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Ethiopia's leapfrogging university-industry linkage

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

Ethiopia is taking drastic measures to improve industrial productivity through producing adequate manpower equipped with the required knowledge and skills.

For that reason, legal and operational amendments are being implemented to scale up human resource development and smooth the coordination between higher education institutions and industries.

Albeit the need to put hats off to the contributions of the higher education establishments and their commendable achievements over the past two decades, it is important to point out the persistent and

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Nation secures over 27 bln USD after macro economic reform

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA—Shortly after the implementation of the reformed macroeconomic policy, Ethiopia has secured over 27 billion USD from various sources, Finance State Minister, Eyob Tekalign disclosed.

During a media briefing on the policy's implementation progress, Eyob highlighted the government's efforts to address the country's economic, social, and political issues. He told the media that the ongoing reforms are crucial for stabilizing the macro-economy.

The timely execution of the macroeconomic policy reform has been key to improve operations across various sectors and addressing economic challenges sustainably, according to Eyob.

He detailed that the resources, comprising debt relief, contributions from the IMF and World Bank, deposits from partner countries, and currency swaps, reach a total of over 27 billion USD.

These funds are earmarked for poverty reduction initiatives and efforts to elevate Ethiopia's

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Economic reform curbs forex crunch, spurs trade: IMF

• Vows an inclusive, fair quota system

Ethiopia expands port alternatives, modernizes system to slash costs, boost efficiency

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA – The Ministry of Transport and Logistics (MoTL) has announced an expansion of alternative harbors to facilitate the flow of goods, reduce costs, and improve efficiency in the nation's logistics network.

Management Executive Officer Askale Tekle told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that this fiscal year, the ministry is focusing on using the ports of Tajura, Berbera, and Mombasa in addition to the Djibouti port. This strategy aims to cut high port costs, ensure timely delivery



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News

Business community pins hope on economic reform

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- The new macro-economic shift would attract more import-export businesses in the country, business communities so remarked.

Demeneh Hailu, Merchant, told to local media that the macroeconomic reform would be vital to increase business communities' engagement to import-export businesses.

Highlighting the fact those traders that are engaged in import-export had been involved in black market system due to lack of foreign currency, he said the reform would play essential role to counter the illegal flow of cash (black market).

For his take on the issue, Alebachew Yimam, Business Owner, noted that besides supporting economic structure, the reform is vital in allowing nation to enhance import-export market, alleviate economic burden and enable the financial flow to be smooth, as to him.

Shambel Midekesa, another Business Owner told to the local media that the reform would wipe the black market, which is one of the major contributors to inflation, out of the system.

Moreover, the inflation has put on heavy burden not only on the people but also the business community. Thus, the reform is expected to play major importance to create smooth business environment, he added.



He further mentioned that the reform would settle the shortage of foreign currency that the business community used to struggle with.

The Business Owners also stressed that the recent soaring price that followed the macroeconomic reform, particularly, on

items that are being produced in the country, is unnecessary which puts additional burden to consumers.

Likewise, they urged the government and those who are engaged in business to join force for well implementation of the macroeconomic reform.

Ethiopia, Russia expanding bilateral ties, multilateral cooperation

ADDIS ABABA -Ethiopia and Russia are deepening bilateral relations and broadening multilateral cooperation, Ambassador Evgeny Terekhin told ENA.

The Russian ambassador said that the bilateral and multilateral relationships between Russia and Ethiopia have been growing after the leaders of the two countries met at the first and second Russia-Africa summits in 2019 and 2023.

"I should stress the highest level of political, mutual understanding, and interaction between our countries based on the excellent, mutual relationship between the two leaders of our countries, President Putin and Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed."

According to him, their meetings, especially on the sidelines of the first and the second Russia-Africa summits have given a mighty impetus to a whole-scale development of bilateral relations in each direction, practically in every field.

"We cooperate closely in different international organizations in the international arena, especially on issues of paramount concern for our two countries."

Ambassador Evgeny Terekhin pointed out his hope "that soon it (the cooperation) will be more visible, especially in the fields of energy, mutual trade, food security, and others."



Furthermore, he expressed optimism about the growing economic partnership between the two countries, emphasizing ongoing efforts to increase trade and investment.

"In the economic field, we're moving forward as well, maybe not as quickly as we would like to see; but still I can see tangible movements in this direction."

At present, "we see not only extremely well developed bilateral relations and cooperation in different directions, but also mutual joint

participation within the BRICS format."

The ambassador said BRICS will give the countries better opportunities for enlargement and strengthening of bilateral relations, adding that there is already a significant and broad range of interconnected ideas that fit together. And the political momentum is also crucial. Ethiopia's membership in the BRICS during Russia's chairmanship has deepened bilateral relations, he added.

Both countries share a vision of a multipolar world order based on international law and the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter.

Ambassador Terekhin finally pointed out that Russia has been enlarging the quantity of scholarships allotted to Ethiopian students every year, in addition to the effort of strengthening people-to-people cooperation and relations.

"We're developing people-to-people cooperation and relations. For instance, last year we have conducted days of Russian spiritual culture. And it was really fascinating and wonderful when chorus of one of Russian monasteries presented the church songs at Meskel Square here in Addis Ababa during the Moscow festivities. I hope we will be able to arrange something of the same kind this year as well."



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Public Procurement and Property Authority

Authority transacts 320 bln. Birr via e-GP system

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA - Issuing over 22,000 tenders, the Public Procurement and Property Authority announced that it has transacted 320 billion Birr via the e-Government Procurement system in the just concluded fiscal year.

Authority's Electronic Government Procurement (e-GP) Project Manager Tadesse Kebede stated tendering over 22,222 procurement auctions, the authority managed to transact 320 billion Birr through the e-Government Procurement system.

He mentioned that the system was deployed and came into effect since 2022 across nine institutions with twenty-two tenders.

According to him, issuing about 2,300 bidders across 74 institutions, it managed to transact about 56 billion Birr in the system in 2022 budget year.

The manager reiterated that the authority has undertaken about 22,222 auctions and executed 320 billion Birr digital transaction in the just ended period.

Participating 150 bidders in a single auction via the system and enhancing the private bidding competition in full swing, Tadesse emphasized that the authority has managed to extend the micro and small enterprises competition by 25% and minimize the amount spent on inputs and easing the expected hassles in the entire bidding process.

Remarking the corrupt and extravagant experience of the procurement system, the project manager underscored that e-GP system has now brought transparency from the procurement plan up to the result announcement through the system portal.

"Universities, bidders, auditors, local and international suppliers, regional and city administrations are among others are implementing this system," he said.

Moreover, the system has also changed the outdated and traditional form of bidding process and help curb the risks of corruption, fraud and other related challenges, he noted.

He said that they are currently carrying out feasibility study about the system which is to be unveiled as fast as possible.

News

Economic reform curbs forex crunch, spurs trade: IMF

• Vows an inclusive, fair quota system

BY DANIEL ALEMAYEHU

ADDIS ABABA:-The International Monetary Fund (IMF) backs Ethiopia's recent economic reform signaling that the move would help curb forex crunch and spur investments and trade.

The monetary organization also pledged a more inclusive and fair quota system for Sub-Saharan countries.

Over the years, there have been intense negotiations between Ethiopia and the monetary institutions on economic reform and market liberalization.

Last week, Ethiopia introduced currency floating exchange rate as per of liberalizing its economy.

And, in an exclusive interview with *The Ethiopian Herald*, Tobias Rasmussen, IMF Resident Representative in Ethiopia welcomed the measure while vowing full backings.

"The market-based exchange rate will alleviate the acute shortages of foreign exchange that previously existed, and it will promote export and investment activity," said Rasmussen.

The country has embarked on a historic



reform program that is set to transform the economy. The authorities' determination and commitment to moving the economy in the right direction and to improve economic outcomes for people is impressive, so said, the Resident Representative noted.

The recent reform is fully backed by IMF's Extended Credit Facility (ECF) program, which is under the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PRGT). The fund is a four-year arrangement that allows providing Ethiopia with 3.4 billion USD. Of which, about 1 billion USD was disbursed immediately after Board approval, the Representative disclosed.

"The remaining funding will be disbursed after periodic reviews that will assess performance relative to program targets. Financing under the ECF is provided with low (currently zero) interest rate."

The Representative also forecasted the imminent challenges that Ethiopia may face due to the recent economic reform: "Over time, as the reforms take hold, people will benefit from increased economic activity and increased scope for public spending in priority areas. In the near term, the change in exchange rate regime may lead to some imported commodities becoming more expensive."

Similarly, the Representative reaffirmed that the organization is working on creating a more inclusive international finance system. He remembered the time when the membership approved a 50 percent increase in IMF member countries' quotas and agreed to develop by June 2025 possible approaches as a guide for further quota realignment.

"IMF's Board of Governors issued a resolution to create an additional chair for Sub-Saharan Africa on the IMF Executive Board. This will come into effect on November 1."



Nation secures...

economy to middle-income status, he said.

The state minister also noted that preparations for the macroeconomic reforms are thorough and that the process is gradual. Reforms in agriculture, mining, tourism and other sectors have significantly enhanced the economy so that the policy shift is expected to improve citizens' livelihoods.

He pointed out that Ethiopia had previously faced a heavy debt burden, which has been reduced from 30% to 17% under the national economic reform program. This experience, along with the policy shift advantage to attract foreign direct investment and address foreign currency shortages, highlights the reform's benefits.

In related news, Minister of Planning and Development, Fitsum Asefa announced that the government is implementing a sustained homegrown economic policy to drive growth and benefit citizens.

According to the Minister, the Homegrown Economic Reform Policy, designed to address previous economic challenges such as low revenue and productivity, showed enhancing fiscal management and investment, reducing state debt, and improving public enterprises' profitability during its first phase implementation.

The policy focuses on legal reforms, increasing foreign investment, and combating illicit trade. Fitsum highlighted ongoing efforts to mitigate economic vulnerabilities, including subsidies for essential items and improved public servant salaries.

Ethiopia expands port alternatives...

of goods, and prevent perishables from spoiling.

"Utilizing various ports in an alternative manner will enhance cost-effectiveness, attractiveness, and accessibility in all directions with our neighbors," said Askale.

Agreements have been finalized to strengthen road transport connections with neighboring nations, including Djibouti, to facilitate smoother import and export processes.

In the past year, Djibouti port handled 83% of Ethiopian goods, while the remaining 17% passed through the aforementioned alternative ports. The ministry is also working towards digitalizing all transport system activities by

2025 to streamline operations and improve passenger experiences at terminals serving large numbers of travelers.

The officer further noted that Ethiopia currently boasts 232 public transport routes nationwide, with plans to open an additional 36 national road transport routes for local passengers. Six main transport terminals in Addis Ababa, including Adisu Gebeya, Asko, Ayer Tena, Kaliti, Lamberet, and AutobisTera, facilitate boarding and alighting.

A model terminal is under construction in Kaliti, expected to be completed soon. Additionally, the ministry aims to expand safe mass transport and electric vehicle use this

budget year, with full enforcement planned for the upcoming year. Incentives are in place to encourage the importation of new electric vehicles.

Private sector involvement in transportation services, such as multimodal transport, is increasing, with three operators entering the market to enhance performance. The ministry has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with artificial intelligence firms to modernize the system, including terminal control and ticketing services, significantly contributing to better transport management and stimulating the nation's economy, Askale remarked.

Ethiopia's leapfrogging...

growing challenges facing the sector both at the system and institutional levels.

Many key policy and review documents including the Road Map and the Education and Training Policy, point to weak linkage between higher education, training and research institutions and the industry as the Achilles heel of Ethiopian higher education thereby contributing to poor skill and relevance of the graduates to the industry.

To this effect, it has negatively affected the practical skills and knowledge of the graduates, hindered transfer of scientific discoveries, caused the teaching and learning in the education and training institutions to remain broadly theoretical and conceptual, impacting the country's industrial development and discouraged the emergence of new businesses and growth of start-ups.

With a view of bridging the gaps witnessed among higher education, training and research and industry, the Ministry of Education (MoE) along with other stakeholders recently launched a proclamation of Higher Education, Technical and Vocational Training, Research Institutions and Industry Linkage (HETRIL). They have

also established the Linkage Council embracing 22 members to oversee the linkage activities of the overstated institutions.

Higher Education Sector Development State Minister Kora Tushune stated that firm coordination and partnership across sectorial, professional, and disciplinary borders are significant to bridge university-industry gaps.

Indeed, this move requires a shared policy framework, regulatory facilities, conducive structure and a clear delineation of roles and responsibilities of participating parties and stakeholders, Kora pointed out.

So far, in the HETRIL proclamation, the relationship between the education and research institutions and the industry was based on voluntary association and there was no binding agreement on both sides. And there was no conducive legislative and policy environment that encourage and incentivize the partnership.

To this end, this has resulted in sporadic and irregular engagement that hampered the implementation of practical education and training programs resulting in production of graduates who are deficient and do not have the

skills and qualities demanded by the industry.

Education, research, technical and vocational training and industrial linkages are crucial to bring about a profound socioeconomic development and productivity, according to Industry Minister Melaku Alebel. He emphasized that the industry's sustainable development will not be realized without education, research strong linkages. Thus, the industrial sector highly requires well skilled and trained manpower to bridge the gaps in the industries.

"Innovation and technology, problem-solving researches coupled with streamlined management and skills and institutional linkages help boost the manufacturing industries production capacity and address the communities' problems sustainability," Melaku underscored.

He also suggested the need to strengthen resource mobilization activities to effectuate implementation of the directive.

Similarly, MoE's Higher Education Sector Development, Research and Community Engagement Head Serawit Handiso (PhD) stated that this proclamation ensures effectiveness, mutual benefit, national and international

competitiveness by implementing linkage activities with coordination, consistency, accountability, and efficiency in line with the national development agenda.

The proclamation is believed to be a significant milestone to mend the educational fractures that expedite the communities' livelihoods and country's socioeconomic development aspirations.

Moreover, the platform helps to generate skilled citizens who are fit for tasks. The coming of this policy into effect would also bring a sense of ownership among the pertinent institutions which help ensure quality and relevance education that pushes the country a step ahead towards its holistic development, Serawit (PhD) pointed out.

Therefore, the issuance of HETRIL proclamation remains a crucial and long overdue intervention by the government and is expected to transform the education and training landscape of the country laying a solid foundation for industrialization, innovation and technology development in the country. And hence, it will enhance the employability of graduates and fuel industrial research and innovation, he asserted.

Opinion

Political careerists' devotion towards building servant leadership quality

BY GETACHEW MINAS

A political career involves active participation in government organizations and civil service agencies. These institutions are responsible for policy-making in different political, economic and social sectors. The authorities in these sectors are involved in public administration and service delivery to the people. These services are given to the Ethiopian public at all levels, both in rural and urban areas. The delivery of these services presupposes the presence of highly qualified personnel devoted to serving the public in sincerity. Users or clients of these services have to be served by civil servants of high integrity and qualification.

A few of these civil servants, however, use public finance and property to gratify their personal greed. Greed breeds greed and the public offices are infested with corrupt officials and their deputies. These officials recruit their types and assign them to harass the Ethiopian people who seek for their services. In this situation, the political leadership walks a tight rope and a slight mistake exposes it to loss of support by its constituency. Some of these leaders aspire only for one-term public service that enables them to abuse public property without any limit and control.

Some politicians intend to stay in power for at least two terms if not more. They devote the last term in office for voracious and insatiable grabbing of public property and resources. They begin to enjoy living in classic villas, drive latest, but very expensive cars, and spend their free time in expensive hotels and restaurants. They are always surrounded with merry-making individuals and friends. There is no talk of politics after their successful climbing of the ladder of success until the date of retirement. Initially, they pretended to be dedicated to judicious service delivery to the Ethiopian people.

Consequently, they realized their potential to progress to higher offices. Those who occupied these offices aspired for higher responsibility that entitles them for higher benefits. Some of these benefits include free public villas, chauffeur driven latest cars, and invitation to cocktails in luxurious hotels, especially reserved for them. Normally, they would like to drive the public cars themselves to avoid eavesdropping by assigned drivers. Whatever their choice is they do not incur any cost in it, as it is financed by the Ethiopian taxpayers.

The secret behind pursuing a political carrier is the luxurious life attached to it. All politicians, however, do not succeed in their endeavor to achieve comfortable and lavish life. They write manifestoes regarding their political stand just to put it on the shelf or wastebasket after election. The innocent voters read only partisan handouts or listen

to campaign speeches by demagogues who convince the public. When results are declared by the concerned organization, most politicians who campaigned in good or bad faith lose the election and declare their submission to the winning party.

Since most of the losers have no option but wait until the next election, they begin to rewrite and revise their manifestoes in a manner that influences voters in their favor. The voters are guaranteed another period of political respite. It said that in time of crises they all go to their gods to pray for victory in the coming elections. In this situation, those persons who have labored hard, both as voters and contenders have to be praised for their patience before, during and after voting.

Experts have pointed out some of the requirements one has to fulfill when starting a political career. Some of these conditional ties are education, networking, and public service, running for local offices, building track records, and moving to higher offices. The experts have pointed out that it is a necessary condition to obtain a relevant education in political science, law, public administration, or related fields. This does not, however, mean that persons in the field of science or other fields do not run for political career.

In Ethiopia, politicians who achieved higher education in different fields have been participating in public services. To the surprise of many observers, most Ethiopians who have graduated in the field of political science have not been able to achieve higher posts in the government. One may safely conclude that high educational levels in political science do not necessarily guarantee supreme authority for a person.

A political career may not entitle those persons who have gained knowledge and skills in public service. These persons may have experience of working in government offices. The political arena is open to all Ethiopians without exception, as long as they have political party affiliation. As members of a political party officially registered by the concerned agency, individuals may run for election. They may win election and secure a government post as political candidates.

As mentioned earlier, these individuals may be forgetful of the political mission they have promised to the voting public. After sometime, these politicians "forget the voters by whom they have been forgotten." Such politicians are bound to face the same electorate during the next election. They invest in the voters who have forgotten them and even vote for them again. The gap between elections is wide enough for politicians who sit idle after winning political posts.

During rounds of elections, politicians heavily depend on networking. They return

to their political constituency for reelection through a network of connections, including friends, relatives, and community leaders. Friends may be beneficiaries of the office of the politician for whom they voted in previous elections. Similarly, relatives may aspire for some kind of benefits that may accrue to them through political connections.

Both friends and relatives may not have direct access to official benefits, but they wait for the appropriate time and place. When they have to appear before an office in charge of public services, they enjoy referring to the political figure with which they have networked. The very name of this figure guarantees friends and relatives a smooth travel through the bureaucracy, accessing the required services. In other words, political connections are superior means of doing business legally or indirectly.

In a political career, it is a necessary condition to build connections with community leaders, political figures, and organizations. Initially, this occurs at the grassroots level, when the politician is assumed to be innocent and novice. As the politician gains experience in stratagem, conspiracy and ploy, he/she begins to move up the ladder of power. They need this power to have a free access to public resources for their personal benefits. Of course, they do this in the name of the people that voted for them. Initially, these persons join political parties or advocacy groups to promote their hidden motives. They make efforts to establish their presence in the political arena and gain public support.

The hidden objective of the individual politician does not remain a secret affair. Through time, every political activity becomes an open affair in which the needs and interests of the electorate is forgotten. The electorate becomes the supreme body only during election days, after which the politician forgets the electorate.

The political careerists seem to serve the public in return for payment and benefits that accrue to them. Initially, they volunteer for development campaigns, community services, and local initiatives in Ethiopia. These careerists are more than willing to serve on local boards and commissions in the country. They also engage themselves in community organizations to win the confidence of their future voters. In so doing, they try to gain experience and visibility in and around their local community or Kebele. They run for local district office and secure positions in city council, school board, or other public assignments.

These political careerists focus on community issues, build strong ties and engage with residents of Kebeles. They endeavor to create a status pretending to contribute to effective leadership. These politicians aspire for commitment to

public service, just to abandon it long after winning election. Initially, they pretend to work on the design of policies, programs and projects that positively impact the community they represent.

Gradually, the political careerists move to higher government offices aiming for higher positions. They aspire to join high offices such as the executive or legislative branch or other national offices. In the process, they continue to expand their network, design political strategies, and construct a wider base of support. In the mean time, they develop skills in leadership to enhance their ability to inspire, lead, and make decisions.

They become skillful communicators raising their effective public speech. They reduce their dependence on others for writing and recording ideas. They also improve their listening skills during public meetings. The political careerists adopt the art of negotiation on contentious and controversial issues. They build the capacity to find common ground and build consensus among contenders. These efforts, however, require integrity on the part the politician. But, this requires strong ethical standards and transparency which the politician averts or avoids.

Political careerists have a strong resilience and capacity to handle criticisms and challenges. They are normally challenged by public scrutiny, constant attention and public evaluation. The electorate may be interested to know how these careerists defend its interests. It may help or reject them during fundraising, for example, needed for their political campaigns.

These political careerists, as human beings, have to manage the demands of public service with the requirement of their personal life. At the same time, they have to check and manage their political rivals. In so doing, they have to "navigate competition and opposition."

The Ethiopian politicians have, therefore, to learn from the success of political careerists in other parts of the world. Most of these careerists started as community organizers, served as parliamentarians, and eventually became leaders of their country.

Of course, history reveals that not all of the political careerists succeeded in climbing the ladder of political power. In Ethiopia, a political career requires devotion, enthusiasm for public service, and a strategic approach to overcome the challenges of governance and public aspiration. The fulfillment of these requirements guarantees success in a political career.

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

Editorial

Reform would thrive despite ups and downs

As many agree Ethiopia is a land of many opportunities that could be exploited to benefit its growing population. However, it is also beset with a lot of challenges that need to be addressed as soon as possible so as to make the best out of the opportunities that it is endowed with.

As stated by Einstein, you cannot solve a problem by the same level of thinking that created it. Hence it is a must for the government to think out of the box and raise its level of thinking as well as execution to break out of the vicious cycle of economic and social challenges that hampers the progress of the country for decades. Indeed this does not mean that the government and stakeholders need to dive into risky measures boldly. The actions of the government before and after the launching of the macro economic reform also clearly show the level of caution that it is making to properly manage the reform.

For instance the government has started effective actions to implement the reform. One of the such measures is the fruitful accomplishment of raising more than 27 Billion resources since the launching of the reform, that is two weeks.

Of course, it is too early to judge the upcoming long journey of the reform implementation at this moment. Yet building up on such small achievements it is possible to trek successfully on the path towards the desired end.

Everything seems difficult until it is started. But once kicked off things are likely to be usual or simple provided there is commitment towards it. The macro economic reform that the government launched recently is a very hot topic of discussion among people at home and abroad. It is indeed a hot topic that deserves due attention.

While the government and stakeholders view it as a means to pave the way for a brighter future of the country, others are talking about the ups and downs that could be faced on the way to realize the envisaged economic and social outcomes.

Indeed there is no easy way to success. Yet when the desired goal is very big it is likely the journey will be tough and challenging. However it is not normal to shy away from success for fear of the temporary challenges pinned on the road. As one of the Ethiopian saying goes you don't skip your sleep for fear of bad dream. This is a situation that Ethiopia faced at the moment.

In spite of having one of the fastest growing economy in the continent it has to ensure sustainability of the growth of the economy and accommodate the rapidly growing needs of its 120 million populations which is one of the largest in the continent as well as in the world.

Such well thought and ground breaking move by the government is a timely action. The action can be appreciated as it has been ventured after months of thorough and careful scrutiny. Furthermore the government has continued to do all the necessary efforts to the success of the reform including putting in place strong regulatory actions as well as resource mobilization that are vital input.

Hence stakeholders at home and abroad should join hands for the success of the reform process

Opinion

Ethiopia's opportunity to open 130000 new green jobs until 2030

Shortlist and FSD Africa, with analysis from the Boston Consulting Group, today published "Forecasting Green Jobs in Africa," a first of its kind report that forecasts the new direct job creation potential of 12 "green" sub-sectors by 2030. The report predicts the creation of up to 3.3 million new direct green jobs across the continent by 2030, with the majority in the renewable energy sector, particularly solar. The study, the first in-depth analysis of workforce needs within major green value chains over the next five years, provides detailed forecasts for five focus countries, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa, which together account for more than a fifth (22%) of new jobs, and in key sectors such as renewable energy, e-mobility, agriculture, construction and manufacturing.

"Forecasting Green Jobs in Africa" underscores the critical importance of a skilled workforce as an input accelerating African green industries, emphasizing the need for substantial investment in skills development and workforce mobilization. Moreover, the millions of jobs created in the green revolution will also contribute to the formalization of African economies, and the inclusion of whole populations in stable systems of remuneration, social security and taxation for the first time.

Based on the findings, the report also outlines key strategies required to cultivate Africa's green jobs ecosystem: from targeted investments in high-potential sectors and value chains, the fostering of cross-sector collaboration among governments, private sector, educational institutions and investors, to the development of comprehensive support policies for green sectors. The report also calls for further analysis and granularity to labour demand key value chains to identify Africa's current skilled labour supply and any potential gaps.

While some experts have suggested that up to 100 million green jobs may be created by 2050, this report takes a more near-term, sober, and realistic look at the job creation potential of just 12 specific sub-sectors or value chains and only until 2030. This more conservative analysis is intended to guide near-term investments and policy decisions among universities, workforce development actors, and government as we ensure the mobilization of the right skills and workforce to meet demand.

Significantly it predicts that 60% of the employment generated by the green economy over the coming six years will be skilled or white collar in nature. Within this, 10% constitute "advanced jobs" (highly skilled, requiring university degrees to fulfil), whilst a further 30% are

projected to be "specialized" (requiring certification or vocational training) and 20% will be administrative in emphasis. Crucially, these job types tend to attract higher salaries and will, therefore, play a central role in spurring the growth of the middle class in countries hosting these high-growth sectors. Important also is the stability of the unskilled jobs created – which will offer ladders up the employment scale for candidates, whose employability will be enhanced by access to training and experience.

"There is a cross-sector effort across Africa to spur employment and sustainable development," said Mark Napier, CEO of FSD Africa, "but stakeholders lack a shared, granular understanding of where the green jobs are going to come from. This report offers a methodology for forecasting green jobs which allows us to get practical about where we need to invest to make these jobs happen."

"This is the first public report that takes seriously the notion that human capital and talent is important as both an input to green economic growth, and as a positive outcome - in the form of millions of new, direct jobs." says Paul Breloff, CEO of Shortlist. "Now policymakers, and funders, and workforce developers need to step up to meet this near-term demand with effective training, apprenticeships, and job/skill matching, in hopes of achieving Africa's green promise."

Shortlist is a talent and impact advisory firm that provides recruitment services and technology for both leadership hiring and large-scale workforce innovation programs across African startups, social ventures, and mission-driven organizations. Since our founding in 2016, we have helped place over six thousand people into jobs in the global south, mostly in Sub-Saharan Africa. Shortlist has two core offerings: Shortlist Search provides executive search services for leading startups and impact organizations in Africa, while our Shortlist Futures team designs and implements youth employment and workforce programs across Africa in partnership with donors, governments, enterprises, and educators.

FSD Africa is a specialist development agency working to help make finance work for Africa's future. Based in Nairobi, FSD Africa's team of financial sector experts work alongside governments, business leaders, regulators, and policymakers to design and build ambitious programmes that make financial markets work better for everyone. Established in 2012, FSD Africa is incorporated as a non-profit company limited by guarantee in Kenya. It is funded by UK aid from the UK government.

Source: [Hudsonsandler.com](https://www.hudsonsandler.com)

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Business & Economy

Judicious quest for making public enterprises agile

BY MENGESHA AMARE

If one asks what Public Enterprises are, perhaps, they can have the response ‘they are organizations/companies owned and controlled by the government and established in a bid to provide citizens with a number of invaluable services and promote economic growth as well as comprehensive development at national level.

Appraising the Ethiopian context, *The Ethiopian Herald* would like to jot down some important points about public enterprises taking advantage of a certain event it of late partook.

Public enterprises can play a significant role in earning foreign exchange for Ethiopia, in booming the tourism and hospitality sector via attracting foreign tourists and generating revenue in foreign currency. Similarly, they have engaged in the export of goods and services and again help the nation earn foreign exchange by selling their products and services to countries of overseas.

Public enterprises can also generate employment opportunities for a number of citizens as too many citizens are actively engaging in a number of undertakings. Yes, they require a large workforce to carry out their operations, and hence they can provide employment opportunities for a significant number of additional people as they can create indirect employment opportunities by supporting local businesses and suppliers.

Unequivocally, public enterprises are of paramount importance in promoting regional development by investing in economically disadvantaged parts of the nation, too. They can thus invest in the development of infrastructure, healthcare facilities, power generation, transportation, as well educational amenities across the nation with a view to bringing about wide-ranging growth and development.

In so doing, they have been contributing a lot to foreign exchange earnings, infrastructure development, employment generation, regional development, and social welfare, among others. The most crucial public enterprises in Ethiopia have lately come together and formed a giant hub so as to get power together and be administered in a similar national framework. This giant hub of the public enterprises, predominantly the nine ones, is termed as Public Enterprises Holding and Administration (PEHA).

Recently, PEHA organized a forum to discuss the 2023/24 performance of a range of public enterprises, that of its nine members, as stated earlier. Upon completion of presentation of papers talking about the ways of running activities, the means the respective public enterprises have employed to be competent and profitable, the potential challenges they have faced so far, the mechanisms they have been using to address the trying obstacles, and way forward to work together by advising each other/one another.

Member enterprises were presenting their respective performance, challenges and ways they have employed to hit problems. They also elucidated the journey they have been trekking through a seemingly SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis. The nine enterprises which are Development Bank of Ethiopia, Ethio-Engineering Group, Ethiopian Postal Service Enterprise, Ethiopian Electric Power, Ethiopian Railway Corporation, Industrial Parks Development Corporation,



Officials of PEHA from left to right (Tigistu Amsalu, Habtamu Hailemichael and Zinabu Yirga)

National Veterinary Institution, Ethiopian Industrial Inputs Development Enterprise, and Liability and Asset Management Corporation had presented their Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats.

A range of questions, suggestions, constructive comments were also highly entertained and fruitful discussion was also held to help the enterprises draw important lessons from one another for better performance. On the occasion, PEHA Director General, Habtamu Hailemichael stated that public enterprises which were in a state of being wreck are making profit and even carrying out activities to rescue others from being relinquished, create job opportunities, and are contributing their own share in driving the wheel of the national economy well.

According to the Director General, the impact of public enterprises or state-owned enterprises on economic growth in Ethiopia has these days been a crucial driver of the economy of the nation. True, several possible channels through which the enterprises would play a pro-growth role including stabilizing growth in economic downturns by carrying out massive investments; promoting technical progress by investing in technology, following a high-road approach to treating workers by paying a living to move toward a more sustainable growth model in the future. The effort to make the enterprises competent, profitable as well as modern via establishing well-defined corporate governance and corporate finance system has prevailed now.

He also stated that, making public enterprises up-to-the-minute, lucrative and proficient has been prioritized and given due emphasis to help the nation benefit out of various sectors as it deserves.

He added that, bridging gaps witnessed in due course of running a multitude of activities in various public enterprises has now been well focused to help them capable of overcoming challenges in particular and helping the nation come up with meaningful change in general.

The government has been working hard to make the public enterprises energetic and globally competent ones. Public enterprises have played an important role in bolstering Ethiopia’s economy. A series conditions have to be met in order to transform potential profitability into sustainable and rapid economic growth, among which increasing productivity, improving technology, and building capacity of the labor power are most important.

“Public enterprises can promote the national

economic growth as they maintain and raise investments, stabilize economic growth and reduce the damage of economic downturns, carry out major technical innovations that private enterprises are reluctant to do, which fosters economic growth and prosperity.”

To investigate the pro-growth role of public enterprises, it is better to boost technical progress and it is noteworthy that these projects were not only of scientific importance but also of economic importance aiming at reducing transportation costs, ensuring energy supply, or enhancing productivity, all of which may contribute to the economic growth at national level, he added.

As to him, major innovations help enhance national competitiveness and bring benefits to the enterprises in particular and to the country as a whole. Since poor working conditions and meaningless long working time have intensified capital-labor conflicts and undermined social stability, working in a collaborative manner would pay off.

Such daunting challenges were thoroughly discussed and all participants of the member enterprises forwarded a range of constructive ideas and lucrative means to make real difference, the Director General stated.

There are a number of reasons to expect public enterprises to contribute to economic growth. With regard to the role of an economic stabilizer, given the mutual causality between/ among public enterprises and economic growth, participants observed that some of PEHA member public enterprises seem to have lower growth when compared to achieving their annual plan but with promising trends to record change and progress in the future.

He further stated that, a multitude of reforms have been applied on many public enterprises with a view to unraveling limitations to correct and strengths to further reinvigorate thereby making the enterprises proficient and rewarding to help the nation meet its vision in turn—dramatically reducing poverty—at the end of the day.

He said, “Public Enterprises would play a paramount role in creating job opportunities, enabling the nation secure foreign currency and being competent with counterpart ones from overseas. However, a lot remains to be done to enable the country to be in a position towards seizing the ladder of success in all aspects.”

As to Habtamu, closely looking into drawbacks, discussing cardinal concerns revolving around

public enterprises as well as devising possible solutions to the problems all enterprises have been encountering is an incomparable avenue to rightly lead the nation and come up with the required progress in the years to come.

According to Habtamu, France Development fund (Agence Française de Development Group (AFD) has played a vital role in terms of helping PEHA in due course of publishing and providing it with expertise and technical support, and so has House of people’s representatives. Their support has thus been instrumental in encouraging public enterprises overseen by PEHA. All the enterprises have been sharing experiences, implementing modern systems and the way they have respectively appreciated to be profitable in the future.

As to him, public enterprises are duty bound to and working hard to promote job creation, expand corporate social responsibility, and generate foreign currency, among others.

Development Bank of Ethiopia President, Yonahes Ayalew (PhD) on his part said that the bank is a policy bank predominantly financing investment and agriculture sectors.

He said, “Ethiopia’s economy does show a huge investment demand these days and the manufacturing sector has taken the lead. Small and Micro Enterprises (SMEs) have also made immense contribution to the national economy in general and in creating job opportunities and fair market distribution in particular amid hurdles that need to be well met.

He further said that the performance of various sectors peculiarly the lease financing has shown remarkable progress though there is a long way to go in a bid to make real difference in all aspects at national level.

In a nut shell, public enterprises face various challenges and problems that hinder their effectiveness and efficiency despite their importance. Some of the common problems of public enterprises cited during the discussion including poor technology, land grab, shortage of foreign currency and inputs, have to be well addressed if the country is to make optimum benefit out of its public enterprises. As these problems often result in low productivity, poor service delivery, financial losses, a holistic approach that involves focusing on the execution of established moderns corporate governance and finance systems and improving productivity, providing adequate funding and resources, needed to be well underscored, indeed!

Society

A stride pushing Africa's fashion industry forward

BY MENGESHA AMARE

It is well recognized that fashion design, a creative realm where fabric and style intertwine, holds a profound importance beyond aesthetics. From embodying cultural heritage to catalyzing economic growth, fashion designing's reputation extends to shaping trends, fostering global connections, and even championing socio-cultural sustainability.

Fashion design is also the art of applying design, aesthetics, clothing construction and natural beauty. Yes, fashion designers create clothing, including dresses, suits, pants, and skirts, and accessories like shoes and handbags, for consumers. Designers thus can specialize in clothing, accessory, or jewelry design, or may work in more than one of these areas.

Keeping this in mind, *The Ethiopian Herald* approached Mahlet Afework, a renowned Ethiopian fashion designer, taking advantage of an event organized in Italy Embassy to officially launch Mafi fashion academy and lab (MFAL).

Mahlet said, "Mafi Fashion Academy and Lab (MFAL) was officially launched in Ethiopia marking a significant milestone as the region's dynamic, high-quality fashion academy dedicated to empowering African talent. MFAL fosters an environment where students can launch successful global brands within Africa and become well trained fashion professionals"

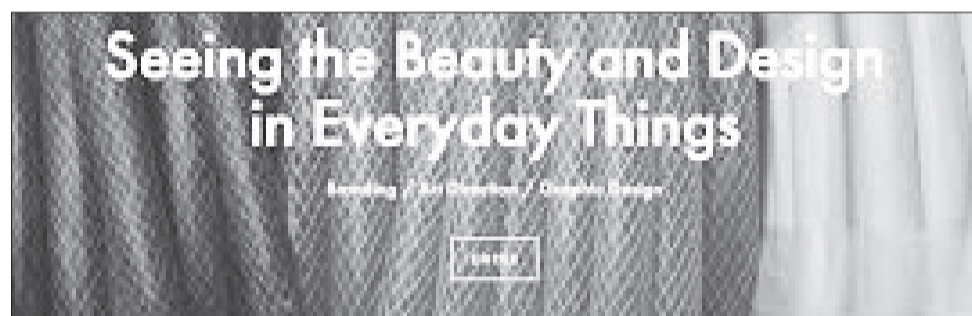
Delivering a transformative take on fashion education, MFAL combines the latest design trends with the entrepreneurial skills needed to succeed in the future. The curated syllabus, developed in collaboration with international fashion consultants, leverages her industry experience and addresses identified gaps in African fashion education," said Mahlet.

Driven by a passion for cultivating high quality African fashion leaders and brands, Mahlet Afework, whose brand MAFI MAFI, has employed international acclaim for 15 years. established FMAL. This academy aims to equip students with international skills and knowledge; nurture well-trained professionals and foster research and innovation within Africa.

"As an African brand with a humble beginning, we understand the challenges faced by aspiring designers. MFAL is designed to bridge that skills gap, empowering students to bring world-class brands. Building on our rich heritage of innovation and knowledge sharing, we aim at nurturing the artisans of the future," she said.

According to Mahlet, in collaboration with a fashion institute in Italy, the Italian Embassy in Ethiopia, and UNIDO, MFAL offers a state-of-the-art learning environment. Students can choose from specialized courses in fashion design, fashion business, photography, and styling among others, thereby receiving high-quality education and mentorship without the need to travel abroad.

As to Mahlet, MFAL goes beyond traditional education, offering an exceptional combination of practical skills and global exposure via boosting the first fashion innovation lab of its kind in Ethiopia presenting a dedicated space to experiment with cutting-edge technology and



preparing for the future of the industry.

She further elucidated that, MFAL is a bridge where innovation meets tradition. It is also an international standard fashion academy in Africa empowering aspiring designers and entrepreneurs with top-tier education and invaluable industry exposure.

She said, "MFAL functions as an institution for research and development fostering innovation and collaboration amongst African brands. It collaborates with industry leaders and designers across Africa to create a significant impact on the continent's fashion industry."

"Let's build international standard African fashion together. The fashion industry in Ethiopia needs to be given due emphasis. Companies in the fashion industry are making promising strides," she opined.

It's critical for the fashion industry to come together and align its actions, both within individual companies and across the entire supply chain, to pave the way for the sweeping changes that are needed to address the stumbling blocks precluding the fashion industry from taking the lead in the nation, Mahlet underlined.

"Change can be brought about by working collaboratively; companies can make a difference in a sustainable, responsible, and innovative industry. Targeting at bolstering innovation, promoting creativity and entrepreneurship, helping apparel opportunities thrive is the very important step to be well entertained," said Mahlet.

Not only is the event a very moment to set a big symbol for Mafi Design but it is also a viable avenue to push Africa's fashion industry steps forward. "As Ethiopian culture and tradition have been intertwined with modern fashion for

15 years, we have been portraying our work at the world arena. This journey has helped me prettily to witness the continent's capacity for creativity and capacity to the rest of the world."

The MAFI Fashion Academy and Lab is going to work to address the trying hurdles fashion designers have been encountering; as the prime hurdles are well sorted out so far. The Academy is working to provide students with a range of lessons centering on fashion design, fashion business, and fashion photography, among others.

Mahlet said: "Learners joining the academy are expected to embark on a journey of self-discovery, learning about the fundamentals of fashion and exploring their own identity as the maxim 'creativity matters,' lays the groundwork for personal and creative development."

Surprisingly, Ethiopia has been labeled as an area of many paradoxes, so rich in high-value natural resources, tangible and intangible heritages, economical human capital, a wide acre of plots of land, endowed with creativity, culture and design, among others, yet economically not fully developed, and even with a sluggish fashion industry, she opined.

Even though the fashion industry has been booming globally, clearly a big pie with huge opportunities, Ethiopia in particular and Africa in general have minimal contributions to this industry. However, Mahlet said that she has taken the right trajectory to be a pioneer and push the industry steps forward.

The fashion industry in Ethiopia has to be increasingly accepted and adopted in many countries of the world triumphing parameters of good quality via providing designers with a fully sustainable market locally, regionally, continentally and even globally as the resources



Designer Mahlet Afework

are abundantly available here and there. Some are heard of saying that the fashion industry in Ethiopia is, more or less, a cottage industry, faced with gaps.

According to Mahlet, if the country is to benefit from the sector, creating enabling policies and right business environment has to come to the forefront.

"The need for government to support the fashion value chain through policy and legal frameworks in order to help the nation create jobs ultimately assisting the economic growth at a larger scale."

If the government attaches due emphasis to the fashion industry, designers will be well-financed, trained and protected, the resulting possibilities will also be titanic. Yes, she said exports from the nation remain low as the fashion industry is still developing and at an infant stage, of course. However, this narrative can be absolutely altered in the years to come with the right policies and top-level support.

She further elucidated that, as more designers spring up, there is the need to establish more industries, schools, colleges, associations and similar groups to protect their interests and showcase their works. That is why MFAL is working hard and readied to teach all interested using clear cut criteria to admit students for the academy.

Apart from serving as a podium for the display of Ethiopian fashion facilities, the academy and lab helps create the impression of a professional, formal and investment-ready industry. Ethiopia has to establish more fashion schools and formal training mechanisms, recognizing that the industry becomes more prestigious when its workers are formally trained to play their roles, she added.

"There is a surprising fashion education gap in Ethiopia, a factor responsible for the low number of professionals in the industry. Though Ethiopia has a number of universities, almost none of them offer a fashion design program. If the government doesn't see a need for the fashion industry locally, it becomes difficult for us to convince the international market of our existence, but promising trends are now well observed," she said.

Yes, said Mahlet, Ethiopia must take seriously the task of getting rid of intra-nation business barriers such that the difficulties experienced in shipping fabric across the nation are eased. The potentials within the Ethiopian fashion industry are as significant as they are enormous, and it will take a committed nation to fully cash in on these possibilities and opportunities.

Law & Politics

Reforming global financial structure: Call of the time

BY DANIEL ALEMAYEHU

Reforming the international system has gained traction across the world as the world enters a multipolar order. From the United Nations Security Council to other UN bodies, the global system for many is unfair and servants of the few. Over the years, the call for an inclusive and fair international system and organizations has gained intensity as nations find alternative voices and choices.

Seen as instruments of some financiers, some global financial institutions are said to be repressing developing nations under the pretext of credits and loans. The rise of BRICS nations presents nations with alternatives while countering a world dominated by few countries.

In the past few years, the call for creating alternative financial institutions has increased with the BRICS alliance now forming the New Development Bank. This presents alternatives for developing nations and competition for existing financial organizations.

Creating a more governing global partnership, governments worldwide still ask a more common question in relation to reforming some of the global ways of doing business. One is reforming the financial architecture of the globe. Nations found in Africa and others who are considered poor or developing countries have been voicing their discontent on how the world runs the show and how things are becoming hard.

In a more concise way, nations must know what they ask for. While the developed and the rich world is working to solve its own problems like health issues, climate change, and the like, the developing world like Africa is trying to answer some life and death queries like debt and development issues to exist as a nation.

The global financial structure, in many ways, is criticized for its functioning, and many nations from every corner of the globe have been asking for reforming those financial institutions in order to make them fair and serve every nation equally.

On many occasions, the above idea was also supported by some high-table officials. During the recent event, addressing the participants in a video message at the First Preparatory Committee meeting of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, said “Faced with sky-high debt burdens and costs of capital, developing countries have limited prospects of financing the Sustainable Development Goals.”

Members states of the United Nations coupled with international organizations

The idea of reforming the financial architecture of the world, states from all walks of life must sit and look for sustainable solutions for those challenging issues

are discussing ways to bring solutions for some global pressing issues.

The idea of reforming the financial architecture of the world, states from all walks of life must sit and look for sustainable solutions for those challenging issues.

Inclusion and fairness are some of the hardest questions to answer. It is a fact that some rich and powerful nations are stirring the financial world and nations that have smaller quotas in those organizations. Without creating a more conducive environment for every nation, it will be hard to ensure equality as the system lets the rich be richer and the poor be poorer.

In addition, the system regarding the debt system also needs to be revised. Nations that have borrowed from those global financial institutions are facing hard times. In such a way, nations are still crying for functional global financial reform.

In a recent event, finance and foreign ministers of states met to call for radical action to reform the international financial architecture, empower developing countries in international institutions, and channel trillions of dollars toward sustainable development in Africa and other developing countries.

In the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of financing development, United Nations Member States once again convened in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to renew the push for sustainable development financing and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

António Guterres, UN Secretary-General, stated during the conference “The Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development provides a unique opportunity to tackle these challenges head-on. It opens the door for world leaders to adopt ambitious reforms to deliver affordable long-term financing at scale – and deliver the SDG Stimulus. And it presents a unique opportunity to reform an international financial system that is outdated, dysfunctional and unfair.”

After four years of a series of global shocks – including the COVID-19 pandemic, geopolitical conflicts, and economic instability – the SDG financing gap for developing countries has ballooned to USD 4 trillion annually. The financing gap and accompanying debt challenges have worsened poverty and inequality, putting the world off track to meet international targets set in 2015. The challenges countries face in rising sufficient resources have laid bare structural flaws in the international financial architecture and accelerated calls for reforms.

“This meeting provided the opportunity to take stock of the steps we must take to fill the financing gaps and meet the

development needs of all people around the world,” said Mr. Li Junhua, the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), and Secretary-General of the FfD4 conference. “The ministers, experts, and other stakeholders that gathered here in Addis Ababa made clear that we cannot continue with business as usual and must dramatically reshape the international financial system to ensure investment where it is most needed.”

Ministers and global experts unveiled proposals for reforming the rules and governance of international taxation, and for addressing countries facing debt crises, including through new international mechanisms to resolve situations of sovereign debt default.

“The international financial architecture created nearly 80 years ago needs to be reformed to respond to the most pressing challenges of African countries in a more effective and inclusive manner,” said Mr. Claver Gatete, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. “African countries are taking a leadership role in pressing for changes to global tax and financial systems, and they are clear that the international system needs to better support their sustainable development aspirations.”

The Preparatory Committee meeting brought together representatives of at least 103 countries, including high-level representatives, as well as representatives of multilateral development banks, United Nations system entities and other intergovernmental organizations, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations. Almost 800 participants discussed the full range of financing issues, including debt, taxation, trade, private finance, development cooperation, technology, and data.

The five-day meeting was the first of four preparatory meetings to be held ahead of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) Conference taking place in Sevilla, Spain, in 2025, with a mandate from the UN General Assembly to support reform of the international financial architecture.

Subsequent sessions of the Preparatory Committee will be held in New York in December 2024 and in February and April 2025. A one-day inter-sessional multi-stakeholder hearing will also be convened in New York in October 2024 as part of the preparatory process for the Conference.

In the Sphere of Diplomacy

Cooperation through construction

BY DANIEL ALEMAYEHU

The official diplomatic partnership between Ethiopia and China dates back to the first official diplomatic partnership in 1970 when embassies were opened in both Beijing and Addis Ababa.

The partnership is aiming at a number of cooperation's including capacity building and livelihood support. The bilateral partnership has been going from good to great by increasing the cooperation in a holistic approach adding financing development projects and programs, foreign direct investment (FDI), trade, and construction.

Ethio-China bilateral cooperation has started to get advanced in October 2023 when the two counterparts signed an agreement only some nations acquired. The nations developed their Comprehensive Strategic Cooperation Partnership to an all-weather Development Cooperation. Such a partnership is tied with a few nations that have the desire to work with the government of China.

The economic cooperation between the two nations is mainly focused on the development of infrastructures including railways, highways, telecommunication, and airport terminals, and industrial development, construction of electric power generating, distributing, and substations.

It is a fact that Ethiopia is undertaking a number of mega projects that are the most important elements for its overall economic development. According to reports, since 2006, Ethiopia has been building over 70 different mega projects in line with the biggest China Initiatives Forum on China Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) and Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). As to some statistics, the Chinese government and financial

institutions allocated about 14.83 billion USD in loans, from 2006 to 2018 to implement those Ethiopian mega projects.

In addition, both the Chinese government and its companies have been working closely with Ethiopia regarding the expansion of industries and trade. In fact, Chinese companies and investors have been investing in Ethiopia's industry sector and other different businesses. They have also invested in industrial parks found in various regions of Ethiopia and become a means for generating a huge amount of foreign currency and revenues in terms of tax for Ethiopia.

On top of that, Chinese companies have been involved in major construction projects and finished them in marvelous quality. Those companies are putting their fingerprint on many of nations' mega projects. Railway lines, express roads and highways, suspension bridges, skyline buildings, industrial parks, sugar factories, hydropower dams, wind power plants, substations, transmission lines, the Addis Ababa riverside parks, and many other projects in Ethiopia have been constructed by Chinese companies.

Ethiopia used all financial resources from China to develop those mega projects. For instance, among the 70 projects 57 of them are infrastructural projects which cost about USD 12.2 billion (82.2 % of all loans from China). More specifically, 22 projects are transport and communication sector projects, 35 projects are power sector projects, and the remaining 13 projects are sugar factories and urban water supply projects. Thus, Ethio-China economic cooperation is comprehensive and strategic and highly contributes to Ethiopian growth and development. In today's Ethiopia, the contributions of the People's Republic China government and people have a paramount value, a report stated.

One of the prominent Chinese companies that have been working on profound projects in Ethiopia is China Communication Construction Company (CCCC). It is a leading global comprehensive service provider of ultra-large infrastructure, engaged mainly in the investment, construction, and operation of transportation infrastructure, equipment manufacturing, real estate, and urban comprehensive development.

It aims to provide customers with investment financing, consulting planning, design and construction, management and operation package solutions, and integrated services. CCCC is listed in Hong Kong and Shanghai, and the company's profitability and value-creation capability are in a leading position in the world. In 2021, CCCC ranked 61st in the Fortune Global 500.

The company has been the major contractor for many of the mega projects financed by the Ethiopian Government. A textbook example can be the company's involvement in the expansion project of the Ethiopian Bole International Airport. The company secures the contract to build the terminal of the airport in order to expand its services. The airport is one of the largest transit points for passengers in Africa, serving more than 10,000 passengers on a daily basis.

The new terminal building of the project, which I started to construct in 2015, has been put into operation. Upon completion of the first phase of the project, the T2 terminal building's passenger handling capacity will rise from 7 to 22 million per year. Construction of the project brought forth several job opportunities for local people.

The company's achievement is also praised by Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) back in May 2024 when the premier met with Wang Tongzhou, chairman of the CCCC, in the Ethiopian capital, Addis

Ababa, according to the Office of the Prime Minister.

The active engagement and construction activities of the CCCC are well noted by the Ethiopian government, and it was asked to continue to actively engage.

In a recent interview with *The Ethiopian Herald* Tao Hong, General Manager of CCCC stated that CCCC is finishing mega projects like the Friendship Park in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia within a short period collaborating with the Chinese and Ethiopian governments. Chinese companies like CCCC put their parks throughout the world including Ethiopia as the bond between China and Ethiopia becomes strong. The company is constructing many projects all over the country like Oromia, Amhara, and other regional states.

Those Chinese companies that are working in Ethiopia have come with their international experiences, knowledge, and skills in construction and project management. To this end, Ethiopians have many to learn from them.

Supporting the above idea, the general manager disclosed that the Chinese company is doing projects in China standard and construction skills in Ethiopia. We are showing our standards and skills to our Ethiopian workers.

"CCCC Ethiopia incorporates around 500 Chinese workers. We are transforming our knowledge and skills to Ethiopian staff. We are also organizing job fairs for university students who wish to work with the company. We are teaching Ethiopians how to manage and organize mega projects. This time, most of our Chinese staff are working in managerial positions, but in the future, the number of Chinese staff will be limited, and Ethiopians will take the positions in order to run projects. We are fully engaged in teaching them," said the general manager.

Planet Earth



Indigenous peoples give fresh impetus to fight against climate crisis

Around the world, Indigenous peoples are using ancestral knowledge to adapt to extreme weather events and protect ecosystems

In 2007, a majority of member states at the United Nations signed the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. It was an historic occasion, giving voice to millions of people whose connection to their lands often dates back millennia.

The declaration is thorough in its recognition of Indigenous peoples' fundamental freedoms, stating that they have "the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources".

The importance and value that Indigenous peoples bring to tackling climate change is essential. Local communities should be at the heart of how to solve the climate crisis not only because they are at risk. Their connection to place provides unique insights into how to adapt to increasingly frequent extreme weather events. They have been the custodians of their land and water for generations – and the knowledge that brings is priceless.

The Adaptation Fund has financed multiple projects around the world where Indigenous peoples are being impacted by climate change. This offers the Fund unique opportunities to explore how climate adaptation can be implemented in lockstep with Indigenous knowledge.

Restoring forest

One such opportunity comes from a project that faced challenging circumstances in the deep jungle between Ecuador and Colombia. The project, implemented by the World Food Programme (WFP), covers an area of over 915,000 hectares and two watersheds important to both countries.

The region's Afro and Awá communities live in precarious conditions there,

affected by extreme weather events including drought, floods and storm surges. This border area is one of the most food-insecure regions in Latin America. Changes in climatic conditions have meant loss of mangrove forests, unstable crop production and a decline in fish species. This is having a knock-on effect on people's diet, and malnutrition is increasing.

To address these issues, WFP worked closely with communities to raise awareness of climate risks and incorporated ancestral knowledge into adaptation measures. Restoring over 8,000 hectares of forest helped the livelihoods of 120 communities and 1,100 families in the region. In addition, the creation of resilient family gardens using organic products has helped to improve the diet of a further 600 families.

Using these techniques, alongside other activities such as sustainable agroforestry, helped to protect against damage from heavy rains. At each step, WFP has worked with communities imparting their knowledge and sought to empower local people. This included greater representation for women who, given historic inequalities, are more exposed to climate-related risks.

Local knowledge

The project faced unique challenges: the partners had to navigate working across borders in a large and remote region where there are serious security concerns. Diego Guzmán, the WFP's national programme officer for food systems and climate change, worked closely on the project. He told Climate Home that the team maintained a line of communication to the UN's security unit in Ecuador. "We actively engaged local organisations and leaders, leveraging their intimate knowledge of the territory," he said. This solved some of the additional obstacles of

size and borders.

Improving food security and its relationship to climate change among the community was one of the key components of the project. This first meant understanding and respecting traditional norms. "It's crucial to acknowledge and value the local products that hold significance within these communities, fostering sustainable use of resources for improved food security and economic well-being," said Guzmán. One of the key lessons from the project – and others like it – is to strengthen how local organizations work. Decisions need to be "inclusive, transparent, and reflective of the community's priorities," he added.

It is the sense of mutual respect and a shared end goal that supports the success of these projects. The Fund has also seen other significant components aimed at restoring sustainable ancestral practices in projects it funds in Morocco (reviving ancient underground water channels to address drought), Costa Rica (diversified forest farming to enhance food security), and Mexico (adapted fog catchers to store water), among others.

Diversifying incomes

Mikko Ollikainen, head of the Adaptation Fund, said the organisation "takes great pride in supporting and empowering the most vulnerable local communities and groups, and you see this across many of our projects on the ground".

"Our five-year medium-term strategy and environmental and social safeguards further foster support of human rights and equitable opportunity, including for Indigenous communities, which very often have the best ideas of what works well locally in building climate resilience," he explained.

Another related Indigenous project comes from the other side of the world, on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi in South Sulawesi province. It aimed to

raise awareness of watershed and climate impacts among the Indigenous people of Ammatoa Kajang. The implementing entity was Kemitraan, or the Partnership for Governance Reform in Indonesia, a non-profit established in the country for the past two decades.

Here the challenge was to reduce climate-related vulnerabilities through improving how the watershed was managed. This included the creation of different social business groups to help people diversify incomes, selling existing products like candlenuts in more profitable ways, and upgrading crop machinery. Not only did this approach require a climate adaptation plan based on local knowledge, but active lobbying of the regional government to see it implemented over the long-term. Again, strengthening local governance was seen as key.

A shift in thinking

One of the project participants, Namesiah Munaati, told the Adaptation Fund: "What has changed is the mindset of the community – a shift in thinking, from farming practices to managing agricultural products and marketing strategies."

"There has been an improvement in our family finances. There is enough for children's allowances and our household needs are met," she added.

It's no secret that outside entities have not always acted with local concerns in mind when developing plans and projects designed to support people on the ground. As Indigenous rights have grown in prominence, so has awareness among external partners. There is now recognition that working in partnership with Indigenous people will empower and protect their unique cultures to face new threats including climate change, ensuring their survival for decades to come.

Source: Climate home news