investors. It is useful for them to develop the habit of saving and expanding their agricultural business gradually to become investors.

In addition, the farmers will be encouraged to produce export products in a large scale by coordinating with the investors. To this end, 766 investors have been invited to the region's agricultural transformation roadmap launch program. They can work by creating links with the farmers. This will greatly contribute to the improvement of the farmers' life and the efficiency of the agricultural work.

Ujulu said that effective work can be done through the bond that the investor creates with the farmers. This has been set as a direction; especially potential investors who are expected to help the nearby kebeles and connect the farmers' lives with the agricultural roadmap.

The farmers in the region grow only corn and sorghum on the small plot of land they have. Although the farmers have a high demand for these products, the demand for sorghum production has decreased due to the problem of the crop destroying birds.

At present, investors in the region are producing soybeans, rice, sugarcane, etc. on vast farmlands. As most of the people of the

region are semi-pastoralists, it is possible to increase the country's economy by paying attention to animal husbandry. There are a lot of fish resources in the region. There are 19 species of fish. The harvest work is now over and the agricultural work that is done when the river's level is decreasing in the region is a water runoff work. He also stated that it is planned to cover 37 hectares of land with seeds through water runoff agriculture.

It is planned to cover 6,500 hectares of irrigated agriculture in the current fiscal year alone. With this, it is planned to carry out the cultivation of corn, sorghum, rice, vegetables and fruits, including wheat, and preparatory work is being done. He mentioned that the summer irrigation work has been started in the rainless areas and 827,000 quintals of production is expected from the scheme. 1.2 million quintals of production is also expected from the water runoff farms.

Agricultural technology is very important for better production and productivity. To this end, the government has provided 16 tractors for irrigation to the region. The region has limited capacity and said that the current supply of mechanization is insufficient. He called on both the Federal and State governments to strengthen their support and monitoring.

As to Ujulu, there are gaps in post-harvest mechanization technologies in the region. Farmers are facing problems as they are unable to harvest their hard-earned crops. As a result, the produce is wasted and the farmers are left without food.

For example, he explained about the existence of a weed in the area called "Don't touch me". The weed does not allow the farmers to enter the field and collect the produce. Because of this, most of the produce is left rotten on the field. Therefore, post-harvest technologies for corn, rice and sorghum breeding are necessary.

Ujulu said that every stakeholder, including the leadership, professionals and the

community should work with determination so that Gambella region's agricultural transformation road map, which has been put into operation at the moment, is implemented according to the study and the desired results will be recorded. In particular, he stressed that the leadership should strengthen the agricultural extensions and stimulate the people of the region to work. The experts of the development team have also asked them to make greater efforts to make poverty a history by providing support and monitoring to the farmers and ensuring food security.

Minister of Agriculture, Girma Amente (PhD), who attended the launching program of the roadmap to modernize agriculture in Gambella region, said; The Agricultural Transformation Roadmap focuses on applying research into action and changing the lives of farmers and semi-pastoralists.

The Minister announced about diligent work to ensure food security by converting the potential natural resources that can be used for agricultural development in the region into development. According to him, although the region has natural resources suitable for agricultural development, the people have been conducting from hand-to-mouth agriculture. The area could not ensure its food security. Therefore, he confirmed that the Ministry of Agriculture will provide the necessary support to modernize the agricultural sector and use the potential resources of the region to contribute to the country's economy.

The Minister mentioned that the State government is working together with the stakeholders. He also requested that the support of the stakeholders for the efforts to bring about productive change with the help of modern technology and new practices in the agricultural sector should be strengthened. He also called on the leadership, the people and all actors in the sector to do what is expected of them in the fight to make the plan for the 2023/24 fiscal year, which is part of the road map, a success.

Planet Earth

Preservation, utilization of traditional medicines necessitate stakeholders' collaboration

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

In Ethiopia, traditional medicine has a big impact on conservation and plant protection. The preservation and sustainable use of these plant species have resulted from the vast knowledge of indigenous plants and their therapeutic qualities possessed by several traditional healers.

Traditional healers are usually knowledgeable about the conditions under which these plants grow and the importance of protecting their ecosystems. They have traditionally used methods such as selective harvesting, which ensures the long-term survival of the plants and allows for plant regeneration.

In contrast to other cultures that undergo changes throughout time, traditional medicinal plants typically serve as important sources for both conventional and contemporary medicine. Roughly 118 of the top 150 prescription medications in the US are derived from natural sources. Developed nations are home to over 1300 medicinal plants, 90% of which are gathered from wild resources.

The usage of medical plants is expanding rapidly worldwide due to the rising demand for natural health products, herbal medicines, and secondary metabolites of medicinal plants. In developing countries, over 80% of people are dependent on herbal drugs for their primary healthcare.

Similarly, Ethiopia has been using medicinal plants. Due to its various sea levels, the country has various ecosystems and a high diversity of vascular plants. Ethiopia is one of the six plant-rich countries in Africa, where more than 60% of the plants are said to be indigenous, and most of them have healing potential.

Traditional medicine has a long history in Ethiopia and plays an important part in the country's healthcare system. It is firmly ingrained in Ethiopian culture and is done by traditional healers who have passed down knowledge from generation to generation.

The healers preserve traditional medicinal plants. It is crucial for both healthcare and conservation efforts. Besides, various intuitions and concerned bodies have made various efforts to conserve traditional medicine across the country.

According to the Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute, Ethiopia has about 6027 species of plants. From these, over 2000 of the plants have been used for natural medicinal purposes, and 10% of the plants are endemic and are found and used only in Ethiopia. Studies have also indicated that over 70 % of Ethiopians depend on traditional medicines for their healthcare, and about 95% of the preparations are made from plant origin.

Particularly, traditional medicine plants are used to treat individuals who live in rural regions without access to modern drugs or healthcare. Others, in the meantime, resort to traditional medicine when contemporary healthcare facilities fail for a variety of reasons. People's dissatisfaction with modern medicines and their lack of efficacy, especially in the cases of certain human ailments such as cancer, liver diseases, herpes zoster, eczema, swelling, and hemorrhoids, are some of the reasons why traditional healing systems were preferred over conventional medicines.

Taking these facts into consideration, the annual conference of the Traditional Medicine Professionals Association of Addis Ababa Administration, which was attended by leaders of the Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority and experts in the field, was held under the theme "Our traditional medicine for our health."

Traditional medicines and therapies, it was suggested during the meeting, should be applied in a quality way backed by scientific research. Furthermore, they decided to protect and preserve traditional therapeutic herbs.

Addis Ababa City Administration Traditional Medicine Experts Association President Megabi Tibebe Merigeta Mengisitu Desita said that traditional medicines and treatments are better accepted and effective when they are marketed with the support of scientific research. Hence, the association is working with the concerned bodies to allow traditional healers to get legal recognition, produce the medicine using scientific methods, and enter the market through research-supported procedures.

The association has 88 full members and 28 candidate members. Accordingly, the association has been working with and supporting traditional medicine healers to get legal licenses and carry out their work properly. Traditional medicine treatments existed both in ancient times and currently. The treatment is given using a method that provides external and internal treatment by using plants and minerals in different ways. Therefore, the president conveyed the message that the treatment should be supported by scientific research by preserving and protecting traditional medicine plants.

In addition to the research activities, proper care should be given to traditional medicine plants. In particular, efforts are being made to cultivate endangered traditional medicine plants in various areas and use them for medicinal purposes, he added.

The Ethiopian Food and Drug Administration (EFDA) Drug Registration and Licensing Director Habtamu Beyene noted in his part that traditional medicines and treatments should be supported by



scientific research and marketed through the legal process of drug preparation.

He also said that if traditional medicines are supported by research, their effectiveness will increase.

Accordingly, the government has put an approach in place to create a way for traditional medicines to be legally registered and marketed. There is a system that helps traditional medicines and treatments pass the legal preparation process and get permission, so those with the expertise and knowledge in the field can get the necessary services from the authority.

He further explained that the authority is conducting serious inspections that allow modern and traditional medicines to pass the legal preparation process and be used on the market. Apart from inspections of traditional medicine and supporting the association, the authority has also been working with stakeholders to preserve traditional medicine plants.

Indeed, it is critical to prioritize the conservation and preservation of traditional medicinal plants. Several traditional medicinal plant species are threatened with extinction due to a variety of circumstances. The International Union for Conservation of Nature and the World Wildlife Fund estimate that between 50,000 and 80,000 flowering plant species are utilized for therapeutic purposes worldwide. More than 15,000 of these are endangered with extinction due to overharvesting and habitat loss, and 20% of their natural resources have already been depleted due to rising human populations and plant consumption. However, this concern has been known for

decades, but the rapid extinction of species and habitat damage throughout the world has raised the likelihood of medicinal plant extinction.

In Ethiopia, those plants that are used for traditional medicine purposes have faced various challenges, namely, environmental degradation, deforestation, recurrent drought, various anthropogenic activities, the expansion of urbanization, and so on. Besides, habitat destruction, overexploitation, erosion, lack of effective regulation, and so on are threatening the medicinal plants and biodiversity of the natural resources of the country, he said.

Moreover, medicinal plants are important natural resources that are affected by unplanned growth, and overexploitation of medicinal plants from non-managed natural resources has not only resulted in a shortage of various herbs but also the extinction of several species in nature.

In light of this, working on conservation areas that are eligible for conservation should involve collaboration between the government, interested parties, and international organizations. Because creating protected areas, especially to keep medicinal plants alive, can contribute to their survival. To avoid habitat degradation, these places need to be properly maintained.

Collaboration with traditional healers should be sought since they can help preserve and use therapeutic herbs. Collaboration with them can assist in bridging the gap between traditional medicine and contemporary healthcare systems, as well as ensure the long-term viability of medicinal plant resources.

Art & Culture

The philosophy of art in African culture, contemporary perspectives

BY MULUGETA GUDETA

Earlier in the 20th century, and more particularly in the 1960s and 1970s, discussions and debates on African philosophy centered around the question whether Africa has a philosophy worthy of the term. According to many Western «experts» on philosophy Africa has no philosophy of its own in the modern sense but different belief systems and religions that could hardly be called philosophies. The first man who came up with the assertion that Africa had indeed a philosophy worthy of our attention was called Placid Temples, a missionary from Belgium, who made it clear in his book «Bantu Philosophy» (1945).

According to this book, the world views of Africans could be articulated as philosophy although they do not do so directly or in a systematic way. Placid Temples, the author of the book was a Belgian missionary who lived among the Bantu people of Central Africa where Belgians had set foot to establish their colonial rule.

Father Temple's «Bantu Philosophy» («La Philosophie Bantou» in French), maintains that, «The Bantu peoples of Sub-Saharan Africa have an implicit philosophy» adding that according to this philosophy, «beings are differentiated in their essence or nature. They hold that there is the divine force, celestial or terrestrial forces, and animal forces or mineral forces.» Before Temples came up with his book, the term Bantu referred to «research done on traditional culture between 1950 and 1990 in Central Africa and more specifically in The Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Uganda.»

It was said that, the Bantu people originally believed all things in nature had souls or spirits including animals, plants, and inanimate things as well had souls or spirits. This belief is known as animism. Although Bantu philosophy is broader in perspective and holistic in its approach, there is what is called the Bantu Ntu element which is found in many African languages. This is considered to be the Vital force or as Temples called it the Bantu Ontology. «In short Ntu means a human being and it emphasizes that there is a spirit of oneness and harmony among people and nature. The concept of Ntu emphasizes solidarity and oneness amongst Africans.»

The appearance of the book, i.e. «Bantu Philosophy» had triggered fierce debates among mainstream philosophy groups in Europe and elsewhere, particularly among those who believed until recently that African philosophy was a fiction concocted by the same Belgian missionary. However, subsequent studies both by philosophers in the West as well as within Africa have proved beyond a grain of doubt that Africa was indeed a land of ancient philosophy or world outlook although this philosophy might not have been as articulate as the modern philosophy in Western cultures.

Studies have even established who the



first African philosopher was. According to some of them, «From 2200 to 1000 BCE, one of the earliest known African philosophers was a man called Ptahhotep, an ancient Egyptian philosopher.» According to Wikipedia, «African philosophy is the philosophical discourse produced in Africa or by indigenous Africans. African philosophers are found in the various academic fields of present philosophy such as metaphysics, epistemology, moral philosophy and public philosophy.»

Other studies by researchers like the Canadian Jesuit philosopher Claude Sumner, who lived in Ethiopia for most of his long life, had established incontrovertible proof about the existence of African or African philosophy long before the Western world developed its own philosophy, that is mainly derived from the Greeks and the Romans who had closer contacts with Africans, i.e. Egyptians, before it found its own philosophical identity.

Many African philosophers who studied in Europe or America have also developed the nature and shape of African philosophy both as the sum total of the philosophy of African peoples by studying the Yoruba culture and philosophy in Nigeria, and the Ethiopian philosophy of man thus called by Professor Sumner because Ethiopian philosophy put man at the centre of its metaphysical investigations or thoughts. Professor Sumner thus put Ethiopian philosopher's Zara Yacob, an Axumite monk, on a par with the philosopher of French metaphysical thinker Rene Descartes who invented the philosophy of European rationalism summarized in the famous dictum, «Je pense, donc Je suis» (I think, therefore I am) had become popular beyond Europe.

African philosophy is sometimes called «ethno-philosophy» by some students of the tradition to indicate that, African philosophy developed along a different line from European philosophical traditions because culture plays a big role in its emergence and growth. African philosophy is not speculative and, «One of the implicit assumptions of ethno-philosophy is that a specific culture can have a philosophy that is not applicable or accessible to all peoples

and cultures in the world.

Thus, African philosophy is basically culture-sensitive in its approach and is also time-specific or culture-sensitive both at the same time. That is why Western philosophers in the classic traditions of Hegel or Aristotle sometimes maintain that their philosophy has always been universally valid while ethno-philosophy that cannot overcome the boundaries of ethnicity and history in its investigations is therefore confined only to Africa.

Subsequent investigations however came up with opposing arguments that African philosophy should not be narrowly defined. One of the protagonists this view says that, «the ethno-philosophical approach should not at face value or as a sole determinant in a static form. «Research on Ubuntu which is another alternative to ethno-philosophy, and a collective discourse on African philosophy that takes differences, historical developments and social contexts seriously.»

Culture, like art, justice, right or aesthetic, has its own philosophy and African art is particularly different from other arts because it often combines art with ideologies or world views and philosophies. Art in Africa is not a pursuit that is separate from consciousness, spirit or mental attitudes or ideologies as it is in other countries in Europe or the West on general. For Africans, material conditions of life are woven into the fabrics of their communal values systems and consciousness of the world around them or outside of them.

In its modern sense, ideology is sometimes defined as a «false consciousness» or a reflection of the material conditions in general. This is not so in Africa where production of the means of survival is impacted by the mental conditions of the people or their conceptions of nature and society. For this reason, African art and culture tends to be more humane because it is less material. Western art is more material oriented while African art and culture is more human oriented. In this see the African philosophy of art is different and opposed to the Western notion of art or philosophy of art. African philosophy of art is culture specific and does not pretend

to be universal as Western philosophy of art pretends to be. From Hegel to Marx and to contemporary Western philosophers, the philosophy of art is tied to the level of economic and material development of society. In their views, Africa has no philosophy worth talking about and secondly if it has one, it is still in the state of nature and not based on advanced material conditions.

They often forget that the philosophy of art of the Chinese is different from that of the Africans which is again different from the Europeans and that they evolve according to their specific social, historical and spiritual dynamics instead of mimic a certain model. African philosophy is man-oriented not in the Western sense of Absolute Spirit but in the African sense of human spirit.

Africa may be materially undeveloped but it has evolved powerful artistic forms based on the priority of human spiritual needs that are supreme aspects of their existence as expressed through the tales or stories, their masks and architectures, pictures and other art forms. Western philosophy of art looks backwards at the as it is stuck to the Hegelian problematic of the Absolute Spirit while its African counterpart is forward looking dealing both with the present and the future.

«African art is also connected to African philosophy through its use of storytelling. Many African artworks, such as masks, sculptures and textiles, and stories about the history, myths and beliefs of African cultures are but to mention a few. These stories out of the past bear not just about the past but are also relevant to the future.» African art is therefore more progressive than its western counterpart that emphasis on art forms than the content and purpose of art which in the African case is the improvement of the spiritual life of the individual and not on mass consumption of art as a product of the market.

Western art has progressively lost its humanity through a long history of market development and the valuation of the products of the human spirit. African art is fresher, potentially more creative and with a glorious past which has become the envy of the art and culture industries in the West that are keen on appropriating and valuing African art works that were created for the purpose of satisfying the human quest for expression and the search for the meaning of life. In Western traditions, the market is the authority of this valuation process while African art is valueless because it was created for spiritual expression of man and not to satisfy the material cravings of the Western man. The valuation and exchange value of the products of African arts is an irresponsible and inhumane activity that is out to destroy the African heritage by condemning it to constant valuation and revaluation in the hands of the black market and the criminal cultural underworld. It may be now the right time to rise to the occasion and fight to save African art, and together with it African philosophy of art, from speculators and their market associates.

Society

Ensuring access to safe water

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

A significant health, social, and economic problem arises in developing countries with high concentrations of fluoride in ground drinking water, exceeding the World Health Organization's standard values. This issue is particularly prevalent in the Ethiopian Rift Valley, where deep wells serve as the main source of drinking water.

Yeshiwas Mitiku, the General Manager of Bahta Health Center, emphasized in an exclusive interview with *The Ethiopia Herald* that access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene is a fundamental human need for overall health and well-being. However, unless progress quadruples, billions of people will still lack access to these basic services by 2030. The growing demand for water due to population growth, urbanization, and increasing agricultural, industrial, and energy needs further exacerbates the situation.

While providing communities with clean and safe water is essential, there are potential health risks associated with excessive fluoride levels. Fluoride is a naturally occurring mineral found in rocks, soil, and water. It is commonly added to public water supplies in controlled amounts to prevent tooth decay and promote dental health. However, when the fluoride concentration exceeds recommended levels, it can lead to a condition known as fluorosis.

Fluorosis is a dental and skeletal disorder that affects both children and adults. In mild cases, it may cause cosmetic issues such as white specks or streaks on the teeth. In severe cases, it can result in enamel pitting, discoloration, and skeletal fluorosis, which impacts the bones and joints.

Yeshiwas highlights that the adverse health effects of fluoride primarily arise from long-term exposure to high concentrations, often found in areas with naturally occurring fluoride-rich groundwater. In regions where water supplies are fluoridated, strict monitoring is in place to ensure fluoride concentrations remain within safe limits.

He emphasizes that achieving universal, adequate, and equitable access to safely managed water and sanitation services is crucial for sustainable development. Addressing the challenges posed by high fluoride concentrations in drinking water is essential to safeguard the health and well-being of communities.

Aniley Tade, Senior Sanitary Engineer at the Ministry of Health, stated that fluoride contamination remains a significant challenge in Ethiopia's drinking water development projects, particularly in the Rift Valley region. Recognizing it as a serious waterborne health concern, the Ministry is actively seeking technological prevention mechanisms to address this



Providing communities with clean and safe water is essential

issue. The Czech company has expressed its willingness to collaborate with Ethiopia on this matter.

Water purity is constantly threatened by various pollutants, including fluoride, which is prevalent throughout the universe. While fluoride is beneficial for enamel development when present in small concentrations of about 0.7 mg/l in drinking water, it poses serious health risks when detected in concentrations exceeding 1.5 mg/l.

To mitigate fluoride contamination, different de-fluoridation technologies are employed. However, several factors need to be considered when selecting the appropriate fluoride removal technology, including material cost and availability, capital investment and operating costs, simplicity in design and operation, by products generated during treatment, removal capacity, community acceptance, and willingness to pay. Social challenges associated with fluorosis and local beliefs also influence the acceptance of these technologies, and public awareness initiatives have proven effective in determining acceptance.

While Ethiopia has made significant progress in ensuring access to safe drinking water over the past two decades, challenges remain in achieving overall water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) coverage. Limited access to safe water and inadequate sanitation and hygiene practices contribute to up to 80 percent of communicable diseases, impacting health and nutrition.

The demand for water has surpassed population growth, with half of the world's population already experiencing severe

water scarcity for at least one month a year. Water scarcity is projected to worsen with the increasing global temperatures caused by climate change.

To ensure universal access to safe and affordable drinking water for all by 2030, investments in infrastructure and sanitation facilities, the protection and restoration of water-related ecosystems, and hygiene education are essential. Improving water-use efficiency is key to reducing water stress and addressing the challenges associated with water scarcity.

APIMOSO, s.r.o. a water treatment manufacturing and supply company based in the Czech Republic, is currently in negotiations with the Ethiopian government to provide water treatment mobile machines, according to the managing director.

Antonin Sestak, the General Manager of APIMOSO, mentioned that discussions have taken place with the Ethiopian Ministry of Health and water and sewerage authorities regarding the supply of water purification machines. As part of the negotiation progress, APIMOSO has partnered with WOS International Business Group PLC a local firm, to explore business opportunities in Eastern and East-central Africa.

APIMOSO is renowned for manufacturing and supplying mobile water treatment machines that could significantly enhance Ethiopia's water distribution capacity to its citizens. The General Manager noted that due to the longstanding relations between the two countries, APIMOSO is familiar with Ethiopia's hydrological map and has expertise in geological works. They also have knowledge about the quality of

Ethiopian water.

Debebe Fekadu, the General Director of WOS International Business Group PLC, mentioned that the company is actively facilitating discussions between the Czech company and relevant stakeholders from the Ethiopian government.

Research findings have confirmed the need for serious water treatment interventions across the Rift Valley region, as a significant number of people are currently suffering from impure and fluoride-contaminated water. The use of treatment machines has become essential to address this issue.

Installing treatment machines has become cost-effective as they can provide safe and clean water from various sources such as running rivers, lakes, or seawater. In Ethiopia, high concentrations of fluorine in groundwater have resulted in significant resource losses in different parts of the country.

The General Manager expressed that productive discussions have taken place with various public and private sectors, as well as neighboring East African nations, to explore ways of providing treatment machines. APIMOSO aims to expand the provision of treatment machines across the Rift Valley countries, including Tanzania, Kenya, and Ethiopia, where the fluoride concentration in groundwater is severe.

Debebe emphasized that Ethiopia, often referred to as the water tower of East Africa, still faces significant limitations in providing safe water to households and industries. The introduction of water treatment machines can help address this challenge and improve access to clean and safe water in the country.

Law & Politics

Regulated content to tackle hate speech, misinformation

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

The swift and unchecked expansion of misinformation and fake news in the digital age warrants urgent attention and action. With the click of a button, false narratives and malicious content can be disseminated to millions of users leading to misguided beliefs and distorted perceptions. This unchecked flow of misinformation can erode public trust in institutions, sow discord within communities, and even incite violence.

The urgency to establish effective regulatory measures that curtail the misuse of digital platforms by individuals' intent on propagating hate speech and fake news has become increasingly apparent in recent times.

The establishment of stringent regulations governing social media platforms is of utmost importance in addressing the increasing prevalence of hate speech and the dissemination of fake news. To effectively tackle these issues, it is imperative to implement comprehensive guidelines that not only detect but also actively discourage the spread of hate speech and false information.

In order to address the alarming issue of individuals misusing digital platforms to spread hate speech and disseminate fake news, it is essential to establish and enforce regulatory measures.

In fact, the emergence of social media platforms has revolutionized the way people communicate offering them an expansive array of avenues to express their thoughts, opinions, and ideas.

There is a lack of accountability in the digital realm leading to a rampant spread of hate speech and disinformation without any repercussions. By implementing stringent regulatory measures, users will be more cautious about what they post, knowing that there are consequences for their harmful actions. Setting clear definitions and guidelines will help ensure a consistent approach in determining what constitutes hate speech and how it should be dealt with.

Implementing robust regulations can help deter and control the propagation of hate speech and fake news. By establishing clear guidelines and standards for online content, authorities can hold individuals accountable for their actions and prevent the spread of harmful and misleading information. These regulatory measures can set boundaries and ensure that digital platforms are used responsibly and ethically.

Stringent regulations can create a deterrent effect discouraging individuals from engaging in the dissemination of hate speech and fake news. By imposing penalties for violators such as fines or temporary suspensions, policymakers can emphasize the seriousness of these offenses and dissuade potential offenders.

Collaborative efforts also ensure that the interests of all parties involved are taken into consideration resulting in regulations that are more practical, enforceable, and



representative of the collective will.

By providing individuals with the tools and knowledge to discern between credible and unreliable sources, they can become less susceptible to manipulative content. These initiatives can empower users to critically evaluate information, fostering a culture of media literacy and resilience against the influence of hate speech and fake news.

In a constantly evolving digital landscape, regulations must be flexible enough to accommodate new challenges and developments. Regular reviews and updates of regulatory frameworks can ensure their effectiveness in addressing emerging threats and maintaining the integrity of digital spaces.

Given the global nature of the internet, collaborative efforts between countries can help establish consistent standards and guidelines across borders. By sharing best practices, exchanging information, and coordinating efforts, countries can collectively combat the misuse of digital platforms.

In the era of digital communication, the rapid dissemination of misinformation and fake news through various platforms poses a formidable obstacle to the credibility of information exchange. This widespread issue not only undermines public opinion but also threatens social harmony and political stability.

By the same token, by educating the public about the potential dangers of spreading false information and promoting hate speech, individuals can become more responsible citizens and actively contribute to curbing these issues. Moreover, media literacy programs should be implemented to equip individuals with the critical thinking skills necessary to discern reliable sources of information from falsehoods.

Collaborations between social media platforms and educational institutions can play a pivotal role in fostering public education on the dangers of fake news and hate speech. Platforms can partner with schools and universities to provide resources, expert speakers, and workshops that educate students and teachers alike on the importance of media literacy and responsible engagement on social media.

Encouraging digital platforms to promote

ethical content creation and consumption practices can significantly reduce the prevalence of harmful information. Implementing measures such as fact-checking mechanisms, user reporting systems, and content labeling can help users navigate online spaces more responsibly and critically.

The rampant spread of misinformation and fake news through digital platforms poses a significant threat to information integrity, public opinion, social cohesion, and political stability.

Alongside the implementation of regulatory measures, it is crucial to prioritize widespread public education regarding the perils associated with fake news and hate speech. This educational effort needs to commence from a young age and equip individuals with the essential skills and knowledge required to identify and combat misinformation and hate speech effectively.

Given the borderless nature of online platforms, cooperation among countries is essential to address the global spread of false information effectively. Sharing knowledge, exchanging best practices, and collaborating on regulatory standards can strengthen efforts to combat misinformation while respecting diverse cultural contexts and legal frameworks.

Collaborative efforts among countries can establish common frameworks and protocols that harmonize regulatory approaches and facilitate the exchange of best practices. This cooperation can help dismantle the transnational networks that perpetuate hate speech and disinformation.

Media outlets and journalists also play a crucial role in public education efforts. They have the responsibility to report accurately and ethically while also dedicating resources to debunking false information and raising awareness about the consequences of hate speech.

The proliferation of misinformation and fake news in today's society is fueled by the ease and speed at which information can be shared online. With just a few clicks, false or misleading information can be amplified and reach millions of people within seconds. This erosion of truth is particularly concerning as it can distort public opinion, influence decision-making processes, and potentially lead to social

unrest.

The threat posed by misinformation and fake news to social harmony is rooted in its potential to exacerbate existing divisions within societies. By disseminating falsehoods or creating divisive narratives, unscrupulous actors can exploit societal fault lines, incite hatred, and perpetuate conflicts. This not only erodes trust between different groups but also makes it increasingly difficult to foster understanding, tolerance, and collaboration among diverse communities.

By manipulating public opinion through false narratives, bad actors can undermine democratic processes, polarize societies, and manipulate election outcomes. This poses a direct threat to the integrity of democratic systems, as it erodes public trust in institutions and can lead to political instability.

Regulatory measures can assist in combating the rapid spread of misinformation and disinformation. By mandating fact-checking procedures requiring platforms to verify the accuracy of information before it is disseminated authorities can reduce the prevalence of false narratives and promote a more informed society.

In an interview Anteneh Tsegaye (Ph.D.), School of Journalism and Communication, Addis Ababa University, gave recently to the Ethiopian Press Agency said the growth and diversification of the media industry have brought about both positive and negative consequences. On one hand, it has provided individuals with access to a wide range of perspectives and opinions, promoting a more inclusive and democratic society. However, on the other hand, this expansion has also created opportunities for certain groups or individuals to exploit the media platforms as a means to incite unrest and discord within communities.

The fact that the majority of false information is well planned and targeted and the negative effect it has on the public is devastating, he said adding that false information is widely shared due to the nature of the platforms regardless of Ethiopia's limited internet penetration.

An overwhelming majority of social media content, specifically over 85%, is centered on political topics. This highlights the concerning prevalence of politically motivated narratives in the virtual sphere.

Furthermore, the academician strongly emphasized the detrimental consequences of manipulative and inflammatory social media content in fueling unrest in various regions. The destructive impact of such content has come at a great cost to Ethiopia, as it has unnecessarily burdened the nation with additional challenges and repercussions.

Anteneh highlights the issue of ineffective regulation regarding social media platforms and how this lack of accountability has exacerbated the problem. The absence of strict measures that hold violators accountable for their actions allows individuals to act with impunity on social media. This has led to a significant increase in hate speech and disinformation being spread on these platforms.



Ephrem Endale
Contributor

Between you & me

Decoding 'The Kiss' and 'The Bite!'

Betrayal is a wonderful issue which might be enough to produce a work which would break all box office records. So much literature has been written on the issue that it'd be difficult to make any quantitative guess. But then don't have much more betrayal stories in real life? I mean in all truthfulness wouldn't you think the real story of betrayal are more weird, more brutal and more inhuman than much of the creative work? Of course betrayal isn't always about your sweetheart throwing you under the bus and to add salt to the wound to your best friend! Of course as soon as your sweetheart jumps fence the 'best friend' story breathes its last.

The difference between a kiss and a bite; hasn't become that hard to decode!

Wouldn't you give the thumbs up to innocent souls who try to mend some betrayal incident and mend fences between the betrayed and the betrayer? Of course they can't be held responsible if old habits die hard and just a couple of weeks later the betrayer goes into action again.

The most difficult thing, so it appears, is finding out that one has actually been betrayed. Not that the person fails to see the signs. Yes, he does see them. But then it's all about not being misled by the thin line dividing 'the good from the bad' these days. Hasn't taking clear stand on the question of differentiating 'the good from the bad' evolved into something subjective? What many used to call 'bad' all through their lives has all of a sudden been turned into not only 'good' but the best! The age-old

proverbial line between the good and the bad, between the blessed and the cursed, between the angelic and the devilish is worn out so thin one needs the keenest eyes on the planet to recognize it. In fact, things we have been seeing as not only bad but something that should have been buried in the older Biblical times are all of a sudden so glamorized and eulogized you struggle to find the words to express what you actually feel. No sooner have you responded to some action with the horror, "What! You mean he actually did such a thing?" that you seem the brass bands of admirers marching from many sides. "He's a hero of our times! If only the world had a hundred or two people like him ours would have been a world which never want to live. Why? Because it holds most of the things you thought were meant only for Heaven! "Hip, hip hooray! Life is beautiful!"

One can imagine the mental tsunami one has to suffer trying to fit into the changing world, 'wrongly changing' world! Many of those you knew held the same ideas as yours have shifted sides for reasons you could never have thought and would never understand. The accolade, tribute, praise, admiration ... etc, showered on aspects of life you thought have made the world weirder are so much you might ask interrogating yourself. "Is there some very evil thing I committed for me to be thrown out so out and far into the no man's territory with no chance of some hero or heroine coming to my help?"

The difference between a kiss and a bite; hasn't that become hard to decode!

Even the perpetrator and the victim change places with the narratives blaming the punched and patting the back of the puncher! Now, wasn't this world some time back the place where the loudest and emotional voices were about the inhumane treatment of the punched and calling for the puncher to face the law and answer for their unsocial and most of the time inhumane acts! At which spot much of mankind jumped the rails is for the researchers to find out if any of them decide to really look deeper into the shift that wasn't supposed to happen and shouldn't have happened. Of course the other problem is finding legitimate researchers who haven't already changed sides and closed the books never to open them again.

The difference between a kiss and a bite; hasn't that become hard to decode!

"I heard someone saying she betrayed him. What's wrong with that lady?"

"Nothing. Who said there is anything wrong with her?"

"I just told you I heard someone saying she betrayed her hubby."

"No she didn't betray him. She did it for his own good."

"What do you mean for his own good? She practically kicked buckets of dust in his face so much so I'm hearing he isn't his former self! And you're telling me she did it for his sake!"

"Yes, she did for his sake. You people should throw out all that old garbage stuffed

into your brains. The world is changing and you better wake up before the final train lives the station."

So maybe whenever you see someone you think has been badly treated or been victim of injustice small or big take a few more minutes before you start digging for your handkerchief or pieces of tissue paper. Under normal circumstances you need those things to dry the wetness around your tees. But normal circumstances of yesteryears are no more normal circumstances. Or to put it in better way the decoding processes of those 'normal circumstances' have been altered so have the conclusions too. It is a world where the one with the broken jaw is blamed while the jaw breaker goes home whistling all the way.

The world is reeling with so much that baffles you the question is should you be worried for the world indeed being on life support as the End Times rush ever nearer!

We're in such weird times that tolerance and mutual understanding among people have been battered so thin no wonder things we used to take for granted are becoming almost invisible and 'alien' for many of us. Even trying to stand firm for what you think and actually KNOW is the right thing to do seldom gets you the applause, No, the world doesn't expect you to be as innocent and as 'humane' as that. Fall in line or get lost! The message couldn't be any clearer than that.

The difference between a kiss and a bite; hasn't that become hard to decode!

A World of 'Fools!'

"You promised to hand the work by Wednesday. Today is Sunday and you still haven't kept your word. Can you give us any legitimate reason?"

"Well my mom came from the region for emergency medical treatment and I had to be near her 24/7 I didn't get the time to sit down and finish the work on time."

Well may God heal his mom! But wouldn't that be a well wish which should have been made many years back. It has been more than a decade since the guy's mom passed away. But being ungrateful for all she has done bringing up as best as her means allowed her he still uses and abuses her name as protection for all the things he fails to do good and all the things he doesn't do at all. She is at the back of all his request because he thinks using her name would allow him fool everyone up and down the social ladder.

That, dear readers, a present and immediate dagger hovering over us all. Most of us think that we could always cook up stories and fool others at will. For many of us much of the rest of the world is a stupid collection of human beings who are so uniformed and mentally weak that we could kick them around and they would take that as blessing of sorts.

When one thinks that one could go away with stories framed for the specific occasions one forgets that there are the smart ones who put one in the place one should be; the place where practical jerks are placed until maybe they start using other brains nature gave

them. That's 'think!' When people believe that your brains aren't alert enough to look into things and make decisions based on up-to-date and verified information then you're in for real difficult and frustrating times. They aren't willing to hear to whatever you say because in their eyes you're one to be fooled easily and being led to the slaughter without a single word of protest. There were times when one could come up with all sorts of narratives however out-of-the-world and bizarre they might be and go away unscathed. In fact admiration precedes the questions and inquiries which many times than not may never come.

But believe me and few things, if any, would be as frustrating as being taken for a fool and people trying to mislead you about a hundred and one things.

"Look I'll tell you what you should do with him."

"What should I do to make him do my wish?"

"You have to do nothing. Don't you know that many people are fool these days! You could make them believe or do whatever you want as long as you know how to talk to them."

"I never thought along those lines."

"Then I've to tell you that you're in real trouble. The world is speeding twice faster than you could catch up and better learn the tricks before others make a fool of you."

There seem to be many of us who think that

it's a world where it's far easier to fool people with false and fully cooked up narratives than it has ever been. You might say those might be somewhat heavy handed conclusions. Well, thanks for being so nice as niceness is in short supply. I mean things don't necessarily have to come on our doors knocking in real time. Just a few minutes of watching the global the evening news is enough to tell you that in this world of ours making fools of others has grown into an entire industry which a little down the road might control humanity.

But then the sad thing is that as there are many of us trying to make fools of others there are among 'the others' those who easily, perhaps too easily, fall into our traps. That's the most worrying thing. Recently there was this domestic helper who was forced to change employment as her former bosses tried to cut back on her already chickenfeed pay. Now until now those who knew her took her for a genuinely smart young lady who could barter you for whatever thing she wants and you wouldn't notice; at least not until the deal has been struck and you find yourself in the strangest of situations.

Luckily only a few days after leaving her former bosses she finds employment. She was carrying her belongings to her new work place when a man who says looked like he was well into his late fifties offered to help her and she didn't have to think twice when she gave him the big suitcase into which much of her belongings were stuffed. How could she refuse when a man with so much grey her

offers to help her. His slow movement didn't bother her as the suitcase was very real heavy. As they snaked their way through the narrow village roads several meters behind the man was another well-built and smartly dressed twentyish fellow. She recalled these images only once adversity struck!

At a certain spot the grey haired man gives off wads of ten birr notes and asks her to buy him bottled water as he was thirsty. Carrying such a load thirsty was what he should be. She goes to a shop located some fifty or so meters to the left. She buys the bottled water and no sooner has she started walking back her world falls apart. The man wasn't there. She sprints the few meters and looks up and down the road and he was nowhere in sight! That suitcase held almost everything she bought over the years whenever she had the extra money to do so. But once her shock subsided having come to terms to the fact that she has been robbed she noticed the young man following them was also nowhere!

Perhaps the very fact she, without any second thought or hesitation, accepted the offer for help from the man and then was willing to go buy him bottled water while he could have done himself proved to the two crooks she was indeed just another fool! Yes many times than not our failure to take a second or two more before innocently agreeing to such offers coasts the day and more.

Yes, be nice; but not to the point of being taken for some fool!

In Pictures



PM Abiy Attends Compact with Africa Summit

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) attended the Compact with Africa (CwA) Summit this week, a summit organized in Berlin, Germany. Launched under the German G20 Presidency in 2017, the G20 CwA has become a platform for dialogue and cooperation between reform-oriented African countries, G20 partners and beyond.

PM Abiy participated in a session focused on economic cooperation and enhancing private sector participation. On the sidelines of the Summit, the Premier also held talks with leaders of various countries and international organizations.

PM Abiy discusses with Chancellor Olaf Scholz

Premier Abiy held a constructive bilateral meeting with Germany Chancellor Olaf Scholz in Berlin. The two leaders' discussion aims to further strengthen the political and economic ties of Ethiopia and German.

They agreed to expand cooperation in clean energy, Foreign Direct Investment, fertilizer production, and regional security issues. The leaders of the two countries met last Sunday ahead of the G20 CwA Summit.

See ... page 27



Published bimonthly in collaboration with Addis Ababa Science and Technology University

ASSTU beyond hollow bravado

BY LAKACHEW ATINAFU

Addis Ababa University of Science and Technology (AASTU) has established itself as an active collaborator with beneficiary institutions in undertaking nationally implemented projects through research and consulting services. The university's renowned research and consulting team has achieved a significant milestone by successfully concluding their efforts to address societal challenges, and they are now prepared to deliver the outcomes back to the community.

A notable accomplishment of AASTU's research and consulting group is the completion of two major projects: the 'Gojam Berenda Corridor' and the 'Bulgaria-Kera' local development plan projects. These projects were commissioned by the Addis Ababa City Planning and Development Commission and focused on

the development of the Gojam Berenda - Bus Line and Bulgaria-Kera areas, including the Tele region.

The primary objective of these projects, as outlined by the dedicated researchers, was to establish a healthy, inclusive, and livable environment that takes into account the economic, social, and cultural values of the community. Professor Dawit Adyab, the research coordinator for the Gojam Berenda-Bus Tera area development project, highlighted the interdisciplinary nature of the endeavor, involving experts from diverse fields such as architecture, urban planning, economics, and community studies. The project covered a substantial area of 33.90 hectares, reflecting the scale and significance of the development initiative.

The Gojam Berenda-Bus Ordinary area, known for its bustling commercial activities and diverse social issues, serves as a popular destination for travelers from various

locations. Professor Adyab acknowledged that while the region possesses immense development potential, previous efforts to address its unique needs and opportunities have been insufficient. Consequently, the local development project was designed to incorporate a comprehensive strategy aimed at enhancing economic activities, improving social well-being, and preserving the community's cultural and historical heritage. Professor Adyab also commended the Addis Ababa City Planning and Development Commission for their ongoing initiatives focused on community development.

Simultaneously, AASTU's research team responsible for the Bulgaria-Kera local development project has successfully completed their work and submitted their findings to the city's planning and development commission.

Mesfen Alemu, the coordinator of the research team for the Bulgarian Kera Environmental Development Project, explained that the project encompassed a vast area of 79 hectares, with a specific focus on the development of the Kera, Bulgaria,



and Tele areas. Alemu emphasized that the project took into account the historical significance of the community while adhering to contemporary international urban development standards. Additionally, the project actively engaged university students, providing them with invaluable practical experience and opportunities to enhance their knowledge through fieldwork.

The Addis Ababa City Planning and Development Commission, as the owner of the projects, expressed their satisfaction with the successful completion of these initiatives. They lauded AASTU for its dedication to community development and expressed a keen interest in continuing to collaborate on similar projects in the future, thereby fostering ongoing progress and prosperity for the community at large.

Contacts: Public and International Relations' Directorate

Tel: +251 11 888 0610

Mob: +251 993 - 80 7178

E-mail: pir@aastu.edu.et

P.O.Box: 16417

Website: www.aastu.edu.et