



The Ethiopian Herald

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Unfolding Ethiopia's industrial transformation success

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA –Viable policy reforms and cutting-edging technologies have been taking place to bring sectoral shifts, address competitiveness issue and propel the national Home Grown Economic Reform agenda, the Industry Minister said.

Per the 10-Year Development Goal and identifying the major thematic areas and gaps in the sector, multifaceted activities have been executed to generate the expected outcome in the national economy, Industry Minister Melaku Alebel told journalists.

In a press briefing organized for journalists from various media on Thursday, Melaku also stated that Ethiopia is carrying out consolidated efforts to bring structural transformation in the industry sector.

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Photo: Hadush Abreha

Industry Minister Melaku Alebel

Ministry readies 161 hotels for upcoming AU summit

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA - Around 161 star rated hotels are undertaking preparationsto warmly welcome guests of the37th AU Summit slated from February 14-18, 2024, so disclosed Ministry of Tourism (MoT).

MoT Strategic Unit Coordinator Tewodros Deribew told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that a committee led by Ministry of Foreign Affairs is formulated comprising relevant actors to better facilitate the AU summit.

He said: “As one of the stakeholders, the MoT is undertaking several activities to make the AU summit safe and sound. Apart from building a positive image, hotel selection would help best serve leaders of African countries and higher representatives of various international organizations that are believed to take part in the summit.”

He further stated that these hotels are expected to deliver quality service hand in hand with promotingthe tourism sector as well as introducing the country's cultural values and norms to the international

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Group insists new legal approach to deter human right violations

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – The consolidation of legal institutions and the formation of specialized bench is crucial to ensure the accountability of human right violations and protect victims, the Ethiopian Transitional Justice (TJ) Expert Group said.

Briefing journalists yesterday, Group Chairperson Tadesse Kassa (PhD) stated that reforming the justice system has become the order of the day to effective prosecution of

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Photo: Gebabo Gebere

Regional Stability : Ethiopia's foreign relations' centerpiece

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA- Pacifying the East African region has an important part in

Ethiopia's foreign relations and the country is heavily involved in the restoration of peace in the strategic, but volatile region, veteran diplomats said.

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News



Diaspora to enjoy air fare, hotel accommodation discount

ADDIS ABABA -The Ethiopian Airlines, following Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's invitation, has reduced the price of plane tickets and hotel accommodation for those second generation Diaspora coming home.

The premier called on the second generation members of the Diaspora to come to Ethiopia in three rounds last week while inaugurating the Chebera Elephant Paw Lodge.

Following the call, a main committee led by Ministry of Tourism and comprising federal and regional institutions has finalized preparations to welcome the second generation members of the Diaspora.

Ethiopian Airlines Group Chief Commercial Officer Lemma Yadecha told ENA that the airline has been contributing its share on several occasions when the PM extended such calls for members of the Diaspora.

Following this recent invitation of the premier, the Airlines has made 15-20 percent discount on plane tickets for second generation Diaspora responding to the call, the chief officer announced.

Also, the Ethiopian Airlines Group would make 15-20 percent discount and special preparations at the Skylight Hotel for the invited guests.

The PM invited the second generation members of the Diaspora to come home in three rounds from the end of December 2023 to the beginning of September 2024.

Those who come in the 1st round under Connect to Your Multi-cultural Roots would celebrate Ethiopian Christmas, Epiphany, and victory celebrations afterwards.

The 2nd round homecoming dubbed Connect to Your History will be during the African Union annual summit to the coming rainy season.

The 3rd round is summer to the end of September 2024 and under the motto Leave Your Legacy through tree planting, teaching, participating in other works.

League to donate 600 vehicles to empower youth

BY NAOL GIRMA

ADDIS ABABA - The Ethiopian Youth Peace and Prosperity Mission League has planned to distribute 600 vehicles to empower and support the country's youth.

League President Berhanu Bekele said that the organization would distribute the 600 Hyundai vehicles to youths as it has been encouraging young individuals to embrace entrepreneurship rather than merely seeking employment.

According to the President, the vehicles that the League received from partners in terms of donation worth 2.5 million birr each will be distributed equitably to all states and the two city administrations.

Notably, there has been a significant increase in the number of young people involved in the transportation sector, which has created favourable conditions for economic empowerment, he said.

The President also highlighted that the distribution process of the vehicles among the youth will follow specific criteria, including work interests, participation in charitable activities, a passion for entrepreneurship, and a sense of patriotism.

The organization is established with the



primary objective of fostering enduring peace, promoting philanthropy, and facilitating the prosperity of Ethiopia's youth, Berhanu noted.

In line with these goals, league has undertaken multifaceted initiatives throughout the country, including the planting of 30 million seedlings in collaboration with the Green Legacy Initiative, he mentioned.

Members of Berhanu's League also have donated blood to the National Defence Forces, renovated homes for the underprivileged, and provided support to street children.

The President assured that the league remains committed to its on-going efforts and will continue to focus on the next steps.

Ethiopia secures over 214 mln USD exporting horticultural products

BY MESEERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA - The country has generated over 214 million USD exporting horticultural products in the past five months, Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) announced.

MoA Horticulture Development Lead Executive, Abdela Negash told The Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that his institution secured over 214,741,000 USD from more than 122,611 tons of horticultural products export during the past five months of this fiscal year.

As to him, the revenue was obtained by exporting cut flowers, vegetables and fruits, roots and aromatic products to various countries.

He stated that cut flower takes the lion's share of the revenue with more than 184,777,000 USD followed by vegetables, fruits and aromatic (herbal) products that shared over 15.54, 7.225 and 7.18 million USD respectively.

This year's export volume has been increased by 7.8 % though it has seen a 33% revenue decrement, he noted.

He further stated that United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia, Netherlands, United Kingdom, among others are the main destinations of Ethiopian horticultural products.



The recently held Dubai and Qatar Expos have made a significant contribution in expanding market access and promoting products, Abdela noted.

"The ministry has been working hard through establishing the 10 year development plan so as to support the horticulture sector. Following this, different products including avocados are being exported. Similarly, works like multiplying seeds, cluster farming, and maximizing inputs have been carrying out to boost horticultural product and productivity," he mentioned.

Abdela further noted that the horticulture sector reduces foreign currency crunch, creates jobs, ensures food sufficiency, and increases market linkage.

However, he said, the country has not been gaining adequate benefit from the sector due to poor attention, political instability, absence adequate and quality product, lack of storage and transportation. Therefore, he emphasized that the newly Agriculture policy which is under preparation should incorporate mechanisms to curb the challenges aiming at bringing significant change in the sector.

News

Ministry readies...

community through the esteemed guests.

They are also needed to make the guests feel at home and make their stay memorable, he added.

To this end, as to Tewodros, discussion was held with the hotel owners and an agreement, and unanimous accord has been reached to serve guests at reasonable price

taking precautions measure on health and other emergency issues into account.

Emphasizing the readiness of MoT along with the committee to respond to any problems related to power, telecom and water, he reminded that higher officials would undertake supervision on the selected hotels to make sure how the preparation is going.



Regional Stability :

Approached by the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) the ex-diplomat Ambassador Tiruneh Zena stated that the country is heavily involved in ensuring peace and stability in the East African region in Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan in particular. "Ethiopia has been playing an important and exemplary role for East Africa's peace by fighting terrorist groups, supporting peace efforts and deploying peacekeeping forces."

Ethiopia has also been partnering with its neighbors and relevant agencies to ensure enduring peace in the volatile region. The country's Foreign Policy centers on seeking collaboration in economic and

political affairs and resolving differences in amicable manner, Ambassador Tiruneh elaborated.

Ethiopia is known for not only resolving its own problems but also supporting the peace of its neighbors and has been hugely contributing in peacekeeping missions.

The country is working in partnership with different stakeholders in a bid to achieve global peace while keeping its activities comply with international laws. The restoration of peace and stability in Somalia and efforts towards bringing peace to South Sudan and Sudan manifests Ethiopia's

efforts in regional stability, he added.

According to Ambassador Tiruneh, to keep its exemplary role in regional stability, Ethiopia needs to resolve its own internal security problem amicably.

For his part, former diplomat and Political Analyst Prof. BirukHailu said that Ethiopia's diplomacy is based on mutual respect, non-interference in others' internal affairs and seeking peaceful solutions for problems.

Ethiopia is at the forefront in supporting the Sudan and South Sudan peace efforts that have attracted global attention over the last

decades. The effort of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and Ethiopia to achieve peace and stability in the region brought tangible outcomes. It is evident that with the support of Ethiopia, the Sudanese government and the South Sudanese rebel group reached an agreement.

Ethiopia has been playing a critical role in addressing regional security problems and registering remarkable results in the diplomacy and economic frontiers that would help to boost its influence in regional politics, the scholar remarked.

Unfolding...

Mentioning the global nature of industrialization, he noted that the advancement could play both positive and negative impact in the local market. "Taking the versatility of the contemporary world and other scenarios into consideration, the ministry formulated new Industrial Policy that contemplates the national and continental technological advancement including AI and bio-tech."

Melaku added, "Along with the policy approval, we have been undertaking various activities including promoting the local and international investors, forex and job creation and others that would help to back the policy implementation."

Policies require the government's firm commitment towards development agenda including budget allocation, infrastructural expansion and other pillars of manufacturing advancement. Industrialization is a viable mechanism to overcome poverty and technology, skilled labor, logistics, input supply, research among others are the driving forces to be competent in the sector.

The minister further highlighted that industrial parks development has played a

critical role in improving the manufacturing sector's infrastructure expansion in that many investors are showing keen interest to invest in Ethiopia. Due to the parks, the country is positioned with a convenient market place and infrastructure.

"The involvement of local investors in the industrial parks is a milestone for the enhancement of technology transfer and global market competency thereby garnering a remarkable achievement."

National initiatives including the 'Let Ethiopia Produce' movement is contributing a lot to enhance the role of the private sector in the manufacturing industries and help 376 industries to resume operation with 56 percent production capacity.

The Ministry of Industry has also formulated a strategic plan to facilitate the import substitution schemes.

About the ministry's five month performance, Melaku indicated that some 266 million USD and four million metric ton input were supplied to manufacturing industries. Besides, the ministry disbursed 15 billion Birr loan and created over 48,000 jobs in the reported period.

Group insists...

human right violations and deter potential situations.

According to the chairperson, they have gathered and analyzed significant data from the public about ways to ensure the accountability of individuals who involved in human right violations through credible legal institutions. "In this regard, we have been carrying out various activities with different stakeholders to ensure transitional justice, reconciliation, and accountability across the nation."

The group hosted over 80 discussion forums from February to September 2023 across the nation. In this regard, some 47 public forums held in various states and Dire Dawa and another 11 in Addis Ababa. Also, some 22 discussion forums were held at experts' level.

Group member Eniku Asenake on her part said that most participants of the public forums expressed conviction

in the establishment of a specialized bench that would see high-level human right violation cases. Similarly, the participants have insisted that the process of criminal investigation and prosecution should be conducted in a special and independent manner, rather than holding the present system.

Based on the public feedback, it is planned to make victims of human rights violations and those exposed to mental crisis, severely disabled, displaced, lost family members and sustained property damage to get proper compensation. Most participants expressed the opinion that the compensation process should be run by the soon-to-be formed commission, she added.

Furthermore, the group stressed that TJ has a number of advantages including ensuring accountability, compensating the victims, comprehending reconciliation, and bringing lasting peace and co-existence in Ethiopia.

Opinion

Peace efforts and youth in Ethiopia

BY MENGEAHA AMARE

So the weighty saying uttered by the spectacular philanthropist, Mother Teresa, that reads, "Peace begins with a smile," hilarious approaches in life, sympathetic gesture as well as clear mind helps others and even nations breathe a sigh of relief as serenity is tantamount to a clean air existence deserves.

Obviously, existence is a ride full of uncertainties and unanticipated twists and turns as no one on planet earth knows what will happen beyond a fraction of seconds they have had at the emphatically imminent moment. Without a shadow of doubt, human beings can never expect things to go a certain way and they cannot demand definitive outcomes in their future since they don't know what lies there, but the presence of peace portrays natural course of action in life for talking about life, existence, interaction, adore, hatred and others manifestations is definitely unthinkable without it.

Be that as it may, one thing of which people can be certain is that life will never be perfect as it has all the time been bedecked with happy times, trying epochs, successes, failures, definite patterns, uncertain circumstances, mosaic of attractive and disgusting scene, in precise manner.

The challenge is how citizens of a given nation, particularly the youth, can handle themselves and the matters of the respective countries and live a positive life regardless of all the pressures and changes going together on the tracks of life trek. If citizens, centering the youth as they are fresh comers for the propose of taking over the nation with its future, are not prepared for such changes whenever they occur, the latter will cause them to plunge in a state of despair, anxiety, emotional disability, patriotic erosion and even breakdown at the end of the day. Unequivocally, the youth have immense potential to contribute to peace efforts.

To be much more successful in all aspects of life, the prevalence of peace matters the most, but how? True, it is a clean air to breathe, a delicious foodstuff to take, and a harmonious social scenario to get human beings, even fauna and flora feel comfort. How indispensable peace in life on earth is!

The most difficult or trying question in the history of human life on earth is, how much does peace cost? The value of health could hardly be regarded unless one suffers from certain disorder occurring on a given part of body, and the worth of clear air and neat environment is boldly noticed when people experience sarcastic smells circularize around, and equivalently the value of peace is magnificently detected when certain normal course of action in life has been maladjusted and unknowingly or calculatingly broken.

Such a turbulent scenario highly affects the health, normal pattern of leading life, nonbelligerent running of activities, and the internal and external calm of life aspects. To

The youth have immense potential to contribute to peace building and conflict prevention efforts in various ways

curb these negative repercussions of lack of peace and harmony, the role the youth play is all the time invaluable and potentially authenticated.

Though all human beings, citizens or even all living things are vulnerable in their very existence to the potential sufferings born to lack of peace, the degree the young generation bears exceeds, this is because these segments of the society are left with a productive age and the happiest portion of life compared with those of the old who have consumed the sweetest part of their living and those who are not well immersed in the ocean of what is in the universe, infants perhaps.

No doubt, and scientifically proved, human beings are born small and helpless, they attain youth, middle age, and eventually become old and in need of help again. Besides, it is a definitely confirmed fact, and human beings themselves are also certain that regardless of when and where and how, sooner or later everyone will die. So, for this compulsory trek of life enjoying existence harvesting the fruits of it under the auspicious of peace has to come to the forefront.

The very crucial reason for saying the youth are the prime drivers of peace initiatives is that they are capable of fueling peaceful efforts towards building a nation, and destructing it on the contrary as they are dual-edged sharp swords ever ready to bring about change on the one hand and provoke chaos and turmoil on the other. Hence, they have to be well fed with both the strong sides regarding peace, national growth, citizenry adore and bounties of fraternity and amity, and the negative versions of wrong rhetoric styles, distorted narratives, approaches that widen disparities and fuel rivalries as there are segments or elements that have all the time garner benefits out of lack of peace. The choice needs to be left for them. Had conflict bourgeois known the fact that such a sly fashion will swallow them at the end of the day, they wouldn't have orchestrated it at all.

People have to nurture peace and its accessories for a good extant in life. Yes, feeling at peace internally can boost overall contentment and sensitiveness of happiness, regardless of the challenges human race face. Besides, a relaxed and calm outlook can help people navigate life's oft-turbulent oceans and ever-shaking seas more smoothly. The truth is people can find, if they are eager to do so, peace of mind via confessing accepting what can't be controlled, forgiving themselves and others, arresting themselves on the here and now since, as stated earlier, no one knows what will happen after a fraction of a second in life, managing thoughts and emotions as well as thinking out of the confined box where they have found themselves in.

Surprisingly, in unpredictable course of life on earth, how do people fail to create peace for themselves and for others, too? Let me leave this to be dealt with by practically exercising what life is and the value of peaceful mode.

The demands of everyday life can lead to stress and other emotional turmoil, no question especially if people are going through a rough patch. Apart from spoiling citizens' well being in the nation, lack of peace make individuals restless, full of anxiety, anger and irritability and hopelessness in general which highly deteriorates national move forward. When such turbulent acts prevail in the minds of the youth, the meaning is high, too.

As peace building and conflict prevention, broadly speaking, are crucial elements for the growth and development of any society, they youth should well dwell on such highly valuable concerns. The efforts, of course, have to be primarily led by governments and civil society organizations for a long time, backing the endeavor tasked by the youth. Surely, the youth have immense potential to contribute to peace building and conflict prevention efforts in various ways. For instance, by actively participating in decision-making as they are a significant segment of any society, and their perspectives and voices must be heard loud, by leveraging their energy and creativity in developing solutions to promote peace.

Since they can play a vital role in promoting social cohesion and tolerance, the youth have a unique ability to mobilize communities and create positive change, and they can be instrumental in addressing the root causes of conflict, such as poverty, unemployment, and inequality.

If this is so, these segments of the society, the youth in Ethiopia, have to get access to resources and youth-led initiatives for many youth-led initiatives have been instrumental in promoting peace and preventing conflicts effectively.

Creating an environment conducive for the youth to live in tranquility requires the efforts and dedication of all walks of life incorporating the youth themselves, women and the old. Indeed, young people have a role to play in the realization of peace and security, and this cardinal role is

increasingly being included in the different normative and policy frameworks that have been enacted at continental, regional and national levels.

In the country or continent where armed conflicts, political tensions, governance deficits, ethnic divisions and inequality, poverty and unemployment are prevalent, a faction of a second should not be spent for other activities apart from peace and security concerns, as it is of course the primary task of the government and once peace is secured other things come keeping their right pattern and natural course of action.

Yes, the youth have the potential to provide solutions to the problems facing the country, and the government has to capitalize on them. Youth vulnerabilities to inadequate experience and skills, limited job opportunities, job insecurity, inability to access credit have to be leveled and youth-friendly atmosphere needs to be made avail. Besides, different initiatives should be implemented towards enhancing youth knowledge and capacity to engage them in the decision-making arena. They need to be made capable of acquiring skills through mentor-hip programs, including research, advocacy, leadership and public speaking. Simply, youth capacity building should entail a systematic approach that seeks to harness their skills in communication, advocacy, leadership, project management, negotiation, mediation, and accountability.

In addition to this, robust legal and policy frameworks have been put in place to guide and inform youth engagement in the different spheres of peace, security and post-conflict reconstruction and development. Most importantly, strengthening personal and institutional capacities of youth peace-builders and networks to understand and contribute to peace in the Ethiopian context need to be expanded through training initiatives, encouraging and supporting youth innovation schemes. Since the youth in Ethiopia are highly susceptible to anti-peace elements' agendum, they have to be well aware of such ill-intended and work for the sake of peace.

In a nutshell, the governments, stakeholders, organizations working in the area of youth development, civic society organizations, national as well as international institutions, youth-led entities, have to move in unison keeping country's context into account to further boost the role of the youth in maintaining peace and security at national level thereby coming up with a stable nation in which all sorts of socioeconomic progress can be easily recorded. Here, the contribution education can make could never be underestimated as quality education for peace helps the youths constructively engage in civic structures and even inclusive political processes.

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

Editorial

Nation's steadfast stance for Sudanese peace, stability

Ethiopia has shown steadfast stance for the Sudanese peace and stability as it is the friendly country. As an ancient proverb states, "A true friend shows love at all times. And is a brother who is born for times of distress", Ethiopia has exerted unfathomable efforts for several times to maintain lasting peace when its sisterly country, Sudan, is in crises. To this end, the Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) met with Lieutenant General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo "Hemetti", Commander of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), in Addis Ababa last Thursday.

Abiy and Hemetti discussed the ongoing conflict in Sudan and explored potential avenues for resolving the crisis, which has persisted since mid-April. "Earlier today I received Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo and his delegation for a discussion on securing peace and stability in the Sudan," said the Ethiopian prime minister after the meeting in a short post released on X.

In related news, Executive Secretary of IGAD Workneh Gebeyehu also said in his social media post that IGAD is committed to supporting the endeavor to restore peace and normalcy in Sudan.

The secretary said, "As we embark upon a new year and commemorate Sudan's Independence Day, my heartfelt thoughts turn to the people of Sudan." Workneh added that IGAD will reinforce endeavors to restore peace and normalcy to the lives of brothers and sisters in Sudan.

"The hard-won independence fought for by the Sudanese people stands as a beacon that we must safeguard from dimming. Through the endured trials, the resilience of the Sudanese people shines brightly, reminding us that even this, too, shall pass," he stated.

Truly, Ethiopia seeks peace talks between the warring groups recognizing the crises the war brought against the Sudanese and its adverse impacts on the neighboring countries including Ethiopia. Because of the war broke out in the Sudan, great number of Sudanese and citizens of other countries resided there flee to the neighboring countries and among those hosted the refugees is Ethiopia.

It is for good reason, thus, Ethiopia is highly concerned about peace and stability of Sudan. The two countries share many things including long border, peoples with the same culture and language, and long lasted diplomatic and economic relations. Ethiopia has had long-standing bilateral relations with Sudan dating back to ancient period. However, they formally established their relations in 1960s immediately after Sudanese independence. Though disrupted by unexpected incidences in between, the diplomatic relation of the two countries has gone smoothly so far.

The two sisterly countries' people to people relations and interactions are immense. Many Ethiopians are earning their lives in Sudan and many Sudanese are dwelling in Ethiopia as well. Besides, as they have established wide trade relations, Ethiopia imports various kinds of goods from Sudan and exports many products to Sudan including electric power. On top of humanitarian issues, thus, their economic ties coerce Ethiopia to seek Sudanese peace and act accordingly.

Ethiopia's stance regarding peace not only in the Sudan but also in the region and in the continent by large is undeviating. The dialogue held between Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and Lieutenant General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo is the extension of the effort the Ethiopian leader has exerted several times expecting positive outcome though not attained yet.

Ethiopia never feels despondent in exerting efforts to restore peace and stability in the Sudan. Tomorrow is another day and by keeping up for the fruitfulness of its efforts Ethiopia visualizes bright future that the warring parties come to their mind, value lives of their fellow Sudanese and decide to come to a round table and discuss the way they get rid of hatred and rebuild fraternity relations for the sake of their country's peace.

Opinion

For Ethiopia, investing on tourism is a wise decision

BY STAFF REPORTER

Global international tourism receipts rose by approximately 75 percent in 2022 over the previous year, following a dramatic decline with the onset of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Despite the sharp annual increase, international tourism receipts worldwide stayed below pre-pandemic levels, amounting to roughly 1.09 trillion U.S. dollars in 2022.

Ethiopia is also one of the countries in the world that is endowed with huge potential for tourism industry development. The countries potential for tourism development are so varied that it is likely to support the prosperity of the nation's economy if given due attention.

Accordingly, the government is massively investing on harnessing the untouched resources of tourism in various corners. It is undertaking the development through the series of initiatives like Dine for nation, Dine for Generation.

According to data, Among the destinations that are being built under the chart for the country and under the chart for the country are those that have been fully completed and put into operation. One of these is the park located on the historic Entoto mountain, which includes various services integrated with the environment. Both domestic and foreign visitors will have the opportunity to see historical places when they are there, and they will be offered the services and entertainment that the times allow.

What makes this location unique is that mothers who have been working in low-income jobs in the area for a long time have created a life-changing job opportunity following the project's arrival. Other popular resorts in the city, and well-known service providers are on site ready to host visitors. Data indicates that Entoto Park is the first of the projects that entered the tourism industry.

The other is Friendship Square in Addis Ababa, which is part of the "Dine for Sheger" project. In this place, nature, various recreational facilities, scenic landscape are available together. Apart from the fact that there are many visitors in the park, it has become a place where they do a photo program for their weddings from abroad and within the country. Information indicates that a large number of Ethiopians have been given temporary and permanent job opportunities at Friendship Park.

Next to Entoto, Friendship Park and Unity Park, which were built in Addis Ababa, Friendship Park is the second project to be mentioned. As the capital of Africa and the seat of many diplomats, Ethiopia is an all-inclusive resort. The fact that this friendly number two park is based on teenagers is a proof of this.

According to the data; Thousands of students, parents, youth and adults have been visiting the park since the day it was inaugurated and opened to the public. The park is a great entertainment option where children can find all kinds of toys in one place. The site has several contents that indicate that it takes into account the inclusivity required by tourism.

The Halala Kela Resort is one of the destinations planned to be built in the Koisha project for the country. It is among the resorts that have been rapidly completed in recent years and have joined the Ethiopian tourism industry. This place is becoming preferred by visitors from abroad or within the country to go to the place due to its attractiveness and amazing view. It is expected that in a short time, the tourist flow will increase in popularity and stimulate the hospitality sector of Ethiopia.

In general, they are hosting a large number of tourists in the Dine for the Sheger initiative of unity, friendship and inspiration. The Resort, which is part of the Koisha tourism project, and has been completed and put into operation among the tourist destinations of Dine for nation projects that include Wonchi, Gorgora and Koisha. According to information from the project office, the Gorgora project is also nearing completion.

These projects make Ethiopia the place of many tourism resources. Apart from being the owner of nature, culture and history, they indicate that she is making progress with new tourism concepts and values. In addition, it is possible to realize that she is the owner of projects that have been able to show results in a short period of time.

Lately, too the Elephant Paw Lodge has been inaugurated showing the possibility building as many unique and creative destinations. Coupled with the forthcoming tourism destinations, the nation's tourism industry will see a major upward trajectory given the professional planning, execution and administration of the destinations. This makes it vivid that investing on such tourism facilities is a wise decision and should be replicated and promoted by the private sector, too.



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Art & Culture

A recalcitrant child's abominable ingratitude

BY ALEM HAILU G/KRISTOS

Short Story

"The worst harm you can inflict upon a child is sending him to a school where he is relatively poor," an excerpt from one of George Orwell's books I read goes. I found this adage adduced by the following episode that I am going to relate to you.

A lady in my neighborhood was called to report to a community police station without fail for her recalcitrant son was about to be detained. Only God knows how with a pajama-like dress, drenched with diluted-dough, she arrived at the station running or flying avoiding a knock down by a vehicle.

Her ex-husband Surafel with cracked-open chin, from which blood was oozing, was sat on a long chair by the door of a sergeant's office. Surafel's suit was soil besmirched on one side.

"What happened? Are you knocked down by a bicycle?" circling him she continued touching him.

"Leave me alone Joy! Your crazy son Abraham knocked me down punching my chin out of the blue."

"What? How dare he do that to his own father? Vexed, he must have done that unintentionally," she projected a disbelief stamped face.

"Whatever the case he has palpably demonstrated his ingratitude. A government employee, it was deducting from my modest income I sent him to a school with exorbitant fee for quality education. I wanted his future to be rosy. As I was brought up by poor parents, I knew the disadvantage of education lacking quality especially in English language. While competing in college with my classmates, most of which were from better off families, I was fighting with one hand tied behind my back. Out of a good will gesture it was bending over backwards I was giving Abraham pocket money, while he was a college student."

"Where is he?" disbelief ceded way to anxiety on Joy's face.

"A sergeant is talking to him. The insufferable brat must get himself behind bars to know firsthand what hunger and thirst mean."

"Is it not better I broker peace between you two," Joy saw Surafel with beseeching eyes.

"No, I can't find it in my heart to forgive him," he waved a pointed finger left and right.

"Diving into the leg of Surafel she beseeched him not to take to heart the childish folly of their grown-up kid whom both pampered unintentionally."

"I know the sacrifices you paid in our effort to bring up the child. Even after we got separated you never failed to extend all necessary support to him not forgetting me for the mental health of the child," she tried to evoke his pity expressing gratitude he deserves.



"I did that but in vain. I often bought to him the best books and clothes in town. I hired tutors for him," he expressed his resentments with forked fingers of both hands.

"He came with flying colors in high schools and universities. I know very well all these accolades are attributable to your fatherly role."

"He couldn't realize that," tears broke away from his eyes provoking twice as much of hers. He brought her up from where she knelt grabbing his feet.

At that point, the sergeant opened the door and said

"Get in a hard talk awaits you."

Taking a minute to return to normalcy they got in. On extreme ends of the table chairs were laid facing each other. Joy sat by the side of her son who was shivering with a diffused feeling of shame and regret as his anger had ceded place to fear of being detained and relegated to a disgraceful child. Surafel chose to sit facing the unruly son.

On the wall, a poster was hanged that run "Taking the public aboard we shall fight crime!"

The question "What if neighbors, relatives and friends hear about my follies," was recurring in Abraham's mind.

Surafel turned his face to the door in an effort to hide his tears once more rebelling to break away from his eyes.

"How could I get my son out of this mess?" Covering her face with her palms Joy kept on sobbing.

Looking Joy the sergeant said, "Well I presume you are the mother." He added "all of you need composure. As I have figured out from my discussion with Abraham, he was sent to a school where most parents are willing to lavishly spend money on their children. They spoil them without considering the negative impacts the situation creates on fellow students that hail from families in the relatively lower income bracket."

Joy nodded by way of saying "I buy your point!"

Surafel continued hearing with bewildered face.

The sergeant went on his explanation observing them turn by turn "There are some parents that buy a car to their underage children as a gift for 15th birthday and the like. They buy airplane thicketts and send their underage children to the Middle East and Europe to spend vacations. Still others live in a palace-like villa. You can imagine how it detrimentally affects a child sent to first-class private schools while hailing from relatively not filthy rich families."

"You are right sergeant from what Abraham confides to me while we are alone, I can decipher it is the harrowing mental torture he has been undergoing through schools and campus that amorphously shaped his mindset," Joy nodded you have probed into the psychological matter.

"What is the advantage of education? Is it not to weight things to create a balance? Abraham should have seen the sacrifice I made to let him get a better education. Unlike colloques I was frugal to salt away money to rise up to the exorbitant school fees ever soaring up. Renting a hell hall for lodging, it was to mediocre restaurants I was going to save money. I almost cut my expenses to bare necessities. I only had two pair of suits for over a decade and half. Many were the times I skimmed lunch and got famished thinking Abraham's mind may not better work if he is not well nourished." Surafel touched his stomach.

Scanning the faces of the three Surafel continued "I am an honest civil servant trying to live by the sweat of my brow. I'm averse to corruption. I could have done to my son the pampering he wanted had I engaged in rent seeking like most of the parents of his classmates!"

On his turn, Abraham busted into tears. To that point he was thinking what his father, unlike other fathers of his classmates, didn't do to him. He failed to see things from a diametrically opposite perspective

that, relatively speaking, it was his father who was investing the better portion of his income for his son's sake. It dawned on him he had made an unforgivable mistake.

Abraham tumbled down crying, "I'm Judas the culprit please father forgive me," he sobbed on his father's leg. His mother followed suit. They sobbed for five minutes on end before the sergeant urged them to stop. Curtains of mist were visible on Surafel's eyes.

"For at least a week Abraham must not see his father. Surafel and Abraham must go partying ways. It is better Surafel go to a clinic for a checkup. You see he fainted while he was punched on the chin. There could also be a loose tooth." The mother thanked the inspector bending from her shoulder and run out of the police station grabbing her son's hand.

On their way home "What happened?" Joy asked Abraham putting her palm on his chest.

"Early in the morning Surafel gave me a call to come to a nearby hotel to hand me money for purchasing a suit that I wear on my graduation ceremony fortnight ago,"

"After taking breakfast when we began to discuss about futurity, he told me he has no plan of supporting me after graduation as he is due to marry another woman and start a family life anew. As I was not prepared for this, I knocked him on the chin following a knee-jerk reaction. May God forgive me! I was expecting more help from his side. I'm subject to dependency syndrome. I wish I had gone to a school where I'm materially better off than my classmates. I was tortured by inferiority complex," he put his palm on his head.

"I think that is why schools order students to put on uniforms. Parents must also be advised no to treat their children in a showy way. They must not outlay money than is due, for otherwise their children apart from going off the track will take others down the precipice."

"You are right mother."

"Do you think Surafel will forgive me?"

"Do not worry I will talk to him?"

Their hands locked mother and child went home.

A sunny Sunday was mood uplifting. At the closing ceremony of a luncheon Joy organized for relatives and neighbors and parents Surafel arrived carrying a photo album and a necktie as a gift. Overjoyed both Abraham and Joy embraced him getting up from their chair simultaneously. He spared them a bashed hope. Abraham putting on his gown, Joy took the photo of father and son. Both were short and stout except Abraham had developed a pot belly.

Of all things the inspector said one thing loitered in Abraham's mind "before you stopped demanding from your parents, now on the wrong side of 18, as custom bids your time of supporting them has come!"

Law & Politics

The implications of access to the sea

BY FITSUM GETACHEW

The issue of access to the sea is not a simple one. Having access to the sea means a lot of things in today's world. First of all, it means being in command of one's fate especially as regards its relations with the outside world. In other words it is a sign of independence, which affords you the possibility of sending abroad whatever you want and importing whatever you want because you decide the flow of goods on your own without any other country trying to interfere in your internal affairs. Hence, having access to a sea port means being a beneficiary to many economic opportunities that one would otherwise lose.

However, availing one's own sea port is beyond being an economic issue alone. It is also a matter of national security issue. One would be more prone to defending its borders from any eventual threats if one had access to a sea port. Availing with one's own naval force, it becomes less vulnerable to any alien attacks because it can have preventive defensive facilities and be able to foil the threat. It gives one's nation a gateway to the entire world through a naval force. It is important to be able to protect the sovereignty of the country from any eventual external aggression penetrating from the outer seas.

Given the geopolitical position of Ethiopia and given how complex and dangerous the Red Sea and Bab le Mendeb area are, it is called to watch very carefully what is going on and assess what measures it has to take in order not to risk being cut from the outside world without it taking preventive measures because access to the sea is a lifeline for economies such as Ethiopia with enormous vital exchanges with the outside world. All the goods and merchandizes it needs for its people are brought from abroad through ports and currently mainly through Djibouti with which we have excellent relations but no say on what the sovereign government of Djibouti may decide to do with its sea outlet.

The question that experts pose is 'can Ethiopia always rely on the 'benevolence' or 'good will' of others going forward and expanding its economy to match with its enormous population'? What would Ethiopia do if tomorrow international developments around the Red Sea get bad and Ethiopia's access to the sea be it through another country is disturbed or even worse closed altogether? If Djibouti is not in a position to avert such a dangerous possibility albeit seemingly remote one never knows, how would Ethiopia be forced to react? In the event that it had its own direct access to the sea, Ethiopia would take its own measures without the say of others in order to prevent such moves or do what it takes to protect its sovereign national interests. That is why it is said that having access to the sea can be an issue of national security and sovereignty as well.

In other words, one is better placed to establish and build a reliable naval force and take full control of one's destiny in

A country that has direct and independent access to sea has the opportunity to expand its trade ties with the entire outside world without any limits or conditioning by others



terms of its security and integrity. Access to sea can be the backbone of the economy of any country and in the case of Ethiopia it certainly is because little interaction is made on land transport system with neighbours.

Ethiopia's exports and imports are carried out through ports which are not its own. A country that has direct and independent access to sea has the opportunity to expand its trade ties with the entire outside world without any limits or conditioning by others. Hence the potential is virtually unlimited. Besides, in the eyes of the outside world a country in possession of a sea port is given a particular consideration and can entertain free trade relations with any one of them because a sense of freedom or independence is felt by those economic actors. These actors calculate the costs of using a commercial access to sea such as the one Ethiopia is now using and the prospects of having to rely on the good will of a third party could give them less comfort than directly interact with the nation in question also because of the cost implications, the clearances etc.

Access to sea has also strategic significance and advantage compared to landlocked countries which are practically stifled in their activities. While Ethiopia's boundary had access to sea for centuries, the current situation is a grim reality because it has become landlocked. Many say that this situation was created due to various historical, political and diplomatic as well as strategic miscalculations and errors and in the end Ethiopia is now forced to pay for the mistakes of its past administrators or rulers who albeit not purposefully forced the country to have its current boundaries and shape. Today Ethiopia would not have to be trying to bring to the attention

of its neighbours its situation proposing a potential deal and agreement that could benefit all parties involved. It is trying to devise a win-win approach to convince its neighbours to confer it an outlet to the sea with diplomatic and legal means that would not take away from them their legitimate interests.

Economists have determined that if Ethiopia gets access to the sea its neighbours as well would benefit from it in the long run because the economic growth of one country could be a stimulus to the growth of its neighbours as well given the possible more intense economic interactions with them. . If Ethiopia grows its economy the end results do extend to neighbours as well because economic exchanges become probable and these interactions definitely benefit to all those involved in the operations. This would also be very useful to create not only growth but also guarantee peace and stability across the entire subregion without any reasons of threats of neither aggression nor violence.

It is well documented in history books when Ethiopia had in fact not only access to sea independently but also was a naval power. However, along the years it had to face numerous challenges regarding its sovereignty and territorial integrity and go through highs and lows. It was at times subjected to various aggressions from overseas but thanks to its patriots it withstood the enemies who tried to expand in to its territory. Clearly in the process Ethiopians have paid immense sacrifices. Their leaders were farsighted and were able to mobilize all the national forces and foil back its enemies regardless the sacrifices.

Ethiopian leaders knew that being subjugated to alien forces would result in the deprivation of their freedom and dignity. All its economic bounties would be exploited by alien forces and Ethiopians would be subjugated to second class citizens. This was something that would never get down to the psyche of Ethiopians and its long history is testimony to a confirmation of these ideas.

The particular geopolitical situation of Ethiopia has often exposed it to alien interest and thus aggression also given it has always been an independent entity. Historical records show that there were the interests of Egyptians, Turks and Portuguese in Ethiopia and Ethiopians had to mobilize themselves every time it was considered necessary and foil the aggressions. The race to control the source of the Nile and the Red Sea area has always stimulated these alien forces and this has made the country particularly vulnerable. However, along all these years Ethiopia has managed to resist foreign aggression to remain a sovereign and independent state. But unfortunately, the historical, political and diplomatic developments in the last century had particular and negative effects on the boundaries of the state.

The end result of these developments has been the loss of Ethiopia's legitimate and rightful access to the sea. Critics of past governments say the political leaders of the country did not do enough to avoid

such deprivation of enormous proportions without giving it the necessary attention or minimizing the loss of a seaport as substitutable easily with an economic arrangement which according to them would fill the enormous gap of remaining with its own sovereign access to a sea port.

Economic experts' findings show that landlocked countries cannot grow economically as those with access to sea. Their growth is severely limited and for a country such as Ethiopia with more than 120 million people it already affects it negatively and this is why the current leadership has raised the issue in an effort to possibly amend the wrongs and miscalculations of the past with peaceful and legal means without resorting to any sort of threats or intimidations as many were heard stating.

People are often heard arguing emotionally that if Ethiopian leaders had taken all aspects of the issue with a long term perspective, it would have been clear for them that access to sea cannot easily be compensated with a simple commercial agreement with those countries that avail the port. Dismissing the issue as a mere commercial arrangement was hence ill advised and now we see every day that it hurts the country deeply. In the case of Ethiopia some may argue that Djibouti is more than enough to take care of Ethiopia's need for a sea outlet. But they forget several factors that play in this equation even without discounting the good will and the excellent relations Ethiopia enjoys with Djibouti.

Djibouti remains a prominent lifeline of Ethiopia's access to sea but for that the country is continuously exposed to having to pay costs that are at times exorbitant and affects the economy of Ethiopia to a great extent. Many argue that this scenario would not have been created had former Ethiopian leaders done their homework diligently and reasonably and managed to go through the necessary arrangements to secure a legal right to access to a port of its own on the Red Sea. Unfortunately this did not materialize.

Today, Ethiopia launched the proposal that it is ready to seal an agreement with its neighbours in order to have its own port, and in doing so, it is ready to propose beneficial terms to its neighbours. And such an arrangement would entirely rely on mutual terms and mutual benefits with Ethiopia ready to compensate for any eventual loss the other party may feel to lose and this would be done in respect of all international norms as have fixed some other landlocked countries and agreed with their neighbours to come out of such an impasse, such predicament. The case of Angola and DRC, that of Bolivia and Chile and other cases can be cited. In Europe as well, there are cases of landlocked countries which through peaceful and diplomatic arrangements have availed their access to sea to their neighbours and live peacefully side by side reaping the common benefits. Why is Ethiopia not able to do this? In the end, this would be a give and take arrangement and the result would be of immense benefits to the parties involved.

The coffee that we sell today should be free from deforestation

- Gizat Worku

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

Ethiopia is Africa's largest coffee producer and the world's fifth-largest exporter of Arabica coffee. Over six million farmers in Ethiopia are now engaged in coffee production. Among many agricultural products, Ethiopia's number one source of export revenue, generating about 30–35 percent of the country's total export earnings, is coffee. All the coffee produced in Ethiopia is of the Arabica variety.

So far, concerned stakeholders in the area have been promoting Ethiopian coffee to the rest of the world. One of the players is the Ethiopian Coffee Association (ECA). The association was founded in 1969 by major Ethiopian coffee exporters as a non-profit and major promoter of Ethiopian coffee in the international market.

As of June 2020, ECA has 258 members, providing for more than 85% and 90% of the country's coffee export share in terms of value and volume, respectively.

The Association is representing Ethiopian coffee sector value chain actors, from smallholder coffee farmers to exporters. It is a member of SCA, AFCA, and SCAJ at the international level and comprises most Ethiopian smallholder and commercial coffee farmers, processors, roasters, and exporters.

The Ethiopian Herald spent half an hour with Gizat Worku, Ethiopian Coffee Association General Manager, to understand the European Union Deforestation-Free Product Regulation (EUDR) and the international conference and exhibition, organized by the Africa Fine Coffee Association (AFCA), that is going to take place in Addis Ababa, and other issues directly and indirectly related to coffee. Have a nice read.

Could you tell us about the newly enforced European legislation that prohibits the import of coffee from countries that clear forests? What is the impact of the legislation, especially for developing countries like Ethiopia?

The EU Deforestation-Free Regulation (EUDR) is the new EU initiative to limit deforestation caused by forestry and agricultural activities all over the world. The new regulation will see new mandatory due diligence requirements for EU businesses due in 2024, massively expanding upon the scope of, and eventually replacing, the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR).

As we all know, Europe is one of the largest importers of commodities linked to deforestation, including 50% of the world's coffee and 60% of all cocoa. These commodities alone accounted for over 25% of global tree cover losses from 2001 to 2015. With such a significant role in the market, the deforestation regulation aims to



The African Fine Coffees Exhibition has increasingly been regarded as pivotal in providing a unique opportunity to exhibitors showcasing the best coffees and affiliated services in the African coffee sector

reduce the impact that products bought by EU citizens have on the world's forests and woodland areas. It is critical for the route to net zero, and the EU hopes to lead by example. Similar regulatory requirements could follow in other markets, including the UK.

The EU defines those obligated by the EU Deforestation-Free Regulation (EUDR) as 'operators' and 'traders'. Operators (companies that first place products in a single market) will be required to implement due diligence on their supply chains to ensure they are deforestation- and forest-degradation-free, while traders will be responsible for storing and sharing information on their supply chain with operators.

The proposed deforestation-free regulation targets those commodities and some of the products derived from them, like chocolate, leather, and furniture, with the greatest impact on deforestation.

The EUDR was ratified in 2019. Assisted with satellite photos, the legislation has been implemented since the end of 2020. This is just to demonstrate that they are buying an agricultural product free from deforestation. Product checking will begin at the beginning of 2025. The coffee ordered

now may arrive on the European market when the legislation is practically applied, as the coffee export process takes longer. The regulation may manipulate our export trade. Thus, the coffee that we sell today should be free from deforestation.

The other thing is due diligence. The product should be free from any sort of illegal activity, such as child labour. The government should provide evidence and document scrutiny for all things, which is not that hard. Even EUDR itself would not be such a difficult task, especially for Ethiopia, as we do not plant coffee on deforested farmland.

In Sidama State, for instance, a firewood tree is planted every year, and the people cut it down to use it for firewood. However, this has happened on the border of the land, which is not convenient for coffee farming. When the satellite photo is taken, it is imperative to provide a guarantee that the coffee produced there is deforestation-free.

The thing that makes us bother is that when a coffee buyer purchases a coffee, he or she should register the agricultural land on which the coffee grew. Thus, the agricultural land geographical coordination indication should be registered. When it is above some hectares, the land may have the structure of a triangle, rectangle, or polygon, and the spot of each coordinate has to be registered. To do so, you need to have an instrument that shows the geographical indication. The farmer is also expected to provide information to the buyer about the coffee farm; the buyer should carefully register the information and transfer it to the exporters.

To do the task following the required procedures, needs a huge amount of capital, knowledge, and material as well. If the EU goes as per its plan, things may be intricate as it is one of the top coffee importers from Ethiopia. Just six years ago, it was the EU that bought 50 percent of coffee from Ethiopia. So it is impossible to leave this market or replace it with others. To tell you the truth, the markets in the EU, USA, and Japan are unswerving.

What inspired the EU to come up with this legislation?

The driving force behind the passing of this law is climate change. The ever-increasing impact of climate change is directly correlated with deforestation. So, they do not want agricultural products growing on a degraded farm. The law listed ten items. Cattle, coconut, coffee, palm oil, rubber, soybeans, and wood are the products mentioned in the EUDR. Ethiopia is now exporting soybeans, coffee, and cattle. Concerned stakeholders need to work hard on the aforementioned products. We do not have a problem fulfilling the criteria set by the EUDR; we may face a challenge on how we can elucidate them as we meet the criteria, as it is not an easy job. It requires a

Continued to Page 9



The coffee that...

Continued from Page 8

lot of expenses.

When we take coffee, for instance, registering the geographical indication of more than six million farmers is a very hard task. At present, let alone coming up with data, the contraband work in Ethiopia is a daunting challenge for coffee exporters. As they begin to counter-check the coffee before they buy it, there is a threat that it may affect the export of coffee. To do it perfectly, it is imperative to make ourselves ready by deploying personnel and the desired technology. As the task will be done continuously, we have to prepare ourselves for tough challenges.

Who is responsible for doing the aforesaid tasks?

A government body is responsible for this, as the EUDR maker is also a European Union. Private coffee-producing companies may apply the regulation by registering their own and selling it. There should be a responsible authority that combines and does all activities.

Is there any value that EUDR adds to the coffee export trade?

No, it may not add value. However, the process may add value. You can make it traceable. One of the reasons for to increase in coffee was traceability. If we can do it carefully, we can ensure the traceability of our coffee. If your product is traceable, you can talk about quality and sustainability, but they cannot coincide with this. Traceability is not a guarantee of quality. In general, traceable coffee increases the price of coffee. This task will incur additional expenses, which, in other words, will elevate the price of coffee.

Is there any fund that Ethiopia can get to apply the system?

We expect funds from the EU, as it is a shared issue. We produce, and they buy. They are buying to meet the demand, but it is not ours. We also produce coffee to sell and earn an income. I assumed that they might support it. They are now following up on what is going on here. European representatives came here, and the issue was discussed in a range of places. Concerned bodies are meeting and discussing the issues. The awareness is already created, and the remaining thing is who does what. How much it costs and how long it takes. We have to provide an answer to this. I don't know if the Europeans will assist with projects related to this or not. But they should support us.

If this project starts to be implemented, will the coffee supply to the world market decline?

If every supplier does not meet the EUDR criteria, the coffee supply will dwindle. However, the pain will be on our side; this may be an easy task for others. We required registering the data of more than six million coffee growers who have been

producing from a plot of land for the owners of large-scale farming. If we take Vietnam, the country prohibits coffee exports from deforested land.

On the other hand, they have large-scale coffee growers. This makes the task easier. Countries that have supplied a huge amount of coffee to the world market do not have a great number of farmers like us. The big challenge is coming in front of us. The European buyers are worried, as they will be held accountable by the law if they hold a coffee that does not meet the criteria as of the end of 2025. According to the law, these buyers will be forced to pay four per cent of their annual sales. Thus, the buyers will not buy the coffee that does not meet the EUDR criteria.

Addis Ababa is preparing to host an international coffee exhibition and conference in February. Who is the organizer of the meeting, and what benefit will Ethiopia get?

The African Fine Coffee Association (AFCA) is the organizer of the meeting. AFCA, based in Uganda, has 11 member countries. It is an association established by the East African countries. The African Fine Coffees Conference & Exhibition is Africa's largest coffee trade platform, bringing together over 2,000 regional and international coffee professionals, including producers, traders, and roasters. Public and private sector officials, as well as governments and NGOs, take part in the annual event.

This year, AFCA is excited to announce its partnership with the Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO), the Robusta Coffee Agency of Africa and Madagascar (ACRAM), and the Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority (ECTA) for the grand occasion of hosting the event's 20th edition in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from February 6th to 10th, 2024. The theme "Specialty Coffee at Origin" sheds light on the high-quality coffees being grown and consumed in producing countries. It also invites coffee professionals to explore Ethiopia, the land of origins.

In this landmark 20th edition, the event promises a lineup of esteemed international and regional speakers, an expansive exhibition hall, engaging workshops, exclusive B2B cupping sessions, and vibrant social events! Additionally, we are proud to host the Africa Youth Barista Championship and the regional Taste of Harvest Competition.

Hosting such an international coffee exhibition and conference is quite imperative to promote Ethiopian coffee, as the main coffee buyers will come to Ethiopia and meet our coffee traders. The paper presented at the conference is expected to illuminate challenges and find the best solutions. A coffee safari—a tour of coffee growing—is also part of the summit. The conference



is a good opportunity to prop up Ethiopian coffee as the world economy is going down.

Except for consumers, all coffee stakeholders, including coffee buyers and sellers, international NGOs, government bodies, and coffee buyers drawn from Europe, America, and Asia, are expected to participate in the conference. Coffee growers from African countries will also be part of the conference by promoting what they produce in a booth rented for this purpose. Those who produce equipment related to coffee will also prop up their products in the exhibition.

Other contests, such as the Taste of Harvest, which is a coffee taste championship between African coffee growers who won the competition held in their respective countries, are also expected to identify the champion of the year. There is also a contest between African baristas.

To make the conference successful, the national committee led by the Ethiopian coffee authority was established and was doing various tasks to make the conference successful. Now exporters are renting a booth to promote themselves.

The African Fine Coffees Exhibition has increasingly been regarded as pivotal in providing a unique opportunity to exhibitors showcasing the best coffees and affiliated services in the African coffee sector. The exhibition floor provides ample opportunity to network with coffee luminaries from

all over the world. This will be the perfect platform for gathering valuable coffee information, building trade relations, and facilitating buyer-and-seller interaction.

How do you see its activities related to the coffee export market?

Exporting is not an easy task; you always have it in your pocket. It is a wage of fatigue. The situation we are in is very challenging. Starting with the Ukraine war, the conflict in Yemen and the conflict instigated between Israel and Hamas are some of the hindering factors. Everywhere you go, there is a high cost of living due to inflation, which is alarming. These are some of the factors that grip the coffee market.

Thanks to the almighty, the price of coffee is recovering as of November, which is encouraging. The issue of quality is left for a future discussion. Our product is now entering the market. So, always, we need to do our utmost to satisfy our customers, including Saudi Arabia, America, Japan, Germany, Italy, France, South Korea, and so on. A pound of coffee is sold for 1.86 USD cents at the New York C. The price set in New York (C) serves as the initial selling price for Arabica coffee. As per the coffee type, we set the price above or below the price set in New York-C.

Thank you very much.

It is my pleasure.

Society

Research to addressing development challenges

BY ELIZABETH MENGISTU

Research and innovations have multifaceted constructive impacts in addressing common public challenges, generating sound analysis that leads to effective solutions, and helping countries to reduce poverty by building stronger, sustained economic growth and development.

Particularly, in developing nation's problem solving research and innovation works have fundamental roles to identify challenges that are hindrances to economic growth and development, initiating policy makers for change and driving long-term growth.

However, research to be fruitful and bring the desired outcomes, should be standard, focused and target on the concern and area of interest for a country, such as treatment for some type of health problems, increasing product and productivity, infrastructure development, environment and security matters as well as the like issues that are more pressing and important to the community and the country than any other. Similarly, it should be conducted with purpose in a manner responding to the challenges of the people, instead of making it just to make it. To this effect, allotting the desired capital, infrastructure, and providing the needed support is fundamental.

However, in many cases, developing countries are rarely at the forefront of advanced research, they don't have the



capacity, infrastructure and especially brain drain affects them a lot.

It is common for several projects to end up unfruitful for the reason they are conducted without having proper data and analysis, sufficient budget and the like inputs that are crucial for the success of the study.

Above all, because some studies are not carried out in a way taking into consideration the standards and principles of research, they fail to meet the desired outcome- to address national challenges and solve problems.

Recently, at the consultative forum organized by the Ministry of Education in collaboration with Bonga University for vice presidents for Research and Community Services Affairs, the significance of conducting principled, problem-solving

research works that prioritize national challenges and advancing the country's overall development was accentuated.

Speaking at the event, Higher Education Development Sector State Minister Kora Tushune said that works of research that are conducted as a country should be problem-solving and employ the ethics, principles and requirements of research.

He also said that higher education institutions, in order to be more effective in the area of research and community services, should establish and strengthen cooperation with each other and with international higher education institutions.

In his welcoming speech, Bonga University President Petros Woldegiorgis (PhD) on his part said that the University is undertaking effective activities in the area of research and community service, according to Ministry of Education.

Research and Community Development Affairs Chief Executive Director at the Ministry of Education, Solomon Binor (PhD) on his part said that research works have incalculable benefits with regard to answering societal bottlenecks and accelerating the country's growth and development. In this regard, research activities that are carried out across the country should prioritize national focus areas and be problem-solving because they have incalculable benefits in solving the pressing problems of the country. Thus, the forum is expected to identify hindrances

of national research works and create awareness in a scientific way.

He also highlighted the importance of implementing research activities in a manner aligned with the proclamations of higher education, technical and vocational institutions, research institutes and industry linkage No. 1298/2015. Likewise, when universities conduct research works with international institutions on indigenous biodiversity, the issue of product ownership and the transfer of genetic resources for research purposes should be conducted thoughtfully in a manner that adheres to the set principles.

Stating that community service projects should be knowledge-based, Solomon said that while teachers are serving the community they should use their knowledge and skills, along with the indigenous knowledge of the community.

The forum was attended by public and private universities' research and social service affairs vice presidents, representatives from the Ministry of Education, research and social welfare leaders, executive officers and experts from the Ministry of Education, as well as professionals from the Russian and American universities working with Bonga University in the field of research and social affairs.

Participants of the forum deliberated on different issues and reached various mutual agreements on research and social issues.

Getting ready for Timket Festival in Gondar

BY STAFF REPORTER

Ethiopia is a multiethnic country with over 80 different ethnic groups. Each has their own history, culture and religious values and these cultural, traditional and religious values are demonstrated in a manner reflecting their beliefs, practices, traditions, and religions.

Among these festivals celebrated colorfully, the Epiphany or Timket Festival, marked two weeks after Genna (Ethiopian Christmas), is the one. Though the festival is marked warmly and colorfully throughout the country, it is marked in Gondar differently.

Recently, institutions engaged in the hospitality sector announced that they have made the necessary preparations to welcome local and foreign guests who come to Gondar to celebrate Timket Festival, The Baptism of Jesus Christ by St. John the Baptist at Jordan River in a way preserving the culture and values of the community.

This was revealed at the consultation forum held in Gondar City with institutions engaged in the hotel and tourism sector in the city in relation to the upcoming Timket Festival, ENA reported.

Speaking at the event, Haile Resort Gondar Manager Fresibehat Mezegebu said that the peace sustained in the city has created a favorable environment to host guests who



came to celebrate the festival.

Mentioning that guests' desire and expectations to have better accommodation concurrent to celebrating the festival, he said that the necessary arrangements are done to provide up to the standard services.

Jantekel Hotel Manager Fantahun Aderajew on his part said: "We are preparing to welcome guests in a way building the image and fame of Gondar."

Head of Culture and Tourism Department of Gondar City Administration Yonas

Yitbarek said wide-ranging preparations are being made to extend the stay of the guests who come to attend the festival. As part of this program and to celebrate the festival warmly, cultural week, trade fair and bazaar, symposium, have been organized.

Gondar City' Administration Deputy Mayor Debie Yehuala also said that Epiphany is a festival that stimulates the city's trade, tourism and investment activities. Thus, the administration has set up a committee and is working with due attention.

She also urged the people and partners to

play their part by actively protecting their surroundings so that the peace prevailed in the city enabled the festival to be celebrated brightly.

At the consultative meeting, city's administrators, security forces, investors engaged in the hotel and tourism sectors and representatives took part.

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International

EIB supports Morocco's forest strategy with €100 million

The European Investment Bank will support Morocco's Forest Strategy 2020-2030 with €100 million under a financing agreement signed in Rabat on Thursday Dec. 28.

The agreement, which falls in the frame of cooperation between Morocco and the EIB and which spans the period from 2024 to 2028, focuses on climate change adaptation, biodiversity promotion, and strengthening institutional capacities for effective and coordinated implementation.

This financial partnership is also in line with Morocco's efforts to modernize and strengthen the competitiveness of the water and forest sector. Structured around three essential components, the financing agreement emphasizes climate change adaptation, biodiversity promotion, and the strengthening of institutional capacities for effective and coordinated implementation.

This strategy highlights the importance of

forest user populations as essential actors in the sustainable management of natural resources.

The first component involves support for watershed management plans to rehabilitate forests, reduce erosion, preserve water resources, and soil fertility. It includes reforestation, assisted natural regeneration, mechanical erosion control, ravine revegetation, and the opening or maintenance of forest tracks.

The second component of the agreement relates to the conservation of biodiversity and the promotion of ecotourism in national parks, with the conservation and rehabilitation of habitats and species, the development of adequate infrastructure, and the promotion of ecotourism.

As for the third component, it is intended for technical assistance to the National Agency of Water and Forests (ANEF) in the preparation and implementation of

the project, and support for the sectors, with a subsidy from the European Union's "Investment Facility for the Neighborhood" program.

Delegate Minister in charge of the Budget, Fouzi Lekjaa, who initialed the deal emphasized the importance of the financing agreement as marking a significant milestone in achieving Morocco's environmental and socio-economic objectives. He highlighted Morocco's commitments in the fight against climate change, including the commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 45.5% by 2030, and the transition to clean and renewable energy development.

The minister also highlighted the uniqueness of the forest support program, highlighting the enhancement of greenhouse gas capture and contribution to clean energy.

Director of Operations for neighboring countries of the European Union at the EIB,

Lionel Rapaille on his part emphasized the importance of this financing agreement, which revolves around an integrated approach aimed at strengthening the biodiversity of the Kingdom's national parks and addressing the challenges of climate change while promoting the economic development of these forest areas. He also noted that this funding is part of a comprehensive project that addresses various objectives.

Rapaille noted that the program includes crucial actions such as erosion protection, forest area development, and promotes an inclusive approach involving all local stakeholders. He specified that this innovative program aims to reconcile various issues such as environmental protection, often neglected biodiversity preservation, and the promotion of the country's economic development.

Source: North Africa Post

Caffeine boost: China's rising coffee demand spurs cutthroat cafe competition

- Coffee consumption in China grew 15 per cent in the latest season, according to data from the International Coffee Organization
- The number of branded coffee shops in China grew 58 per cent in the last 12 months to 49,691 outlets, according to Alegra Group, which tracks growth of coffee chains

Chinese coffee consumption is growing quickly, spurring cutthroat competition between local and foreign coffee chains that have opened thousands of branded shops in recent months and surpassed the number of coffee stores in the United States.

Analysts expect China's growing thirst for coffee to be a key driver of future demand for the beans as coffee shops expand beyond Beijing and Shanghai to dozens of mid-sized cities where young professionals have warmed to the drink.

China's rising coffee demand is an opportunity for international chains like Starbucks and Tim Hortons that are investing heavily in China, though they face a steep challenge from rapidly expanding local brands.

Data from the International Coffee

Organization shows coffee consumption in China grew 15 per cent in the year-long season ended in September from the previous cycle to 3.08 million bags.

"The Chinese consumer is increasingly adopting Western lifestyles and coffee is obviously one of the beverages that represent that," said Jason Yu, managing director for Greater China at market research firm Kantar Worldpanel.

The number of branded coffee shops in China grew a staggering 58 per cent in the last 12 months to 49,691 outlets, according to Alegra Group, a company that tracks growth of coffee chains.

There is harsh competition between the local chains and international chains, said Matthew Barry, a beverages analyst for Euromonitor. Each one is trying to grab as big a share as they can of the growing market, he said.

Alegra Group estimates China's Luckin Coffee added 5,059 stores in the last 12 months, while another Chinese chain, Cotti Coffee, opened 6,004 outlets in the period.

"The scale of the opportunity is such that both [local and international chains] will have to be very aggressive in facing off

against the other and I think that should ensure a very dynamic marketplace in the next few years," Barry said.

US-based Starbucks opened 700 stores in China in the last year and said it is on track to operate around 9,000 stores in the country by 2025, while Canada's Tim Hortons plans to have 3,000 stores in the country in four years.

Seizing market share is one of Luckin's core targets, CEO Jinyi Guo said during the firm's third quarter earnings call.

Store openings are now happening in China's smaller cities, Kantar's Yu said, which have millions of inhabitants each.

"So that basically means in those places there's still a lot of white space for coffee chains to grow," he said.

Zixi Zhao, a 20-year-old Beijing student, said he drinks coffee every day.

"I started drinking when I went to college," he said. "I don't drink much tea in general, but my mom, my dad, my grandmother they all drink tea."

Ruoxuan Zhao, a 19-year-old student from Beijing, said drinking coffee was part of the fast-paced lifestyle of young people in

China, who welcome the caffeine boost.

The development is good news for coffee producers already benefiting from high prices due to adverse weather in some growing regions. Arabica coffee futures are trading near the highest in eight months, while robusta coffee hit the highest in 15 years last week.

China imports coffee mostly from Africa and South America.

Brazil's coffee exporters group Cecafe said that shipments to China will nearly triple in 2023 to surpass 1 million bags for the first time, making China its eighth-largest market.

The US Department of Agriculture sees China using 5 million bags of coffee in the new 2023-24 season, which would make it the world's seventh-largest consumer.

Chinese coffee consumption still pales when compared with top consumers the United States and Brazil that use more than 20 million bags per year. But the growing demand signals China is undergoing a cultural change similar to other tea-loving Asian countries including Japan and South Korea.

Source: South China Morning Post

Abu Dhabi marks non-oil GDP growth of 7.7% in Q3 2023

Abu Dhabi's non-oil GDP has grown by 7.7% in Q3 and 8.6% in first nine months of 2023, compared to the same period in 2022, the emirate's media office reported today citing data from the Statistics Centre Abu Dhabi (SCAD).

Preliminary estimates released by SCAD reveal that most of non-oil activities have sustained growth rates, contributing 52.8%

to the overall economy.

The emirate's economy reached its highest quarterly value at AED290.5 billion, posing a growth of one per cent in real gross domestic product during Q3 2023 compared to the same quarter the previous year, despite the decline in oil prices.

The statistical results showed a 2.8% growth in real GDP over the first nine

months of 2023 compared to the same period last year and a robust 8.6% expansion in non-oil activities during the same timeframe.

Manufacturing activities, which is a leading non-oil activity, reached a value of AED26.3 billion, contributing over 17% to the non-oil GDP and 9% to the overall GDP in the third quarter of 2023.

Construction activity achieved a growth rate of 14.3% during the third quarter of 2023 compared to the same period in 2022. The value of construction activity reached AED25 billion, contributing more than 16.3% to the non-oil GDP and 8.6% to the total economy during the third quarter of 2023.

Source: Zawya.com

Verbatim and Caption

Preparation finalized to welcome home-coming Ethiopian Diaspora: Tourism Minister

Ethiopia has finalized preparations to warmly welcome and host second-generation Ethiopians invited by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed to come to their homeland.

The call by the premier is crucial to mend the gap between generations of Ethiopians and collectively contribute to their country of origin.

To realize the premier's call, the ministry has formed a grand committee and divided the Second Generation Ethiopians Homecoming into three phases with a series of different events scheduled to be overseen by sub-committees.

Preparations are already finalized and each phase promises a unique tapestry of events designed to foster meaningful connections and celebrate shared heritage.

Ambassador Nasise Challi, Tourism Minister



Ethiopia to commence AfCFTA trial implementation

Ethiopia will begin the trial implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement soon. The product tariff the country has set to participate in AfCFTA has also been accepted by the Council of African Trade Ministers.

Ethiopia has been making preparations to engage in implementation of the trade agreement with a view to ensuring its benefits by diversifying export products. The Government of Ethiopia has carried out various activities, including expansion of infrastructures, identification export product items and pricing of products.

The implementation of AfCFTA is underway with trial levels in 10 African countries. Ethiopia will also commence implementing the agreement within few months.

Similarly, Ethiopia is aggressively working to finalize its accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in the coming three years.

Gebremeskel Challa, Minister, Trade and Regional Integration

Verbatim and Caption

“Connect to your culture, history and leave your legacy” PM Abiy



I invite the second-generation of Ethiopian Diaspora to come home and visit their country of origin in three-rounds from 30th December 2023 to the end of September 2024. Ethiopians abroad should visit their country of origin to know their culture, connect to their history and leave their legacies.

The first-round homecoming under the motto “Connect to Your Culture” begins from 30 December 2023 to 29 January 2024. They will attend celebrations of different holidays including the Ethiopian Christmas and Ethiopian Epiphany.

While the second round homecoming with the motto of “connect to your history” would be during the African Union annual summit in Addis Ababa. The third round will be from the upcoming rainy season to 30 September 2024 under the motto of “Leave Your Legacy.”

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) so remarked while inaugurating Chebera Churchura Elephant Paw Lodge

ENDC should hasten the national dialogue: House Speaker

The Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (ENDC) should immediately begin the agenda setting dialogues in areas where participants' identification is carried out. The Commission is expected to hasten the dialogue processes and involve the public.

Everyone is eager to see how the National Dialogue process is going on. If the preparation gets delayed, the dialogue may cause hopelessness among the public and it might not be successful as intended. So, the agenda setting, which is planned to be held next to the identification of participants, should be held in some areas very shortly.

Tagesse Chafo, House of Peoples Representatives (HPR) Speaker

