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## Mexico eyes growing ties with Ethiopia

BY STAFF REPORTER

**ADDIS ABABA** – Mexican Ambassador to Ethiopia Alejandro Ives Estivill Castro expressed his country’s aspiration for consolidated political, economic and cultural ties with Ethiopia.

In an exclusive interview with *The Ethiopian Herald*, the Ambassador announced that Mexico is keen to enjoy advanced political, economic and cultural relations with Ethiopia as mutual cooperation between the two is progressing well.

Ambassador Estivill, who is also Permanent Observer to AU, noted that his country is committed to bolster the longstanding bilateral relations with Ethiopia cooperating with the east African country in diaspora management, free trade, aviation, artistic development among others.

See Mexico eyes ... Page 3



## MoFA refutes U.S. Ambassador’s allegation, unsolicited advice

BY STAFF REPORTER

**ADDIS ABABA** - The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) has rebuked

See MoFA refutes ... Page 3



## Second-generation Diaspora ready to augment homeland’s progress

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

**ADDIS ABABA**- This is the best time to involve in development activities and provide service to bring sustainable change in home country, a member of the second-generation Ethiopian Diasporas said.

A member of the second-generation Eleni Abraham, from Canada, who talked to *The Ethiopian Herald*, has pledged concerted efforts in supporting the national efforts

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## MoWE, partners vow to advance Awash basin management system

- Sign strategic water management document

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

**ADDIS ABABA** - The Ministry of Water and Energy (MoWE) along with pertinent institutions expressed commitment to advance the Awash basin resource management system to expedite sustainable socioeconomic development.

The Ministry along with other federal and state stakeholders signed yesterday the basin water resource management plan implementation platform to work cooperatively.

Speaking at the occasion, the MoWE State Minister Abraha Adugna (PhD) said that by reforming inclusive water management policies and strategies, the ministry has been carrying out extensive activities to manage the Awash basin’s immense potential.

Due to the lack of an integrated management plan platform, MoWE’s previous cooperation with respective basin administration institutions did not bring the desirable socioeconomic outcomes. The corporations are short of bringing the equitable and sustainable utilization of basin resources.



According to him, implementing this newly launched strategic basin plan, which embraces core thematic areas, would be a groundbreaking measure

towards ensuring fair and equitable resource utilization and addressing unfair water use issues among beneficiaries.

See MoWE, partners ... Page 3



# News

## Association to deliver resilient maternal, child health services

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

**ADDIS ABABA** - Ethiopian Midwives Association (EMWA) has urged midwives to provide a resilient maternal and child health service with standing adversity.

The Association has celebrated the 32nd International Day of the Midwife yesterday under the theme “Midwives: a vital climate solution.”

In his opening remark, EMWA President Solomon Hailemeskel (MD) said that maternal and child health services are needed not only in a conducive healthcare environment, but also in areas where there is climate crisis so that midwives are expected to deliver resilient maternity and child health services withstanding challenges.

The rising climate change affects maternal,



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**Ethiopian Midwives Association**

child, sexual and reproductive health. Therefore, Solomon stressed that midwives should be cooperative and deliver care in spite of all hurdles.

Asegid Samuel, Ministry of Health Human Resources and Reform Lead Executive on his part noted that the Ministry has given

special attention to the health of mothers and children as saving this segment of the society is saving the next generation.

Meanwhile, over 200 midwives have been assigned to make the health services accessible in areas where internally displaced people are settled and conflict zones, such as Tigray, Benshangul, Amara, Oromia and Afar regions, he mentioned.

Accordingly, he said, more than 1.5 million mothers and children have received medical care and it was possible to avert serious health problems.

Midwifery plays a major role in improving the health of mothers and children and the commitment among midwives and the government has enabled Ethiopia to reduce maternal death from 676 to 267 out of 100,000 in 30 years, Asegid remarked.

## Ethiopia to develop some 150 mini-grid projects

• Holds panel discussion on solar powered irrigation system

BY TSEAGYE TILAHUN

**ADDIS ABABA** – The Ministry of Water and Energy (MoWE) has been actively working on developing 150 mini-grids in the coming ten years in a bid to reach out remote and rural areas.

The Netherlands Development Organization (SNV) in collaboration with MoWE, the Ministry of Agriculture, and others partners held a panel discussion on solar powered irrigation system yesterday.

Approached by *The Ethiopian Herald* MoWE Rural Energy Technology Development and Transformation Executive Officer Berhanu Woldu said that currently, most of the rural areas are accessing solar energy. The country has been working to ensure the accessibility of energy of all rural and remote areas which are not accessing energy in 2023, he said.

In the coming ten years, MoWE has been toiling to develop some 150 mini-grid power generation systems under 1MW to reach out inaccessible section of citizens in rural and remote areas or far from the main grids. This year, it has been developing three projects. It has set to develop some seven projects in the coming year, he added.

According to him, these projects would not only contribute to bring about energy accessibility, but also ensure inclusive development. The country has been creating an enabling environment for involvement of the private sector and the general public at large.

According to him, solar technologies and others have been running by the support of international partners since it is a global agenda. Most of the technologies that Ethiopia has been trying to exploit are renewable energy. This would enable to reduce carbon emission. It could be high source of financial support.

For her part, SNV Energy Sector Coordinator Hiwote Teshome said that the SNV has been demonstrating solar irrigation, solar cooling and solar drying technologies for smallholder farmers, businesses of agricultural value chains, related local improve production and productivity.

The project has been focusing on improving the livelihoods of smallholder farmers, increase their resilience, to climate change and contribute to GHG emissions reduction. It also aimed to demonstration of innovative businesses, capacity building and awareness raising and innovation funding, she stated.

The German Development Cooperation (GIZ) and the SNV, 8 million Euros project would be implemented in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda specifically dairy and horticulture value chains, it was learnt.

## AHRI, APPGs confer schemes to consolidate cooperation

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

**ADDIS ABABA** - Armauer Hansen Research Institute (AHRI) and UK-All Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs) delegation discussed mechanisms to enhance collaboration on malaria and TB research.

AHRI Director General Prof. Afeework Kassu believed that it is high time to strengthen collaboration among stakeholders and develop the health system to safeguard the community through allocating resources and technology.

AHRI is motivated in conducting research on number of areas but facing dire challenges, he stated.

“We need the support of stakeholders to further enhance our effort and come up with profound outcomes and recommendation. We are witnessing a number of pushing factors that lead to the increment of the prevalence rate of Malaria and TB throughout the nation and the region,” he said.

The Director General pointed out that AHRI is looking for an increased funding and technology for a laboratory supply as well as to ensure standard infrastructures among others.

“We do have huge burden and demand in a number of areas, it is high time strengthen partnership. AHRI calls on pertinent stakeholders to strengthening collaboration, because we do have emerging challenges, we have to plan for the future than admiring the current performance,” Afeework said.

AHRI is working with a number of local and



regional as well as international institutions to sustain its research activities, he noted.

He also expressed that his institution is grateful for the visit of UK-All party Parliamentary Group delegation mentioning that the meeting helps to exchange first-hand information about activities related to researches on malaria and TB among others.

Lord Jonathan Oates from UK-All Party Parliamentary Groups Malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) said that the interaction helped to know the perspectives in which AHRI is operating.

According to him, the two bodies had productive discussions that enabled the delegation receive information from the horse’s mouth, which is essential to witness

evidential efforts of AHRI in research and develop content to inform the parliament back home in UK.

“He further noted that, we had learnt a lot about efforts of AHRI research activities research in a number of areas and to be center of excellence. We are grateful for the opportunity. The data we gather here will be presented to the parliamentarians in a bid help them make decisions on identifying working approaches to respond to the collaboration AHRI is looking for,” he indicated.

It was learnt that senior AHRI researchers and Management members attended the gathering and provided deliberated slides on the institute’s effort in Malaria and TB research among others.



# News

## Nation requires preserving museums to promote peaceful coexistence: MoT

BY FIKADU BELAY

**ADDIS ABABA** – In addition to generating better income, investing on museum conservation enables Ethiopia to nurture peaceful coexistence, Ministry of Tourism (MoT) said.

Tourism State Minister Sileshi Girma said that conserving museums helps to increase the income from the tourism industry and promotes peaceful coexistence.

He made the above remark recently while attending the 47th International Museum Day that held on May 17, 2024 organized by Ethiopian Heritage Authority in collaboration with the Addis Ababa Culture, Arts and Tourism Bureau under the theme “Museums for Education and Research”.

He emphasized the unifying and inspiring role of museums as reminders of the past, reflections of present values and windows to the future.

He stressed the benefits of protecting and caring for museums, highlighting their capacity to foster people-to-people relations, promote peace, and facilitate cultural exchange.

The State Minister stated the significant role played by museums in showcasing a nation's identity through scientific methods of registration, study, and investment.

According to him, museums are important inputs to building strong democratic and inclusive spaces that foster constructive discussions, build trust within communities, and make memories accessible to all, without discrimination.

Ethiopian Heritage Authority Director General Abebaw Ayalew highlighted the invaluable role of museums for preserving national heritages and being sources of learning, entertainment and research.

Organizing museums ensures their safety, sustainability, and universal accessibility. By doing so, he said, Ethiopia can build and

utilize museums as platforms for education, research, and cultural exchange.

He also called for increased support and cooperation from both institutions and individuals involved in studying and preserving cultural artifacts.

Sileshi on his part urged all parties to join hands in preserving museums to enhance their impact on quality of education.

Looking ahead, the State Minister emphasized the importance of leveraging technology to improve the storytelling capabilities of museums, ensuring that history is presented in a more engaging and immersive manner.

He expressed that the Ministry is actively working to improve museum organization and visitor experiences with the aim of generating increased revenue.

On the other hand, Abebaw stressed the need for collaboration between the government and the private sector in recognizing and supporting monitoring and rating systems



to ensure the quality and effectiveness of museums.

Furthermore, he called for the establishment of new museums and the renovation of existing ones to create favorable conditions for visitors.

During the event, participants discussed on various educational programs, workshops, and research initiatives organized by museums to enhance the quality of education and contribute to societal development.

## MoFA refutes...

the United States Ambassador's recent statement called “Policy Speech on Human Rights and Dialogue,” which, according to the ministry, contains allegations.

In a press statement issued recently, the MoFA stated that the Ambassador's remark also comprised unsolicited advice to the Government of Ethiopia on how best to run the affairs of the country. “In addition, the statement mentioned groups bent on overthrowing the elected Government by force and known for blackmailing, kidnapping, and terrorizing civilians.”

According to MoFA, the statement is ill-advised and contain uninformed assertions and deviates from the two countries' historic and friendly relations. Ethiopia and the U.S. have maintained close ties and continue consulting on national, regional, and global issues of mutual concern.

“Ethiopia has been open for discussing wide-ranging topics with the U.S.,

including efforts toward peace and security, ensuring respect for human rights, and nurturing democracy.”

The Ministry further asserted its readiness to work with the U.S. Embassy in Addis Ababa to correct factual errors and inconsistencies in the statement. It will suggest better ways befitting diplomatic decorum; and that will not undermine democratic processes and peace in the country.

Ethiopia remains committed to a mutually respectful bilateral dialogue and relations with the U.S., the press release emphasized.

Ethiopia and the U.S. have worked in partnership for many years to combat terrorism. In this regard, the two countries' collaboration has borne fruit by bringing peace and stability to the turbulent Horn of Africa region.

Ethiopia and the U.S. established diplomatic relations in 1903.

## MoWE, partners...

The document deals with water allocation issues, water quality, flood and drought management, conservation and information system including stakeholders' engagement and is of great significance to implement Ethiopia's water policy effectively and inclusively. “Integrated water resource conservation activities have been carried out to tackle any possible harm to upper and lower water beneficiaries.”

The state minister also noted that the strategic document is an ideal platform to alleviate duplication of efforts in relation to basin water resources and other immense natural resources management activities.

Awash Basin Administration Office Water Use and Permit Desk Head Tasew Zewdie stated on the occasion that the plan helps develop watersheds, increase the capacities

of dams and other hydroelectric facilities.

Apart from meeting the growing water demand, such a document would also help increase the current irrigation potential to 340,000 hectares, Tasew added.

“About 85% of the Awash basin is currently utilized for agriculture and over 200,000 hectares of land is being cultivated by irrigation. In addition, the basin is also utilized for potable water, hydropower, livestock, fishery and tourist attractions.

Meticulous policy framework, political commitment and water cooperative framework initiatives are of great significance to ensure the basin management plan. Also, capacity building, awareness creation, technology advancement and canal modernization activities have played equal role for the same cause, the head remarked.

## Mexico eyes...

The two countries have an excellent political relationship and Ethiopians in Mexico are well accepted for the recognition of the east African country as a pride of black freedom all over the world, he expressed.

Ethiopia could draw lesson from Mexico about the mobilization of Diasporas for national development, he said, adding that the country has more potential to bring change with active participation of its citizens living abroad.

The Ambassador believed that the two nations can also cooperate in increasing the productivity of wheat, cactus and maize under the framework of the South-South cooperation.

Speaking on the advantages of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), Ambassador Estivill stated that Mexico has a good experience about free trade working with one of the biggest economic powers in the world – the United States.

Mexico has been through free trade for almost 30 years in the region building a lot of expertise in the sphere in cognizant of the fact that it requires wise management so that Ethiopia could learn about that, he mentioned.

Mentioning that the Ethiopian Airlines is already traveling to a New Mexican airport, Estivill said, “If we can have this process of a good carrier that help us to bring things from one side to the other, we are going to see an important growth in the bilateral trade.”

On the other hand, the cultural industries in Ethiopia are developing through time and the country has so much to offer. Ethiopia has good music that puts together the traditional elements with modern ones. So that's the kind of industry that Ethiopia and Mexico need to foster, according to the Ambassador.

## Second-...

towards ensuring the country's prosperity.

She also noted that it is the time to second-generation Ethiopian Diaspora to respond to the government's call and involve in development activities to bring change in the country of their origin.

The massive development activities that have been carried out by the reform government including the construction of iconic lodges and resorts are good steps to support Ethiopia to get the desirable outcomes from the tourism industry.

“When we came to our home country a few years back, we observed little change on the ground but now there are astonishing development activities and the city's image is changing greatly. I am happy to see such immense change in the nation.”

This is the best time to take risks, involve in development activities, provide service to home nation and bring change, Eleni added.

“It is time to get back to our ancestors' roots and become involved in development.”

Eleni recalled that grew up in Addis Ababa and went to abroad for further education in Indonesia. “After Indonesia, I got a student exchange program and went to Japan and pursued my studies in Kochi University. Finally, I settled in Canada. I lived abroad for ten years.”

Eleni further said that the reason she came to Ethiopia is to work in her profession.

“After a month, I will start a project dubbed Journey with Eleni on a local television station. This program shows Ethiopia's main tourist destinations first by conducting research then seeing them in person. The reason I have designed and displayed the Ontario tourism destination development case here is to attract foreign tourists as well as bring overseas tourism experience and create awareness for tourist destinations in multiple ways.”

“Finally I serve as a bridge for Ethiopians living abroad to contribute and invest in the tourism sectors.” Eleni remarked.

# Opinion

## Ethio-China Relations in Light of One-China Principle

BY DARESKEDAR TAYE, (PhD)

China is an emerging giant at the global scale. A country that was wrestling with poverty forty years ago has now become a country of great success and abundance. Its success in alleviating poverty serves as an inspiration for others that are still fighting poverty. As China is rising economically, its scope of global engagement is also expanding. Developing countries are keen to maintain strong relations with China among others.

China seems ready to work with every state of the world but with one precondition, i.e. recognizing its one-China principle. This is a principle that indicates the unity of Taiwan with Chinese mainland. China considers the island as an integral part of its own territory for reasons that are both historical and legal. China expects all states of the world to recognize the territorial integrity. This is a firm stand of the People's Republic of China (PRC) since it was established in 1949.

Nevertheless, due to the dominance of ideological rivalry during cold war and the geopolitical rivalry in the 21st century, different states reflect different positions towards one-China principle. Ethiopia is one of those states that consistently support the unity of China under Beijing especially after 1971. The bilateral relations between Ethiopia and China entered a new phase of positive development following the end of cold war. For about a decade after 1991, the two states have laid the foundation for the later years of strong economic and political relations. China and Ethiopia enjoyed even closer political and economic relations following the new millennium. As Ethiopia began a development journey, the role of China as a cordial cooperation partner becomes insurmountable.

The strong bilateral relations have been anchored in the respect of the one-China principle. For anyone who closely follows up the foreign policy approach of Ethiopia, the commitment to the one-China principle means many things. The objective of this brief article is tied to the explanation of three important justifications that explains Ethiopia's position towards China.

### A commitment to the Post-War arrangement and the UN system

Before the beginning of WWII, Ethiopia had joined the League of Nations with the assumption that the world would be a safe and stable place for humanity through collective security arrangements. At the time, almost all African nations were colonized, difficult to establish some form of African partnership or unity towards better security and development. The only alternative was joining the League. Ethiopia tried its best to

protect itself from the possible aggression and also to reflect its voice in front of other states. However, the League failed to rescue Ethiopia from Italian invasion a year before the beginning of the WWII. No one was to the side of Ethiopia though the League was based upon the principle to respect the sovereignty and security collectively.

As Italy has occupied Ethiopia for five years, 1939-1944, Japan invaded China. However, both Italy and Japan were losing ground especially after 1943. Leaders of China, the US and the UK met at Cairo and deliberated the way the Japanese invasion could be eliminated and the return of historical Chinese territories to China. As to the Cairo Declaration, 1943, it says:

*It is their purpose that Japan, shall be stripped of all the islands in the Pacific which she has seized or occupied since the beginning of first World War in 1914, and that all the territories Japan has stolen from the Chinese ... shall be restored to the Republic of China.*

This decision had served as a roadmap in the post-War Asia Pacific arrangement by great powers. It brought about an ample opportunity for the post-War China. In the same manner, the leaders of the three nations met in September 1945 and discussed the mechanisms of surrendering Japan. The Potsdam Declaration was the outcome of the meeting which called upon Japan either to surrender or to face with a final blow by the combined forces of China, the US and the UK. It further consolidated the fact that 'the Cairo Declaration shall be carried out' (Article 8). The war did not last long and Japan was vanquished by the combined forces. Hence, China should secure all of its lost territories and also got the opportunity to be the permanent member of the Security Council in the newly established United Nations (UN) organization.

Ethiopia also joined the UN at its establishment and became an active member after then. Their relation with China was also based on the principles and decisions of the organization. Ethiopia has been consistently accepted the one-China principle especially after the two nations established diplomatic relations in 1970 and followed the UN General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 2758 in 1971, which decided the following:

*Recognizing that the representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China are the only lawful representatives of China to the United Nations and the People's Republic of China is one of the five permanent members of the Security Council.*

*Decides to restore all its rights to the People's Republic of China and to recognize the representatives of its Government as the only legitimate representative China to the United Nations ...*

By fulfilling the Resolution, Ethiopia showed its allegiance to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. Gearing the Ethio-China relations on the basis of the one-China principle also helped to make the bilateral diplomacy strong.

### It is after all an internal affair of China

The war of liberation from Japan was concluded with the defeat of Japan by allied forces in 1945. The Koumintang Party (KMT)-led Government was in power when China liberated its territory from Japan. With the end of WWII, the capability of KMT was declining vis-à-vis the revolutionary army of Communist Party of China (CPC). In 1949, the CPC revolutionaries entered into Beijing and declared the establishment of the PRC. The KMT, then, fled to China's island of Taiwan.

The Taiwan authorities then still retained the international recognition which helped it to keep its position in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and kept bilateral relations with countries that did not recognize the PRC as a legitimate government. The PRC, on the other hand, was in a diplomatic move to get the recognition which was then accorded to the Taiwan authorities. After many years of diplomatic efforts, the UNGA Resolution 2758 decided the restoration of the lawful rights of the PRC, stating that the PRC Government is the sole legal government of the whole China and that Taiwan is an inalienable part of China.

Following the decision, PRC restored its lawful seats in the UNSC and became the legitimate representative of China in the UN and all its agencies. The Government in Beijing also embarked political and diplomatic initiatives of Taiwan's return to its motherland. The one-China principle has therefore emerged as the guiding principle for the Chinese Government in its dealing with all nations across the world. Continuous political negotiations were also made between Beijing and Taipei to achieve the unity of China.

There has been numerous political negotiations at different levels, sometimes by high profile politicians and sometimes by experts, since 1971 between the two. One could mention days of political stalemate with the absence of middle ground amongst them and there were also times where negotiation was possible to the extent of reaching some agreed upon roadmap. The whole dynamics related with Taiwan proved that Taiwan Question is entirely a domestic

*continued to page 9*

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



# Editorial

## Deviation from decorum

Ethiopia has been practicing statehood for quite a long time. Successive generations of Ethiopia effectively safeguarded their sovereignty by paying all the needed sacrifices when that was due. The practice of diplomacy in Ethiopia is dated even before Common Era. Individuals who, rather, lack diplomatic astuteness and the faculty to abstract the nature of ancient states usually cross the red line and disrepute themselves.

Matured representatives of different states and businesses as well are well advised, sharp-minded, and articulate in conveying messages. Individuals of such diplomatic prowess say what they want to even without wasting words and phrases late alone to be caught uttering cliché after cliché. No doubt, it is only the imprudent that attempts to dictate a sovereign state.

These days, we are witnessing undiplomatic diplomats who would rather attempt to break the diplomatic tradition and try to put unwarranted pressure on Ethiopia. At times, they make an unholy marriage and act and speak in a crowd. There is not anything bilateral, multilateral, or other sacred bases to their grouping, to say the least. In other cases, they call it “policy speech” to give uncalled for “directions” to a host country in its domestic undertakings.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia has repeatedly made clear that “Ethiopia has been open to discussing wide-ranging topics with the concerned bodies, including efforts toward peace and security, ensuring respect for human rights, and nurturing democracy in the country.” Any domestic matter would get solutions through the available mechanisms. The national dialogue and transitional justice arrangements are sought to serve the nation by bringing lasting peace in the country. Ethiopia’s friends are well aware of the process in this regard. Only those who want to advance their wishes are ignoring this very fact.

Above all, the present trends are against the regular trajectory of diplomacy. Such native acts never promote mutual interest.

Ethiopia is building bridges. The bridges are meant to transcend the long-simmering grudges and controversies and to reach spheres of consensus on major national issues. Armed groups are invited to be involved in the national dialogue process. The Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission has put it in black and white that the security of these entities will be ensured.

In the meantime, Ethiopia’s friends are throwing support behind this noble cause. The question is: why are some entities trying to interfere in the process in one way and another?

The undiplomatic statements and speeches that we are witnessing in the present day can be a litmus paper that there are entities who want to advance their ill-intended interest in the domestic affairs of Ethiopia. As usual, these entities are coming under the cloak of “democracy” and the like. They pretend to be the arch-angles of democracy, while their double standards have already been exposed in a number of events. They can no longer hide behind their masks. That mask is already torn apart, and their hypocrisy becomes conspicuous to all.

As has been stated in various ways, Ethiopia continues to ensure peace and serenity across the breadth and length of its lands. It continues building bridges, parks, and other critical infrastructure. Without a shred of doubt, Ethiopia’s friends across and on the globe continue to stand by the side of the country’s sacred vision. But naysayers continue to shed crocodile tears.



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# Opinion

## Green Legacy Initiative will continue until tangible outcomes are achieved in climate change

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

Africa accounts for only a small portion of global greenhouse gas emissions, but it is suffering disproportionately from climate change. According to a World Meteorological Organization (WMO) report, this is threatening food security, ecosystems, and economies, fueling displacement and migration, and heightening the risk of conflict over dwindling resources.

More than 110 million people on the continent were directly affected by weather, climate, and water-related hazards in 2022, resulting in economic losses of more than US\$ 8.5 billion. According to the Emergency Event Database, there were 5,000 fatalities, with drought accounting for 48% and flooding for 43%. However, the true toll is likely to be much higher due to underreporting.

Africa accounts for less than ten percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. However, it is the continent that is least prepared to deal with the negative consequences of climate change. Heat waves, heavy rains, floods, tropical cyclones, and extended droughts are having devastating impacts on communities.

Climate change’s effects are expected to be more severe in Africa due to its high vulnerability, fragility, and lack of adaptive capacity. Climate change poses significant risks to people’s health, peace, prosperity, infrastructure, and other economic activities in many African countries.

Agriculture is the foundation of Africa’s livelihoods and national economies, employing more than 55% of the workforce. However, climate change has reduced agricultural productivity growth by 34% since 1961. This is the steepest decline compared to other parts of the world.

Climate change-related loss and damage costs in Africa are expected to range between US\$ 290 billion and US\$ 440 billion, depending on the degree of warming, according to the UNECA’s African Climate Policy Centre.

Climate change and a diminishing natural resource base could exacerbate conflicts over scarce productive land, water, and pastures, where farmer-herder violence has increased in the last decade as land pressure has increased, with geographic concentrations in many Sub-Saharan countries.

Ethiopia’s Green Legacy Initiative, a national reforestation program, is preparing to plant more than 6.5 billion tree seedlings this upcoming planting season. The program has already mapped 504,000 hectares of land out of the 1.8 million hectares where soil and water conservation efforts have been undertaken to prepare the sites for planting.

This massive reforestation effort is part of Ethiopia’s broader strategy to address deforestation and ensure food security. Data from 2000 to 2013 indicates that the country was losing an average of 92,000 hectares of

forest cover annually. However, the Green Legacy Initiative aims to reverse this trend by preventing further degradation and increasing the nation’s forest cover.

Beyond environmental protection, the program has multifaceted benefits. The initiative is creating job opportunities in nurseries, as well as in sectors like animal husbandry, beekeeping, poultry farming, and fruit and vegetable production.

The initiative is also expected to bolster Ethiopia’s international standing as a leader in climate change mitigation.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed’s administration is spearheading the Green Legacy Initiative, building on the lessons learned from previous years.

Ethiopia has been actively participating from the very beginning not only at the civil society level but also at the government level too. The country is one of the active participants in the international climate change negotiation. We are contributing our share internationally but also locally. In short, the country is also aggressively taking measures at the local and community levels.

Currently, if you go to rural parts of Ethiopia, all our mountains are covered by physical terraces; and during the rainy season the whole rural population is out to plant trees due to the progress in awareness creation.

By planting trees, constructing counters terraces, the country can reverse the impact of climate change. As it has been affected by drought for several times, there is no better option for Ethiopia than implementing environmental conservation measures. The country has been active in environmental conservation over the past 30 years and it was very aggressive over the last 15 years.

Ethiopia has been planting trees in billions and the effort is indication of the commitment to reduce the negative impact of climate change. So, Ethiopia is an active player in the international climate negotiation and in mobilizing its society nationwide.

The program has inspired neighboring countries, and plans are underway to launch the initiative on a weekly and monthly basis with the participation of Ethiopian citizens.

Furthermore, the government has submitted a request to the Guinness Book of World Records to recognize the initiative’s ambitious goal of mass tree planting, where millions of Ethiopians are expected to participate.

The Green Legacy Initiative is poised to deliver multifaceted benefits to Ethiopia’s economy, society, diplomacy, and overall efforts to combat the impacts of climate change.

The climate change impact will not be fully responded by the sole effort of the Ethiopian government, countries should joined the effort and collaborate. International and national organizations working in the area should continuously back the green legacy initiative.

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

# Art & Culture

## Making Addis the Hub of African and Foreign Arts and Culture

BY MULUGETA GUDETA

The following article is inspired by an Italian-Ethiopian theatrical project that took place in Addis Ababa from April 4th to 25th this year. The event was promoted and hosted by the Italian Cultural Institute in Addis Ababa. The Italian Embassy in Addis and the Italian Cultural Institute have jointly hosted the theatrical event which was initially and apparently the brainchild of its director Matteo Spiazzi and others involved in the project which is the first of its kind to be presented in Addis Ababa.

According to information released prior to the event, the theatrical project known as 'Family Album' is a unique Italian-Ethiopian collaborative project that brings together the creative talents of both nations. Set against the backdrop of an Ethiopian family's unconventional journey, this theatrical endeavor captures the essence of familial bonds, cultural diversity and the universal language of humor.

According to the same information, the organizers of the events were quoted as saying the following: "We are thrilled to present 'Family Album' an embodiment of the enduring friendship and cultural exchange between Italy and Ethiopia. Through this collaborative endeavor, we aim to celebrate diversity, foster mutual understanding and ignite joy within our community."

Without going into the details of the dramatic presentation, we can perhaps say that it was an important artistic event in its own right. It can also serve as a pace setter that might inspire other foreign embassies and diplomatic missions to replicate this novel experience in their bid to bring their contributions and expand the horizon of this first initiative. This is also an experience worth emulating by other embassies and cultural missions in order to being together the experiences of diverse communities and nations which can serve as bedrock for promoting peace and mutual understanding among the peoples of the world.

How many foreign embassies are there in Addis Ababa? According to a March 2024 press release by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia, the number of countries that have established embassies in Addis Ababa has reached 134. Presumably, all of them have their cultural attachments within the embassies' compounds. By definition, or conventionally, cultural attachés have the main duty of promoting cultural exchanges with the host country. That is apparently why most, if not all, embassies have confined their activities within this assumption.

"A cultural attaché is a diplomat with varying responsibilities, depending on the sending status of the attaché. Historically such posts were filled by writers and artists, giving them a steady income, and allowing them to develop their own creative work while promoting their country's culture abroad."

Rare are those embassies that ventured



**Addis Ababa is already famous for serving as the diplomatic center of Africa where most African countries have their embassies and diplomatic missions stationed and where important cultural and artistic vents are taking place**

out of their compounds and tried to reach the general public of the host nation and make contacts with ordinary people. Even though they practice what they call public diplomacy, their links with the local public leave much to be desired. Their public visibility through cultural events is below expectations although we pay due respect to their commitments to promoting the ideal of people- to-people cultural diplomacy.

There are of course exceptions to the rule. The Italian Cultural Institute, together with the Italian embassy's cultural envoys plays a leading role in promoting cultural and artistic activities among the local public. Musical and film shows as well as stage drama and art exhibitions have been taking place for decades within the compounds of the institute that is also runs a full-fledged schools open to local and foreign students.

The American embassy, being one of the oldest and biggest embassies in the Ethiopian capital also promotes rare cultural events such as the annual Black History Month which is an event of great historical and cultural significance to Africans at home and in the Diaspora. The embassy is one of the busiest in hosting promoting developmental and related events that immensely benefit the local public both in the capital and in the rural areas.

The USAID has particularly proved itself, through decades of involvement, to be a

committed and dependable development partner irrespective of the state of bilateral relations between the US and Ethiopia. The reason for the embassy's relative invisibility in cultural diplomacy may be due to the US being one of the most powerful countries with the most formidable cultural institutions in the world which are promoted by its film and publishing industries to name but two of the leading global cultural forces.

However, since economic development and cultural exchanges are considered mutually complementary, one can expect that the embassy would revamp its cultural visibility in the Ethiopian capital with film shows, artistic exhibitions and other outlets to build on the spark that was recently ignited by the Italian embassy and its cultural institutes.

There are also other embassies that are interested in promoting the culinary cultures in order to make their foods and beverages known to the world and in Africa as well. The Japanese and other Asian embassies are known to host these kinds of events in Addis. There are also embassies that host music shows and art exhibitions, all of which are aimed at promoting multilateral cultural interactions at the public level.

Important arts events are taking place in Addis like the annual European film Festival, the Addis International film Festival while Black History month is observed annually under the auspices of the American embassy in the Ethiopian capital. Chinese, Japanese and other Asian embassies here in the capital organized culinary events such as promoting their specific cuisines and eating traditions in a bid to bridge the gap in knowledge between Asia and Africa in this specific area.

There are also embassies in Addis, whose main activities are geared towards promoting and organizing linguistic and literary events with the German language education at the centre of its activities. The Russian embassy is also engaged in promoting free scholarships to Ethiopian students that has been going on for many years now. At one point in the past, the Russian cultural centre in Addis Ababa was the most vibrant venue for the promotion of literature in Ethiopia.

The works of classical Russian authors were translated and disseminated in Ethiopia and this process had led to the emergence of many renowned Ethiopian writers who got inspiration from their readings of Russian

classics. Russian historical films were also shown at the Old Russian Exhibition Centre and captivated the attention of the local public that was fond of going to the movies long before modern technology was introduced.

The bottom line is this: foreign embassies in the Ethiopian capital could as well play the vital role of cultural exchanges among nations and diverse communities, similar to the one recently shown by the Italian Cultural Institute. With time and sufficient efforts, these initiatives may also attract embassies from Africa that would participate in similar ventures or collaborative productions in films and theatres. The Ethiopian ministry of culture should therefore accord utmost attention and express strong commitment to the task of promoting cultural exchanges without sending envoys or cultural delegations abroad.

At the grassroots levels, cultural exchanges and the task of peace building are interconnected both at the domestic, national and global levels. Cultural activities are believed to help individuals and communities to build or rebuild their national identities. "Cultural activities allow individuals to build a new identity by taking part in theatrical activities, music performances and sports."

The objectives of peace building at local, national and global levels are well-documented. "Peace-building is the development of constructive personal, group and political relationships across ethnic, religious class, national and religious boundaries. "Culture has also a positive impact on world peace. "Culture significantly influences peacemaking strategies by shaping communicative style, conflict resolution methods, and perceptions of peace. Culture is a complex web of shared beliefs, norms and practices that characterize a group of people."

Addis Ababa is already famous for serving as the diplomatic center of Africa where most African countries have their embassies and diplomatic missions stationed and where important cultural and artistic vents are taking place. Addis is also the largest conference centre in Africa and the hub of African diplomacy as well. The proliferation of modern hotels, tourist attractions and recreational and business facilities make the Ethiopian capital the ideal venue for artists, celebrities and researchers who want to study Africa as a whole or Ethiopia in particular.

There is of course a great potential for making Addis Ababa the hub of local, African and foreign cultural activities and exchanges, whose potential impacts and implications might go beyond temporary publicity to capture the attention of the general public whose direct participation might also help make such ventures more permanent and more institutionalized and more effective in promoting peace and understanding among different nations and cultures, ultimately contributing to peace building and to the emergence of a more stable global order.



# Law & Politics

## Why Africa lags behind despite all the blessings?

BY EYUEL KIFLU

Africa, known for its vast reserves of natural resources, continues to grapple with the challenge of underdevelopment, poverty, instability, and external meddling in its internal affairs. The perplexing question of why a continent blessed with abundant wealth remains mired in poverty and economic stagnation has long puzzled experts and analysts. While there is no single answer that fully explains this complex issue, it is increasingly evident that the key to Africa's development lies in the hands of its leaders.

Many argue that the progress of Africa hinges on the political willingness and commitment of its governors. Without a genuine drive to boost economic production and prioritize the welfare of their people, the potential for growth remains untapped. These proponents emphasize that stable economic independence is crucial for African countries to break free from external meddling in their internal affairs, which often exacerbates instability and causes a loss of valuable resources.

The interference of external forces in Africa's affairs has been a significant obstacle to the continent's development. Without ensuring economic independence, Africa will not be able to stand free from any external meddling and find solutions for its problems. Governments in West African countries, in particular, have blamed external meddling for their political and internal issues resulting in instability in the region. The consequence of such interference has caused the alarming migration of African youth to the Middle East and Western countries in search of better opportunities and peace. This brain drain further exacerbates Africa's development challenges, leaving the continent with a significant loss of skilled and talented individuals.

While the problems facing Africa are widely acknowledged, finding effective solutions has proven elusive. Africa's leaders have come under scrutiny for their prolonged stays in power and their disregard for democratic principles rather than serving their nations and achieving the bigger picture of African independence. Rather than viewing leadership as a means to serve the country and its people, many African leaders have pursued personal satisfaction and enrichment. This self-serving approach, coupled with the influence of Westernization, has perpetuated a cycle of instability and hindered Africa's progress.

Democratization, job creation, stability, and economic development stand as paramount challenges that demand urgent attention from African governments and their people. Addressing these issues requires a concerted effort to transform the continent's mindset and priorities. Financial security also emerges large as a pressing concern for Africa, with a need for robust systems and institutions to safeguard economic stability.

In an exclusive interview with *The Ethiopian Herald*, Assoumana Hassane, a Management Consultant at the African Reinsurance



**African countries must increase their contributions to the AFDB to elevate its influence and enable it to provide financial support to smaller nations for their growth and development**

Corporation, shed light on several factors contributing to financial safety challenges in Africa. First and foremost, the political environment plays a pivotal role. A stable political climate is essential for achieving financial goals. Financial stability acts as a beacon, attracting investments. However, if governments frequently change and fail to acknowledge the efforts of their predecessors, it discourages potential investors.

Another crucial factor is internal economic development, intrinsically linked to politics. Political leaders should not only focus on leadership but also on a vision encompassing economic development and growth. The growth of the national product, as measured by GDP, holds significant importance. According to Hassane, these factors are key contributors to the financial safety challenges faced by Africa.

Furthermore, Hassane highlighted the concern surrounding financial

liberalization in Africa. He underscored the need to disregard racial or origin-based differentiation, emphasizing that Europe and Africa possess the same human potential. The discrepancy in financial sector growth between Europe and Africa stems from differing mindsets and visions. Once African leaders adopt a vision aligned with their European and American counterparts, Africa will experience similar growth.

Hassane illustrated the transformative power of visionary leadership by drawing a comparison to Dubai. In his youth, Dubai was merely a desert with camels. However, through visionary leaders committed to the country's development rather than personal interests, Dubai has emerged as a thriving metropolis. Politicians must view their positions as a means of serving the population rather than a vehicle for self-enrichment.

Before delving into the specifics of the financial sector, Hassane provided an example from his ten years stay in Nigeria, during which he witnessed the development of the country's financial sector. He highlighted the success story of Dangote, who has become Africa's largest player through self-development and the favorable economic environment in Nigeria. Dangote's success demonstrates the presence of untapped potential within Africa, and it is imperative that Africans adopt a similar mindset.

Additionally, African leaders should embrace market openness rather than protectionism. Opening up the market invites new companies and investors, who bring with them technology that facilitates knowledge transformation and benefits the local market.

Hassane suggested that if a company like Toyota were to establish a factory in Ethiopia,

it would provide numerous Ethiopians with opportunities in car manufacturing over the next 10 to 20 years. This transfer of competence, technology, and knowledge is vital, and Africa should not fear market openness but rather prepare to rise to the challenges it presents. Competition necessitates the pursuit of excellence, and even if Africa does not initially reach the highest level, forming joint ventures and partnerships with foreign companies can facilitate growth until it becomes a major player.

Hassane also acknowledged the existence of the African Development Bank (AFDB), which is predominantly African-owned but has yet to attain the influence and impact wielded by institutions such as the IMF and World Bank, whose primary shareholders are large Western countries. African countries must increase their contributions to the AFDB to elevate its influence and enable it to provide financial support to smaller nations for their growth and development. This shift would reduce reliance on institutions like the IMF and World Bank and afford African countries greater control over their financial future.

In conclusion, the challenges hindering Africa's development despite its abundance of natural resources are multifaceted. However, the key lies in the hands of Africa's leaders, who must demonstrate the political willingness, vision, and commitment necessary to drive economic growth and uplift their nations. Democratization, job creation, stability, and a focus on serving the people rather than personal interests are crucial steps toward unlocking Africa's immense potential. By addressing these issues, bolstering financial security, and fostering a mind-set of growth and collaboration, Africa can pave its own path to prosperity and unleash its true potential.



# Mexico is ready to cooperate with Ethiopia in agriculture, fintech and diaspora management

- Alejandro Estivill

BY ZEKARIAS WOLDEMARIAM

*Ethiopia and Mexico enjoy a decades old strong diplomatic relations. While sharing many areas of interest that call for cooperation between the two countries, the seal of the strong ties was Mexican firm stance at the League of Nations against the fascist invasion and aggression over Ethiopia in the 1930's.*

*In recognition of the strong stance taken to safeguard Ethiopia's sovereignty, Ethiopia has named one of the largest round about in its capital after Mexico. Now lying at the epicenter of the metropolis Mexico is a very common and the most repeatedly called word among the residents of Addis, as every one has to cross the place to and from home every day.*

*Despite the geographical distance between them the two countries are doing their best to establish strong diplomatic and people to people ties.*

*Alejandro Ives Estivill Castro is Ambassador of Mexico to Ethiopia and Permanent Observer to AU. He is both a diplomat and novelist. He specializes in Mexican literature of the 20th Century. He holds a BA in Hispanic Literature from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and a PhD. in Literature from El Colegio de México.*

*After his entrance into the Foreign Service in 1993, he has served as special advisor to the Secretary of Foreign Relations, Political Affairs Attaché for the Mexican Embassy in Costa Rica, Chief of Staff for the Undersecretary of Foreign Relations Enrique Berruga, Director General for Cultural Affairs and Director General for North American Affairs. He held the position of Chargé d'Affairs at the Embassy of Mexico in the UK and Deputy Chief of Mission at Embassy of Mexico in the United States. He was appointed General Consul of Mexico in Montreal, Canada, 2016.*

*During the celebration of the annual Spanish Language Day here at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) over the week, Ambassador Estivil was one of the speakers as representative of the country with the largest number of Spanish language speakers in the world.*

*The Ethiopian Herald approached him for a brief conversation about the bilateral relations between Mexico and Ethiopia as well as Africa. Here is an excerpt:*



**Could you tell me just the current state of bilateral relations in Ethiopia between Ethiopia and Mexico?**

We have a great Moment Like an excellent moment. Historically there's a lot to say because Mexico was the first country to demand legal action by the League of Nations at that time 1935 against the fascist invasion of Ethiopia. That was something that provoked a lot of Knowledge from the European Society. Emperor Haile Selassie I of Ethiopia travelled to Mexico in 1954 was a great visit. You know, at that moment Emperor Hailesellasié was a figure very well renowned in the world then for Mexico, we started many activities of cooperation here. We had our Embassy since many years ago. We had to close in the late 90s, but we reopened very fast. And since then we have been one of the first six observers of the African Union. So today

we have very good programs. The main ones are in diaspora management. That's something that Ethiopia is recognizing the expertise of Mexico. So we share a lot of information because both countries have a lot of its population in another country mostly in the United States.

We also have South-South cooperation in the case of growing wheat and Cactus and some corn and also we can share a lot of a lot of cooperation. So we have a political relationship and great image and Ethiopians believe that the image of Mexico in the world is very very good of course Ethiopians in Mexico are also very very well accepted because we have this magnet that a country that was never conquered that represents the pride of the African not only Ethiopia but also the African Pride all around the world is something very recognizable.

**T**here are a lot of popularities, a lot of regions and a lot of ethnic groups that had to live together and develop this united way of being Ethiopians. So we have the opportunity to share experiences on both sides and we are doing that

**Ethiopia is undergoing a national dialogue and peace-building process. In what way can Mexico support?**

Well, we have been the champions for the entrance of the African Union to the G20. We believe that this is a matter of giving the population options for better development. Once you have that, it starts a virtual cycle in which all that violence can be erased. So we are helping in that financial in that good trend of development that has to be very well understood at the same time. South-South Cooperation is the name of the game today and we are facing a lack of good resources for cooperation with the big Powers. So we have the developing countries to talk among us and try to give options to our countries. More than that is this possibility, as I was saying today in

*continued to page 9*



## Mexico is ready to cooperate...

the day of the Spanish Language, that we have to put together the Integrity that one language (in this case is Spanish) or other than that, it was at the same time to respect the peculiarities that are the main content of each country and Ethiopia. There are a lot of popularities, a lot of regions and a lot of ethnic groups that had to live together and develop this united way of being Ethiopians. So we have the opportunity to share experiences on both sides and we are doing that.

**The other very important issue between countries is trade and export. So in that sector how are Mexico and Ethiopia doing as they have very long and strong relations?**

Mexico has good experience in what free trade means because we were the ones to the very advantageous decision to go to a free trade agreement with the biggest power economic power in the world, the United States. So we have developed in this more than 25 years almost 30 years of free trade among in our region a lot of expertise and that is not only to leave everything to the market is to make it intelligently with and socially oriented. So we believe that free trade in Africa is going to be a great future for the youth population. We have to talk about doing those things very important to give opportunities for Innovation and creativity to the young population so that they represent what they should represent which is the growth and the great opportunities that Africa has in the world.

If not, that would mean violence, social problems, etc. So free trade is, and we have experience that we can share with Ethiopians and with other African countries. But also with this socially oriented content, sometimes a country has to reserve a small part of the free trade. So we have to do it intelligently, and that's what we are going to develop in the next years in the African continent.



“ We believe that free trade in Africa is going to be a great future for the youth population ”

We have free trade in America and more than 27 other countries. We are one of the most open countries in the world and believe in free trade. This social orientation is not only to leave things to the market; it is to do it intelligently and we have experience there, and we are talking with African countries.

**How do you see the bilateral trade ties between Ethiopia and Mexico at this moment?**

Small but this is starting to grow a little bit more. We have very a lot of the raw materials that come from mining here in Ethiopia and some Machinery that is developed in Mexico. We have to ship that not only that to our craft elements things that talk about culture and services are going to be also very relevant Mexico has good experience in fintech.

We are seeing all this new development banks that are here in the private banks that are developing and they are producing apps and things like that. We have an experience there. And of course, the cultural Industries in which Ethiopia has so much to offer imagine to diffuse more about the dancing the music. Ethiopia has such good jazz, and good music, that puts together the traditional elements with modern ones. So that's the kind of industrial control industries that we have to Foster.

**Ethiopian Airlines connects many African countries with the outside world. Is it also connecting Mexico with Ethiopia and Africa?**

I am very glad that Ethiopian is already travelling to the new Mexican airport IA the airport that with cargo they are travelling there and we are going to try to grow that so if we can have this process of a good carrier that helps us to bring things from 1 side to the other. We are going to see an important growth in the bilateral trade.

*Thank you very much!*

*Thank you!*

## Ethio-China Relations in...

challenge of China. Thus, Ethiopia has no any reason to comment on the domestic affairs of China let alone taking contrary position to the one-China principle. That is why Ethiopia has maintained strong bilateral relations so far with China. Refraining from intervening in the internal affairs of another country is a constitutional provision to Ethiopia. All governments coming into power constitutionally have the duty not to defy this provision. Even in the future, Ethiopia will respect China's way of dealing its internal matters.

Whenever any nation makes itself for healthy bilateral relations, the first thing that it does is to identify the interests and the sensitivities of its counterpart and take all necessary caution. It is also wise to discern

interests that are common from those that are exclusive to the other. States do not allow exclusive interests to spoil the common interests. The bilateral relations between Ethiopia and China have to also be seen from this perspective. The sustainability of the bilateral relations is dependent more on working mutually on the common interests.

**The development cooperation is rising**

As a country with fast-growing economy, it is natural for Ethiopia to give priority for development cooperation. Such cooperation goes far beyond besides aid and support. It is also a matter of soliciting finance that is necessary for development either in the form of investment or loan. In this case, the Ethio-China relations have gone further. China is an important source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to Ethiopia which

is critical to reduce the unemployment burden, to facilitate urban development and fill the foreign exchange gap. Chinese companies are also increasingly participating in the infrastructure sector in Ethiopia, involving themselves in the construction of roads and railway lines, skyscrapers, telecom infrastructure and hydroelectric dam projects, to mention just a few. The trade relations between the two nations are also rising on both sides.

It is possible to expect this type of development cooperation to keep the momentum in the future. The rapid economic growth and the huge market in Ethiopia may attract more and more investors and trading partners from China. This type of strong development cooperation actually began to happen following the commencement of Forum on China-Africa

Cooperation (FOCAC) in 2000. Following the promises of FOCAC, China pursued strong partnership with African states that accepted the one-China principle. Ethiopia, as part of FOCAC, has worked with China for stronger relations that could benefit both nations and it is also possible to expect a better partnership in the foreseeable future.

For China, the one-China principle is a cardinal norm in its foreign policy and any type of engagement. Other than this, it is open to have every possible bilateral or multilateral relations with states from across the world. Ethiopia is well-cognizant of China's sensitivity to its internal affairs and wants to respect its position and the way it manages its own affair. The future of the bilateral relations will be more successful as long as both nations work in areas that are common.



# Society

## Unlocking potential by investing in STEM education

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

Science, technology, engineering and mathematics are improving the activities of global people in all areas and transforming the world at an unparalleled rate.

Ranging from advancing the health, education, agriculture, transportation and communication sectors among others and allowing people to simply interact across the globe and doing businesses easily, science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields are impacting global people in numerous ways. These days, the global economy is influenced by automation, artificial intelligence and the internet more than ever before which make the role of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education fundamental.

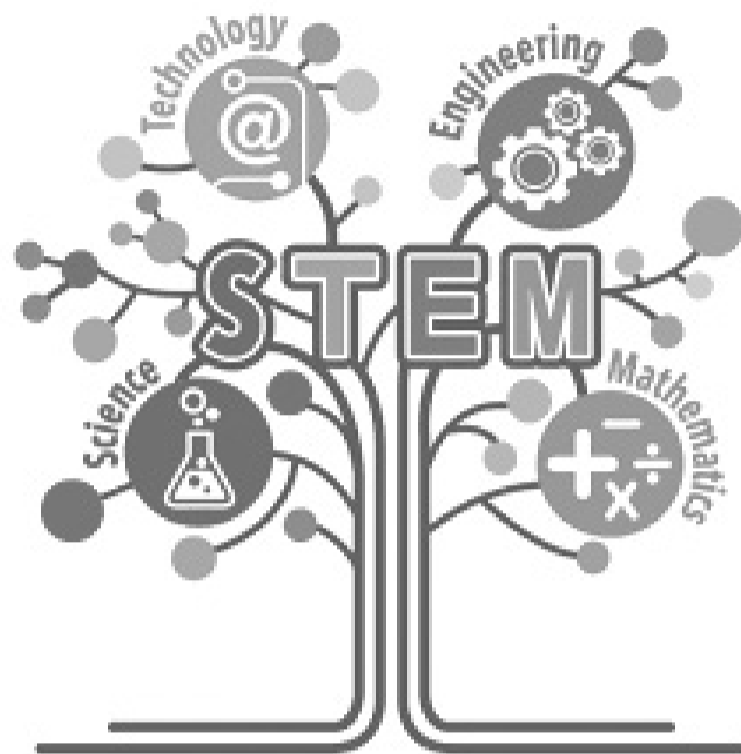
Nowadays, the global economy is influenced more than ever before by science, technology, engineering and employing automation, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the internet to enhance competence and promote sustainable economic growth.

According to a study by the World Bank, since STEM represents a vast and crucial domain of knowledge, it should be practiced in developing nations to drive development and pull out citizens out of poverty. Thus, countries are encouraged to apply integrated STEM education through a dynamic pedagogical approach, which surpasses traditional teaching methods by intentionally weaving these four fields into a single cross-disciplinary program.

It is true that the African Union's Agenda 2063 recognizes the strategic role STEM education can play in fast-tracking Africa's development. This shows that Africa should be ready to capitalize on and benefit from STEM education and skills to leapfrog as a global leader in addressing mega developmental trends in emerging technologies, cyber security, climate change, green economy, and global health. Most importantly, the ability of Africa to convert its youth dividend with a projected 362 million young people between 15-24 years by 2050—into a highly skilled STEM workforce can be a game changer.

"Africans should enhance effort in revolutionizing the STEM education ecosystem urgently more than ever before to tap the opportunities, enhance competence of the workforce and increase competitiveness," the World Bank's study recommends.

In fact, most African countries are working committedly to promote STEM education, inculcate science knowledge and skills among young people. Principally, because STEM is the most important way to encourage innovation and creativity, as well as problem-solving skills, and it is vital to compete globally and ensure sustainable economic growth and



**Investing in STEM education fosters long-term sustainable development by building a skilled workforce capable of driving innovation across different sectors of the economy**

development, African nations are exerting energies. However, numerous challenges are hindering STEM education not to thrive at the desired level.

Among the major constraints, even though they differ from country to country, low participation and a weak pipeline in STEM fields, lack of smart classrooms, science laboratories and equipment are few.

Learning the aforesaid challenges, *The Ethiopia Herald* approached Ministry of Education STEM Senior Expert Dula Tolera (PhD) to share his insights on the aforesaid matter.

According to him, skilled human capital, the most decisive resource for developing countries, should opt in providing the younger generation with hands-on training along with soft skill competencies.

Ethiopia's STEM education has been started in organized fashion by opening STEM centers and allocating resources. Consecutively, promising steps have been made though a lot remains to be done and it should be further strengthened. The Ministry is working along with pertinent stakeholders to instill STEM in the education system through providing the education at various STEM centers.

It is high time to engage in revolutionizing STEM in the education system and let many younger generations get hands-on training on hard science. There is also a need to focus on STEM education through allocating resources and offering training for teachers in the fields. This helps to ensure sustainable and inclusive economic growth in the country, because it allows enhancing competency, letting more entrepreneurs and innovators join the workforce and in the market, he underlined.

He also noted that development partners working along with the government should be well exploited because they do have

skilled human resources, finance as well as technology that could help Ethiopia to advance in STEM education.

Nation's STEM education should not only focus on addressing local workforce demands; but it should include the international too. For instance, internationally acclaimed institutions' workforce mix is highly heterogeneous; he mentioned "NASA's workforces. "When we assess NASA, 38 percent of its workforces are coming from India. This has happened because India has put in place STEM education in priority rather than soft skill, they have produced a skilled workforce at the standard of the international work force demand," he added.

According to him, we are witnessing that the teaching-learning process and the classroom management in a number of schools rely on lecture-based lessons that make the students more theoretical than practical. These lead to producing unskilled human power that could not shoulder the workload and the capacity needed for the job market. This kind of approach should be corrected.

"As a populous country, population means trainable manpower that can bring about a difference in a nation's overall growth. To tap this power, a special institute should be assigned or structured to track down brilliant students. For instance, the STEM program in the USA is headed by NASA. This confirms how the USA gave the weight to strengthening STEM and striving to bridge the gap for innovative workforce and address the gap for skilled human workforce. The Agency is responsible for hunting down competent students and letting them join STEM centers throughout the country."

Owing to this, he recommends enhancing STEM awareness and giving due attention to it more than ever before. This could be materialized through creating opportunities for STEM discovery such as the establishment of science centers, targeted campaigns, community engagement programs, partnerships, and other STEM initiatives with local educational institutions to improve access to STEM education.

Investing in STEM education fosters long-term sustainable development by building a skilled workforce capable of driving innovation across different sectors of the economy. This, in turn, leads to economic diversification, increased productivity, and improved standards of living for the population, he remarked.

Overall, STEM education serves as a catalyst for innovation and entrepreneurship in developing nations, empowering individuals to create positive change, drive economic growth, and build a brighter future for themselves and their communities.

Dula also sees mainstreaming STEM in all universities as a promising move and an important move to produce skilled workforces, build a digital economy and expand technology in Ethiopia.



# Verbatim and Caption

## *Prime time to build bridges to foster unity: PM Abiy*

It's high time for Ethiopian citizens to craft bridges that foster interpersonal engagements and realize national development expeditions.

It is also highly valuable to craft bridges that are not only constructed with physical constituents but also a bridge that is built on our common narrations that shapes false narrations, fortifies social cohesion and transcend regional boundaries among the entire fellow citizens.

**Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) said inaugurating Abbay Bridge, built on Abbay River in Bahir Dar city of Amhara State**



## *Joining WTO key component of Ethiopia's Economic Reform: Ambassador Mesganu*



The Government of Ethiopia is ready and committed to expedite Ethiopia's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO). The government desires the technical negotiations completed speedily. Joining the WTO is a pivotal aspect of Ethiopia's economic reform agenda.

Ethiopia has passed significant policy amendments and radical decisions in relation to trade and finance sectors that will assist advance the joining process. Being a major economic player in Sub-Saharan Africa, Ethiopia would significantly enhance the World Trade Organization's stature by becoming a member.

**Ambassador Mesganu Argu, State Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia said while discussing with Maika Oshikawa, Director of the WTO Accession Division**

## *Ethiopia will take Azerbaijan's integrated digital government service as a model: DPM*



Azerbaijan's modern government service delivery system can serve as a model for Ethiopia's civil service reform. Ethiopian delegation has observed the efficient digital delivery of government services at the ASAN Service Center here in Azerbaijan.

The public satisfaction with government services in Azerbaijan has reached 99.8 percent and the government has garnered various global awards for its achievements.

Ethiopia will take Azerbaijan's integrated digital government service as a model in its own efforts to improve public service delivery.

**Temesgen Tiruneh, Deputy Prime Minister of Ethiopia, said after visiting Azerbaijan's ASAN Service Center**

## *Statement by U.S. Ambassador contains allegations, unsolicited advice to the Government of Ethiopia on how to run the affairs of the country: MoFA*

The Ambassador of the United States of America in Addis Ababa read a Statement called "Policy Speech on Human Rights and Dialogue" containing allegations against, and unsolicited advice to the Government of Ethiopia on how best to run the affairs of the country and mention groups bent on overthrowing the elected Government by force, and known for blackmailing, kidnapping, and terrorizing civilians.

The statement is ill-advised and contains uninformed assertions. It is contrary to the historic and friendly relations between Ethiopia and the United States.

The two countries have maintained close ties and continue consulting on national, regional, and global issues of common concern. Ethiopia has been open to discussing wide-ranging topics with the United States, including efforts toward peace and security, ensuring respect for human rights, and nurturing democracy in the country.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia will work with the Embassy



of the United States in Addis Ababa to correct factual errors and inconsistencies in the statement. It will suggest better ways befitting diplomatic decorum; and that will not undermine democratic processes and peace in the country. Ethiopia remains committed to a mutually respectful bilateral dialogue and relations with the United States.

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia statement**