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Scholar sees big diplomatic gain after South Sudan ratifying CFA

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA-The ratification of the Cooperation Framework Agreement (CFA) of the Nile Basin Initiative by South Sudan and five other countries has showcased Ethiopia's diplomatic success, water researcher said.

Approached by the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), a former member of the Abbay Dam negotiating team and Addis Ababa University water researcher and lecturer Prof. Yacob Arsano remarked that South Sudan's ratification of the CFA that Ethiopia proposed for fair and proper utilization of the Nile River waters is a diplomatic success.

He also indicated that the CFA ratification benefits not only Ethiopia but also other riparian

See Scholar sees ...Page 3 Prof. Yacob Arsano

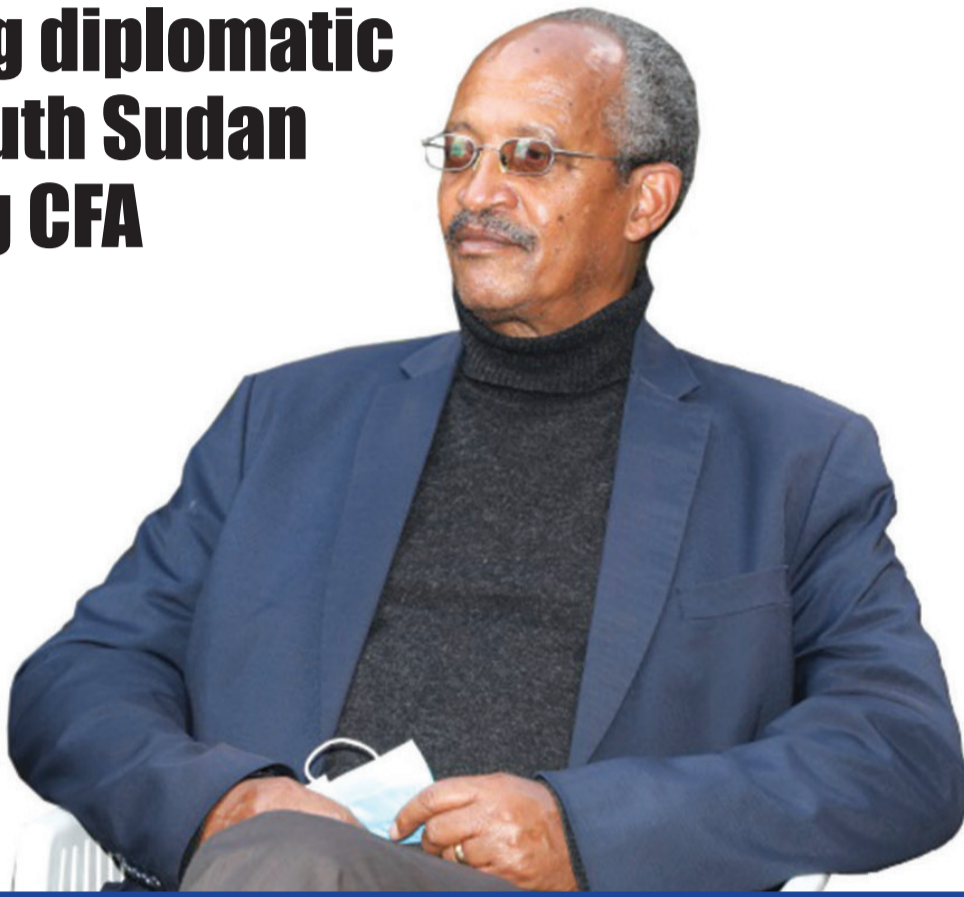


Photo: Eyob Teferi

Directive pivotal to manage effective capital investment: Researcher

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA - The issuance of securities exchanges directive would highly contribute to administer capital investment flow and facilitate national economic growth, said Economic Researcher.

Ethiopian Economic Association (ECA) Researcher and Haramaya University Economics Lecturer Molla Alemayehu (PhD) told *The Ethiopian Herald* that the issuance of the directive on licensing, operation and supervision of securities exchanges would

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Prof. Mesfin Araya

ENDC to commence agenda gathering in three states, city admin

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- Agenda gathering would be commenced in three states and one city administration in the coming week, The Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (ENDC) disclosed.

Briefing journalists yesterday, ENDC Chief Commissioner Prof. Mesfin Araya stated that the commission would begin

See ENDC to commence... Page 3

Winning prestigious global recognition huge impetus for Ethiopian

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA— Ethiopian Airlines Group CEO stated that the prestigious Global Recognition and Appreciation Award to the flag carrier creates immense courage for future interventions and redouble commitments for future global interventions.

GCEO Mesfin Tasew made the above remark while receiving the prestigious Global Recognition and Appreciation Award at the First International Post-COVID Conference held in Toronto, Canada with a view of building a unified frontier for responding to future global pandemics.

According to the Airlines statement, this award acknowledges its pivotal role in distributing emergency outreach across Africa during the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring the delivery of essential medical supplies that rescued many lives.

While receiving the recognition award,



the GCEO stated that, "We are honored to receive this prestigious recognition for our significant contribution worldwide during the COVID-19 pandemic."

Mesfin has also underlined at the occasion that this recognition is a testament to our commitment, dedication and hard work of our team members, the airline community,

and the stakeholders who have been involved vigorously in all operations together in those difficult times.

Moreover, he said this award creates more courage to stay committed to serving their customers and communities, even

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12 Angry Men: A timeless lesson in patience, empathy and the power of one

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Recognizing women's indispensable role in diplomacy

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A staunch partner in the rainy days

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CEEF calls on employers to respect workers' rights

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – Confederation of Ethiopian Employers' Federation (CEEF) disclosed that employers should adhere to national and international laws to ensure the rights and benefits of workers.

An awareness creation workshop was held yesterday to raise stakeholders' understanding about the Pension Proclamation No. 1275/2021 organized by CEEF in collaboration with Private Organization Employees Social Security Administration (POESSA).

On the occasion, Getahun noted that employers should act upon the national and international laws on protecting employees to reduce unnecessary risks and be profitable.

Several employers have been exposing their businesses to difficult situation due to their awareness gap. For instance, a company was lost up to 46 million Birr due to the existing knowledge gap about the national proclamation, he said without mentioning names.

"Filling the awareness gap among employers would bring paramount significances such as producing competitive and creative workers, ensuring social security, exercising social dialogue, and the likes," he underlined.

POESSA Operation Department Deputy CEO, Meseret Zeleke on his part said that employers have been playing vital role in creating jobs and stabilizing the country's macro economy.

However, he noted that they have knowledge gaps especially about protecting the rights and benefits of workers.

Meseret stated that such awareness creation workshops help to identify the existing problems, direct relevant solution, create productive citizens and raise understanding and the likes.

Presenting an initial discussion paper, POESSA's Law Affairs Director Girma Sisay said, "Knowledgeable investors in the workers area would play indispensable role in ensuring social stability, solving the problem easily, responding the duty properly and encouraging solidarity."

He added that the proclamation helps to raising stakeholders' awareness, creating enabling environment for employers' and employees and deepening social ties.

Of course, there is existing procedural gaps inclusively law expertise in the area so that the country needs to establish a platform to create smooth relationship between the employers' and employees as well as translating the international law on related issues.

Cosmopolitan redevelopment exhibits national capacity to achieve big vision: Economist

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA - The Addis Ababa corridor development project demonstrates Ethiopians' capacity to achieve big visions with world-class quality, Economist Zemedeneh Negatu commented.

The transformation of Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa in a span of just a few months is truly remarkable and manifests Ethiopians' capacity to collaboratively deliver on big visions, on time with world-class quality, Global Chairman of Fairfax Africa Fund, Zemedeneh Negatu said.

Mentioning that he was mostly away from Addis for the past three months, Zemedeneh stated the infrastructural development that has been made in the aforesaid period in certain key parts of the capital is starting to reflect its status as a major cosmopolitan city.

"So, the last couple of days I drove around the city: Piassa, Arat Kilo, Bole to Meskel Square and Mexico to Sarbet," he wrote on X, citing that the changes in these places are so dramatic that he hardly recognized most of them.

As a vibrant, successful, livable political capital city, which is also a big commercial hub for a country with over 200 billion USD economy, Zemedeneh indicated that Addis will continue to contribute significantly to Ethiopia's economy, image and attracting high caliber talent and investments, similar to London or New York.



Zemedeneh Negatu

Addis Ababa also has a unique role in Africa for being the seat of the headquarters of the African Union and is amongst the five largest hosts of diplomatic missions in the world, he stated.

Zemedeneh noted that the redevelopment of the city reminds him of the redevelopment of Washington DC starting in the mid-1980s after Reagan and the Republicans won the Whitehouse and took control of Congress.

"Those of us who grew in the Washington area remember how rundown downtown DC was at the time," he wrote.

But, starting with the Pennsylvania Avenue corridor redevelopment project (initially

the area from the Whitehouse to Capitol Hill), the city progressively redeveloped to become one of the most beautiful, livable cities in the world today, he recalled.

It even changed from a one company town (government) to a hi-tech and corporate mecca in the VA and MD suburbs. "I think Addis could be on a similar trajectory," the chairman penned.

"So, I congratulate key players who made the redevelopment a huge success: PM Abiy supported by Mayor Adanech and city and federal public servants, private home grown Ethiopian contractors and residents of Addis Abeba," he added.

UAE assists charity organizations

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ASDDIS ABABA—United Arab Emirates (UAE) provided four Ethiopian charity organizations with clothing worth 3.1 million.

Embassy of UAE provided clothing materials such as blanket and other dressings for elders, destitute and sick people.

Of the provided 3.1 million Birr support, some 1,060,000 was spent for clothes via a charity Association for The Destitute and Abandoned People. The embassy provided clothes in new care giving center, one of UAE Aid for charities.

During the donation A charity Association for The Destitute and Abandoned People Chief Executive Officer, Reverend Samison Bekele said that the center is providing care and support for 300 sick and elder people.

The Embassy provided 300 sick and elder people with 300 blankets and other clothes amounting to 1,060,000 Birr. This helps our charity a lot and it shall continue to do so in the future, he said.

He added the charity has been providing care and support for elders over the last 25



years.

The Embassy has entirely provided worth of 3.1 million Birr for four local charity organizations such as A charity Association for The Destitute and Abandoned People, Muday Charity organization and for other charity organizations at the same day, according to the embassy.

Ministry of Women and Social Affairs Communication Director, Haregua Mamo

said it needs to support elders and sick and this type of support needs continue in the future by the help of the embassy and others. "As our culture, religion encourages us to support and help each other mainly women and elders."

It is known that in this summer many voluntary services are done including providing support for elders and sick, she said.

Directive pivotal ...

facilitate to invest capital in effective sectors.

The main weakness of many African countries is inability to control capital outflow, for this reason, the great portion of some countries' GDP outflows to developed countries every year affecting the economic growth of these African nations, he mentioned.

As a result, he said that such directive is decisive to overcome this and others problems.

The securities exchanges ensures strong control and supervision of capital investment thereby facilitating fair capital investment, Molla noted.

Hence, it also serves as a directive by transforming effectiveness and fairness of investments, he added.

"I hope the directive will contain the main issues taking lessons and best practices from other countries. Ethiopia's move was expected to happen. It would have a positive impact in capital investment."

According to the Lecturer, the national investment activities were ineffective

and the country was achieving poor results due to lack of the directive. Therefore, the recently approved directive would create a conducive environment to overcome this challenge.

Furthermore, the effort requires ensuring the proper implementation of this directive and filling gaps to achieve better performance, he stated.

On Tuesday, the Ethiopian Capital Market Authority (ECMA) announced the issuance of a groundbreaking directive that will enable the licensing of the first securities exchange in Ethiopia. It prepared and registered the "Directive on licensing, operation, and supervision of securities exchanges."

The Authority announced that the directive sets forth the documentation, related terms, and requirements necessary to obtain a license for operating exchanges and over-the-counter markets. It outlines the supervisory framework for exchanges, the need for internal regulations approved by the authority,

reporting obligations to the authority, and various standards governing the process.

For the first time in Ethiopia, this directive facilitates the licensing of securities and over-the-counter markets. It enables both government and private companies to utilize the market for selling shares and bonds, thereby creating a conducive environment for raising capital and undertaking significant projects, ECMA said.

Moreover, the directive establishes a transparent and controlled trading system for service providers with market licenses to buy and sell securities, according to Authority.

It believed to consolidate the previously fragmented securities trading in Ethiopia into a single licensed and regulated market, enhancing the sector's contribution to stakeholders and the national economy. It also paves the way for the Ethiopian Securities Exchange S.C. to commence operations by granting an exchange license, it was learnt.

ENDC to commence...

agenda gathering in Benshangul Gumuz, Gambella, Harari states as well as Dire Dawa City Administration.

Few commissioners and experts have been deployed in the aforementioned areas to conduct the agenda gathering preparation activities, he said.

The Chief Commissioner also indicated that ENDC has planned to finalize the agenda gathering in Benshangul Gumuz, Gambella, Harari states as well as Dire Dawa City Administration till September 5, 2024.

Talking about Afar state, the chief said that the commission is expected to conduct the agenda gathering on October 11, 2024 due to the current heavy weather season (hot) in the state.

Highlighting that ENDC has provided training for some 230 concerned (associate) bodies in Amhara state, he stressed that it would resume its activities once relative peace is restored in the rest of the areas.

Regarding Tigray State, it was stated that ENDC held fruitful discussions with senior officials and agreement has been reached to perform activities following the implementation of the Pretoria agreement.

Prof. Mesfin further noted that over 20 concerned bodies are standby to work together with the commission in the three states as well as in the city administration.

"The issue of Ethiopia concerns all members of the Diaspora community and Ethiopian nationals residing in different parts of the globe. Thus, they are encouraged to send their agenda through the available platforms."

As to him, once the entire agenda gathering is completed throughout the nation, it would be clustered as well as filtered in order to give priority for major issues during the National Dialogue.

ENDC has completed participant identification in 10 states and two city administrations, he said, adding that over 50 political parties are working with the commission. ENDC also called for other political parties to join the National Dialogue.

It is to be recalled that over 2,000 participants took part from 119 districts during the recently finalized agenda gathering in the capital.

Winning prestigious...

during unprecedented challenges.

In the face of unprecedented challenges, the GCEO underscored the airline's adaptability and unwavering commitment. "Every flight carried more than just supplies; it carried hope and life. We remain committed to using our global network and expertise to empower".

The statement added that the *Ethiopian* played a crucial role in re-configuring approximately 25 passenger aircraft into dedicated cargo freighters. Besides, it conducted over 470 charter repatriation flights, reuniting more than 63,000 citizens with their families among many engagements.

In collaboration with governmental entities, non-profit organizations, and international agencies, Ethiopian Airlines facilitated the transportation of millions of tons of personal protective equipment, medical apparatus, vaccines, and other essential supplies across Africa and beyond, it added.

"It has nurtured remarkable adaptability, agility, and resilience throughout its journey. Amidst adversity, the airline has preserved its legacy as one of the continent's leading carriers, renowned for operational excellence and efficiency."

During the Covid-19 pandemic, Ethiopian Airlines was one of the

few airlines that managed to continue operation and serve the global community in transporting medical supplies, humanitarian aid, and required personnel to various parts of the world, it was stated.

It is to be recalled that the *Ethiopian* has been extending its substantial role during the COVID-19 pandemic through maintaining vital air connectivity and has been distributing lifesaving medical supplies and vaccines across the globe.

The conference was jointly held by Livelihood Development International Initiatives (LDII), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and other partners.

Scholar sees big...

countries, including South Sudan itself.

Since the drafting of the cooperation framework agreement, Ethiopia has been advocating for the legal framework that govern all riparian countries to work together towards a fair and equitable utilization of the Nile waters, he noted.

To him, Ethiopia's campaign in this process was almost "a struggle." Achieving such diplomatic success is a triumph against colonial agreements that some countries have been stubbornly backing up.

Therefore, establishing an operational framework was a significant diplomatic

decision by the government, Yacob recalled.

"Riparian countries need to work together to utilize the Nile water equitably. Countries contributing water to the Nile River accepted Ethiopia's proposal; they agreed and established an initiative 14 years ago."

Among the countries recognizing the initiative, it was crucial to gain the readiness of at least six countries. Therefore, the ratification of the CFA by these six countries, including South Sudan, is the greatest achievement since the establishment of the Nile Basin Initiative, he emphasized.

Ethiopia has been advocating for a long period to realize a regional association working cooperatively on the Nile River. The already signed countries were negotiating with the rest of the riparian nations and the fulfillment of the minimum number of members to form the commission could serve as a springboard for more developmental projects on the river, he stated.

"I think we all need to recognize the signing of the CFA by six countries as a significant milestone to work cooperatively with riparian countries," he added.

Ethiopian Extraordinary and

Plenipotentiary Ambassador to South Sudan, Nebil Mahdi, also told the Ethiopian Press Agency last week that South Sudan, the sixth country to lay the decisive cornerstone for establishing the long-awaited commission, will submit the ratified law to the African Union shortly.

"They recently ratified the CFA. Ethiopia has been facilitating Nile Basin countries to realize the commission, which has now achieved the minimum required support from basin countries. South Sudan was awaited to fulfill the last position in transforming the initiative into a commission," he said.

Opinion

The imperative of ensuring accountability, fairness and good governance in EAF, EOC

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

Ethiopia is a country of sports and sportspersons both in modern and traditional sports tournaments. In fact, apart from her global contributions to world historical heritages and glamorous history in promoting pan Africanism, peace keeping and the Land of Origins, Ethiopia and Africa boast world class athletes who spearheaded in developing world physical sports culture.

Ethiopia has traditional sports that are unique only to the country. These traditional and cultural sports need to develop to a level that they can be used for attracting tourists into the country.

Talented and world famous athletes participated in 19 rounds of Olympic Games from Melbourne to Rio de Janeiro (1956-2024) taking home for Ethiopia and Africa a total of 56 medals that has continued unabated even today. The Japanese, who are not even well acquainted with Ethiopia and her history, have remained nostalgic on the heroic feats of Captain Abebe Bikila (1932-1973) who won a gold medal for his country both at Rome (1960) with bare foot and Tokyo (1964).

Ethiopia is indebted to Mamo Woldie, Non Commissioned Bashaye Feleke, Wami Biratu, Fita Bayisa, and Mohammed Kedir and later on to Captain Mirutse Yifter nicknamed 'the gear shifter', Haile Gebreselassie, Deputy Commissioner Derartu Tulu who is now serving as President of the Ethiopian Athletics Federation, the Dibaba sisters Turunesh, Ejigayehu and Genzebe, Gete Wami, Fatuma Roba and Kenenisa Bekele. The author of this article is mentioning these names for the purpose of analysis and does not in any manner claim that the list is exhaustive.

The above mentioned athletes fought for the glory of their country without demanding any payoff. They hoisted the Ethiopian tricolor on all international tournaments and rendered a commendable contribution to the visibility of their country and people. It is regrettable that some of the most outstanding athletes that served to make their country visible have died under abject poverty and destitution.

The country needs to accord more respect to the athletes who have always been forerunners in introducing Ethiopia to the rest of the world.

Regrettably, over the last several decades the leadership of the Ethiopian Olympic Committee (EOC) and the Ethiopian Athletics Federation (EAF) has remained at loggerheads some which have seriously affected the moral and fighting spirit of the athletes. Both institutions have clear and precise rules and regulations and directives that are forwarded to them from International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the International Association of

Athletics Federation (IAAF). The problems set in when attempt are made to manipulate or misinterpret these policies and directives.

The author would like to mention some of the most conspicuous challenges that both organizations are facing.

First, failed to adhere to the strict rules and regulations that are issued by their respective international coordinating organizations is still a challenge. This has in most cases been shrouded by nepotism, bureaucratic red tape and lack of professional excellence in collecting and documenting results that are registered by the athletes and updating them regularly.

Second, while recruiting, registering and following up on the international standards set for global completions and local tournaments are the prerogatives of the Ethiopian Athletics Federation. It is totally unacceptable to partially or fully transfer such operations to the Ethiopian Olympic Committee that has entirely different role to play in the development of athletics in the country. The role of the EOC primarily focuses on logistics and other forms of support.

Third, although the current leadership is composed of former athletes who have deeper experience in technical issues related to athletics, it is difficult to conclude that all of the members of the leadership are well versed in the actual management of the federation.

Fourth, over the last several years, both EAF and EOC are suspected of some level of corruption and parochialism that has apparently become a source of frustration for prospective athletes who labor from dawn to dusk to make their dreams of winning medals a reality.

Fifth, The EAF has been instrumental in developing world-class athletes who have achieved global recognition. However, the organization faces several significant challenges that impact its effectiveness and the performance of its athletes.

Sixth, The EAF often struggles with inadequate financial resources, which hamper its ability to provide adequate training facilities, equipment, and support for athletes. Securing consistent and substantial sponsorship deals has been a challenge, limiting the federation's capacity to support athletes and organize events.

Seventh, Frequent changes in leadership and administrative disputes have caused instability within the federation. This lack of continuity affects long-term planning and the implementation of development programs.

Eighth, there have been allegations of corruption and mismanagement of funds within the federation, undermining its credibility and effectiveness.

Moreover, many training facilities in Ethiopia are outdated or insufficient to

meet the needs of elite athletes. This limits athletes' ability to train effectively and reach their full potential. There is a need for better support systems, including sports medicine, nutrition, and psychological services, which are crucial for the holistic development of athletes. The EAF has limited programs for identifying and nurturing young talent, especially in rural areas where many potential athletes reside.

There is a need for more structured and comprehensive training programs that cater to athletes at different stages of their careers. Ethiopian athletes often lack opportunities to compete internationally, which is crucial for gaining experience and exposure to different competition standards. The level of domestic competition is not always sufficient to prepare athletes for international events, leading to underperformance on the global stage. Increasing competition from other countries, which invest heavily in their athletics programs, poses a challenge to maintaining Ethiopia's dominance in distance running.

The EOC faces several challenges that impact its ability to effectively support and promote sports in Ethiopia. These problems range from financial issues to administrative and organizational challenges. The EOC faces several challenges that it also shares with the EAF.

Like the EAF, The EOC often struggles with insufficient financial resources to support athletes, organize events, and maintain training facilities. This lack of funding limits the committee's ability to provide necessary resources and support to athletes. The EOC relies heavily on government funding, which can be inconsistent and subject to political influence. This dependency makes long-term planning difficult.

Allegations of corruption and mismanagement of funds have tarnished the EOC's reputation and credibility. Such issues undermine the committee's efforts to secure sponsorships and partnerships. This in the author's opinion is heavily pronounced in the top management of the organization.

What therefore is to be done to effectively respond to the current squabbling that are racking?

First, both the EOC and EAF need to be transparent both to the public, the government and more importantly to the athletes who are working hard with no meaningful support from both organizations.

Second, the EAF and EOC need to effectively and efficiently respond to the demands and questions that are raised by the athletes as any level of nonchalance on the part of the organizations can affect the morale and psychological makeup of the athletes.

Third, media outlets in the country should be able to deeply investigate the recurrent problems that are cropping up in both organizations and expose the misgivings

and any possible level of corruption in one voice. Media outlets should be very careful not to buy in some level of corruption to which they might be invited.

Fourth, the activities of the organizations are directly linked to Ethiopia's image and position on global sportsmanship. They need to accord the necessary respect for the public and the government and try to serve as effective diplomats for their country instead of wasting time on unnecessary arguments that can tarnish the image of their respective institutions and the entire country at large.

Fifth, both organizations need to digitalize their management and administration system and allow athletes to access any information that might need to know.

Six, both EOC and EAF need to engage in national level fundraising program to effectively cover their financial expenses along with developing more sustained income generation activities in cooperation with their respective counterparts at the international level.

Seventh, both organizations need to have a strong internal financial and operational audit system to ensure accountability and financial stewardship.

Eighth, there is a vivid need for administrative and financial training programs for the leadership of both organizations.

Furthermore, it is very important to effectively ensure a system of monitoring and periodic evaluation of activities and fulfilment of strategic plans in cooperation with stakeholders here and at overseas.

The EOC and EAF need to use their organizational independence as a tool for further developing the sports sector instead of misusing or abusing their independence.

It is important to develop a system that is free from ethnocentric thinking and favoritism that could prevent the development of more young athletes in various fields of athletics.

The author calls upon the management and leadership of both organizations to employ gender based policies that could further encourage young women athletes to come forward to replace older athletes.

Nonetheless, the organizations should make all the necessary care to avoid meddling into political affairs or issues that are not in their operational mandate. They need to ensure good governance and democratic decision making on their daily activities and show that they are corruption and nepotism proofed.

The author is of the opinion that there is a visible need to conduct extensive reform program in the EAF and EOC with due respect to their operational independence. There is a lot to be done in the context of modernization and developing the technical expertise of the management system of both organizations.

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

Editorial

Ethiopia: Prime destination for foreign investment

In spite of many challenges that are push factors for investment in the country and the region, Ethiopia has continued to attract foreign investment. This is a clear indication that the actions the government has been taking to incentivize foreign investors are out weighing the push factors and winning the heart of those who eye on Ethiopia's rich investment potential.

Peace and stability is indeed mandatory for an investment to flourish. Especially it is one of the primary factors raised when talking about attracting foreign investment. The conflict that raged throughout Ethiopia in different times indeed had affected foreign investment flow. Yet the volume of investment flow to the country kept a good momentum. This shows that the country was able to build a resilient environment for investment.

Accordingly, Ethiopia's investment flow during the 2022/23 period was around 3.4 billion USD which is a big volume compared with the long time trend of foreign investment to the country.

The flow of investment to the country is also showing positive gesture as people from various corners are showing interest to embark on investment in Ethiopia. For instance, Indian Ambassador to Ethiopia recently held talks with Minister of Agriculture to emphasize on areas of cooperation in investment and agriculture in Ethiopia.

The country is also making itself more suitable for foreign direct investment. If Ethiopia can attract this much investment with the already existing investment framework and overall national situation it is easy to imagine that potential to grow as the country is putting in place many new directives that can have positive effect on the benefit foreigners can obtain.

For instance, one of the biggest endeavors in boosting foreign investment in Ethiopia is the operationalization of the Dire Dawa free trade zone. The free trade zone is a pioneer sector where the country can exploit the untapped potential of those investors who are well experienced in working in free trade zones for decades in various countries.

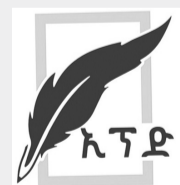
In addition to the Diredawa Free Trade Zone, the country has also launched the Gadaa Special Economic Zone which avails special opportunities for investors who aspire to work and prosper in diverse sectors that the central part of the country can avail.

Alongside this the country is now well experienced in the development and management of industrial parks as it is reaping a lot of benefits from the operational industrial parks in various parts of the country.

In terms of infrastructure the government of Ethiopia always works with due commitment to launch more electric power sources to supply affordable power for investment projects. It is well known that the country is highly competitive in its power supply both at home and neighboring countries which is enabling itself as well as the neighboring countries to attract more investment.

Concerning the legal framework for foreign investment the government is continually revising and improving laws and policies to make the country more open and favorable destination where foreign investors achieve enormous success. For instance, the latest developments in the financial sectors of the country are the National Banks decision to issue directive that allows the first securities exchange in the country. This maiden sector in the country is believed to spiral the development of the country's financial sector especially as there is a big possibility of allowing foreign companies experienced and interested in it. Furthermore the country is mulling over allowing foreign financial institutions or banks to invest in the country which would be a great stride towards opening up the sector for foreign actors.

In conclusion, Ethiopia's ongoing efforts to facilitate investment process and create a conducive environment for foreign investors demonstrate its commitment to fostering economic growth and development. With abundant natural resources, a skilled workforce, and favorable weather conditions, the country presents a wealth of opportunities for investors looking to capitalize on its untapped potential. As Ethiopia continues to enhance its investment landscape through strategic initiatives and policy reforms, investors are encouraged to seize the opportunities available and contribute to the country's sustainable growth trajectory.



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Opinion

Ethiopia's economic diplomacy blossoming

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

In a broad sense, economic diplomacy can be defined as any diplomatic activity that promotes the state's economic interests. It also includes diplomacy that uses economic resources to achieve specific foreign policy objectives.

From a conceptual perspective, economic diplomacy is the use of government relations and influences to stimulate international trade and investment. It covers a broad range of semi-permanent international representations (embassies, consulates, and other public sector business support facilities), domestic institutions (investment and export promotion offices), and diplomatic bilateral activities (trade and state visits).

By negotiating favorable trade agreements, promoting exports and investment, and protecting domestic industries, countries can boost their economic growth and create new opportunities for their citizens.

Ethiopia's economic diplomacy has made the country a desirable investment destination. Unlike past regimes, the current diplomacy of the country is economically centered. According to the latest World Investment Report published by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Ethiopia has emerged as the leading destination for foreign direct investment (FDI) in East Africa.

In the vibrant landscape of East Africa, Ethiopia stands tall as a beacon of economic progress. In 2023, it secured a staggering \$3.3 billion in foreign direct investments (FDI), more than its neighbors Kenya and Uganda. Ethiopia has already attracted \$3 billion in the first ten months of the fiscal year 2023/24. China has played a pivotal role, accounting for nearly half of all FDI projects in Ethiopia.

The nation's strategic embrace of public-private partnerships (PPP) has been the cornerstone of this economic milestone, with notable ventures like the UAE's AMEA Power investing \$600 million in the Aysha wind power project. Ethiopia has also opened its doors to foreign investment in digital payment systems. Egypt and South Africa follow Ethiopia in the rankings, while developed countries still attract the lion's share of greenfield projects.

After implementing domestic economic reforms, Ethiopia is increasing its economic diplomacy. The country's extensive economic reforms are intended to open up the economy to foreign private investment and connect it to the global economy.

Ethiopia is currently connecting to the global economy as part of its domestic economic reform program. These economic reforms and initiatives are critical for opening up the economy and connecting it to continental markets like the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Ethiopia benefits from the rapid expansion of international trade

opportunities.

The Ethiopian government has named its new economic reform plan the Homegrown Economic Reform, with ambitious goals to unlock the country's growth potential. Following the reform program, Ethiopian diplomacy has shifted toward increasing economic opportunities and investment options.

The government recognizes that encouraging investment and instilling trust in international economic activities is critical to our diplomacy. In this regard, attracting foreign direct investment and connecting our economy to the global market are critical steps. Foreign missions, consulates, and diplomats work to promote trade and investment to achieve these economic goals.

Economic diplomacy is focused on expanding international markets, attracting more investment, and promoting domestic tourism potential. Ethiopia's foreign policy is based on strengthening partnerships with neighboring countries, with the primary goal of promoting common regional development through economic integration. It has demonstrated remarkable strength in international tests.

Ethiopia's GDP has doubled, and the economy has expanded rapidly. As a result, this encourages us to strengthen our economic foreign policy missions in the region and elsewhere.

The government is working together to achieve national development, internal progress, and success for neighboring countries. It also demonstrates Ethiopia's determination to connect with its neighbors through infrastructure and share its development goals and integration agenda via roads and railways. These agendas are very important to the Minister of State and are the primary focus of our foreign policy because the economic divide benefits everyone. Meet the country's economic needs. Ethiopia always strives to work together.

In this regard, Ethiopia is committed to regional security, shared development, and economic integration. Ethiopia's primary agenda includes peace, economic development, integration, trade promotion, and major infrastructure links with neighboring countries.

In addition, neighboring countries will understand Ethiopia's maritime exploration requirements. Ethiopia's access to the sea gate is founded on rational land. There will be opportunities for neighboring countries as Ethiopia's economic activities and economy grow.

Now, the Ethiopian economy is on the right track due to the diplomatic activities done so far. The economic measures taken by the government will help the country to register sustainable progress. Eyeing the benefit of investing in Ethiopia, a range of investors come here. This implies how the homegrown economic plan and measures taken are fruitful.

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

Business & Economy

Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative: An antidote for the nation's economy, global climate change

BY DIRIBA GELETI (PhD)

(Deputy Director General, Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research and member of HPR)

Today marks a new era for Ethiopia due to several factors, with the success of the Green Legacy Initiative (GLI) being crucial for Africa and the world to breathe cleaner air. Ethiopia's effort involves planting trees to restore forest coverage and combating the threat of climate change.

Climate change impacts are a significant threat to the world, largely attributed to activities such as burning fossil fuels, manufacturing, deforestation, transportation, food production, and building operations. Deforestation poses a severe threat to the survival of the life system, making Ethiopia's efforts particularly vital.

Even though Ethiopians are naturally fortunate to have comfortable weather, it has become more advanced and moderated since the initiation of the Green Legacy program. As it is widely known, different records have been registered that can be noted as an example at the continental and even international level. The initiative has not been limited to Ethiopia alone; it has also expanded to East African countries like Djibouti, Kenya, Uganda, and others. Ethiopia is blessed with comfortable weather, which is observed by foreigners who often travel to our land when they experience difficulty with the weather in their hometowns.

Our institution, the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR), is actively leading the charge in the national campaign for tree planting through the Green Legacy initiative. We are dedicated to advancing agricultural development by creating, adapting, and promoting technology through our extensive agricultural research programs. Among our many research areas, we are specifically focused on sustainable water and soil management to effectively preserve natural resources and contribute significantly to the GLI. This year, we have successfully planted various seedlings in the Wendo Woreda area of the West Arsi Zone, under the excellent coordination of the Wondogenet Agricultural Research Center (WGARC). Our continued efforts undoubtedly play a crucial role in the national Green Legacy initiative.

Temesgen Desalegn (PhD), the natural resource management research directorate director at the EIAR, stated that the GLI is a highly ambitious environmental project launched by the Ethiopian government to aggressively combat deforestation, soil erosion, and climate change. This initiative, spearheaded by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) in 2019, is focused on driving reforestation and environmental conservation throughout Ethiopia.

The Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural



EIAR staff engaged in seedling plantation

Research management team decisively conducted the 2024 tree planting at Wondogenet Agricultural Research Center, with over 200 participants planting more than 6,000 seedlings, predominantly fruit trees and cash crops such as avocado, banana and coffee. Tree planting offers an array of benefits, particularly for soil and water, thereby substantially contributing to environmental health and sustainability.

Some of key aspects of the Green Legacy Initiative worthwhile to mention are:

- 1. Erosion Control:** Trees stabilize the soil with their root systems, preventing erosion by wind and water.
- 2. Soil Fertility:** Leaf litter from trees decomposes, adding organic matter to the soil and enhancing its fertility.
- 3. Soil Structure:** Tree roots help to improve soil structure by creating spaces for air and water movement.
- 4. Nutrient Cycling:** Trees play a crucial role in nutrient cycling by absorbing nutrients from deep soil layers and returning them to the surface through leaf fall.
- 5. Microbial Activity:** Trees support a rich soil microbiome, which aids in nutrient breakdown and soil health.

Earlier to launching of the Green Legacy initiative, Ethiopia's forest coverage was only 4%. Thanks to the initiative, it is increased to about 23.6%, and it could increase further if the initiative continues successfully. According to various sources, more than 32 billion seedlings have been planted by the year 2022/23. The Green Legacy is not just an agenda for Ethiopia; it is also being embraced by East Africa. It is now considered essential for ensuring the availability of oxygen and is teaching nations that reforestation is practically achievable.

The Green Legacy Initiative is not just about planting trees; it also serves as a demonstration that completing specific

activities or projects is achievable. It has been a game changer in our work ethics, pushing us to aggressively tackle planned tasks. Previously, our work ethics did not encourage working beyond eight hours a day and/or over the weekends. However, initiatives like Green Legacy have made it possible for us to achieve records at the continental level and even compete internationally.

Launching of the Green Legacy Initiative in Ethiopia has brought many opportunities. It has opened eyes of different individuals that the production of seedlings could be profitable. Hence, a number of individuals and groups initiated many startups to begin business on seedling. It became common to observe while different youths involve in the production of different seedlings at the corners of the streets. These individuals produce fruits, vegetables, flowers and others. The demand is highly increasing from time to time for fruits across the country, and for flowers especially at towns.

Since the green legacy is launched, direction is given to plant different fruits being informed that it could fulfill the gap on our food security as it could be possible to consume different fruits and vegetables for example avocados, mangoes, bananas etc. for household consumption in addition to getting an income by selling. Thus, urban agriculture is also enhanced as the access of getting different fruits' and vegetables' seedlings is easy.

Involving in the production of seedlings, different groups and individuals are witnessing that they could have improved their life with the income they earn from selling the seedlings.

Since its inception, Green Legacy initiative has been keeping a continuous record of its activities. There are currently preparations underway to inscribe it in the Guinness Book of World Records. Green Legacy is becoming a unique initiative for Ethiopia, much like our Indigenous crops such as *Teff* and

Enset, and Indigenous plants like juniperus, podocarpus, and olea species. This initiative can also be seen as a symbol of our country's amazing tourist attractions, such as Lalibela, Fasiledes, and others, and can contribute to building our image and potential as a major player in the global tourism industry.

Putting our internal problems aside, the Green Legacy initiative serves as a unifying symbol that connects nations, much like our own Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam. It mobilizes citizens from all corners of the country, creating momentum for development. Most nations developed not only because they have abundant resources, but also because they have human capital, the greatest potential for growth and development. Ethiopia is no exception to this.

Ethiopia, like most countries, possesses vast uncultivated land, significant human capital, and favorable weather conditions. The Green Legacy Initiative has been instrumental in unleashing the untapped potential of human capital, marking a significant shift in the country's development strategy. This initiative is a strategic and effective approach for mobilizing people towards sustainable development.

In a nutshell, Green Legacy Initiative goes beyond just increasing our forest coverage and beautifying the landscape. It symbolizes Ethiopia's unwavering capability to take on world-benefiting initiatives. It represents unwavering unity; as people from all corners come together to vigorously develop the country. It also serves as a clear signal for us to vastly improve our work ethics and be relentlessly motivated to perform better. This can be seen in different projects, such as the ongoing corridor development that is happening day and night.

Therefore, as Ethiopians, we must forcefully work together to see through initiatives that have been started and unleash the untapped potential of our country, which could greatly accelerate its growth and development.

Art & Culture

12 Angry Men: A timeless lesson in patience, empathy and the power of one

BY KALKIDAN NEGASH

Rainy days are the right time to do romantic things, snuggle up indoors with a good movie, and indulge in some comfort food. Unfortunately, on that foggy day, I was working outside. When I returned to the office, the first thing I noticed was that my shoes and white baggy jeans were stained by mud. When I remembered that I hadn't eaten since the morning, I decided to have my lunch with one of my colleagues.

After we ate, we decided to have coffee. During our conversation, the talk turned to movies, and my colleague recommended this film to me. I have seen it twice and could watch it a thousand times without getting tired of it.

It was a gloomy day for them. They were there to judge a 16-year-old's verdict for stabbing his father and being accused of murder. Out of 12 jurors, 11 of them thought he was guilty. Eleven jurors wanted an immediate conviction, but the one dissenting juror, Mr. Davis, did not want to make a quick decision. He did not want to put his voice or raise his hand to send the boy to die without discussing it first. Instead, he wanted to take the time to think about it.



He gently said, "We are here to talk about someone's life. We can't decide it in 5 minutes," and convinced the others to discuss the teenage boy's case.

For someone who hasn't seen the American justice system, the concept of a jury is new. The movie, "12 Angry Men," allows the audience to see the details of the case and the decision-making process of the 12 jurors.

There is always one person who can make a significant difference in one, two, or a million lives. Never underestimate your power, as you never know who you

will be tomorrow, even if you feel alone. That's the message of the movie.

We can say that "12 Angry Men" is about patience. The first juror, Juror 8, was the lone voice standing up to save the 16-year-old boy. He thoughtfully considered the evidence before deciding on the boy's life. I was so engrossed in this movie from beginning to end.

I would recommend it to everyone, especially those aspiring to join the legal profession. It can teach you a lot about critical thinking, remaining calm in every situation (as it can often be

the solution), and the importance of listening before speaking.

Sometimes, we have to see things from other people's perspectives before we judge. We need to understand how they feel about it. I think that is the key message of this film.

People shouldn't be too quick to judge. Even if it might seem delusional, most people are not sure about trusting their instincts. But instinct will never lie. Sometimes, if you feel it, like Juror 8, who said the boy was not guilty, you do not know what to say at that moment, but your instinct and intuition know better.

Juror 8 illuminated the young man's life, giving value to his future and hope. He had high moral standards and stood for what he believed in, even if it seemed delusional. The crucial thing is that if you truly believe in yourself, you can attract people's thoughts. You can see this clearly in the movie.

I firmly believe that you can never be a loser if you stand up for what you believe in.

"12 Angry Men" was released in 1957. Twelve men, one room, a great script, and unbelievable actors make this an unforgettable movie.

Boundaries

BY FAWN

It's hard for me to conceptualize the expectations you try to hide,

You're all so sneaky when you ask for my side.

When I say no, it's as if you think I'm being snide,

But all I'm trying to do is make strides.

Understanding that "no" is a full sentence for me,

Grew difficult as it was never an option, you see.

Anytime I could refuse, I would with glee,

Seeking control, even when tempted to agree.

The lack of boundaries harmed our natural bond,

I search for our connection, but when you're around, I tend to fawn.

I dislike this transactional, distant bond.

I ask for quality time and am met with fees,



Being fed a lie that your love language is acts of service, please.

Because I do nothing to help you out, it's decreed,

I must not care; I feel like a bad family member indeed.

Tip

BY TAPIWA INDIVIDUALIST

When you feel underappreciated is when you should toot your own horn, clap for yourself and pat your own back. Because sometimes people don't even know what you know about what you've been through, you know best what you deserve and if no one gives it to you, give it to yourself! Remind yourself of what you deserve without waiting for someone else to give it to you. Love yourself enough to be your number one fan and to applaud yourself!

Indepth

Earth is getting hotter – so why is this summer so dismal?

Fossil fuels have kept Earth 1.5°C hotter than its pre-industrial average temperature for more than a year now.

And yet, where I live in the UK, this summer has felt like one of the coolest I can remember. If the planet is in the middle of “a large and continuing shift” to a hotter climate as scientists say it is, why is the weather so cold during what is supposed to be the warmest time of year?

Satisfactory answers to questions like this can nip climate scepticism in the bud. Luckily, the experts we’ll hear from today have plenty.

Matthew Patterson is an atmospheric physicist at the University of Reading. He says that the UK’s dismal summer hasn’t been unusually cold – in fact, measurements of temperature, sunlight and rainfall in June 2024 were all close to their seasonal averages.

Unfortunately, “average” conditions now feel colder than they used to.

Everything cold is new again

Europe has warmed at roughly double the global average rate since the 1970s, while extreme summer temperatures have risen even faster. The UK has had its five hottest days since 1910 in the past five years.

“Such a rapid rate of warming means we have come to normalize extreme heat, while relatively cold or even average conditions

feel unusual and thus newsworthy,” Patterson says.

Patterson argues that people are quick to forget how the climate felt even in the recent past. And of course, we have no reference for what it was like before we were born. Ecologists refer to this phenomenon as shifting baseline syndrome: each new generation comes to accept as normal what previous generations would have considered extreme.

A rapidly warming climate will still produce extremely cold weather. It is winter in southern Australia and the weather there has been unusually cold according to Andrew King, a senior lecturer in climate science at the University of Queensland:

“Notably, Tasmania has had its lowest July temperature on record and the second-lowest minimum temperature for any time of year with –13.5°C at Liawenee in central Tasmania early on Thursday morning.”

Despite the cold snap, winters in Australia are still warming. The frosty nights and chilly days of the last couple of weeks have become scarcer and less intense over the past few decades. Australia has set records for heat far more regularly during that time. But when the right weather conditions align, cold records can still be broken locally.

Rather than fixate on these moments, it’s important to keep track of the average.

“While we still see record cold temperatures at individual weather stations, we won’t see another cold record in the global average temperature and probably not even in the Australian average temperature,” King says.

Unremarkable or terrifying

It’s not hard to find weather that seems more typical of a world warming to a dangerous degree. When temperatures topped 50°C in Saudi Arabia in mid-June, more than 1,000 people undertaking the Hajj pilgrimage collapsed and died.

“I calculated walking about 80 miles (129 kilometers) during my pilgrimage,” says Ahmet T. Kuru, director of the Center for Islamic & Arabic Studies at San Diego State University. “This year’s extreme heat added to the challenge.”

Similar temperatures were recently recorded in the southwestern US. One person died and another was hospitalized on Sunday when the mercury hit 53.9°C in Nevada’s Death Valley national park.

Hospitals in Karachi, Pakistan have been overwhelmed by weeks of high heat. Temperatures approaching 38°C killed several people in Greece last month and more than half of prefectures in Japan have issued heatstroke alerts in recent days.

The news that Earth’s average temperature has exceeded 1.5°C of warming for an

entire year is alarming even if your area hasn’t seen deadly heat yet. Here are Mathew Barlow and Jeffrey Basara, climate scientists at UMass Lowell:

“In the Paris climate agreement, countries worldwide agreed to work to keep global warming under 1.5°C, however that refers to the temperature change averaged over a 30-year period. A 30-year average is used to limit the influence of natural year-to-year fluctuations.”

“So far, the Earth has only crossed that threshold for a single year. However, it is still extremely concerning, and the world appears to be on track to cross the 30-year average threshold of 1.5°C within ten years.”

This is humanity’s first taste of what scientists would consider truly dangerous global climate change. But you can only feel the weather at a single place in time. As Barlow and Basara explain, that varies a great deal from day to day, week to week, month to month and year to year.

While the global average temperature steadily rises, your partial experience of it – wherever you are in the world – may be unremarkable or terrifying.

Once the world’s weather stations have weighed in, summer 2024 will probably be declared the hottest on record. It is also certain to be among the coldest of the rest of your life.

Extreme heatwaves highlight climate injustice while western countries fail to act – here’s how governments can help

Average global air temperatures breached 1.5°C for the first time at the start of 2024 — at least five years earlier than predicted. So, while developing countries burn, global climate injustice persists.

No high-emitting country has complied with the 1.5°C target set by the Paris agreement. Governments in the UK and Scotland are exacerbating the crisis by renegeing on their climate pledges to drastically cut greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, paving the way for net zero the latest by 2050.

The catastrophic effects of climate breakdown hit people in developing countries the hardest, even though historically, the highest emitters of greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change are primarily in the west — notably the US, EU as well as Russia, with China and India joining these ranks most recently.

Hence, the spotlight must be turned to countries that are highly vulnerable to a warming planet by ensuring that the organization that acts as their advocate is given a platform to right this injustice. This organization is the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF), an international partnership of 58 countries highly vulnerable to a warming planet.

Founded in 2009, it serves as a cooperation platform for participating governments to act together to deal with global climate change and advocate for the rights of

people in developing countries. Based on our research, three practices stand out.

1. Debt relief

The CVF advocates for debt-for-climate swaps. These involve debt relief in exchange for climate projects, such as renewable energy or conservation parks, that will either halt emissions or help these countries adapt to climate change, or both.

Costa Rica has signed two such deals with the US. Debt totalling US\$53 million (£42 million) has been swapped under the agreement for afforestation (planting of trees in areas where there were previously no forests) and conservation projects, enabling Costa Rica to rise as a climate champion.

In Barbados, a debt-for-climate swap worth US\$150 million unleashed US\$50 million in funding for marine conservation.

Such deals are not exclusive to CVF members, though. Other developing countries that are not members of the CVF have entered into similar agreements. Peru, for example, signed a deal with the US to channel more than US\$20 million of debt to the protection and conservation of three priority areas in the Peruvian Amazon, with positive effects for the climate.

With the most vulnerable countries losing 20% of their GDP over the first two decades of the century, and with their debt rocketing to unsustainable levels, debt-

for-climate-swaps can help the weakest countries contribute to climate action and build resilience.

2. Climate prosperity

While developed countries view the energy transition as a new growth strategy, CVF members approach it as an opportunity to rethink growth and transform their social and economic systems. They prioritize wellbeing alongside economic growth and link climate action with other social measures such as universal basic income, participation, gender equality and inclusivity.

Developing countries’ climate prosperity plans — that’s their strategies to tackle environmental and socioeconomic problems — strike a new balance between support for business and human rights. The Sri Lankan climate prosperity plan focuses on universal protection of workers from heat and promoting nature-based solutions in the economy.

In Sri Lanka’s capital city Colombo, wetlands, including freshwater lakes and swamps, are being protected and restored to build a natural defence to flooding and reduce the risk of landslides in the monsoon season.

3. Support for ecocide law

Climate change has become an existential threat for CVF members. In 2019, two CVF members, Vanuatu and the Maldives, proposed adding ecocide to the Rome

statute of the International Criminal Court as the fifth crime against humanity.

This law would hold wealthy countries accountable for acts and omissions that severely contribute to climate change and disproportionately adversely affect CVF states.

An ecocide law that highlights a critical breach of the most vulnerable states’ sovereignty is considered by many activists, legal scholars and politicians as a last resort to prevent catastrophic change due to climate change. While the CVF does not stand behind this proposal collectively, several members support it.

With ecocide now firmly on the climate political agenda, especially since the EU recently passed a law of ecocide, the CVF has solid grounds to press further for the enshrining of a law of ecocide in international law as a tool that will protect the rights of present and future generations in the most vulnerable countries.

Without concerted action, climate disasters will only proliferate. Climate-focused practices, like debt-for-climate swaps, nature-based wellbeing and support for a law of ecocide are steps in the right direction. These policies, and their advocates, should move closer to center stage in the upcoming climate summit, COP29, taking place in Baku, Azerbaijan in November.

Source: The Conversation

Law & Politics

A staunch partner in the rainy days

BY EYUEL KIFLU

Last week, the heads of government of the two East African states, Ethiopia and Sudan, met to discuss Sudan's peace resolution and other issues. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed was the first head of government to visit Sudan after the recent turmoil in the latter.

The Sudan crisis erupted on April 15, 2023, as a power struggle between two rival factions of the military government - the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) under Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) under the leadership of Hemedti.

Since the outbreak of the conflict, various countries and entities, including the regional bloc IGAD (of which Sudan is a member), have been trying to resolve the crisis. However, the situation remains volatile, and no tangible results have been achieved yet.

Prime Minister Abiy's visit to Port Sudan and his discussions with General al-Burhan have raised hopes for stability in Sudan and the broader region. Following the visit, Legesse Tulu, Ethiopia's Minister of Government Communication Affairs Service, stated that the purpose of the trip was to explore peaceful ways to end the conflict in Sudan. The two leaders had a "fruitful discussion" about the current situation in the country.

Ethiopia and Sudan share a 744-kilometer common border, and Legesse emphasized the longstanding relations between the two nations. He underscored the importance of closer cooperation, as problems in one country can have an impact on the other.

The Minister also highlighted Ethiopia's ongoing efforts to encourage Sudanese troops to resolve their differences peacefully and work together to bring peace to their country. Ethiopia has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting Sudan's search for stability.

During his meeting with General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, Prime Minister Abiy reiterated Ethiopia's willingness to provide the necessary assistance to peacefully resolve the Sudanese conflict. In turn, the General thanked the Prime Minister for his efforts to ensure Sudan's long-term peace and stability.

The Prime Minister's visit has garnered attention from both international and local media. Befekadu Bogale, a researcher at the Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA), emphasizes the importance of fostering regional cooperation based on the principle of dialogue. In an interview with the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Befekadu highlighted the economic, social, and political significance of this approach, as well as its potential to



Ethiopia and Sudan have been working to enhance their bilateral relations amidst regional challenges

combat terrorism and address natural and man-made challenges in the region.

Befekadu's remarks come ahead of the Prime Minister's past trip to Sudan, which he believes will bring much-needed attention to the Sudanese civil war. "The Sudanese civil war has been neglected due to other conflicts in the world, but it is crucial to prioritize and stabilize Sudan, as the instability there is harmful to the entire Horn of Africa," he said.

The researcher explained that stabilizing Sudan would play a vital role in lifting the people of Ethiopia and Sudan out of poverty and reviving the economic frameworks between the two countries, which have been disrupted by the ongoing war. "Ethiopia is already strengthening people-to-people relations and building various infrastructure connections to enhance economic integration with Sudan," he added.

Befekadu noted that the Prime Minister's visit will pave the way for future bilateral relations and lay the foundation for solving common problems through cooperation. "The trip is necessary to achieve the country's development goals and ensure regional peace, as the civil war has implications for different parties involved," he said, emphasizing the importance of the "African solution to African problems" principle.

The researcher emphasized that Ethiopia's foreign policy of prioritizing its neighbors and focusing on common interests has not only safeguarded the country's national interests but also yielded various advantages. "To avoid affecting Ethiopia's national interests and ensure sustainable development goals, the principle of growing together with neighbors needs to be further implemented and strengthened," he said.

Reflecting on Ethiopia's role in the region, Befekadu reminded that the country is not only a proponent of the "African solution to African problems" approach but also one of the founding

members of the United Nations and the African Union, which have long championed common ideals.

Adam Kamil, a historian and analyst of Ethio-Arab political affairs, emphasizes that the Prime Minister's visit to Sudan demonstrates Ethiopia's neutrality and its commitment to the stability of the country and the broader region.

Adam notes that Ethiopia and Sudan share many common issues, which directly impact the former. "The importance of cooperation and the idea of growing together are not easy to see, but especially for continents and countries like in Africa, cooperation and coordination are the core tools for universal development," he said.

He stressed that peace in Sudan is of great importance to Ethiopia, given the close historical and people-to-people ties between the two nations. "Efforts to negotiate between the two warring powers in Sudan will be fruitful," he added, warning that if the differences are not resolved through dialogue, the consequences of terrorism, immigration, and economic crises will worsen in Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa. Adam urged that Ethiopia's efforts for peace in Sudan should continue.

In recent developments, Ethiopia and Sudan have been working to enhance their bilateral relations amidst regional challenges. The two countries share a long history of cultural ties and economic interactions, and the current focus on strengthening relations comes at a crucial time when both nations are facing internal and external pressures.

According to The Observatory of Economic Complexity (OEC), the exports of Ethiopia to Sudan have increased at an annualized rate of 90.5%, from 2.38M dollars in 2017 to 59.5M USD in 2022. In 2017, Sudan exported 152M dollars to Ethiopia. The main products exported from Sudan to Ethiopia were Insect Resins, Onions and Petroleum Gas.

Moreover, Issues such as border disputes, water resource management, and regional security have underscored the need for closer collaboration between the two countries. Economic cooperation, including efforts to boost trade ties, enhance infrastructure connectivity, and promote investment opportunities, has also been a key priority for both countries.

Amidst the Sudan crisis, Ethiopia has continued to stand with the Sudanese. The Prime Minister's visit demonstrates Addis Ababa's commitment to regional stability and peace for the Sudanese people. The country has also been hosting dozens of Sudanese refugees who have fled their homeland due to the civil war.

Women in Focus



Recognizing women's indispensable role in diplomacy

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

The International Day of Women in Diplomacy was celebrated on July 8, 2024, under the theme “Women, Peace, and Security: An Exchange on Lessons Learned and Experiences in the Implementation of Resolution 1325.”

Women in Diplomacy in Ethiopia Network (WIDEN) had organized an event to mark the International Day of Women in Diplomacy 2024 at the Headquarters of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).

As the UNDP stated, the day is a call to recognize the critical contributions of women, to shaping the multilateral system and their indispensable role in diplomacy.

It marks the trailblazers, women who negotiated peace agreements and strengthened international relations- in hope also to inspire the next generation of women to pursue diplomacy as a career option.

In addition to celebrating the contributions of women to diplomacy and multilateral decision-making, it draws attention to the persistent underrepresentation of women in senior diplomatic positions, pinpoints challenges that women in diplomacy face and discusses barriers that still need to be removed, it stated.

Speaking at the occasion, President Sahle-Work Zewde emphasized that women are underrepresented in diplomatic institutions, noting that the imbalance continues to result in missed opportunities and diplomatic crises for women.

“Women need to be at the table; not after men have made decisions. Thus, this kind of discussion would help us to move forward.”

Mentioning that she has mentored women diplomats since she took power as a President, she said over 1500 female



students have been part of the mentorship program from five universities.

“Diplomacy is the art of discussing with one another and finding common ground and women and men need to work together for peace and security.

To this end, the President mentioned the critical importance of enhancing women’s participation in conflict resolutions, peace and security matters and stressed that their voices must be heard equally with men.

Emphasizing the need to ensure the representation of women in diplomacy in all arenas, she urged women working in the area to join hands and amplify the voice of women.

Women and Social Affairs Minister Ergogie Tesfaye (PhD) on her part stated that national action plans have proven to be instrumental in demonstrating countries’ commitment to implement the United Nations Resolution 1325 in alignment with their specific context and priorities.

Hence, Ethiopia has been taking progressive measures to implement the pillars of the Resolution integrating the principles into its national laws, policies, strategies, action plans since its approval in 2000.

As to her, the government has expressed

its commitment to developing the country’s first national action plan in 2019 and embarked on a participatory process in the preparation of the action plan.

Due emphasis has been given by the government for building the capacity of women and girls in collaboration with women’s right organizations, women’s participation and representation including survivals of violence during the draft of the recently endorsed transitional justice policy has been exemplary.

It has also been taking bold steps to enhance women’s participation in the spheres of diplomacy and international relations. Despite progress, she acknowledged a significant gender gap at higher levels in the peace and security sectors.

In this regard, the government of Ethiopia has created a conducive environment for the participation and representation of women in peace building and conflict resolution at grass root level, highlighting the need to work on peace and security architecture in a manner that recognizes the role women play in traditional structures.

Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Claver Gatete also highlighted the essential role of women in peace-making and negotiations, noting that global challenges like climate change and instability cannot be resolved without fair representation of women.

The Executive Secretary also mentioned the growing role of women in peacekeeping missions noting that Ethiopia is one of the countries that have been contributing a large number of women personnel.

The event underscored the disproportionate impact of global crises on women and celebrated the upcoming anniversaries of the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and the Beijing Declaration. The theme of

this year’s event was “Women, Peace, and Security: Lessons Learned and Experiences in the Implementation of Resolution 1325.”

Claver highlighted that the occasion hold special significance as we are approaching the 25th anniversary of the UNECA Resolution 1325 and the 30th anniversary of the Beijing declaration both landmark framework that have been instrumental in the gender equality and the empowerment of women in peace and security.

Addressing the global challenges such as economic, social, climate change, peace and security challenges, requires equal representation of women leaders.

“We are facing security challenges where the UN spending almost 7billion USD every year for addressing the threat. In terms of negotiation, there is no way that we can do it excluding women,” he underlined.

As UNDP indicated in its article entitled ‘Breaking Barriers: Empowering Women in Diplomacy for a More Inclusive Future’, women have been playing a crucial role in global governance since the drafting and signing of the United Nations Charter in 1945. They have been bringing immense benefits to diplomacy.

Data show that when women have a seat at the table, the odds of reducing instability and conflict improve significantly and peace agreements last longer.

“Today’s complex societal challenges – from climate change, to pandemics, to human rights violation, to sustaining peace, to inflation and economic uncertainty– cannot be resolved unless women leaders are equally represented and gender equality principles integrated across the board.” as to the same source.

Therefore, it encouraged all its partners and stakeholders to continue making systemic investments to ensure women’s equal representation in foreign policy, diplomacy and across the spectrum of decision making.

Society



Developing *Enset's* potentials to ensure food security through research works

BY LEULSEGED WORKU

Enset (False banana) is a key component of Ethiopia's food security strategy, especially in areas prone to drought and food insecurity. The plant's ability to withstand harsh environmental conditions makes it a reliable source of food during times of scarcity. What is more, *Enset*-based dishes provide essential nutrients and energy, ensuring that communities have access to nutritious food year-round. Seeing this economic benefit, these days, individual researchers and the government are investing their time, money and knowledge to further tap its potential.

Enset cultivation is deeply intertwined with the cultural identity of many Ethiopian communities, particularly people in the south and southwestern part of Ethiopia, who have mastered the art of growing and processing this unique plant. Known as the "Tree against Hunger," *Enset* symbolizes sustenance, resilience, and self-reliance, embodying the spirit of unity and strength within communities.

Addisu Fikadu (PhD) is a Lecturer at Arba Minch University and *Enset* Researcher. When asked the economic and health values of *Enset* (false banana) to Ethiopians, Addisu said that *Enset* holds a special place in the lives of most Ethiopians, serving as more than just a staple food crop.

This versatile plant plays a pivotal role in the social and economic fabric of Ethiopian society, embodying centuries-old traditions, cultural significance, and economic resilience. This is especially to those people living in the southern parts of the country. According to him, besides its nutritional value, *Enset* is key in alleviating food insecurity by supporting subsistence for most households because of its resilience in the face of climate related challenges. In times where Ethiopia was severely affected by drought in the 1980s, it was *Enset* that served as a lifesaving food to most Ethiopians.

According to him, for several years, *Enset* had been prepared in traditional ways. For that reason, it could not move beyond Ethiopia's

border and failed to meet the needs of the local market. However, now, activities are underway to make *Enset* a global food. Most of the nutrients that are found within this crop are now attracting the attention of several nutritionists and food processing companies to conduct more research on *Enset* and they are recommending health conscious individuals.

Absence of proper technology that can process and pack this staple starch food was one serious challenge to export the product. "However, now, we are witnessing hope. By applying modern technologies that can process false bananas, Arba Minch University is witnessing promising progress." Addisu also said that the more Ethiopia invests on research works on *Enset* and its production, the more it will benefit from its future economic advantages.

He also said that False Banana is a valuable economic resources Ethiopia can provide to the world. Since it is a gluten free and fiber rich plant, it has several health benefits. That is why these days' nutritionists are recommending people to include fiber rich food on their daily food intakes.

Regarding food security, Addisu said that converting *Enset* into various food items has both social and economic values. Besides providing sufficient nutrients to our body False Banana has also a significant role in food security.

Bethlehem Zemedkun, Lecturer at Arba Minch University and founder of Angonius Vegetable and Fruit Processing Agro Industry Enterprise, is among those Ethiopians who are aggressively working to promote False Banana processing and its importance for the use of Ethiopians daily intake and the economic value by supplying to the international market.

According to her, beyond its cultural significance, *Enset* also plays a crucial role in the economic livelihoods of many Ethiopians. As a drought-resistant and hardy crop, *Enset* provides a stable source of income for farmers, particularly in rural areas where other crops may struggle to thrive. The sale of *Enset* products, such as Kocho (fermented

flatbread) and Bulla (porridge), contributes to household incomes and local economies, offering a sustainable livelihood for many families.

The cultivation and processing of *Enset* involve intricate knowledge and skills that have been passed down through generations. By preserving traditional practices related to *Enset* farming, Ethiopians keep their cultural heritage and maintain a connection to the land and their ancestors. This transmission of knowledge ensures the continued sustainability of *Enset* cultivation for future generations. In this regard, while applying modern technology in processing the cultural values of *Enset*, production and processing should not be neglected.

Not only *Enset*, but preparing flour from banana fruit has immense benefit for farmers, consumers and even for the nation if they are cultivated and processed accordingly.

Arba Minch is one of the areas in Ethiopia where bananas grow in large quantities. Most of the products sometimes perished before arriving at their destinations. In this regard, the agro-processing industry provides multi-dimensional rewarding benefits to farmers for their efforts and consumers to get the proper nutrients from the plant, she added. However, there are some limitations in terms of processing flour from banana plant and delivering to the market.

As the saying goes "Necessity is the mother of invention" Bethlehem and her husband are also able to produce banana flour that can be packed easily and used to bake bread, biscuits and others.

As to her, due to the absence of processing machines, banana growers are seen losing lots of income they are supposed to get from banana plantations. Like other fruits, bananas tend to perish when transported to market places that are far from their destination. This wastage is not only a loss to an individual farmer but also to the national economy. However, according to Bethlehem, if banana is dried and converted into flour it has multidimensional purposes. "It is well known that bananas contain various nutrients that

are needed by our body. By preserving those nutrients before it gets perished will have market options. When banana is dried at an early (green) stage and converted into flour it can be used to prepare various nutrition rich foods. It is also a highly nutritious food for children."

Bethlehem said that there are eight stages of development before banana fruit gets ripe. The more it matures the more its glucose and starch contents will increase. That is why it is recommended to dry and convert bananas into flour at an early stage where we can find starch resistant nutrients that are vital to good bacteria found within our body.

Indeed, as it was indicated by scholars, both banana and *Enset* have economic and social grounds for millions of Ethiopians. This is especially true for *Enset* cultivation that fosters social cohesion and cooperation among community members. The labor-intensive process of cultivating, harvesting, and processing *Enset* often involves collective efforts, strengthening social bonds and promoting a sense of shared responsibility. From planting rituals to harvest celebrations, *Enset* rituals bring people together, reinforcing the importance of community support and solidarity.

Enset's resilience to pests, diseases, and adverse weather conditions makes it a valuable asset in the face of climate change and environmental challenges. Its ability to thrive in diverse agro-ecological zones contributes to agricultural diversity and sustainability, offering a buffer against crop failures and ensuring food security for communities across Ethiopia.

Enset stands as a testament to the resilience, ingenuity, and cultural richness of the Ethiopian people. Beyond its economic contributions and nutritional benefits, *Enset* embodies the spirit of community, tradition, and sustainability that are at the core of Ethiopian society. As Ethiopia is moving towards ensuring sustainable growth and development, *Enset* remains a steadfast pillar of strength, nourishing both body and soul and uniting communities in a shared heritage of resilience and abundance.

International News

Who was Africa's first black Olympic gold medallist?

In 1960, on a warm night in Rome, a barefoot son of a shepherd stunned the world and made history for Africa.

That evening, the streets of the city were lined with spectators cheering for the marathon runners competing in the Olympic Games.

Along the road, Italian soldiers held torches to light the way as an Ethiopian runner named Abebe Bikila sprinted towards the finish line.

For most of the course, Bikila, in red satin shorts and a black vest, had been level with the marathon favourite, Rhadi Ben Abdesselam from Morocco.

Then, with less than a mile to go, he began to pull away from his competitor. He sprinted towards the finish, raising his hands in triumph as he crossed the line.

Not only had he come first in the race, Bikila was also the first black African and the first Ethiopian to win a gold medal at the Games.

In doing so, he set a new world record of two hours, 15 minutes and 16 seconds.

It was a shock triumph, not just because Bikila was a complete unknown but because he had run the entire length of the race barefoot.

Bikila had made the decision to do so because his running shoes were worn and he feared a new pair would cause blisters.

"Normally champions rise up the rankings and so when they get to the top they are known, but Bikila was utterly unknown," says Tim Judah, the British writer of a book about the runner. "So this compounded the shock - a barefoot African winning the marathon."

Bikila returned home a national hero, greeted by thousands. However, his 1960 victory bore significance beyond his home nation. "This was the period of decolonisation and the arrival of Africa on the world stage," says Judah.

"In that sense, he was like a shooting star of hope and a symbol of the era." The symbolism of Bikila's win continues to this day.

"If you look what happened to Africa, independence started after Abebe Bikila won in Rome," says the former Olympic and World Champion Ethiopian distance runner, Haile Gebrselassie.

When Bikila returned to his home country, the Kenyan newspaper Nation reported that Emperor Haile Selassie awarded him the Star of Ethiopia. He also promoted him to the rank of corporal, gave him a house and new Volkswagen Beetle.

Bikila's upbringing was far from the glamour of his Olympic triumph. He was born in 1932 in the rural Ethiopian village of Jato, the son of a shepherd.

As a young man, after moving to the capital Addis Ababa, he joined the nation's Imperial Guard where he was given the prestigious role of protecting then Emperor Haile Selassie.

It was here that his athletic talent was spotted by the Swedish coach Onni Niskanen, who had been employed by the Ethiopian government to train soldiers. Niskanen began training Bikila to compete in the marathon.

However, Bikila was not considered Ethiopia's best runner. His team-mate Wami

Biratu was favoured for the Rome Games but, just days before their departure, Biratu fell ill and had to stay behind.

Abebe Bikila standing with his arms raised on a podium after winning his second Olympic gold.

Bikila's win in Tokyo in 1964 made him the first marathon runner to defend an Olympic title Second Olympic gold medal.

Bikila's legacy was cemented at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, where he defended his marathon title, becoming the first person to win back-to-back gold medals in the event.

To this day, Bikila remains one of only three runners, alongside German Waldemar Cierpinski and Kenyan Eliud Kipchoge, to have done so. This time the runner wore shoes. But he had another challenge to overcome.

Just 40 days before the event, Bikila had undergone an emergency operation to remove his appendix.

Despite only having weeks to return to full health, he sprinted down the running track in Tokyo's national stadium to set another world record of two hours, 12 minutes and 11 seconds.

According to World Athletics, Bikila won 12 out of 13 international marathons between 1960 and 1966. But just five years after his second Olympic win, tragedy struck.

In March 1969, reportedly while at the wheel of his Volkswagen Beetle, Bikila was involved in a car accident that paralysed him from the neck down.

He was flown to the specialised spinal injuries unit at Stoke Mandeville Hospital in

England for treatment and had to accept that he would never walk again.

But the runner was able to regain control of his hands so he turned to other sports, excelling in archery and table tennis.

In 1970, he participated in the Stoke Mandeville Games in London, an early precursor to the Paralympics.

The following year, he competed in Norway, where he won the cross-country sleigh-riding event at a competition for disabled athletes.

In 1973, Bikila died at the age of 41 because of complications from his accident.

Emperor Haile Selassie declared a national day of mourning and Bikila was given a state funeral.

But despite his early death, the runner's legacy continues. There is an Abebe Bikila stadium in Addis Ababa and many schools and awards bear his name.

Bikila's biggest legacy has been to inspire a new generation of long-distance runners across East Africa.

A number of Ethiopian and Kenyan athletes, such as Haile Gebrselassie and Eliud Kipchoge, have gone on to dominate the sport.

"We [African runners] are the result of Abebe Bikila. Because of Abebe Bikila, I became a world-class athlete," says Gebrselassie.

Getnet Wale, who will represent Ethiopia at the Paris Olympics in the 3,000m steeplechase, has described Bikila as a "trailblazer". "He was the first. He's always remembered till this day."

Source: BBC

Toronto reels from floods and power cuts after severe storms

Record rainfall from three huge storms has flooded parts of Toronto, cut power and left drivers stranded on the major motorway through the city.

Environment Canada reported that almost 100mm (4in) of rain fell on Toronto on Tuesday, surpassing the city's daily record set in 1941.

Images and videos showed severe flooding across the city, cars nearly submerged, and water cascading down the staircases at Union Station.

The pop star Drake posted a video on Instagram which appears to show part of his Toronto home, "The Embassy", submerged. "Better be espresso martini," he wrote as the video showed sludgy brown water fill a room. The storm left more than 167,000 customers without power, according to Toronto Hydro.

Several flights were also delayed or cancelled out of Billy Bishop Airport, on the Toronto Islands in Lake Ontario.

The Don Valley Parkway, a major motorway that runs adjacent to the Don river, was blocked in both directions by flooding. Ontario Highway 410 was also closed, with police anticipating that it will not open up for another day as crews



clean up.

Authorities said they have rescued at least 14 people, including one person who had to be plucked from their car's

roof. Toronto's fire service received numerous calls from people trapped in lifts, after large areas of city centre lost power during working hours.

Meteorologists said that Tuesday's record rainfall was due to three consecutive storms that fell on the city. "We had 25 per cent more rain in three hours than we'd have normally in the whole month of July with all the thunderstorms and systems that moved through," meteorologist Dave Phillips told local news station CP24.

The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority warned that areas near shorelines, rivers and streams in the city are especially prone to flooding. There are more than a dozen rivers and streams in Toronto, making it vulnerable to rising water levels.

Toronto's mayor Olivia Chow said she did not know why the Don Valley Parkway, which is prone to flooding, was not closed earlier in the day. She added the city was "massively investing" in clean-up efforts to ensure similar flooding does not occur in the future.

Toronto suffered from an intense and costly July storm in 2013 that left at least 300,000 people without power and more than 1,000 passengers needing rescue from a flooded train.

Source: MSN



Published Weekly in Collaboration with Haramaya University

“Bright Generation” summer school started at Haramaya University

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

Haramaya University (HU) has organized a “Bright Generation” summer education program for students from many walks of life. The education program is provided by a non-governmental group working in conjunction with HU.

Since June 6, 2014, around twenty-two students recruited from Haramaya University’s surrounding schools have received lessons through Zoom from teachers based in the United States.

Haramaya University’s “Bright Generation” program coordinator Ahmed Dedo said that this year, HU and the “Bright Generation” organization signed a cooperation agreement to launch the program. As a result, the summer program’s ten-week online and in-person summer education course has begun.

He remembered that the program was initiated by Dr. Berhanu Bulcha, a prominent Ethiopian NASA scientist, and has been offered for the past three years in twenty universities in Ethiopia.

This year, the top-performing grade 9 and 10 students from each school are selected for the program, which focuses on English speaking, critical thinking, and leadership skills. Furthermore, he said that the program allows students to discover numerous problems in the community around the HU and submit them to their lecturers to propose and work on a specific project concept.

He added that the program is presently in its second week and is being delivered by two volunteer teachers from the US who are assigned to HU. HU, for its part, has assigned teachers and computer science professionals to help students get the necessary knowledge. With this, HU should be commended for its extensive community engagement and support.

During the online summer school’s opening program, Ethiopian Ministry of Education Minister Ayelech Eshete and Oromia Regional Education Bureau Head Dr. Tola Beriso expressed their gratitude to Dr. Berhanu Bulcha and his wife Dr. Tsega Solomon, for launching the program. They also committed to providing the required support for the initiative to be successful.

